

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 the 2020 ESAP 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

The following are key updates from August through October.

High Impact Initiatives

- **New Commercial Technical Assistance:** The City is launching a clean buildings incentive program in partnership with the cities of Bellevue and Issaquah. The program will provide technical support to commercial and multifamily property owners as they pursue compliance with the state's Clean Buildings Performance Standard. Contracting is nearly complete, and the program is expected to launch in Q1 of 2026.
- **Air Purifier Distribution Pilot:** The City completed a pilot air purifier distribution during the month of August to build community resilience against wildfire and smoke events. 100 [Winix](#) air purifiers and 2 [Lasko box fan and filters](#) were distributed to income-qualified individuals. Staff conducted targeted outreach to Avon Villa, Friendly Village, Martin's Mobile Villa, and through community partners. 70 purifiers were distributed at City-run distribution events, and 30 were distributed through community organizations. Staff anticipates expanding the pilot during the 2026 wildfire season.
- **Grid Capacity Study:** The cities of Redmond and Bellevue have partnered on a joint grid capacity study. The goal of the study is to understand constraints and opportunities with the local distribution grid as it relates to growth targets, building and transportation electrification, and the transition to 100% renewable energy by 2045. The project is being led by the City of Bellevue with consultant support and is anticipated to be complete 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.

- Policy Advocacy: The Mayor submitted a public comment letter in opposition to the proposed repeal of the US Environmental Protection Agency Endangerment Finding, which is the legal basis for regulating greenhouse gas emissions. Review the full letter in Attachment A.
- 2025 ESAP Refresh: The ESAP Refresh is in the final phase of development, with the draft plan being released for public comment on Oct. 31.
 - *Next steps*: Staff will present the draft plan to Council on Nov. 12 (rescheduled from Oct. 28). The comment period on the full draft will be open from Oct. 31 through Nov. 16. The 2025 ESAP is on track for Council adoption at the Dec. 2 Council Business meeting. Community members can learn more at [LetsConnect](#).
 - *Partner Events*: The Sustainability team partnered with community organizations to connect a broader audience to the 2025 ESAP Refresh for feedback and to support sustainability programming around the city. Recent events include:
 - *United Hub* hosted two focus groups with ~25 community members to get feedback on proposed goals and actions, and 3 community events to activate the community around climate action. The events included a park restoration event with Green Redmond (~30 participants), a “Thrift and Threads” reuse fair at the Redmond Senior & Community Center (~250 attendees), and a heat pump workshop hosted in Chinese in partnership with Energy Smart Eastside (~20 participants).
 - *El Centro Cultural Mexicano* hosted two focus groups on Safe and Sustainable Transportation at the center with 40 total participants and one creative workshop on Zero Waste of Resources at the center’s Makerspace with 30 participants.
 - *Redmond Library* set up four library displays through the month of September focused on climate change and sustainability. The displays included fiction, non-fiction, visual media, children’s stories, climate activism stories.
- Solarize Campaign Recap: Redmond and the Eastside Climate Partnership, in collaboration with Olympia Community Solar, launched the [Solarize Eastside](#) campaign in March. The goal of Solarize Eastside is to help Eastside community members install solar panels on their homes and businesses by providing education, vetted installers, a group purchasing discount, and technical support. 66 solar assessments were completed in Redmond through the program, resulting in 8 systems installed.
- Energy Smart Eastside: Energy Smart Eastside reached a critical milestone, surpassing 700 installs across the six partner cities since the program launched in 2023. In total, Redmond has seen 115 heat pump installations through Energy Smart Eastside. The City also created [this video](#), which features two Redmond residents who received heat pumps through ESE. One of those residents has in turn become an enthusiastic volunteer for the program.
- Tree Giveaway: In September the Parks Department partnered with 300 Trees to give away 521 trees and bags of mulch to residents, local businesses, and organizations to plant on private property to help meet the City’s 40% tree canopy goal.
 - Over 100 participants picked up trees at the distribution event on Sept. 27.
 - Redmond’s Washington Conservation Corps Crew provided planting assistance to recipients throughout the week of Oct. 6.

- The City will continue work with Plant Amnesty to provide tree-care workshops to recipients in the Spring of 2026.

Lead by Example:

- City Hall Lighting Upgrade: The City completed a lighting upgrade at City Hall in August. The new fixtures are energy efficient LEDS and include automated controls that dim or turn off lights when spaces aren't in use, which will help reduce unnecessary energy use. The project is anticipated to reduce energy use and support compliance with the state Clean Buildings Performance Standard.

Sustainability Programming

- ESAC Meet & Green Drop In Hours: The City hosted monthly drop-in hours through an [ongoing outreach series](#) to engage community members.
 - July 24 at Downtown Park
 - August 21 at El Centro Cultural Mexicano
 - September 18 at the Redmond Public Library
 - October 23 at the Redmond Public Library
- Sustainability eNewsletters: The Environmental Sustainability newsletters get published at the start of each month. These newsletters highlight progress and stories related to the City's sustainability efforts and provide ways for community members to get involved in various efforts.
 - July eNews can be accessed [here](#)
 - August eNews can be accessed [here](#)
 - September eNews can be accessed [here](#)
 - October eNews can be accessed [here](#)



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September 20, 2025
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20460

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Subject: Proposed Rule, Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards, "90 Fed. Reg. 36,288 (Aug. 1, 2025)
Docket No.: EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194; FRL-12715-01-OAR

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Redmond, I write to submit this comment letter in strong opposition to EPA's proposal to reconsider or rescind the Endangerment Finding for greenhouse gases (GHGs) and to eliminate federal GHG standards for motor vehicles. As a mayor charged with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of over 80,000 residents, I urge EPA to maintain its longstanding and scientifically based Endangerment Finding and the vehicle GHG standards that are critical to lessening the impacts of GHG-induced climate change in our communities. Repealing the Endangerment Finding exposes the general public, particularly youth, seniors, and other members of our vulnerable communities, to avoidable harm.

The Fifth National Climate Assessment, published in 2023, states, "Cities are experiencing increased risks from climate hazards, including extreme heat, flooding, sea level rise, drought, and wildfires," and that "infrastructure designed for past climate conditions is increasingly vulnerable, leading to rising costs for municipalities and residents." The City of Redmond is already experiencing the consequences of climate change, which is caused, in significant part, by GHG emissions. We have experienced flooding from extreme rain events, extreme heat (most notable a "heat dome" in 2021, which killed at least 112 people in Washington), and increased wildfire smoke.

In 2022 our City completed a Climate Vulnerability Risk Assessment and Strategy, which determined that Redmond is at risk of increased wet season precipitation due to climate change, leading to more frequent flooding, erosion, and landslides. Increasing summer temperatures will at the same time, lead to decreases in snowpack which affects surface water and public water supplies for our drinking

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water system. As average temperatures rise, summer soil moisture and stream flow will decrease causing more risk of wildfires in the region. This will cause more smoke events impacting air quality which is especially dangerous for our most vulnerable populations. Already, significant regional wildfire events in 2017, 2018, 2020, and 2022 created hazardous air quality for our residents. Emergency events have cascading impacts on our City, including the endangerment of first responders, the impact to our municipal infrastructure and grid, and the ability to keep lights on and businesses and households running.

Rolling back the Endangerment Finding and vehicle GHG standards would undermine our ability to protect residents from these escalating harms caused by poor air quality. For all of the above reasons, I strongly oppose any effort to revoke the EPA's Endangerment Finding on GHG emissions and urge the agency to uphold and enforce strong federal GHG vehicle standards.

Sincerely,

Angela Birney
Mayor

City Hall

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