



TACOMA 2030 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2024 PROGRESS REPORT



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

I'm proud to share Tacoma's first update to our 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and our third annual CAP Progress Report—milestones that reflect our city's growing leadership in the urgent fight against climate change. In 2024, Tacoma continued to expand its capacity to act boldly and creatively, advancing a vision of a more just, healthy, and resilient future for all.

Our 2030 CAP laid out an ambitious set of Actions through 2024 to jumpstart our path toward deep emissions reductions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. As we reflect on this first phase of implementation, we are proud of the meaningful progress made—and even more energized by what's ahead. We are learning, adapting, and preparing to launch the next wave of Actions for 2025–2027, guided by our values and shaped by community input.

In November, voters across Washington—and here in Tacoma—sent a strong message by reaffirming support for the Climate Commitment Act. That public mandate strengthens our resolve. We know Tacoma is expected to lead, and even in the face of evolving challenges, we are unwavering in our commitment to climate justice, equity, and innovation.

I invite our entire community to celebrate the momentum we've built and to stay engaged as we chart a bold course toward our 2030 climate goals and beyond.

Learn more at cityoftacoma.org/climate.

Yours in Service,



Victoria R. Woodards
Mayor



LETTER FROM THE CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Progress has been made in many areas over the past year - such as more comprehensive integration of climate and sustainability strategies in important planning products such as Home in Tacoma Phase 2 and the Transportation & Mobility Plan/One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan. The momentum of this work is important to maintain, as it sets the foundation for more ambitious actions that we know are required if the City is going to meet its greenhouse gas reduction and resilience goals. Advancing these actions creates a tangible blueprint for how Tacoma will carry out many of its climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

Despite this progress, we know that we are fast reaching important milestones that the City has set for itself - such as net zero by 2050 and interim 2030 targets. We must also prepare for a more volatile climate future that is expected to include more extreme and intense weather events that have real consequences for Tacomans' health and wellbeing. As we look to the future and seek to meet our climate and sustainability goals, there are realistic challenges, such as the City's budget shortfall, reorganization of its Environmental Services department, and reduction of staffing, that may affect the ultimate success of these ambitious yet necessary actions outlined in the CAP. To this end, we know that more is needed, because we know that these investments in climate action will lead to long-term benefits for Tacomans' livelihoods and lead to substantial cost savings for our community in the future.

THE WHY

The Climate Action Plan charts a path towards reaching net-zero emissions in 2050, in a way that helps us build a Better Tacoma in 2030. It is a commitment to doing our part through immediate and long-term investments to respond to the climate crisis and **improve community health, safety, job opportunities, and equity**. We are working both to reduce our carbon pollution and adapt to the worsening impacts of our changing climate. We create these progress reports as part of our **commitment to remain transparent and accountable**, and we need every Tacoman to be part of these efforts to ensure we meet our goals.

During our third benchmark year of 2024, we...

- Secured \$30 million through more than 20 federal and state grants for sustainability work and establishment of long-term planning strategies in the areas like building decarbonization, street safety and mobility, and fleet decarbonization;
- Elevated the role of sustainability in City operations by moving the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability into the City Manager's Office;
- Made significant progress on or completed critical planning processes, including: Home in Tacoma Phase 2, the Tideflats Subarea Plan, and the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan;
- Awarded more than \$100,000 in Sustainability Small Grant funding to twenty-two nonprofits and individuals; and
- Made rapid progress toward our 2030 goal of reducing municipal fleet emissions by 50%.

2024 is an important year for assessing our progress. The Plan identified 48 community implementation actions and 18 municipal operational actions the City should strive to complete by 2024. This report provides a critical opportunity to evaluate where we've succeeded, where we've encountered challenges, and why. We're applying the lessons learned from the 2021-2024 cycle of actions to a new set of **2025-2027 actions** to be released in May 2025.

| Action Progress, 2021 (Baseline Year) to 2024



The Plan also identified **indicators for a Better Tacoma** and set **2030 progress targets**. These guide our work toward improving the lives and wellbeing of all Tacomans, while we transition our economy and infrastructure towards a more sustainable future. As we complete our third year of focused work toward these climate objectives, it is important to celebrate our achievements while also recognizing areas where progress has been slower. Looking ahead, 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. Still, we fully recognize the power we hold to positively impact both our community and the wider world. This Plan is a critical first step towards delivering care and wellbeing to our City and our planet.

COMMUNITY INDICATOR TARGETS

✖ Not improved from baseline

+ Improved from baseline

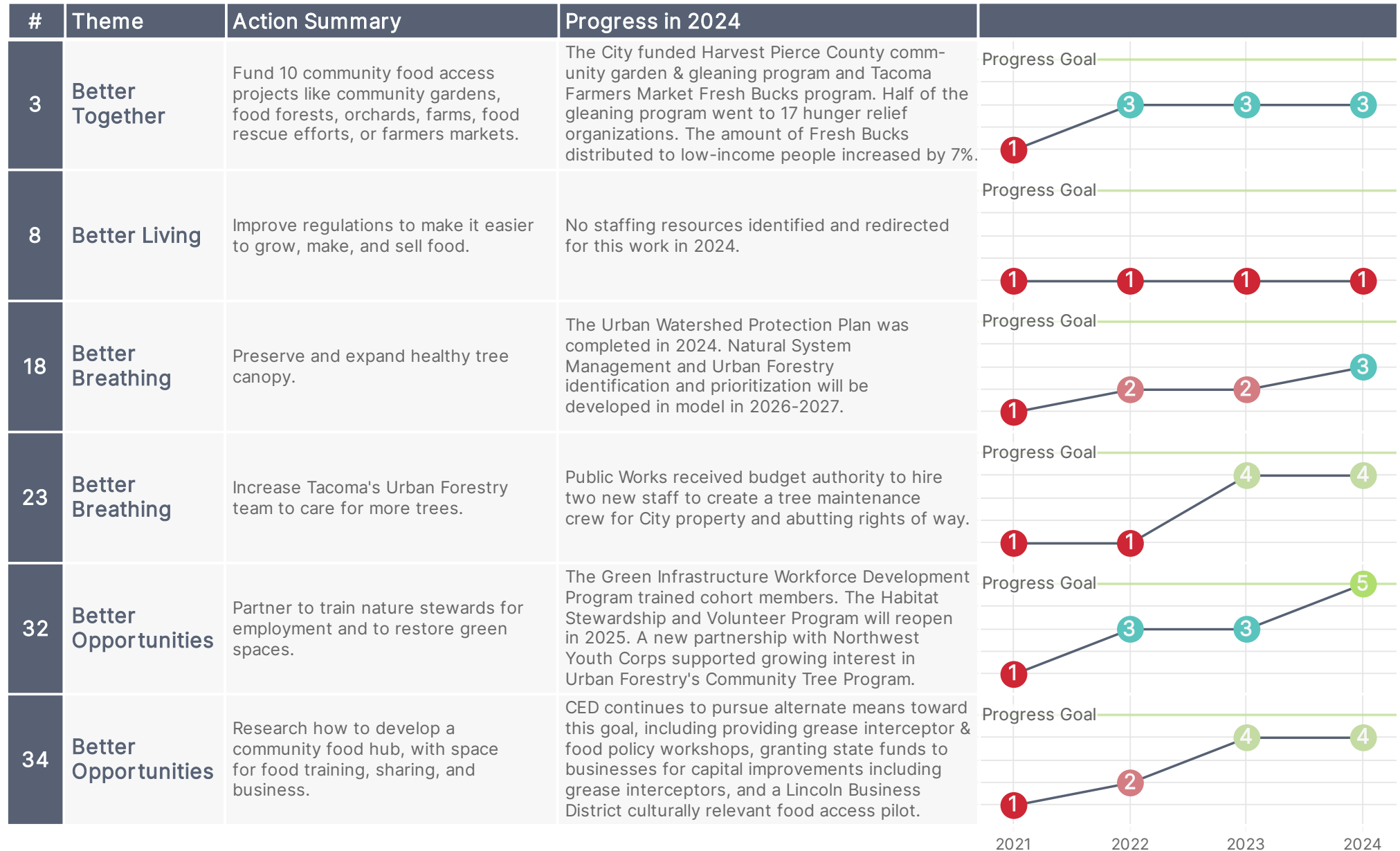
✓ On track to meet target by 2030



* Lower staff and vendor capacity resulted in fewer events and projects.

