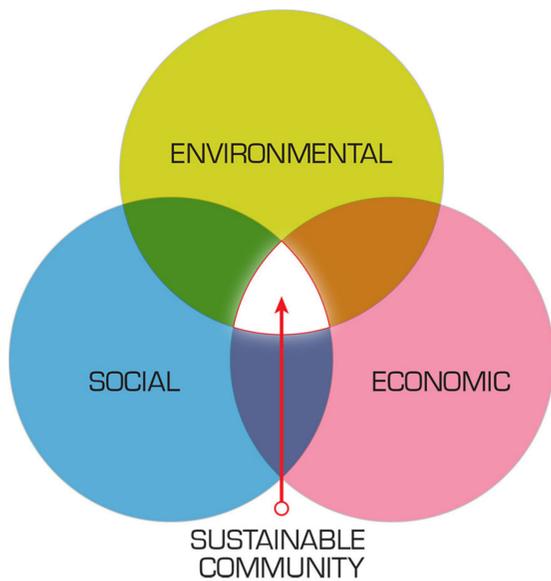


Environment Element

The Environment Element of the Kirkland’s Comprehensive Plan encourages a **sustainable community** that protects and manages the natural and built environment, promotes the green economy and addresses **climate change**.

ENVIRONMENT POLICIES STRIVE TO

- Protect the **natural systems** and features
- Manage the natural and built environment to **achieve no net loss of functions and values**
- Protect, enhance and restore vegetation
- Maintain or **improve soils and geologic resources** to minimize risk to life and property
- Improve air quality to **reduce our contribution to climate change**



NEW ADDITIONS BASED ON WHAT WE HEARD...

Strive to become a sustainable community that includes:

- Protect, enhance and **restore vegetation in both the natural and built environment**
- Manage built environment to **reduce waste**, conserve resources and **increase energy efficiency**
- Pursue carbon neutrality to greatly reduce impacts of climate change
- Support and encourage a local food economy that **increases access to healthy locally grown food**



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- How can Kirkland become a more sustainable community?
- How should the City prepare for climate change?
- What incentives should the City offer to those who build energy efficient structures that use renewable energy?

KEY FACTS:

- Kirkland developed one of Washington State’s first expedited Green Building Programs in 2009 to encourage the construction of new homes that use less energy, water and promote healthy indoor air quality by using non-toxic materials.
- In 2012, Kirkland created and adopted Green Codes to incentivize citizens to encourage more sustainable development activities and promote Low Impact Development (think rain gardens) to help reduce stormwater flows and improve water quality in Kirkland’s streams and Lake Washington.
- Kirkland partnered with Sustainable Works, a non-profit organization in 2014 to help citizens conduct energy audits on existing home and make improvements to reduce the resources needed to operate the homes.

