

Mercer Island Climate Action Plan Implementation Status Update

Focus Area	Strategy	Action ID	Action	Status	Current Status
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Engage and support community climate action.	CC1.1	Support local schools in integrating climate and sustainability education into curriculum and adopting low carbon solutions in their building operations. This may include working with the schools on energy efficiency and electrification, waste reduction and recycling, and sustainable purchasing, and behavior change (such as encouraging carpools to school).	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing conversations with MISD regarding EV charging, natural resources, King County Green Schools participation, etc.
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Engage and support community climate action.	CC1.2	Advocate for legislation that supports local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Continue to partner with neighboring cities and other regional groups to advance regional initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase adaptive capacity.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is ongoing and overlaps with many other items, including participation in K4C & Eastside Climate Partnership.
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Engage and support community climate action.	CC1.3	Develop a climate outreach and education campaign or program to support ongoing community engagement in climate actions. Initiatives may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate challenges, competitions, and climate pledges aimed at inspiring friendly competition among residents and businesses. • Educational campaigns focused on addressing common misinformation related to home energy use and other everyday activities (e.g., the benefits of using cold v. hot water for laundry). • Resource sharing campaigns, such as "renewable energy" or "energy efficiency" home tours in which neighbors learn from each other on how to implement renewable energy or energy efficient upgrades in their homes. • Educational campaigns aimed at helping residents understand the relative impact of various sources of GHG emissions and the potential benefits of existing and proposed policies. 	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabled at MI Farmer's Market in June 2025 to promote CAP programs • Earth Month 2025 focused on education and volunteer programs. Currently developing programs for Earth Month 2026 • Education efforts in 2025 as part of PSE Green Power Program Campaign, Solarize Campaign, and Energy Smart Eastside. Ongoing educational efforts through Energy Smart Eastside • Including periodic sustainability updates in MI Weekly
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Reduce climate impacts of municipal operations.	CC2.1	Encourage Mercer Island employers to offer work from home and flexible work schedules for employees.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-29 CTR plan that adopted by Council in March 2025 (AB 6630)
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Reduce climate impacts of municipal operations.	CC2.2	Reduce the drive alone rate for City employees through incentives and by improving commute options by site location. Preserve flexible scheduling and remote work options for staff.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated the October 2025 Statewide Switch Your Trips campaign • Piloted an EV shuttle from MI Park and Ride for CMI employees and Riot Games in April 2025

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Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Reduce climate impacts of municipal operations.	CC2.3	Develop green building guidelines to inform future municipal building designs.	Have not begun and/or needs action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluating LEED for Cities policy recommendations to implement
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Reduce climate impacts of municipal operations.	CC2.4	Electrify the municipal vehicle fleet.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilized grant funding from the WA Dept of Commerce to develop a Fleet Electrification Roadmap as the first phase of the EV Infrastructure Charging Plan City converted 4 vehicles to electric/plug-in hybrids as part of 2025 replacement cycle
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Reduce climate impacts of municipal operations.	CC2.5	Complete energy efficiency retrofits on existing municipal equipment and buildings.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HVAC assessment completed at MICEC in 2025 Developed an Energy Management Plan for MICEC and drafted an Operations and Maintenance Plan in line with state requirements for CBPS Outdoor lighting LED retrofit and garage heater upgrade at MICEC completed in Feb 2025 Building Automation System (BAS) upgrade in progress at MICEC
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Reduce climate impacts of municipal operations.	CC2.6	Develop and implement a municipal Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy that prioritizes products with the lowest environmental impact. The policy will guide purchasing decisions within each department, including vehicle and fuel purchases, and construction materials.	Have not begun and/or needs action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attending a nationwide working group to begin building framework for policy - planning to begin work in 2026 Reviewed King County, Seattle, Issaquah, and Redmond's policies
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Reduce climate impacts of municipal operations.	CC2.7	Expand solar installation and build renewable energy storage systems on City property.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing a portable battery and solar charging option at Caretaker's House to determine feasibility for small-scale power backup
Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Institutionalize climate considerations into City planning & decision-making	CC3.1	Continue to maintain a publicly available online dashboard that tracks and reports on CAP and GHG reduction progress on an annual basis. Report to City Council and the community on progress annually.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathering for 2025 GHG report to begin in Q2 2026 Completed 2022, 2023, and 2024 GHG reports with Power BI dashboard shared on City website