2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing



2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing

#	Theme	Action Summary	Progress in 2024	
39	Better Prepared	Protect and restore biodiversity and habitat to be climate change ready.	Natural Resources staff continue to update the Critical Areas map with new information. As restoration projects advance on City owned properties more detailed environmental information is documented.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>3</div><div>3</div><div>3</div></div></div>
40	Better Prepared	Plant and maintain right-of-way trees to reduce heat and support neighborhoods and local businesses.	The City and the Community Tree Program identified the Lincoln Neighborhood as in need of maintenance of existing street trees. Funding from the Hazardous Tree Assistance Program was used for pruning of 75 street trees and removal and replacement of three dead trees.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>2</div><div>2</div></div></div>
44	Better Prepared	Assess, monitor, and prepare natural systems, infrastructure, and habitat for sea level rise.	The City's first Climate Resilience Manager was hired to lead the Commencement Bay Resilience & Restoration Master Plan grant project. A scope of work was finalized, and partner agencies were engaged in creating the workplan that will kick off in 2025.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>3</div><div>3</div><div>3</div></div></div>

SUCCESS STORIES

Ten Palmer Scholars finished the first cohort of the **Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)** Training Program. This paid workforce training experience sponsored by the City of Tacoma was tailored for young adults ages 18-26 with a focus on watershed and habitat protection and sustainable stormwater strategies. Scholars participated in hands-on classroom and field training sessions taught by environmental professionals from regional partner organizations who also shared about their personal experiences & career pathways related to GSI.

Palmer scholars in training



In 2024, **Harvest Pierce County** expanded their lease with the City of Tacoma to include a parcel across the street from Colibrí Farm. With this addition, the site is able to house another urban farm, a distribution center for the Gleaning Program, and a garden. Harvest Pierce County installed increased water access, electricity, secure storage, and two walk-in coolers. The team is now working on adding an on-site farm stand, wash space for produce, native edible and medicinal plants, a mini food forest, and covered space for education and community events.

COMMUNITY INDICATOR TARGETS

✗ Not improved from baseline

+ Improved from baseline

✓ On track to meet target by 2030



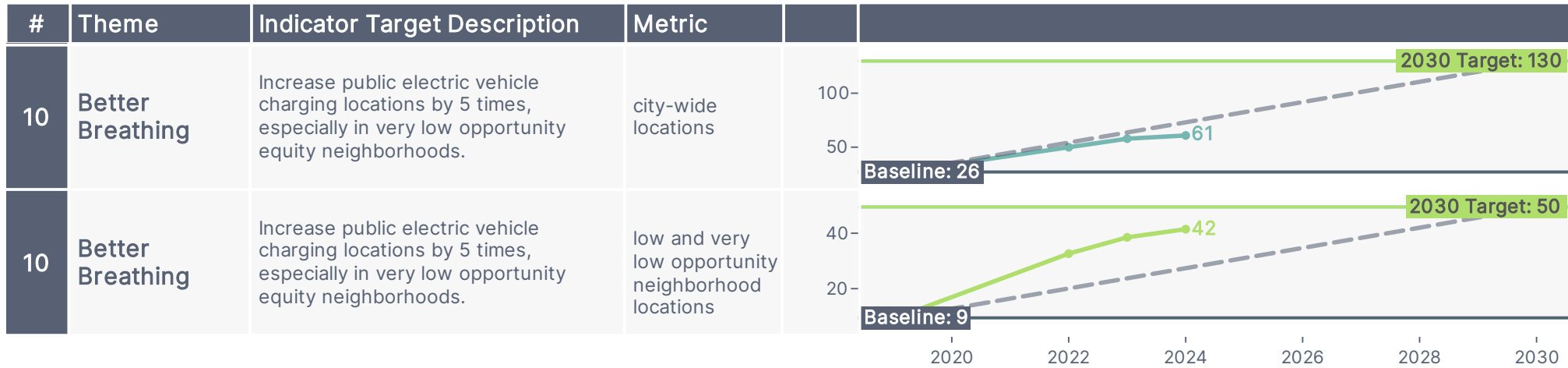
* Data will not be available until mid-2025; a mapping tool to enable estimates for this metric is currently under development.

