

Envisioning a Sustainable Sammamish

City of Sammamish Sustainability Strategy



March 2011



Acknowledgements

Development of the Strategy involved many stakeholders. Thank you to all of the City staff, Council members, Planning & Parks Commissioners, and the following consultant and technical experts who helped develop the Strategy:

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Most of all, thank you to all Sammamish residents and community members for sharing your thoughtful insights, ideas, and suggestions to help envision a sustainable Sammamish. The Strategy is informed by you, and written for you.

We are committed to your vision for a sustainable community and look forward to working with you during the next steps of implementing the actions presented herein.

Ben Yazici, City Manager

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How to Use this Document

This document details the City’s **sustainability goals, objectives and strategies**, as well as a list of **actions** to achieve each goal. To measure and report on progress, **indicators** and **benchmarks** are provided for all proposed strategies. The following legend details these terms and how they are referred to in this Strategy.

Sustainability Goals	Long term sustainability goals that the City seeks to achieve.
Objective	Objectives provide a target for each goal by identifying measurable outcomes. In general, objectives describe performance to be achieved by a certain date (timeline). Depending on the objective, desired performance will trend up or down. The objectives in the Strategy are organized by whether they focus on City operations or on the community. Most measurable objectives in the Strategy focus on actions that the City can directly control. A few objectives include targets that the City can influence vs. control. For the latter, measurable outcomes are not as easily defined.
Indicator	A relevant, understandable, and accessible metric that can be used to show progress towards meeting an objective and, therefore, towards achieving a goal. Multiple indicators can be provided for one objective.
Benchmark	A benchmark represents the starting condition with regards to the indicator, and is the data point against which to measure progress. When providing a benchmark, it is important to provide the benchmark year. This varies across objectives because the Strategy draws from various data sources, and data collection from the various sources is not yet aligned. Multiple benchmarks can be provided for one indicator. Sources for benchmark data in this report are provided in the <i>“Supporting Documents to the Sustainable Sammamish Strategy”</i> Appendix.
Strategies	Strategies describe the pathways and general direction that the City will take in an effort to achieve established goals. The strategies presented in this document were developed by City staff and community members, with input from technical experts. Most strategies focus on initiatives and actions that can be managed by the City. Some of them reference partnerships with outside organizations and the community. Many of the strategies contain more detailed actions that further flesh out implementation.
In-Progress Strategies	The City has already implemented many actions and programs that will help achieve sustainability goals. These initiatives are identified as in-progress strategies.
Idea Worth Borrowing	Many neighboring and regional cities have implemented sustainability strategies that have proven to be successful. Sammamish does not have to reinvent the wheel. Such existing strategies are referenced as <i>“Ideas worth Borrowing,”</i> for further consideration.
Community Challenge	Some of the objectives include a challenge to community residents and businesses to voluntarily take on actions to help support the goals. These are referred to as Community Challenges.
Stretch Strategies	Stretch strategies provide food for thought for future directions the City might pursue. Stretch strategies are included in the <i>“Sustainability Strategy Appendix”</i> - Appendix B.
Indicator Trend Icons	These symbols indicate whether the indicator should go up  or down  to measure progress made towards the goal.

I. Introduction

The Sustainability Strategy is the result of a one-year effort. The project, funded by an Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant, entailed identifying high level goals, objectives, and strategies that would fulfill the City's various commitments to sustainability, build on current initiatives, and emphasize proven techniques requiring modest investment. Although the Strategy incorporates actions that are both community driven and City driven, this initial rendition is heavily focused on the latter. As the Strategy is considered a living document, we anticipate that it will evolve as the community enters its second decade of incorporation. For that reason, stretch strategies are provided as food for thought for future renditions of the Strategy in Appendix A.

The process for developing the Strategy (detailed further below) attempted to include as many viewpoints and concerns as possible through two tracks: one designed to gather constituent input; the second to gather city staff input. In addition, research on successful strategies applied in neighboring communities fortified the process.

Based on stakeholder and community feedback, the objectives in the Strategy prioritize raising awareness through education, leveraging existing resources, and building community partnerships, above a regulatory or compliance approach to achieve sustainability goals.

This document describes the policy foundation for the City's sustainable efforts, including its Vision Statement and Sustainable Commitments; discusses the process for deriving the Strategy; and presents the results of this process. Many terms were introduced in discussing the Strategy that are not commonly understood. A list of terms is included in Appendix B.

In addition, various source documents were developed as part of creating the Strategy. They are listed in Appendix C and contained in a separate document entitled "Supporting Documents to the Sustainability Strategy." A detailed action plan for 2011-2012 is included as Appendix D. The intent is to create annual (or bi-annual) action plans in the future that reflects new opportunities and conditions, as well as updates in the Strategy itself.

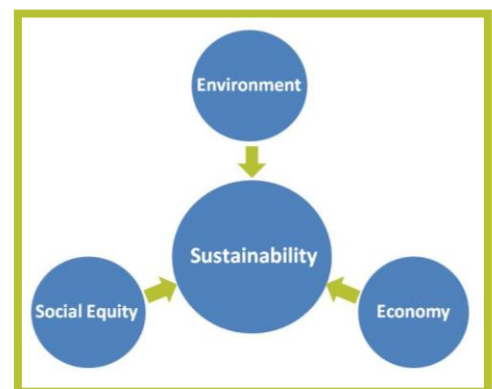
II. Policy Foundation

Sustainable Sammamish Vision

Sustainability has been defined in many different ways. Commonly, sustainability is viewed as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.¹ Sustainability Planners refer to a concept known as the **Three E's of Sustainability**, which suggests that to become more sustainable, a community must attend to its **Environmental, Economic and Social Equity** conditions.

In 2009, City Council defined a **Sustainable Sammamish Vision Statement** as follows:

Sammamish's vision is to become an environmentally and economically sustainable community by crafting and implementing an achievable, multi-faceted and measurable strategy that maximizes opportunity and efficiency while minimizing cost. Undertaking this work will help Sammamish contribute toward larger regional and global goals, such as mitigating the effects of climate change, and will make our community an even better place to live, work and play.



¹ 1987, World Commission on Environment & Development

This vision statement is well grounded in the City’s overall Vision Statement, developed in 2000 after incorporation:

The vision of Sammamish is a community of families. A blend of small-town atmosphere with a suburban character, the City also enjoys a unique core of urban lifestyles and conveniences. It is characterized by quality neighborhoods, vibrant natural features, and outstanding recreational opportunities. A variety of community gathering places provide numerous civic, cultural, and educational opportunities. Residents are actively involved in the decisions that shape the community and ensure a special sense of place.

City Commitments and Pledges

The planning process for developing a Sustainability Strategy for Sammamish aligns well with ongoing commitments by the City including:

Mayors Climate Protection Agreement Signee

By signing this agreement, Sammamish has committed to taking actions such as:

- Adopting land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, maintain healthy urban forests, and create a compact, walkable urban community;
- Making energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, designing energy efficient city facilities, and increasing the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles;
- Increasing recycling rates in City operations; and
- Promoting transportation options such as bicycle trails, pedestrian connections, and public transit.



Cascade Agenda Member City

Sammamish is one of sixteen cities, primarily located in the Puget Sound Region, that participate in the Cascade Agenda. Participating cities agree to work toward a goal of being “Complete, Compact and Connected,” where:

- Urban Neighborhoods have a vibrant mix of people, public gathering spaces, civic and cultural anchors, and retail establishments.
- New development is designed to make neighborhoods efficient, walkable and affordable.
- Residents can use transit, walk and bike safely to daily destinations. Communities have links between open space and urban areas, allowing residents to have access to waterfronts, parks and trails.

C-7 Group of Eastside Cities Member

The Eastside C-7 Cities have identified clean mobility and energy efficiency as the area’s best opportunity for progress and cohesiveness among the member cities. In addition to Sammamish, Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Renton and Puget Sound Energy are participating in this group.

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability Member

Over 1,200 cities, towns, counties and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI is an international association of local governments, as well as national and regional local government organizations, who have made a commitment to sustainable development. Participating in ICLEI allows members to have access to information, support and tools that can help measure progress towards achieving sustainable development goals.

LEED City Hall and In-Progress Initiatives

The City designed its City Hall to meet the Silver Certification Level of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and the Environment (LEED) Rating System. Many other actions and programs support the goals identified in the Sustainable Strategy and have been incorporated where applicable. In addition, a summary of on-going actions were included in the "City of Sammamish Sustainability Efforts – 2010 Status Report" prepared in September 2010. This document is included in the **"Supporting Documents to the Sustainable Sammamish Strategy"** which can be found on the City's [website](#).

