



# Sustainability Work Program Update

January 21, 2025  
AB6601





# Agenda

- History of Sustainability at the City of Mercer Island
- Review of Climate Action Plan & 2030 Targets
- Progress on Climate Action Plan Implementation
- 2025-2026 Work Plan Items

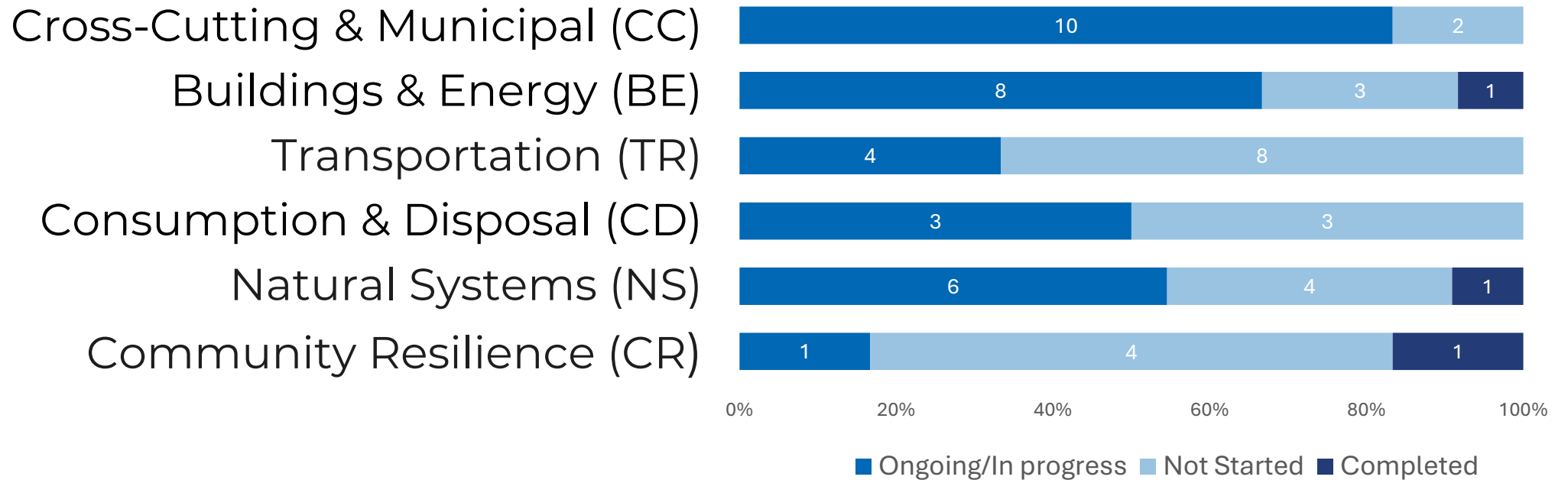
# Sustainability on Mercer Island

- 2007: City adopted GHG reduction targets of 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050 (compared to a 2007 baseline)
- 2011: MI became a founding member for the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)
- 2021: MI 2050 target is updated to a 95% reduction, in accordance with a change from the King County Growth Management Planning Council
- 2023: City adopts its first Climate Action Plan (CAP)



# Review of Climate Action Plan

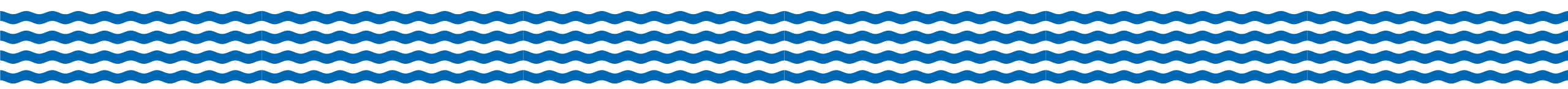
## 6 Focus Areas:



59 actions, 54% of which are in progress

# Climate Action Plan 2030 Target Highlights

- 50% reduction in community-wide GHG emissions
- Carbon-neutral municipal operations
- 56% reduction in on-road transportation emissions
- 70% waste diversion rate
- 5% increase in tree cover on private land
- 10% of public open space in monitoring & maintenance restoration phase





