



Mercer Island Climate Action Plan

Policy Audit Findings

This document details findings from a review of Mercer Island and regional policy and program documents, as well as an overview of relevant climate change and sustainability state and federal policies. Our audit focused on identifying **key accomplishments, goals, programs, policies, and priorities of Mercer Island and its regional partners** to inform development of the Mercer Island Climate Action Plan.

The document is organized into the following sections:

- **State and Regional Policy Context:** Outlines relevant regional, state, and federal legislation and policy.
- **Key City Documents:** Provides an overview of key City documents reviewed, along with hyperlinks to these files in a SharePoint document library.
- **Program & Policy Checklist:** Details common climate action policies, programs, and activities, and their existence in Mercer Island.
- **Key Accomplishments, Programs, Policies, & Priorities:** Provides climate action highlights as identified in the policy audit.

State & Regional Policy Context

Policy/Program	Description/Notes	Effective Date
General/Climate		
PSRC Vision 2050	The Puget Sound Regional Council's worked to develop this document to prepare for continued growth and to act as a guide for sustaining a healthy environment, thriving communities and a strong economy.	Oct 2020
King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)	Partnership that sets common climate goals. In early 2022, as part of updates to King County Countywide Planning Policies, King County and the 39 cities in the County strengthened shared GHG emissions reduction targets to 50% below 2007 levels by 2030; 75% below 2007 levels by 2040; and 95% below 2007 levels and net carbon neutral by 2050.	Apr 2022
King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (KC SCAP)	The 2020 King County Strategic Climate Action Plan outlines a roadmap for the region to reduce GHG emissions and reach other climate and sustainability goals.	2020
WA Climate Commitment Act	Places an economy-wide cap on carbon to meet state GHG reduction targets & be consistent with best available science. Policy still under development.	Jan 2023
WA HEAL Act	Defines & embeds environmental justice (EJ) in state law. Includes state agency requirements for EJ in engagement, budgeting, funding, and strategic planning.	2021
WA HFC Superpollutants Act	Requires phasing out of HFC Superpollutants in new equipment, using climate friendly alternatives in compliance with the Act's 2020-2024 phasing timeline.	Jan 2020
WA low-GWP refrigerants (HB 1050)	Establishes a maximum global warming potential (GWP) threshold (150) for HPCs used in stationary air conditioning, stationary refrigeration, and ice rinks.	Jul 2021
Buildings & Energy		
WA Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)	Requires a phase-out of coal by 2025, carbon-neutral electricity sales by 2030, and 100% clean energy by 2045.	2019
WA Building/Energy Code (RCW 19.27A.160)	Requires permitted residential and nonresidential construction under the 2031 state energy code must achieve a 70% reduction in annual net energy consumption compared to the 2006 state energy code.	Dec 2012

Policy/Program	Description/Notes	Effective Date
WA Clean Buildings Act (HB 1257)	Establishes a state energy performance standard and other measures for new and existing large buildings over 50,000 sq ft with an early-adopter incentive program.	2021 (voluntary) 2026 (mandatory)
Transportation & Land Use		
Federal Fuel Economy Standards	Reduces fuel consumption by raising fuel efficiency standards in passenger cars and light trucks.	Latest standards apply to 2024-2026 vehicles
WA Clean Fuel Standard	Reduces overall carbon intensity of fuels through use of cleaner fuels or purchasing clean fuel credits.	Jan 2023
WA EV readiness (HB 1287)	Extended the Clean Building Act's requirement for EV readiness to new single-family construction.	Jul 2024
WA Clean Cars 2030	Passed as part of "Move Ahead WA," sets a date of 2030 for all new cars registered in the state to be electric. Also commits state funding to EV investment/infrastructure.	Proposed in 2022; not yet adopted
WA Commute Trip Reduction	Requires implementation of transportation demand management (TDM) programs for certain employers to reduce work trips.	2006
Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) Regional Transportation Plan (<i>PSRC TransPlan</i>)	PSRC's long-term vision of the future transportation system through the Vision 2040 and Transportation 2040 plans. The Transportation Element of the Mercer Island Comp Plan is consistent with these plans.	May 2018
Materials & Consumption		
KC Comprehensive Solid Waste Mgmt Plan (<i>KC SWMP</i>)	Mercer Island adopted the first iteration of the plan in 1989 and has aligned with waste diversion targets in the years following. Sets goal of 70% diversion by 2030 and zero waste of resources (80%) by 2050.	Nov 2019
WA Plastic Pollution Reduction Policy SB 5022	Requires 1) single-use foodware be provided only upon request; and 2) minimum levels of recycled content in plastic beverage containers, trash bags, etc.	Phased in between 2022-2024

