



CITY OF KIRKLAND
**SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGIC PLAN**

2025
YEAR 5 REPORT CARD



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YEAR 5 (2025) PROGRESS

The chart below indicates action status by focus area. In-progress actions indicate one-time actions that staff have started to work on. Ongoing actions indicate recurring and regularly occurring activities that have begun. Ongoing activities encompass multiple services and projects, and are likely to remain ongoing for the entire time period, while actions in-progress have a defined completion point. This progress chart reports the status of all actions since 2020.



Energy Supply and Emissions (20 actions)



2 Actions Completed 7 Ongoing 0 In Progress 11 Not Started



Buildings and Infrastructure (13 actions)



3 Actions Completed 0 Ongoing 1 In Progress 9 Not Started



Land Use and Transportation (21 actions)



0 Actions Completed 18 Ongoing 2 In Progress 1 Not Started



Natural Environment and Ecosystems (37 actions)



8 Actions Completed 18 Ongoing 8 In Progress 3 Not Started



Sustainable Material Management (17 actions)



3 Actions Completed 8 Ongoing 3 In Progress 2 Not Started



Sustainable Governance (35 actions)



6 Actions Completed 16 Ongoing 4 In Progress 9 Not Started



Sustainable Business (13 actions)



0 Actions Completed 11 Ongoing 0 In Progress 2 Not Started



Healthy Community (39 actions)



10 Actions Completed 17 Ongoing 4 In Progress 8 Not Started

YEAR 5 (2025) Overview

The Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP, formerly known as the Sustainability Master Plan) was adopted in December 2020, making 2025 the fifth year of implementation progress for reporting. A combination of virtual, in-person, and hybrid meetings and events were used to connect with the community during the formation of the SSP, and this intensive public outreach has helped result in significant SSP implementation.

The SSP has 195 actions organized amongst eight focus areas. These actions range from low to high levels of effort and cost to implement. The SSP is a living plan that can change over time, but was originally designed with a 10-year timeframe in mind. Future amendments to the SSP will be made that acknowledge changes in legislation, new technology, new countywide planning policies, and process improvements.

In addition to semi-annual progress reports on the SSP, this fifth report card shows what City Council, City staff, and the larger community are working on to create collective impact and make Kirkland an even more sustainable, equitable and inclusive community.

In 2026, staff will work with subject matter experts to develop a working team that will update the plan in 2027 in partnership with the City Council, the Planning Commission and the community.

2025 Actions

23 distinct actions were worked on in 2025, and 79 additional actions are ongoing:

- **Action ES-3.1**
- **Action BI-3.5**
- **Actions LT-2.3 and LT-4.1**
- **Actions EV-1.1, EV-2.1, EV-2.2, EV-2.3, EV-3.1 and EV-10.3**
- **Actions SM- 1.1, SM-1.2, SM-1.3, SM-2.1 and SM-2.2**
- **Actions SB-1.1, SB-2.2 and SB-4.2**
- **Actions SG-1.4**
- **Actions HC-9.2, HC-11.1, HC-11.6 and HC-11.7**



A total of 785 solar arrays are generating power in Kirkland, which is a 12% increase over 2024!



2 Yard Smart Rain Rewards projects were installed at Kirkland residences managing over 39,099 gallons of rainwater per year. 4 Yard Smart projects replacing 2,437 square feet of lawn with native landscaping will provide additional stormwater benefits.



The Planning and Building Department gave away 300 trees at City Hall for All to Kirkland community members to plant on their property. Projected to manage 362,700 gallons of stormwater per year.



94 tree rebates were granted to plant trees on private property by 37 households. These new trees will manage over 52,229 gallons of stormwater. 549 trees were planted in Kirkland parks and natural areas which included trees in active use areas and will manage over 468,850 gallons of stormwater.



Collected over 8,531 pounds of batteries at City facilities and at events throughout the year



Energy Supplies + Emissions

Goal ES-3: Add an additional 10 MW of combined individual and community distributive solar by 2030

ES-3.1 Develop a Solar Marketing Plan

The Kirkland community experienced a 12% increase in installations for solar arrays over year ending 2024. This means that Kirkland now has over 7.2 megawatts of new renewable solar produced electricity after only five years since the SSP was approved. The Kirkland community has risen to the challenge of SSP Goal ES-3 and staff expects that this goal can be achieved before 2030. A contributing factor to this success was the Solarize Eastside campaign. The campaign launched on April 1, 2025 in partnership with Bellevue, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Redmond, and Sammamish, and was led by Olympia Community Solar. The goal for the campaign was to use a tried and true campaign model of educating our residents about the costs and value proposition of installing solar panels on their homes. The outreach included social media posts, talking about the campaign via This Week in Kirkland (TWIK) newsletter and podcast, Kirkland Conserves newsletter, and a website that explained how to easily use the Solarize Eastside process.

The Solarize Eastside campaign included an educational workshop that explains that solar energy production is very compatible with the weather in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). It is not intuitive, but solar production is optimized in climates that are not hot, but that have enough sunlight to activate the panels, especially during April to October each year. The energy produced is enough for purchase to be cost effective. Another fact is that the largest producer of solar energy is Germany; and the PNW has more sunlight than Germany annually. In addition, there is ample rain to keep the panels clean throughout the year which ensures optimal production of each panel.



