



Agenda Bill

City Council Special & Regular Business Meeting - 19 Aug 2019

Department

City Manager

Staff Contact

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Agenda Bill Title

Discussion Regarding Preliminary Options to Develop a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.

Summary

At the July 1 council meeting, Council directed the City Manager to present options to address environmental and climate concerns, including providing examples and cost estimates for developing a climate action plan.

Below are links to three climate action plans from the cities of Redmond, Kirkland and Shoreline.

<https://www.redmond.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1675/Climate-Action-Implementation-Plan-PDF>

<https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/Kirkland+Green/Kirkland+Green+PDFs/Climate+Protection+Action+Plan.pdf>

<http://www.shorelinewa.gov/home/showdocument?id=14091>

The plans are similar in several ways.

First, all three cities joined ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives). For a modest membership fee (\$1,200 per year), ICLEI provides software, resources and support in achieving sustainability goals. ICLEI recommends the “Five Milestones for Climate Mitigation Process”. These milestones are: developing a baseline emissions inventory and forecasts (using software tools available through ICLEI); establishing reduction targets; developing a climate action plan; implementing policies and measures; and, monitoring and verifying results. All three cities generally followed this “Five Milestone” approach.

Second, all three cities recommended action strategies in the following areas of focus: Mobility and Transportation, Buildings and Energy, Waste and Recycling, and Natural Resources. Redmond included a fifth area of focus – Education and Encouragement. The other cities include education as part of the other focus areas.

Third, all three of the cities have staff that are dedicated to environmental tasks. The City of Redmond had several staff that dedicated significant time over the course of a year to develop their action strategy. After discussions with peers and consultants, staff estimates the cost to develop a similar climate action plan would be between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Most of the work in completing these milestones and drafting the action plans was completed using dedicated staff or consultants to collect the inventory data; run the software model to determine the baseline and forecasted emissions values; establish targets; establish measures; and monitor results. Due to the technical nature of the plan development process, community participation was minimal during this stage but more significant in the long term implementation of the plan through education and outreach programs encouraging the use of sustainable practices.

In looking through the three plans above, Burien has already implemented several of the strategies. A list of examples is attached. In addition, Burien's comprehensive plan has numerous climate change related goals, policies and objectives. A summary of these is also attached.

Identified under Options are several actions a City can take instead of or in addition to developing a climate action plan.

Options

1. Continue working on items already discussed at Council - including refining the draft plastic serveware ordinance and developing a construction and demolition waste diversion ordinance.
2. Include an item in the federal and state legislative agendas to monitor and support legislation that reduces the effects of climate change - including legislation concerning green building initiatives, green energy, solar power incentives, etc.
3. Consider revising the budget and dedicating staff time to develop a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.
4. Consider revising the budget to purchase renewable energy credits as part of Seattle City Light's Green Up program (all three cities noted above have this as part of their action plans).
5. Direct staff to evaluate one or more of the action strategies from another city's action plan for possible implementation.
6. Evaluate building codes, zoning codes, and the Burien Comprehensive Plan for additional opportunities. Update the Comprehensive Plan to comply with Vision 2050's sustainability policies.
7. Assess staffing needs and financial impacts of initiatives to be implemented.

Attachments

[Climate Change Strategies the City Currently Implements](#)

[Comprehensive Plan Goals, Policies and Objectives Related to Climate Change](#)



The City is a member of K4C (King County – Cities Climate Collaboration) and also participates on the Green Tools and Sustainability Roundtable. The following items are examples of efforts Burien has taken and is doing to reduce the effects of climate change. Most of these items are listed as action strategies for one or more of the Climate Action Plans noted in the agenda packet. They are categorized in a manner similar to those action plans. Several of the actions provide educational opportunities as well.

BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

- Requiring new street lighting to be LED.
- Converting existing street lights to LED when funding opportunities allow.
- Installing new LED traffic signals and converting existing traffic signals to LED.
- Constructing a LEED certified building for City Hall/Library.
- Seeking grant funds to upgrade Moshier field lighting to more energy-efficient lighting.
- Reducing the use of propane and energy at Moshier Arts Center by reformulating and using new pottery glazes that work at lower temperatures.
- Planting drought tolerant species on projects to reduce water consumption.
- Working with a waste hauler who has committed to using collection trucks that use renewable natural gas (RNG) as a fuel source.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

- In partnership with our waste hauler, Recology, implementing a robust recycling program that includes the ability to recycle many unique items at the curbside.
- Working with Recology to develop outreach programs to encourage recycling and improve recycling techniques with a focus on multi-family housing.
- Allowing recycled materials to be used in road construction projects.
- Hosting repair cafes where residents can bring small household items, including clothing, and have them repaired.
- Approving an ordinance to restrict the use of plastic bags.
- Drafting an ordinance to restrict the use of plastic serviceware.
- Collecting used work-related batteries for proper recycling.
- Partnering with a third party to recycle our used toner cartridges.
- Providing compost containers at City staff facilities and educating staff on proper recycling and composting practices.