COMMUNITY INDICATOR TARGETS

✖ Not improved from baseline

⊕ Improved from baseline

✓ On track to meet target by 2030



2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

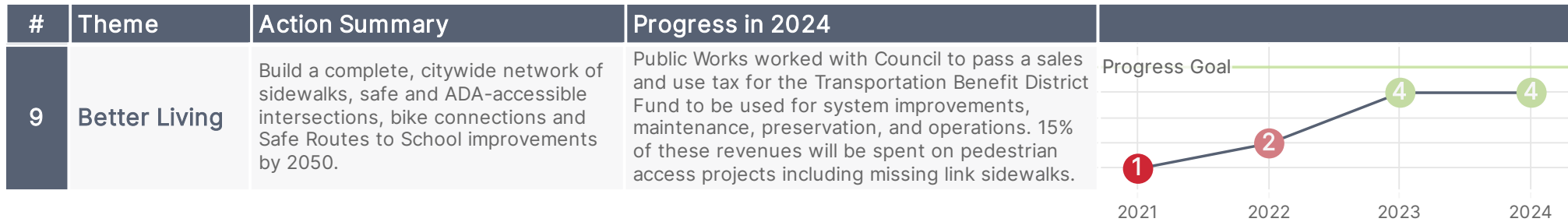
1 None

2 Little Progress

3 Some Progress

4 Good Progress

5 Completed / Ongoing



SUCCESS STORIES

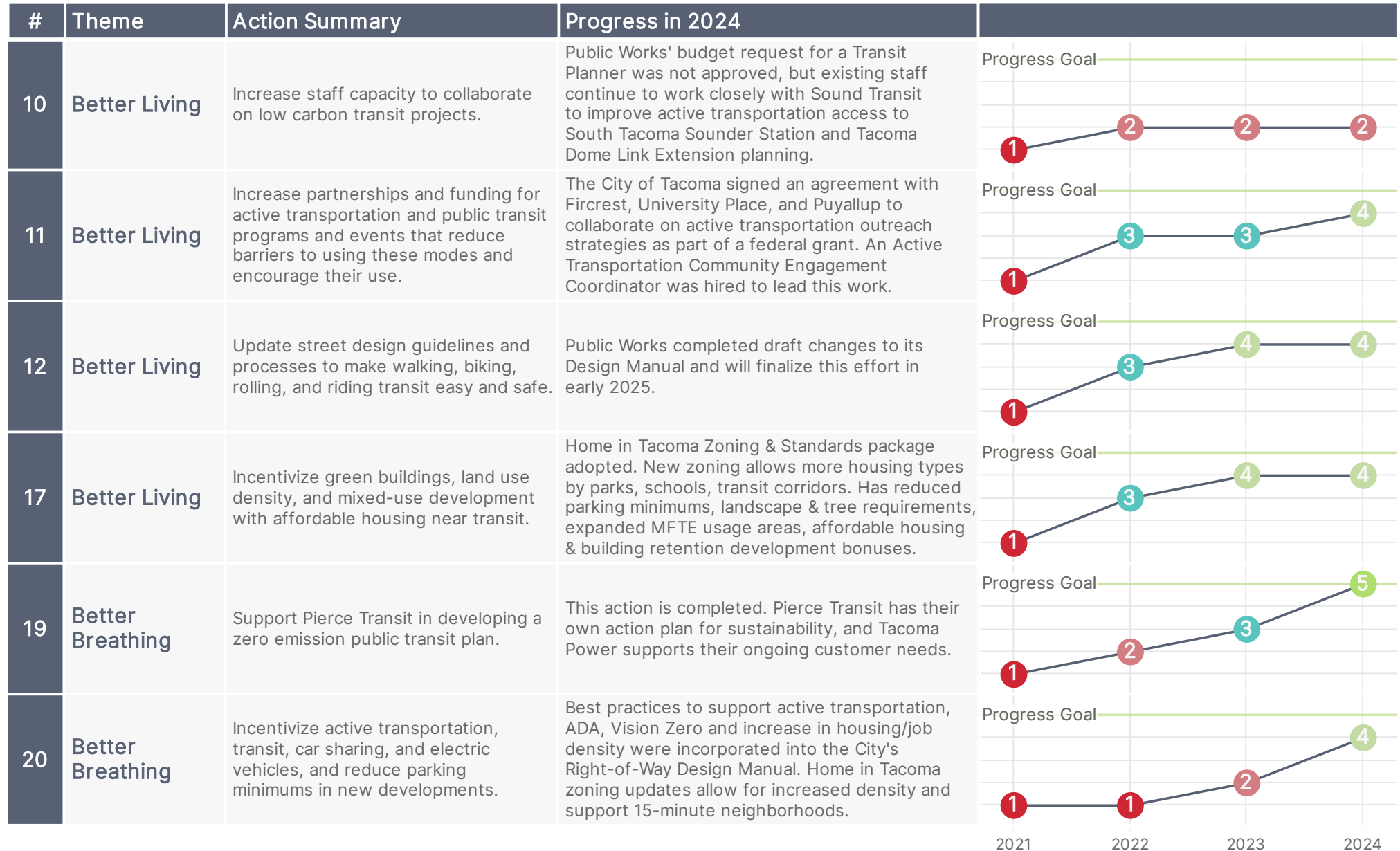
Construction on the Downtown EV Charging Expansion Project is nearly complete, bringing 34 new EV chargers to seven City-operated parking lots and garages. This expansion nearly doubles the number of available chargers, providing more convenient charging options for residents, visitors, businesses, and employees. With this project, downtown Tacoma now has 64 total EV chargers, including 58 Level 2 chargers (240V) and 4 Level 3 DC Fast Chargers (480V) at two key locations near I-705.

| Charging station under construction (left) & completed (right)



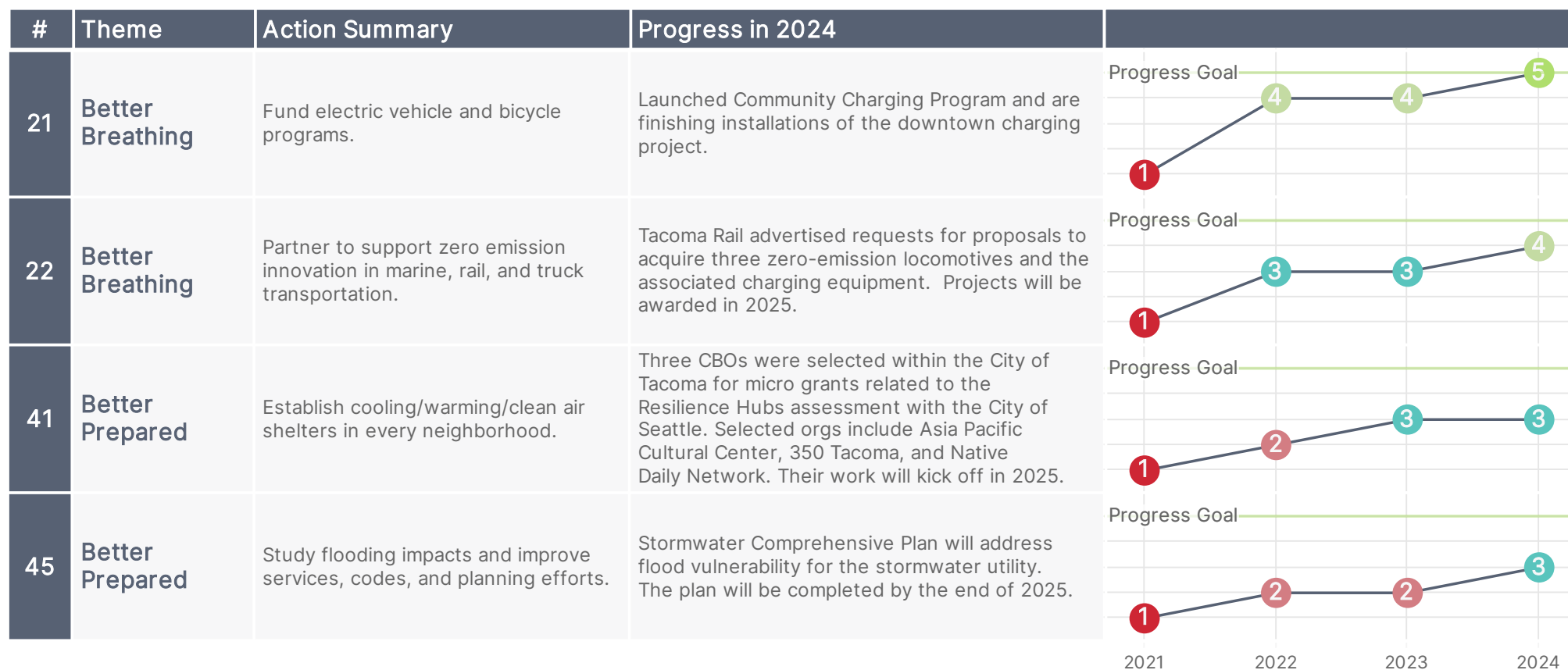
2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing



2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing



SUCCESS STORIES

City Council unanimously approved the **Home in Tacoma zoning and standards package**, a landmark decision that paves the way for more diverse, affordable, sustainable housing options throughout the city. This comprehensive update to Tacoma's residential zoning regulations marks the culmination of several years of community engagement and collaboration. The centerpiece of the package is the introduction of three new Urban Residential (UR) zones that accommodate a wider range of housing types, including multi-family dwellings, townhomes, and accessory dwelling units. These zones will increase density in appropriate areas, better meeting the housing needs of Tacoma's growing population while promoting walkability and vibrant neighborhoods.



COMMUNITY INDICATOR TARGETS

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+ Improved from baseline

✓ On track to meet target by 2030



* This steep decline in fossil fuel consumption is largely due to the closure of the Westrock plant at the end of 2023.

2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing



SUCCESS STORIES

The City of Tacoma and Tacoma Power received **\$1.9m in grant funding** from WA Dept. of Commerce to electrify moderate to low-income homes. Working with Power's trade ally network, 69 customers at or below 60% area median income with non-electric heat and/or non-electric water heat, received a free heat pump and/or a hybrid water heater.

| New electric heat pump and hot water heater installed through the HEAR grant program



Tacoma Power partnered with PSE to electrify customers in **income qualified rentals**. PSE provided grant funds to replace gas heat with a heat pump, and gas water heater with a hybrid water heater. Power provided a grant for insulation and a forgivable loan for single pane window upgrades. At the end of 2024, 3 projects were underway with 11 more planned.

