



BUILDINGS + INFRASTRUCTURE

Why is this important?

All building types and infrastructure in Kirkland could use far less energy and resources than current codes require if constructed sustainably or retrofitted.

Existing and new buildings account for half of the energy used city-wide. Seventy percent of the buildings in Kirkland were built before 1986, when energy efficiency was incorporated into the building code. These older buildings present a big opportunity to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy bills.

How is Kirkland doing now?

There is no requirement for **Net Zero Energy** or **High Performing Green Building** design for new development. Kirkland's Green Building Program includes incentives for single family development, though there is no comparable program for commercial or multi-family development.

In a **Net Zero Energy** building, the total amount of energy used by the building each year is equal to the amount of renewable energy created on the site or by other renewable energy sources.

What key goals are included?

Key building + infrastructure goals include:

- Certify all new construction as High Performing Green Buildings
- Incentivize new construction to be Net Zero Energy
- Reduce energy use in all existing buildings
- Reduce water use in buildings

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?

- Properly insulate your attic, floors, and walls
- Weatherize your windows and doors
- Use a shower timer and/or low-flow showerhead
- Put aerators on all faucets to reduce water use
- Replace old toilets with WaterSense labeled toilets
- When remodeling, consider efficiency improvements
- Advocate for code updates and policy changes that make progress towards identified goals at the Planning Commission and City Council

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