Solarize Eastside workshop at Kirkland City Hall





Energy Supplies + Emissions



Residential solar installation

Next Steps:

The City is investigating whether another solarize campaign will be pursued in the near future. Partnerships with Puget Sound Energy for a community solar campaign are being considered, which could be focused on larger scale energy producers. There will be a Green Power campaign with Puget Sound Energy commencing in January 2026 to promote the ability of each ratepayer to purchase clean, renewable electricity for their home or business. That campaign is funded by a small monthly fee that PSE uses to purchase renewable energy on the electricity users' behalf and is important because it provides opportunities to get additional clean electricity into our power grid. This helps the City achieve its community greenhouse gas reduction goals faster and reduces overall pollution from fossil-derived electricity production.





Buildings & Infrastructure

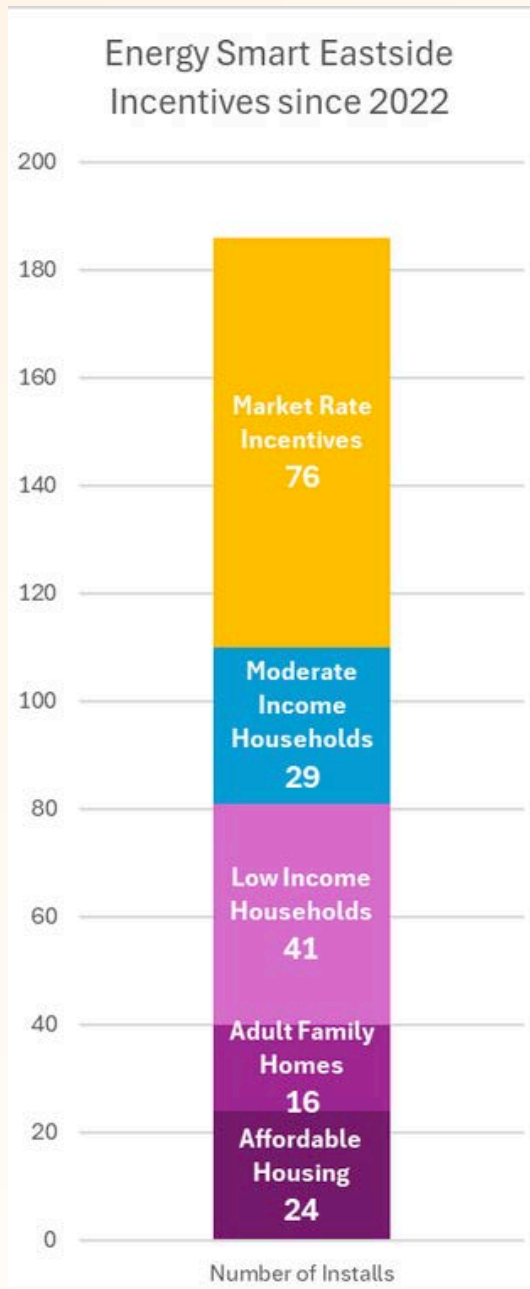
Existing Buildings

Goal BI-3: Achieve the K4C Goal to reduce energy use in all existing buildings by 25% by 2030 and 45% by 2050

The Energy Smart Eastside (ESE) program, of which Kirkland is a founding member city, has achieved and exceeded the objective of Action BI-3.5. The ESE program is a regionally recognized model for energy efficiency programs that are being established now in King County. ESE has expanded from the original five Eastside cities (Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island and Redmond) to now include Sammamish. In addition, there is always a possibility of considering adding new cities that are nearby and served by Puget Sound Energy.

In 2025 ESE lent its expertise and helped the City of Renton gain access to grant funding for low-income heat pump installations that would not otherwise have been completed. This is important to recognize because reducing emissions and energy burden and collaborating regionally is critical to Kirkland, the County, and the State to meet shared greenhouse gas reductions as we navigate a challenging funding environment to keep making progress on our climate action goals.

Action BI-3.5: Work with energy efficiency contractors and interested parties to establish a program to assist homeowners in identifying and selecting appropriate and cost-effective energy improvements





Buildings & Infrastructure

Status

In 2025, Kirkland again had a successful heat pump campaign. Most importantly, the City was able to leverage funding from the Department of Commerce, Puget Sound Energy, and the Community Energy Efficiency Planning grants to help community members in the most need.



Energy Smart Eastside staff educates the community at City Hall for All.

Energy Smart Eastside's 2031 goal is to achieve 99% adoption, meaning a heat pump is installed in almost every instance when a community member's furnace needs to be replaced. Since 2022, there has been 15% increase in heat pump installations relative to furnaces since ESE began to scale incentives. Kirkland is on the way to this goal (57% adoption as of 2025), but will need to increase education, awareness and continue to especially provide financial help for lower income households to make the transition to a heat pump.

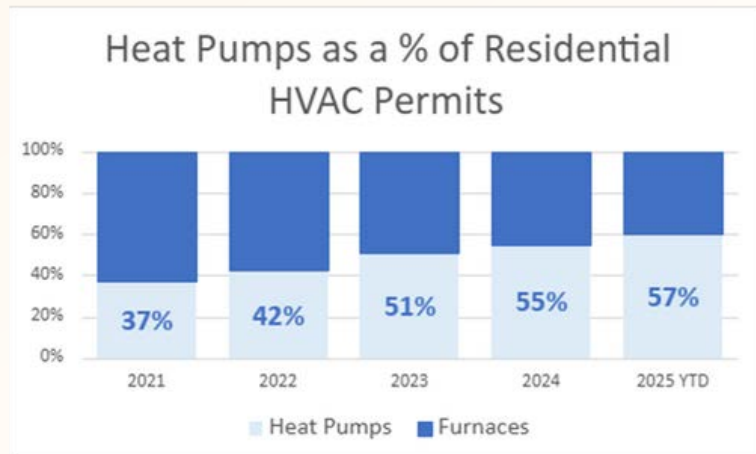
What's Next?

