

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.

Key priorities for 2023-2024 include:

- **High Impact Initiatives:** Implement high impact programs and policies that advance progress towards ESAP goals.
- **Lead by Example:** Continue to drive rapid progress towards the Climate Emergency Declaration goals.
- **Sustainability Programming:** Run a transparent and inclusive sustainability program.

Updates

High Impact Initiatives

- Redmond 2050 Climate Element: City staff are moving forward with the development of a new climate element as part of the Redmond 2050 comprehensive plan update. The new element will consolidate relevant existing policies from across the Comprehensive Plan and add new climate resilience, greenhouse gas reduction, and equity policies. This new element positions the city to proactively comply with the requirements of HB 1181, which was signed by the governor during the 2023 legislative session and requires climate and resilience policies be integrated into comprehensive plans. Redmond is required to comply by 2029.
- Routes to Rails Pilot: After concluding two rounds of robust community engagement through the Routes to Rails campaign, the Transportation Planning and Engineering team announced that the Heron Rookery Trail wayfinding project was selected to pilot from June 7 through 28. More than 400 responses were received throughout the campaign. To celebrate this pilot, a launch event was held from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 9, at the Heron Rookery Trail entrance on Bear Creek Parkway, near the intersection of 161st Avenue NW. Routes to Rails is funded through a Washington State Department of Commerce Climate Change grant to supplement outreach for the City's Transportation Master Plan update.
- Energy Smart Eastside Fuel Switching Incentive: The Energy Smart Eastside \$1,500 fuel switching incentive for community members earning 80-150% AMI is now live. Interested community members can complete the incentive application and learn more at EnergySmartEastside.org.
- Habitat Restoration: Public Works crews cleared 2-acres of invasive blackberry to begin site prep for planting 900 trees in the Bear Evans Open Space near Perrigo Park. The planting area is within the Bear Creek floodplain and will contribute to increasing the city's tree canopy.
- Leaf Blower Questionnaire: The City's short questionnaire about leaf blowers is scheduled to close on June 23. The questionnaire will inform next steps as the City explores strategies to address leaf blower pollution. The questionnaire was distributed through social media, eNews, and direct outreach to landscaping businesses registered in Redmond. More than 240

community members have completed the survey as of June 21. A summary will be provided to Council at the September PES meeting.

Leading by Example

- Renewable Diesel: The Public Works Fleet team secured the City's first shipment of renewable diesel for the City's medium and heavy-duty equipment. Renewable diesel is a clean burning drop in fuel made from fats and oils, such as soybean oil or canola oil, and is processed to be chemically the same as petroleum diesel. Renewable diesel is a key GHG reduction strategy within the City of Redmond Operations Zero Carbon Strategy, Climate Emergency Declaration, and ESAP as it reduces carbon intensity on average by 65% when compared with petroleum diesel.
- Fleet Study: Council approved the contract on June 20 with Matrix Consulting to complete a Fleet Study. The Study scope of work includes a wholistic review of fleet operations and will also result in the development of an electrification and clean fuels strategy to transition the City's fleet to no and low carbon options.
- City Facilities Condition Assessment and Decarbonization Planning: The Facility Condition Assessment request for proposals closed and the City received five proposals, which are currently under review. This project will update the 2013 Facilities Condition Assessment to inform maintenance and capital project needs for City facilities and support strategic planning of decarbonization efforts in support of the ESAP and Climate Emergency Declaration.

Sustainability Programming

- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting: The June ESAC meeting was held on June 15, 2023. The Committee provided strategic direction on the proposed climate element and reviewed feedback from the leaf blower questionnaire. June meeting notes can be found on the [ESAC webpage](#).