



SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE

Why is this important?

The City seeks to provide effective, efficient, and responsive governance and a sustainable level of core services for our community. Trust in governance underpins the City’s ability to support the community. Engaging all members of the community – especially those who have traditionally not been represented in public processes – ensures that the voices of all can be heard and incorporated into decision-making, and creates more equitable solutions.

How is Kirkland doing now?

The City has successfully employed various techniques of public participation, ranging from town halls, community meetings, discussion forums, and online surveys. Need remains to engage more underrepresented members of the community, and serve residents who speak languages besides English.

What key goals are included?

Key sustainable governance goals include:

- Integrate sustainability into every major decision the City makes
- Coordinate sustainability programs and policies across all City departments
- Examine and refresh City’s purchasing policies to focus on environmentally preferable purchasing
- Ensure processes for public participation are fair, accessible, and inclusive
- Cultivate community members’ knowledge of, participation in, and leadership for civic processes
- Improve community resiliency
- Maintain the City’s responsible fiscal practices while enabling progress on sustainability goals

What is the Sustainability Master Plan?

The Sustainability Master Plan is a ten-year planning document that outlines community-level goals and actions intended to help Kirkland meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Major community needs are:

- clean air and water
- healthy food to eat
- safe ways to get around
- more housing options that allow people of all economic means to live and thrive
- a more equitable and socially just city that is welcoming and inclusive of all people



How can you help meet these goals?

- Respond to City surveys to inform environmental decision-making
- Attend City open houses to shape project design
- Participate in racial equity workshops and initiatives
- Speak in support of environmental goals during public comment period at a Council meeting
- Advocate for making progress towards identified goals at all levels of government, including Commissions, Boards, and City Council
- Serve on a Commission or Board

For all goals and actions, see the Sustainability Master Plan.

