

**From:** Sarah Toole <sarah\_toole@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 5:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written comments for city council meeting 12/10

Hello,

My name is Sarah Toole and I live in South Tacoma.

I am writing out against RES41578 and RES 41579. I do not believe that developers should be given tax breaks for building market-rate housing. I believe that this goes directly against Tacoma's housing goals and says a lot about our priorities in Tacoma if these resolutions pass. The 'market-rate' has proven unaffordable for many in our communities. Developers coming into our city, continuing this trend, do not deserve tax breaks.

Thanks,  
Sarah

**From:** Phil Harty <philhartymusic@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 5:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Climate Commission

Hello my name is Phil Harty and here are my demands for a new climate commission:

Our immediate demands:

- Commission will have authoritative powers to require a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for developments.
- Commission will have authoritative powers including the ability to veto permits and projects based upon, but not limited to, the following criteria:
  - Diversity, equity and inclusion as outlined by the existing Equity Index tool
  - Impact to the Ground Water Protection District
  - Removal of existing mature trees
  - Results of HIA and EIS
  - Consultation with local tribes
  - Preservation of native ecosystems
- Commission will be majority elected. Youth and non-elected seats must be appointed by the elected commission, not by businesses or the city council.
- Commission will include non-corporate experts, giving right of first refusal to community members.
- Commission will not be restricted by the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, and able to make decisions beyond the limitations of the city manager's supervision.
- Ordinance will grant the commission financial sovereignty, funding gained from the carbon budget and through external donations will provision the commission to the following allocations:
  - Commissioners receive stipends for their work.
  - Commission may install and maintain infrastructure such as air quality filters to contribute to city data
  - Environmental restoration projects

Sincerely,  
Phil Harty

**From:** Jami C <inmotionjj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 4:46 PM  
**To:** Scott, Jamika; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Walker, Kristina; Sadalge, Sandesh; Woodards, Victoria; Ushka, Catherine; City Clerk's Office; Diaz, Olgy; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah  
**Subject:** Re: Fund The Firefighters

Hello city council,

I am once again writing you in support of fully funding the firefighters. Many of you have expressed how difficult this decision is, but its really not that complicated- postpone your personal projects and non essential budget items like fountains, spray paint removal, shotspotter, etc. Nothing is more important than the safety of our community.

Thank you again Olgy for your logic around this topic. The public has clear discontent for those that voted against the fire department including Joe, Jamika, Kiara, Kristina, and Sandesh. It's especially disappointing to see Joe go against his word, promising to support the firefighters, as it's been brought to my attention that he has/had family members who served. My late uncle died in his 50s due to the damage decades of firefighting had on his body. Dont make things worse for our essential personnel. Our lives AND their lives depend on it.

Fund the fire department,  
Jami

On Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 2:22 PM Jami C <[inmotionjj@gmail.com](mailto:inmotionjj@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello council,

Following last night's meeting I want to again state my support for the Tacoma Firefighters. One point in particular I feel is important to address regarding overtime - which ive heard mentioned many times as one of the most expensive items in the budget. My business degree taught me how to reduce overtime expenses by having a fully staffed department. If that means you have to pull money from our police, who routinely put people in MORE danger, then do it! You continue to overburden the fire department by wasting money on technology like shotspotter & contracts like the Northwest Detention Center. If you stopped funding those things there would be money for the firefighters. I, along with my community, see many options to ensure the firefighters are adequately resourced. They will, after all, be the people who respond (or arent able to respond!) to you and your family in times of need.

I'd like to extend deep gratitude to council member Diaz for speaking up about this issue which is not as complicated as the rest of y'all are making it seem.

Fund the fire department,

Jami Crosswhite Cortes

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jami C** <[inmotionjj@gmail.com](mailto:inmotionjj@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Dec 2, 2024 at 4:33 PM

Subject: Fund The Firefighters

To: <[cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org)>

CC: <[jscott8@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:jscott8@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[john.hines@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:john.hines@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[kristina.walker@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:kristina.walker@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[srumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:srumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[jbushnell2@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:jbushnell2@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[kdaniels@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:kdaniels@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[odiaz@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:odiaz@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[elizabeth.pauli@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:elizabeth.pauli@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[ssadalge@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:ssadalge@cityoftacoma.org)>, <[cushka@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cushka@cityoftacoma.org)>

Hello again,

My name is Jami and I am writing you as a member of Climate Alliance of the South Sound. I'm reaching out regarding the firefighters portion of the budget. I sat in on both the 6+ hour long council meeting & the budget meeting that occurred the next day. The mayor said that their job as the council is to look at the big picture. I ask then, why would you approve the testing of shotspotter, when data has proven it's an ineffective technology that is used to over-police Black and brown

neighborhoods. TFD cannot waste their time helping respond to FALSE ALARMS by this terrible technology. Below is Climate Alliance's statement of solidarity with the firefighters & their union. Fund those who actually save lives, not those who take lives (TPD!)

Solidarity Statement - Firefighters  
December 2nd, 2024

Climate Alliance of the South Sound stands in full support of the Tacoma Fire Department and the IAFF Local 31 as they fight to prevent the removal of 16 rover positions as part of Tacoma's 2025-2026 Biennial Budget. The removal of these positions will result in brownouts of an already under-staffed, ill-equipped department. The removal of these positions will save the city about 2.4 M dollars, or roughly the amount of money that the city gifted to 4 of the police officers who murdered Manual Ellis.

As the city continues to remove mature trees, destroy green spaces, and fail to protect habitat we will see an increase in heat, air quality, and weather related emergencies. Without a fully functioning fire department, these preventable emergencies will turn into preventable deaths. The removal of these positions is another example of the city deeming people as disposable and prioritizing money over lives.

We condemn city council members Daniels, Scott, and city manager Pauli's blatant reactionary dishonesty at the city council meeting on November 19th. The fire department has already thoroughly debunked the dishonest claims made by the city council and manager, and we support the fire department in their assessment, which is available on the Tacoma Fire Department's instagram - @tacomafirefighters, available [here](#).

We demand the city council fully fund the Tacoma Fire Department to prevent unnecessary deaths that will absolutely occur if these 16 positions are removed. The deficit should be taken from the Tacoma Police Department, which is currently budgeted over 10 M more than the fire department. This deficit is more than enough to cover the 16 positions and buy several new fire trucks.

In an effort to save lives, we also demand the city implement a Climate Commission with authority to prevent projects that will worsen the lives of Tacomans and make firefighters' jobs more difficult and deadly.

Sincerely,  
Climate Alliance of the South Sound

Liberate the People! Liberate the Planet

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Sincerely,  
Jami Crosswhite Cortes

**From:** Cass <climate.alliance.south.sound@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 4:36 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Comment for Climate Commission on Agenda  
**Attachments:** Climate Commission Statement and Demands (1).docx

Please include the attached file as a written comment for the Climate Commission on tomorrow's agenda. Thank you!

## Immediate Demands of Climate Commission December 9th, 2024

After immense pressure from the community, and an explicit request from the charter review committee, the city of Tacoma has proposed an ordinance that would enshrine in law a Climate Accountability and Sustainability Commission. This is a victory for the people of Tacoma. However, as written, the commission has only advisory powers, and is entirely appointed by the city council. While historically the City council has chosen not to take the advice of the people, we urge the City Council to listen to our cries: People over Profit! Climate over Corporations!

Now is the time to put pressure on the city to improve this commission for the sake of every person in Tacoma. The city has declared a climate emergency. Five years later, we are in the hour of climate catastrophe as more people die every year from preventable climate disasters. The city has the power to improve this commission. And the people, united, have the power to force their hand.