III. Sustainability Strategy Development Process

This Sustainability Strategy is the result of an approximately one-year effort. In the fall of 2009, the City of Sammamish received an Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant. A portion of this grant was allocated to developing an overarching city-wide sustainability plan. In late 2009, a consultant team was selected to assist the city with development of a Sustainability Strategy.

In early 2010, the sustainability project's work scope was determined and was reviewed with the City Council and with the City's Planning and Parks Commissions. The scope included a significant community wide "envisioning process" which incorporated input from the community at large as well as staff from all City departments.



Envisioning Process

In spring 2010, City staff participated in conversations, a survey, workshops and a sustainability idea contest, all intended to inform and help start the process of identifying sustainability goals and priorities inside City Hall. At the same time, to reach beyond City Hall, a project web page was launched, offering project information and updates, definitions, resource information, and a community survey link to solicit citizen input. During spring and summer 2010, City staff presented project information in formal settings, such as a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, as well as less formal community venues, such as the Farmer's Market where City Council members, Planning and Parks Commissioners, and/or city staff hosted a sustainability strategy project booth to provide project information and to survey and discuss the community's desired sustainability goals and priorities. In fall 2010, a community workshop was held to discuss the top five sustainability goals resulting from all community outreach activities, and to work alongside local experts to identify avenues for pursuing the goals. In summary, outreach techniques consisted of:

- City management team sustainability 101 workshop
- All-City staff sustainability 101 workshop
- City staff survey
- City staff "Brilliant Idea Competition"
- Project web page and community sustainability goals and priorities survey link established
- Chamber of Commerce business sustainability project presentation & survey
- Sustainability project booth, survey and citizen "Bright Idea" box present at the City's weekly Farmers Market, 4th of July celebration, and at two of the City's summer concert events.
- Community meeting and workshop held on September 30th
- Conversations with technical experts

Highlights of Staff Participation

In spring 2010, City staff participated in training and workshops to identify a preliminary set of sustainability goals. All City departments were represented. They discussed the following issues: climate change, waste, water, habitat, energy, economy, low impact development, community health and safety, social equity, transportation and food security. Staff then discussed possible strategies that could be used to achieve preliminary goals focused on **waste reduction, water conservation, green economy, energy independence, healthy neighborhoods and habitat, and carbon neutrality**. This was accompanied by a survey to ensure individual staff members were able to provide input.



Next, City staff participated in a two-week **Brilliant Idea Competition** to come up with ideas that would best exemplify one of three objectives:

- Quick, easy, and inexpensive idea to implement;
- Idea that creatively improves an existing City facility, piece of equipment, or program; or,
- Idea that will save the City the most money.

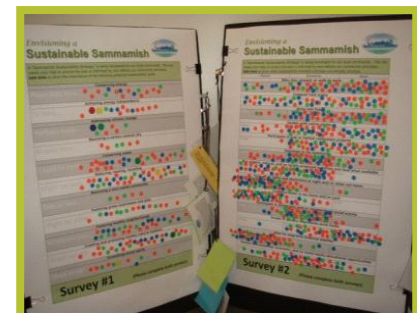
Winning ideas ranged from partnering with a youth-focused education program to reduce litter and garbage in public spaces, to installing a composting bin next to the staff's lunch area, to improving the efficiency of lighting in City facilities.

Highlights of Public Participation

Over the summer of 2010, more than 850 Sammamish residents and businesses provided comments on possible sustainability goals and priorities via surveys on the City's website and at nearly 20 community venues including the weekly farmer's market, the Fourth of July celebration, the City's summer concert series, and the City's second annual Sustainable Sammamish fair. In addition, the local public library and Chamber of Commerce partnered in getting the word out to the public and business community about project information and input opportunities.



Community input was used to develop **five sustainability goals** which were presented at a community meeting and workshop on September 30, 2010. At this event, information about the goals, including possible strategies to achieve them, was presented in a series of educational boards and in presentations by content experts. Community members then participated in facilitated discussions of each goal, debated strategies, suggested additional strategies, and then helped to prioritize strategy implementation through an interactive timeline exercise. At the meeting's conclusion, each group shared the results of their work efforts. Notes from these group reports, as well as individual group discussions, have been used to prepare the final set of goals, suggested strategies, and timelines that are reflected in this document. The final element of planning included development of indicators and benchmarks that adequately reflected the interests expressed by the public and City staff, as well as resources currently identified as available to pursue them.



It is important to point out that this strategy was developed in the midst of a challenging economy. Accordingly, the strategies, benchmarks and timeline proposed are modest and focus primarily on low cost and easy-to-implement actions. The sustainability consultant prepared a list of suggestions to amplify this strategy when resources permit. As noted above, these stretch strategies are included in Appendix B.

IV. Sustainability Strategy

Top Five Sustainability Goals

Goal 1: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reducing, reusing, and recycling means minimizing the amount of waste created; looking for new uses before recycling or tossing an item; and, if reducing or reusing is not an option, creating something new from what was once considered waste. 71% of community survey respondents and City staff ranked this as a top goal to pursue. It is a core goal that many communities have adopted and promote. It is also a natural extension of the City's current waste management and minimization efforts. Reducing waste and reusing materials means reduced need for energy and natural resources to produce new products and less waste hauling costs. It makes environmental and economic sense.



Goal 2: Create & Protect Natural Habitats

Sammamish community members value natural aesthetics and urban wildlife. Citizens want to protect and create natural habitat by maintaining and improving green space, as well as fish and wildlife habitat. Habitat protection focuses on preserving high quality habitat within the City. Natural habitat creation seeks to replace lost natural habitat function through expansion, restoration, or enhancement activities. 67% of community survey respondents and City staff ranked this goal as a priority. Protecting and creating natural habitat improves landscape-scale connections in our watershed and supports regional efforts to enrich Puget Sound's ecosystem health. By preserving natural habitat we can maintain natural resource function and wildlife diversity. This could reduce long term infrastructure costs related to stormwater drainage and flood control.



Goal 3: Conserve Energy

Reducing energy consumption starts with conservation and increased efficiency. Conservation focuses on identifying and reducing wasted energy from behavior and technologies. The next step is exploring and developing alternative energy options. 55% of community survey respondents and City staff ranked this goal as a priority. Many community respondents noted easy steps such as turning off power strips and lights when equipment and rooms are not in use and using daylight or task lighting instead of overhead lighting. By reducing energy consumption, we may eliminate the need for additional power plants or other energy generation capacity in the future. This can have an enormous financial benefit for our region, and helps our pocketbooks by keeping rates low. Conservation also translates to direct environmental benefit through reduced carbon emissions and related climate change concerns.



Goal 4: Conserve Water

Water conservation focuses on using water-efficient strategies and equipment, and substituting non-potable water for potable (drinking) water where possible and appropriate. Safe and clean drinking water is critical for human and ecological health. 48% of community survey respondents and City staff ranked this goal as a priority. Water conservation makes sense for our City because we use a lot of it for irrigation and to supply household, commercial, and municipal water needs. Water conservation pays back in three ways: savings on water you don't use; savings on sewage you don't produce; and since a significant proportion of the water we use is heated, savings on water you don't heat.²



Goal 5: Foster Healthy Neighborhoods

Strong, healthy neighborhoods have many components: a clean and safe environment for families; knowing your neighbors and working together towards common goals; balanced development and environmental protection to accommodate growth while respecting open space/habitat; a range of housing options; robust transportation choices including walking, bicycling, transit and driving; and diverse neighborhood services and community amenities. 47% of community survey respondents and City staff ranked this goal as a priority. Fostering healthy neighborhoods also fits right in with national initiatives led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Partnership for Sustainable Communities." By selecting this goal, Sammamish links to a much larger effort and many resources. This goal builds off of one of Sammamish's finest assets: great neighborhoods. It's also a goal that has direct and very personal benefits for individuals and families in the community.



² 2008, The Northwest Green Home Primer, Kathleen O'Brien

Goal 1: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

A. City Objective: Align city operations and waste management policy with the principles of waste reduction outlined in the “Beyond Waste” plan.³

Indicator: The number of principles of waste reduction as outlined in “Beyond Waste” plan from the Department of Ecology, actively adopted and implemented.