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Cross-Cutting & Municipal	Institutionalize climate considerations into City planning & decision-making	CC3.2	Apply a climate lens to City decision-making around major activities, capital projects, and initiatives.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in LEED for Cities 2025 cohort to seek certification and identify opportunities for more sustainable MI Working with City Departments to incorporate sustainability into City decision-making and operations Developing staff trainings and educational resources
Buildings & Energy	Transition to non-fossil building energy.	BE1.1	Partner with PSE and other regional partners to expand regional electric heat pump pilot programs and campaigns to replace natural gas-powered furnaces and increase energy efficiency in existing commercial and residential properties.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued growth of the Energy Smart Eastside program. Installed 13 heat pumps for income qualified Islanders as of 02/2026 52 total installs through both rebate redemption and equipment discounts. Received over 200K in additional funding through grants and PSE in 2024 alone
Buildings & Energy	Transition to non-fossil building energy.	BE1.2	Accelerate improvements to the energy grid and storage to facilitate the transition to renewable energy sources. Improvements may include subsidy and grant programs to reduce the cost of battery storage in existing buildings and electric vehicle charging/storage system installations.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43.5% of all participants in 2025 Solarize program sought additional quotes for battery storage Testing a portable battery and solar charging for City events/small power backup to determine feasibility for home backup power/more flexible access to solar
Buildings & Energy	Transition to non-fossil building energy.	BE1.3	Work with regional jurisdictions and agencies to expand upstream and midstream incentives for building electrification retrofits to local distributors and contractors. Create or promote a contractor training and/or certification program focused on efficient, electric heat pump installation.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Smart Eastside hosted a focus group including contractors in May 2025 to strategize other ways to promote home electrification beyond heat pumps
Buildings & Energy	Transition to non-fossil building energy.	BE1.4	Implement new building codes as required by the Washington State Building Code Council to transition from natural gas to electricity in new construction.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building codes were updated in March 2024
Buildings & Energy	Transition to non-fossil building energy.	BE1.5	Research the development of a “burn-out” program to incentivize the replacement of fossil fuel furnaces or water heaters with available high efficiency electric alternatives. Consider future policies to require high efficiency electric replacements at time of upgrade	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Smart Eastside program provides incentives to replace gas-powered furnances with heat pumps Currently evaluating the feasibility of expanding the Energy Smart Eastside program to include water heaters

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Buildings & Energy	Transition to non-fossil building energy.	BE1.6	Partner with PSE and other regional partners to promote state and federal renewable energy incentives to fund onsite residential and commercial solar power projects.	In progress or ongoing	• 2025 Solarize campaign with other Eastside Climate Partnership cities to encourage residential solar panel installation
Buildings & Energy	Transition to non-fossil building energy.	BE1.7	Host education programs and conduct outreach events to encourage businesses and residents to enroll in the PSE Green Power Program. Partner with other neighboring communities served by the utility to advocate directly with PSE to expand renewable energy production that is local to Mercer Island.	In progress or ongoing	• 2025 PSE Green Power Campaign achieved 108% of sign up goal in only 8 months!
Buildings & Energy	Transition to non-fossil building energy.	BE1.8	Promote electric panel upgrades upon sale and/or rental turnover for residential and commercial properties to facilitate an easier transition to clean electricity buildings and vehicles.	Have not begun and/or needs action	
Buildings & Energy	Reduce energy use in new and existing buildings.	BE2.1	Partner with PSE and other local jurisdictions and organizations to provide and promote energy efficiency incentives and rebate programs for residents and businesses. Partner to offer free home energy audits and upgrade programs for income-eligible residents.	In progress or ongoing	• This work is part of Energy Smart Eastside for the residential-side
Buildings & Energy	Reduce energy use in new and existing buildings.	BE2.2	Develop a program to promote green building for residential and commercial properties, including educational outreach.	Have not begun and/or needs action	
Buildings & Energy	Reduce energy use in new and existing buildings.	BE2.3	Build awareness of the Washington Clean Buildings Act that requires all new and existing commercial buildings over 50,000 s.f. to reduce their Energy Use Intensity 15% compared to the 2009-2018 average.	In progress or ongoing	• Reaching out to locally-based building owners/Facility Managers to ensure they are prepared for compliance
Buildings & Energy	Reduce energy use in new and existing buildings.	BE2.4	Consider local or regional policies related to point-of-sale green building disclosures. Policy considerations may include disclosure of energy use, energy retrofits, or other considerations at point of sale.	Have not begun and/or needs action	• King County is developing a Building Decarb strategy, to be completed by end of 2025, including looking at Home Energy Scores - will continue to monitor