Policy/Program	Description/Notes	Effective Date
WA Organic Waste Goals (HB 1799/SB 5731 in 2022 legislative session)	Under development. Would establish a statewide goal for the landfill disposal of organic materials at a level representing 75% reduction by 2030, relative to 2015, and a goal of 20% reduction in volume of edible food disposed (relative to 2015) to be recovered for human consumption by 2025.	Under development (proposed date of Jan 2024)
KC C&D Waste Ordinance	In 2016, King County passed an ordinance that requires construction and demolition debris to be recycled and banned from landfill disposal.	2016
Natural Systems & Water		
Shoreline Management Act	Supports local land use decision-making and shoreline planning, including access, hazard mitigation, economic uses, and salmon recovery.	1971
King County 30-Year Forest Plan (<i>KC ForestPlan</i>)	Outlines 30-year countywide vision for rural and urban forest cover and forest health, including priorities and goals as well as strategies for achieving that vision.	Feb 2021
Community Resilience & Wellbeing		
King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2020-2025)	Assesses natural and human-caused hazards that can impact our region and develops strategies to reduce risk and build resilience.	2020

Key City Documents

The following table describes key City documents reviewed through this policy audit.

Document Name	Filename & Hyperlink	Description/Relevance
General		
Comprehensive Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MI CompPlan</u> • <u>MI CompPlan AB</u> 	<p>The Comprehensive Plan focuses on how to revitalize Mercer Island's Town Center, comply with regional requirements for clean water and transportation, meet local needs for affordable housing, and maintain public facilities and utilities. The 2024 update of the 2004 plan is currently in progress.</p> <p>Extensive goals outlined in the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan relate to sustainability and climate action, including parks and open space policies, natural resource management, disaster planning, arts and culture, and green building standards. CAP actions could build from or directly support these goals.</p>
Buildings & Energy		
Green Building Standards	<i>Pending</i>	<u>MI Code, Section 19.11.050</u> is a 2016 directive that new construction in town center meet LEED Gold or Built Green 4-Star standard.
Housing Strategy and Work Plan	<i>Pending</i>	
Transportation & Land Use		
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MI ParksRec&OpenSpace Plan</u> • <u>MI ParksRec&OpenSpace Plan AB</u> 	<p>The 2022 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan outlines a vision for an innovative, inclusive, and interconnected system of parks, trails, and open space that promotes recreation, health, and environmental conservation. Implementation of plan aligns closely with climate action priorities.</p>
Transportation Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MI TransImprovPlan</u> • <u>MI TransImprovPlan AB</u> 	<p>The Transportation Improvement Plan will be updated in 2022 and will further provide details on several key transportation infrastructure projects on the island.</p>

Document Name	Filename & Hyperlink	Description/Relevance
Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MI PedBikeFacilitiesPlan</u> 	The 2010 update of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan (originally adopted in 1996) provides a new roadmap for expanding pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure on Mercer Island. An update is slated for 2026-2027; CAP could support/align with these updates.
Trails Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A internal document 	
Town Center Plan/Code Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MI TownCenterCode</u> • <u>MI TownCenterVision</u> 	Originally adopted in 1994 and updated in 2016, the plan and outlines a vision for the look and feel for Town Center areas and outlines corresponding rules for building heights, public spaces, retail and residential uses, etc. to comply with these standards (MI_TCCode, MI_TCVision; referenced in: MI_CompPlan). The City has outlined a vision for land use that emphasizes continued reinvestment and redevelopment of the Town Center to create a mixed-use pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented environment.
Water & Natural Systems		
Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MI StormwtrMgmtPlan</u> 	The SWMP— updated in 2021 —outlines the various programs that the City will adopt to comply with the Clean Water Act's Phase II Permit requirements for stormwater discharge into Lake Washington. Originally prepared in March 2008, the plan has since been updated annually to reflect changes in the City's infrastructure needs, community priorities, and industry best practices.
Shoreline Master Program (SMP); Critical Areas Ordinance Updates (CAO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MI SMPCAOUpdates AB</u> • <u>MI SMP</u> • <u>MI CAO</u> 	SMP— updated in 2020 and originally adopted in 2015—regulates development within 200 feet of Lake Washington's shoreline to protect shoreline natural resources and promote public shoreline access. CAO— updated in 2019 and originally adopted in 2011—regulates critical areas, including wetlands, watercourses/streams, and geologically hazardous or sensitive areas.
Town Center Parking Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MI ParkingStudy</u> 	The Town Center Parking Study—which began in 2021 and is budgeted through 2022—focuses on reviewing parking restrictions, codes, and infrastructure to identify opportunities to improve parking in the Town Center.

