

A Summary of Seattle's Climate Accomplishments

(1/2017- 9/2021)

OSE worked with staff from SDOT, SCL, OPCD, SPU, and FAS to account for major climate accomplishments from 2017-2021 and suggest potential action for the remainder of 2021. A memo outlining this information was sent to the Mayor's office on September 9, 2021. The accomplishments included in that memo are pasted in their entirety below:¹

Buildings

- Updated the **Commercial Building Energy Code** to be among the strongest on climate in the nation.
- Created Seattle's **Oil Heat Conversion Tax** to pay 100% of the costs for households with lower incomes to convert from polluting oil heat to clean electric heat pumps.
- Directed OSE to ensure **no new fossil fuels in municipal buildings** and to plan to decarbonize all existing municipal buildings (complete in 2022).
- Seattle's largest commercial buildings have completed **over 500 building tune-ups** to date, reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the city and saving money on their energy bills.
- The **Green Building Standard** was updated in 2021 to require fossil-fuel free equipment and appliances when new developments in certain zones receive additional development capacity.
- Enabled first ever zero carbon, fully electric, pre-fabricated high rise, with affordable housing in Seattle: The World's Most Sustainable High-rise Apartment Building Breaks Ground in Seattle.
- Partnered with Downtown Emergency Service Center to develop Hobson Place, a new high-efficiency, fully electric, zero-carbon permanent supportive housing development in South Seattle.

Transportation

- Secured the renewal of the **Seattle Transit Measure in November 2020** – generating \$50M annually for transit service and access.
- Released **Seattle's Transportation Electrification Blueprint**, a plan to leverage our clean electricity to power the transportation sector (anything that moves people, goods, & services) as a practical solution to the climate crisis.
- **Seattle City Light's transportation electrification investment** strategy to invest in transportation electrification and a framework to guide investments to the communities that most need them.
- City Light's EV Fast Charging pilot made significant progress investing in public fast charging and is expected to have 25 fast chargers operational by the end of 2021.
- **Orca Opportunity for Youth** fully funded ORCA cards for all Seattle Public High School Students, income eligible middle school students, Seattle Promise Scholars and Seattle Housing Authority residents at 24 properties.
- **Sound Transit Light Rail Leadership**: The Mayor's Office and SDOT launched a Light Rail Expansion City Team to lead the City's involvement in the planning and permitting of Sound Transit projects, including West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions (WSBLE) project. WSBLE is the largest infrastructure project in the City's history—bringing tremendous opportunity to improve access and mobility in Seattle, but also the potential for significant impacts as it is built through existing

¹ Please note that this list of accomplishments is not inclusive of all climate action undertaken by the City.

communities. The City Team is working to maximize WSBLE's benefit and minimize its impacts to communities.

- **Bike Lane Network Expansion** (*52 miles of new bike facilities constructed in last five years*) Increasing the share of trips made by bicycle by investing in a comprehensive, connected network of safe and comfortable bicycle facilities.
- FAS Developed an **EV infrastructure strategy for City facilities and now purchases EVs** to replace gas-powered vehicles at the end of the vehicle's life cycle.
- SDOT partnered with the University of Washington's Urban Freight Lab (UFL) to launch a shared use **microhub site and e-cargo bike pilot** near Seattle Center.
- Instructed OSE and SDOT to engage the Transportation Equity Workgroup, Environmental Justice Committee, Equitable Development Initiative, and Green New Deal Oversight Board in determining if **road-pricing policies** (including Congestions Pricing) can be implemented equitably, and, if so, how?

Environmental & Climate Justice

- **Established a Green New Deal for Seattle:** OSE hired a Green New Deal Advisor to staff the recently appointed Green New Deal Oversight Board. Directed by EO 2020-01, OSE will be convening the Green New Deal leadership sub-committee to launch an interdepartmental City Team this September to coordinate on climate actions related to the Green New Deal.
- **Tripled Environmental Justice Fund:** Tripling the Fund to \$750,000 to support a broader breadth of community defined environmental justice solutions that specifically seek to improve positive health outcomes.
- Secured grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop a **Resilience District in the Duwamish Valley**, driving sea level rise adaptation in combination with anti-displacement strategies and economic opportunity.
- Released SCL's **Clean Energy Implementation Plan**, SCL's roadmap for achieving an equitable transition to a 100% greenhouse gas-free, electric future, integrating equity into planning, programs, and projects throughout the Utility.