2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

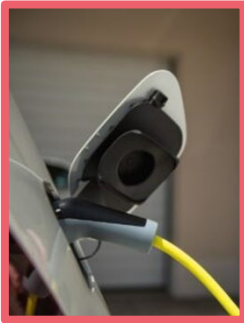
1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing



SUCCESS STORIES

The City leveraged federal energy efficiency grant funds to partner with King County in sponsoring development of a home electrification navigator website called **Switch is On** <https://www.switchison.org/wa>. The site, which is now live, supports home electrification by providing tools, support, and resources to Washington residents.

| A City-hosted symposium on the Clean Buildings Standard (left), Level 2 EV charger (right)



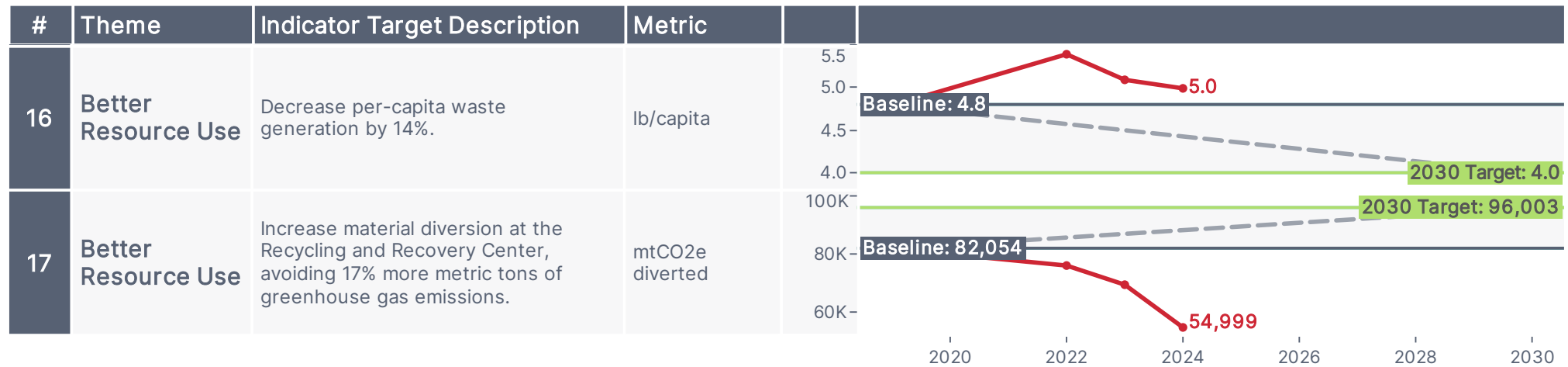
Tacoma Power continued to offer a bill credit for residential customers toward installation of **EV charging equipment**. Customers got a \$400 credit to purchase and install a Level 2 charger, a smart splitter, or a 240-volt outlet with a maximum \$600 credit for installing more than one of these options. 431 customers participated in the program.

COMMUNITY INDICATOR TARGETS

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✓ On track to meet target by 2030



2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

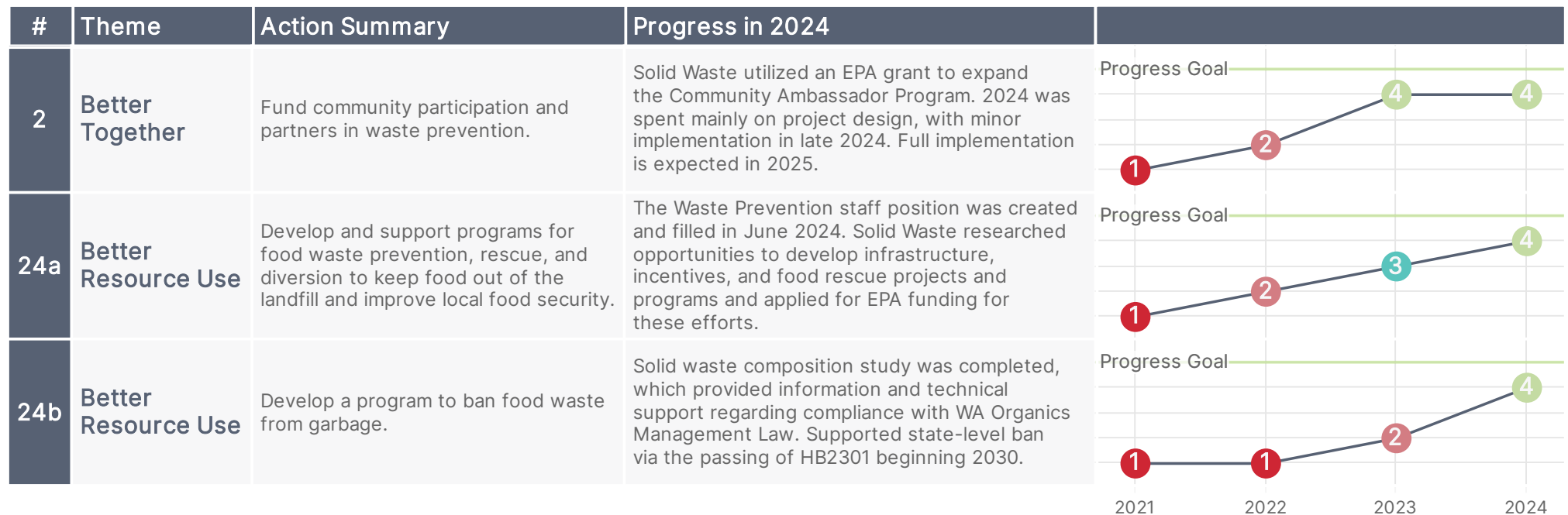
1 None

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2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing

#	Theme	Action Summary	Progress in 2024	
27	Better Resource Use	Increase commercial and industrial reuse and recycling through a marketplace.	New marketplace platform owner has chosen not to pursue a contract with Seattle Good Business Network and WA Dept of Commerce, which affects the pilot in Tacoma	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>2</div><div>2</div></div></div>
28	Better Resource Use	Reduce construction and demolition waste through permit requirements.	City Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to create a set of options, including estimated costs, to help increase deconstruction and salvage efforts. Options were presented in Q2. In Q4, a budgeted position focused on deconstruction and salvage was approved.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>2</div><div>3</div></div></div>
29	Better Resource Use	Divert more clean wood waste and other materials at the Recycling and Transfer Center.	Solid Waste continued with wood waste pilot, processing diverted wood pallets to make approximately 230 tons of mulch.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>3</div></div></div>

SUCCESS STORIES

The Community Ambassador Program trained 59 ambassadors in 4 workshops (1 Waste Reduction workshop and 3 Recycle Right workshops) offered in 3 languages with community members from the Hilltop and Eastside areas. The Waste Reduction workshop's goal is to create awareness about the things we purchase and where they end up once they're discarded so we can make more mindful purchases. It covers the benefits of throwing less away and the ways waste impacts our health and environment. It discussed alternatives to throwing things in the garbage: investing in reusable items, repairing, donating, recycling, and composting.

