

## Background

This document provides a high-level update of implementation activities for the 2025 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP). The ESAP is organized around the City's five Big Moves and the key strategies guiding our work to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance environmental and community resilience to climate impacts, which include:

- **Big Move 1: Make Existing Buildings Better**
  - Reduce the direct use of fossil fuels across the community.
  - Increase energy efficiency and performance in existing buildings.
- **Big Move 2: Build Resilient and Efficient Buildings**
  - Manage growing electricity demand and support grid resilience.
  - Support high performance building standards and climate policies.
- **Big Move 3: Provide Accessible and Sustainable Transportation**
  - Level the playing field for non-vehicle transportation modes.
  - Encourage community members to choose low-carbon transportation options.
- **Big Move 4: Achieve Zero Waste of Resources**
  - Reduce consumption.
  - Create a circular economy.
- **Big Move 5: Foster a Resilient Community and Natural Environment**
  - Provide resources to support community members before, during, and after climate hazards.
  - Maintain infrastructure and healthy ecosystems to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

## Updates

The following are key ESAP implementation activities that occurred between February and May 2026. These updates are prepared once per quarter. The next quarterly update is planned for September.

### Big Move 1: Make Existing Buildings Better

- Commercial Clean Buildings Incentive Program: The City officially launched its clean buildings incentive program in April, in partnership with the cities of Bellevue and Issaquah. To date five webinars on Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS) requirements have been offered to building owners in the partner cities. Additionally, four buildings submitted interest forms to be part of the program - those applications are currently under review. The three cities are partnering to provide technical support to commercial and multifamily property owners as they pursue compliance with the state's 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. Building owners can learn more and sign up at: [Sustainable Buildings](#).
- Energy Efficiency and Clean Building Compliance at City Hall: The City has participated in Puget Sound Energy's Commercial Strategic Energy Management (CSEM) program since 2021 to reduce energy use across our facilities through improved operations and staff engagement. The program provides free technical support, Energy Walks, and incentives to help the City achieve ongoing energy savings without major capital investments. With upcoming Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS) compliance deadlines approaching, Parks staff focused CSEM efforts on City Hall over the past quarter. As a result, the City Hall Energy Use Intensity (EUI)

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dropped to 60 (a 10-point drop), putting the building on track for CBPS compliance. Staff implemented low/no cost operational changes including HVAC scheduling, weekend shutdowns, air purge optimization, and lighting controls. These changes led to ~16% reduction in electricity and ~11% reduction in natural gas use (PSE estimates) at City Hall, and delivered approximately 10% cost savings (>\$1,200/month). This is part of an ongoing, portfolio-wide effort to increase the efficiency of existing facilities, reduce energy waste, and support progress towards City decarbonization goals.

- Facilities Condition Assessment Update: The City renewed a contract with MENG Analysis to update components of the 2023 Facilities Condition Assessment. The update will include an equipment inventory for new and extensively remodeled City buildings (RSCC, Pool) to inform ongoing maintenance prioritization and the City Asset Management program. A facility condition assessment is a comprehensive review of a building’s systems and overall condition to identify what is functioning well, what is nearing the end of its useful life, and where repairs or upgrades are needed. FCAs are powerful planning tools to help prioritize maintenance and capital investments over time.
- Energy Smart Eastside: Energy Smart Eastside (ESE) is a regional decarbonization program that catalyzes the equitable transition to healthy, energy efficient, and resilient homes. The program was founded in 2022 by the cities of Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Sammamish.
  - Friendly Village: Over the past two months, Redmond ESE work has targeted full cost coverage installations at 20 mobile homes in Friendly Village. Friendly Village is a permanently affordable mobile home park for seniors that is managed by King County Housing Authority. The installations are currently underway and are anticipated to be complete ahead of the cooling season.
  - Installation Tracker: The following is a summary of total installations completed by partner city as of May 5. Redmond continues to prioritize city dollars to fund full cost coverage Boost installs to support resilience and equity priorities. NOTE: in 2023, Energy Smart Eastside partnered with King County Housing Authority and Imagine Housing to complete weatherization and heat pump installations at one Imagine Housing property in each of the Eastside cities. That work was fully funded by King County Housing Authority. No grant or city dollars were leveraged for that work.

<b>City</b>	<b>Boost</b> Full cost coverage funded by city and grant dollars	<b>Bonus Incentive</b> \$5000 rebate funded by city and grant dollars	<b>Market Rate Discount</b> \$1000 manufacturer funded discount	<b>Imagine Housing Pilot</b> Full cost coverage funded by King County Housing Authority	<b>TOTAL by City</b>
Bellevue	135	77	101	24	<b>337</b>
Issaquah	40	28	38	14	<b>120</b>
Kirkland	58	41	95	24	<b>218</b>
Mercer Island	13	10	31	0	<b>54</b>
<b>Redmond</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>177</b>
Sammamish	14	23	18	0	<b>55</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>961</b>

### **Big Move 2: Build Resilient and Efficient New Buildings**

- Grid Capacity Study: The Cities of Redmond and Bellevue continued progress on the Grid Capacity Study, with the final report now in the final stages of production and on track for Council presentation during a June 23 Study Session. Led by the City of Bellevue with consultant support, the study evaluates the local distribution grid's ability to support future growth and increased building and transportation electrification. Preliminary findings indicate that, at a system level, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) anticipates having sufficient capacity to serve Redmond's needs over the next 10 years with planned infrastructure improvements. However, several substations in Redmond are projected to face constrained capacity by 2035. The preliminary analysis highlights the importance of continued coordination with PSE, expanded demand-side management strategies, and longer-term grid planning to support reliable access to clean electricity as Redmond grows. The report also includes recommendations related to forecasting, permitting, resilience, infrastructure planning, and coordination for large energy loads. The project has included data analysis and workshops with PSE, and staff look forward to sharing the final report and discussing potential next steps with Council in June.