- Maintain focus on heat pumps as priority decarbonization strategy
- Conduct weatherization and heat pump pilot program for low-income households
- Cross promote PSE weatherization incentives for all income brackets
- Expand heat pump incentives to renters and building owners
- Conduct marketing to add heat pump water heaters to the program offerings
- Step up marketing and engagement to drive adoption

Key Accomplishments in 2025

- Installed 32 heat pumps in low-income Kirkland households at no cost.
- Provided 15 instant \$6,000 moderate income rebates.
- Provided 41 instant \$1,000 distributor non-income qualified rebates.
- Trained several Kirkland volunteers to help as needed as energy advisors.

Transformation of Heat Pump Adoption Market in Kirkland





Land Use and Transportation

Goal LT-2 Increase access to existing 10-Minute Neighborhoods in Kirkland

Action LT-2.3: Increase housing density along major transit corridors.

Adaptive Reuse - The process of renovating and repurposing existing buildings for new functions:

In 2025, City Council adopted code amendments to allow for co-living housing, a type of micro housing where residents share a communal kitchen, in many Kirkland neighborhoods with good transit access. These code amendments, which were prompted by Washington House Bill 1998, promote market-rate affordable housing and density in high opportunity areas of the community.

The co-living housing amendments will increase the feasibility of projects like the Motel 6 conversion project in Totem Lake, where the existing building will be converted into 123 micro housing units. Reusing the structure significantly reduces the environmental footprint of the project by avoiding the waste of embodied carbon associated with demolition and new construction. This project will create dense, attainable housing in a well-served neighborhood with access to jobs, transit, Totem Lake Park, and the Cross Kirkland Corridor and other important services that support the success of a 10-minute neighborhood.



Motel 6 site in Totem Lake



City of Bellevue's completed Motel 6 conversion.





Land Use and Transportation

Mixed-Use Housing in Juanita – Kirkland Goodwill Site

The proposed redevelopment of the former Juanita Goodwill property at 13233 100th Avenue NE represents a major opportunity to create new housing choices and enhance the North Juanita Neighborhood Center. The project envisions a walkable, transit-connected mixed-use development that places residents within a 10-minute walk of grocery stores, local businesses, parks, and schools—supporting a vibrant community where most daily needs can be met without a car.

Recently approved zoning code amendments allow buildings up to 75 feet in height and require active mixed-use development along 100th Avenue NE, a key corridor leading into the neighborhood center. These requirements emphasize:

- **Pedestrian-focused street design**
- **Minimum retail frontage** to support successful, approachable commercial spaces along the existing commercial corridor
- **Design guidelines that promote safe, engaging, and walkable streets**



Housing at Juanita Village

A key sustainability feature of the project is the requirement for publicly accessible open spaces and plazas. These gathering areas must include community-oriented amenities such as seating, weather protection, public art, interactive features or games, hydration stations, and/or native or productive planting areas.

Overall, the redevelopment will introduce a wider range of compact housing options for households at various income levels, all with excellent transit access. It reflects how thoughtful land use policies, dedicated planning work, and forward-looking leadership by the City Council can reshape Kirkland's housing landscape. By allowing greater density in walkable neighborhood centers, Kirkland is expanding housing choice, improving affordability, and creating more inclusive, sustainable, and connected communities.

What's next? The city will continue to assess ways to expand building and zoning code allowances to increase the diversity of the housing supply in neighborhood centers and make adaptive-reuse projects feasible, increasing sustainable and affordable housing options across the community.





Land Use and Transportation

KIRKLAND

2024 - 2044 Transportation Strategic Plan



Transportation:

Action LT-4.1: Align projects with the Sustainability Strategic Plan

The Transportation Strategic Plan (TSP) addresses many of the focus areas of the SSP goals including the TSP Sustainability Goal T-8 which focuses on reducing environmental impacts directly from transportation. SSP objectives will also be achieved through other TSP objectives such as land use, active transportation and transit goals and policies.

The TSP also includes Policy T-8.4: Implement transportation-related actions identified in Kirkland's Sustainability Strategic Plan and Policy T-8.3: Minimize the environmental impacts of transportation facilities, especially transportation's contribution to air and water pollution.

Some examples of the great projects that are underway or have been completed to help implement these and other TSP policies are as follows:

- Kirkland's third greenway is near completion (Stores to Shores) - create a corridor between Heritage Park and Totem Lake, along which walking and bicycling are the prioritized modes of travel and motorized transportation, such as driving a car, is the alternative form of transportation.
- Completing the 124th Ave Corridor project that includes buffered, sidewalk level bicycle lanes, enhanced transit stops, 40 pedestrian lights and upgraded water and sewer mains.
- Implementing the Transportation Benefit District projects including 45 projects that would make walking and bicycling around Kirkland's 15 elementary schools and its business districts a safer and more feasible transportation choice for students, families and workers.



100th Avenue Corridor project opening



Blitz admires 100th Ave Corridor improvements





Land Use and Transportation

- NE 85th ST Shared Use Pathway connecting downtown to the new NE 85th Station Area that will connect to the future Sound Transit STRIDE Bus Rapid Transit system on I-405 is under construction
- The NE 85th St/ I-405 interchange is being rebuilt to accommodate the future Sound Transit STRIDE Bus Rapid Transit system. This project also includes the removal of fish barriers and adds new stormwater facilities.
- Beginning construction of the HAWK signal crossing connecting the east end of the Cross Kirkland Corridor to East trail at Slater/ 132nd Ave NE
- Recently completed pedestrian scramble project at Lake/Kirkland downtown to increase safety for pedestrians.
- Newly completed 100th Ave corridor project that includes separated sidewalks and elevated bicycle lanes as well as a new 10-foot-wide, eight-foot-tall culvert that will accommodate those extra two lanes of traffic and, at the same time, is providing access to a mile of upstream habitat for trout and salmon.



