



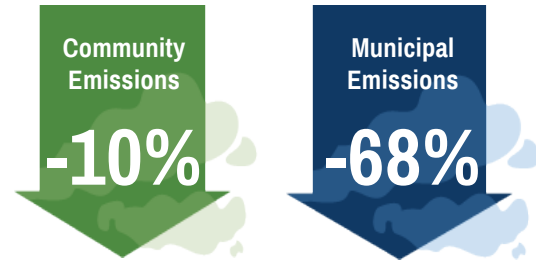
Climate Action Plan 2018 Update

Emissions Reduction Progress

In 2007, Bellingham officially started on the journey to reduce climate impacts from greenhouse gas emissions by writing the City's first Climate Action Plan. Since then the City and our community have implemented many programs and taken numerous actions. As part of the 2018 Update, emissions from municipal sources - from City government actions - as well as emissions from the community were inventoried to track our progress. Between 2000 and 2015, municipal emissions dropped by 68.3%, including renewable energy credits purchased by the City to offset electricity emissions, and community emissions dropped 10.4%, exceeding some of the original 2012 goals. The collective support for building a better future for Bellingham has already started.

2018 Update

The 2018 Update to the Climate Action Plan serves as a map to facilitate our community's transition to renewable energy and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The updated plan describes municipal and community emissions reduction measures in six core strategy areas. Below are some highlights from the plan. See www.cob.org/climate for a detailed list of all measures.



"I believe this updated Climate Action Plan will help lead the transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and at the same time improve the lives of our residents and visitors, grow our local economy, and create a more sustainable and equitable future for Bellingham."

— Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville

CORE STRATEGIES



Energy Efficiency and Conservation

This core strategy focuses on measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from electricity and natural gas consumption at homes, businesses and municipal facilities. Collectively, energy use from all sectors is the number one source of emissions, so there are 34 out of 80 measures in the plan targeting energy use.



Renewable Energy

Replacing electricity generated from fossil fuels with renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, is an essential emissions reduction strategy and necessary to meet the 100% renewable energy goal. Renewable energy can be produced locally or purchased from another location.



Transportation

Reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated from vehicles is critical to meet climate action goals. Efforts should focus on switching from fuel powered vehicles to electric and hybrid vehicles and reducing the frequency and duration of vehicle trips.



Green Building

Building design directly impacts the energy use required to use or inhabit the space. Supporting green building practices assures that new and renovated buildings have little to no climate impacts.



Waste Reduction

Everything we consume or use generates emissions during manufacturing and transport of the products. Recycling ensures useful materials are not wasted in a landfill. Purchasing local or environmentally-friendly products reduces the impacts before they arrive at your door.



Land Use

Land use can greatly affect our greenhouse gas emissions. Thoughtful planning can reduce transportation emissions by creating more viable biking, walking, and biking options while land preservation in parks and protected areas increases our ability to store carbon in trees and wetlands.

Climate Action Plan Highlights

Take your next step toward a better future for Bellingham.



Municipal Highlight **PARKS LED UPGRADES**- the City of Bellingham Parks Department will continue its efforts to retrofit all lighting in public parks with LED lightbulbs.

Community Highlight **COMMUNITY ENERGY CHALLENGE**- works with homes and businesses to connect customers with the best opportunities for energy efficient upgrades, including current technology, best practices and access to rebates.

- Steps to take**
- Sign up your home or business for an energy assessment
 - Engage in energy conservation practices



Municipal Highlight **CITY SOLAR**- the City has several existing solar panel systems and will continue to evaluate additional opportunities.

Community Highlight **PUGET SOUND ENERGY'S GREEN POWER PROGRAM**- hundreds of residents and businesses are already enrolled in the program, community efforts to increase enrollment will continue.

- Steps to take**
- Purchase renewable energy through the PSE Green Power Program
 - Produce renewable energy at your home or business



Municipal Highlight **INVEST IN HYBRID AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES**- the City will phase these in with a goal of replacing all vehicles in suitable classes.

Community Highlight **VEHICLE MODE SHIFT**- this supports the community goal of decreasing the number of automobile trips each day and replacing them with alternatives such as bike, bus or ride share.

- Steps to take**
- Add at least two Smart Trips to your week
 - If shopping for a new vehicle, choose electric, hybrid, or fuel-efficient models



Municipal Highlight **LEED BUILDINGS**- all new municipal buildings over 5,000 sq. feet must meet the Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) standard.

Community Highlight **2030 DISTRICTS**- committed to reducing building energy use, water consumption and transportation emissions, this model could work well for Bellingham's downtown and urban villages.

- Steps to take**
- Choose energy efficient building components and appliances
 - Design new construction to be energy efficient.



Municipal Highlight **GREEN PURCHASING PROGRAM**- all departments are encouraged to purchase environmentally-preferable products, if those products are not greater than 20% higher in price.

Community Highlight **FOODPLUS!**- Sanitary Service Company Inc. (SSC) offers curbside collection for food and yard waste and other compostable materials. This diverts waste from landfills and recycles the product into compost.

- Steps to take**
- Start your own compost pile or sign up for the FoodPlus! program
 - Recycle or donate used building materials after use.



Municipal Highlight **ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION**- the land preserved and enhanced by the City has the additional benefit of storing carbon in trees and wetlands and allows these ecosystems to continue absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Community Highlight **HIGH-DENSITY DEVELOPMENT**- seeks to utilize infrastructure such as parks, streets, bus routes and existing structures to develop areas more efficiently.

- Steps to take**
- Support community solutions in your neighborhood
 - Volunteer with local organizations that work to restore natural areas