Community ambassador program workshop and participants

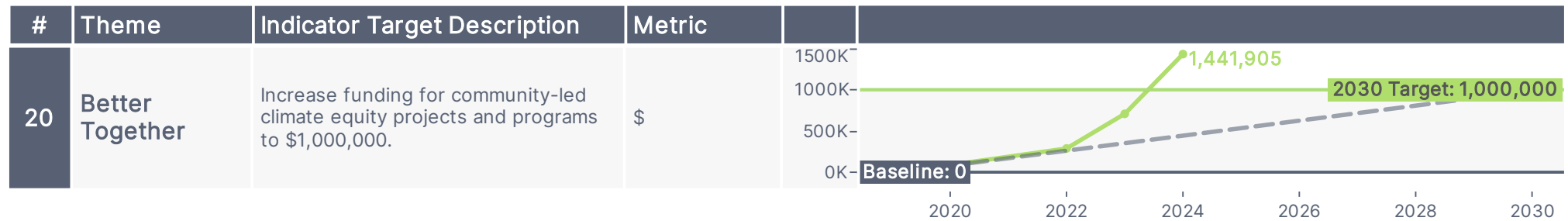


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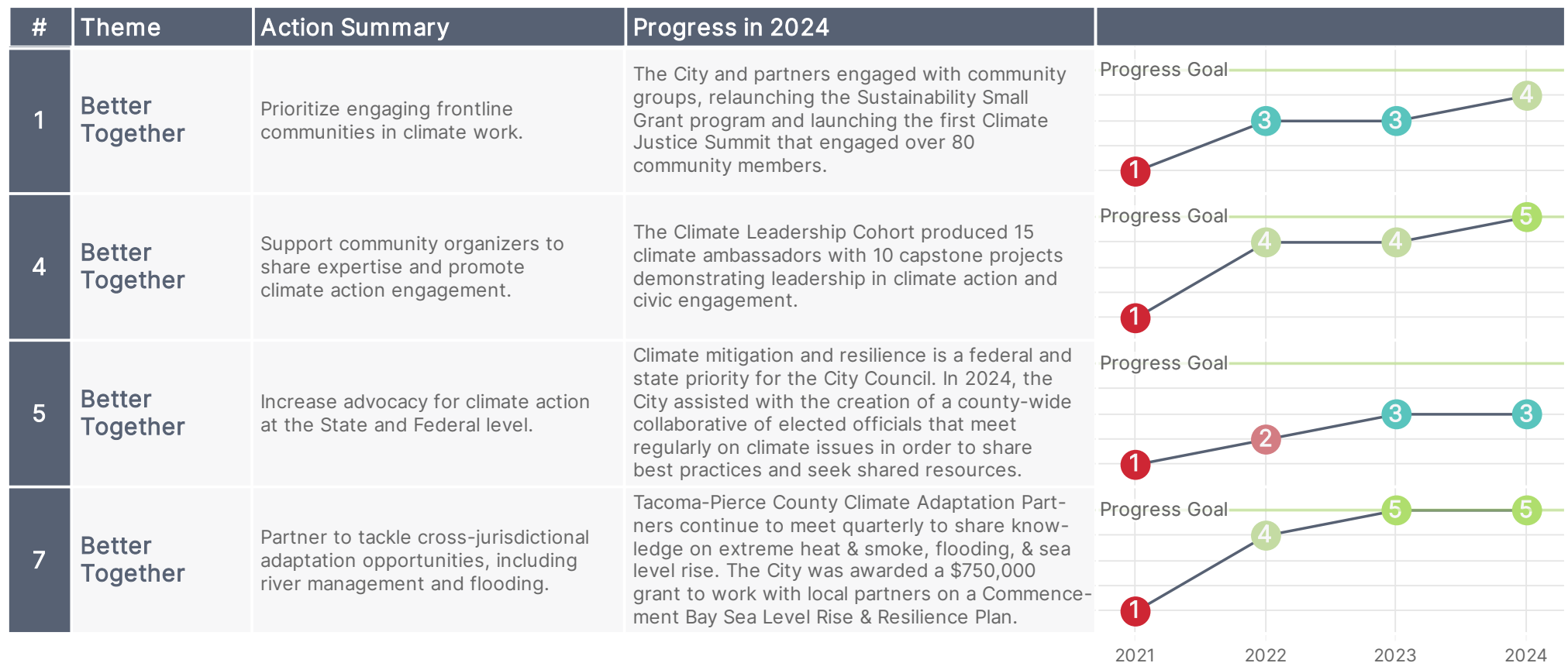
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2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing

#	Theme	Action Summary	Progress in 2024	
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 2024 meeting. Sustainability questions continue to be included in Retirement department requests for proposal.	Progress Goal
31	Better Resource Use	Build GHG impact analysis into City budgets, projects, and plans.	Continued to require Departments to indicate if their budget requests aligned with the Climate Action Plan. 12 Departments submitted their annual Resource Conservation & Climate Plan.	Progress Goal
43	Better Prepared	Make communication materials and trainings about climate impacts and emergency preparedness accessible.	In coordination with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, a Climate Communications plan is being developed. Community surveying at events occurred alongside the Filter Fan outreach, but the majority of this project will be taking place in 2025.	Progress Goal

SUCCESS STORIES

City of Tacoma partnered with Pierce County to put on its first **Climate Justice Summit** on May 28th, 2024. The summit highlighted the intersections of climate justice with other topics of concern such as racial equity, housing and economic justice, community safety, human rights, and other issues that organizations were working to address. Organizational representatives heard from speakers about environmental justice work and were able to network with each other. The 80+ attendees learned about ways to leverage climate and environmental justice resources to accomplish and enhance key organizational objectives.

| Climate Justice Summit (left) and Climate Leaders Cohort (right)

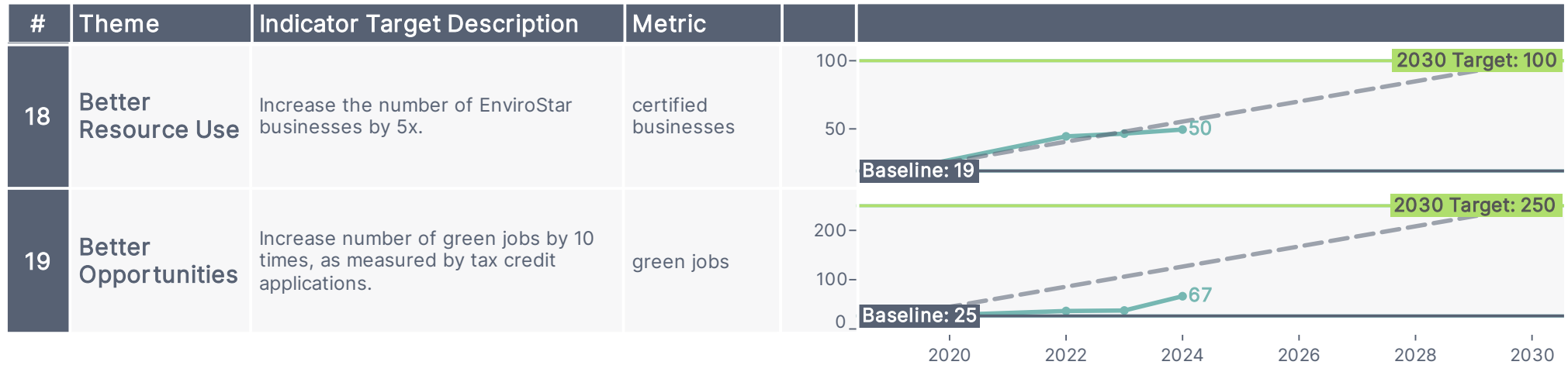


COMMUNITY INDICATOR TARGETS

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2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