Top right: Aerial of Lake Street. Bottom left: Council members use Kirkland Scramble. Bottom right, Community uses Kirkland Scramble.





Natural Environment and Ecosystems

Goal EV-1: Protect and enhance the water quality of Kirkland's streams, lakes and wetlands

Action EV-1.1: Continue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance

Kirkland remains in strong compliance with our current NPDES permit, active from 2024-2029. We are implementing new programs such as Stormwater Management for Existing Development while maintaining existing programs.



Left and Right: City staff monitoring at Juanita Creek

Goal EV-2: Protect and enhance Kirkland's watersheds and aquatic habitat conditions

Action EV-2.1: Fund projects to make culverts fish passable

Action EV-2.2: Proactively identify and reduce pollutants of concern in Kirkland's impaired streams

Staff continue to monitor water quality in our local creeks with monthly testing. Last year the team identified a significant source of bacteria to a local stream and repairs to this source are now underway which will ensure that our waterways are cleaner and safer for aquatic species and community members.

Replacement of an undersized culvert on Juanita Creek at NE 137th Street is scheduled to be funded on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) list and is scheduled for 2029. These projects are important because they help fish make it back upstream to spawn, increase fish population and also increase stream flow, reduce sediment build up, and help support other smaller species in the ecosystem and food chain.





Natural Environment and Ecosystems



This Juanita Creek culvert (left) is not fish passable now. But after it is sized properly and the retrofit is complete, it will be less constricted and at the same level as the stream as shown in this example (right) which will promote salmon recovery.

Action EV-2.3: Actively involve the community in the protection of Kirkland's aquatic resources

We celebrated the second annual Stormwater Awareness Week in October with community activities like Rainworks Art at Finn Hill Middle School, daily social media engagement, a Council Proclamation, and a children's book read-aloud at the library. Through these actions we helped Kirkland residents of all ages learn about how their daily actions impact water quality in Kirkland streams and in Lake Washington, and how taking steps to reduce pollution and flooding at home can help support local wildlife and community health.



Left: City Staff performing environmental education and Right: Students learning about stormwater





Natural Environment and Ecosystems

Goal EV-3 Protect and maintain the City's surface water and stormwater infrastructure for optimal performance

Action EV-3.1: Inspect and maintain public stormwater infrastructure

We have continued to inspect and maintain our public stormwater infrastructure. Every catch basin in the City is inspected once every 2 years and facilities are inspected every year.

Goal EV-10 Examine trends in canopy gain or loss and develop strategies to manage Kirkland's urban forest resources for optimal health, climate resiliency and social equity

Action EV-10.3 Pursue opportunities to improve the public tree maintenance program

The City's pilot seasonal tree-watering program has proven successful. Targeted investment in establishing newly planted trees has significantly reduced mortality and strengthened long-term canopy growth.

This program is critical to meeting the City's tree-canopy goals because supplemental watering enables staff to successfully establish more new trees. Without dedicated funding, staff cannot devote the necessary time and labor to watering trees during their three-year establishment period. When this early-stage watering is reduced or not performed, survival rates can fall below 50%.

Staff have found that consistent watering, especially during the first year, is the single most important factor in successful tree establishment. Continued consistent sources of funding will allow the program to operate each season and support a healthy, expanding urban forest.

Next Steps: in 2026 Kirkland will update the Urban Forest Management Plan to help guide future sustainability actions over the next decade

Arbor Day 2025 included planting 4 trees in Peter Kirk Park with staff teams gaining valuable experience guided by experts also on staff and Mayor Kelli Curtis and CM Sweet.





Sustainable Material Management

Advancing Sustainable Materials Management in Kirkland

Sustainable materials management is a comprehensive approach that focuses on using and reusing materials efficiently throughout their life cycles. In Kirkland, the solid waste team embraces the waste hierarchy framework in their program planning. This framework prioritizes waste management practices aimed at minimizing environmental impact, visualized as an inverted pyramid with the most preferred options at the top. The following are key metrics from 2025 efforts to advance the City's [sustainable materials management goals](#):

- **Reduce Waste:** The City hosted four community recycling collection events attended by over 2,000 residents diverting 117,138 pounds of hard to recycle materials.
- **Increase Recycling and Composting Diversion Rate:** The combined residential diversion rate (multifamily and single family) as of October 2025 was 53%, staying approximately the same from last year's diversion rate of 54%. Our goal is 70%. The combined residential diversion rate means the amount of waste that it composted or recycled out of all waste generated from houses, apartments and condos in Kirkland.
- **Reduce Single-Use Items:** Focus on reducing single-use food service ware at events such as City Hall for All where 1,516 pieces of durable plates, cups, and utensils replaced single-use items.
- **Boost Composting Efforts:** Promote participation in composting by initiating composting collection service for 20 businesses diverting over 77,000 pounds of food scraps from landfills.

2025 Waste Reduction Achievements

New Solid Waste Legislation

In 2025, the State legislature passed the Recycling Reform Act for extended producer responsibility (EPR) for paper and plastic packaging. The City supported the passage of this legislation and continues to engage with the Northwest Product Stewardship Council in an effort to support future EPR legislation.

