

## Background

This document provides a high-level update of implementation activities for the 2025 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP). The 2025 ESAP outlines the City's five Big Moves and the key actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance environmental and community resilience to climate impacts.

Key priorities guiding how we advance the 2025 ESAP include:

- **High Impact Actions:** Advance high-impact climate and sustainability actions that move Redmond toward carbon neutrality and resilience.
- **Equitable Engagement and Partnerships:** Deliver sustainability programs and messages that are accessible, culturally relevant, and empower all communities.
- **Lead with Transparency and Data:** Develop programming that's informed by clear, reliable, and accessible information.

## Updates

The following are key updates from November through February 2025. These updates are prepared once per quarter.

### High Impact Actions

- Commercial Clean Buildings Incentive Program: The City is launching a clean buildings incentive program in partnership with the cities of Bellevue and Issaquah. The three cities are partnering to provide technical support to commercial and multifamily property owners as they pursue compliance with the state's Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS). Participant services include energy benchmarking, state incentive application support, PSE incentive application support, and support for completing and submitting compliance documentation to the state. To date three webinars on CBPS requirements have been offered to building owners in the partner cities. Building owners can learn more and sign up at: [Sustainable Buildings](#).
- Grid Capacity Study: The cities of Redmond and Bellevue officially kicked off the grid capacity study in December in partnership with AECOM. The goal of the study is to assess current and future capabilities of Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) electric system to accommodate building and vehicle electrification targets, as well as projected growth within Redmond 2050. The project is being led by the City of Bellevue with consultant support and is anticipated to be completed by Q2 2026. The analysis will inform next steps for coordination with PSE and identify other strategies to support reliable access to clean electricity as Redmond grows. The project includes data analysis and workshops with PSE to inform the final report. Staff are scheduled to present the findings from the analysis to Council during a Study Session at the end of Q2.
- Ebike Incentive Grant Award: The cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, and Redmond have been awarded a Puget Sound Energy Transportation Emissions Reduction (TER) grant in the amount of \$337,513 to fund an e-bike rebate program in the three cities. The program is targeting issuing rebates for 250 e-bikes across the three jurisdictions with 75% of the rebates going to income qualified residents under 80% of AMI. This project is being led by the City of Bellevue with support from Issaquah and Redmond, with a goal of launching this summer.

- Green Redmond Partnership - New Cohort of Volunteer Forest Stewards: On February 7, the City of Redmond hosted a Green Redmond Partnership training for 47 new volunteer Forest Stewards. These volunteers will do hands on urban forest restoration work on their own and by hosting volunteer events at twelve of Redmond's parks and Native Growth Protection Easements. With this new cohort of stewards, the number of active Forest Stewards will increase by 70%. Through their work, these Forest Stewards will support the City of Redmond in achieving our goal of enrolling all acres of publicly owned urban forests into active restoration. Recruitment for the new Forest Stewards began in October 2025 with a variety of digital and targeted in-person methods. The cohort will continue to be onboarded throughout Q1 and Q2 2026.
- Tree Canopy Expansion: From fall 2025 through early 2026, Park Operations and Public Works continued to advance tree canopy expansion and maintenance efforts citywide. In-house planting efforts on Parks property during winter 2025-2026 are nearing completion, with approximately 147 new trees planted at Meadow Park (14), Hartman Park (14), Idylwood Park (8), Nike Park (51), and Willow Creek Park (60), not including additional storm-related replacement trees. Additional in-house tree planting is planned for winter 2026-2027. Public Works planted 1,007 trees, including 210 in October, 15 in November, 133 in December, and 649 in January. Annual street tree pruning concluded after approximately eight weeks of work, and contracted tree mitigation work for 2025 was completed in November, addressing the next 54 highest-priority trees identified in the Tree Risk Health Mitigation Report. Looking ahead, the City is preparing RFPs to expand capacity for tree work, including a 2026 RFP for contracted tree mitigation (anticipated to open in late February/early March, with work occurring May-November 2026) and a separate RFP for contracted tree canopy expansion sites, targeted for spring 2026 with planting anticipated in fall 2026. Parks is also coordinating with TIS and Public Works to advance tree canopy data collection and monitoring, including initiating LiDAR and aerial photography analysis in 2026.
- Recology Contract Launch: On January 1, 2026, the City waste services transitioned from Waste Management to Recology. The Recology transition has been smooth and minor issues around collection schedules, missed pickups, and customer service communications have been quickly resolved. Recology has been highly responsive, addressing nearly all reported issues within one business day. Recology has also assumed responsibility for the street litter can program, with minimal instances of overflowing cans during the first month. The Recology Store continues to experience steady foot traffic, and drop-off recycling activity has remained consistent. Recology will provide monthly reports on recycling totals from the store.
- 2024 IRS Direct Pay Reimbursement Request Submitted: The City filed a \$154,140 reimbursement request to the IRS Direct Pay program in support of 2024 expenses for electric vehicles and the Redmond Senior & Community Center photovoltaic system. Direct Pay enables tax-exempt entities like the City to receive federal payments for eligible clean energy investments, such as solar energy, battery storage, and electric vehicles. Technical assistance preparing the filing was provided at no cost to the City through the Washington State Department of Commerce Washington Clean Energy Tax Credit Assistance Program. The City will leverage this state supported technical assistance in the preparation of a 2025 filing later this year for EV purchases made before the EV tax credits ended on Sept. 30, 2025.
- 2025 ESAP Adopted: The 2025 ESAP was adopted by Council on December 2, 2025, and includes a refined vision, updated strategies and actions to guide the next five years of efforts to

reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate hazards. More information on the 2025 ESAP can be found [online](#).

