



Memorandum

Date: 4/28/2026

Meeting of: Committee of the Whole - Parks and Environmental Sustainability

File No. CM 26-256

Type: Committee Memo

TO: Committee of the Whole - Parks and Environmental Sustainability

FROM: Mayor Angela Birney

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CONTACT(S):

Executive	Lisa Maher, Assistant Chief Operating Officer	425-556-2427
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DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Executive	Zach Houvener	Deputy of Equity & Strategic Services
Executive	Jenny Lybeck	Sustainability Manager

TITLE:

Energy Smart Eastside - Residential Electrification Program Update

OVERVIEW STATEMENT:

Redmond and the Eastside cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Mercer Island, and Sammamish launched the Energy Smart Eastside (ESE) program in 2022 to accelerate existing building electrification work with a focus on heat pumps, and leverage economies of scale through regional programming. ESE includes multiple heat pump incentives, including a focus on low and moderate-income homes earning between 50%-80% AMI.

Making existing buildings more efficient and resilient is a key priority within the 2025 ESAP because the natural gas and electricity consumed to heat, cool, and operate existing buildings accounts for about 70% of Redmond’s greenhouse gas emissions. Heat pumps reduce heating related greenhouse gas emissions 91% relative to a gas furnace and support community climate resilience, making heat pump conversions within existing homes a key strategy for meeting climate goals. Staff will provide an overview of the 2025 Energy Smart Eastside program achievements (see Attachment A) and review upcoming priorities.

Additional Background Information/Description of Proposal Attached

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive Information Provide Direction Approve

REQUEST RATIONALE:

- **Relevant Plans/Policies:**
2025 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (Big Move 1 - Make Existing Buildings Better, Action 1.1: Expand Energy Smart Eastside), Climate Emergency Declaration, Community Strategic Plan

- **Required:**
N/A
- **Council Request:**
N/A
- **Other Key Facts:**
Energy Smart Eastside (ESE) includes three tracks: Boost, Bonus Rebate, and an ESE Heat Pump Rebate. All rebates include education and technical assistance through an Energy Advisor.
 - ESE Boost Program: provides 100% cost coverage heat pump installations for low-income single-family residents earning between <50-80% AMI. The Boost program has served more than 94 Redmond community members.
 - ESE Bonus Rebate: a \$5,000 bonus rebate for moderate-income households earning below 150% of the Area’s Median Income.
 - ESE Heat Pump Rebate: all community members are eligible for a \$1,000 rebate on approved products.

The program has been successful in leveraging city dollars to secure more than \$6,000,000 in grant funding. Approximately two-thirds of funding this biennium is sourced from state and utility grants, and one-third from the partner cities. 83% of expenses in 2025 went directly to heat pump and other electrification incentives.

The Eastside cities of Redmond, Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Sammamish, and Mercer Island formalized their collaboration in January 2023 with the Eastside Climate Partnership Interlocal Agreement. The agreement allows the partners to share resources for the Energy Smart Eastside Heat Pump program, including staff capacity and future programs supporting joint climate and clean energy goals.

OUTCOMES:

See Attachment A for a summary of 2025 program highlights.

COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:

- **Timeline (previous or planned):**
Ongoing
- **Outreach Methods and Results:**
Direct outreach in partnership with Hopelink, tabling, social media, Focus, enewsletter, workshops, webinars, contractor outreach, earned media, etc.
- **Feedback Summary:**
N/A

BUDGET IMPACT:

Total Cost:
\$1,100,000 CIP

Approved in current biennial budget: Yes No N/A

Budget Offer Number:
CIP - Energy Smart Eastside

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Budget Priority:

Healthy and Sustainable

Other budget impacts or additional costs: Yes No N/A

If yes, explain:

N/A

Funding source(s):

Grant Funds

CIP

Budget/Funding Constraints:

N/A

Additional budget details attached

COUNCIL REVIEW:

Previous Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
4/22/2025	Committee of the Whole - Parks and Environmental Sustainability	Receive Information

Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
10/27/2026	Committee of the Whole - Parks and Environmental Sustainability	Receive Information

Time Constraints:

N/A

ANTICIPATED RESULT IF NOT APPROVED:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Energy Smart Eastside 2025 Annual Report