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Transportation	Plan for expansion of EV infrastructure and fleet electrification; decarbonize offroad equipment.	TR1.1	Develop and implement an EV Charging Infrastructure Plan, in collaboration with PSE, that guides expansion of EV charging capacity throughout the city. The plan will include analysis and recommendations on the facilities and infrastructure required for the City and the Mercer Island School District to meet 2030 and 2050 fleet electrification goals. The plan will also include a readiness and capacity study to evaluate increasing EV charging at commercial and residential properties citywide. The Plan will identify an implementation strategy including partnerships, funding, and future policy recommendations.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal phase of the Plan was completed in June 2025 using funding from WA Commerce Climate Planning Grant Program. • Development of the Community phase of the plan is currently underway. Due to be completed by June 2026.
Transportation	Plan for expansion of EV infrastructure and fleet electrification; decarbonize offroad equipment.	TR1.2	Engage the Mercer Island School District on the development of the EV Charging Infrastructure Plan to ensure site readiness for bus and fleet electrification.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the Community phase of the EV Charging Infrastructure Plan is currently underway. Due to be completed by June 2026. Conversations with MISD regarding EVs are ongoing
Transportation	Plan for expansion of EV infrastructure and fleet electrification; decarbonize offroad equipment.	TR1.3	Advocate for State resources to fund EV infrastructure planning.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilized funding from Commerce to begin development of EV Charging Infrastructure Charging Plan
Transportation	Plan for expansion of EV infrastructure and fleet electrification; decarbonize offroad equipment.	TR1.4	Explore and develop incentives in partnership with the State and other partners to expand EV charging capacity at commercial and residential properties.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under evaluation as part of the development of the Community phase of the EV Charging Infrastructure Plan
Transportation	Plan for expansion of EV infrastructure and fleet electrification; decarbonize offroad equipment.	TR1.5	Provide education and outreach programs and materials to educate residents on the benefits of EVs, available EV incentives and rebates to purchase vehicles, EV charger locations, and other information to facilitate EV adoption.	Have not begun and/or needs action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be included as part of EV Charging Infrastructure Plan implementation
Transportation	Plan for expansion of EV infrastructure and fleet electrification; decarbonize offroad equipment.	TR1.6	Encourage the use of electric gardening equipment through educational campaigns, rebates, and incentives. Implement a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing testing of electric equipment options with MI Parks Maintenance • Tracking implementation in neighboring cities to gather best practices

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Transportation	Reduce vehicle travel.	TR2.1	Update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, as identified in the Transportation Improvement Plan for completion in the 2026-2027 biennium. Updates to the Plan will incorporate the results of the ADA Transition Plan, evaluate the use of urban street design guidelines such as NACTO, and identify/ evaluate projects to provide a preliminary scope of work, and timeline for future improvements.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expecting to have a consultant selected by April 2026. Plan update expected to be complete by EOY 2027.
Transportation	Reduce vehicle travel.	TR2.2	Support programs that provide multi-modal last-mile connections to the light rail station, such as through walking, biking, transit, and electric vehicle. Programs could include reintroduction of bike/scooter share programs.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installed 8 bike lockers at the Town Center Parking Area in October 2025 Researching options in anticipation of March 2026 MI Light Rail Station opening
Transportation	Reduce vehicle travel.	TR2.3	Encourage the use of alternative transportation by expanding time limited parking in Town Center and implementing other recommendations identified in the Town Center Parking Study.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ended the TC Commuter Parking Permit program in 2024 Citation fees increased Jan 2025 Town Center Parking Area opened July 2025 All parking in Town Center converted to two-hour parking in September 2025 Increased fees for North Mercer Restricted Parking District permit program Jan 2026
Transportation	Reduce air travel emissions.	TR3.1	Provide education materials around alternatives to air travel for conferences and business travel; educate residents on the carbon footprint of air travel and benefits of regional tourism.	Have not begun and/or needs action	
Transportation	Reduce air travel emissions.	TR3.2	Advocate for state and federal legislation aimed at decarbonizing the aviation sector.	Have not begun and/or needs action	
Transportation	Reduce air travel emissions.	TR3.3	Support regional and industrial efforts to reduce regional aviation emissions by promoting the use of sustainable aviation fuel and adoption of aviation fuel efficiency measures.	Have not begun and/or needs action	