Reported by: City

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: The City will establish a benchmark upon review of “Beyond Waste” plan.

TBD

B. Community Objective: Reduce the quantity of material disposed as waste in the community.

Indicator: The annual diversion rate for the Sammamish community as identified by zip codes within the City of Sammamish jurisdiction, as a percentage.

Reported by: Waste Management and Allied Waste

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: The annual waste diversion rate for residential, commercial (including municipal facilities) and industrial customers in Sammamish. As of October 1 2010, Waste Management and Allied Waste report waste diversion percentages between 55% and 61%.⁴

55%

Indicator: The total annual amount of waste generated by residential, commercial (including municipal facilities) and industrial Sammamish customers, expressed in tons, trending down.

Reported by: Waste Management and Allied Waste

Trend: 

³ <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>. A program of the WA State’s Department of Ecology.

⁴ Waste Management reports a total diversion rate of 54.88%. Allied Waste reports a total diversion rate of 61%.

2010 Benchmark: Partial benchmark data is available for 2010. As of October 1, 2010, total tons of waste generated by Waste Management customers in Sammamish is reported as 6,804 tons.⁵

6,804 tons

Indicator: The percentage of customers actively participating in recycling services.

Reported by: Waste Management and Allied Waste

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: As of October 1, 2010, Waste Management reports the percentage of residential customers with curbside recycling services that actively participate in the service as 99.67%.⁶

99.67%

2010 Benchmark: As of October 1, 2010, Waste Management reports the percentage of multi-family customers with curbside recycling services that actively participate in the service as 0%.⁷

0%

2010 Benchmark: As of October 1, 2010, Waste Management reports the percentage of commercial customers with curbside recycling services that actively participate in the service as 60.04%.⁸

60%

Indicator: The percentage of customers actively participating in yard and food waste services.

Reported by: Waste Management and Allied Waste

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: As of October 1, 2010, Waste Management reports the percentage of residential customers with curbside recycling services that actively participate in the service as 98.45%.⁹

98.45%

⁵ Data is needed from Allied Waste to present an accurate picture of total waste in tonnage produced by the City.

⁶ Data is needed from Allied Waste to present a complete and accurate picture of all recycling participation numbers.

⁷ Data is needed from Allied Waste to present a complete and accurate picture of all recycling participation numbers.

⁸ Data is needed from Allied Waste to present a complete and accurate picture of all recycling participation numbers.

⁹ Data is needed from Allied Waste to present a complete and accurate picture of all recycling participation numbers.

City Operations Strategies

1

Reduce food waste through composting.

- Evaluate current municipal contracts and potential for adding composting services to municipal facilities as early as 2016.¹⁰
- Purchase and place compost bins next to the staff barbeque area/kitchen for all food waste from the city employees.¹¹ *This strategy was selected as the “Most Bang for the Buck” winner during the 2010 City Staff **Brilliant Idea Competition** selection.*
- Identify City-owned public spaces lacking in adequate recycling bins. Increase the availability of bins and provide educational signage.
- Keep a supply of reusable shopping bags in the City Hall lunch and supply rooms. City staff can use these bags when purchasing food and supplies for meetings. Consider implementing this strategy for implementation at other City Facilities as well. *This strategy received “Honorable Mention” during the 2010 City Staff **Brilliant Idea Competition**.*



Strategy Benefit

This could reduce the need for litter cleanup in parks and throughout the city, and will educate citizens on becoming better stewards of our parks and natural resources.

2

Reduce waste through waste prevention.

- Default the distribution of Council meeting materials, staff records and permitting documents to an electronic record keeping system.
- Reduce use of non-compostable and/or non-reusable paper and plastic products in the employee kitchen, and keep a set of reusable take-out containers for staff to use when buying take-out food for lunch. The City could encourage employees to bring re-usable items from home, or stock the kitchen with a supply of dishes and service ware, which can be inexpensively purchased at second hand stores. *This strategy was selected as an “Honorable Mention” winner during the 2010 City Staff **Brilliant Idea Competition** selection.*
- Facilitate and partner with local community groups and schools on a youth-focused public education program about reducing litter and recycling strategies in the parks and in the city. *This strategy was selected as the “Bright Idea” winner during the 2010 City Staff **Brilliant Idea Competition** selection.*



Strategy Benefit

Providing reusable take-out containers supports the message to staff and local food service businesses that there are alternatives to disposable containers.

¹⁰ 2016 is understood to be the earliest that composting can be integrated into municipal contracts, according to Administrative Services.

¹¹ City contracts for composting pick up would need to be investigated to determine the feasibility of this strategy at City Hall. An alternative, more grassroots approach that has worked in office situations elsewhere is to designate a rotating staff member who has home composting options to collect and bring home the compost, until City contracts are in place for collection. This approach typically works better on a smaller scale collection, and could be implemented in kitchenette areas.

In-Progress Strategies – City Operations

3

Recycle electronic waste.

- Continue individual departmental efforts to recycle toner cartridges and cell phone recycling as led by the Administrative Services Department. Collect electronic waste produced by City Facilities for recycling during the electronic waste recycling events established by Administrative Services Department in 2009.

4

Practice waste prevention through electronic communications and efficient printing practices.

- Maintain double-sided printing as default settings for all City printers, as completed in 2009 by the Finance and IT Departments.
- Continue electronic delivery of news and the circulation of subscription periodicals to multiple users to minimize waste from paper media as led by the City Communications Manager and the Finance Department.
- Implementation of on-line job application portal to reduce paper waste completed in 2009 by Administrative Services Department.
- Promote the use of MyBuildingPermit.com to increase the number of electronic mechanical and plumbing permit submittals and issuance, as led by the Community Development Department.
- Continue to work towards implementing electronic plan reviews for all permit applications, tentatively slated to be in effect by January, 2012.

5

Prioritize recycled content supplies for city administration and operation.

- Continue to prioritize the purchase of recycled paper products for restrooms and recycled toner products for printers and copiers, and the phase-out of inefficient ink-jet printers, as led by the Finance Department.

Idea Worth Borrowing

Introduce a “no-single use plastic water bottle” policy in City Hall or other City facilities. This was successfully introduced at the City of Seattle and King County.

Community Strategies

6

Support collaborative and targeted education efforts with wide-ranging impact.

- Work with the Chamber of Commerce, Allied Waste, Waste Management and other regional organizations to create and deliver targeted education about recycling to multi-family property owners and commercial space landlords.
- Coordinate with local schools, Allied Waste and Waste Management to offer educational field trips for students and teachers to Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), with the goal of appointing ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Ambassadors’ from the group to promote waste minimization strategies at schools, home and in the community.
- Provide education to encourage restaurants to use recyclable or compostable takeout containers.

7

Encourage individual and business leadership.

- Work with partners on targeted education efforts to identify and create incentives to prevent waste.

- Promote a “5 More Pounds” or “1 Less Bag” Campaign directed at residents, to encourage a self-monitored, voluntary reduction of waste by 5 pounds (or 1 bag of garbage) each week. The campaign could be linked to existing [King County Solid Waste Division](#) resources about waste reduction, recycling and composting strategies.
- Promote the free [King County Master Recycler Composter \(MRC\) program](#), which provides free community education about waste reduction and recycling.
- Expand on existing partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, City Volunteer Coordinator and locally interested parties and restaurants on collection of used cooking oil for pick up for use in bio-diesel generation. Consider joining the [Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition](#) for additional resources and outlets.
- Coordinate with Allied Waste to secure total waste in terms of tonnage produced within the City, as well as recycling participation numbers for residential, commercial and multi-family customers with curbside recycling services.



Strategy Benefit

In addition to the educational benefits to the individuals enrolled in the MRC program, each graduate is expected to volunteer 40 hours of outreach within two years in King County to provide personal interaction and practical information to educate and motivate citizens.

In-Progress Strategies - Community

8

Be a hub for waste reduction resources.

- Continue to run the electronic waste recycling site established by Administrative Services Department in 2009. Use City participation to encourage public participation.
- Continue to offer discounted compost bins during City-led recycling events throughout the year, coupled with resources and information about home composting.

Idea Worth Borrowing

Follow City of Edmonds' lead by passing a plastic bag ban.

Community Challenge

- **Participate in the three annual community and one annual business recycling events** for local business and residents offered by the City of Sammamish.
- **1 Bag at a Time Challenge:** Track the amount of waste you place at the curb each week and challenge your family to reduce it incrementally.

