

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 published the draft [Climate Resilience and Sustainability Element](#) in July for public comment. The new element consolidates relevant existing policies from across the Comprehensive Plan and adds 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.
- Green Building Incentive Program Overview: Staff provided an overview of the proposed Green Building Incentive Program (RZC 21.67) to the Planning Commission at the August 30 Special Meeting. Updates to the Green Building Incentive Program (GBIP), are currently in progress through the Phase 2 Zoning Code Rewrite and Redmond 2050. More information on the program and presentation can be found on the Planning Commissions [webpage](#).
- 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](#).
- Energy Smart Eastside Program Manager: Through the Eastside Climate Partnership, the cities of Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, and Mercer Island recently hired a limited term (two years) Program Manager. This shared position is hosted at the City of Bellevue and will bring critical capacity to enhance and scale the Energy Smart Eastside program.
- Sustainable Living Classes: Solid Waste's Sustainable Living program partnered with the Parks Department to table at all three Rockin' on the River concerts. The Sustainable Living table was visited by 401 concert goers who received information on waste reduction, recycling, composting and safer cleaning. Next up for Sustainable Living is fall classes and another partnership with the Parks Department to provide outreach to seniors.

- Smith Woods Walk: The ESAC and city staff partnered to host a tour of Smith Woods to learn about habitat restoration, stormwater, and climate initiatives. 13 community members are registered for the walk.
- Elective Pay Letter of Support: The Mayor signed onto a comment letter to the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (Attachment A), providing additional guidance on the Elective Payment of Applicable Credits. Elective Pay was established under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022. The Elective Pay section of the Internal Revenue Code makes tax credits for solar, electric vehicles, and other clean technologies, available to non-profits and local governments. Previously tax-exempt agencies were not eligible for these benefits.

Leading by Example

- Derby Days Recycling: 57% of the Derby Days waste generated was recyclable. This year, Derby Days partnered with R.cup to exclusively use reusable cups in the beer garden. This partnership eliminated the use of 1,900 single-use cups. Past Derby Days events diverted around 40% of all materials.
- City Facilities Condition Assessment and Decarbonization Planning: The Facility Condition Assessment request for proposals responses were reviewed and a recommendation is being presented to Council for approval at the October 3, 2023, Council Business meeting. 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.
- Department of Commerce Solar Plus Battery Storage Grant Award: The City has been conditionally awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Commerce to complete a solar and battery storage feasibility study, evaluating five City facilities. This will inform future microgrid opportunities and position Redmond for grants. Work will be completed through the Facility Condition Assessment in support of the building decarbonization element of the scope.

Sustainability Programming

- Environmental Sustainability Action Plan Newsletter: The June and August Sustainability eNewsletters were distributed to more than 2,000 subscribers and highlighted community programs and resources (Attachment B).
- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee: Three new members from the public joined the ESAC, representing the general population (two members) and the non-profit community (one member). Their terms will extend for two years. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for September 28 from 5:30-7 and will be held virtually. The meeting agenda can be found on the ESAC website the week of the meeting.



August 14, 2023

Department of the Treasury
C:PA:LPD:PR (REG-101607-23), Room 5203
Internal Revenue Service, P.O. Box 7604
Ben Franklin Station,
Washington, DC 20044

Submitted to Docket 2023-12798, Document IRS-2023-0029-0001 via Regulations.gov

RE: Proposed Rule, Section 6417 Elective Payment of Applicable Credits, Treasury and IRS / REG-101607-23

We thank the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (together, Treasury) for providing this opportunity to comment on Treasury's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR or proposed rule)¹ providing additional guidance on the Elective Payment of Applicable Credits established under Section 6417 of the Internal Revenue Code, as added by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022. The undersigned Climate Mayors, a bipartisan network of over 350 Mayors, believe the intentions of elective pay will be truly transformative for cities and appreciate Treasury considering integrating these recommendations into the final guidance.

We applaud the Administration's all-of-government efforts to achieve climate action together with environmental justice on ambitious implementation timelines. We also appreciate Treasury's acknowledgement that elective pay will benefit various industries and deliver benefits across the economy while also reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions. We recognize that Treasury, in particular, faces an immense challenge in rolling out a program that is so new to the agency so quickly while still complying with all of the nuances of eligible entities and taxpayer information protection requirements, procedural and meaningful engagement requirements of Executive Orders, and other applicable laws and priorities. The NPR clarifies significant actions and we note our support of some of those below.