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Consumption & Disposal	Reduce waste generation & landfill disposal.	CD1.1	Evaluate new construction requirements and consider policy requirements to ensure adequate space for recycling and compost collection.	Have not begun and/or needs action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 update to WA Organics Management Law requires that after July 1, 2026, Local Solid Waste Management Plans must describe a plan and timeline to phase in multifamily organics and food waste collection.
Consumption & Disposal	Reduce waste generation & landfill disposal.	CD1.2	Phase in new state mandates for residential and commercial recycling and composting, and enforce waste sorting by an identified year, especially for multi-family buildings and commercial properties where contamination is high.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant conducted commercial and multifamily outreach to encourage composting and better recycling practices from Oct 2024- Apr 2025 Returned compost containers to City facilities Ongoing management of the City's collections contract with Recology. Pursuing joint community outreach and education
Consumption & Disposal	Consume sustainably.	CD2.1	Encourage the development of community gardens at churches, community facilities, multi-family properties, and in other areas.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing food grounds from the PW electric composter for use in P-Patch
Consumption & Disposal	Consume sustainably.	CD2.2	Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to promote local retail shopping, including programs, marketing, and other seasonal campaigns. Explore potential collaboration with Mercer Island Thrift Shop.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with Thrift Shop to host battery recycling box in an effort to both recycle batteries and drive additional store traffic Continue to collaborate with MITS on opportunities to promote reuse and shopping local
Consumption & Disposal	Consume sustainably.	CD2.3	Support community reuse programs (e.g., tool libraries, Buy Nothing groups, repair cafés) to promote a circular economy.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted a King County repair event at the MICEC in May 2025
Consumption & Disposal	Consume sustainably.	CD2.4	Partner with contractors and architects to promote carbonsequestering and low carbon building materials in new construction and renovations. Support State requirements for disclosing and/or limiting embodied carbon emissions of buildings and policies focused on reducing the use of specific materials.	Have not begun and/or needs action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluating LEED for Cities policy recommendations to implement
Natural Systems	Increase urban tree canopy and green space.	NS1.1	Develop programs to support and encourage residents and large property owners to plant the right tree in the right place and sustain existing trees with reduced cost or free trees. Offer tree-awareness campaigns and classes to educate the community and develop tree planting demonstration programs.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a tree giveaway program, with significant education component, launched during Summer Celebration 2024

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Natural Systems	Increase urban tree canopy and green space.	NS1.2	Enhance City-led street tree planting in the right-of-way and assess long-term stewardship needs; promote street frontage plantings by businesses.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Town Center Tree Management Plan City planted 958 trees in 2025
Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.1	Utilize educational campaigns to encourage droughtresistant and/or native landscaping and design. Work with landscape companies to educate and incentivize drip irrigation and smart management technology. Develop demonstration programs.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping education campaign tied to new VX Smart Customer Portal Held an Automatic Sprinkler workshop with Saving Water Partnership in April 2025
Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.2	Partner with regional water conservation groups, such as the Saving Water Partnership, to develop and advertise incentives and installation programs to retrofit inefficient water fixtures.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held an Automatic Sprinkler workshop with Saving Water Partnership in April 2025. Advertised SWP incentives at Leap for Green, For the Birds Event, and Farmer's Market
Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.3	Promote green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development (LID) through education and demonstration programs. Provide technical assistance, advice, and assistance to residents.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWMP (Stormwater Management Plan) and NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit include plans for public outreach Promoted stormwater benefits of rain barrels during sale at MI Farmers Market in June 2025 Close the Lid social media campaign ran in January 2026
Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.4	Develop campaigns to educate residents and businesses on the financial and environmental benefits of reusing rainwater and greywater. Provide technical assistance, advice, and assistance to residents.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated information on rain barrels on City website Organized rain barrel sales for residents in Fall 2024 and Fall 2025
Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.5	Complete an assessment of all City open spaces to establish a baseline for monitoring and maintenance phase.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A baseline forest health assessment was completed in 2024 to provides us with a baseline of forest stand structure, tree regeneration, understory plant abundance and diversity, among many other metrics of forest health Established that < 4% of the plots in our open spaces are currently in the Monitoring and Maintenance phase of restoration.
Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.6	Using the baseline data from NS2.5, expand acreage of forested open space undergoing intensive restoration in order to reach a more stable monitoring and maintenance phase of management. Expand contiguous areas of open space in the monitoring and maintenance phase to improve habitat connectivity and limit boundary effects.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using data gathered from the forest health baseline NR Team to focus restoration efforts on removal of non-native species in areas with higher habitat value, planting a diversity of climate adapted native trees and shrubs, increasing the volume of coarse woody debris, and strategic tree thinning in overstocked forest stands.