Can you cut your waste in half? Let us know if you do!

Goal 2: Create & Protect Healthy Habitat

A. City Objective: Where appropriate, consider applying National Wildlife Federation criteria to the creation and renovations of public facilities and spaces.

Indicator: The number of public facilities, parks and open spaces that meet NWF criteria for certification.

Reported by: City

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: As of January 2011, the NWF certified 3 public schools, 8 parks, the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District office, and 4 well sites as wildlife habitats, earning a total of 54 points.¹²

15 locations

B. Community Objective: Become certified as a [Community Wildlife Habitat](#) by the National Wildlife Federation by achieving a total of 250 habitat points by summer of 2011.

Indicator: The number of National Wildlife Federation (NWF) certified habitat points earned by city and community sites.

Reported by: Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: As of January 2011, the NWF certified 153 homes, 4 farms, and 3 private schools as wildlife habitats, for a total of 180 community earned points. This amounts to 234 total points when combined with City earned points.¹³

234 points

City Operations Strategies

9

Identify compatible habitat improvements.

- Identify public facilities and/or spaces that could with modest or voluntary resources be upgraded to meet NWF criteria without loss of planned/appropriate uses.

¹² The NWF allots each certified home 1 habitat point, farm 3 points, business and church 3 points, school 5 points and park 3 points. Certified public schools include: Inglewood Junior High School, Christa McAuliffe Elementary School and Discovery School. Certified parks include Pine Lake Park, Beaver Lake Park, Beaver Lake Preserve, Bill Reahms East Sammamish Park, Ebright Creek Park and Sammamish Commons.

¹³ Certified private schools include: Arbor Montessori School, Sammamish Children's School and Redgate Preschool.

Community Strategies

10

Increase awareness about the certification.

- Promote the efforts of the Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat Project volunteers, who will continue to encourage other Sammamish residents, businesses, churches and schools, to become certified wildlife habitats.
- Launch a “Neighborhood Backyard Wildlife Certification Contest” to use ‘friendly competition’ as a mechanism to meet the community objective.

In-Progress Strategies - Community

11

Use existing regulatory tools to protect habitat.

- Continue to implement and update the Tree Retention Ordinance (SMC 21A.35.210) managed by the Community Development Department and adopted in 2005.
- Continue to implement and update, based on Best Available Science, the Environmentally Critical Areas Regulations (SMC 21A.50) managed by the Community Development Department (adopted in 2005 and as updated in the future).

Community Challenge

- Over 40 cities in the US are certified as Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation – and 9 are in Washington State. **Review the simple application process, get your hands dirty, and help Sammamish become the 10th city in Washington to earn the certification!**
- The Community Wildlife Habitat certification program is in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Northwest Zoo and Aquarium Alliance. To certify as a backyard wildlife habitat, property owners have to indicate that they are providing sources of food, water, shelter and places for wildlife to raise their young, and are using sustainable gardening practices, such as using native plants, removing non-native invasive plants, reducing the amount of lawn, conserving water, composting and mulching, and eliminating the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides.
- Other communities on the Puget Sound region who have earned the certification include: Alki, Bainbridge Island, Bellingham, Camano Island, Edmonds, Fidalgo Island/Anacortes, Lake Forest Park, Kirkland, Skagit Valley and Tukwila.

Goal 3: Conserve Energy

A. City Objective 1: Reduce city energy use to 3% below 2007 consumption rates by 2012, in alignment with the [US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement](#).¹⁴

Indicator: The amount of energy consumed annually through City operations expressed kilowatt hours (kwh).¹⁵

Reported by: Puget Sound Energy

Trend: 

2007 Benchmark: Annual energy consumption by city facilities of both electricity and natural gas as of 2007 is 1,533,478 kWh

1,533,478 kWh

City Objective 2: Investigate municipal purchase of green power from PSE's [Green Power](#) program by applying savings from energy conservation to purchasing Green Power.

Indicator: The amount of Green Power purchased from PSE annually as a percentage of total kWh used.

Reported by: Puget Sound Energy

Trend: 


2010 Benchmark: Annual amount of Green Power purchased in 2010 as a percentage of total power purchased: 0%

0%

City Objective 3: Increase use of transportation alternatives to single occupancy and/or fossil fueled vehicles for city staff commutes and work related travel.

Indicator: The amount of single occupancy employee commuter trips to work in City Hall.

Reported by: Sammamish Senior Transportation Program Engineer

Trend: 

¹⁴ The City of Sammamish is a signatory of the US Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, which strives to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets at a community level. The target relating to greenhouse gas emissions calls for reducing emissions by 7% less than 1990 levels by 2012. As the City was not incorporated until 2000, this objective calls for reducing emissions by 3% of 2005 emissions levels. The US EPA offers a free [Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#) which translates kwh (as provided by PSE) directly into CO2 Equivalent, which is useful in communicating greenhouse gas reductions.

¹⁵ PSE natural gas consumption is provided in Therms and was converted to kWh for the purpose of annual reporting.

2010 Benchmark: The City of Sammamish’s traffic model for Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) commuter trips to and from city hall by staff reports an average of 150 daily trips in 2010.¹⁶

150 daily trips

B. Community Objective 1: Reduce energy used by non-city building operations, including residential dwellings, businesses and industry.

Indicator: The amount of energy consumed annually through non-city operations expressed in kilowatt hours.

Reported by: Puget Sound Energy

Trend: 

2007 Benchmark: Annual energy consumption by the community as of 2007: 674,363,980 kWh.¹⁷

684,480,005 kWh

Community Objective 2: Support renewable energy production through increased purchase of green power from PSE’s Green Power program.

Indicator: The percentage of Sammamish PSE customers, excluding municipal accounts, that participate in PSE’s Green Power Program.

Reported by: Puget Sound Energy

Trend: 


2009 Benchmark: Percentage of Sammamish Green Power Participants as of 2010: 2.98%

2.98%

Community Objective 3: Promote use of transportation alternatives to single occupancy and/or fossil fueled vehicles

Indicator: The number of publicly accessible alternative and mass transit options available to the community.

Reported by: King County Department of Transportation, King County Rideshare Services, City of Sammamish Transportation Program and Cascade Bicycle Club

Trend: 

¹⁶ In addition to data provided by the Sammamish Senior Transportation Program Engineer’s Traffic Model, 50 out of 75 city staff responded to the 2010 Sustainable Sammamish Survey, which included questions on current and desired transportation practices. 98% of these respondents to the City’s 2010 Staff Survey indicated that they currently regularly drive to work, 2% indicated that they sometimes bike, bus or walk to work and 4% indicated that they sometimes carpool to work. 27% expressed interest in biking to work, 13% in busing to work, 6% in walking to work, and 3% in carpooling to work.

¹⁷ Note: This number excludes City facility consumption. To calculate community energy consumption excluding City Facilities, subtract the energy consumption amount provided for the City.

2010 Benchmark: As of 2010, two seasonal vanpool groups to Eastside Catholic serve the Sammamish community, as reported by King County Rideshare Services.

2 vanpools

2010 Benchmark: As of 2010, four public routes serve the City of Sammamish, with 10 hours of service per day during the work week and limited regular hours during the weekend (7.5 hours on Saturday, 0 on Sunday), as reported by King County Department of Transportation/Transit/Service Development and City of Sammamish Senior Transportation Program Engineer.¹⁸

4 public routes

2008 Benchmark: As of the end of 2008, 58% of total stalls available at the Sammamish Park and Ride were used, as measured and averaged by King County Department of Transportation/Transit/Service Development's quarterly count.¹⁹


58%

2010 Benchmark: As of the Spring 2010 Commute Challenge, 82 residents participated in the bike-to-work month event, as measured and reported by the Cascade Bicycle Club.²⁰

82 participants

Indicator: The average number of Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) commute trips made daily to the city (both entering and leaving).²¹

Reported by: City of Sammamish Transportation Program's traffic model

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: Daily SOV commute trips entering and leaving the City as of 2010 is 125,000 trips.

125,000 trips

¹⁸ King County Metro routes serving the City of Sammamish include Route 216, 269, and 927. Sound Transit has one route serving Sammamish, Route 554. Ridership data is calculated by averaging stop level data for Routes 216, 269 and 554, as stop level data is unavailable for Route 927. In addition to these routes King County DART (Dial a Ride Transit) is also available on weekdays and on weekends.