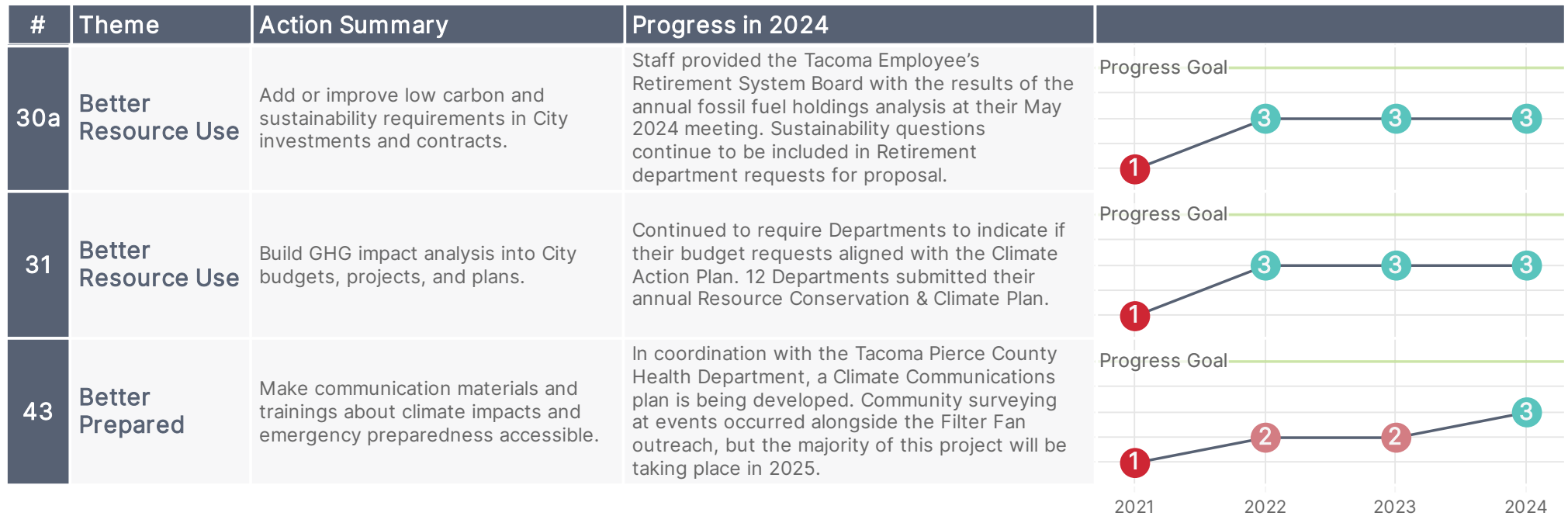
1 None

2 Little Progress

3 Some Progress

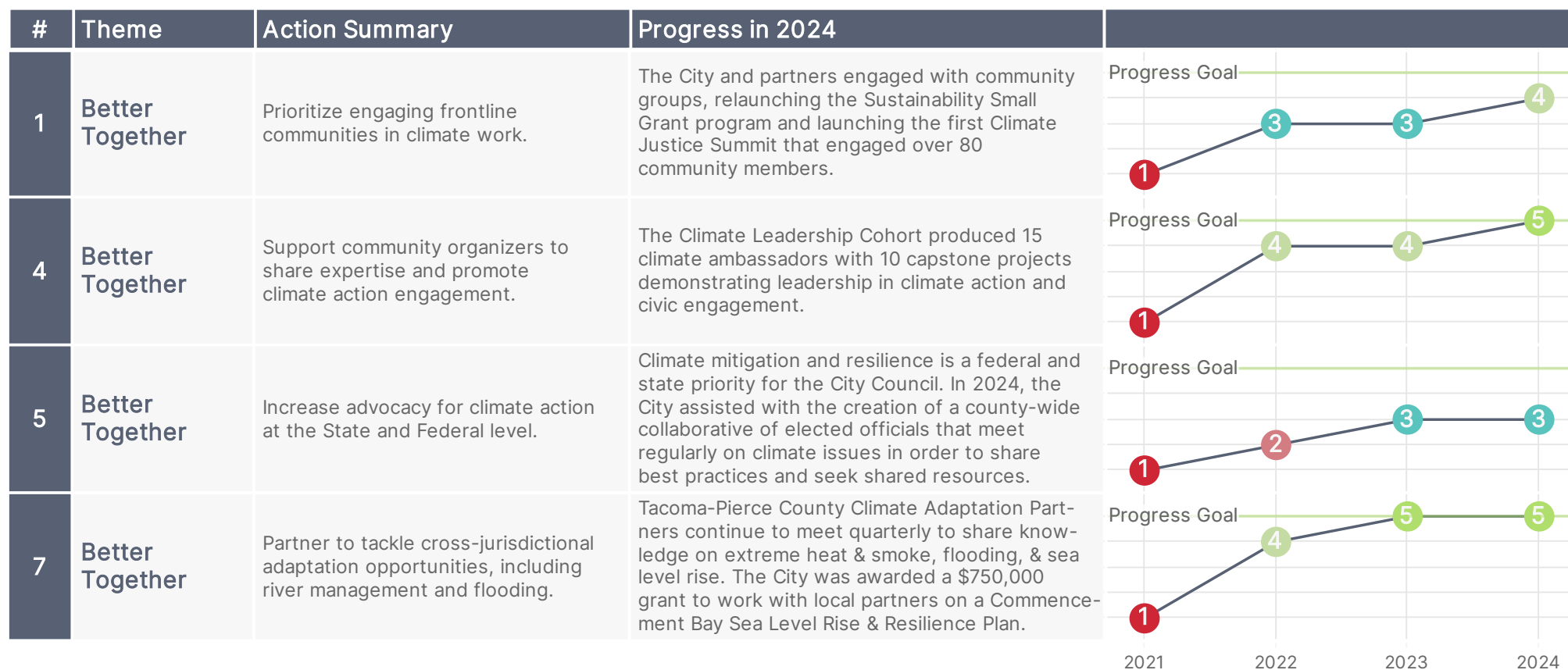
4 Good Progress

5 Completed / Ongoing



2024 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing



SUCCESS STORIES

The City's Community and Economic Development department supported an **E-Contractor Academy** hosted by Emerald Cities Collaborative, its first fully in-person E-Contractor Academy in Tacoma. This free four-week workshop series was designed to support minority and woman owned construction firms with clean energy strategies. It provides an introduction to clean energy work opportunities, clean energy incentive information, and networking with contractor colleagues and government and nonprofit partners.

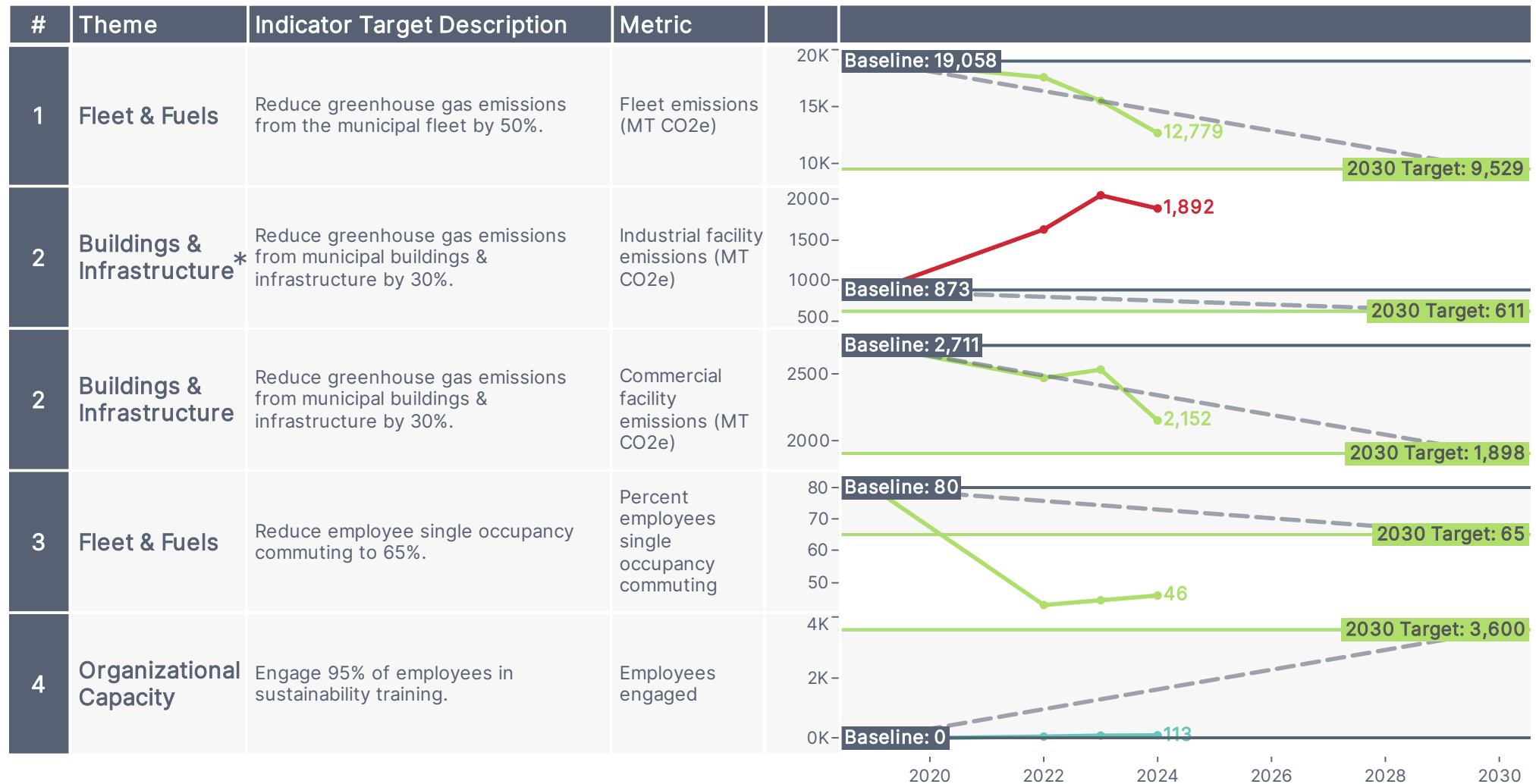
The City's Green Workforce partnership, under the Good Jobs, Great Cities initiative convened by the National League of Cities and the US Department of Labor, hosted the **Green Jobs Summit**. The City and partners in workforce development, labor, community colleges, and employers presented on topics such as Blue Collars in Green Cities; Jobs & Skills of the Future; Local, Green Training Pathways; Greening the Public Sector; Increasing Access & Retention in Good Green Jobs; and City, State, & Federal Outlook on Good Green Jobs.

