

## 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 2023-2024 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

### High Impact Initiatives

- Climate Element: The second draft of the Redmond 2050 Climate and Sustainability Element was released to the public and presented to the Planning Commission (1.10.24), Citizen Advisory Committee (1.11.24), and Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (scheduled for 1.25.24). Key feedback themes integrated into the second version include ensuring the policies reflect the urgency of the climate crisis, addressing water availability, and creating consistent language around equity. The element is open for public comment through the Spring. [Learn more.](#)
- Tree Plantings: The Washington Conservation Corps crew planted 347 trees and 252 shrubs along streams in December. In January, the City has two WCC crews that will be planting 600 trees and 750 shrubs along Bear Creek. This work supports the city's tree canopy and habitat restoration goals.
- Redmond Video Library Updated with Eight New Videos, Including Focus on Reuse: City staff created eight new video clips to share information on proper recycling, composting and disposal of unique items, as well as reuse. Each video is 30 seconds or shorter so viewers can quickly get answers to their questions. Topics covered in the new videos include:
  - Paint take back
  - Medicine take back
  - Commercial organics - how the program Works
  - Reduce through reuse: utensils
  - Reduce through reuse: take out containers
  - Reduce through reuse: reusable bags
  - Reduce through reuse: reusable water bottles
  - Reduce through reusable coffee cups

The addition of the eight new videos brings the total number of videos in the Recycling Video Library to 36. All videos can be viewed at: [Redmond.gov/recyclingvideos](https://redmond.gov/recyclingvideos)

- Pilot Redmond Lights Holiday Decorations Swap a Big Success: During the Redmond Lights kick-off on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the City of Redmond and Waste Management (WM) partnered to create a

used holiday decorations swap. The goal of the swap was to encourage reuse while spreading good will to all! The Environmental Programs group donated holiday decorations they were no longer using. The decorations swap was promoted on social media and about 350 people visited the WM booth and ALL the holiday decorations were claimed. People who took decorations were grateful and impressed that all the items had been donated by City staff (thanks to everyone who donated!). If there had been any leftover decorations WM had arranged for those to go to Hopelink. Staff are looking to grow the program next year.

- Energy Smart Eastside (ESE): Through the Eastside Climate Partnership, the cities of Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, and Mercer Island launched Energy Smart Eastside to increase adoption of all electric heat pumps and drive towards our climate goals. ESE includes three tracks: Boost, Fuel Switch, and a distributor incentive combined with education.
  - ESE Boost program provides 100% cost coverage heat pump installations for low-income single-family residents earning between <50%-80% AMI. The Boost pilot program launched in April 2023 and the first cohort of 25 homes across the five cities are finalizing installation. All six of Redmond's cohort participants have installed their heat pumps as of December. Lessons learned from the first cohort will inform program updates as ESE prepares to launch a new cohort in Q1 of 2024. Staff will bring a full update on ESE during Q2.
  - Fuel Switching Incentive: ESE launched a new marketing campaign called Make the Switch to drive program participation. The ESE Fuel Switching program provides an additional market rate incentive of \$1,500 for middle income residents (80%-150% AMI) who switch from gas, oil, or wood as a primary heat source. Community members can receive up to \$6,400 off the purchase of a new heat pump when ESE incentives are stacked with federal tax credits and utility incentives. After the campaign, the staff will evaluate campaign metrics and opportunities to increase participation.

### Lead by Example

- Climate Mayors Video: Climate Mayors, C40 Cities, and Urban Sustainability Directors Network issued a call for on-the-ground stories of mayors showcasing 2023 climate action accomplishments. Mayor Birney submitted a video highlighting the great work underway at the Redmond Senior and Community Center. [View the video.](#)
- Eastside Climate Partnership Fleet Managers Meeting: The Eastside Climate Partnership convened fleet managers from Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Sammamish to build capacity and facilitate information sharing on best practices as the jurisdictions all work to electrify fleets. Key outcomes from the meeting included a desire to schedule ongoing gatherings and opportunities for collaboration to explore at future meetings.
- Facility Condition Assessment and Decarbonization Planning: The City continued work on the Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) to evaluate the current condition of all city-owned buildings. The FCA will inform energy efficiency and decarbonization opportunities, electric vehicle charging infrastructure planning, renewable energy site assessments, and other key efforts to strategically advance progress towards the goals of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, City Operations Zero Carbon Strategy, and Climate Emergency Declaration. This condition

assessment will also be used to prioritize future projects and update the Facilities Strategic Management Plan.

- Department of Commerce Climate Planning Grant: Council approved a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Commerce to complete a feasibility study of five city facilities for solar and energy storage opportunities. This work will be folded into the Facility Condition Assessment and Decarbonization Planning work already underway.

### Sustainability Programming

- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC): The Committee's regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 25 from 5:30-7. The committee will review Comprehensive Plan comments and discuss the 2022 annual report. The meeting agenda can be found on the ESAC webpage.
- Bi-Monthly Sustainability eNewsletter: The December Sustainability [eNewsletter](#) was distributed to more than 2,000 subscribers and highlighted community programs and resources. Be sure to [sign up for the eNewsletter](#) to receive program updates.