The Climate Mayors network is committed to climate action and are excited to take advantage of these elective payments as a tool to help accelerate and surpass city climate goals. The undersigned Mayors appreciate that Treasury and the Administration are working across agencies to deliver timely and relevant information for eligible entities. In addition to the feedback and comments we have provided, it is critical that the Administration understands the limited capacity of localities and the need for as much clarification and specificity as possible when it comes to eligible projects, eligible entities, and the process to receive elective payments.

Our comments are designed to be consistent with statutory language, congressional intent, and Treasury's goals, as well as with the real-world needs for cities of all sizes that will implement and benefit from this program. We acknowledge that the certainty provided by timely issuance of final rules is as important to program success in 2023 and beyond as are the contents of these rules, and reiterate that ongoing technical assistance, engagement from eligible entities, and outreach will remain crucial to equitable implementation of the elective pay program.

¹ 88 Fed. Reg. 40528 - Section 6417 (June 14, 2023), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-06-21/pdf/2023-12798.pdf>

In summary, our feedback to Treasury includes:

- (1) clarifying the timeline between the pre-filing registration process, elective payment election, and when an eligible entity would receive an elective payment;
- (2) clarifying eligible entities as it relates to certain agencies and instrumentalities within political subdivisions, such as housing and transit authorities and/or publicly owned utilities;
- (3) clarifying eligible projects with the potential for a “pre-approval” process in future iterations of the pre-filing registration process;
- (4) clarifying conditions that Treasury would consider a reasonable cause where an entity receives a penalty for excessive payment; and,
- (5) recommending to Treasury to work across agencies to support eligible entities in taking advantage of elective payments.

Below you can find in detail these recommendations, as well as our additional request to attend Treasury’s public hearing on August 21, 2023. If you have any questions on the above recommendations, you can reach out to Kate Wright, Executive Director at kate@climate-mayors.org, and Meghan Pazik, Policy Director at meghan@climate-mayors.org.

REQUEST TO ATTEND PUBLIC HEARING: The undersigned Members of Climate Mayors appreciate Treasury providing an opportunity for the public to testify and attend a hearing on the elective pay program. Below outlines our organization’s request to attend the public hearing by telephone.

- We request to attend the public hearing *by telephone* on August 21, 2023 at 10:00AM ET and do not intend to testify. Considering Climate Mayors has a broad membership of over 350 Mayors, Climate Mayor's Executive Director, Kate Wright, and/or Policy Director, Meghan Pazik, would attend to represent the undersigned members. We request that Climate Mayors’ staff receive the telephone number and access code for the hearing. We have also submitted this request via email to publichearings@irs.gov.

(i) PRE-FILING PROCESS COMMENTS: While we understand that Treasury is not necessarily taking comments for the pre-filing process under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. Subchapter II) as the agency has made findings of a good cause to stand up the pre-filing as soon as possible to “reduce the need for recovering erroneous payments and adjusting return positions via costly, burdensome, and inefficient examination, appeals, and litigation processes,”² we are providing the following comments to any potential changes and clarification to the pre-filing system for future tax years. We appreciate Treasury for making the temporary regulations effective to ensure an online platform can be in place by Fall 2023 ahead of the next tax filing season.

- While we understand that the pre-filing guidance will become effective immediately and because the IRS and Treasury are seeking to stand up the online platform by Fall 2023, we recognize that comments may not influence any changes for this process this year. The undersigned Climate Mayors members recognize the need for preventative measures and appreciates the efforts of Treasury and IRS to take action for eligible entities and taxpayers to submit information ahead of the tax filing period and elective payment period in order to better calculate the elective payment. With that, we ask for additional clarification on the timeline between the pre-filing process and

² Ibid.

when elective payment elections must be submitted. We have submitted these comments related to the pre-filing system to the *Docket 2023-12797 via regulations.gov*. We are also including the pre-registration comments [REG-101607-23] with our elective pay public comments for ease and to help the Administration understand our feedback in its entirety.