MUNICIPAL INDICATOR TARGETS

✖ Not improved from baseline

+ Improved from baseline

✔ On track to meet target by 2030



* Increased natural gas use at Tacoma's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant is driving this emissions increase.

2024 MUNICIPAL ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing

#	Theme	Action Summary	Progress in 2024	
1	Buildings & Infrastructure	Implement energy saving policies and procedures for each key municipal facility.	Public Works Facilities are developing operations and management procedures in alignment with the Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div></div></div>
2	Buildings & Infrastructure	Develop an Opportunity Register for each facility with natural gas to identify low-cost efficiency opportunities.	Opportunity registers have been completed for TVE, ES, and TPU. Public Works Facilities will further develop an opportunity register as part of the Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) to be completed in 2025.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>3</div></div></div>
3	Buildings & Infrastructure	Systematically tune-up municipal buildings for each department in a five-year cycle.	PW Facilities reviewing facilities and building control systems for internal tune-up to be completed in 2025-2026.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>2</div><div>3</div></div></div>
4	Buildings & Infrastructure	Complete assessment of facilities with highest natural gas usage for conversion or replacement opportunities.	Completed in 2023.	<div><div>Progress Goal</div><div><div>1</div><div>3</div><div>5</div><div>5</div></div></div>

SUCCESS STORIES

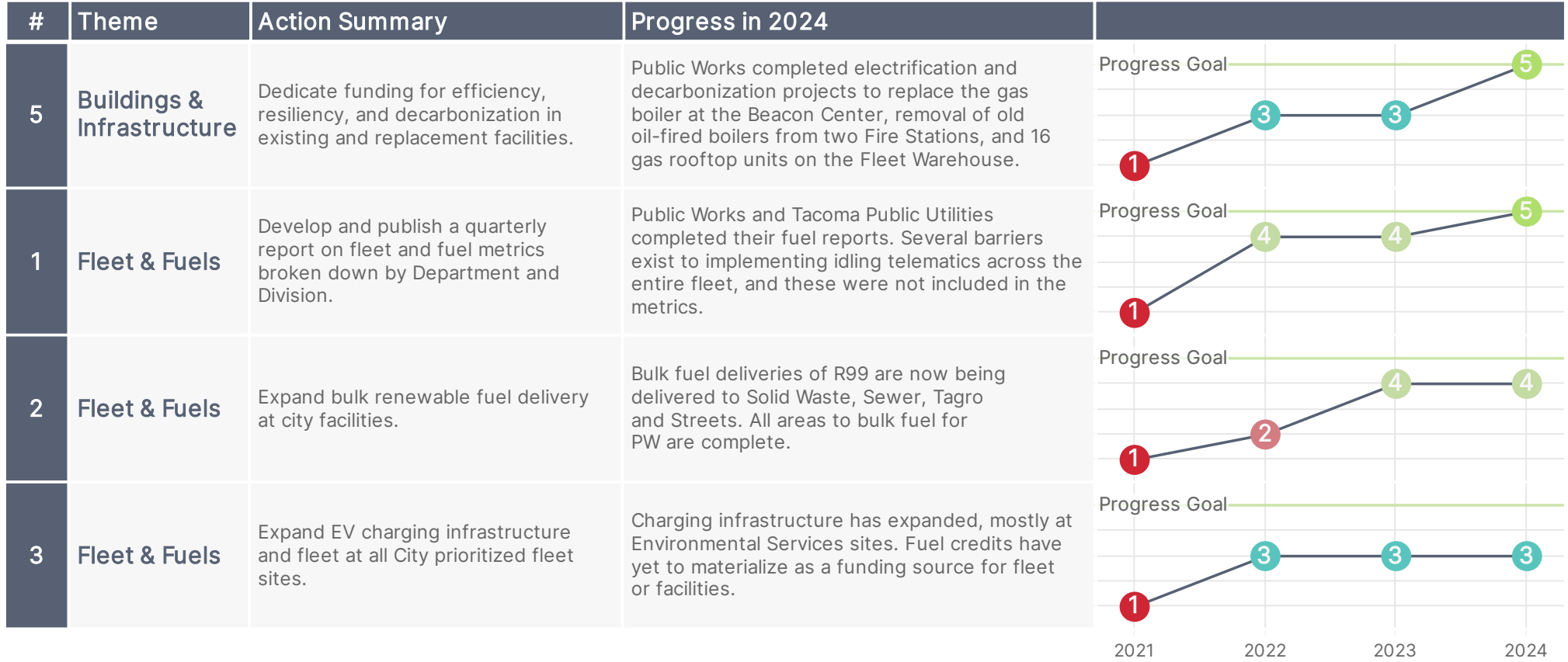
In 2024, the Public Works Facilities Management Project Team completed heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) fuel switching projects at four City facilities: (1) **Beacon Center**, (2) **Fire Station 11**, (3) **Fire Station 13**, and (4) the **Police and Fleet Warehouse**. At each facility, aged natural gas or heating oil-powered HVAC systems were replaced with all-electric heat pump systems. All four facilities now get their energy for space heating from 97% carbon free Tacoma Power electricity, which is primarily derived from clean, renewable hydropower.

New HVAC equipment installed on the Fleet Warehouse roof



2024 MUNICIPAL ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing



SUCCESS STORIES

We continue making great progress on fleet decarbonization. Renewable diesel usage by TPU, Environmental Services, and Public Works reached an all-time high of 472,000 gallons. Solid Waste began fueling its CNG truck fleet with **renewable natural gas** in Q4. Our use of these alternative fuels, key to lowering fleet emissions, is dependent on their continued affordability relative to fossil fuel equivalents. Our EV fleet continues to expand, including Solid Waste's first-ever battery electric yard truck.



