

### Overview

Ongoing data monitoring and evaluation is critical in understanding a community's progress towards its climate goals and targets. It ensures programs and activities are best serving the community, generating positive impact, and ultimately informing the development and delivery of evidence-based climate change strategies.

Through the 2021-22 biennial budget, the City will explore and implement strategies to modernize and streamline sustainability data tracking efforts. This effort builds on more than 10 years of sustainability data tracking and aligns the City's sustainability work with the vision of the TIS 4 Year Strategic Plan.

### Background

Redmond has been tracking key climate and sustainability indicators for more than 10 years using multiple platforms and tools, including:

#### Scope 5

- **Description:** From 2013-2018 Redmond leveraged the online platform [Scope 5](#) to visualize key sustainability metrics. This was done in partnership with King County-Cities Climate Collaboration members Bellevue, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and King County.
- **Purpose:** Scope 5 allowed the City to calculate greenhouse gas emissions, transparently track metrics, and share progress with stakeholders via a public website. The City tracked more than 25 metrics through Scope 5 across the following focus areas:
  - Government Operations
  - Community Emissions
  - Community Energy Use
  - Community Transportation
  - Community Waste
  - Community Water Consumption
- **Current status:** K4C members mutually agreed to transition away from the Scope 5 platform in 2018 due to limitations in the software. The City now calculates its municipal and community greenhouse gas inventory through ICLEI's online platform ClearPath. This is a widely used tool among local governments and a best practice across the field. All other indicators continue to be tracked as outlined below.

#### ESAP

- **Description:** A comprehensive sustainability inventory was compiled at the onset of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan planning process to summarize Redmond's past, current, and potential future sustainability-related activities and context. The sustainability inventory included a quantitative assessment of baseline conditions and future trends in key sustainability performance indicators (KPIs).
- **Purpose:** The inventory informed the metrics and the wedge analysis – the analysis that quantifies the path to the City's GHG reduction goals – included in the final ESAP. This data also informed future trends, which were provided for three scenarios:
  - A Business-As-Usual scenario that assumes the City takes no further action to further sustainability goals.

## ATTACHMENT A – Environmental Sustainability Data Tracking Background

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- An Adjusted Business-As-Usual scenario that takes into account existing and anticipated external policies and activities.
- A Target scenario that can be used to compare projected future trends to relevant adopted targets, such as those set by Washington State or King County (K4C, PSRC).
- **Current status:** The ESAP includes data and historical trends for more than 30 KPIs, which the City will continue to monitor and report on moving forward. As outlined in the ESAP, Redmond will leverage two key mechanisms to monitor progress, including public annual progress and evaluation reports and biennial GHG inventory updates.

### 2021 Project Overview

The foundation of the City's data tracking efforts includes Excel-based spreadsheets. While this is common practice, it limits sharing capabilities and requires frequent updates to be most effective. Through the 2021-22 biennial budget, City Council allocated \$250,000 for the environmental sustainability data initiative. The goal of this effort is to implement strategies to enhance data transparency and increase data-driven learning opportunities to guide the City's progress towards its climate and sustainability goals.

To achieve this vision, funds from the 2021-22 budget will support the development of enhanced data tracking capabilities and a dashboarding system to monitor and inform the City's programming and progress. The project will buildout automated data collection and visualization procedures where feasible, as well as explore the addition of key software and services subscriptions.