¹⁹ Percentage is calculated based on the average of quarterly counts of the 265 total stalls available at the Sammamish Park and Ride. For 2008 an average of 153 stalls were used during the quarterly counts. In 2009, this percentage dropped to 41% (109 stalls). 2010 data will be available in early 2011 to track progress.

²⁰ Cascade Bicycle Club recommends that the City look at additional benchmarks to help build a more robust understanding of bike transportation in Sammamish. Additional benchmarks could include the Statewide Bike Count (recommended as a strategy in this section); American Communities Census data (available every 10 years); working with Washington Department of Transportation to gather data on mode of transportation from trips originating from Sammamish zip codes; and gathering 'bike on bus' data from Metro.

²¹ The traffic model includes average daily trips made during the school year, and is anticipated to be lower during Summer months.

City Strategies

12

Improve building temperature control use policy.

- *Note: This strategy was selected as a “City Manager’s Special” winner during the 2010 City Staff Brilliant Idea Competition selection.*

13

Complete a greenhouse gas reporting inventory for all city operations.

- Pursue voluntary or other low-cost resources and opportunities to prepare a greenhouse gas inventory for all City operations, to position the city for future climate change regulations and funding opportunities.

14

Identify whether savings from energy conservation measures could be used to purchase Green Power.

- Quantify energy savings from efficiency and conservation measures and identify whether a future purchase of Green Power is possible.

15

Make alternative transportation more convenient for city employees.

- Investigate the use of communications technology, flexible schedules, telecommuting and compressed schedules to reduce staff commuting impacts.
- As appropriate by department, encourage predictable staffing schedules so employees can schedule bus and carpools easier.
- Continue to offer the King County ORCA program to employees, which includes a ‘guaranteed ride home’ policy for emergencies and provides alternative transportation incentives to City employees, such as bus passes.
- Implement a Commute Trip Reduction Program that draws on resources from King County [Commuter Programs](#) such as [RideShare](#).

Ideas Worth Borrowing

Reach out to cities with successful commuting programs such as Redmond and Issaquah.

Create a bike to work team (or multiple teams as an interdepartmental challenge) and participate in the Group Health Commute Challenge. In 2010, the Cities of Bellevue, Redmond and Seattle earned multiple prize categories, such as ‘most teams in one organization’ and ‘most new riders.’

Kilowatt Hours & Climate Change...

What’s a kilowatt hour really mean when it comes to climate change? The EPA offers a free [Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#) which translates abstract measurements into everyday terms that are easier to understand. The calculator also translates kwh directly into CO₂ equivalent, which is useful in communicating greenhouse gas reductions.

In-Progress Strategies - City

16

Optimize use of energy efficiency technology at City Hall.

- Continue the server virtualization process to reduce energy consumption, as led by the Finance and IT Departments.
- Properly maintain the energy efficiency electrical improvements implemented in 2009 and 2010 in City Hall (motion/occupancy sensors and timers, LED lighting, etc.), led by Administrative Services Department, to ensure improvements meet the intended goals.

17

Increase energy efficiency of city infrastructure.

- Complete street and lighting standards updates and installation of LED luminaries as led by the Public Works Department.
- Complete installation of recreation field and parking lot light timers, as led by the Parks and Recreation Department. Expand lighting upgrades beyond parks to street lights.

18

Green the city fleet.

- Continue City Manager’s Office policy with regard to Hybrid Vehicle replacement.
- Continue City Manager’s Office exploration with C-7 Cities²²of federal competitive grant opportunities for electric vehicle acquisition and electrical charging infrastructure establishment.
- Adopt the proposed Fuel/Idle Policy drafted by the Finance Department.

Ideas Worth Borrowing

Contact cities with established and successful vanpool markets (such as Redmond or Issaquah) to learn about municipal involvement and strategies that could work in Sammamish to boost participation in VanShare.

Work with Cascade Bicycle Club to develop a community bike promotion program that tracks use, such as Redmond’s ‘Tour de Redmond’ which occurs during the summer and builds from momentum gained through the spring Commute Challenge.

Encourage planners to review community generated data posted to Bikewise.org to identify red flags for bike safety, a practice that Redmond and Seattle employ.

Community Strategies

19

Expand energy conservation resources for the public.

- Extend the OPower²³ series in partnership with PSE and C7 Cities to include all residential homes (currently in pilot for a portion of homes, chosen randomly), and track results from pilot.
- Use City website as a hub for information on tax credits, incentives and subsidies to assist businesses and residents take advantage of conservation and efficiency technology and strategies. Leverage existing resources through links.

20

Build capacity for renewable energy through city-wide standards.

- Investigate the creation of city-wide standards for renewable energy installations. Identify how they could be incorporated into, or supersede neighborhood CC&Rs.

21

Develop proactive solutions to minimize transportation energy impacts.

- Partner with neighboring cities to offer resources and promote home-based businesses to reduce commute impacts.
- Develop and require a greenhouse gas emissions evaluation for all transportation related projects.

22

Provide information and inspire participation in the PSE Green Power Program.

- Encourage resident and business participation in the PSE Green Power program in City newsletters, on the website, and as part of a community energy challenge.

²² C7 Cities refers to an informal alliance of eastside cities led by the City of Bellevue and including Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Redmond, Renton and Sammamish.

²³ O-Power is a program that offers several tools for homeowners to monitor their energy use and receive detailed usage reports. PSE is a participating partner in piloting the OPower tools in the Puget Sound region. More information can be found at www.opower.com.

23**Conduct a competition or campaign to be a top five city for most Green Power Program participants.**

- Develop a friendly competition or campaign to become one of the top five cities with the most Green Power Program participants in the region, with the highest participation rate as reported in PSE's quarterly Green Power Report.

24**Inspire market-led alternative transportation.**

- Work with ZipCar to establish locations within the City.
- Explore opportunities to use district school buses during off-hours for community shuttles during the day.
- Encourage Farmer's Market vendors and the Chamber of Commerce to provide incentives for customers that bike or walk to the market (such as coupons or discounts).

25**Promote regional alternative transportation resources to the public.**

- Contact King County Commute Trip Reduction Services to learn more about how to promote Commuter Challenges to Sammamish employers (those affected by CTR law as well as smaller businesses).
- Invite a Cascade Bicycle Club to staff a booth, or invite a Cascade Bike Club ['Bicycle Ambassador'](#) to participate in the 2011 Sustainable Sammamish event.

26**Gather better data to fine-tune transportation strategies.**

- Participate in the 2011 [Statewide Bicycle Count](#) led by Washington State Department of Transportation, to begin gathering accurate data on bicyclists in Sammamish.²⁴
- Promote the use of [Bikewise.org](#) to the community, which is an online tracking program for bike incidents, thefts and hazards in a community.

In-Progress Strategies - Community**27****Become an energy conservation resource for the public.**

- Complete the Home Energy Reports O Power pilot project led by the Community Development Department in partnership with PSE and the C7 Cities group.

28**Build capacity for renewable energy through city-wide standards.**

- Complete, implement, promote and enforce alternative energy code amendments, currently in progress by the Community Development Department.
- Identify zoning code amendments to allow distributed generation (solar, wind, etc.) in a variety of zones including residential, addressing heights, aesthetic issues, permit process requirements, streamlined project review, fee waivers and other incentives that promote distributed generation.

29**Maximize existing energy conservation commitments.**

- Maintain status as a signatory to the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and evaluate recommended strategies²⁵ that reduce energy consumption at a community level.

²⁴ To learn more about how the Public Works Department can support this effort, contact the WSDOT and Cascade Bicycle Club.

-
- Ensure that future energy efforts take the Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) and IRC Ventilation Indoor Air Quality (VIAQ) update cycles into account such that all planned improvements will be as or more stringent than upcoming code requirements.

30

Continue coordination with Sound Transit and King County Metro to improve and expand transit service.

- The City Public Works Department will continue its coordination efforts with Sound Transit and King County Metro to improve and expand transit services City-wide.

Community Challenge

- As a neighborhood, community group, or business, **set up informal self reporting competitions** to start collecting data about our community's Green Power purchases.
- Did you know that 40% of trips are only 2 miles long, yet 90% of them are made by car? Think about the short, local commutes that you make most often and **start looking at alternatives to get there without using your car, or ways to eliminate or combine short car trips!**

Can you cut your car trips? Let us know if you do!