### Our immediate demands

- Commission will have authoritative powers to require a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for developments.
- Commission will have authoritative powers including the ability to veto permits and projects based upon, but not limited to, the following criteria:
  - Diversity, equity and inclusion as outlined by the existing Equity Index tool
  - Impact to the Ground Water Protection District
  - Removal of existing mature trees
  - Results of HIA and EIS
  - Consultation with local tribes
  - Preservation of native ecosystems
  - On basis of remediation status of Superfund sites
- Commission will be majority elected. Youth and non-elected seats must be appointed by the elected commission, not by businesses or the city council.
- Commission will include non-corporate experts, giving right of first refusal to community members.
- Commission will not be restricted by the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, and able to make decisions beyond the limitations of the city manager's supervision.
- Ordinance will grant the commission financial sovereignty, funding gained from the carbon budget and through external donations will provision the commission to the following allocations:
  - Commissioners receive stipends for their work.
  - Commission may install and maintain infrastructure such as air quality sensors to contribute to city data
  - Environmental restoration projects

**From:** Cathie Raine <cjrdd@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 3:41 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting (12/10/2024)  
**Attachments:** CAP\_Progress-Report\_05.30.24\_FINAL.pdf

These comments are being submitted to the City Council for the 'Public Comments' section of the December 10th City Council meeting  
(Regarding: Ordinance No.29014)

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Dear Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Hines and City Council members,

The writing of the Ordinance 29014..to create a 'Climate Commission' needs to be viewed by the Council members as MORE than an 'Administration and Personnel' amendment with the Tacoma Municipal Code...IF THE CITY COUNCIL and CITY OFFICIALS ARE GENUINELY AND SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT WORKING TOWARDS CLIMATE-RELATED IMPROVEMENTS IN TACOMA.

The 'Plan' proposed, with this Amendment in this Ordinance, to transition from the 'Sustainable Tacoma Commission' (STC) to the new 'Climate and Sustainability Commission's' most notable change is that the City Council now has the direct authority to confirm and appoint the members of this new Commission. In this Ordinance, the STC 'work plan' and projects are to continue as planned..with the start of this 'Climate and Sustainability Commission' . The Council members have also chosen to confirm and appoint most of the current STC members to transition over onto the new Climate Commission.  
The City Council 'plan' is to continue with the 'status quo'..even though no measurable progress has been demonstrated..based on the 'Tacoma 2030 Climate Action Plan--2023 Progress Report'.

I urge the Council Members to "hold off" on moving this Ordinance (as currently written) forward until January 2025. Please consider the following additions and changes to this new ordinance:

(1) First...start "fresh" ..with NEW members on this Commission...specifically chosen by Council Members/resident input. The current members on the STC represent/have been chosen by the City Manager...to most likely support the City Manager's personal agenda of protecting the business interests in Tacoma.

The Tacoma residents need to know that the City Council members have used their own judgment (also based on both resident input and the Charter Review Committee's recommendations) to choose Commission members to reflect the values of Tacoma residents.

(2) Allow this new 'Climate Commission members to develop a 'Work Plan' based on actual measurable significant 'Action Plans' that are able to address all areas of concern in Tacoma..personal, community, 'built environment', business and industrial topics.

To continue with the 'status quo' plan..as written in this Ordinance No. 29014..would be sending a message to the Tacoma residents that the City Council does not consider 'Climate Change' a serious issue that requires careful and thoughtful consideration.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathie (Raine) Urwin  
South Tacoma resident







# TACOMA 2030 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

## 2023 PROGRESS REPORT



# LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

I'm pleased to share this progress report on our Climate Action Plan (CAP), which captures the daily work taking place over the last year to deepen our city's commitment to reducing our contribution to climate change and adapting to real climate concerns facing our community.

This is year two on our way to meeting our 2030 goals, which will help us reach net zero emissions by 2050. This report covers the how of our climate work, work that is connected to improving community health and safety, green jobs, and equity. This report also covers the why, which is to do our part to ensure a better tomorrow for our residents.

Reflecting on the last year, it is clear we are in a moment that is rich with opportunity. The alignment we are experiencing between funding opportunities, partnerships across our city and our region, and the brilliant ideas coming out of communities most impacted by climate change for how to respond to this moment is really powerful. We are in the perfect time and place to make a difference in curbing carbon pollution, protecting communities facing the impacts of climate change most directly, and building an equitable, climate resilient future.

I'm proud of the work our teams have done to secure exciting new federal and state grants. It is just as moving to see how much time and care has been put in by community members to help inform the City's future path with housing and economic development planning efforts, participatory budgeting, and the second year of the Climate Leadership Cohort.

At its heart, the CAP is a recognition that we all have a role to play in making this vision a reality. I invite everyone to join us and find your place in helping Tacoma reach and exceed our 2030 goals.

Learn more at [www.cityoftacoma.org/climate](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/climate).

Yours in Service,



Victoria R. Woodards  
Mayor

# LETTER FROM THE SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

This next year is a pivotal year for climate action - every action that we make in the City of Tacoma now can prevent some of the worst impacts of climate change in the future. The Sustainable Tacoma Commission is proud of the progress that the City of Tacoma has made in implementing many of the Climate Action Plan's near-term actions, which will set the stage for big moves in the future for the betterment of all. We are especially heartened to see how the broader community was able to get even more involved in 2023 - as actions touched all corners of our Tacoma community, not just municipal operations.

At the same time, it is important that the City of Tacoma retains a sense of urgency in implementing these actions, and we continue to look to the City to build more capacity and momentum towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. While we appreciate the City & the Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability in bringing transparency to our progress on climate action and continuing to report out on all actions, including those that have not progressed since the last report, we know that this Plan is only the start of the solutions needed to prepare our communities for future climate impacts. As such, we look forward to seeing how the City can use these annual reports to design and pursue new creative solutions to ensure we meet our commitments in the coming year and beyond.



# THE WHY

The Climate Action Plan lays a path towards **reaching net-zero emissions in 2050**, in a way that helps us build a Better Tacoma in 2030. The Plan is a commitment to doing our part through immediate and long-term investments to address the climate crisis and improve community health, safety, job opportunities, and equity.

We planned and are now working to both reduce our carbon pollution and adapt to the worsening impacts of our changing climate. That means better living, breathing, resource use, togetherness, opportunities, and preparedness for everyone.

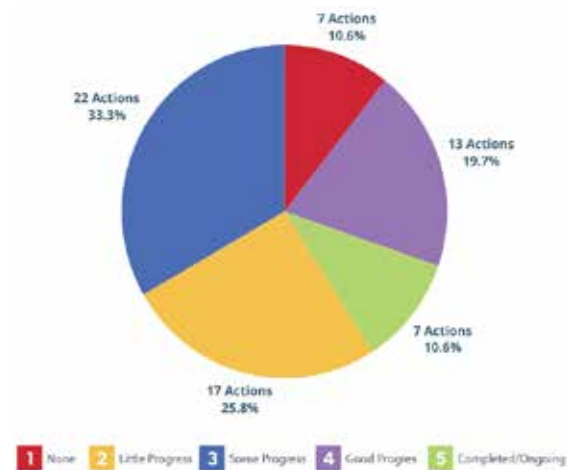
During our **second benchmark year of 2023**, we...

- Were awarded **19 federal and state grants totalling \$25.5 million** to carry out innovative climate work and establish long-term planning strategies, notably in the areas of shoreline habitat restoration and climate resilience and electric vehicle charging;
- Brought on new staff to support key strategies within the CAP;
- Made significant progress or completed critical planning processes, including: Home in Tacoma Phase 2, a resilience hub assessment, and the Green Economy Strategy;
- Educated and engaged with various groups within the Tacoma community through culturally relevant and language-specific engagement;
- Directed our work towards advancing equity within our urban forestry work and food access programs; and
- Executed pivotal actions crucial to our efforts towards achieving our ambitious 2030 goals.

A lack of capacity to implement cross-cutting strategies and coordinate across various projects was a significant challenge in 2023, and presents one of our biggest barriers for scaling up the work to meet our goals.

We produce these progress reports as a **commitment to transparency** because we need every Tacoman to be engaging in making sure we meet our commitments. The Plan follows indicators for a Better Tacoma and set 2030 targets. These guide our work towards improving the lives and wellbeing of all Tacomans, while we transition our economy and infrastructure towards a sustainable path.

GRAPH 1 Action Progress as of 2023



In 2022, we identified ten priority actions to jumpstart the implementation of the Plan. Although we didn't always hit the mark in 2022, we made strides in 2023 and the jumpstart actions still guide us in our efforts.

The Plan has identified **indicators for a Better Tacoma and set 2030 targets**. Finishing up our second full year dedicated to reaching our climate objectives, it's imperative to applaud the strides we've made and identify areas where progress remains stagnant. As we venture

into the new year, it is vital for every department to fully commit to their roles in achieving our targets and executing necessary actions.

As a port city, we know through our interconnectedness with communities and economies across the globe that we do not have full control of the outcomes of our actions. Our ability to meet these goals also depends on partnerships with other entities and bold climate action at every level of governance. But at the same time, we do not underestimate our own ability to make a difference in the lives of our community here and around the world. This Plan is a critical first step towards delivering care and wellbeing to our City and our planet.

