

## 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.

The overarching ESAP priorities for 2021-2022 include:

1. Prioritize improvements to **city operations** as Redmond works towards the goal of carbon neutrality for city operations by 2030 in support of the Climate Emergency Declaration.
2. Advance **key sustainability priorities**, including those integrated into the 2021-2022 budget.
3. Leverage **partnerships and communications** strategies to engage the community.
4. Establish **foundational systems** and programs for the newly formed Sustainability Program.

## Programmatic Updates

### City Operations

- Derby Days Recycling and Composting: The Solid Waste Team is partnering with the Parks Department to plan for recycling and composting at Derby Days including ordering all containers, mapping container placement, and preparing signage. All food vendors are required to use compostable service ware. The City will provide onsite outreach to all vendors during the event to promote recycling and composting. Previous Derby Days have recycled or composted approximately half of all event waste. Waste diversion rates will be tracked again for this year's Derby Days.

### Key Priorities

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Annual Report Submission: The City submitted its annual NPDES stormwater permit report to the Washington Department of Ecology. A summary of key achievements over the past year are outlined in Exhibit A.
- Redmond Watershed Plan Update: City staff is updating the 2013 City of Redmond Watershed Management Plan – a plan that establishes Redmond's framework for restoring local streams in the City's 20 watersheds. This update re-calculates the 2013 statistics the City uses to characterize and prioritize restoration activities in these watersheds, and incorporate social equity considerations into the plan. As part of this effort, the City recently submitted a "watershed characterization" that details size, location, and "on-the-ground" conditions to the Washington Department of Ecology as required to meet a new NPDES municipal stormwater permit.
- Monticello Watershed CMAC Pilot: The City is currently piloting a stormwater pond retrofit project at two ponds in Monticello Watershed using an innovative web-based technology called Continuous Monitoring Active Control (CMAC). The Watershed Program just completed 75% designs for two additional locations and are aiming for project construction in September. The Redmond Paired Watershed Study is evaluating the pilot to determine if managing older stormwater detention ponds using the CMAC technology will better protect Redmond streams from the impacts of high-energy, "flashy" flows during storm events.
- Ridwell Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Pick up: In partnership with Ridwell, the City is providing free doorstep pickup and recycling of Styrofoam and plastic bags in May for single family homes, apartment and condos. Our January pickup collected:

- 1,396 bags of Styrofoam (enough to fill five 26-foot moving trucks)
  - 784 bags of plastic bags and plastic film
  - 1,285 pounds of holiday lights
- Free Community Shredding Event: The City sponsored a free shredding event that was open to all Redmond Residents on March 20. 95 cars participated in the event.
- Senior Lunch Outreach: The Solid Waste Team partnered with the Parks Department to provide education for safer and non-toxic cleaning at the April 13 Senior Lunch. This was a follow up to outreach at the January 31 Senior Lunch where free reusable water bottles made of recycled plastic were given to attendees.
- Ask a Recycling Expert Class: The Solid Waste Team hosted a free virtual *Ask a Recycling Expert Class* on Thursday, April 14. The “question and answer” session allowed attendees to ask about what items can go in the recycling or compost, or any other general questions about waste reduction, recycling, and composting. It was staffed by the City of Redmond, Waste Management, and the City’s Sustainable Living consultant.