- Redmond Senior & Community Center Earns LEED Platinum: The new Redmond Senior & Community Center, which opened in May 2024, has been recognized for its commitment to sustainability with a LEED Platinum designation. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is the world's most widely used green building certification system, with Platinum being the highest achievement. With this designation, Redmond's newest community center becomes the City's first LEED Platinum building, the first LEED Platinum senior center in the world, and the first LEED Platinum community center in the world under LEED version 4 standards. Less than 1% of LEED-certified buildings achieve Platinum status.
- Energy Efficiency Upgrades at City Hall and Public Safety Building: In 2025, the City initiated energy efficiency upgrade projects at City Hall and the Public Safety Building (PSB) to improve building performance, reduce operating costs, and support compliance with Washington's Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS). Work at City Hall was completed in Q4 2025 and included lighting upgrades to replace aging 2006-era fixtures with modern LED lighting and controls, improving reliability, extending system life, and reducing energy use. The City secured \$105,165 in rebates from Puget Sound Energy for the project, reducing overall project costs. The PSB project is larger in scope and is still underway.
- Energy Smart Eastside: Energy Smart Eastside (ESE) is a regional decarbonization program founded in 2022 by the cities of Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Sammamish. ESE catalyzes the equitable transition to healthy, energy efficient, and resilient homes. Key updates include:
  - Patterson Park Decarbonization Project: Energy Smart Eastside partnered with Puget Sound Energy to decarbonize 20 units at the Habitat for Humanity Patterson Park affordable housing complex. The homes were provided with new heat pumps and heat pump water heaters at no cost to the homeowners. A community gathering will be hosted in March to celebrate the completion of the project.
  - 2025 ESE Grant Awards: ESE has been conditionally awarded grants from Puget Sound Energy (\$700,000) and the Washington Community Energy Efficiency Program (\$500,000). The grants will be split between the six partner jurisdictions and fund installations of heat pumps in low- and moderate-income homes through the ESE Boost Program. Since the program began in 2022, ESE has been awarded more than \$8,000,000 in grants.

### Equitable Engagement and Partnerships

- Library Partnership: The City has signed a partnership agreement with the Redmond Library to support ongoing education and engagement opportunities around Redmond Climate Action for the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. This includes but is not limited to the launch of a Climate Action Group, a club where community members gather to learn how to live more sustainably from local climate leaders, share resources, and catalyze their own climate action projects. The group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Library. February's meeting will feature Kyle Nelson (Emergency Management Program Coordinator) who will speak on personal emergency preparedness during climate disasters.

- El Centro and United Hub Partnerships: The City renewed partnership agreements with El Centro Cultural Mexicano and United Hub, who previously supported outreach and engagement efforts for the development of the ESAP. Growing on this foundation, each organization will activate their communities around climate action and support ongoing education and outreach efforts to connect community members to resources and opportunities offered by the City. This will include educational workshops around the ESAP's Five Big Moves, community events like last August's "Thrift and Threads" fair, and ongoing multilingual promotion and education around sustainability and related resources through social media, radio, podcasts and online blogs.
- Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund Grant Application: The City of Redmond applied for the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF). If awarded, the YCAF would provide \$50,000 grant and technical assistance to engage young people (ages 15-24) in creating climate solutions aligned with local goals. The City expects to hear back on application status by April.
- US Conference of Mayors Panel Presentation: During the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, Mayor Birney was a speaker on a Cities Delivering on Climate Solutions panel presentation. Mayor Birney shared about affordable housing as a climate solution and ways in which Redmond has prioritized heat pump retrofits in existing affordable housing to increase resilience.
- City of Redmond at COP 30 Local Leaders Forum: Mayor Birney joined governors, mayors, and international leaders at the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro in November, where cities from around the world gathered to spotlight how local governments are moving the needle on climate action. The message from the forum was clear: even as national and global conditions shift, communities are leading the way to strengthen resilience, improve public health, and accelerate the clean energy transition. Mayor Birney shared Redmond's story, shaped by years of thoughtful community input and partnership, and highlighted how that work is now delivering visible progress at home. Ahead of conference, Mayor Birney was interviewed for an [article](#) highlighting how cities across the county are driving local climate action.

## Data and Transparency

- ESAC Meet and Green Drop-in Hours: The City and the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee host monthly drop-in hours as part of an ongoing outreach series to engage community members. 2026 Meet and Greens will be bringing in guest speakers to dive deeper into various sustainability topics. In January, Jesse Dunbar (Solid Waste Program Administrator) joined us at the Redmond Library to discuss all things waste, from the new Recology changes to answering questions about composting. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 19 at El Centro Cultural Mexicano and will feature Chris Weber (Public Art Program Administrator) to share about the intersection of art and climate, and the ways it is used to drive change. This topic complements the series of zero-waste workshops El Centro Cultural Mexicano is hosting in partnership with the City.
- Sustainability eNewsletter: Sustainability e newsletters were published in [November](#), [December](#), [January](#), and [February](#) highlighting progress updates and opportunities for community members to get involved.