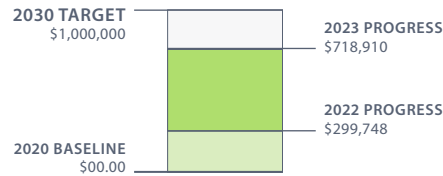
## INDICATORS



### Increase community-led climate equity projects and programs

Sector: Governance and Engagement

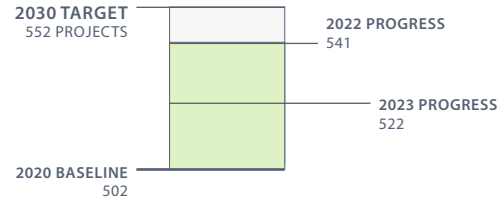
+71.9% ✓



### Increase community food projects, including community gardens, food forests, orchards, farms, food rescue efforts, and farmers markets.

Sector: Natural Systems & Local Food

+40% ✓



## SUCCESS STORIES



In 2023, our urban forestry program employed diverse multilingual engagement strategies, collaborating with Language Ambassadors fluent in Spanish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, and Russian. These Ambassadors facilitated translations of tree education materials and conducted focused outreach efforts, resulting in increased participation from different language-speaking communities. Through their assistance, we fostered trust and meaningful connections, overcoming barriers and ensuring genuine engagement in our urban forestry initiatives.



Several Tacoma Climate Leadership Cohort members shared their positive experiences which can be found at [tacomatreefoundation.org/climate-leaders](https://tacomatreefoundation.org/climate-leaders). One member, Shadiamon Barnes, shared "I urge and encourage anyone that's looking to get involved in their community to join this, especially if you are passionate about environmentalism and climate change and action. This is a great place to be- you have great support, and you will be surrounded by like-minded people who have the same ideas as you."

## SUCCESS STORIES



As part of implementing the City's Green Economic Development Strategy, a **business retention-expansion workgroup** is meeting with local companies to celebrate private sector accomplishments in climate-related innovation and providing information on resources to help companies grow greener.

## THEMES

By 2030, City of Tacoma, partners, and communities are equally invested in taking leadership on climate action to build resilient and connected neighborhoods.

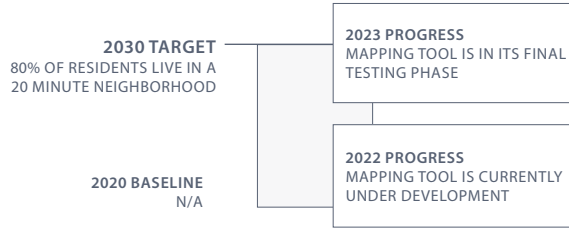
- The City deepened existing relationships with community partners and focused on vulnerable populations
- With several different programs, the City was able to grow community leadership and collaborative spaces.
- Some scaling up was on pause. For instance, a revision of the Small Sustainability Grant created a delay in funding, hampering the City's ability to scale up partnerships and action across Tacoma.

INDICATORS



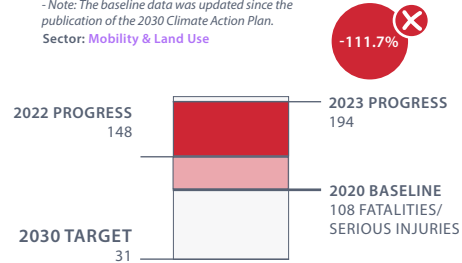
**Increase compact, complete, walkable neighborhoods**

Sector: Mobility & Land Use



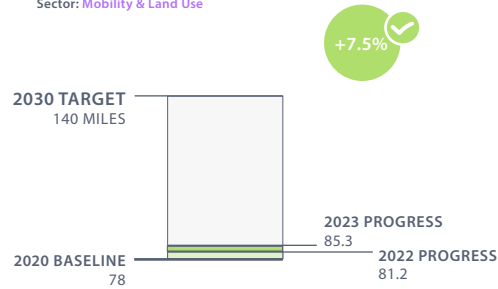
**Eliminate fatalities and serious injuries from collisions by 2035 to achieve Vision Zero**

- Note: The baseline data was updated since the publication of the 2030 Climate Action Plan.  
Sector: Mobility & Land Use



**Increase bicycle infrastructure miles by 80%**

Sector: Mobility & Land Use



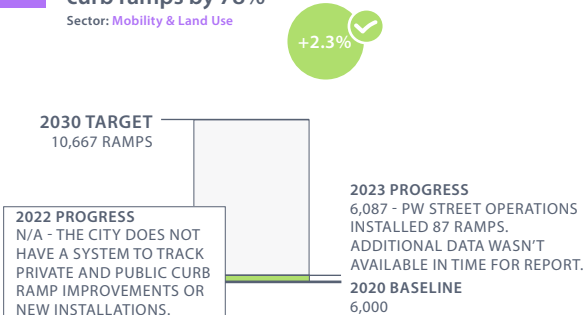
**Increase miles of sidewalks by 14%**

Sector: Mobility & Land Use



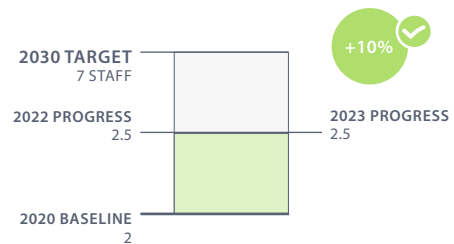
**Increase number of ADA-compliant curb ramps by 78%**

Sector: Mobility & Land Use



**Increase active transportation and transit staffing to reach League of American Bicyclists gold-level staffing**

Sector: Mobility & Land Use



SUCCESS STORIES

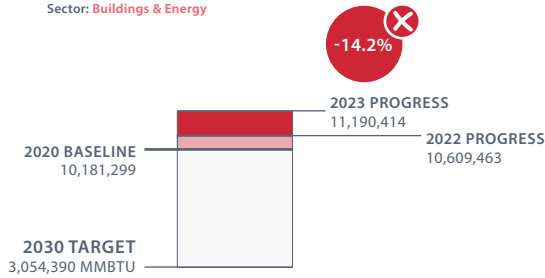


Through 2023, the City conducted citywide engagement in regard to Home in Tacoma Phase Two that was both broad, equitable and targeted. The City conducted two rounds of engagement and received about 2000 comments. The City conducted 8 in person and virtual meetings and partnered with Language Ambassadors and Housing Equity Champions to get the word out to more Tacoma residents. The City also invited input from sustainability, housing, historic preservation, youth, neighborhood, and community groups. The intent was to ensure the Home in Tacoma proposals are balanced, thoughtful and multifaceted.

INDICATORS

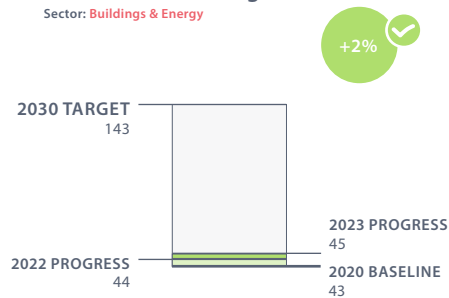
**Reduce fossil fuel energy use from buildings by 33%**

Sector: Buildings & Energy



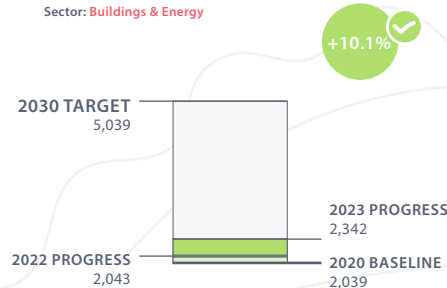
**Increase number of green certified: Commercial Buildings**

Sector: Buildings & Energy



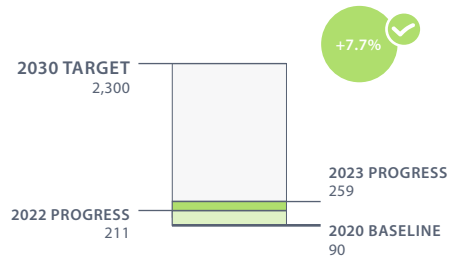
**Increase number of green certified: Housing Units**

Sector: Buildings & Energy



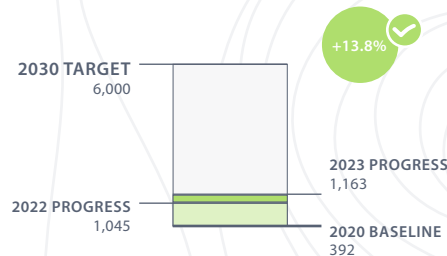
**Increase number of: Preserved Housing Units**

Sector: Buildings & Energy



**Increase number of: New Affordable Units**

Sector: Buildings & Energy



KEY When progress value exceeds the baseline, data and icon is shown in green with a check mark. When progress value is behind the baseline, data and icon is shown in red with an X mark.