The third Organics Management Law passed in 2025, and aims to divert food and yard waste from landfills, reduce methane emissions and slow climate change by requiring additional business and multifamily collection, increasing school composting efforts, and improving bin color and labeling requirements. These laws encourage the prevention of food waste and promote nutrient and energy recovery through composting and anaerobic digestion.

The City supported the overall goals of this legislation, but advocated for additional flexibility in the new cart color requirements, due to the substantial financial impacts of changing out carts. An amendment to the legislation allows for cities to apply for a waiver to plan for an alternative timeline to cart replacement.





Sustainable Material Management

Sort Smart Tournament with Multifamily Residents

In 2025, the City worked with a consultant to create an innovative way of engaging community members at multifamily properties with the goal of reducing contamination in the compost and recycling stream and decreasing garbage going to landfills. 517 households participated in an eight-week tournament and received a Sort Smart toolkit from the City, which included a recycling collection bag, a compost pail, and sorting guides. The recycling collection bags were custom upcycled bags made by the Refugee Artisan Initiative, utilizing recycled billboard vinyl that would otherwise be destined for the landfill. Other tools included a Sort Smart Coach who conducted 644 contamination checks, an outdoor contest tracker with photos showing contamination or smiley faces for no contamination, classes, e-newsletters, and a Sort Smart website. Garbage across the nine properties was reduced by 37% or 1,578 cubic yards per year. That is the same as filling 17 school buses!



Sort Smart Participant receiving outreach items

Community Engagement and Events

- **Outreach Initiatives:** Solid Waste engaged with over 600 community members at three events: the Juanita Friday Market, Kirkland Downtown Association's Evening Summer Concert, and City Hall for All.
- **Waste Station Pilot:** Over the summer months the team ran a waste station pilot program with the help of three community volunteers at three events. The waste station included a staffed waste collection area to help community members sort their recycling, compost, and garbage at events.
- **Annual Costume Swap:** Kirkland hosted this event at City Hall, with 225 participants exchanging hundreds of costumes. The event was supported by five volunteers and was a great success.
- **Recycling Collection Events:** The solid waste team organized four events aimed at diverting electronics, textiles, scrap metals, shredded paper, tires, and more from landfills. Over 2,000 carloads of these materials were collected, significantly reducing landfill waste.
- **Drinking Fountain Installations:** The City installed two new drinking fountains and water bottle filling stations around the City to promote reuse on the go.
- **Reuse and Repair:** The City partnered with King County to host a repair event as part of the City Hall for All event in September where community members brought small electronics to be repaired and clothes for mending. In partnership with Perennial Zero Waste, City Hall for All eliminated 1,516 pieces of single-use service items by supplying food vendors with reusable dishware.





Sustainable Material Management

Commercial Organics and Business Engagement

Utilizing a Department of Ecology grant, the team hired consultants to outreach to identified businesses needing to divert food waste to comply with the Organics Management Law (OML). In 2025, the team collaborated with over 165 businesses, resulting in 23 businesses starting composting service. This expanded service resulted in the diversion of over 77,017 pounds of organic materials from a landfill and ultimate composting. Through this initiative, the City successfully identified several businesses which are complying with the OML through redirecting edible food to local community organizations.

Eastside Cities Bring Your Own Cup (BYOC) and Reuse Partnership

The Eastside Reuse Partners have been collaborating and implementing a behavior change campaign to promote reuse within the Cities of Bellevue, Bothell, Kirkland, and Redmond for the past three years. To date, the Partnership has utilized close to \$300k in grant funds from the Department of Ecology and King County to implement two social marketing campaigns reaching over 3 million community members in the region. The Partnership has also established and grown relationships with 39 coffee shops across the four cities with the goal to increase reuse and promote the bring your own cup (BYOC) message. In 2025, the City promoted the Department of Ecology's BYOC social media campaign and planned for a third social marketing plan that will be implemented in 2026



Community member learning how to sort items at the Waste Station

Future Directions in Solid Waste Management

The focus will continue on reducing landfill waste through ongoing recycling events, promoting reuse with business partners and the community, initiating a volunteer recycling stewardship program, and providing direct outreach and support to businesses. The team will also continue to collaborate regionally on legislative priorities like Extended Producer Responsibility and waste reduction, ensuring Kirkland's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.



Sort Smart Tournament Tracking to help residents identify contaminants.





Sustainable Governance

Goal SG-1: Integrate sustainability into every decision the city makes

Action SG-1.4: Identify and apply EPEAT registry standards for electronic equipment purchases

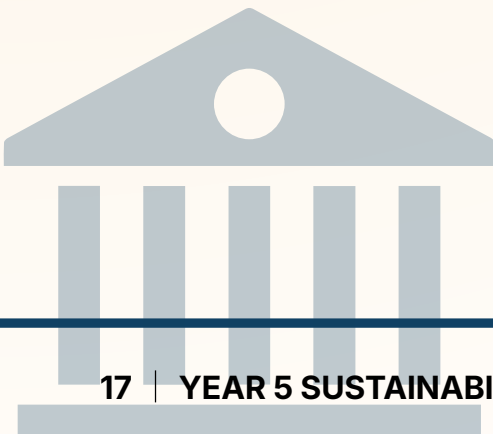
Status:

This action aims to leverage existing certifications or programs to guide the City's electronic equipment procurement and disposal processes. Proper management of electronic assets addresses environmental concerns related to energy efficiency, waste reduction, and carbon emissions.

Although we initially considered adopting the EPEAT registry for sustainable electronics purchasing, we ultimately partnered directly with PCs for People, a local, certified waste reduction business. This approach aligns with our goals by enhancing transparency in procurement and disposal practices. Since partnering with them in 2012, we've effectively repurposed or responsibly recycled equipment, preventing it from ending up in landfills and reducing environmental impact.