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Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.7	Engage private landowners (businesses, schools, churches, and residential properties) to participate in forest restoration programs. Develop programs and incentives to increase canopy cover, improve diversity of native species and forest structure, reduce invasive species, and add resilient, climateadapted landscaping.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a tree giveaway program, with significant education component, launched during Summer Celebration 2024 Sent mailers to adjacent properties near ivy-removal work on W/E Mercer Ways with resources on private property restoration.
Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.8	Continue to perform an assessment of the citywide tree canopy every ten years. Use data and findings to modify strategies and actions related to increasing forest canopy and improving forest health.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated tree canopy assessment completed in 2025
Natural Systems	Foster healthy & resilient natural systems.	NS2.9	Assess the carbon sequestration (the rate of carbon stored in plants, soil, and habitats) of existing public land in Mercer Island and explore ways to increase sequestration levels through changes to land management practices.	Have not begun and/or needs action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree canopy assessment found that MI's 2060 acres of tree canopy represents 3,181,426 lbs (or 1443.07 MT) of sequestered carbon dioxide
Community Resiliency	Increase resilience of community members to climate impacts.	CR1.1	Partner with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and other regional organizations to conduct outreach and education to prepare residents for wildfire emergencies. Opportunities include HVAC filter upgrades, DIY filter fans, use of masks, pet care, and other planning and safety tips.	In progress or ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with Emergency Management and Youth and Family Services on a box filter fan giveaway for income-qualified Islanders in Summer 2025
Community Resiliency	Increase resilience of community members to climate impacts.	CR1.2	Support and advocate for State and Federal rebate and incentive programs to encourage the installation of low-emissions space-cooling devices on residential and commercial properties (e.g., cool roofs, green roofs, cool pavement, ceiling fans, air filters).	Have not begun and/or needs action	
Community Resiliency	Increase resilience of community members to climate impacts.	CR1.3	Assess areas most at risk for local flooding and ensure emergency systems are prepared to address flooding emergencies.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed as part of Hazard Mitigation Plan update (Resolution No. 1679). While MI could be impacted by minor urban flooding during excessive rainfall, there are no structures in the FEMA 100-Year Floodplain Despite FEMA classification as a Zone C (minimal Flood Hazard), MI still participated in the National Flood Insurance Program Work underway on Watercourse Rehabilitation and Stabilization project and regular Stormwater system maintenance
Community Resiliency	Prepare infrastructure & emergency services for climate change.	CR2.1	Partner with King County on the next update to the Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan (timeline estimated in 2025) to ensure climate impacts are included in plan update.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mercer Island Annex to the 2025-2030 King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was ratified by City Council on July 1, 2025 (AB6722)

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Community Resiliency	Prepare infrastructure & emergency services for climate change.	CR2.2	Review and update City's emergency management plans to ensure readiness to respond to climate emergencies, such as providing community cooling centers and air shelters in case of extreme heat and wildfires. Ensure communication materials are developed and ready for quick deployment during climate emergencies.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercer Island Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan 2024 update was ratified by Council on September 2, 2025 (AB6753)
Community Resiliency	Prepare infrastructure & emergency services for climate change.	CR2.3	Encourage the State to implement requirements to improve the resiliency of the electric network, including the undergrounding of power lines.	Have not begun and/or needs action	