SUCCESS STORIES



The City's **Home in Tacoma Project** is striving to make housing choice available and reduce costs for everyone. The project proposals, drafted in 2023, prioritize sustainability and climate by supporting more housing within the City and within our most walkable and complete neighborhoods. It supports transportation choices and reduces household transportation costs. The proposal also incentivizes retaining existing structures when building units, which means not wasting the embodied carbon they represent.

THEMES

By 2030, Tacoma has affordable, emissions-free housing, quality, local food and green spaces, and safe, efficient transportation. We're all able to meet our needs without having to travel far.

- There are many areas where the CAP intersects with other large city planning processes, cross-jurisdictional players, and large federal funding opportunities. As big undertakings progress, there is still a general lack of staff capacity to manage other areas of overlap.
- In 2023, the City led on expanding energy efficiency and fossil fuel reduction in buildings through public input and business support
- The City's planning efforts this year focused on access to the South Tacoma Sounder Station and Tacoma Dome Link Extension, the latter led the City to meet the goal of building affordable housing near transit.
- The City completed some Active transportation (biking & walking) projects, including a 15-minute neighborhood map.

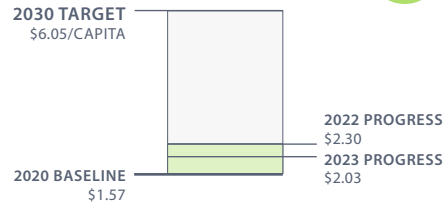
## INDICATORS



### Exceed national average per capita rate spent on tree care

Sector: Natural Systems & Local Food

+10.3% ✓



### Increase tree planting and care in high heat, very low and low opportunity equity neighborhoods

Sector: Natural Systems & Local Food

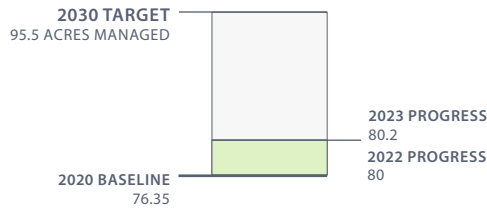
+8.4% ✓



### Increase acres of: actively managed open space ecosystem habitat

Sector: Natural Systems & Local Food

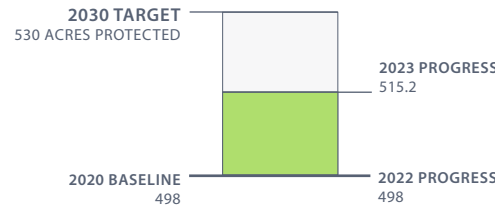
+21.2% ✓



### Increase acres of: protected open space ecosystem habitat

Sector: Natural Systems & Local Food

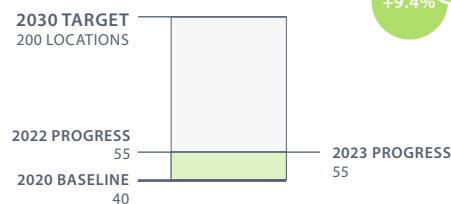
+53.8% ✓



### Increase public electric vehicle charging locations: city-wide

Sector: Mobility & Land Use

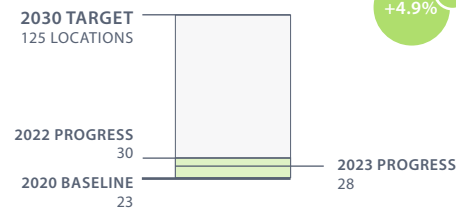
+9.4% ✓



### Increase public electric vehicle charging locations: in low and very low opportunity equity neighborhoods

Sector: Mobility & Land Use

+4.9% ✓



## SUCCESS STORIES



"I own the property and the resident is my mom, she has arthritis and is Spanish speaking only. Because you sent a Spanish speaking volunteer to plant the trees, she was able to ask questions and be a part of the planting. Thank you!"  
- Rosa (Community Tree Program participant)

## THEMES

By 2030, we are stewards of healthy natural spaces and honor our relationship with the land. Through increasing the use of active transportation and transit, and use of electrification and renewable energy, our air is free of pollution and healthy for our human and nonhuman residents.

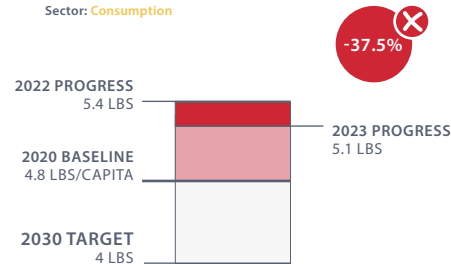
- The City made progress towards building an inventory of public trees and distributing 500 trees to households largely in low-opportunity neighborhoods
- Actions related to increasing habitat restoration and urban forestry hit capacity challenges.
- For low carbon mobility options, some progress was made through zoning to improve walking, biking, and transit options. The City continues to maintain 15 EV charging stations established last year in low opportunity neighborhoods.
- Tacoma Rail gained federal funding for critical efforts

## INDICATORS



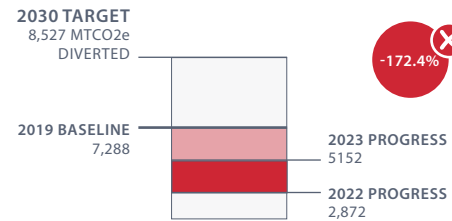
### Decrease per-capita waste generation

Sector: Consumption



### Increase metric tons of GHGs from diverted materials from Recycling and Recovery Center

Sector: Consumption



## SUCCESS STORIES



Environmental Services' Commercial Collection group was able to identify several commercial customers to participate in the **wood chips recycling pilot**. The Operations group made approximately 450 yards of uncolored wood chips. Environmental Services spread approximately 200 yards of those chips on their site for them to see how the chips hold up before they "branch" out in providing chips to a customer base.



### Increase number of EnviroStar businesses

Sector: Consumption



## THEMES

By 2030, Tacoma is home to a thriving circular economy where materials are reused, and products are built to last and are repaired. We share with our neighbors and eliminate waste. Critical efforts: Tacoma Rail was awarded the funds to purchase 3 battery-electric trains.

- Efforts to address waste and emissions from construction & demolition, industrial businesses, and the disposal of high GHG impact reusable and recyclable materials are slow but moving.
- Solid Waste received an EPA Recycling Education and Outreach grant and will also get data from a study to inform future diversion options for food waste.
- Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) installed 99% of its water meter infrastructure and will now allow for data on water consumption patterns.
- In order to align the use of City resources with our sustainability goals, the City added a CAP-related screening question to the '23-'24 budget request process and added sustainability criteria to the capital prioritization process.

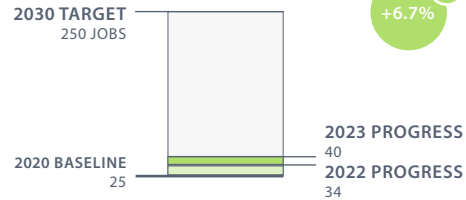


## INDICATORS



### Increase number of green jobs (as measured by tax credit)

Sector: Green Economy



## SUCCESS STORIES



Tacoma's Green Economic Development Strategy includes an initiative to make Tacoma a testbed for new technologies to improve sustainability and company profitability at the same time. Through the initiative Phase I of the **Tacoma Blue Edge (5G) Network** was installed and includes plans for environmental monitoring sensors throughout the tideflats. "TBEN" includes the opportunity for companies and entrepreneurs to innovate related to logistical efficiency, worker safety, and environmental improvements.



Tacoma, in partnership with Workforce Central and other private and public partners, is creating an **asset map of workforce training programs** relevant to a "greening economy" and will host the first Tacoma-Pierce Green Jobs Summit in 2024. The workforce effort is one of the initiatives in Tacoma's Green Economic Development Strategy. Jobs associated with electric vehicles are just one of the career tracks area residents can pursue.