Document Name	Filename & Hyperlink	Description/Relevance
Tree Canopy Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>MI TCR</u>	The 2018 Tree Canopy Report analyzed Mercer Island’s urban forests, assessing the extent and location of growth and decline in the city’s urban forest canopy and identifying possible planting areas to support the City’s efforts to protect and expand urban forests.
Open Space Vegetation Plan 10-Year Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>MI OpenSpaceVegUpdate</u>	Completed in 2015, this plan outlines modifications and improvements to achieve sustainable and resilient forest landscapes.

Policy & Program Checklist

The following table includes typical climate action-oriented policies, programs, and activities, and their existence in Mercer Island.

In MI?	Policy/Program	Description/Notes
General Climate		
✓	Adopted GHG goals/commitments	Mercer Island has adopted as part of K4C.
✓	Dedicated City Sustainability Manager	Mercer Island hired its first part-time Sustainability Manager in 2013.
Buildings & Energy		
✓	Street light LED retrofits	Conversion of street lighting and parking lot fixtures to LED.
✓	Local green building ordinance/policy	Mercer Island updated code in 2016 with a directive for that new construction meet LEED Gold or Built Green 4-Star standard, as well as other measures, such as pedestrian-friendly design; has also offered streamlined permitting for solar panels.
✓	Energy efficiency rebate/retrofit program	Financial incentives to promote energy efficiency retrofits, including heat pump water heaters. Puget Sound Energy's various rebate programs .
✓	Green power purchasing program	PSE's GreenDirect program – City purchases for 100% of its own operations. Mercer Island residents can purchase offsets through PSE's Green Power Program.
✓	Solar power installation/subsidy program	Demonstration project at the Community Center; Island-wide "Solarize" program ran in 2014 and again in 2018
	Natural gas ban for new construction	Restrictions on new natural gas hookups for new construction.
	Building electrification incentive/training program	Rebates and other incentives for residents and business owners to electrify homes and buildings; training programs for local contractors to learn about retrofits.
	City green building policy	Green building policy specific to City buildings.
	Point-of-sale green building requirements	Requirements to disclose energy use or implement energy retrofits at point of sale for residential or commercial buildings.
	Burnout ordinance	Require replacement of gas-powered appliances with high-efficiency electric at burnout.
✓	Energy use disclosure/benchmarking requirements	Require energy use disclosure and benchmarking for buildings, starting with commercial and multifamily buildings over a size threshold. Already in process under WA Clean Buildings Act.

In MI?	Policy/Program	Description/Notes
	Transportation & Land Use	
	EV incentives	Washington state offers a sales and use tax exemption for eligible EV purchases.
	EV infrastructure plan	Local infrastructure plan(s) for installing EV chargers in the city, including charging types and locations and funding considerations.
	EV charging & readiness requirements	The updated state building code includes provisions to require pre-wiring for EV charging in 10 percent of parking spots and electrical capacity for EV charging for up to 20 percent of parking spots, for garages with more than 20 stalls. Local requirements could increase the pre-wiring and electrical capacity requirements (e.g., Bellevue ESP M.3.1).
✓	EV charging stations	The Comp Plan indicates that the City has installed EV charging stations.
✓	Transit service expansion	The Sound Transit Link light rail station is slated for 2023 opening.
✓	Bike/ped plan	The City of Mercer Island Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan was most recently updated in 2010.
	TOD/TDM policy/requirements	Requirements for new development over a size threshold to incorporate TDM strategies that reduce vehicle trips (e.g., bike facilities, carpooling, transit incentives).
	Curb management policy	Requirements that guide the design, maintenance, and designations on how curb areas are utilized, such as the portion of the curb allocated to bike infrastructure v. parking.
	Complete streets policy	Street design requirements that reflect and accommodate multimodal transportation.
	Parking requirements for new construction	Parking requirements for new or existing construction to limit the use of SOVs and encourage multi-modal transport.
✓	Transportation impact fee	A fee for new development to support multimodal mobility investments. Impact fees for transportation are collected at commercial level to help fund new transportation developments that are compliant with comprehensive plan.
	CTR program	Participate in WA Commute Trip Reduction program for large employers. The City has participated in the past but the program was retired.
✓	City Green Fleet Purchasing Policy	By following the Evergreen Fleets program's rigorous standards, Mercer Island became one of the first four Puget Sound area cities to be certified as a "Green Fleet" (Green briefs)