²⁵ Refer to Supplementary Appendix, "The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (As endorsed by the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Chicago, 2005)"

Goal 4: Conserve Water

A. City Objective: Reduce city operations potable water consumption by 1% annually, in alignment with Municipal Water Supply Efficiency Requirement Act targets established by Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District.²⁶

Indicator: The amount of potable water used for city operations in cubic feet.

Reported by: Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: In 2010, city operations consumed 1,056,665 cubic feet of water.²⁷

1,056,665 cf

B. Community Objective: Promote conservation of potable water used for all non-City operations in alignment with Municipal Water Supply Efficiency Requirement Act targets established by NE Sammamish Sewer & Water District and Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District.²⁸

Indicator: The amount of potable water used for all non-city operations.

Reported by: Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District and NE Sammamish Sewer & Water Districts

Trend: 

Benchmark: None set at this time. Complexity due to overlapping jurisdictions.

TBD

City Strategies

31

Inventory existing water appliances and fixtures used in City facilities and replace with more efficient alternatives.

- Explore the reuse of water (greywater, rainwater) for city operations. Implement where cost-effective.
- Review Town Center design for opportunities to showcase innovative water conservation features.

²⁶ The Washington Department of Health's Water Use Efficiency Rule requires water utilities to set and report success on water conservation goals. Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District set a goal of saving 129,000 gallons per day on annual average basis by the end of the 2008-2013 planning period. *Source:* Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District Annual Drinking Water Report, Summer 2010.

²⁷ Note: Information supplied by the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District for all municipal facilities, including domestic water use and irrigation uses. Consumption data was compiled for a total of 24 municipal accounts, including: Beaver Lake Park, West Beaver Lake, Beaver Lake Maintenance Yard, the old and new King County Library, East Sammamish Park, Pine Lake Park, Sammamish Commons, and Ebright Creek Park.

²⁸ The Washington Department of Health's Water Use Efficiency Rule requires water utilities to set and report success on water conservation goals. Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District set a goal of saving 129,000 gallons per day on annual average basis by the end of the 2008-2013 planning period. The NE Sammamish Sewer & Water District set a goal of reducing water use per Equivalent Resident Unit (ERU) by 5% by the year 2021 with 2006 as the baseline year. *Sources:* Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District Annual Drinking Water Report, Summer 2010. Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District Summer 2010 Newsletter/2009 Water Quality and Water Use Efficiency Report.

Community Strategies

32

Support watershed and water conservation awareness.

- Host educational classes and events at City Hall about water conservation (such as how to build and maintain a rain garden), with expertise provided by water utilities, Washington State Department of Ecology or other technical and educational organizations.²⁹

33

Develop tools to incentivize water conservation.

- Collaborate with municipal water purveyors to generate incentives, regulatory updates or new requirements that include progressive water conservation measures, such as requiring or incentivizing rain sensors for automatic sprinkler and irrigation systems, requiring or incentivizing better-than-code toilets for new development.
- Offer free and easy permits for innovative techniques that conserve water through reuse of potable water (such as greywater plumbing) groundwater recharge (such as raingardens), and/or use of non-potable water (rainwater collection).

In-Progress Strategies - Community

34

Use existing regulatory tools to conserve water.

- Low Impact Development is focused on both water quality and quantity. Many LID techniques result in conserving water. Use the Low Impact Development Regulations (SMC21A.85), as adopted in September 2008 and led by the Community Development Department and Public Works Department for all municipal development where appropriate.
- Stormwater plans are focused on both water quality and quantity. Many stormwater management techniques result in conserving water. Use the Stormwater Manual update, Basin Planning, and Town Center Comprehensive Stormwater Planning process, to provide progressive guidance on water conservation measures.
- Complete, implement and promote the Native Plant Salvage Program, in partnership with the Native Plant Society, and managed by the Community Development Department.
- Continue implementation and update the Tree Retention Ordinance (SMC 21A.35.210) managed by the Community Development Department and adopted in 2005.

Community Challenge

- Residents served by the Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District will receive new bill formats beginning spring 2011. These bills chart water consumption in an easy to understand way, similar to the energy graphs showing recent consumption trends and comparison to previous years. **Become familiar with these new bills, and challenge your family or business to cut down your water use** – it will be so much easier to track now!

Can you cut your water use by 10%? Let us know if you do!

²⁹ Note: Hosting educational events at City Hall could be a low-cost opportunity (free venue in lieu of funding) to build regional conservation efforts by working with water utilities to open events up to all communities served by the Districts, rather than just Sammamish residents.

Goal 5: Foster Healthy Neighborhoods

A. City Objective 1: Maintain green procurement practices and promote use of eco-label products to provide a healthy environment for employees and others using city facilities.

Indicator: Use of eco-labeled or green products in city facilities.

Reported by: City's Finance and Parks Departments

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: As of 2010, the majority of janitorial products are Green Seal with the exception of disinfectants.

90% +

Indicator: Where feasible, use organic fertilizer on city turf that requires fertilizer.

Reported by: City Parks Department

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: As of 2010, organic fertilizer is used on 21.2% of all turf requiring fertilizer.³⁰

21.2%

City Objective 2: Promote Complete Streets³¹ strategies and policies.

Indicator: Linear feet of streets with complete street elements in the City.

Reported by: City Public Works Department

Trend: 

³⁰ This indicator trend direction is shown as 'increasing,' to represent that of the amount of turf requiring fertilization, the trend should be towards using organic fertilizer. This does not, however, account for the decrease in overall need for fertilizer achieved through other natural landscape management strategies.


³¹ Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street. *Source:* National Complete Streets Coalition.

Benchmark:	Linear feet of streets with sidewalks as of 20XX: TBD ³²	TBD
Benchmark:	Linear feet of streets with bike lanes as of 20XX: TBD ³³	TBD
Benchmark:	Linear feet of streets with ADA compliant accessibility as of 20XX: TBD ³⁴	TBD
Benchmark:	Linear feet of streets with landscape strips between sidewalk and street as of 20XX: TBD ³⁵	TBD

B. Community Objective 1: Promote green cleaning and landscaping practices to local business and residents.

Indicator:	Amount of non-toxic products available and used in the community. Reported by: Chamber of Commerce (TBD) Trend: 	
Benchmark:	No benchmark at this time. ³⁶	NA

Community Objective 2: Increase the availability of local, healthy food options in Sammamish.

Indicator:	The number of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms and drop-box locations in the City. Reported by: Chamber of Commerce research and outreach and Washington State Farmer’s Market Coalition Trend: 
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³² As of January 2011, the City Public Works Department is looking into completing an inventory of Complete Street elements, and will provide benchmark data as soon as the inventory is complete. The future benchmark year will reflect the year that the inventory was completed in.

³³ As of January 2011, the City Public Works Department is looking into completing an inventory of Complete Street elements, and will provide benchmark data as soon as the inventory is complete. The future benchmark year will reflect the year that the inventory was completed in.

³⁴ As of January 2011, the City Public Works Department is looking into completing an inventory of Complete Street elements, and will provide benchmark data as soon as the inventory is complete. The future benchmark year will reflect the year that the inventory was completed in.

³⁵ As of January 2011, the City Public Works Department is looking into completing an inventory of Complete Street elements, and will provide benchmark data as soon as the inventory is complete. The future benchmark year will reflect the year that the inventory was completed in.

³⁶ Pending the Chamber of Commerce’s planned business survey results, a benchmark for this indicator may be established in the future. The City could support benchmark development by offering to support the Chamber’s efforts by developing questions that target use of green products.

2010 Benchmark: As of October 2010, the Chamber of Commerce reports one CSA³⁷ delivery to one residential address.

1 address

Indicator: The number of community gardens (p-patches) in the city.

Reported by: Chamber of Commerce

Trend: 

2010 Benchmark: The number of community gardens as of 2010 is zero (0).³⁸

0 p-patches

³⁷ Full Circle Farms

³⁸ Currently there are pea patches in several Sammamish schools, but they are only open to students.

City Operations Strategies

35 Tap into new and existing resources to expand opportunities to incorporate Complete Streets.

- Review the Town Center Planning document to identify current Complete Street strategies already in place that could be expanded beyond Town Center development.
- Public Works Department to complete the inventory of Complete Streets elements and update this strategy's Goal 5 City Objective 2 with benchmarks.

36 Update the 2004 Trail, Bikeway and Paths Master Plan to promote safe pedestrian and cycling options.

- Schedule periodic updates to the 2004 Trail, Bikeway and Paths Master Plan produced by the Parks and Recreation Department to include strategies that promote safe pedestrian and cycling options in the city.