## THEMES

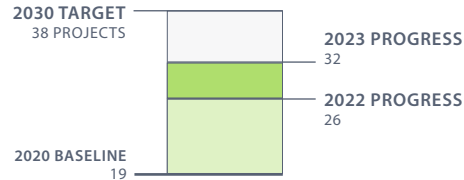
By 2030, the community supports a healthy, innovative local economy with new opportunities for all people and businesses to thrive within our ecosystem.

- The City is taking a slightly different direction as of 2023 in exploring a community food hub model by looking at reducing barriers for food vendors.
- The City began expanding key programs for adding green jobs with a goal of 2/3rds of enrolled members to be from frontline communities.
- The Green Economy Strategy was finalized in 2023 and won an award, and a specialist position was approved and filled to implement it.
- Other progress towards the goal of Tacoma being an anchor for green industry, included updating zoning and development standards revisions within the Tideflats Subarea Plan and expanding the green jobs tax in 2023.



**Increase natural heat Island intervention projects in hottest neighborhoods**

Sector: Natural Systems & Local Food



SUCCESS STORIES



In recognition of the need for proactive tree maintenance while also addressing public safety, without placing undue financial burden on residents, the City of Tacoma's **Hazardous Tree Assistance program** provides removal or pruning services for hazardous trees in the right-of-way, at no charge, to qualifying Tacoma residents. In partnership with a local mill, 7 of the 16 hazardous trees removed in 2023 were utilized in an Urban Wood Reuse pilot to find better uses for what would otherwise be wood waste. The logs from those trees were milled into slabs for furniture or carved into park benches.



**The Community Tree Program successfully launched** in 2023 with some immediate community impacts. The City's Urban Forestry program collaborated with the Tacoma Tree Foundation to empower residents to care for Tacoma's urban forest. Over 130 community volunteers distributed 515 trees to 204 households with 86% of total trees distributed going to low canopy neighborhoods. The program engaged with approximately 700 community members on ways to become involved in stewarding Tacoma's urban forest.

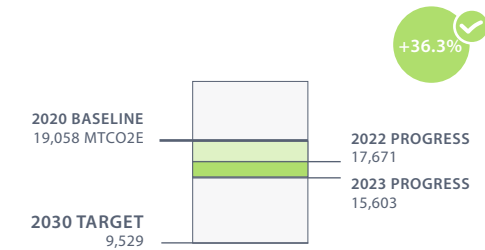
By 2030, we are not only preventing carbon emissions but preparing our communities made most vulnerable for expected climate change impacts.

- For near-term climate adaptation actions, the City completed a study of electricity demand and, in partnership with Puyallup Tribe, Metro Parks, and Port of Tacoma, the City also received an award of \$750K to develop a Shoreline Climate Resilience and Habitat Restoration Master Plan.
- In partnership with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, filter fans were distributed for community members at risk of health concerns due to wildfire smoke.
- The City provided maintenance to right-of-way trees in the McKinley Neighborhood where the average temperature is high compared to the city average.
- Getting necessary and relevant information to all community members about climate emergencies and resources is an essential aspect of this work. Staff drafted the scope of work for this project in 2023 in hopes to complete it in 2024.
- Unfortunately, studying flooding impacts work was on hold in 2023 due to capacity limitations.

### INDICATORS

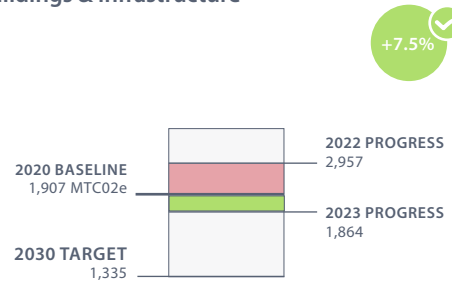
Though municipal GHG emissions are a small proportion of Tacoma’s total, the City must lead by example to maintain public confidence, set an ambitious precedent, and demonstrate practical examples for other local institutions.

#### Reduce GHG emissions from municipal fleet

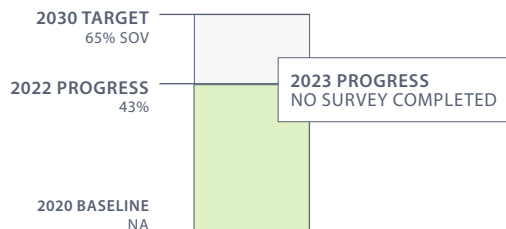


NOTE: THE BASELINE, 2022, AND 2030 TARGET NUMBERS HAVE BEEN AMENDED SINCE THE 2022 PROGRESS REPORT MISTAKENLY REPORTED LIFECYCLE EMISSIONS INSTEAD OF TAILPIPE/COMBUSTION EMISSIONS.

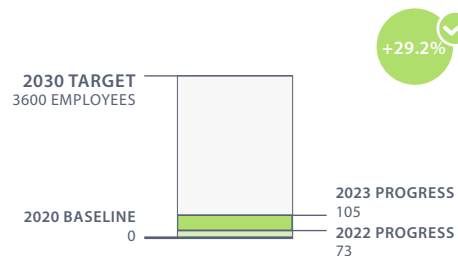
#### Reduce GHG emissions from municipal buildings & infrastructure



#### Reduce employee single occupancy commuting (SOV)



#### Engage employees in sustainability



Fleet managers, collaborating with department vehicle operations, have been acquiring suitable alternative fuel replacements for several years. In last 2 years, there’s been a 23% increase in the inventory. **Plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) have increased by 56%** and now represent one-third of the fleet’s alternative fuel vehicle inventory. Together, with use of R99 (renewable gas) and CNG (compressed natural gas) fuels, emissions from the fleet have decreased 18% from the baseline. With more varieties of plug-in EVs suitable for fleet use arriving on the market, these trends are anticipated to continue.

### THEMES

Though municipal GHG emissions are a small proportion of Tacoma’s total, the City must lead by example to maintain public confidence, set an ambitious precedent, and demonstrate practical examples for other local institutions. While the City made some or significant progress towards these goals, there are different avenues we must take to ensure their ongoing completion.

# TACOMA'S CLIMATE ACTION NOT ALONE

## WHAT'S COMING NEXT

The City is initiating the budgeting process for the fiscal years 2025-2026, presenting a prime occasion to prioritize environmental concerns and tackle climate change with impactful solutions. Tacoma is collaborating with local partners to ready itself for a significant funding opportunity through the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). This grant, amounting to \$5 billion, aims to empower states, local governments, and tribes to devise strategies for tackling reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating other types of air pollution. In 2023 the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability hired a Climate Date & Grant Sustainability Analyst which will assist our office and the city to apply to more grants and increase the amount of grant funding for climate and sustainability projects in Tacoma. In 2024 the city will be hiring their first Climate Resiliency Manager who will work on creating resiliency hubs within Tacoma, and support the Tide flats grant project currently underway. These are exciting times for climate and sustainability efforts, as each passing year presents Tacoma with increasing opportunities to stride confidently towards our climate goals.

## WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

1. Contact us with your thoughts at [sustainability@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:sustainability@cityoftacoma.org)
2. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@tacomastustainability) to stay up to date on programs and events happening in the City!
3. Hold the City accountable by showing up at City Council meetings or [contacting your Tacoma City Council representative](#) to express your climate action priorities.
4. Get involved in City decision-making and budgeting by participating on a [City committee, board, commission, neighborhood council](#).
5. Learn more about local community environmental events and opportunities by joining the [EnviroNews email list](#).
6. Talk to your friends, family members, and neighbors about climate change, the local impacts we are experiencing, and the solutions available to us. Simple, everyday conversations can go a long way in increasing awareness and action on climate change.
7. Examine the initiatives and overarching concepts outlined in the CAP and consider how you can integrate specific actions or objectives into your daily routine. By implementing these changes, you can contribute positively to enhancing our local environment.