(1) CLARIFY TIMING OF ELECTIVE PAYMENT ELECTIONS AND PAYMENTS: We understand that to accomplish the purpose of the pre-filing registration process, the electronic portal must open by Fall 2023. We appreciate Treasury for creating and launching the electronic portal for eligible entities and taxpayers. Additionally, our organization recommends that Treasury provide additional clarification on timing between the pre-filing registration, receiving a registration number to be included in the forms necessary for elective payment, submission of elective payment documents for the taxable year (elective payment election), and when the elective payment will be disbursed to the eligible entity.

- We understand that the guidance states that an elective payment election cannot be made earlier than February 13, 2023, but must be made no later than the “15th day of the fifth month after the taxable year determined by section 441 of the Code.”³ We recommend that Treasury provide additional clarity on timing related to: the latest an eligible and applicable entity is able to submit documentation for the pre-filing registration; period between submission of documents to the pre-filing process and receipt or denial of a registration number; and period between submission of elective payment election and when an eligible entity and applicable entity would receive an elective payment.

(2) CLARIFY ELIGIBLE ENTITIES: In response to Treasury’s request for comments regarding the proposed definition of an eligible entity as “any organization exempt from the tax imposed by subtitle A’ to include all organizations exempt from the tax imposed by subtitle A by section 501(a) of the Code, commonly referred to as ‘tax-exempt organizations,’”⁴ we recommend that the agency provide additional clarification to this definition in the final guidance. Specifically, we reference Treasury’s approach to defining applicable entities as proposed under §1.6417-1(c)(7), which would “provide that applicable entities include any agency or instrumentality of any State, the District of Columbia, Indian tribal government, U.S. territory, or political subdivision thereof.”⁵

- We recommend that Treasury provide further clarification as to whether certain agencies, such as transit, housing, and air authorities or other agencies and instrumentalities of any State, the District of Columbia, Indian tribal government, U.S. territory, or political subdivision, would be eligible for an elective payment. Under the definition of a political subdivision in U.S. Code, “*Excluded from the term are subordinate or nonautonomous divisions, agencies or boards within principal departments;*” however, Treasury also defines a political subdivision as an entity that has “*substantial sovereign power*”⁶ in other guidance documents. We recommend that Treasury provide clarification in its final guidance through examples and/or specifications of the types of agencies and instrumentalities that are applicable entities that would be eligible to receive elective payments.

Additionally, as it relates to either Treasury's request for comment on how to approach defining applicable entities as proposed under §1.6417-1(c)(7) and/or additional clarification of the definition of rural

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Internal Revenue Service. *E. Instrumentalities – 1990 EO CPO.*, N.d., <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopice90.pdf>

cooperatives proposed under §1.6417-1(c)(6):

- We recommend that Treasury provide further clarification as to whether local publicly owned utilities (water, electric, etc.) and electric cooperatives (other than rural) are eligible entities under the statute and align with Congressional intent. There are approximately over 2,800 public owned utilities (POU) and cooperatives in operation combined⁷ serving millions of customers across the U.S. We understand that the proposed guidance states that rural cooperatives are applicable entities and would qualify for elective payment. However, further clarification is needed as to whether larger public owned utilities would be considered applicable entities. For example, under the federal definition of “political subdivisions,” power districts and bridge or port authorities and other special districts⁸ are considered political subdivisions. We appreciate that Treasury included language in its proposed guidance that specifies agencies and instrumentalities of political subdivisions to be eligible to receive elective payments. However, we find it necessary for Treasury to provide clarification in the final guidance through examples and/or specifications whether public owned utilities and electric cooperatives, other than rural, are applicable entities that would be eligible to receive elective payments.

(3) CLARIFY ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: We understand that the statute clearly states what tax credits are available to eligible entities under Section 6417 of the IRA and that Treasury and IRS do not provide personalized tax advice regarding whether a specific organization’s project or activity is eligible for a tax credit. We appreciate how the initial guidance states the amounts eligible entities would be able to claim for the tax credits with examples. However, as Mayors committed to taking ambitious action toward achieving the goals outlined in our climate action plans, we find it necessary for Treasury to provide additional clarity related to the types of projects and costs that would be eligible to receive an elective payment.

