



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: David Barnes, Senior Planner
Adam Weinstein, Planning and Building Director

Date: November 25, 2020

Subject: Adoption of the City of Kirkland Sustainability Master Plan (SMP)

Recommendation

Adopt the City of Kirkland SMP by resolution. Discuss and consider an amendment by Councilmember Falcone which calls for a specific environmental and social justice component plan as part of the SMP.

Background

In January 2019, the City embarked on the development of the SMP, which is included in the 2019-2020 City Work Program and is intended to identify best practices that allow Kirkland's many sustainability strategies to be implemented and measured, along with other actions needed to achieve a livable and sustainable community.

At the [February 4, 2020 City Council Study Session](#), staff reintroduced the guiding principles for the SMP and discussed the format and overall organization of the plan, including the plan's thematic sections.

At the [August 4, 2020 City Council Meeting](#), staff presented a high-level overview of the draft SMP. Because Council comments at this meeting focused on big-picture elements of the SMP, staff created a Council Comment Matrix to assist in a more detailed examination of the plan's actions and policy-related questions.

At the [September 15, 2020 City Council Study Session](#), staff presented and Council discussed and provided direction on eight policy-related questions from the SMP Council Comment Matrix. At the conclusion of the study session, staff asked Council to identify the remaining issues they would like to discuss at a future Council meeting.

At the [October 20, 2020 City Council Meeting](#), staff presented twelve items from the Council Comment Matrix. Following the October 20, 2020 Council meeting, staff compiled Council feedback from the previous meetings and updated the Council Comment Matrix and the draft SMP.

At the [November 17, 2020 Council Meeting](#), staff made a short presentation regarding the implementation, reporting progress and timeline for updating the plan. In addition,

Council brought up several additional items, sought clarifications, and requested ten specific changes as outlined below in the Council Discussion section.

Council Discussion

Following is a discussion of the ten key amendments to the SMP that were discussed at the November 17 meeting:

1. Energy Supply

Issue: The language in Action ES-2.2 would not sufficiently promote a successful partnership between Puget Sound Energy and the City and a rapid transformation to clean, renewable energy as required by the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) of 2019

Action ES-2.2: Provide a report to the City Council on the costs, benefits, complexities and risks of the formation of an Eastside public utility district that secures 100% renewable electricity that is equitably priced for the entire community.

Resolution: An amendment was made to strike all previous language and replace with the following language:

Action ES-2.2: In conjunction with K4C, ensure that PSE fulfills the State requirements in the Clean Energy Transformation Act. Through engagement with PSE's Clean Energy Implementation process, support projects that enable PSE's ability to meet CETA goals faster.

2. Electrification of Vehicles

Issue: Action ES-4.3 requires clarification regarding how many electric vehicle chargers need to be provided for the required parking for a new development. This language should also be used consistently throughout the Plan.

Resolution: Action ES-4.3 has been revised to clarify that 10% of all parking stalls in a new development must be served by EV chargers.

Action ES-4.3: In all new developments or redevelopment projects, 10% of required parking stalls must have EV chargers and 20% of required parking stalls must be charger-ready.

3. Purchased Pipeline Gas

Issue: Action ES-5.3 should be revised to incentivize or require new construction to be built solely with electric systems.

Resolution: Action ES-5.3 has been amended and now states that the City should also explore incentivizing electric-only systems in new construction.

Action ES-5.3: Explore requiring or incentivizing all new construction to

be built with only electric systems.

4. **New Construction and Development**

Issue: The original language in Action BI-3.2 requires clarification regarding the action the City will take in adopting the previously-approved State legislation.

Action BI-3.2: Work with K4C to adopt State required energy performance benchmarking and disclosure ordinances for an annual reporting program for commercial buildings; and explore options for multifamily buildings.

Resolution: The language in Action BI-3.2 has been amended with the language below that clarifies that the City would cooperate with regional partners to craft an ordinance that Kirkland could adopt requiring owners of certain types of buildings to publicly disclose annual energy usage.