This Plan does not exist in isolation, and is in fact, being implemented alongside other vital community plans and partnerships, such as:



[Home in Tacoma – Phase 2](#)



[Pierce County Sustainable 2030 Plan](#)



[Tacoma Greening Our Economy Strategy](#)



[Transportation Master Plan Update](#)



[2024 Comprehensive Plan Update](#)










[Affordable Housing Action Strategy - City of Tacoma](#)



[Port of Tacoma Clean Air Strategy](#)

## NATURAL SYSTEMS & LOCAL FOOD

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#3	BETTER TOGETHER	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Fund 10 community food access projects like community gardens, food forests, orchards, farms, food rescue efforts, or farmers markets.		The City funded Harvest Pierce County's community garden and gleaning programs and the Farmer's Market Fresh Bucks program. Nearly 2/3rds of the gleaning program went to 16 hunger relief organizations.
#8	BETTER LIVING	Improve regulations to make it easier to grow, make, and sell food.		No staffing resources identified and redirected for this work in 2023.
#18	BETTER BREATHING	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Preserve and expand healthy tree canopy.		Staff are continuing to utilize software to inventory trees and map planted trees by the City and its partners. Community members are now able to collect existing tree inventories for volunteer purposes.
#23	BETTER BREATHING	Increase Tacoma's Urban Forestry team to care for more trees.		Requested positions as part of mid biennial budget modifications but positions were not approved.
#32	BETTER OPPORTUNITIES	Partner to train nature stewards for employment and to restore green spaces.		The City entered into contract negotiations with The Nature Conservancy of Washington to manage the Green Infrastructure Workforce Development Program for Tacoma.
#34	BETTER OPPORTUNITIES	Research how to develop a community food hub, with space for food training, sharing, and business.		Community Economic Development (CED) did not do a study but found alternative means to similar goals. Staff increased capital access to food businesses, continued vendor development through Farmers Market contracting, and provided technical assistance to food vendors moving into brick-and-mortar locations and/or pop-up markets.
#39	BETTER PREPARED	Protect and restore biodiversity and habitat to be climate change ready.		Staff are continuing to update critical area map layers. The Critical Area Ordinance update is on a planned schedule per Growth Management Act (GMA) guidance with code changes/implementation planned for mid 2025.
#40	BETTER PREPARED	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Plant and maintain right-of-way trees to reduce heat and support neighborhoods and local businesses.		In partnership with the Neighborhood Planning program, 144 trees were maintained or replaced in the McKinley Neighborhood.
#44	BETTER PREPARED	Assess, monitor, and prepare natural systems, infrastructure, and habitat for sea level rise.		The City was awarded a \$750,000 grant in partnership with Metro Parks, the Puyallup Tribe, and the Port of Tacoma to perform shoreline climate resilience and habitat restoration master planning for Commencement Bay.

MOBILITY & LAND USE				
#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#9	BETTER LIVING	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Build a complete, citywide network of sidewalks, safe and ADA-accessible intersections, bike connections and Safe Routes to School improvements by 2050.		In 2023, the City was awarded \$4.5M in active transportation grants - including design funds for Vision Zero improvements on Portland Ave (E 27th St - E 56th St), a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant to support the ADA transition plan, Safe Routes to School, Vision Zero, and Commute Trip Reduction program funding, and construction funding for pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements at S 38th and Cedar St.
#10	BETTER LIVING	Increase staff capacity to collaborate on low carbon transit projects.		Public Works (PW) budget request for a Transit Planner was not approved, but existing staff continue to work closely with Sound Transit to improve active transportation access to South Tacoma Sounder Station and Tacoma Dome Link Extension planning.
#11	BETTER LIVING	Increase partnerships and funding for active transportation and public transit programs and events that reduce barriers to using these modes and encourage their use.		Public Works (PW) Intern assisted with Active Transportation programming through Fall 2023. PW began the hiring process for a full-time Active Transportation Programs Planner slated to start in early 2024.
#12	BETTER LIVING	Update street design guidelines and processes to make walking, biking, rolling, and riding transit easy and safe.		Staff worked on drafting potential updates to the Design Manual. Strengthening the Complete Streets legislation was put on hold due to limited staff capacity.
#17	BETTER LIVING	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Incentivize green buildings, land use density, and mixed-use development with affordable housing near transit.		In 2023, the City conducted extensive public engagement and analysis in support of developing the Home in Tacoma Phase 2 zoning and standards package. The package includes several sustainability actions including bonuses for building retention, tree planting and retention, and zoning that promotes transit-oriented development.
#19	BETTER BREATHING	Support Pierce Transit in developing a zero emission public transit plan.		Staff engaged with Pierce Transit on vanpool and new electric vehicle options. Staff remedied longstanding issues with vanpool charging.
#20	BETTER BREATHING	Incentivize active transportation, transit, car sharing, and electric vehicles, and reduce parking minimums in new developments.		Public Works drafted updates to the City's Right of Way Design Manual and Home in Tacoma Phase 2 to better align with active transportation goals. Both updates are expected to be reviewed and adopted in 2024.
#21	BETTER BREATHING	Fund electric vehicle and bicycle programs.		The ZEV Co-Op carshare program launched but is experiencing outages due to vandalism of charging stations.

MOBILITY & LAND USE				
#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#22	BETTER BREATHING	Partner to support zero emission innovation in marine, rail, and truck transportation.		Tacoma Rail was awarded a cumulative \$12.69M to acquire two zero emission battery-electric locomotives. An additional award of \$3.3M from the VW Settlement fund will enable the addition of a third zero emission locomotive to their fleet.
#41	BETTER PREPARED	Establish cooling/warming/clean air shelters in every neighborhood.		The City of Tacoma and the City of Seattle agreed to partner in conducting focus groups related to Resilience Hub assessment and planning. The City also entered into a contract to do resilience hub assessment work funded by a WA Dept of Commerce Solar + Storage grant.
#45	BETTER BREATHING	Study flooding impacts and improve services, codes, and planning efforts.		Staff participates in quarterly utility and infrastructure meetings. In 2023 staff developed a permit record type for capital improvement projects to allow for interdepartmental coordination. Testing of this new permit type is ongoing with an implementation goal of this year.

## BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#6	BETTER TOGETHER	Support development of a collaborative workgroup to help industries decarbonize through efficiency, electricity, and clean fuels.		A Business Retention-Expansion workgroup and initiative fulfills this function. Community and Economic Development started working with Impact WA to launch relevant workshops in 2024.
#13	BETTER LIVING	Actively implement the City's 2018 Affordable Housing Action Strategy by maintaining housing and making it affordable and resilient for residents to promote livability and avoid displacement.		With the T-Line complete through Hilltop and Tacoma Housing Authority's Housing Hilltop development, progress is being made towards building designated affordable housing near transit. Funding continues to increase for designated affordable housing projects.
#14	BETTER LIVING	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Support and create single and multi-family low carbon, healthy retrofit solutions.		Community and Economic Development (CED) created a toolkit for companies seeking to employ greener processes while Tacoma aims to finalize the Community Building Decarbonization Strategy by early 2024. The City also allocated funding towards a website that will give homeowners and property owners information on navigating resources for electrification.
#15	BETTER LIVING	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Improve energy codes to make commercial buildings efficient, low carbon, and healthy.		New state energy code amendments limiting fossil fuel equipment for residential and commercial projects were scheduled to be effective July 1, 2023, but have been delayed to March 15, 2024.
#16	BETTER LIVING	Research and pilot home and commercial building energy scores to be shared with buyers.		The strategy was included in the Tacoma Community Building Decarbonization Strategy but was primarily focused on state legislation and assisting commercial businesses with WA Clean Building Performance Standard requirements.



## BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#25	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Reduce per-person water use during summer months.		Advanced water meters are 99% installed and paperless notifications of continuous water use became available in Q4. Thirty property-side service lines were replaced through the grant and loan program.
#42	BETTER PREPARED	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Partner to distribute clean air kits, including filter fans.		229 filter fans were distributed to Tacoma residents from July to December 2023 for a total of 769 filter fans distributed since 2022.
#46	BETTER PREPARED	Plan for future clean energy needs with adequate and equitable electricity distribution and transmission.		An electrification study was completed that forecasts the expected new loads from buildings and transportation under many scenarios. Managed residential EV charging is the 3rd largest Demand Reduction potential identified, providing 7 Megawatts (MW), or 15% of the total potential by 2041.



## CONSUMPTION AND MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#2	BETTER TOGETHER	Fund community participation and partners in waste prevention.		Solid Waste Management (SWM) continued to build on the partnerships developed through the Community Ambassador Program and received a \$2 Million grant from the EPA to expand the program.
#24A	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Increase food waste prevention and diversion programs and projects including food labels, infrastructure, ordinances, incentives, and food rescue supported by increased staff capacity.		Received EPA Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) grant that will fund this position. Promoted National Food Waste Prevention Week with social media campaign.
#24B	BETTER RESOURCE USE	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Develop and support programs for food waste prevention, rescue, and diversion to keep food out of the landfill and improve local food security.		Beginning in 2023, a solid waste composition study collects data on the sources and volumes of food waste for best diversion options. Solid Waste partnered with Mill to introduce a pilot food waste grinder-dehydrator, with results anticipated in 2024. Additionally, staff participated in a statewide organic stakeholders' group to contribute to the development of 2024 legislation on recovering food for human consumption.
#27	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Increase commercial and industrial reuse and recycling through a marketplace.		New marketplace platform owner has chosen not to pursue contract with Seattle Good Business Network and WA Dept of Commerce, which affects the pilot in Tacoma.