# Progress on Climate Action Plan Implementation

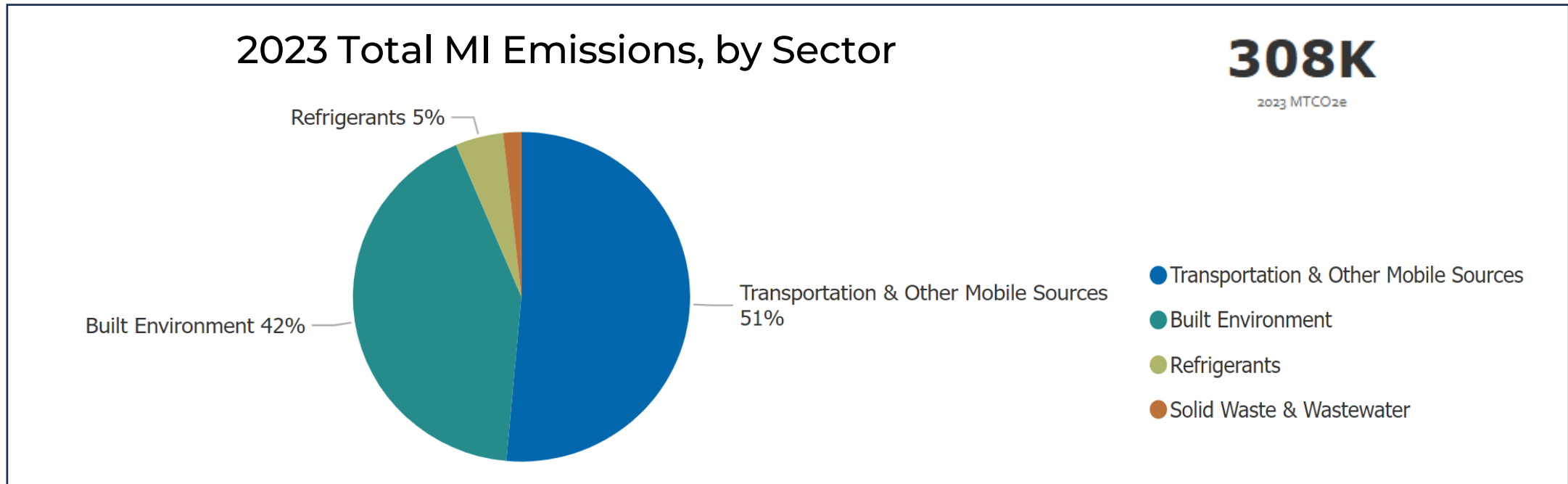


Council-identified Early Actions are identified with an \*



# GHG Tracking & Reporting (CC1.3)\*

- **2023 Dashboard** is now live on City website
- **Community emissions decreased slightly** (<1%) compared to 2022
  - 7% decrease from 2007 emissions
- **Municipal operations emissions continue to decrease**
  - Down 18% compared to 2022
  - Mostly due to more accurate municipal solid waste data