Action BI-3.2: In order to promote a unified regional approach, collaborate with K4C to craft State-required energy performance benchmarking and disclosure ordinances for an annual reporting program for commercial buildings, and explore options for multifamily buildings.

5. **Conservation and Stewardship**

Issue: Page 27 of the SMP has a callout box titled "*Why do weeds need to be controlled in public spaces,*" but does not list aesthetics as one of the primary community motivations for weed control. i

Resolution: Added a new bullet point to the callout box that reflects community input and states: Projects an image of the City as attractive and well maintained.

6. **Access to Parks and Open Space**

Issue: The map (Figure 4: Distance to Kirkland Neighborhood Parks in 2014) on page 38 of the plan does not include the following:

1. Hazen Hills Park
2. Windsor Vista Park
3. Expanded boundaries of Juanita Heights Park

Resolution: The map has been updated to include the three missing parks. Schools were not included in this map as they are not always available for public use.

7. **Access to Parks and Open Space**

Issue: Action EV-10.1 should include an accessibility and equity review of programming in future PROS plans. The word “programming” was unintentionally not included in previous versions of this action.

Resolution: The word “programming” was added to Action EV-10.1, which now states: Conduct an accessibility and inclusivity review of parks, recreational facilities and programming, and open space plans, with the update of all future Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plans for the purpose of creating an action plan for needed improvements.

8. **Sustainable Food Systems**

Issue: A 3 - 6 year timeline to work on Action HC-1.1 (Develop a funding plan for development and operation of new P-Patches or other community gardens.) was shown in the Plan’s implementation section. This action’s timeline is not consistent with Goal HC-1, which seeks to establish 5 more P-patches or community gardens by 2025 for a total of 8, and then double that number by 2030 for a total of sixteen.

Resolution: Revised the timeline for Action HC-1.1 to 0-5 years so that the action can be prioritized, and a plan can be put in place and more P-patches or similar community gardens can be established to meet Goal HC-1’s 2025 and 2030 targets.

9. **Implementation Matrices**

Issue: Not all the actions in the Plan’s implementation section have assigned a Lead Department or Division to coordinate them.

Resolution: All previously-unassigned actions in the Plan’s implementation section now have a Lead Department or Division.

10. **SMP Implementation**

Added the following information to the Implementation section of the plan:

- The implementation matrix in the draft SMP will be a useful guide that can help us prioritize actions based on cost, ease of completion and staff capacity.
- Staff will provide an annual progress update at a Council meeting and at a sustainability summit.
- The SMP will undergo a major update every 5 years, but could also be amended when technology, legislative and other changes happen that require adjustments/updates.

Environmental and Social Justice

Equity, environmental and social justice are major themes of the SMP and approximately 25% of the over 200 actions in the Plan are related to helping the City of Kirkland (both government operations and overall community) become more equitable and inclusive and promote environmental and social justice.

Councilmember Falcone notes that there is currently no specific action in the plan that focuses on developing a City-wide strategy to promote environmental justice. A new action (HC-10.2, below) could be added under existing Goal HC-10 and Action HC-10.1 to address Councilmember Falcone's comment:

Goal HC-10: Dismantle institutional and structural racism in Kirkland to increase social equity and environmental justice city-wide and existing

Action HC-10.1: Using Resolution R-5434 as a framework, identify, develop, and implement actions to help end interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism, increase social equity, and support environmental justice in Kirkland.

Action HC-10.2: Complete a more detailed environmental justice plan to be integrated into the SMP by 2022

Staff recommends that amending the Sustainability Master Plan to include Action HC-10.2 be considered by the full Council through a motion, discussion and possible action.

Next Steps

Should the Council adopt the Sustainability Master Plan, staff will initiate Plan overview presentations and meetings with internal subject matter experts and related departments and divisions to discuss and coordinate implementation efforts.

Attachments

1. Draft SMP
2. Resolution R-5457 and Final SMP