## CONSUMPTION AND MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#28	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Reduce construction and demolition waste through permit requirements.		In October 2023, Councilmember Walker started leading effort to bring forward construction and demolition policy for salvage/waste reporting including budget requests for 2025-2026 biennium to support workforce training and staff additions.
#29	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Divert more clean wood waste and other materials at the Recycling and Transfer Center.		Implemented wood waste pilot in Q3 2023, processed 30.21 tons of wood pallets into mulch, and applied to planters at Recovery and Transfer Center.

## GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#1	BETTER TOGETHER	Prioritize engaging frontline communities in climate work.		The City and partners supported nearly 25 community groups on projects regarding climate and equity. Despite the Sustainability Small Grant program being on pause until 2024, there were deep relationship building through arts, urban forestry, and food equity.
#4	BETTER TOGETHER	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Support community organizers to share expertise and promote climate action engagement.		Building on the Climate Leadership Cohort pilot of 2022, 15 emerging climate and equity ambassadors learned from each other and local leaders on how to effect change.
#5	BETTER TOGETHER	Increase advocacy for climate action at the State and Federal level.		Planning Development Services (PDS) Staff were able to support the establishment of countywide housing targets, but do not have capacity to fully participate in and represent Tacoma's interests in countywide policy development. Government Affairs staff advocated during the State's legislative session for climate action including City decarbonization projects.
#7	BETTER TOGETHER	Partner to tackle cross-jurisdictional, adaptation opportunities, including river management and flooding.		The City continues to quarterly convene Tacoma-Pierce County Climate Adaptation Partners to share success and obstacles, on topics such as extreme heat and smoke, flooding, and sea level rise. Tacoma was awarded \$750,000 grant to work with local partners on a Commencement Bay Sea Level Rise and Resilience Plan.
#30A	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Add or improve low carbon and sustainability requirements in City investments and contracts.		Staff provided the Tacoma Employee's Retirement System Board with the results of the annual fossil fuel holdings analysis at their May 11, 2023, meeting. Sustainability questions continue to be included in Retirement department requests for proposal.



## GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#31	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Build GHG impact analysis into City budgets, projects, and plans.		Incorporated a climate action plan question into the citywide 2023-2024 budget request process and included sustainability criteria into the capital prioritization process. 12 Departments submitted their annual Resource Conservation & Climate Plan.
#43	BETTER PREPARED	Make communication materials and trainings about climate impacts and emergency preparedness accessible.		The City developed the 2023-2024 funding terms for a communication plan co-developed with frontline communities, with work expected to be completed in 2024.



## GREEN ECONOMY

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#26	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Recognize green business achievements.		Increased Tacoma presence and resources on EnviroStars webpage. Connected with multiple businesses for recognition process, some businesses now need to be re-recognized with updated process through 2024.
#30B	BETTER RESOURCE USE	Incorporate green and equity elements into land development.		No new Development Agreements were approved in 2023.
#33	BETTER OPPORTUNITIES	Partner to retrain the workforce for well paying jobs in the green economy sector.		Community and Economic Development formed a workforce workgroup, inventoried existing programs, and supported partners like Goodwill in adding relevant programming.
#35	BETTER OPPORTUNITIES	Use business taxes to encourage businesses to create more green job opportunities.		In December 2023, City Council approved a revision to its Green Jobs tax credit, increasing the credit to \$1,000 for new employment at companies producing green products or using green processes aligned with the City of Tacoma's Green Economic Development Strategy, which is currently being publicized.
#36	BETTER OPPORTUNITIES	Amend industrial zoning codes to encourage low carbon, resource-efficient, resilient, and businesses.		In 2023 the Tideflats Subarea Plan shifted into the environmental review and policy development phase. Staff worked on the Environmental Impact Statement that will be publicly released in 2024, and the Tideflats Steering Committee is expected to finalize a draft Plan and recommendation in mid-2024.

## GREEN ECONOMY

#	THEME	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#37	BETTER OPPORTUNITIES	Research, identify, and prepare to recruit green industries and jobs that fit Tacoma.		The Green Economy Strategy was completed, won a state award, and is currently being implemented
#38	BETTER OPPORTUNITIES	<b>JUMP START ACTION</b> Increase City staff capacity to grow green economy partnerships and resources.		The Green Economy Specialist position was filled in September 2023 to support the Green Economy Strategy implementation.

## MUNICIPAL CARBON NEUTRALITY

#	CATEGORY	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#1	FLEET & FUELS	Develop and publish quarterly report on fleet and fuel metrics.		Fuel reporting by equipment is complete and ongoing with a dashboard of 7 report options. Companion emissions and EV replaceable tools initiated. Investigating how to include fuel from City operated bulk tanks that include diesel, R99 (renewable diesel), or Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).
#2	FLEET & FUELS	Expand bulk renewable fuel delivery at city facilities to the greatest extent needed.		Bulk fuel deliveries of R99 (Renewable diesel) increasing with greater WA supply and reduced expense due to Clean Fuel Standard. Wet hose deliveries of R99 implemented at two Environmental Services fleet sites.
#3	FLEET & FUELS	Expand EV charging infrastructure at all City prioritized fleet sites.		Fleet EVSE Action Plan was published internally for staff use. Fleet Plug-in EVs were acquired with some new fleet charging infrastructure. TPU continues to assess alternate charger install strategies to address ongoing plug chord vandalism.
#4	FLEET & FUELS	Increase funding for fleet capital budget to accelerate replacement with low emission vehicles.		About 20 truck battery electric vehicles, and van plug in hybrids ordered as replacements. Solid Waste received grant for Tacoma's first electric garbage truck.
#1	BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE	Implement energy saving O&M policies, procedures & guidelines for each key facility/facility type.		Planning was initiated for compliance with O&M Program of WA Clean Buildings Performance Standard. Center for Urban Waters started utilizing LEED O&M policies and procedures.
#2	BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE	Develop Opportunity Register for each facility with natural gas.		List of opportunities generated from Investment Grade Audits from Tacoma Venue Events (TVE), and at Solid Waste admin building via Clean Buildings Accelerator. Cooling & lighting projects are underway at 3 buildings.

## MUNICIPAL CARBON NEUTRALITY

#	CATEGORY	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#3	BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE	Building Tune-ups - one building per department providing facility management services. Systematic process completed once every 5 years.		Completed Internal tune-up of gas boilers at the Tacoma Dome. Public Works tune-ups were unbudgeted for 2023-2024.
#4	BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE	Complete assessment on largest facilities with largest Natural Gas loads for conversion or replacement opportunities.		Municipal Facilities Decarbonization Study on 9 representative buildings completed. Report with high natural gas loads buildings from 4 of City's 5 facility departments published. Report includes recommendations and tools to scope building electrification work.
#5	BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE	Dedicate funding for efficiency, resiliency, and decarbonization in existing and replacement facilities.		Public Works has 3 building electrification projects funded with contract work due in 2024. Includes removing old oil boilers from two fire stations and 16 gas rooftop units on existing fleet warehouse.
#1	INVESTMENTS	Internal carbon pricing – shadow or real.		As part of Municipal Facilities Decarbonization Study, evaluated social cost of carbon as part of recommended improvement actions
#1	PURCHASING	Develop and incorporate contractor fuel emissions reduction standards into bids and contracts.		Departments focused on 2023 RCCP plan execution and staff recommended identifying citywide contacts benefitting many departments.
#2	PURCHASING	Develop a City Sustainable and Healthy Meeting policy that prioritizes low greenhouse gas generating foods, delivery, and meeting access.		Sustainable and Healthy Meeting Guidelines created and published on internal City webpage. Communicating to all staff about this new resource ongoing and expanding in 2024.
#3	PURCHASING	Develop and implement large venue waste reduction program and actions.		Large venues were to be included in the waste characterization study scheduled for 2023 to establish baselines for making progress. However, this study was pushed to 2024.
#1	ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY	Department Resource Conservation & Climate Plans created.		Public Works created and made progress on its 2023 RCCP goals. Most significant progress was in Fleet HVAC Replacement.
#2	ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY	Capital Projects inter-departmental team convenes to ensure all capital projects, including upgrades and maintenance, include sustainability review.		Staff participates in quarterly utility and infrastructure meetings. In 2023 staff developed a permit record type for capital improvement projects to allow for interdepartmental coordination. Testing of this new permit type is ongoing with an implementation goal of 2024.