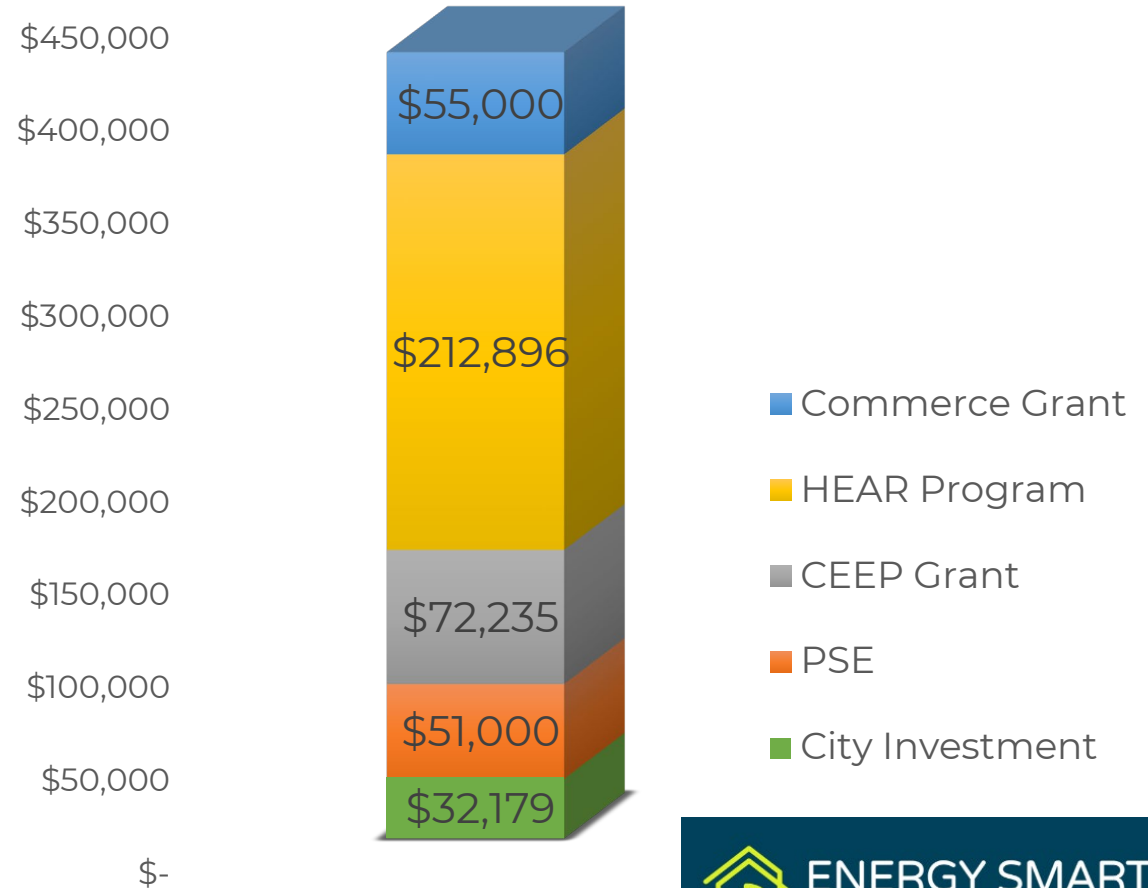


# Heat Pump Rebates & Education (BE1.1)

Program Track	Total Installs	2024 Installs
BOOST Program	6	4
Rebate Program	5	5
Market Rate	10	6



## HEAT PUMP PROGRAM FUNDING SOURCES





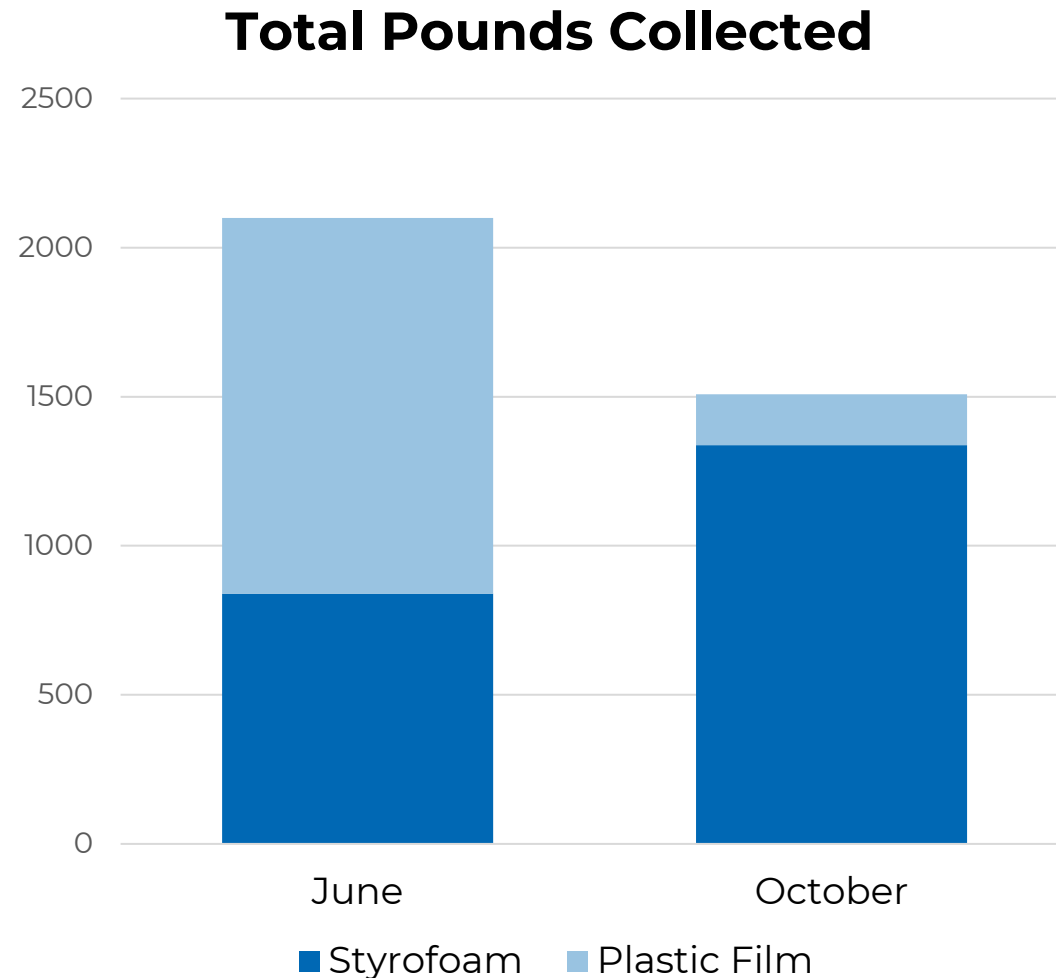
# Mandatory Composting/Recycling (CD1.2 )\*

- Encourages compliance with state Organics Management Law and improve the diversion rate from commercial and multifamily properties
  - Diversion rate for multifamily/commercial customers in 2023 was approximately 31%
- City consultant targeted 49 properties on Mercer Island for outreach and compost implementation
  - ~20 businesses may be subject to the state law
- Significant opportunity to continue work with multifamily properties on compost implementation

Over **3 tons** of food  
waste diverted to date!