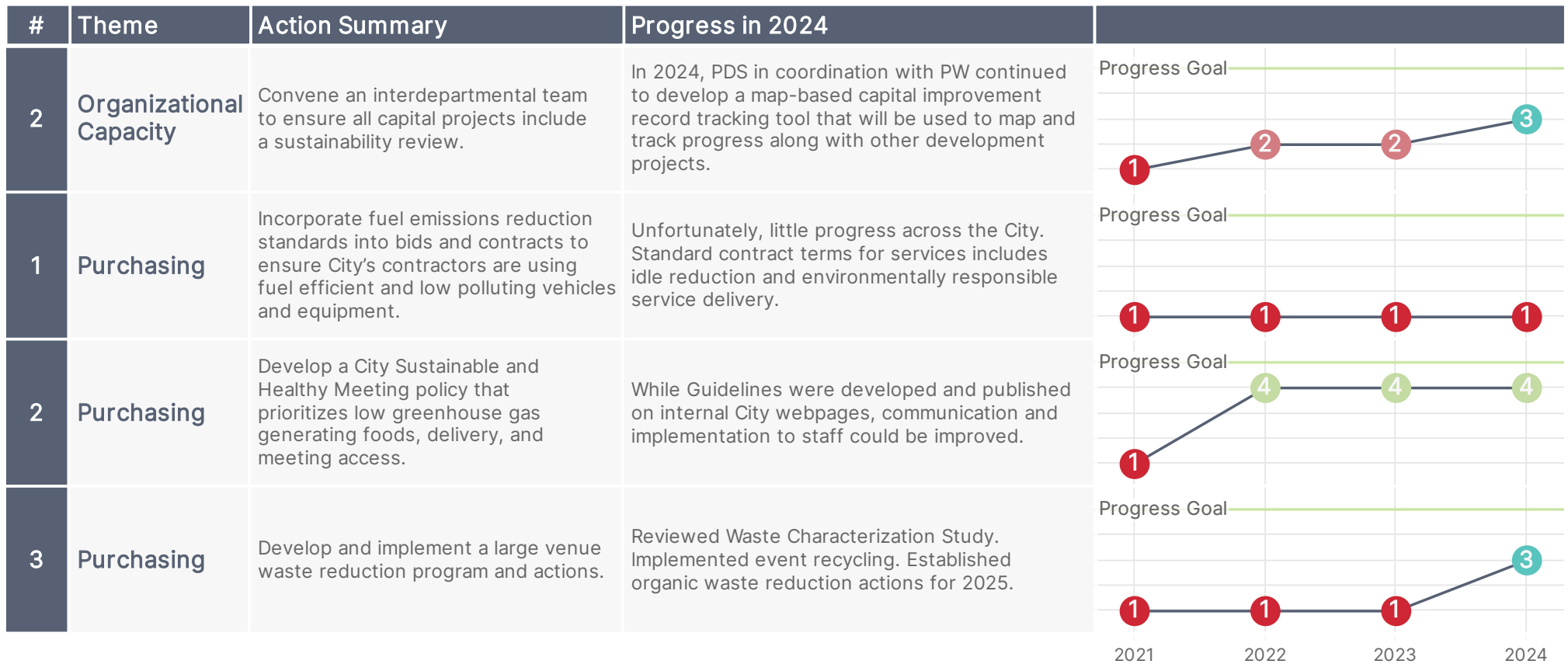
2024 MUNICIPAL ACTIONS

1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing

#	Theme	Action Summary	Progress in 2024	
1	Education & Engagement	Develop an annual Directors Presentation/Training.	Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability moved into the City Managers Office in late 2024. This elevation of climate and sustainability work was communicated to all Department Directors.	Progress Goal 5 5 5 1
2	Education & Engagement	Assemble an interdepartmental team, the One City Stewards program, to participate in tours that showcase sustainability projects.	No action in 2024, due to lack of management support capacity.	Progress Goal 1 1 1 1
3	Education & Engagement	Integrate sustainability training into new employee orientation and onboarding.	Minimal additional progress in 2024. Online training available for all staff but not required.	Progress Goal 4 4 4 1
4	Fleet & Fuels	Increase funding for the fleet capital budget to accelerate replacement with low emission vehicles.	Funding continues to be a challenge for non-Environmental Services General Government groups. Vehicle price increases have further eroded previous funding levels. Tacoma Public Utilities continued to expand its electric fleet.	Progress Goal 1 1 2 2
1	Investments	Develop internal carbon pricing – shadow or real.	Minimal progress was made in 2024. Greenhouse gas inventory update began for municipal sources of emissions.	Progress Goal 1 1 2 2
1	Organizational Capacity	Create departmental Resource Conservation & Climate Plans.	Departments continued their completion of annual Resource Conservation & Climate Plans for the 3rd year. Better alignment with other reporting efforts is planned for 2025.	Progress Goal 4 4 4 1
				2021 2022 2023 2024

2024 MUNICIPAL ACTIONS

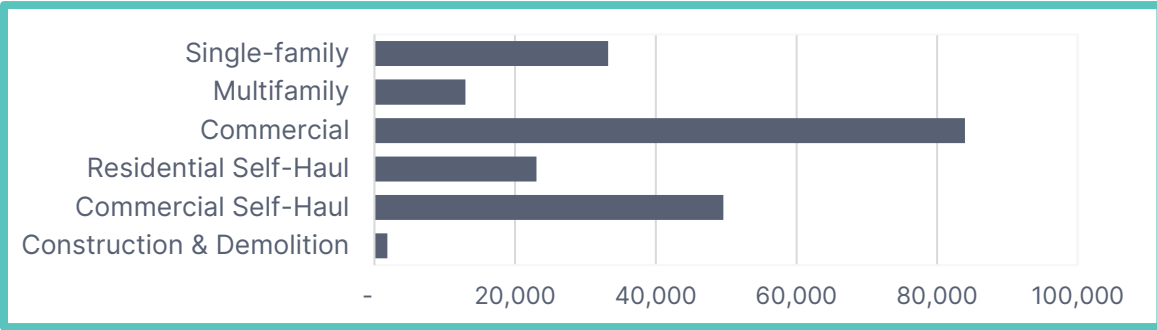
1 None 2 Little Progress 3 Some Progress 4 Good Progress 5 Completed / Ongoing



SUCCESS STORIES

The City's Solid Waste division commissioned a **Waste Characterization Study** - our first since 2015 - that was completed in 2024. Studying the composition of Tacoma's four primary waste streams (disposed waste, commingled recycling, organics, and construction and demolition debris) informs our ongoing and future CAP actions related to consumption and materials management. It also helps us identify additional waste diversion opportunities.

Estimated tons of disposed waste by generator stream, 2023



TACOMA'S CLIMATE ACTION FORWARD TOGETHER

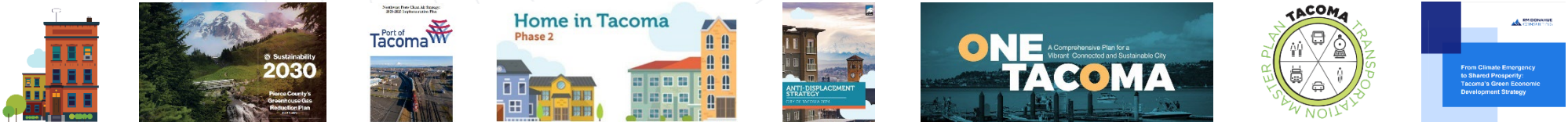
WHAT'S COMING NEXT

As we finish out our initial 2021-2024 implementation cycle, evaluate lessons learned, and seek new opportunities, we are developing an update to the 2030 Climate Action Plan with new implementation actions for 2025-2027. The update will also include a new community-wide greenhouse gas inventory for the City of Tacoma. We will release the update in May, along with new online dashboards that give added insight into our City's climate impacts and the actions we are taking to mitigate and adapt.

In February, we released a Request for Proposals for a technical consultant to complete a Commencement Bay-wide study of vulnerability to sea level rise and other climate related impacts that will serve as an implementation framework for future projects. We will select a consultant by early summer and will move quickly into the beginning stages of this critical project.

We are launching an e-bike rebate program in April – focused on South and East Tacoma, which have been identified as [overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution](#) – thanks to grant funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology. We also received grant funding from the Department of Ecology to distribute air purifiers in these communities.

This plan does not exist in isolation. It is being implemented alongside other vital community plans and partnerships including:



Left to right: [City of Tacoma Affordable Housing Action Strategy](#), [Pierce County Sustainability 2030 Plan](#), [Port of Tacoma Clean Air Strategy Implementation Plan](#), [Home in Tacoma Phase 2](#), [City of Tacoma Anti-Displacement Strategy](#), [One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan](#), [City of Tacoma Transportation and Mobility Plan](#), [City of Tacoma Green Economic Development Strategy](#)

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



1. Attend City Council meetings or contact your City Council representative to voice your climate action priorities and concerns.
2. Engage in City decision-making and budgeting processes by joining a board, commission, or neighborhood council.
3. Learn more about local community environmental events and opportunities by joining the [EnviroNews](#) email list.
4. Start conversations with friends, family, and neighbors about climate change, its local impacts, and the solutions available. Everyday discussions can go a long way toward increasing action and awareness about climate change.
5. Explore the initiatives and goals in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and consider how you can incorporate specific actions into your daily life. Your efforts can make a meaningful difference in improving Tacoma's environment.
6. Share your feedback and questions with the City's Climate Action Planning team at sustainability@cityoftacoma.org
7. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@tacomasustainability) to stay informed about City programs and events.