37 Complete the Public Works Standards to include as many Complete Streets components as possible.

- Council has dedicated funds for non-motorized movements. Work to strategically spend these funds to achieve Complete Streets throughout the city.

Idea Worth Borrowing

Join the following Puget Sound region cities that have enacted policy or planning measures to encourage the development of Complete Streets: Issaquah, Redmond, Renton, Kirkland, Seattle, Sedro Woolley, and Everett. Source: Complete Streets Current Policies List: <http://www.completestreets.org/webdocs/policy/cs-chart-allpolicies.pdf>

In-Progress Strategies - City

38 Build on existing environmentally preferable purchasing practices.

- Continue to prioritize the purchase of Green Seal approved cleaning products for janitorial services, as led by the Finance Department and Parks Department.
- Where feasible, transition to using organic fertilizer on city managed turf that requires fertilization.

39 Leverage the City's green procurement practices to demonstrate feasibility and benefits to the public.

- Make the City procurement list available to residents and businesses to show 'tried and true' green products that the City uses.
- Showcase City's green procurement practices on the City website with case studies.

Community Strategies

40 Encourage efforts tied to increased green product use.

- Support the Chamber of Commerce efforts to implement a Green Business program to identify local businesses enacting sustainability measures, including use of non-toxic cleaning and landscape products, or encourage local businesses to become [Enviro Star](#) certified.
- Encourage 'pesticide free' friendly neighborhood efforts, referring to Washington Toxics Coalition ['Pesticide Free Zone' pledge, signage and education effort.](#)

41

Support development of a “Buy Local” program and promote existing green businesses and resources in the community.

- Support the Chamber of Commerce in developing a “Buy Local” program. In addition, support the Chamber of Commerce in promoting community businesses with green practices as well as identifying businesses that produce and sell local, in-season foods and products. Create a list of these businesses and place it on the city's website.

42

Support targeted education about green cleaning and landscape practices.

- Contact regional education organizations about hosting trainings and outreach about green cleaning and landscaping to the public as well as targeted to cleaning and landscape business.³⁹

43

Expand use of city space to educate and offer local food resources.

- Contact local CSAs and offer locations on municipal facilities (i.e. City Hall) to serve as CSA drop box locations for the community. Pair drop box location with a message/education board with changing information related to the Sustainability Strategy.

44

Inspire market-led innovation between local food producers and restaurants.

- Explore how the City can support or encourage relationships between local restaurants and food produced by local and Sammamish backyard or pea patch farmers.⁴⁰

In-Progress Strategies - Community

45

Continue to promote and partner with the seasonal Sammamish Farmer’s Market.

³⁹ Organizations could include Puget Sound Partnership’s [ECO Net](#) (Education, Communication and Outreach), Washington Toxics Coalition, etc. Hosting opportunities for regional outreach may be a low-cost way to offer education through other organizations. Note that business-targeted efforts may require bilingual education.

⁴⁰ May involve researching Department of Health certifications required, or licenses need by food producers, such as Farmer’s Market licenses.

Additional Comprehensive Strategies

This section includes additional overarching strategies that would positively impact progress towards individual goals and objectives outlined above. These strategies will be implemented time and budget permitting to provide a more comprehensive effort toward achieving sustainability.

Proposed Strategies

46

Complete the online [City Profile](#) on the King County GreenTools Sustainable Cities page.

- Create a City account and enter City Profile data. Include all sustainability and green building efforts implemented to date. Update this account annually.

47

Allocate funding for staff trainings that may help achieve the Sustainability Goals.

- Allocate time and funding for staff trainings that may be available at free or low cost, such as such as the King County GreenTools Trainings and Roundtables. Training should resonate with or be related to the five Sustainability Goals.

In-Progress Strategies

48

Approve and promote the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) policy and regulations.

- Review and approve the TDR policy and regulations currently in progress by the Community Development Department. TDR policy has positive implications for nearly all goal topic areas, with the possible exception of waste reduction (Goal 1).

49

Maintain membership in the Cascade Agenda Cities Program.

- The Community Development Department has been leading this effort and should maintain City membership as a regional sustainability resource.

Measuring Progress and Success

The goals and objectives in this Strategy are intended to be achievable, realistic and meaningful. In order to tell the full “Sustainable Sammamish” story that translates these goals and objectives from paper to reality, it will be critical to employ a “manage what you measure” approach to the implementation phase. Tracking progress will serve multiple purposes, such as refining the strategies, identifying resources needed and available, and uncovering additional opportunities. One of the most important benefits in measuring progress is that by acknowledging (and celebrating) achievements - including the short term milestones, the City can maintain and grow momentum as the longer term goals are pursued.

Using the Benchmarks

The benchmarks included in the document are intended to serve as a baseline against which progress can be measured moving forward. The sources of the benchmark data are included in the "Supporting Documents to the Sammamish Sustainability Strategy," and are included so the City can track progress using future data gathered from consistent sources. As strategies are implemented, the City may recognize additional indicators that will be helpful in tracking progress and may also choose to refine or change the proposed benchmarks in this strategy.

In summer 2010, City staff received preliminary training and set up an account with ICLEI’s Clean Air and Climate Protection Software: CACP. CACP is an emissions management tool that calculates and tracks emissions and reductions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants associated with electricity, fuel use, and waste disposal, both for City operations and/or community wide. Depending on resource availability, city staff plans to use this tool to create an emissions inventory for 2010, and plans to continue utilizing the tools’ recommended benchmarks. CACP also allows the city to set targets and track progress towards meeting those goals. City staff plans to utilize ICLEI’s resources, as well as ICLEI’s [Local Government Operations Protocol](#) (LGOP) for greenhouse gas and emissions reporting, to track, report on, and refine the benchmarks presented in this plan.

Sharing Accomplishments

Many of the strategies in the document incorporate actions that involve sharing successes interdepartmentally, with the public, neighboring cities and the County. Sustainability cannot be achieved in a vacuum, and the Puget Sound Region has a history of leadership and innovation. As the City and community begins to realize sustainability accomplishments through the strategy implementation, we can further contribute to the sustainability of our bioregion by sharing, collaborating with, and inspiring other municipalities and communities.

Resources

BikeWise.org: www.bikewise.org

Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation: <http://www.cbcef.org/>

Cascade Agenda: <http://cascadeagenda.com/>

Complete Streets Coalition: <http://www.completestreets.org/>

Department of Ecology's "Beyond Waste": <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>

EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>

Green Seal: <http://www.greenseal.org/>

HUD/DOT/EPA's Partnership for Sustainable Communities: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership/>

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability: <http://www.iclei.org/>

King County Commute Programs: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/CommuteSolutions/GreatPrograms.aspx>

King County's EnviroStar Program: <http://www.envirostars.org/index.cfm>

King County GreenTools: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/greenbuilding/index.asp>

King County RideShare Program: <http://www.rideshareonline.com/>

King County Solid Waste Division Resources: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/city.asp?CID=41>

King County Master Recycler Composter program: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/mrc/index.asp>

MyBuildingPermit.com: <http://www.mybuildingpermit.com/default.aspx>

National Wildlife Federation 'Community Wildlife Habitat' Certification program: <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Community-Habitats.aspx>

Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition: <http://www.pugetsoundcleancities.org/>

Puget Sound Energy's Green Power Program:
<http://www.pse.com/energyEnvironment/renewableenergy4/Pages/GreenPowerProgram.aspx>

Puget Sound Partnership ECO Net: <http://www.psp.wa.gov/econet.php>

Washington Native Plant Society: <http://www.wnps.org/>

Washington State Bike Count: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/count.htm>

Washington Toxics Coalition: <http://watoxics.org/>

US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement: <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/agreement.htm>

ZipCar: <http://www.zipcar.com/>

V. Appendices

Appendix A: Consultant Stretch Strategies

As pointed out in the body of the Sustainability Strategy for the City of Sammamish, its scope reflects the challenging economic times in which it was developed. Although the goals prioritized by the community (over 850 residents) and City staff are timeless, the timeline and strategies have been designed to be realistically achieved given existing and near-term resources.

However, circumstances may change. Certainly economic recovery is something we all hope for and anticipate. In addition, inspired champions of particular goals or community sustainability in general may emerge within the community who can provide talent and time towards strategies that today represent a “stretch.” Resources, financial or otherwise, may make a more aggressive timeline or comprehensive strategy possible.