# Expand Curbside/Doorstep Recycling Options\*

- City held **two** doorstep recycling pickup events with Ridwell in 2024, one in June and one in October.
- These events diverted **3607 lbs** of plastic film and styrofoam from the landfill!



# Electric Lawn & Construction Equipment (TR1.6)\*

Began pilot program with electric leaf blowers for parks operations in mid-2023

## Current Electric Blower Inventory:

- 6 brands
- 3 backpacks\*
- 4 handhelds

\* 2 backpack blowers broke in first year and were not able to be recycled

## Staff Feedback:

- Nice for certain tasks, trail blowing doesn't blow the gravel as much
- Quieter
- Limited range of motion for the blower arm
- With a full charge, they only run for ~40 minutes



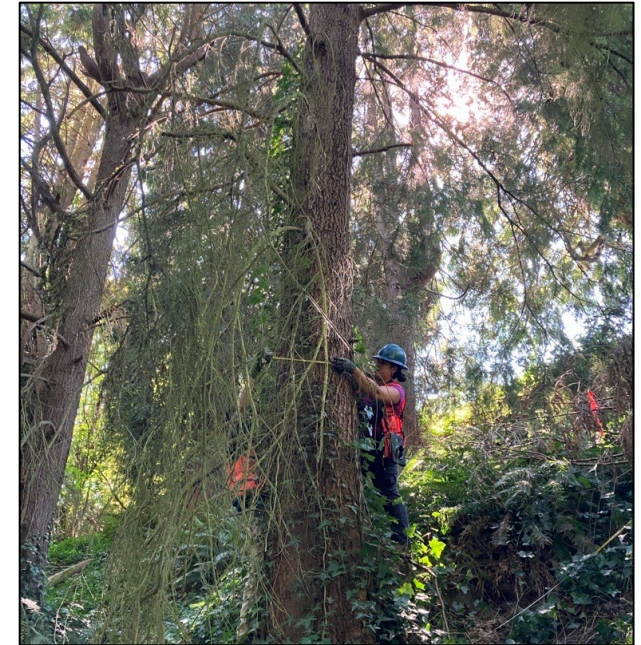
## Electric vs. Gas Backpack Blower Stats

3x more expensive  
1.7x heavier  
27% less powerful



# Monitoring and maintenance baseline for all City open spaces (NS2.5)\*

- Conduct a **baseline forest health assessment**
  - Full results expected end of January 2025
- Provides City with a baseline of forest stand structure, tree regeneration, understory plant abundance and diversity, among many other metrics of forest health
- Data will be used to develop updated management plans and to **measure future restoration success**





# Tree Planting Incentive Program (NS1.1)

- In collaboration with Natural Resources, Stormwater, & Sustainability staff, the City launched a tree giveaway program in summer 2024.
- City has issued **51 vouchers** for free trees to be planted on private property.