In MI?	Policy/Program	Description/Notes
Materials & Consumption		
✓	Curbside compost/recycling program	The City currently works with Recology. Compost and garbage is picked up weekly, recycling biweekly (mercerisland.gov).
	Mandatory composting/recycling	Mandatory requirements for composting/recycling of waste
	City Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy	A purchasing policy requiring that the City purchase environmentally-friendly goods and services; plans include specifics on what types of products qualify and what portion of products the City agrees to purchase.
✓	Plastic bag ban	Mercer Island passed a ban in 2014.
	Food service packaging ordinance	Policy to reduce polystyrene and other single-use food packaging items.
	Recycling space/access requirements in MF/comm buildings	MF: Recycling is open market and arranged by the building manager. Commercial: Recycling is open market and arranged by the building manager or business owner (mercerisland.gov).
✓	Recycling/composting education/outreach program	Waste diversion and Recycling practices outreach programs are offered through Recology King County.
✓	C&D waste ordinance	Passed by King County in 2016.
Natural Systems & Water		
✓	Parks & Rec Plan	Parks, & Recreation, and Open Space Plan was most recently updated in 2021.
	Tree preservation ordinance	Ordinance to prevent tree loss and ensure sufficient replacement ratio requirements between 2:1 and 6:1
	Water-efficient landscape standards	Requirements aimed at reducing water consumption from landscaping by planting native and climate appropriate plants.
✓	Tree planting incentives/outreach program	Tree planting incentive and outreach recommendations are cited in the 2018 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment Report.
Community Resilience & Wellbeing		
	Floodplain ordinance	Standards and restrictions for construction and development in designated flood zones or areas at high risk for flooding.
✓	Hazard mitigation plan	King County adopted the Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2020.

Key Accomplishments, Programs, Policies, & Priorities

This section highlights past, current, and upcoming climate-related initiatives on Mercer Island identified in the policy audit. Information sources are identified in parentheses.

Buildings & Energy

- **2013**—Decorative **streetlights in the town center are converted to LED**; all remaining Town Center lights converted in 2014-2015 (*MI_TransImprovPlan*).
- **2013**—City is recognized as a **Green Power Community of the Year** by the EPA for a successful residential Green Power Program sign-up campaign with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and for its commitment to local solar power generation (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2013**—The receives a \$30,000 grant from PSE to fund a solar array at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2017**—The City commits to buying 20 years (2019-2039) of **clean wind power** from Puget Sound Energy to replace its current mix of electricity and cover its annual municipal usage.
- **2018**—The City receives a **Sol Smart Gold Designation from the Department of Energy** for promoting solar development, including offering streamlined permitting (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2018**—Solar panel installation rates reach a new high of 184, higher per capita at the time than any other Eastside city (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2020**—The City announces that 100% of its government operations were now powered by clean, renewable energy from a new 38-turbine windfarm in Western Washington (mercerisland.gov).
 - Prior to signing this deal, the City offset 100% of its energy usage through green power RECs from Puget Sound Energy. (mercerisland.gov)
- **Current/ongoing:**
 - The City has set a goal to promote the use of green building methods, design standards, and materials for residential development (*MI_CompPlan*).
 - The City has run two successful **Solarize rooftop solar campaigns** and has implemented **LEED-Gold commercial green building requirements** in Town Center (*MI_CompPlan*).
 - **K4C** has set a goal to reduce energy use in all existing buildings 25% by 2030 and 45% by 2050 compared to 2017 level, and reduce natural gas use in existing buildings by at least 20% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. The County has also committed to **eliminating fossil**

fuel use in new County facilities and reaching additional green building standards, and using 100% carbon-free electricity for County operations (KC_SCAP; K4C_Commitments).

