



CITY OF KIRKLAND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN

FORMERLY KNOWN AS
"SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN"

2023

YEAR 3 REPORT CARD



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Left (from top to bottom):
Kirkland's Eastside Made Pop-up Market
Kirkland Forest Day
Town Hall on Bicycles

Above (from top to bottom):
Kirkland Urban View from Above
Kirkland's Eastside Made Pop-up Market

YEAR 3 (2023) OVERVIEW

The Sustainability Strategic Plan (formerly known as the Sustainability Master Plan) was adopted in December 2020, making 2023 the third year of implementation progress for reporting. Many of the post pandemic protocols in place during the year were conducive to virtual, in-person meetings and hybrid meetings and events, and the City government used expanded means of public outreach to significantly advance SSP implementation.

The SSP has over 200 actions organized amongst eight focus areas. These actions range from low to high levels of effort and cost to implement. The SMP is a living plan that can change over time, but was designed with an approximately 10-year timeframe in mind. Staff is keeping track of elements of the plan that would be appropriate to change in the future, as much has been learned about how to improve achieving the goals of the SSP. Any future amendments will make this Sustainability plan more relevant over the coming years. It is expected that there will be changes to the SSP that acknowledge changes in legislation, new technology, new countywide planning policies, and process improvements.

In addition to quarterly reports of progress on the SSP, this third report card shows what City Council, City staff, and the larger community are working on to create collective impact and make Kirkland an even more sustainable, equitable and inclusive community. Over 2024, staff will work with subject matter experts to integrate more actions of the SSP into work plans, and build sustainability and equity-driven decision-making into City processes over the coming years so that sustainability continues to evolve into an enduring organizational trait.

Completed actions

10 distinct actions were completed in 2023:

- **Action LT-5.1:** Promote Public Transit
- **Action EV-10.2:** Support UF Strategic Management Plan
- **Action EV-10.4:** Develop strategic canopy enhancement plan
- **Action EV-10.6:** Identify and prioritize climate-resilient tree species for planting programs
- **Action EV-10.9:** Create comprehensive tree inventory and tree planting program
- **Action SM-2.1:** Support repair and reuse activities
- **Action SB-4.2:** Promote a training program to assist immigrant & minority-owned small business owners
- **Action SB-4.3:** Create spaces for sustainable product startups
- **Action SG-1.10:** Explore reduction/elimination of gas-powered landscaping equipment for City operations
- **Action HC-6.1:** Connect unhoused residents to life-safety services

2024 in numbers



558 solar arrays are generating power in Kirkland, a 29% increase over 2022



2 Yard Smart Rain Rewards projects were installed at Kirkland residences managing over 36,246 gallons of rainwater



277 Tree rebates were granted that manage over 206,259 gallons of stormwater



More than 860 trees were planted in Kirkland parks and natural areas and over 500 trees were given away and planted on private property



Collected over 7,423 pounds of batteries at City facilities and more were collected at events throughout the year

YEAR 3 (2023) PROGRESS

The chart below indicates action status by focus area. In progress actions indicate one-time actions that staff have started to work on. Ongoing actions indicate recurring and regularly occurring activities that have begun. Ongoing activities encompass multiple services and projects, and are likely to remain ongoing for the entire time period, while actions in progress have a defined completion point. This progress chart reports completion status of all actions since 2020.



Energy Supply and Emissions (17 actions)



■ 1 Action Completed ■ 7 Actions Ongoing □ 9 Actions Not Started



Buildings and Infrastructure (13 actions)



■ 2 Actions Completed ■ 1 Actions In Progress □ 10 Actions Not Started



Land Use and Transportation (21 actions)



■ 3 Actions Completed ■ 16 Actions Ongoing □ 2 Actions Not Started



Natural Environment and Ecosystems (37 actions)



■ 10 Actions Completed ■ 24 Actions Ongoing □ 3 Actions Not Started



Sustainable Material Management (18 actions)



■ 3 Actions Completed ■ 9 Actions Ongoing & In Progress □ 6 Actions Not Started



Sustainable Governance (35 actions)



■ 7 Actions Completed ■ 16 Actions Ongoing & In Progress □ 12 Actions Not Started



Sustainable Business (13 actions)



■ 3 Actions Completed ■ 4 Actions Ongoing □ 6 Actions Not Started



Healthy Community (40 actions)



■ 4 Action Completed ■ 16 Actions Ongoing & In Progress □ 20 Actions Not Started

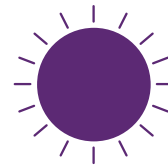


Distributive Renewable Energy

Goal ES-3: Add an additional 10 Megawatts of combined community and individual solar production by 2030.