NATURAL RESOURCES

- Retaining a full time Community Environmental Education Specialist on staff.
- Using low impact development techniques on City projects even when not required.
- Encouraging low impact development techniques in the community through development projects and education.
- In partnership with the Port and Forterra, conducting a tree canopy assessment.
- In partnership with the Port and Forterra, implementing a forest steward program to support forested park and natural area restoration and a neighborhood tree program to include trainings, tree walks, tree planting, and tree care activities.
- Implementing iCompass, a paperless option for Council and advisory committee packet distribution.
- Implementing an annual StormFest program to educate all Highline School District sixth-graders about stormwater and watershed science.
- At various City events, asking students and residents to make a personal commitment to improving the environment.
- Hosting natural yard care educational programs.
- Hosting a native tree giveaway with onsite instruction about tree care.
- Contracting with Environmental Science Center to conduct public education and outreach to encourage environmental stewardship.
- Proactively installing water quality devices in stormwater systems.

MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION

- Purchasing alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles when possible.
- Adopting a complete streets ordinance to provide accommodation for bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users, and persons of all abilities.
- Working with the library to install an electric vehicle charging station in the upper parking lot.
- Developing a Transportation Master Plan that introduces the layered network concept to accommodate all modes of travel and create a complete transportation network in the City.
- Addressing environmental considerations in transportation planning, including encouraging energy conservation through promotion of roadway connectivity, use of alternative transportation modes, and exploration of street improvement standards that incorporate surface water management strategies (i.e. – minimizing impervious surfaces, utilizing landscaping to reduce runoff).

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS, POLICIES & OBJECTIVES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE



- Pol. LU 1.4 Encourage a mix of residential, office and commercial uses within Burien's Urban Center to create a vibrant city center that reduces reliance on the automobile and provides a range of housing opportunities.
- Pol. EV 1.4 The City shall maintain a system of development regulations and a permitting system to prevent the destruction of critical areas. Development regulations should at a minimum address wetland protection, aquifer recharge areas important for potable water, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas.
- Pol. EV 1.8 Locate development in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features. Promote the use of innovative environmentally sensitive development practices, including design, materials, construction, and on-going maintenance.
- Pol. EV 1.11 Encourage minimizing the amount of impervious surfaces in new development through the use of appropriate low-impact development techniques and removing paved areas or using retrofit options in existing developments, where applicable, to minimize runoff.

Goal EV.2

Maintain and promote a safe and healthy environment and preserve the quality of life in Burien.

- Pol. EV 2.6 Continue to support and rely on the various State, Federal, local and regional programs to protect and enhance air quality.
- Pol. EV 2.11 The City shall encourage an increase in tree canopies through the addition and the preservation of existing vegetation and use of landscaping as an integral part of development plans.
- Pol. DB 1.8 The City should reinforce and enhance Burien's unique character and sense of place by creating an attractive, distinctive and well-defined downtown that supports and encourages walking and use of transit, as well as travel by the automobile. To help achieve this objective, the City should implement the Downtown Master Plan and Conceptual Framework for the Town Square to address issues such as (but not limited to) street and right-of-way standards, design guidelines, infrastructure needs, and public facilities needs and locations (*these documents are on file with the City and are incorporated herein by reference*).



Goal SC.1

Develop a fully integrated local street system which accommodates various transportation modes depending upon individual neighborhood characteristics, and creates streetscapes that enhance neighborhood quality and help develop a strong sense of community.

Citywide

Pol. SC 1.1 Pedestrian and other non-motorized travel facilities should be provided consistent with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan, giving priority to community pathways that connect public places, such as parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, downtown, schools, and neighborhood gathering spots. (Amended, Ord. 445, 2005)

Objective TR 1.1 Multimodal Layered Network Concept

In planning roadway improvements, refer to the City's adopted layered network concept in the Transportation Master Plan, which designates specific streets as serving different user types, including local vehicle trips, through trips, freight, transit vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

Objective TR 1.2

Encourage multimodal connections where feasible, including strong pedestrian linkages between the transit center/TOD with downtown Burien.

Pol. TR 1.2.3 Reduce the drive alone trips mode split for downtown Burien by 10% by 2030.

