



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5822
March 2, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5822: 2021-2022 Sustainability Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the 2021-2022 Sustainability Program Work Plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Ross Freeman, Sustainability and Communications Manager Jason Kintner, Public Works Director
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Sustainability Program Functions Chart 2. Proposed 2021-22 Sustainability Work Plan
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

This discussion is intended to provide the City Council an opportunity to review and confirm the proposed 2021-2022 Sustainability Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, a grassroots effort of citizens prompted the City to include language embracing sustainability in the updated Comprehensive Plan. In May 2007, the Council adopted [Resolution No. 1389](#) which first committed the City to a sustainability work program and a goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% from 2007 levels by 2050 (consistent with King County's goals). At the time, sustainability for the City was defined as: *"efforts to curtail consumption of scarce resources including electric energy, water, fossil fuels and land fill space, and set new targets for conservation of such natural resources."*

In subsequent years, progress towards meeting sustainability goals was sporadic and often relied on community volunteers and participation in ad-hoc campaigns to reach new milestones. The final report from a [Sustainability Task Force](#), convened by the Mayor in 2012, recommended that a dedicated staff position would be important in making further advances, especially towards GHG goals. The report defined sustainability as: *"using methods, systems and materials that won't deplete resources or harm natural cycles"*

in such a way that “the needs of the present can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

In 2013, the City hired a Sustainability Manager as a 0.4 FTE position in combination with a vacant 0.6 FTE Communications position. This solution was fiscally expedient, but over time, the City’s communications needs have grown exponentially. With many numerous time-sensitive issues and emergencies like COVID-19, Water Advisories, and Sound Transit litigation, sustainability work has received less concerted attention.

In response, when the City Council adopted its 2021-2022 budget last December, it included the separation of these two roles, leading to a full-time Sustainability position to be housed in the Public Works Department.

PROPOSED SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM AND WORK PLAN

The City’s sustainability program will build on past program successes and focus on areas of sustainability improvements within the City’s own operations. Major functions of the program include:

- Efficiency
- Waste & Toxics
- Energy
- GHG Emissions
- Transportation
- CIP & Operations
- Outreach & Education

Exhibit 1 details elements and work for each of the program functions. The program will expand existing initiatives (such as additional LED lighting retrofits, continued green fleet purchases), but also take a more visionary and holistic approach, such as applying an energy efficiency lens to CIP projects, revising the City’s procurement policies and building maintenance to include sustainability options, and focusing on the collective stormwater impacts to Lake Washington across all City operations. In addition, the work plan includes catching up on the past few years of GHG tracking and performance data. The proposed 2021-22 work plan is attached as Exhibit 2.

NEXT STEPS

While the City is currently recruiting for a Communications Manager, staff will need to continue to provide communication work until position is filled. As such, many of the sustainability work plan items will have a gradual progression towards full implementation in 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2021-2022 Sustainability Program Work Plan.