In December 2020, the City adopted the Sustainability Strategic Plan (formerly known as Sustainability Master Plan). At the time of adoption, Puget Sound Energy reported that the City had 291 individual solar arrays that produced an estimated 3 megawatts of energy. Since that time, the City contracted with the Sustainability Ambassadors, which conducted a solar potential analysis and worked with a local company (Sphere Solar) in 2022 that conducted several online solar webinars for Kirkland community members. There has been less promotion of solar in Kirkland, as a major emphasis has been placed on equitable access to and installation of heat pumps. However, there is still a 30% tax credit available to homeowners for the cost of solar installation that will continue until at least 2030 due to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022.

Puget Sound Energy offers net metering to its customers with solar installations which allows users to bank their solar production from the summer months and use the production credit in the winter months when solar production declines. In three short years the number of individual solar installations has increased from the base year of 2020 at 291 installations (generating 3 megawatts) to 557 installations which represents an increase of 91.5% with a total solar production of nearly 4.7 megawatts of electricity. In addition, 21 commercial solar arrays have been installed by businesses over the same time period with a solar potential of 0.8 megawatts. This represents a total of 5.5 megawatts of solar power being created by the Kirkland Community.



Kirkland had 558 solar arrays by the end of 2023, with a projected annual generation of nearly 5.5 megawatts



Residential Solar Panels



Distributive Renewable Energy (cont.)

Using past installations to project future solar production, with the current growth rate of almost 88 individual solar installations per year, it is likely the City will add about 620 more individual installations by 2030. Commercial solar arrays have occurred at about 7 installations per year over the past three years, potentially yielding 49 new installations by the end of 7 years or 2030. Staff estimates that Kirkland could have 1,247 solar arrays producing nearly 13 megawatts by the end of 2030. While there are no guarantees of future installations, solar panels have come down dramatically in cost and legislation has removed barriers to larger commercial installations. Considering current tax incentives and perhaps some larger PSE driven community solar installations in Kirkland, this goal of adding an additional 10 megawatts of solar production appears to be within reach by 2030.



Residential Solar Panels



What's next?

PSE needs more solar production in their service area on a larger scale to eventually source and produce enough clean energy for its electricity to be considered carbon neutral in 2035 and completely carbon free (and not reliant on fossil fuels) by 2045 to meet the Clean Energy Transformation Act of 2019. While the City may not be running additional solar campaigns now, it can still support PSE through its Community Solar program and encourage more community members, and connect affordable housing providers, to make portions of their rooftops available for additional solar installations funded by PSE's programs.



Existing Buildings

Goal BI-3: Reduce energy use in existing buildings by 25%, by 2030 and 45% by 2050.

The Energy Smart Eastside program (ESE) has made many advancements since it first began in mid-July 2022 with educational webinars explaining the benefits of heat pumps, including energy efficiency and utilizing one mechanical unit to provide all-electric heating and cooling. The effort went beyond public outreach, and offered a way for community members to have access to vetted mechanical equipment companies that became part of the ESE program to provide market rate installations, Puget Sound Energy and ESE instant rebates. The City also joined the Eastside Climate Partnership (ECP) which allowed the cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, and Mercer Island to work together in applying for grants together and built out the ESE program into a heat pump program on the Eastside to provide education, incentives and full cost coverage for low-income installations in affordable housing developments in all five Eastside cities.

In 2023, staff was able to work with King County Housing Authority (KCHA) and Imagine Housing to completely retrofit the Kirkland Plaza apartments to make 24 units of low-income senior housing energy efficient. The collaboration will result in new insulation, windows, and heat pumps, to be installed in February 2024 to provide heating and cooling for our senior community members. An official announcement of completion of the Kirkland Plaza project is expected soon.

