

Mayoral directive 2023-04: Climate action and sustainability

Global greenhouse emissions are changing the Puget Sound region's climate in ways that threaten the vitality, livability and prosperity of Everett and requires decisive action now to limit and prevent the impact on our community.

The region is projected to encounter serious changes to its climate that will exacerbate existing concerns and introduce new challenges related to the City's quality of life. Air pollution from these emissions could lead to increased rates of asthma and other pulmonary diseases. Significant changes in temperature, like heat waves, are expected to occur making droughts, wildfires and heat-related deaths more prevalent. Big increases in sea level could put us at greater risk during storm surge events – a higher water level translates puts more of the city as risk of property damage and danger during major storm events. Great increases in precipitation, combined with higher sea levels, will increase the risk of flooding for the community as well, especially near the lower Snohomish River.

In addition to impacts to those that call Everett home, global greenhouse emission will also have major effects on the city and the region's economy including more frequent transportation delays and closures, more rapid degradation of wastewater and storm water infrastructure, more frequent interruptions to power infrastructure and more.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in the Puget Sound region, it will be especially critical for the City of Everett to curb greenhouse gas emissions. We need to take action now to achieve the greatest emissions reductions and create transformational change in a cost-effective and equitable manner. We need to promote a safe, healthy and sustainable community with building, transit and vehicles powered by clean, renewable energy, in alignment with [RCW 70A.30.010](#), and support a thriving, local green economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cassie Franklin, mayor of Everett, hereby direct City of Everett staff to pursue the following four initiatives:

1. Initiative 1: Expand and restore green spaces and natural areas within the City of Everett.

- a. Complete a citywide tree inventory to better understand the age, variety and health of Everett's trees. This information will help identify areas where Everett needs more trees, as well as efforts to ensure the long-term growth and well-being of Everett's tree canopy.
- b. Engage the community through the interactive Treekeeper software, which will allow residents to learn more about the trees in their neighborhood.
- c. Develop an Urban Forest Management plan to provide the framework for preserving, maintaining and growing a healthy urban forest.
- d. Continue working toward fulfilling the City's goal of having a park within a 10-minute walk of every Everett household, placing priority on adding new park amenities in south and central Everett, and continue pursuing innovative partnerships to develop new parks, such as partnering with utilities on stormwater parks.

2. Initiative 2: Support citywide transition to zero-emission vehicles.

- a. Explore the creation of a zero-emission vehicle strategy, which could include plans to expand charging infrastructure at city-owned locations and transition the municipal fleet to zero-emission vehicles.
- b. Develop strategies to encourage privately-owned charging infrastructure throughout the city and coordinate with partner organizations on outreach efforts to raise community awareness of zero emission vehicles, their benefits and financing opportunities.
- c. Pursue strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and others to coordinate on infrastructure locations, funding opportunities and public outreach to raise community awareness of zero emission vehicles and their benefits.



3. Initiative 3: Reduce or eliminate the use of fossil fuels in city-owned buildings and facilities.

- a. Develop a plan for transitioning all city-owned buildings and facilities away from fossil fuels where practicable, identifying and prioritizing the buildings that present the greatest opportunity for greenhouse gas reductions.
- b. Seek innovative financing opportunities to help invest in building conversions.
- c. Improve facility efficiency in conjunction with fossil fuel reduction to lower facility operating costs.

4. Initiative 4: Improve neighborhood walkability and encourage non-motorized ways for people to get around.

- a. Continue our “Safe Systems” approach to ensure safe routes to schools, including working with schools to raise awareness of those routes and encourage more kids to get to school safely by walking or rolling.
- b. Earn Bicycle Friendly Community “SILVER” or higher certification from the League of American bicyclists.
 - Increase outreach and education to encourage bicycle ridership citywide.
 - Continue to implement our Bicycle Master Plan to improve bikeway connectivity and address community need in Everett.

5. Initiative 5: Be a model of sustainability.

- a. Form an interdepartmental team to develop and implement best practices in sustainability citywide, including energy efficiency and waste and pollution reduction measures, to ensure that the city *walks the talk* with its policies and procedures.



A report summarizing progress on these initiatives, as well as metrics that will be used to gauge impact and success, will be delivered to me twice per year.

Dated this 9th day of March 2023



Cassie Franklin
Mayor, City of Everett