PCs for People Warehouse





Sustainable Governance

PCs for People is NAID AAA certified, ensuring high standards in data destruction and hard drive sanitization, and is also certified under the R2 standard for environmentally responsible recycling. When equipment is beyond refurbishment, usable parts are retained and repurposed; non-functional components are broken down and recycled through independently audited channels. Over 95% of the materials are recycled to their original form, with the remainder used for renewable energy production.

Supporting PCs for People enables us to promote zero-waste initiatives and assist in providing refurbished devices to families, individuals, and nonprofits in need. Unusable equipment is recycled responsibly, ensuring it never contributes to landfill waste.



Environmental Impact Assessment:

- In 2024*, recycled 4,818 pounds of e-waste, including approximately 275 devices.
- Since 2012, through continuous donations and recycling efforts, we have diverted around 60,000 pounds of e-waste. (Equivalent of 10 Ford F-150 Lightning Trucks)
 - This effort has prevented an estimated 70,107 pounds (31.8 Metric Tons) of CO₂ emissions from entering the atmosphere.
 - Donated equipment includes roughly 950 desktops and 600 laptops.

*Reporting data for 2025 has not been completed..

Next Steps:

- Identify opportunities to further expand e-waste diversion and recycling efforts.
- Incorporate visual documentation of our electronic recycling initiatives—such as photos of donation and recycling events—to highlight our ongoing commitment.





Sustainable Business

Goal: Engage with Kirkland businesses on environmental best practices

Action SB- 1.1: Assist Kirkland businesses in accessing resources to follow environmental best practices

The City's monthly E-Biz Newsletter includes a feature and link to environmental practices. This newsletter, with approximately 4,000 subscribers, is also posted to the Shop Local Kirkland website as a resource for businesses.

We have learned that this newsletter is helpful for all the businesses to stay up-to-date on what the City is working on. Co-Working Day promotion has received the most engagement through this newsletter, with our sustainability highlights coming in second.

Business Pollution Prevention - FREE storm drain markers



If you a City of Kirkland business and you have storm drains on your property (grate structures located in parking lots), the City of Kirkland will install storm drain markers next to your drains for FREE! These storm drain markers have the colorful message, "Drains to Lake Washington - Only Rain Down the Drain". **Did we mention we will deliver and install for FREE!**

If interested, schedule a time on the City of Kirkland [Storm and Surface water webpage](#) (Business Pollution Prevention).

Recycle waste, earn money, and support your community with E-Cycle Washington

E-Cycle Washington helps individuals, schools, and businesses recycle computers, monitors, and TVs for free. It's an easy and eco-friendly way to clear out outdated electronic equipment.

Your business can become a public collection site.

This is a program that gives back—offering several benefits to participating businesses.

More information [here](#).



Goal: Foster economic diversity throughout the community

Action SB-2.2: Partner with Chamber and Kirkland Downtown Association (KDA) on promoting "Buy Local"

This is an ongoing effort, but specific highlights include the Junior League Softball World Series, and the City's partnership with the Kirkland Downtown Association to hold a Softball Scavenger Hunt with Kirkland Cash as a prize. With over 60 "softballs" to find, the scavenger hunt led participants all over downtown.

Nearly 400 people participated in this scavenger hunt, and we learned that there is not only a demand for this type of engagement, but it is also relatively easy to execute with the partnership we have with the KDA.



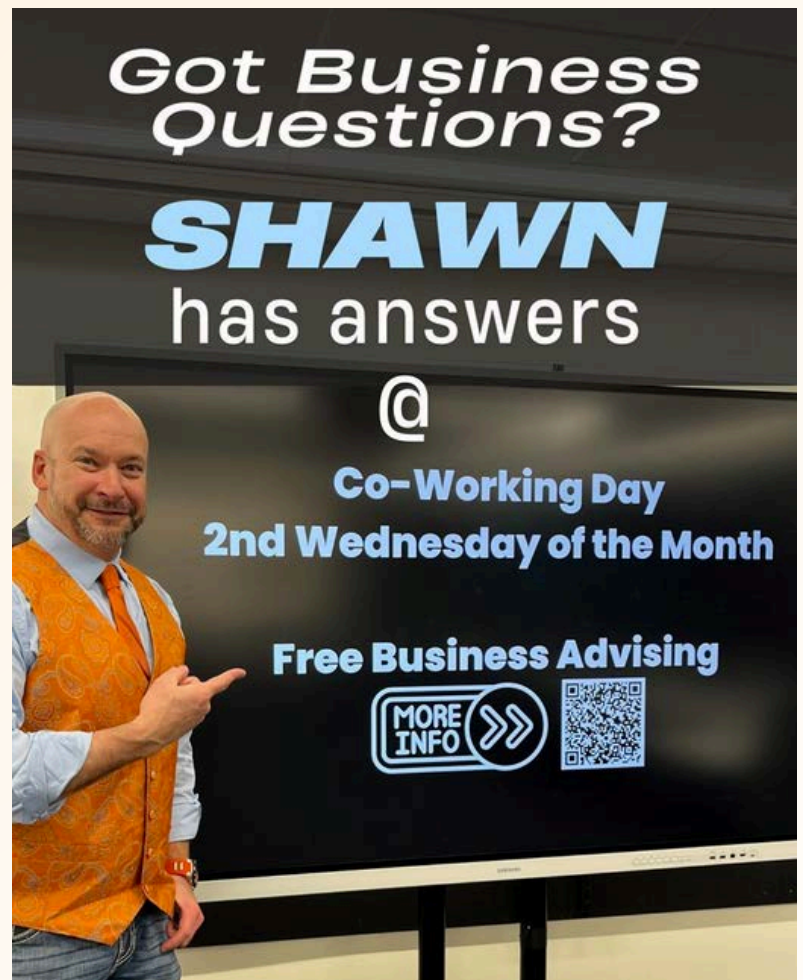


Sustainable Business

Goal: Support the transition to an equitable, socially-just sustainable business community in Kirkland

Action SB-4.2: Promote a training program to assist immigrant and minority-owned new small business owners.