The experience of working with KCHA allowed staff to consider how to best help those earning less than 80% of Area Median Income who do not live in affordable housing facilities. A partnership and contract with Hopelink created the necessary link to helping those already in the energy assistance programs, but without the know how or financial capability of getting heat pumps in their homes. With a combination of

city budgeted funds, the Eastside Climate Partnership (ECP) applied for two separate grants from the Department of Commerce to help those most in need of equitable access to heat pump technology and additional incentives for moderate income earners to make the switch to heat pumps. Gaining access to this additional funding was important because the needed financial incentives were limited and rebate dollars from the Federal Government's Inflation Reduction Act had not yet been programed. This is changing, with PSE offering much higher dollar direct rebates for cold climate heat pumps and the State working to offer the Homes Rebate program in 2024.



What's next? The Energy Smart Eastside program has been established as a delivery mechanism by using a combination of city funds, grants and instant rebates help six low-income homeowners gain access to heat pumps in homes that were formerly heated by gas furnaces in 2023. Staff projects that the number of families the ESE program can help in Kirkland will more than double to 13 in 2024. Helping the Eastside and specifically the Kirkland community gain access to heat pumps is a winning strategy for increasing energy efficiency, reducing fossil fuel use and promoting climate resilience during heat and smoke events.



Promote Public Transit

Our 'Return to Transit' campaign involved distributing 700 ORCA cards preloaded with \$25 to incentivize transit use. At community events staff distributed information about riding transit and answered people's questions. This was an equitable transit access campaign that focused on targeting community members who identify as lower income and English as a Second Language (ESL), featuring Chinese and Spanish posts on social media on Facebook and Instagram.



Return to Transit community outreach event



Allison Zike, Deputy Director, Planning & Building; Adam Weinstein, Director, Planning & Building; Peter Donaldson, Director of Sustainability Ambassadors

What's next? The following projects that support pedestrian cycling, walking, and rolling, will be worked on in 2024 and beyond:

- Construction of third neighborhood greenway at the Stores to Shores
- Construction of downtown pedestrian scramble at Kirkland Ave
- 124th Ave NE widening and protected bike lanes
- 100th Ave NE widening and protected bike lanes
- NE 132nd St/I-405 roundabouts construction
- Construction of the interchange/85th BRT Station

In addition, Transportation Benefit District projects are on track for completion by 2028 for the top 45 pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements identified in the Active Transportation Plan and Safer Routes to School Plan.



Town Hall on Bicycles event: Joel Pfundt, Kimberly Scrivner, Victoria Kovacs



Trees

Goal EV-10: Examine trends in canopy gains or loss, identify priorities for meeting the overall goal of city-wide 40% tree canopy coverage.

EV-10.2: Support internal cross department planning to develop and implement sustainable urban forestry strategies

City departments continue to collaborate on urban forestry initiatives through work on the 6-year Urban Forestry Work Plan and Tree Team. The 2023 public tree inventory project has resulted in further collaboration across City government. The Public Works and the Planning & Building Departments have held regular meetings to ensure public tree management procedures are consistently applied.

EV-10.4: Develop canopy enhancement strategies to mitigate public health impacts in areas that may be disproportionately affected by adverse environmental conditions

The comprehensive public tree inventory completed recently, and Tree Equity Map obtained through a grant in 2021 will be used to identify priority areas for canopy enhancement. This study will look at areas with low existing canopy cover and which have populations with higher health risks resulting from adverse environmental conditions. The final results of the study will be published in March 2024.

EV-10.5: Develop and implement tree planting programs to increase tree canopy cover on private and public property.

The City plans to continue the Tree Rebate and Certificate program to enhance the tree canopy on private properties and provide pre-paid rebates for participants who cannot afford out of pocket costs.

The City hosted a Tree Giveaway Program in collaboration with King Conservation District (KCD) in



Kirkland Forest Day 2023: Mayor Kelly Curtis, Former Mayor Penny Sweet, Former Councilmember Toby Nixon, & Councilmember Amy Falcone

Fall 2023 where we gave away over 500 trees to be planted on private property. The City plans to pursue subsequent tree giveaway events as part of the annual Arbor Day celebration.

EV-10.6: Identify and prioritize climate-resilient tree species for public/private tree planting programs

The City has preferred tree lists that include climate-resilient species. These lists are routinely updated as new research evolves. Additionally, the updated public tree inventory will provide insights into species that are thriving locally, so the City can proactively plan for succession planting.