- We find it necessary for further clarification through examples and/or specificity in the final guidance or future iterations of the guidance as to what types of infrastructure costs are eligible within each tax credit. For example, should a locality decide to invest in a geothermal system, the guidance is clear that the underground infrastructure costs are eligible; however, there is ambiguity as to whether an indoor HVAC and heat pump infrastructure would be eligible.
- Additionally, we find it necessary for Treasury to provide further clarification through examples and/or specificity in the final guidance or future iterations of the guidance related to soft costs. In the same example of a locality investing in a geothermal system, the guidance is clear that the underground infrastructure costs are eligible. However, it is unclear from the initial guidance as to whether soft costs associated with project management, design, labor for construction/ construction management, or other project components are eligible for elective payments. These “soft costs” are unavoidable and critical parts of the overall project investment, and the ability for them to be eligible will be necessary for localities and other eligible entities to plan for clean energy infrastructure projects.

Additionally, the guidance clearly states that the pre-filing system is a preventative measure for Treasury to avoid duplication, fraud, and other mishaps with projects. The guidance also states that an entity would 1) need a registration number for the elective payment election and 2) a registration number does not guarantee that an elective payment would be provided for an eligible entity. Therefore, there is uncertainty

⁷ U.S. Energy Information Administration. (2019, August 15). Investor-owned utilities served 72% of U.S. electricity customers in 2017, <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=40913>

⁸ 12 Code of Federal Registration – Section 390.304 - Political subdivision, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/12/390.304>

between the registration process and elective payment election that an entity is guaranteed to receive an elective payment.

- We recommend in the final guidance and/or in further iterations of updating the pre-filing registration process the addition of a pre-approval process between pre-filing registration and elective payment election. Some level of pre-approval could provide additional certainty for localities and other applicable entities ahead of committing to critically important and expensive projects. As the initial guidance currently states, *“completion of the pre-filing registration requirements and receipt of a registration number would not, by itself, mean that the applicable entity or electing taxpayer would receive a payment with respect to the applicable credits determined with respect to the applicable credit property.”*⁹ The undersigned Mayors within Climate Mayors’ network, who serve millions of localities across the U.S. that would be eligible for these elective payments, are concerned with the lack of certainty that the current process leaves when planning potentially eligible projects.

(4) CLARIFY CONDITION(S) THAT WOULD QUALIFY FOR “REASONABLE CAUSE” IF AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY WOULD RECEIVE PENALTY FOR EXCESSIVE PAYMENTS: We appreciate Treasury’s initial guidance regarding repayment of excessive payments. We understand the statute stipulates that the agency has jurisdiction to determine whether an eligible entity has received an excessive payment and would then impose a penalty of the amount of the excessive payment plus 20 percent. We ask that Treasury provide additional guidance and clarity on conditions that would qualify for a reasonable cause for excessive payment in the final guidance.

- We also understand there is some leeway for Treasury to waive the 20 percent fine if there is a “reasonable cause” for the excessive payment. While “reasonable cause” is determined on a case-by-case basis for which the IRS may consider “efforts made to report the correct tax; the complexity of the tax issue; [the] education, experience, or knowledge of tax law; and steps [taken] to understand [the] tax obligation or seek help from a tax advisor,”¹⁰ we find it necessary to clarify conditions of a reasonable cause and/or provide additional educational opportunities for localities that are already constrained by staffing capacity and limited financial resources.
- We also understand that within the pre-filing registration process and throughout the elective payment process there are opportunities for eligible and applicable entities to amend their documents to update certain amounts or changes that occur with the project that would receive an elective payment. However, we find it necessary that Treasury provide additional clarification regarding the conditions of penalty for excessive payments when localities receive a federal grant for a project where they would also seek elective payment. For example, localities will work to receive the highest amount of applicable funding towards priority projects through grant opportunities and other federal funding mechanisms available through the IRA and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) (BIL). It is clear from the guidance that amendments regarding a project can be made up to and before an elective payment election is made. However, it is unclear whether a locality or other eligible entity would receive a penalty for excessive payment from a project that also received a federal grant after the elective payment election submission.