Staff hosted monthly Co-Working Days with Free Business Advising included. Two free workshops were provided in 2025, with a plan to expand to once a quarter in 2026. Approximately 10 business owners utilized the small business advising each month, they received dedicated and helpful information from professional advisors with StartUp425 and OneEastside. Immigrant and minority-owned small businesses entrepreneurs have heavily engaged in this programming as they plan their successful business ventures in Kirkland.



Next Steps: Economic Development is working on a strategy for an Economic Resilience Plan.





Healthy Community

Goal HC-9: Cultivate a welcoming and inclusive community for immigrants and refugees

HC-9.2: Seek Welcoming Certification from Welcoming America

In January 2025, Kirkland became the first city in the State of Washington to obtain the Welcoming Certification! The criteria that the Welcoming Certification uses to evaluate applications are based on the themes of Civic Engagement, Connected Communities, Economic Development, Education, Equitable Access, Government and Community Leadership, and Safe Communities. This certification is much more than a piece of paper or a plaque on a wall. It is a signal to investors, businesses, workers and our community that we value diversity in people, ideas, businesses and enjoy the benefits that an inclusive community yields.



Goal HC-11: Expand housing options for all income levels

HC-11.1: Establish program to preserve multi-family housing stock

The city is collaborating with A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) for county-level reporting and tracking affordable housing efforts. ARCH, in turn, is partnering with Hopelink and Friends of Youth to support these initiatives. As part of its strategy, ARCH is pursuing the acquisition of 4- to 6-plex properties, along with older low-rise buildings that have been converted into adult family homes and other forms of naturally occurring affordable housing. The City's Comprehensive Plan includes several policies that support the preservation of existing housing stock through a variety of actions.

Status: This action is ongoing. During the recent Comprehensive Plan update Land Use and Housing policies in support of preservation of multifamily housing were adopted. These policies can help guide Planning Work Program (PWP) projects.

Next Steps: City staff will explore building housing preservation incentives into development standards as part of the Middle Housing Optimization, Affordable Housing Incentives, and other projects on the current 2025 – 2027 PWP. The city will continue to identify ways to support affordable housing partners in the purchase and rehabilitation of existing multifamily housing within Kirkland for the retention and long-term preservation of affordable housing.





Healthy Community

HC-11.6: Monitor local and sub-regional job types, wages and housing costs to ensure housing stock is affordable to employees of local businesses and congestion is reduced

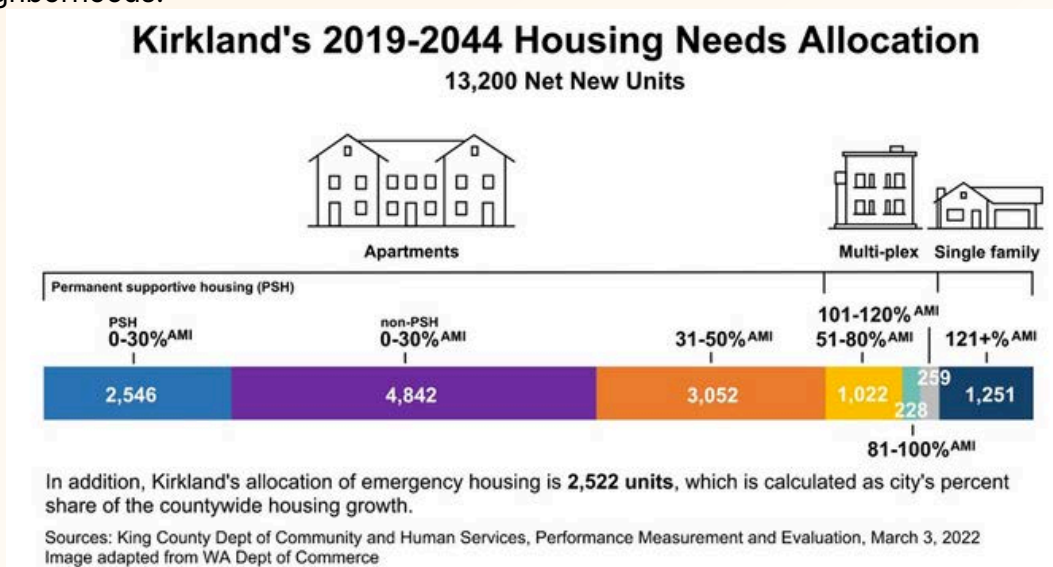
As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, city staff conducted a Housing Inventory and Analysis. To support ongoing monitoring and reporting of housing growth in relation to the city's allocated growth targets by income segment, the city adopted new Land Use and Housing policies. This monitoring and reporting effort aligns with State Growth Management Act requirements and Countywide Planning Policies. Beginning in 2025, staff will continue to monitor housing growth on an ongoing basis and provide annual reports to the County.