Clean Energy Innovation/Grid Modernization (SCL, OSE)

- Developed **Seattle's EV Readiness Ordinance:** Amended land use code in 2019 to require EV-ready electrical service in all new off-street parking stalls.
- SCL is coordinating across several inter-departmental working groups to ensure **grid readiness for transportation electrification** initiatives, including waterfront projects.
- **SCL Joined the Energy Imbalance Market:** City Light began participating in the Western Energy Imbalance Market. City Light's participation in the market will yield many benefits for the grid and City Light's customers. Gross revenues have totaled \$14.9M (\$6.1M in 2020 and more than \$8.8M in 2021 as of July). Enhanced markets will allow integration of more renewable resources.
- **City Light Pay for Performance (P4P) and Energy Efficiency as a Service (EEaS):** City Light launched pioneering performance-based programs to address and finance deep efficiency retrofits in Seattle's commercial building stock. Both programs were developed in close collaboration with industry and community stakeholders.
- KC Metro Facility Electrification: SCL supporting King County Metro to **deploy 250 all-electric buses.**

- The City of Seattle was engaged in the most recent state legislative session which passed critical climate-focused bills, including the **Low Carbon Fuel Standard** and the **Climate Commitment Act**.
- 2021 installation of a **Solar Microgrid on Miller Community Center**, a roof-top solar panel and battery energy storage system, with microgrid controls, on the community center that serves as an emergency shelter and previously had no emergency power installed.

Adaptation & Resilience

- **\$100 million** of new drainage infrastructure in South Park, CSO improvements / retrofits in Delridge and Longfellow Creek Natural Flood Storage through a program to address **Stormwater and Sea Level Rise Flood Management and Adaptation in BIPOC Communities**
- **Utilities are responding to Climate Change impacts** in many ways: (1) SPU is Adapting water supply operations to a shifting hydrologic cycle, (2) SPU is incorporating more frequent, severe storms into utility project planning, and (3) Utilities are reducing wildfire risk for infrastructure, electric and water delivery services, customers, and workforce, (4) SPU partnered with University of Washington to model the future streamflow for Skagit River, which provides water for hydropower generation, and (5) SCL developed a Comprehensive plan that assesses the vulnerabilities to climate change impacts for all functions of the utility and identifies adaptation actions that can be taken to reduce impacts, (6) SPU Prioritized green stormwater infrastructure in five urban villages that are high/highest priority in the City's Racial and Social Equity Index Map.
- Conducted a community-based mapping effort in partnership with King County to identify the city's **urban heat islands** in detail.
- **SPU Implemented Green Stormwater Infrastructure:** Prioritized green stormwater infrastructure in five urban villages that are high/highest priority in the City's Racial and Social Equity Index Map. Green stormwater infrastructure is infrastructure where stormwater runoff is slowed, infiltrated, used, and/or treated using vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage water runoff and create healthier environments.
- **Adaptive Reforestation:** Planted over 14,000 trees, including species more adapted to projected future climate along Stossel Creek in the Tolt River Watershed, aimed at growing a complex forest structure more resilient to heat, drought, pest, disease, and wildfire projected with climate change.

Waste/Materials Management

- **Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment** (initiative of the Pacific Coast Collaborative): Seattle joined this public-private partnership to cut food waste by 50% by 2030. Includes all West Coast states and five largest West Coast cities. Partnership has recruited active engagement from Kroger, Albertsons, PCC Markets, New Seasons Market, Sprouts, and Raley's to cut food loss and waste throughout their operations.
- Supported **State Legislation on Product Stewardship, Waste Prevention and Recycling:** When fully implemented these laws address issues challenging the recycling and composting systems, eliminate unnecessary single-use plastic and foam items, require post-consumer recycled content, & will improve the compost ability of products.