EV-10.9: Create a comprehensive inventory of trees in City-owned spaces and develop a city-wide tree planting program with target areas and goals for canopy expansion in public spaces and residential areas.

The City's public tree inventory is being completed in early 2024. With efficient use of contract funds, Staff was able to expand the scope of the inventory to include trees along the Cross Kirkland Corridor and in high-usage parks. Once the inventory is finished, staff will conduct an analysis to prioritize necessary tree removals and optimize replanting areas.



Waste Reduction

During 2023, two specific events were conducted that support the waste reduction goal - our Halloween Costume Swap and our Waste Management Recycling Event, with a furniture repair and reuse pilot. The Halloween Costume Swap is an annual event, where residents donate usable costumes and costume supplies, and then come to the swap event to take items that are new to them for Halloween dressing up. This event is fun and free, and keeps folks from having to purchase new items. We estimate over 275 people came to the 2023 event and participated in reuse in action.



Halloween Costume Swap Event

For our Fall Waste Management Recycle Right Event, we partnered with the Furniture Repair Bank to collect gently worn and damaged furniture to be restored, repaired, and then gifted to community members in need. To participate, residents sent in information on their items in advance to ensure they were approved. At this event, we were able to collect 35 usable pieces of furniture, which will be restored by the Furniture Repair Bank organization and then given to community members. This event offered participants a great way to repurpose furniture and to keep usable materials out of the landfill and help others in need. More details on the Kirkland event are here: <https://www.repairbank.org/news/kirklandevent>.



Reusable Furniture Drive

What's next?

We will continue to focus on reuse and repair in Kirkland, as this keeps materials out of the landfill and at their highest uses. This may include repair events to encourage keeping items in use and teaching repair skills or hosting more swap events focused on the sharing economy. In the coming years, Kirkland will work with community stakeholders to explore potential development of a Kirkland Tool Library. A Kirkland Tool Library would offer sharing of tools, skill development, building material reuse, affordable access to supplies and tools, and a community building hub.



Shoreline Tool Library Grand Opening: Kurt Dresner (Center Left); Councilmember Amy Falcone (Center Right); Jenna McKinnis, Public Works; David Barnes, Planning & Building



Government Operations

Action SG-1.10: Explore reduction of or elimination of gas-powered landscaping equipment for City operations

In 2023, Kirkland City Council adopted Resolution R-5585 which authorizes the creation of the Electric Leaf Blower Initiative. This initiative encompasses a three-year phased approach to sunset gas-powered hand-held and backpack leaf blowers in Kirkland and transition to electric by a target date of December 2025. The Kirkland City Council included \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act Funds in the adopted 2023-2024 budget to support the transition of the City's equipment to all electric leaf blowers and incentives for private sector and resident conversion.

Currently the City is doing the following steps:

- Conducting a pilot program that evaluates, develops, and implements a transition plan for the City's equipment with the goal of making data-informed decisions
- Working with the Parks and Public Works departments to test purchased electric leaf blowers and to collect data on crew's gas and electric leaf blower usage throughout all seasons
- Performing cost analyses to estimate the current and projected expenses of the transition

As part of this pilot, the City Manager hosted a focus group with Kirkland landscaping businesses to learn what impacts a transition to all electric equipment would have. The City also hosted hands-on demonstrations of both gas-powered and electric leaf blower equipment for regional elected officials, State and Federal delegation members, and staff. It should be noted that the Electric Leaf Blower Initiative goes well beyond the action that was identified in **Action SG-1.10** because it has developed a program and will certainly drive change in the City's internal operations and private businesses to move away from gas-powered equipment such as leaf blowers. In addition, the legislative advocacy the City is undertaking could lead to State legislation which would influence manufacturers of electric equipment to make it better, lighter and would have positive, broad State-wide implications.



Former Mayor Penny Sweet getting set up at our electric leaf blower initiative event

What's next?

City of Kirkland staff are preparing a financial incentive program to support resident and business conversion and a 2024 community and business engagement plan.