Transportation & Land Use

- **2010**—The City adopts the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities plan, outlining a roadmap to increase sustainable transportation by creating a **network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities** (*MI_PedBikeFacilitiesPlan*).
- **2000-2016**—Single occupancy vehicle (SOV) **work commute rates drop** from 76% to 72%; bus riding and carpooling drop from 17% to 14%, and work from home (WFH) rates increase from 7% to 10% (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2018**—The City successfully pilots **bikeshare and rideshare** programs (*MI_CompPlan*).
- As of 2016, the current **average travel time to work on Mercer Island was 25 minutes**, below the 32-minute regional average (*MI_CompPlan*).
- As of 2017, there **was insufficient parking to meet demand in Town Center**; mitigation opportunities identified included time limited parking, directing drivers to under-utilized parking areas, and expanding on-street parking (*MI_ParkingStudy*).
- **2019** – The City increases its public EV chargers to a total of 4 dual units at City Hall and Community Center (mercerisland.gov)

Current/ongoing:

- At least 11 **new pedestrian and bicycle facilities** are planned for **2023 and beyond**, several of which are funded through Sound Transit Mitigation funds (*MI_PedBikeFacilitiesPlan*).
- The **Sound Transit East Link light rail** line is scheduled for completion in **2023**. The new light rail station, located north of the Town Center, on the I-90 corridor between 77th Avenue SE and 80th Avenue SE, will **open public transportation routes to Seattle, Bellevue and other cities** on the Sound Transit system.
- The new station may strain parking resources as parking demand is expected to increase and the existing park and ride at North Mercer Way is already frequently at or near capacity (*MI_CompPlan*).
- Currently, Mercer Island has over **55 miles of facilities for non-motorized travel** (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **King County** has set a goal to **reduce emissions from County-owned vehicles** by 45% by 2025 (KC_SCAP).
- **K4C** has committed to **reduce countywide driving** per capita by 20% by 2030 and 50% by 2050, compared to a 2017 baseline. The collaboration has also committed to **increase use of electric vehicles** to the point that 100% of light duty vehicles, and at least 60% of medium duty, and 40% of heavy-duty vehicles are electric by 2050 (K4C_Commitments).

Materials & Consumption

- **1989**—Mercer Island adopts the targets outlined in the first King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **1992**—Mercer Island meets King County's goal of 35% waste diversion (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **1993**—The City increases waste diversion rates to 50% (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2000**—The City reaches 65% diversion, in line with that year's King County diversion goals (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **K4C current waste diversion goals** include achieving a 70% diversion rate countywide, and zero waste of resources with economic value for reuse and zero waste of edible food waste by 2030 (*KC_SCAP; K4C_Commitments*).
- **2014**—The City adopts a plastic bag ban—7 years ahead of the statewide ban that eventually superseded it (*MI_CompPlan; mercerisland.gov*).
 - The island offers residential trash, recycling, and yard **waste pickup** through Republic Services until 2019, and now through Recology. **Hazardous waste pick-up** is offered once a year through the Household Hazardous Wastemobile, a program of the Seattle-King County Local Hazardous Waste Management funded through a surcharge on garbage bills (*MI_CompPlan*).
 - Twice/year recycling events continue to attract 700 attendees per event, and the City has piloted the doorstep collection of additional items, such as Styrofoam (*mercerisland.gov*)

Natural Systems & Water

- **2004-2014**—The Parks and Recreation Department oversees an **extensive restoration program** that plants 43,000 native plants and frees over 100 acres of trees from climbing ivy (*MI_ParksRec&OpenSpacePlan*).
- **2010-2017**—The city's **tree canopy increases** by 8%.
 - As of 2017, the city contains an estimated 48% tree canopy, 27% impervious surface, and 28% of possible planting area (*MI_TCR*).
- **2012**—The City acts to **protect shoreline ecological functions** by establishing new standards for maintaining and repairing piers, docks, and other structures on Lake Washington (*MI_SMP*).
- **2019**—The City integrates critical areas into its shoreline protection standards that are consistent with best available science and state guidelines for wetlands, streams and other critical areas (*MI_SMP*).
- **2019**—The City establishes a Parks and Recreation Commission to advise City Council on parks, recreation, and other community services (*MI_ParksRec&OpenSpacePlan*).
- **2020**—Mercer Island opts into the collective Regional Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) fund to monitor stormwater trends.
- **2020**—A survey of 1,763 residents assessing recreational needs and priorities found **public parks and trails are of top concern for residents** and that residents are largely satisfied with the public park system in Mercer Island (*MI_ParksRec&OpenSpacePlan*).