⁹ 88 Fed. Reg. 40528 - Section 6417 (June 14, 2023), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-06-21/pdf/2023-12798.pdf>

¹⁰ Internal Revenue Service. (21 July, 2023). Penalty Relief for Reasonable Cause, <https://www.irs.gov/payments/penalty-relief-for-reasonable-cause>

(5) WORK ACROSS FEDERAL AGENCIES TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE ENTITIES STACKING

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: We understand that Treasury has been tasked by Congress with drafting, issuing, and implementing the elective pay guidance. As an extension of our previous recommendations to provide clarification around reasonable cause as it relates to excessive payments, we recommend that Treasury work across federal agencies to prevent excessive payments from eligible entities.

- Considering that there were several extensions and new programs created through the IRA and BIL, there are considerable opportunities for localities to receive federal funding to accomplish local climate action goals. Localities are excited about these opportunities and hope to apply for as many as they can across federal agencies, within reason, capacity, and consideration of federal cost-share. However, the reality of these federal resources is that many are competitive, some are dispersed through States or other types of processes, a number have yet to be rolled out, and many have different timelines that do not often align with the timeline of the taxable years under the initial elective pay guidance.
- As Treasury works to issue final guidance on the elective payment program, we find it necessary for the Department, to the greatest extent and degree, to work across all relevant federal agencies, such as the Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support eligible entities in better understanding options for stacking eligible projects with other federal programs.
- Additionally, we find it necessary for Treasury to add in the final guidance or future iterations of the guidance that entities may self-identify if they are preparing to apply for a federal grant that could potentially impact their elective payment amount during the pre-filing registration process and/or elective payment election process. An entity could then amend during or after a grant is received or denied to better determine if they should receive the full elective pay amount or need to recalculate the elective payment amount so as not to be penalized for excessive payment in future taxable years.

Again, as Members of Climate Mayors, we are grateful to the Administration for implementing this historic new program that will catalyze investments in clean energy projects across the country. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to Treasury on the elective payment guidance. If you have any questions on the above recommendations, you can reach out to Kate Wright, Executive Director at kate@climate-mayors.org, and Meghan Pazik, Policy Director at meghan@climate-mayors.org. Thank you and we look forward to Treasury's final guidance on elective payments.

Sincerely,

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
City of Madison, WI
Climate Mayors Chair

Mayor Kate Gallego
City of Phoenix, AZ
Climate Mayors Vice Chair

Mayor Justin M. Bibb
City of Cleveland, OH
Climate Mayors Vice Chair

Steering Committee Members

Mayor Michael P Cahill
City of Beverly, MA

Mayor LaToya Cantrell
City of New Orleans, LA

Mayor Jane Castor
City of Tampa, FL

Mayor Andre Dickens
City of Atlanta, GA

Mayor Jacob Frey
City of Minneapolis, MN

Mayor Craig Greenberg
Louisville, KY

Mayor James Hovland
City of Edina, MN

Mayor Lioneld Jordan
City of Fayetteville, AR

Mayor Indya Kincannon
City of Knoxville, TN

Mayor Lauren McLean
City of Boise, ID

Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.
City of Dayton, OH

Mayor Ron Nirenberg
City of San Antonio, TX

Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann
City of Columbia, SC

Mayor Regina Romero
City of Tucson, AZ

Mayor Lucy Vinis
City of Eugene, OR

Mayor Michelle Wu
City of Boston, MA

Climate Mayors Membership

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
City of Alameda, CA

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird
City of Lincoln, NE

Mayor Lisa Batey
Milwaukie, OR

Mayor Angela Birney
City of Redmond, WA

Mayor Daniel Biss
City of Evanston, IL

Mayor Rick Blangiardi
City and County of Honolulu, HI

Mayor Noam Bramson
City of New Rochelle, NY

Mayor Paul Brodeur
City of Melrose, MA

Mayor Barbara Buffaloe
City of Columbia, MO

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
Miami-Dade County, FL

Mayor Paige G. Cagnetti
Scranton, PA

Mayor Chance Cutrano
Town of Fairfax, CA

Mayor Glean Davis
City of Santa Monica, CA

Mayor John Giles
City of Mesa, AZ

Mayor Bruce Harrell
City of Seattle, WA

Mayor Jordan Hess
City of Missoula, MT

Mayor Brandon Johnson
Chicago, IL

Mayor Cavalier Johnson
City of Milwaukee, WI

Mayor Emily Larson
City of Duluth, MN

Mayor Heidi Lueb
City of Tigard, OR

Mayor Matt Mahan
City of San Jose, CA

Mayor Steve Noble
City of Kingston, NY

Mayor John Ortega
Village of Questa, NM

Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard
City of Mount Vernon, NY

