

City Council Sustainability Committee Charter

DRAFT – Jan 2022



Purpose:

The City Council Sustainability Committee (“Committee”) was established in 2021, and replaced the City Council Sub-Committee which was established in February 2011 to advise the City Council on policies, programs, services, and funding opportunities that promote sustainability in Mercer Island. It also reviews political advocacy opportunities that are announced through the K4C, or other similar bodies, and stays informed of pending state legislation and support letters.

Recent Background:

At its November 2, 2020, meeting, and as part of the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget process, the City Council funded a full time Sustainability staff position. On March 2, 2021, the City Council adopted a Sustainability Work Plan, which included guidance to create the City’s first-ever Climate Action Plan, and to continue calculations of a community-wide “carbon footprint” to assess and monitor human-derived GHG impacts on the environment.

Supporting Policy:

This work first began in May, 2007, when the City Council unanimously adopted **Resolution No. 1389**, committing to greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions of 80% by 2050 within City operations and across the community. In November 2019, **Resolution No. 1570** updated the City’s pledge to continue local and regional work on GHG reduction measures as part of its membership in the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C). And in December 2019, the City Council approved policy language around climate action in the annual update to the **City’s Comprehensive Plan**.

Authority:

The Committee is chartered by and accountable to the Mercer Island City Council and does not replace the City Council as final decision maker.

Duration:

The Committee is a standing committee.

Membership:

The Committee is composed of three Councilmembers. The Sustainability Program Analyst, or equivalent, will staff the Committee.

Meeting Schedule:

The Committee meets periodically (often monthly) as dictated by political advocacy opportunities or other major policy or workplan needs.

Responsibilities:

- Provide sustainability-related advocacy or testimony, both regionally and in the State Legislature, on behalf of the City Council and consistent with the City Council's approved Legislative Priorities.
- Foster regional connections that inform and enhance the City of Mercer Island's work on environmental, financial, and societal sustainability.
- Discuss with City sustainability staff matters involving the broad functions of the City's sustainability program including, but not limited to:
 - Efficiency within City operations
 - Waste and toxics reduction
 - Tree canopy, soil stability, water quality, and carbon storage
 - Energy efficiency and clean energy
 - GHG Emission mitigation and reduction
 - Transportation options
 - CIP Projects and internal operations
 - Outreach and education opportunities
- Suggest sustainability projects for inclusion in the Sustainability Work Plan (e.g., pilots, outreach, education) based on interactions with the community between biennial budgets.
- Provide recommendations on the sustainability work plan for consideration by the City Council as part of the biennial budget process.

References and Resources

1. Resolution No. 1389: A resolution of the City of Mercer Island, promoting a sustainable community by encouraging the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through City operations and through community education (adopted May 7, 2007)
2. Resolution No. 1570: A resolution of the City of Mercer Island, adopting an updated version of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Joint Climate Commitments (adopted Nov 19, 2019)
3. Council discussion and adoption of Ordinance No. 19-23, amending the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan (adopted Dec 3, 2019)
4. Council deliberation of Agenda Bill 5810: City Council Sustainability Committee Discussion (Feb 2, 2021)
5. Notes from February 11, 2011 kickoff Committee Meeting regarding purpose, scope, authority, and implementation.