All of the participants of the electric leafblower initiative event having lunch at Juanita Beach Park, November 2023



Green Economy

Action SB-4.2: Promote a training program to assist immigrant and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) small business owners

One of the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging 5-year Roadmap goals is to expand the City's equity values through policies, contracts and other agreements. Specifically, **Objective 10.1** Equity in Contracting Policy and Program, directed staff to implement equity in contracting to expand vendor recruitment, internal organizational training and external vendor training.

The City, in partnership with the State Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises (OMWBE), hosted three marketing and training sessions focused on teaching women and minority business owners about the City's procurement process, the economic development initiatives that focus on small businesses, and the benefits of obtaining the OMWBE certification. The sessions, held in June, July, and August, were well attended with 30 businesses.

Action SB-4.3: Develop Public/Partnerships to create spaces and places for startups that focus on making and selling sustainable products

The City of Kirkland, in partnership with OneEastside, provided an opportunity to celebrate Welcoming Week and showcase Kirkland's values and initiatives that foster

connections, collaboration, and belonging for all. The City of Kirkland Eastside Made Pop-up Market provided an opportunity to showcase the diversity of vendors and their offerings

from Kirkland and across the Eastside Maker community. Thirty-five home-based vendors were recruited and curated to participate in a one-day Eastside Made Pop-Up market - the overall event attracted 3,000+ attendees. Ninety-one percent (91%) of the vendors were minority and/or women-owned businesses of which 37% were immigrants. Three vendors featured youth-driven enterprises.

What's next? The success of the partnership with OMWBE will continue with more certification series scheduled to begin next year with expanded information covering the City's support for small businesses. The City will also make policy changes to require that City staff choose certified OMWBE businesses to be among the top firms invited to submit proposals for architect or engineering professional service contracts ensuring more equitable procurement.





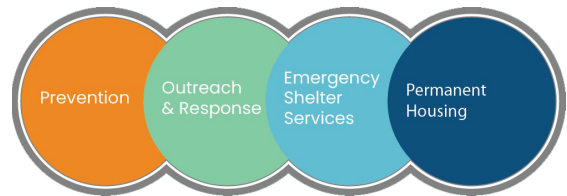
HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Community Initiatives

Goal HC-6: Address the homeless crisis in Kirkland and regionally.

Through a comprehensive approach among City staff and in partnership with local non-profit organizations and regional partners, the City aims to prevent homelessness and, when it does occur, to transition individuals back into stable housing as soon as possible.

Recently, the City's 2023-2024 budget included a new, dedicated Homeless Outreach Coordinator position (**Action HC-6.1**) to work proactively with unhoused residents and connect them to resources. The Homeless Outreach Coordinator works in collaboration with other staff who interact with community members in need of support such as Crisis Responders, Neighborhood Resource Officers, the Mobile Integrated Health Unit, Community Court Coordinator, and Park Rangers. Outreach staff build relationships to foster trust; provide basic need items, including food and water; and connect residents with available services, including shelter, housing, and healthcare. To facilitate this work, the City has established a Homelessness Assistance and Response Team, or HART, to provide compassionate outreach and assistance to residents experiencing homelessness. HART also serves as a point of contact for community members seeking a response to concerns about homelessness.



Kirkland's Homeless Assistance and Response Team includes the following positions:

- Homeless Outreach Coordinator, Parks and Community Services
- Neighborhood Resource Officer, Police Department
- Mobile Integrated Health Unit, Fire Department
- Crisis Responder Supervisor, Regional Crisis Response Agency
- Park Ranger, Parks and Community Services
- Streets and Grounds Manager, Public Works Department
- Planning Supervisor - Code Enforcement, Planning and Building Department
- Community Court Coordinator, Municipal Court



What's next for the HART Team in 2024 is to meet quarterly to support collaboration, share information about resources, and provide feedback on gaps in programs and services and policy and procedures.



HART Team Member Meli Paulo

**SUSTAINABILITY
AMBASSADORS**



Left (from top to bottom):
Kirkland's Eastside Made Pop-Up Market
Kirkland Forest Day

*Town Hall on Bicycles: Kirkland Councilmember Jon Pascal;
Peter Donaldson, Director of Sustainability Ambassadors;
Scott Guter, City of Kirkland Planning & Building
Department*

Above (from top to bottom):
Electric Water Heater
PACE Restoration Group