## MUNICIPAL CARBON NEUTRALITY

#	CATEGORY	ACTION SUMMARY	2023 PROGRESS	PROGRESS
#1	EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT	Annual Directors Presentation/Training.		Annual training completed online with a focus on Department Directors sharing their own climate related planning and projects.
#2	EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT	One City Stewards program - assemble inter-department, cross-functional team to participate in tours that showcase projects/facilities contributing to climate mitigation/adaption, and triple-bottom line sustainability.		No action in 2023, due to lack of management capacity.
#3	EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT	Sustainability integrated into new employee orientation and onboarding.		Full roll-out for all new staff and existing employees for on-demand training. 60 employees took the training across a variety of departments.

**From:** Sara Thompson <thompson.sara.d@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 7:20 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Scott, Jamika; Diaz, Olgy; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Walker, Kristina; Daniels, Kiara; Bushnell, Joe; Sadalge, Sandesh  
**Subject:** A letter regarding the plan to close senior centers in Tacoma  
**Attachments:** Letter from ADR Advisory Board re Closure of Senior Centers.pdf

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council Members,

Attached is a letter from the Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources Advisory Board expressing our concerns about plans to close two senior centers in Tacoma.

Thank you in advance for your attention.

Regards,

Sara Thompson

ADR Advisory Board Chair

206-930-6273

Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources Advisory Board

December 6, 2024

Mayor Victoria Woodards  
Tacoma City Council

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council Members,

I am the chair of the Pierce County Human Services Aging and Disability Resources Advisory Board. The board provides advice and advocates to support the interests of older adults in Pierce County. At our meeting on November 19, we heard from members of the community about the City's plan to close the Beacon and Lighthouse Senior Centers and to transition meal services and senior programs to Metro Parks Tacoma.

The community members shared a letter dated October 29 from seniors who have used the centers (attached), which I believe was mailed to you. It describes the breadth of affordable or free classes and services offered, the sense of community and volunteer opportunities they enjoy as well as the meal program.

I am writing on behalf of the board to express our thoughts as you move forward with further planning.

It is not clear when or if Metro Parks plans to offer the range of services currently offered at Beacon and Lighthouse. Transportation options to Metro Parks locations may not be ideal for seniors, and it is our understanding that Metro Parks will not offer a van service. Metro Parks requires a monthly membership fee which may be cost prohibitive for some of our elders. An entry fee is not allowed for a senior meal program. These issues must be addressed.

Although multigenerational programs are to be lauded, many of our fragile elders value having a place that truly focuses on their needs and interests. Tacoma's Age Friendly Action Plan, adopted in December 2021 specifically mentioned meals, wellness checks, social and emotional support and transportation offered at the senior centers.

It is our hope that the City of Tacoma pays close attention to the full scope of the services provided by senior centers, the sense of belonging and community that they provide and that they work to meet the challenge of truly expanding both the services and access to those services for Tacoma's seniors.

We will follow with great interest the plans to best serve Tacoma's seniors moving forward.

Regards,



Sara Thompson  
ADR Advisory Board Chair  
206-930-6273

[Thompson.sara.d@gmail.com](mailto:Thompson.sara.d@gmail.com)

Board Members: Ronita Boullt, Trisha Canzler, Bruce Dougherty, Ronald Frederick, David Friscia, JoAnn Fritsche, Hannah Johnson, Pat McIntyre, Jenifer Nazarowski, Kumi Oya, Eva Robinette, and Kathi Legge

**From:** Jeanne Fox <jeannefox53@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 6:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** PLEASE DO NOT DEFUND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!!!!

Sent from my iPad



**From:** Tacoma Business Council <info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 11:39 AM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; City Clerk's Office; Pauli, Elizabeth; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Sadalge, Sandesh; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Scott, Jamika; Walker, Kristina; Diaz, Olgy  
**Subject:** Petition on the Budget

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

<https://chnng.it/FqXbd5MfDz>

Dear Mayor Woodards and Councilmembers,

We are writing to share our petition on the budget with you. Your fellow Tacoma citizens respectfully ask that you address the deficit by cutting spending on nonessential services rather than cuts to the fire department or other core government services.

Please take a minute to read the petition before tonight's vote on the budget. Our petition has been circulating for only a short time but already has around 100 signatures. That speaks to the importance of this issue to many in Tacoma.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Tacoma Business Council



# Save First Responders - Ask City Council to Cut Waste, Not Essential Services

Sign Petition

112<sup>✓</sup>

Verified signatures ▾

Kris Zachary • 2 hours ago

jake nyman • 4 hours ago

Mary Jo Strom Copland • 5 hours ago

K



Decision Makers: Victoria Woodards +2



1 Update

## The Issue

We are concerned about the city's budget deficit and urge the Council to address it by prioritizing the funding of core government services while reducing, or eliminating, programs that do not directly support such services. We applaud the Council's effort on Dec. 3rd to identify cuts in City spending and ask that you continue on that path to address the deficit through cuts in nonessential services.

Tacoma has big city problems without a big city's revenue. However, it can't be argued that we are doing the best we can with our limited resources. This year, Tacoma ranked 142 out of 148 cities in terms of the quality of the services residents receive against the city's total budget. <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-run-cities/22869> It's time for the city to focus on core government services while embracing fiscal discipline to build a thriving Tacoma while living within its means—just as residents and businesses must do every day.

### **CORE SERVICES MUST BE THE PRIORITY**

To address our situation, the City must prioritize providing excellent core government services and ***fund that first***. The services that citizens have a right to expect include:

- Police: Inadequate staffing levels at TPD hamper its ability to serve Tacoma citizens at the level they deserve. We must prioritize returning TPD to at least 406 commissioned officers.
- Fire: Maintain a strong, responsive department to protect public safety.
- Streets: Prioritize maintenance to ensure safe and navigable roads throughout the city.
- Trash and Graffiti Cleanup: Maintain the city's appearance and livability.

*Elimination of TFD's 16 Rovers.* Council's decision to cut the 16 Rovers must be reconsidered. While we appreciate that Council raised the overall TFD budget, none of that money goes to the operational budget. TFD is already *understaffed by 60 positions* based on your own 2023 study and industry standards. Cutting staff from an essential department to avoid cuts to nonessential staff elsewhere misunderstands the proper role of local government and is dangerous. *These cuts put TFD at risk of closing fire stations due to inadequate staffing.* It must be stated that the cuts appear to be a punitive response to the voter's rejection of the levy lid lift. Placing essential services like fire on the chopping block because voters don't support new taxes is indefensible.

 **110 people** signed this week

[Sign Petition](#)

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projects must be curtailed. For example:

- Participatory budgeting. We applaud the city for pausing participatory budgeting considering the current deficit, but more decisive action is needed. The city should also cancel the proposed \$1 million skateboard park in District 2. This proposal would benefit too few at too high a price.
- Eliminate funding for other costly discretionary projects like the park benches on Hilltop.
- We note that if such projects truly have community support, the city could collaborate with residents and the business community to raise funds without tapping limited taxpayer resources.

## **FOCUS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, NOT TAX HIKES**

A long-term solution to Tacoma's financial challenges is increasing tax revenue through economic development. Some practical steps that are within the city's control include:

- **Repopulate Downtown:** Bring all city employees back to work. About 10% of the workforce remains remote despite the pandemic's end. An additional 430 people working in the city would significantly boost local businesses and help address safety issues.
- **Enhance Public Safety:** Increase proactive policing in business districts to create safer, more welcoming spaces. This will encourage more visitors and help retain existing businesses.
- **Attract and Retain Businesses:** Work to fill empty storefronts in the theater district and downtown. Incentivize businesses to return or relocate to Tacoma and direct the Economic Development office to recruit more employers.

These steps can stop the hemorrhaging of businesses, stabilize our economy, and generate the revenue needed to fund essential services sustainably.

Tacoma residents want a city that prioritizes their safety, essential services, and economic growth without unnecessary taxation or wasteful spending. We urge you to make these priorities the cornerstone of your budget decisions.