

## Background

This document provides a high-level update of monthly implementation activities for the [Environmental Sustainability Action Plan \(ESAP\)](#). The ESAP is the City's strategic roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance Redmond's natural resources for future generations.

The overarching ESAP priorities for 2021-2022 include:

1. Prioritize improvements to **city operations** as Redmond works towards the goal of carbon neutrality for city operations by 2030 in support of the Climate Emergency Declaration.
2. Advance **key sustainability priorities**, including those integrated into the 2021-2022 budget.
3. Leverage **partnerships and communications** strategies to engage the community.
4. Establish **foundational systems** and programs for the newly formed Sustainability Program.

## Programmatic Updates

### City Operations

- Tree Planting: During 2021-2022, City-led tree planting has been focused in North Redmond's Monticello Creek watershed. The City's Washington Conservation Corps crew and community volunteers planted over 1,000 trees, meeting our initial goal of planting 2-acres during the 2021-2022 budget cycle.
- Pedestrian Safety Improvements: Traffic Operations staff replaced pedestrian push buttons at four intersections along Union Hill Road and Redmond Way. The new Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) button system provides pedestrians nonvisual information about the WALK and DON'T WALK intervals, which is especially valuable to vision-impaired pedestrians. Improvements to pedestrian facilities create a safer environment for community members and encourages more walking trips, an important strategy as the City works to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips within Redmond.

### Key Priorities

- Sustainable Living Classes: The Sustainable Living Classes for Spring 2022 concluded. The Solid Waste team hosted nine virtual classes with topics including waste reduction, safer cleaning, shopping to reduce plastics, and more. The classes were attended virtually by 160 people. Last summer Solid Waste held 11 park and concert sustainable living outreach events with 767 participants. Similar outreach is being planned this summer and fall.
- Washington State Recycling Association: Solid Waste Program Administrator, Stacey Auer, presented on a panel at the Washington State Recycling Association conference held on May 16. The session, *Innovative Approaches to Contamination Reduction* featured the City of Redmond, Ridwell, and Recology. Stacey presented on several of the City's innovative programs including the Ridwell Partnership, the Commercial Organics Route, and the Recycling Video Library.
- Ridwell Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Pick up: In partnership with Ridwell, the City hosted free doorstep pickup and recycling of Styrofoam and plastic bags on May 8 and May 21 for single

family homes, apartment and condos. Metrics for the May events are being compiled and will be reported in future updates. The next pick-up event will be held in September.

- Energy Smart Eastside Heat Pump Campaign: The Eastside Heat Pump Campaign launched on May 10 with a volunteer recruitment event. The event was hosted in partnership with Spark Northwest and the five participating jurisdictions of Redmond, Issaquah, Bellevue, Mercer Island, and Kirkland. The virtual event reviewed the campaign process, volunteer opportunities, heat pump 101 basics, and next steps. Interested volunteers will now begin promotion of the campaign's first educational events in July.
- Behavior Change Campaign: The Stormwater Utility Team recently launched a broad scale "Close the Dumpster Lid" behavior change campaign at Redmond businesses. Through this program, helpful stickers and signage (in both Spanish and English) are installed on commercial dumpsters and enclosure areas. Open and leaking dumpsters can lead to water pollution. By closing the dumpster lid every time, Redmond businesses can help keep our waterways clean and healthy.



### Partnerships & Communication

- Eastside Climate Challenge: The cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Mercer Island, and Redmond launched the joint Eastside Climate Challenge during Earth Week. The launch was covered by multiple media outlets including KUOW, [425 Magazine](#), [Redmond Reporter](#), and others. Each jurisdiction is hosting a city-specific climate challenge under the Eastside umbrella - Redmond's Challenge launched during Q4 of 2021. The jurisdictions hosted nine joint workshops in April and May to support deeper engagement and build additional participation in the platform. Additional workshops will be scheduled in the coming weeks. To learn more or join the Challenge, visit the City's [website](#).
- Community Repair Event: The City of Redmond and King County hosted a free repair event on May 14. Community members brought one item and worked with skilled "fixers" to repair small household and personal items, as well as mend clothing and textiles.
- Senior Lunch on Earth Day: Senior Program participants enjoyed celebrating, learning about the City's sustainability programs, and partaking in an upcycled garden project on Earth Day, Friday, April 22. Public Works staff Jessica Atkinson and Micah Bonkowski presented information on ways to protect Redmond's drinking water, easy tips for reducing waste, and resources for recycling.
- Redmond Watershed Preserve Nature Walk: Public Works staff hosted a nature walk at the Redmond Watershed Preserve facilitated through the Redmond Parks and Recreation Department. The goal of the event was to create an informal opportunity for people to learn about the local environment and cultivate relationships with city staff. Attendees learned about the role of beavers in watersheds, the role of Public Works in keeping the City working, the City's aquatic insect monitoring program, hummingbird migration, and the City's water sources and wellhead protection efforts.

