

2025 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan Refresh Proposed Big Moves

5 Big Moves

The proposed 5 Big Moves represent the greatest opportunities for action to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meaningfully enhance community resilience to climate hazards. They were identified through data analysis, community feedback, implementation trends, best practices, and to support implementation of Redmond 2050. The proposed Big Moves include:

- 1. Make Existing Buildings Better
- 2. Build Efficient and Resilient Buildings
- 3. Provide Safe and Sustainable Transportation
- 4. Achieve Zero Waste of Resources
- 5. Create a Resilient Community

Specific strategies and actions (targeting mitigation and adaptation/resilience) will be identified for each Big Move, for both the community and municipal operations. This document is intended to be an initial framework from which the City and community will build upon for the 2025 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.



Make Existing Buildings Better

Vision:

Redmond's existing homes and commercial buildings are high performing, energy efficient, and climate-ready.

Proposed Topics:

- Renewable energy transition
- Efficiency and decarbonization retrofits
- Energy use disclosures and performance standards
- Energy resilience upgrades (ex: storage, backup power, grid interactivity)

Why is this a Big Move?

Existing buildings in Redmond that run on fossil fuels are a primary source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, accounting for more than double the amount of GHGs as on-road transportation.

By transitioning to renewable energy sources and weatherizing and decarbonizing our homes, we could reduce electricity demand growth by up to 10%, reducing our community's overall contribution to climate change.



Big Move #2: Build Resilient and Efficient Buildings

Vision:

Redmond constructs new homes and commercial buildings that are resilient to climate hazards and produce zero emissions.

Proposed Topics:

- Net zero, energy use intensity performance standards
- Embodied carbon and mass timber
- Energy resilience upgrades (ex: backup power)
- Infill development and redevelopment

Why is this a Big Move?

By 2050, Redmond will be adding over 33 million square feet of new buildings--that's a lot of new development!

If we continue developing inefficient buildings, we would add over 340,000 MWh of electricity (+41%).

By incorporating net-zero energy buildings in new construction rather than fossil fuel systems, we can rapidly and equitable reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a thriving, climate resilient community.



Big Move #3: Provide Safe and Sustainable Transportation

Vision:

Redmond accelerates the transition to electric vehicles and connected, low-carbon mobility options.

Proposed Topics:

- Complete development of a comprehensive bike network
- Connections to transit
- Parking reform and pricing strategies
- EV transition and charging infrastructure
- Create a transit-oriented live-work community

Why is this a Big Move?

Transportation in Redmond is both a public health and climate concern, contributing to 23% of our community greenhouse gas emissions.

Transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs) can help reduce climate emissions from gas-powered vehicles. However, electrification is only part of the solution; without reducing our use of vehicles in Redmond, a transition to EVs will increase electricity demand by 41%. Reducing our car dependence by just 15% would help us avoid over 79,000 MWh/year in electric vehicle demand!

Big Move #4: Achieve Zero Waste of Resources

Vision:

Redmond reduces consumption and diverts as much waste as possible from the landfill.

Proposed Topics:

- Reusable/durable containers
- Recycling infrastructure and education
- Organic materials to energy (e.g., anerobic digestion)
- Distributed composting
- Building deconstruction

Why is this a Big Move?

Waste is the #1 source of methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is even more potent than carbon dioxide. Emissions from waste in the landfill continue for decades after the waste is buried.

Composting and waste diversion programs only have so much of an impact on reducing emissions. To fully eliminate wasterelated emissions, we must get to the source of waste generation and reduce our overall consumption of goods.

Big Move #5: Create a Resilient Community

Vision:

Redmond cultivates thriving natural environments and

neighborhoods that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Proposed Topics:

- Emergency preparedness and response
- Green space and urban forest
- Surface and groundwater
- Stormwater management

Why is this a Big Move?

The topics within this Big Move reflect the systems identified as "high priority" in the Redmond Climate Vulnerability Risk Assessment and Strategy.

The City can proactively strengthen its resilience by:

- Ensuring rapid, coordinated emergency response during and after climate hazards to minimize damage to people, property, and ecosystems.
- Expanding green space to increase carbon sequestration, manage stormwater, and enhance public education.
- Safeguarding drinking water and preserving water quality to protect against seasonal variability and drought.
- Improving stormwater management to mitigate flood risks and protect infrastructure and water quality.