## Partnerships & Communication

- Eastside Cities Heat Pump Collaboration: The Eastside Heat Pump Campaign will launch on May 10 with a volunteer recruitment event, hosted in partnership with Spark Northwest. The virtual event will review the campaign process, volunteer opportunities, and next steps.
- Eastside Climate Challenge: The cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Mercer Island, and Redmond have partnered to launch a joint Eastside Climate Challenge. Each jurisdiction will host a city-specific climate challenge under the Eastside umbrella – Redmond’s Challenge launched during Q4 of 2021. The jurisdictions are coordinating education and outreach efforts and hosting joint workshops to reduce staffing needs and support regional action. This month the Eastside Challenge will be hosting Climate Challenge 101 and Team Leader workshops to support deeper engagement and build additional participation in the platform. To learn more or join the Challenge, visit <https://www.redmond.gov/1724/Climate-Action-Challenge>.
- K4C Elected Official Outreach Biannual Meeting: Mayor Birney attended the biannual K4C Elected Official Outreach meeting on April 21. The K4C Elected Official Work Sessions are held twice per year and are a forum for elected officials to discuss strategies for advancing climate action in the King County region and share lessons learned.
- Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative: Redmond recently joined the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative, a network of local and tribal governments, regional agencies, and organizations working together to increase climate resilience. The collaborative meets monthly to share information, best practices, and discuss joint initiatives.
- Earth Month: This month the City is celebrating Earth Month with a variety of education and engagement opportunities for community members and staff. A full list of opportunities can be found on the City’s [website](#).

## Exhibit A

### 2021 Stormwater Program/Permit Compliance Highlights

#### Public Outreach and Education

- The City pilot-tested a new outreach campaign to get businesses to keep outdoor dumpsters closed at all times. The City will be updating the campaign messaging (words, images) and implementing it broadly in 2022.
- Anne Dettelbach and Tally Greulich helped bring Adopt-a-Drain to Redmond ([www.adopt-a-drain.org/wa](http://www.adopt-a-drain.org/wa)). More than 90 community members (residences and businesses) signed up in 2021 to “adopt” their Redmond neighborhood storm drains. The Mayor, former City Councilmembers, and staff also participated in this new program. Significant outreach and recruitment is ongoing. We hope to recruit 350 active participants by the end of 2023.

#### Illicit Discharge Response

- Led by Scott McQuary, with backup from Ken Waldo and Tally Greulich, Redmond investigated 164 illicit discharge (spill) reports in 2021. Of these, 55 calls came through the City Spill Hotline.
- 46 of the spills were located within City rights-of-way. 25 of the spills we responded to were determined to “constitute a threat to human health or the environment” and were reported to the Department of Ecology. Four discharges resulted in water quality impacts to receiving waters and were also reported to the Department of Ecology.
- One City response was related to an illicit connection (associated with new construction) discovered by City staff.
- One hundred percent of the MS4 has been checked for illicit connections since the permit became effective (August 2019). These checks are integrated into biennial catch basin inspections.

#### Site Plan Review

- Development Review Services conducted a full stormwater site plan review of 82 projects in 2021 to confirm compliance with the Stormwater Technical Notebook technical requirements. Ten capital projects being managed by the City’s Construction Division also underwent formal site plan review.

#### Construction Site Inspection

- Redmond Construction inspectors visited 196 construction sites (several, many times) in 2021 to ensure proper placement of erosion and sediment control measures. The 2021 list includes approximately 13 construction projects overseen by our Construction Division. The balance of sites, which includes several significant development projects, were inspected by the Planning Department and Building inspectors.
- Construction inspectors also took 17 formal enforcement actions (notice of correction, stop-work) against construction site operators, down from 2020 (25 actions). Of these actions, two dealt with small projects (handled out of the Building Department), 13 actions were taken at City-funded (CIP) projects, and two actions were taken at private development sites.

### Operations and Maintenance

- The City's Stormwater crews inspected 5,595 catch basins in 2021, an impressive 46% of our system. Since the permit became effective in August 2019, Stormwater crews have inspected 99.7% of the catch basins owned by the City at least once.
- In 2021, 641 of inspected catch basins required cleaning or maintenance, 100% of which was accomplished within 6 months, as required by the permit. Many of these inspections were recorded (for the first year ever) in Lucity.
- Our Stormwater crews inspected 506 of 511 stormwater facility/BMPs owned or operated by the City. Of note, only 18 of these facilities required "function-critical maintenance (five ponds, six bioswales, and seven vaults). One hundred percent of the "function-critical maintenance" was completed within 12 months, as required under the permit.

### Overall Compliance

- To the best of our knowledge, the City is fully compliant with all aspects of the municipal stormwater permit program.