This work will help to inform ongoing Planning Work Program projects – many of which are aimed at improving City regulations and permitting systems and increasing housing production. The City must make policy, program, or regulatory adjustments after 5 years if the King County Growth Management Planning Council finds a significant shortfall in the City's ability to achieve its allocated housing growth targets.

HC-11.7: Identify city-wide numerical affordable housing goals for affordable units built under inclusionary zoning rules and track progress of meeting set goals

This work is ongoing. In September of 2021 the city adopted interim affordable housing targets. New affordable housing targets were adopted with the 2044 Comprehensive Plan. These housing targets were allocated by State and King County Growth Management Planning Council. City staff will continue to monitor the city's progress in meeting these housing targets (see HC-11.6), including through the city's regularly-updated Housing Dashboard.

Next Steps: Providing housing choice is an important goal for the city to help make Kirkland more accessible to current and future residents. The city will continue to monitor progress toward affordable housing targets using its Housing Dashboard and annual reporting, and making policy or regulatory adjustments as needed to ensure equitable access across income levels. The city will also promote transparency and fiscal accountability by publishing accessible data on housing outcomes and aligning efforts with land use goals to support sustainable, high-quality neighborhoods.



Kirkland's 2019-2044 housing needs as allocated by King County Growth Management Planning Council and adopted in the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies.





Sustainability Ambassadors

SNAP! and Transit Ambassador Program

The Sustainable Neighborhoods Ambassador Program (SNAP!) is a partnership with the Sustainability Ambassadors, a regional non-profit empowering youth through project design, data tracking, and impact storytelling that advances the City's Sustainability Strategic Plan. The exclamation point at the end of the acronym SNAP! is an emphatic reminder of the Sustainability Ambassadors' mission to "rapidly advance a sustainable future!"

The SNAP! contract is managed by the Department of Planning and Building with a parallel program, Youth Transit Ambassadors, whose separate contract is managed by the City's Transportation Division and funded by King County Metro. A passionate team of students from Kirkland's high schools work year-round on the following projects.

Civic Engagement

APRIL 3 - Earth Month Kick Off

Student Ambassadors convened the Mayor, City Council representatives, and staff at City Hall to identify action areas where students can have the most impact.

JUNE 5 - Town Hall @ School

Ambassadors facilitated a Town Hall at the International Community School where over 80 students shared with City Council representatives and staff the work happening in classrooms that directly supports the Sustainability Strategic Plan.

FALL Students join the Advisory Committee for the Lake WA School District (LWSD) Sustainability Plan

Student Ambassadors joined the school district in developing the district's first ever sustainability plan. Students have been advocating for the strongest possible alignment between school district planning and the city's sustainability policies, plans, and performance measures.

Carbon Commute Count

Now in its second year, the Carbon Commute Count captures baseline data on how middle school and high school students commute to school, the miles they travel, and a combined carbon footprint per capita. This baseline data story is part of a regional "School vs. School" competition capitalizing on school spirit and crosstown rivalries to see who can reduce their student body carbon footprint the most.

[Image of CCC Map](#)





Sustainability Ambassadors

Student Videos Normalize Bus Ridership



[1] [What else can my ORCA Card do?](#) (2,226 views)



[2] [Belle and Eva Use their ORCA Cards!](#) (1,827 views)



[3] [Grace Plays Bus Bingo!](#) (984 views)

E-Bike Revolution

Student Ambassadors are developing an E-Bike Campaign to encourage students to get out of cars, ride their bike, overcome the hills of Kirkland, and reduce emissions on their daily commute to school. Ambassadors are working with the Kirkland Police Department on safety education and with the City's Transportation Division to promote current and planned bike pathways.

According to LWHS Student Ambassador, Tanushri Goyal: "Last year I saw around 15 regular bikes at our school, with 2-3 e-bikes. This year, I have noticed a huge uptick with 40-50 e-bikes daily! So much so that we got a new bike rack to accommodate our overfilling racks."

[1] <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DG1gJ4-y6AM/>

[2] <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DGrMd-oylIR/>

[3] <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DIej0GxTYkU/>





Sustainability Ambassadors

Carpool to School Parking Fee Incentive

This youth-led advocacy campaign was published in [The Urbanist](#).

Kirkland Ambassadors conducted research on parking fees at high schools throughout King County and whether any schools use fees or other mechanisms to incentivize carpooling. Fifteen high schools in King County shared data on their current parking fee structure. Of these, only three had carpooling incentives: Issaquah, Redmond, and Interlake.

LWHS Leads the Change!

Based on their well-informed persistence, Kirkland Ambassadors were successful in getting a policy change at Lake Washington High School that gives carpools priority in the annual parking space lottery. The goal now is to spread this to other high schools for next year.

Solar Neighborhood Potential

SNAP!'s Kirkland team conducted a Neighborhood Solar Potential Audit to assess local homeowners' potential to benefit from solar installations. So far, 120 homes have been analyzed and the team projects to survey 1,000 total. To help homeowners understand their solar potential, the team is creating content and presentations and doing outreach to connect residents with solar installers and discounts. Using Project Sunroof, the team found that the average Kirkland home can install about 474 square feet of solar panels. That would generate 97% of an average home's annual electricity usage and save families \$5,520 over 20 years. Most importantly, installing solar would prevent 6.85 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) from being emitted annually per house!



LWHS Green Team, Lunchroom Composting Solution

LWHS's Green Team worked with their robotics teacher and students to create a better waste station that looks cleaner and hides the waste bins from sight. It was a completely student-led, student-built project with a \$1,000 grant from the World Wildlife Fund. Now, the Green Team is advocating durables instead of plastic-wrapped school lunches to keep the momentum going to educate and reduce waste at schools and in our landfills.