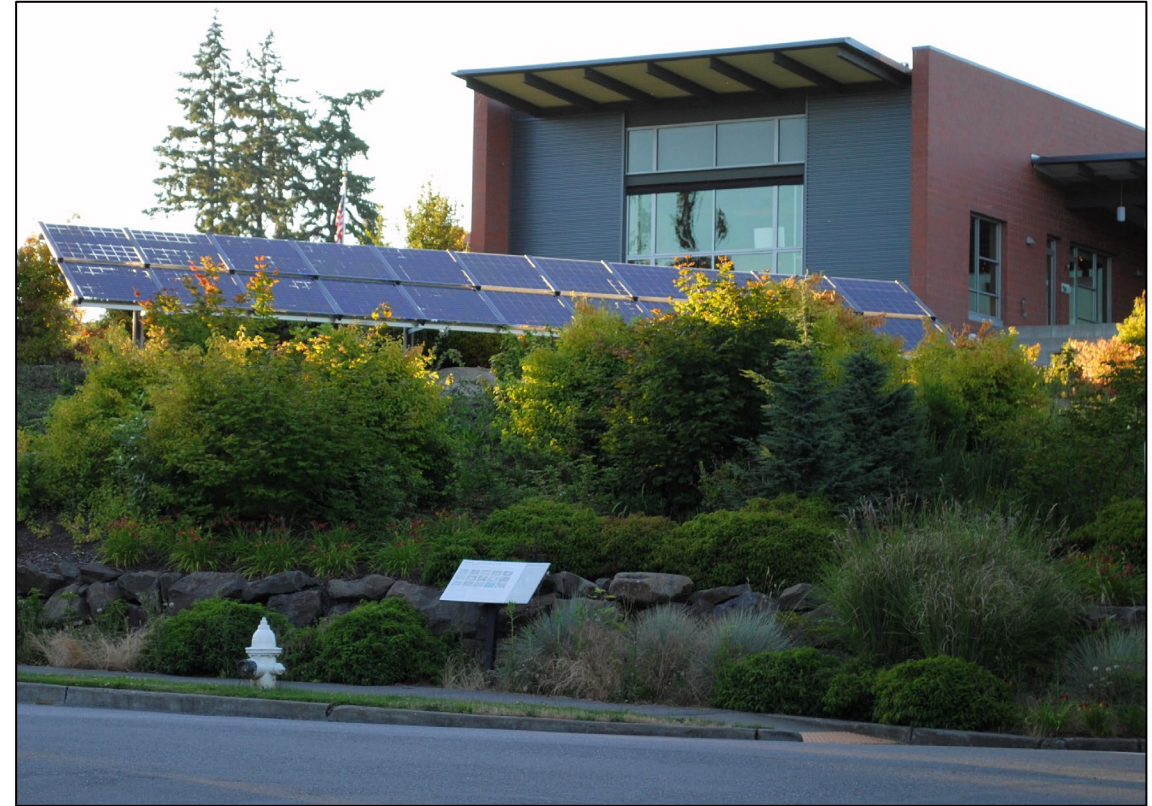
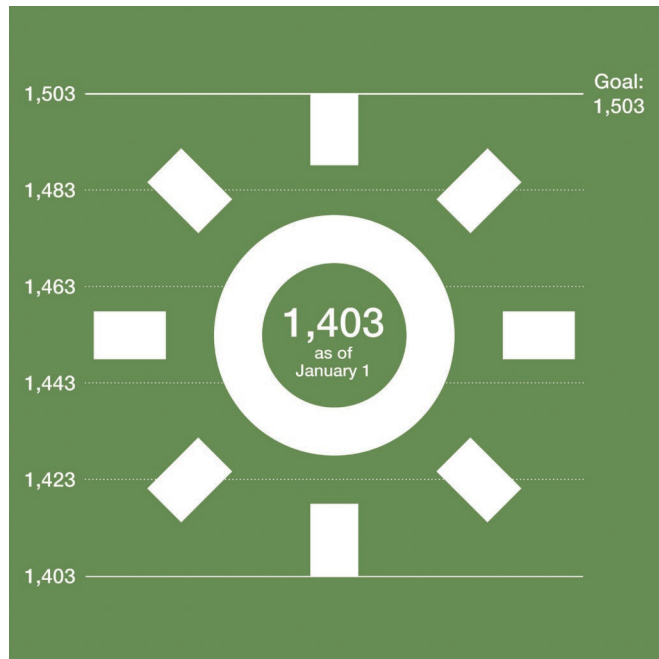


# 2025-2026 Work Plan Items



# PSE Green Power Program Campaign (BE1.7)\*

- Goal of 100 new sign-ups
- Prize is \$10k toward a new solar installation



# Solarize Eastside Campaign (BE1.6)

- Along with partner cities in the Eastside Climate Partnership, the City will be launching a new **Solarize 2025** program with Olympia Community Solar.
- Plan to open for enrollment in late February 2025





# EV Charging Infrastructure Plan (TR1.1)

- Begin development of the **EV Charging Infrastructure Plan** with Municipal Phase
- Municipal fleet electrification roadmap (CC2.4) and plan for municipal charging infrastructure needs
- Inform the design of new City facilities, including the PSM building
- Community-wide plan development before end of 2026 (TR1.1)



# Additional 2025-2026 Actions

- **2024 GHG tracking** and dashboard updates
- Continue participation in **Energy Smart Eastside Program** and support program expansion
- Work to **increase waste diversion rate Island-wide** through continued education efforts, commercial and multifamily outreach, and residential curbside recycling events
- Encourage **tree planting** on private property through tree vouchers
- Prepare for compliance with **WA Clean Buildings Performance Standard** both in City operations and community-wide (BE2.3)
- Begin development of a municipal **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy** (CC2.6)