Mayor Mary Lou Pauly
City of Issaquah, WA

President Senta Plunkett
Village of Wilmette, IL

Mayor Thomas M. Roach
City of White Plains NY

Mayor Talisha Searcy
City of Takoma Park, MD

Mayor Damon Seils
Town of Carrboro, NC

Mayor Gamal Sherif
Borough of Rutledge, PA

Mayor Christopher Taylor
City of Ann Arbor, MI

Mayor Alan Webber
City of Santa Fe, NM

Mayor Miro Weinberger
City of Burlington, VT

Jenny Lybeck

From: City of Redmond <Cityofredmond@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 12:15 PM
To: Jenny Lybeck
Subject: Environmental Sustainability Newsletter - June 2023

CITY OF REDMOND Environmental Sustainability



Preparing for Summer Temperatures

With temperatures heating up and scientists projecting the 2023 [summer to be hotter than normal](#), plan ahead to stay cool and safe.

Some tips for warm weather:

- Stay informed. [Sign up](#) to receive updates on Redmond cooling centers and Weather Alerts.

- Hydrate. Drink plenty of water (remember that coffee, soda, alcohol, and similar drinks are not as hydrating), and don't wait until you are thirsty to drink.
- Stay aware when recreating or working outdoors. Know the [signs of heat stroke and heat exhaustion](#).
- Never leave anyone, especially children or pets, in a parked car on a hot day. The temperature in a parked car can rise to dangerous levels within minutes.
- Check on family members or neighbors who may need assistance to get to a cool location.
- Check the [National Weather Service's Heat Risk](#) for your area. This index provides a forecast of heat impacts for the next week.

Learn about Redmond's climate preparedness efforts



New Fuel Switching Incentives Available

The Energy Smart Eastside Fuel Switching Incentive is now available for households looking to switch from natural gas, propane, wood, or oil heating sources to an efficient heat pump. Moderate-income households may qualify for an instant rebate of \$1,500 on qualified

equipment, with additional manufacturer rebates available for eligible products.

Learn more about the incentives and apply today



Join the ESAC for a Serving of Sustainability

Join city sustainability staff and members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) on July 11, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ([Location details here](#)). We'll be there to chat about projects we're working on, answer your questions, and share our progress on the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. This is an informal gathering, so swing by for five minutes to say hello, or join us for the full session.

Learn more about the gathering



Learn How Street Sweeping Helps Streams

Have you noticed more street sweeping in the Tosh Creek Watershed? The City has increased the frequency of street sweeping along 3.5 miles of public roads within the Tosh Creek Watershed to assess whether this practice improves water quality in Tosh Creek, an important tributary to the Sammamish River. This work is being done thanks to a King County Wastewater Treatment Division WaterWorks grant. If you live in the Tosh Creek Watershed, please help this project by moving your cars off the street during the third Saturday of each month this summer.

[Learn more about the program](#)



We Need Water Podcast is Here!

Our friends at Cascade Water Alliance recently launched the We Need Water podcast! Join Michael Brent of Cascade Water Alliance as he dives deep discussing today's most pressing water issues in King County. Monthly episodes will focus on topics such as water quality, sustainable landscaping, climate change, and the future of our water supply. Stay tuned to learn how you can participate and help preserve Washington's water future.