### **Big Move 3: Provide Accessible and Sustainable Transportation**

- E-bike 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 will issue rebates for approximately 250 e-bikes across the three jurisdictions with 75% of the rebates going to income qualified residents earning under 80% of the area median income (AMI). This project is being led by the City of Bellevue with support from Issaquah and Redmond, with a goal of launching June 15.

### **Big Move 4: Achieve Zero Waste of Resources**

- Sustainable Purchasing Roadshow: Public Works participated in the 2026 Purchasing Road Shows to educate staff about the Sustainable Purchasing Policy. This internal policy guides purchasing decisions and supports progress towards zero waste of resources within city operations. The new policy was well received and work on establishing baseline data is underway.
- Launch of Waste Buster App: Waste Buster, Redmond's new AI chatbot waste assistant, launched in April. Waste Buster is designed to help residents understand what goes where in the five most used languages in Redmond, along with information on Recology services. Waste Buster can provide 24/7 assistance to Redmond residents. Information and QR codes will be advertised in the Summer Focus newsletter, City social media, and a flyer will be included in the May residential billing sent by Recology. Posters are printed with large QR codes that will be affixed to walls in multifamily buildings to help with waste sorting in areas with the most opportunity for improvement.
- New Street Garbage Cans Coming Soon: Over the coming months, the City will replace 65 existing street garbage cans at locations across the community with newly designed cans. An additional nine cans will also be installed, bringing the total to 74 new street garbage cans

citywide. Each of the new 74 cans will have advanced laser sensor technology that will report out at least one time daily when the cans reach 80% fullness. Public Works and Recology will have access to a dashboard with details about the entire portfolio of cans and each cans fullness. The goal is to reduce overflowing cans and the need for residents to report those cans. The new cans are more pest resistant, allow for easy collection by Recology, and are the same style seen at Metro bus stops, in Seattle, and other municipalities in the area.

- Zero Waste Certification Feasibility Work Starting in May: A consultant was chosen to start the process of assessing City Hall and the MOC's feasibility for TRUE certification. The goal is to assess city operations and determine where reuse, recycling, and reduction opportunities exist. Once feasibility has been determined, a timeline for certification will be established and the work of creating more sustainable operations will begin. The current goal for certification is by the end of 2027, but that date could move out later depending on the results of the feasibility phase.

### **Big Move 5: Foster a Resilient Community and Natural Environment**

- Tree Giveaway: Planning for the second annual Redmond tree giveaway is underway. This year, outreach will focus on equity by factoring the existing canopy coverage with social indicators. The giveaway is scheduled for 9 am - 2 pm on Oct. 10, at the municipal parking lot on 160th Ave NE. The City is partnering with 300Trees, Washington Conservation Corps, and PlantAmnesty to conduct the giveaway.
- 2023 and 2024 GHG Inventories Published: Every other year the City completes a community and city operations greenhouse gas emissions inventory to track progress towards our goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The inventory tracks emissions from sources like electricity and natural gas consumption, vehicles, and waste. The City completed an off-cycle 2023 inventory to inform the development of the 2025 ESAP as well as a 2024 inventory to support ongoing tracking and are available on the City's [website](#).
  - Community Emissions: Overall, 2024 saw an 18% reduction in community emissions compared to the 2023 GHG inventory and a 24% reduction from the 2011 baseline. The decrease between 2023 and 2024 was primarily driven by higher Green Power purchases in the commercial sector, reduced building energy consumption, and reduced vehicle miles traveled in heavy and medium duty vehicles. Electricity (41%) and natural gas (18%), as well as on-road vehicles (21%) continue to be Redmond's largest sources of emissions across the community.
  - Government Operations: 2024 City operations emissions decreased by 58% compared to the 2011 baseline, and 5% from 2023, primarily driven by reductions in natural gas use, fleet electrification, and increases in alternative transportation modes for employee commute. Energy (23% from electricity and 20% from natural gas), the City's vehicle fleet (28%), and employee commutes (26%) continue to be the largest sources of city operations emissions.
- Earth Month Campaign Recap: Throughout the month of April, the City hosted numerous Arbor Day and Earth Month activities, and increased communications to encourage personal action. Each week highlighted a different Big Move, including [buildings](#), [waste](#), [transportation](#), and [community resilience](#).

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- Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund Grant Application: The City of Redmond is one of 300 cities from across the globe joining Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund. As part of this program, the City will receive \$50,000 to distribute as microgrants to fund youth-led climate initiatives benefiting the Redmond community. From mobilizing tree-planting or public education campaigns to launching recycling or waste reduction initiatives, efforts stemming from the new Youth Climate Action Fund will advance critical community goals, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions 95% by 2050. To receive program updates and to be notified when applications open, residents should fill out the [interest form](#).
- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) April Meeting: The ESAC gathered on April 23 to discuss waste, building decarbonization programming, and a restructure of the advisory committee. The ESAC was formed in 2021 to inform implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP). With the 2025 update of the ESAP, the advisory committee will be readjusting the dedicated seats and forming an Action Network to increase opportunities for the community to engage in ESAC activities. Recruitment of two youth seats and two technical expert seats is underway. Interested community members can [apply online](#) by June 5.
- 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 and staff from the tree code team will be joining in May. The next Meet and Green will be held May 27 from 3-4:30 at the Redmond Library. All community members are welcome.
- Sustainability eNewsletter: Sustainability enewsletters were published in [March](#), [April](#), and [May](#) highlighting progress updates and opportunities for community members to get involved.