Pol. TR 1.4.5 Encourage employers to establish and maintain a commute trip reduction program that supports and promotes reducing the number of single-occupant vehicle commute trips by encouraging alternative modes of transportation such as riding the bus, vanpool and carpool, biking to work, working from home, or a compressed workweek. (Amended, Ord. 497, 2008)

Goal 4 Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

Create a safe and convenient environment for walking and bicycling integrated with roads and other transportation facilities.

Pol. TR 4.1.4 Encourage bicycle and pedestrian travel within the City by:

- a. Providing and promoting the development of pedestrian and bicycle paths between neighborhoods and other activity centers, such as schools, parks, transit and downtown;
- b. Encouraging the location of bicycle racks at appropriate destination points, such as outside of commercial businesses, City Hall, parks, schools, and transit facilities;



- c. Minimizing potential conflicts between pedestrian, bicycle and automobile traffic by providing signage at intersections of trails and paths with roadways; and
- d. Accommodating bicycles and pedestrians safely in the management and design of the City street network.

Objective TR 8.1

Support a transportation system that encourages energy conservation via the promotion of roadway connectivity, use of alternative transportation modes, development that minimizes reliance on vehicles, and street improvement standards.

Pol. TR 8.1.1 Promote transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Pol. TR 8.1.2 Support current federal, state and regional policies aimed at reducing vehicle-related air pollution, including transportation demand strategies.

Pol. TR 8.1.3 Coordinate with the Puget Sound Regional Council, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Washington State Department of Transportation, transit agencies and other jurisdictions to develop transportation control measures and air quality programs when warranted.

Goal UT.4

Maintain an adequate and effective solid waste and recycling program to serve the needs of Burien’s residents and businesses, which maintains public health, environmental and land use quality.

Pol. UT 4.1 The City shall encourage private and public sector involvement in recycling programs and in the use of recycled products, primarily through an enhanced public education campaign.

Pol. UT 4.2 The City should strive to achieve an overall waste diversion rate goal of 65% by the year 2024. (Amended, Ordinance No. 614, December 2014)

Pol. UT 4.3 The City should strive to achieve:
a. a 95% recycling participation rate in the single family sector;
b. a 75% recycling participation rate in the multifamily sector; and
c. a 60% recycling participation rate in the commercial sector.
(Amended, Ordinance No. 614, December 2014)

Pol. UT 4.4 The City should build upon existing recycling programs, and initiate new programs that will result in a significant impact at a reasonable cost.



Goal ED. 5

Promote clean, sustainable, environmentally-friendly businesses and jobs.

2.13 SUSTAINABILITY ELEMENT

Sustainability and decision making

Goal SU.1

Decision makers should have the knowledge and tools necessary to assess sustainability in their plans and decisions.

Pol. SU 1.1 The city should consider sustainability in all decisions.

Pol. SU 1.2 Decision makers should set an example for the rest of the city in its sustainability efforts.

Community participation

Goal SU.2

An informed and active community will be a cornerstone of the city's sustainability efforts.

Pol. SU 2.1 The community and community groups should assist in both the creation and implementation of the City's sustainability strategy.

Pol. SU 2.2 The city should promote community awareness, responsibility and participation in its sustainability efforts.

Reduce carbon emissions

Goal SU.3

Conserve energy and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.

Pol. SU 3.1 The City should evaluate energy use and carbon emissions and develop targets for conservation.

Pol. SU 3.2 The community should work to become more efficient in our daily lives and our usage of resources.



Protection of Ecosystems

Goal SU.4

Prevent the loss and damage of currently functioning or distressed habitats.

Pol. SU 4.1 Emphasis should be put on both the protection of current ecosystems, and the restoration of distressed or suffering ecosystems.

Pol. SU 4.2 Maintain and care for the land and resources which we currently have, and preserve them for the benefit of both the environment and the community in the present, and in the future.

Improved quality of life and Sustainable development

Goal SU.5

Work towards creating an attractive, vibrant, and livable community.

Pol. SU 5.1 The City and Community should work towards creating an attractive, vibrant, and livable community.

Pol. SU 5.2 The city should continue supporting compact urban development in the downtown as a way to most efficiently use the land we have.

Climate Change

Pol. SU 6.1 Burien should take actions to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Actions may include maximizing energy efficiency by increasing use of renewable energy resources, supporting green building initiatives, reduce greenhouse gas emissions of city vehicles, reduce motor vehicle miles traveled by improving convenience and safety of nonpolluting transportation modes such as bicycling and walking, protect and enhance the natural landscape and vegetation, and support recycling and waste reduction. (Ord. 630, 2015)

Pol. SU 6.2 Continue to partner with regional agencies and organizations such as the King County Cities Climate Collaboration, to monitor, establish base lines, and take actions to reduce impacts of climate change. (Ord. 630, 2015)