Listen to the podcast

Environmental Sustainability Council Actions

- [Approval of the Inter-Agency Agreement for 2023-2024 Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant - May 16](#)
- [Approval of the 2023-2024 Local Hazardous Waste Management Program Grant - May 16](#)
- [May Environmental Sustainability Action Plan Implementation Update - May 23](#)

- [Approval of a Consultant Agreement for the 2023 City Fleet Assessment and Fleet Transition Strategy](#) - **June 20**
- [Acceptance of Grant Award](#) and [Approval of Bid Award](#) for the 156th Cycle Track Project - **June 20**
- [Approve Mayor to Sign King County Re+ Pledge](#) - **June 20**



Jenny Lybeck, Sustainability Program Manager

Email: jlybeck@redmond.gov

Website: redmond.gov/Environment

15670 NE 85th St, Redmond, WA 98052

P.O. Box 97010, Redmond, WA 98073

This email was sent to jlybeck@redmond.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: City of Redmond Washington · 15670 NE 85th Street · Redmond, WA 98073-9710



Environmental Sustainability Newsletter - August 2023

City of Redmond Washington sent this bulletin at 08/24/2023 02:35 PM PDT

CITY OF REDMOND
Environmental Sustainability



New Fuel Switching Incentives Available!

Do the smoke and this summer's hot temperatures have you considering air conditioning? The [Energy Smart Eastside Fuel Switching Incentive](#) is now available for households looking to switch to an efficient heat pump from natural gas, propane, wood, or oil heating sources.

Moderate-income households may qualify for instant rebates for qualifying products of \$1,500, plus manufacturer rebates for eligible products to help property owners use sustainable heating and cooling solutions.

Learn more and apply today!



FREE Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Recycling Pickup

The City of Redmond is partnering with Ridwell to offer all Redmond residents the opportunity to recycle Styrofoam, plastic bags, and plastic film from your doorstep for free. Plastic film includes bubble wrap, some Amazon Prime shippers, clean Ziploc bags, and more.

This offer is open to all City of Redmond residents living in houses, condos, and apartments. It is currently unavailable for businesses, schools, or other organizations. You don't have to be a Ridwell member to participate.

The next free recycling pickups are scheduled for Saturday, September 9 and 23.

Learn more and sign up today!



Surface Water Field Trip

Join the City of Redmond's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee and city staff from 4 - 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20, for a nature walk around Smith Woods. We'll connect with other community members and learn about restoration efforts in the Monticello Creek Watershed, how we can help keep our waterways healthy, and other climate and sustainability efforts underway at the City.

Space is limited, so register today!



Climate Resilience and Sustainability Element Open for Comments

The City of Redmond is developing a new Climate Resilience and Sustainability element as part of the [Redmond 2050 Comprehensive Plan update](#). The goal of the element is to provide long-term policy support and direction for the City's greenhouse gas reduction efforts, enhance resilience to the negative impacts of climate change, and avoid creating or worsening climate impacts on vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

The [first draft of policies](#) for the new Climate Resilience and Sustainability element is available for review.

Questions or feedback? Contact Us!



Green Building Incentive Program

The City of Redmond is currently updating its [Green Building Incentive Program](#) (RZC 21.67), a voluntary program that offers land use incentives to encourage new commercial and large multifamily development projects to build green. The City is updating the program to better align with current state regulations and city policies, including the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP).

Key elements of the proposed Green Building Incentive Program include:

- 100% voluntary incentive program, consistent with the current program.
- Advances 100% electric new construction buildings, a key objective necessary to achieve ESAP goals.
- Aligns with the state [Clean Building Performance Standard](#).
- Creates flexibility for developers to select the additional green building techniques most relevant to their project (solar, electric vehicle charging stations, tree preservation, etc.).

You can follow the Green Building Incentive Program update and other critical improvements to the City's Zoning Code, through the [Redmond Zoning Code Rewrite Phase 2 webpage](#).

Questions or feedback? Contact us!

Environmental Sustainability Council Actions

- [June Environmental Sustainability Action Plan Implementation Update](#) – June 27
- [Adoption of Fees for City Owned, Public Electric Vehicle Charging](#) – July 5
- [Approval of Apex Mechanical, LLC, Bid in the Amount of \\$323,469 for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#) – July 5
- [Approval of the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract for the Perrigo Park Field Lighting Energy Efficiency Conversion](#) – July 18
- [Agreement with Urban Forestry Services - Bartlett Consulting, for the Tree Health Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan](#) – July 18

- [Contract Amendment to the Comprehensive Garbage, Recyclables, and Organics Collection Contract](#) – July 18
- [Approval of the AmeriCorps Fellowship Agreement with CivicWell for \\$62,000](#) – July 18



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