- **2021**—Stormwater managements improvement projects add 18 different median/roadside sites and 12 park entrance planter beds to **capture stormwater runoff** (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2021**—the City adopts the largest Parks Capital Improvement Program in its history, recommending \$41.7 million to fund parks, facilities, trails, and open space through 2020 (*MI_ParksRec&OpenSpacePlan*).
- **Current/ongoing:**
 - Currently, **the Island has 472 acres of park and open space lands**, including 115 acres of natural-forested land set aside in Pioneer Park and an additional 150 acres of public open scattered across the community.
 - The City has outlined **specifics goals related to preserving natural systems**, including:
 - Designating bald eagles as a Species of Local Concern for protection under the Growth Management Act;
 - Removing plants listed on the King County Noxious Weed and Weeds of Concern lists as part of new development;
 - Reducing of nonpoint pollution;
 - Promoting the preservation of organic matter in planting beds and landscapes; and
 - Increasing awareness and implementation of the International Dark-Sky Association's methods to reduce the excess lighting of the night sky that negatively affects wildlife (*MI_CompPlan*).
 - **King County** has committed to investing \$25 million to **improve urban green spaces** and has set a goal to “plant, protect and prepare” 3 million trees by 2025 (*KC_SCAP*).
 - Additional community surveys indicate that resident’s top priority for local parks and recreation is to connect gaps in the trail systems (*MI_CompPlan*).

Community Resilience & Wellbeing

- **Current/ongoing:**
 - The City has set **specific climate resiliency goals**, including designing new developments in a way that reduces risk to people and property associated with natural hazards (*MI_CompPlan*).
 - The City has set a **2035** growth target of **2,320 new housing units and 1,160 new jobs** (*MI_CompPlan*).
 - The City is committed to implementing policies aimed at preserving and enhancing the Island's physical characteristics (*MI_CompPlan*).

- **King County** has outlined plans for a range of **climate resilience and community wellbeing initiatives**, including equitable green job programs, community health and emergency preparedness initiatives, campaigns focused on protecting food system and expanding regional food security, and energy assistance for frontline communities (*KC_SCAP*).
- Mercer Island health statistics indicate that residents have high life expectancies (86 years), and face fewer health risk factors than other King County residents. The Island also has a high rate of physical activity, with about 95% of Mercer Island residents having access to physical activity opportunities and less than 10% of residents getting no regular leisure-time physical activity (*MI_ParksRec&OpenSpacePlan*).

General City Successes, Actions, & Goals To Date

- **2006**—The City modifies the vision statement in its Comprehensive Plan to include sustainability thanks to a grassroots effort of Island citizens.
- **2007**—The City, in alignment with King County targets, sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline (*MI_CompPlan*; *K4C_Commitments*).
 - **2007**—The City Council sets an interim emissions reduction goal of reducing emissions from City operations by 5% by 2012 (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2008**—The City creates a **Climate Action Task Force**, charged with developing a climate action plan for the City and community and develops green building goals and policies (*MI_CompPlan*).
- **2011**—Mercer Island joins King County and other regional cities as a **founding member of K4C** (mercerisland.gov).
- **2012**—the City convenes a **Sustainability Policy Taskforce** to recommend sustainability policies to the City. The City Council adopted its recommendations, including added dedicated staffing, incorporating recommendations into City planning documents, developing a Sustainability Plan, and additional legislative actions to foster sustainability.
 - The resulting plan called for tracking emissions and the formation of a City/community partnership called the Green Ribbon Commission, tasked with reducing emissions.
- **2013**—The City hires its first half-time Sustainability Manager.
- **2014**—K4C adopts its first shared target to reduce countywide GHG emissions by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050, compared to a 2007 baseline (*K4C_Commitments*).
 - As of April 2022, these commitments have been updated to 50% below 2007 levels by 2030; 75% below 2007 levels by 2040; and 95% below 2007 levels and net carbon neutral by 2050.

- **2016**—The City completes an update to the 20-year vision and development standards for the Town Center business core area that includes a directive that **new construction meet LEED Gold or Built Green 4-Star standard** (mercerisland.gov).
- **2017**—Sustainable Mercer Island (SMI) emerges as an umbrella group to help coordinate various initiatives on Island and advocate for county and state-level climate measures
- **2018**—IslandVision, a nonprofit organization that supports and encourages sustainable practices, analyzes GHG sources on Mercer Island and recommends strategies to reduce emissions.