For that reason, O’Brien & Company has developed suggestions for a few “stretch” strategies to consider.

- Partner with the Chamber of Commerce in development of a Green Business Program that recognizes businesses for operating sustainably, or providing green products and services. Although some form of partnership is possible even at this time, and it is important that the business community “own” the Program, the consultant is suggesting a fairly robust arrangement, with significant City presence. As an example of a local program, see:
http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/Community/Kirkland_Green/Green_Business_Program.htm
- Develop a City-operated Green Building Program to plan and encourage green building, development, renovations, and deconstruction in the private sector. Use the King County Green Tools’ [Roadmap to a Green Building Program](#) to help with this effort, and request a training to assist in customized Roadmap development.
- Develop and implement a campaign to promote a citizen-based cooperative with City participation to fund a solar “farm” (either land-based or on a public building). Examples of community energy projects are available in the City of Ellensburg and the Bainbridge Island School District. See:
http://www.cenergysolutions.org/community_solar
- Implement a thorough review of the Comprehensive Plan, and then of the City’s Land Use and Development codes to identify and remove regulatory barriers to meeting the City’s five (5) Goals. The Consultant is currently participating in this process with the City of Ellensburg, with a focus on enabling energy efficiency and renewable energy advancements.
- Develop and implement a plan to aggressively restore habitat within City limits. This would include an inventory, partnering with private developers on voluntary actions, partnering with organizations that can provide native plants and other resources to be used in restoration. The TDR policy in the works might be useful here.
- Lead a volunteer-based campaign and/or competition with the theme “What if you couldn’t leave Sammamish?” to inspire local economic development and sustainability. (The theme was suggested by citizens participating in the Community Workshop.)



Appendix B: Definitions

Carbon Neutral

Carbon neutrality, or having a net zero carbon footprint, refers to achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset, or buying enough carbon credits to make up the difference. Best practice for organizations and individuals seeking carbon neutral status entails reducing and/or avoiding carbon emissions first so that only unavoidable emissions are offset.

Modified from Wikipedia Definition of Carbon Neutrality

Climate Change

Climate change is a change in weather and atmospheric conditions over a period of time. Current usage places the term mostly in the context of environmental policy, with climate change data referring to changes in the past 50 years, and the cause linked to human activity. Contributions to climate change include: increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases; changes to land surface, such as deforestation; and increasing atmospheric concentrations of aerosols.

Modified from Wikipedia Definition of Climate Change

Electronic Waste

Electronic waste typically applies to all discarded, surplus, obsolete or broken electrical or electronic devices such as computers, monitors, entertainment devices, mobile phones and other items such as television sets and refrigerators, whether sold, donated or discarded by their original owners. Electronic waste can contain contaminants such as lead, cadmium, beryllium and mercury that can present environmental and human health hazards if not disposed of correctly. When electronic waste is disposed of correctly, otherwise hazardous contaminants can be extracted and re-used providing a valuable source of these often scarce materials.

Modified from Wikipedia Definition of Electronic Waste

Energy Independence

Energy independence is a state in which a place (often a city, state, or country) does not rely on or is not impacted by foreign nations or fluctuations of the market in meeting its energy needs. In a sustainable economy, the goal of energy independence is also coupled with the goals of reducing energy consumption and using renewable sources of energy to meet energy needs.

Green Economy / Local Economy

A green economy is locally based, self-reliant, and diverse, which by nature make it both resilient and strong. The definition of 'local' varies, as some use mileage radius (400- 500 miles typically) while others use watershed or geo-political boundaries, but it generally speaks to the goal of reducing transportation impacts from goods and services and supporting businesses as near to the community as possible.

Modified from the Kirkland Economic Sustainability Assessment

Healthy Neighborhoods & Habitat

Habitat is the place where a population (humans, animals, or plants) lives, both built and natural. Healthy neighborhoods provide these populations with a clean environment that protects, air quality and critical habitat. A healthy neighborhood balances development and environmental protection, and has a diverse range of housing

options, resource availability, and transportation choices that give inhabitants the option to walk, ride a bike, take transit, or drive.

Modified from Smart Growth and Green Building Residential Appraising Handbook

Social Equity

Social equity is a state of affairs in which all people within a specific society have the same access to opportunities. Social equity includes equal rights under the law and access to education, health care and other social services. Sustainability addresses social equity through environmental justice and access to public transportation, affordable housing, a mix of housing types, and essential community services.

Modified from Wikipedia Definition of Social Equity

Socially Responsible Investing

Socially responsible investing, also known as socially-conscious or ethical investing, describes an investment strategy which seeks to maximize both financial return and social good. In general, socially responsible investors favor corporate practices that promote environmental stewardship, consumer protection, human rights, and diversity.

Modified from Wikipedia Definition of Socially Responsible Investing

Sustainable Community

In a sustainable community, resource consumption is balanced by resources assimilated by the ecosystem. The sustainability of a community is determined by the availability of resources and by the ability of natural systems to process its wastes. A community is unsustainable if it consumes resources faster than they can be renewed, produces more wastes than natural systems can process or relies upon distant sources for its basic needs.

Modified from definition provided by the South Puget Sound Sustainable Community Round Table

Sustainable Sammamish

Sustainable development was defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) as ‘meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’

Sammamish’s vision is to become an environmentally and economically sustainable community by crafting and implementing an achievable, multi-faceted and measureable strategy that maximizes opportunity and efficiency while minimizing cost. Undertaking this work will help Sammamish contribute toward larger regional and global goals such as mitigating the effects of climate change and will make our community an even better place to live, work and play.

Sustainable Sammamish Vision Statement

Zero Waste Community

A zero waste community is a community that has implemented strategies to eliminate nearly all discharges to land, water, or air, and reuses all products used within the community without waste or environmental damage, similar to the way that resources are reused in nature. Zero waste means designing and managing products and processes to dramatically reduce the volume and eliminate the toxicity of waste, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.

Appendix C: List of Supporting Documents

A support document was compiled to document the 1-year development effort of this strategy, the results from the City Staff and Community Outreach effort in 2010, and other source materials that helped inform our benchmarks. This document is called “Supporting Documents to the Sustainable Sammamish Strategy,” and can be found on the City of Sammamish’ [website](#). The following table lists all documents included in the supporting document:

Document Name	Document Overview
Backyard Wildlife Application	Application to participate in NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat program.
Benchmark Sources	Table of contact information for all sources used in developing the benchmarks for the 2010 Sustainability Strategy. Sources are organized by Goal.
Brilliant Idea Competition Flyer	Flyer prepared to market the staff ‘Brilliant Idea Competition.’
Brilliant Idea Competition Results	Results from staff ‘Brilliant Idea Competition.’
Chamber Survey Comments	Summary of July 15 th Chamber of Commerce meeting.
Chamber Survey Summary	Survey Monkey Results Summary for the Chamber of Commerce Survey Monkey.
City of Sammamish Sustainability Efforts – 2010 -2011 Status Report	Status Report on the City’s existing sustainability initiatives, prepared by Kathy Curry in September 2010 and updated in January 2011.
Community Meeting Agenda	Agenda for 9/30/10 Community Meeting.
Community Meeting Intro Board	Welcome Board produced for 9/30/10 Community Meeting
Community Meeting Goal Boards	Boards used in 9/30/10 Community Meeting to introduce Goals developed through community outreach process.
Community Meeting Flyer	Flyer developed to advertise and market the 9/30/10 Community Meeting.
Community Meeting Power Point	Presentation delivered by O’Brien & Company at 9/30/10 Community Meeting.
Community Meeting Table Notes	Summaries and notes prepared by Table Facilitators, for each of the five goals discussed.
Community Survey Summary	Written summary of Community SurveyMonkey, without narrated responses. Prepared by City of Sammamish.
Community SurveyMonkey Summary	SurveyMonkey generated summary of community survey responses, without narrated comments.
Envisioning a Sustainable Sammamish – Citizen Comments	Comments received in the City Hall drop box.
Mayors Climate Protection Agreement	Copy of Agreement signed by Mayor.
Staff Survey Summary	Summary of Staff SurveyMonkey responses. Prepared by City of Sammamish.
Staff Workshop Presentation	Power Point presentation delivered by O’Brien & Company at the May Staff Workshop series.
Top 5 Sustainability Goals Reference	Reference sheet developed for the 9/30/10 Community Meeting.