



8/29/25

280 Madison Ave N
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Dear Laura,

Thanks for sharing the draft of your mid-year report on the Climate Action Plan at our last meeting. The CCAC likes your approach. What you have laid out is clear, concise, and on the mark. You have done something we have talked about for some time: you have begun to collect data that allows us to graph our progress on the plan. This will be vital as we consider how to strengthen the CAP and use it to engage with the community. The CCAC looks forward to working with you on this.

Sincerely,

Kevin Thomas

Kevin Thomas, Chair
Climate Change Advisory Committee



CAP

Climate Action Plan Progress Report

January - July 2025



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3 Goals

1. Mitigation

90% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2045 compared to 2014 levels.

2. Adaptation

Bainbridge Island is climate savvy, and can withstand the impacts of climate change.

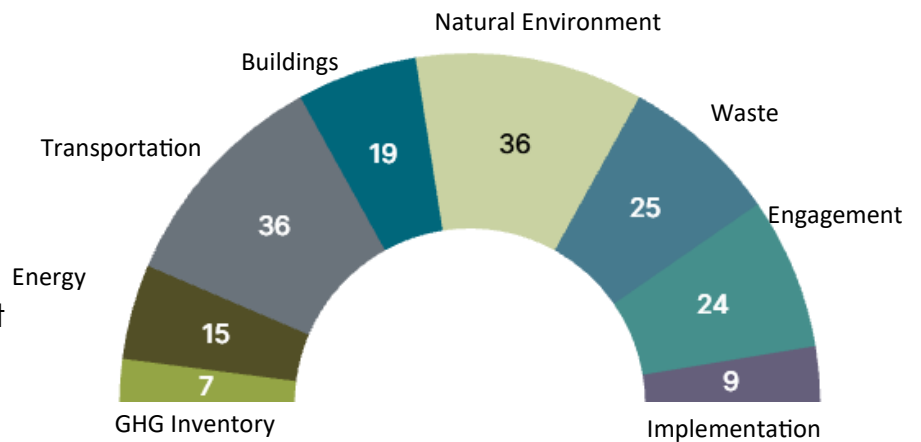
3. Community Engagement

COBI inspires community action and partners with local and regional organizations to take meaningful and equitable climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

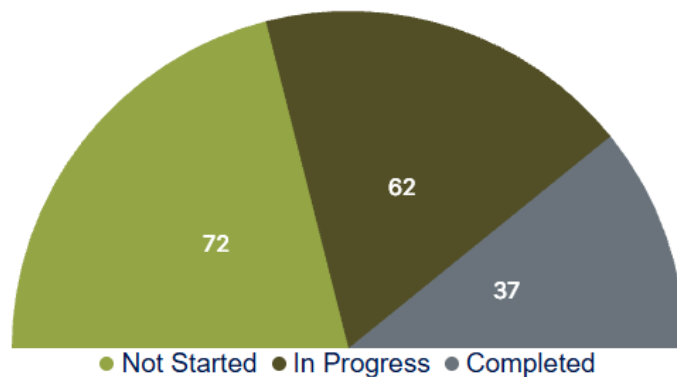
8 Sections

1. GHG Inventory
2. Energy
3. Transportation
4. Buildings
5. Natural Environment
6. Waste
7. Community Engagement
8. Implementation

Actions per Section



Status of Actions



171 Total Actions

79 Priority Actions

30% Priority Actions Completed

Data Snapshot



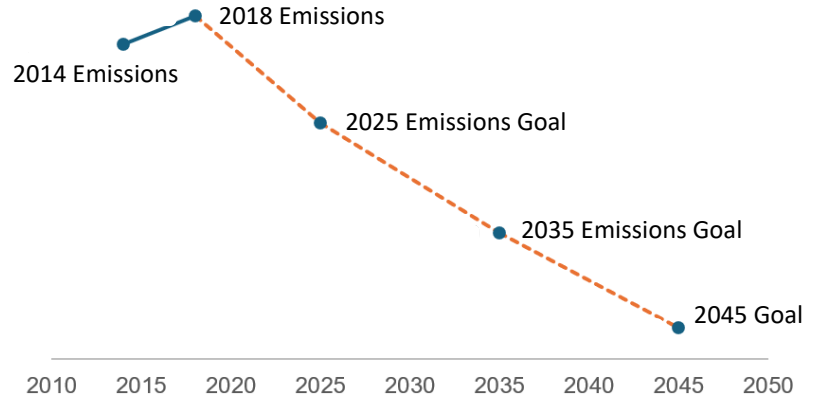
Greenhouse Gas Emissions for

Target - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2045 compared to 2014 levels. Interim targets:

- 25% reduction by 2025
- 60% by 2035

What do we know?

From 2018 emissions, a 63% reduction is needed to reach the 2035 goal.



Source: 2018 GHG Inventory Report

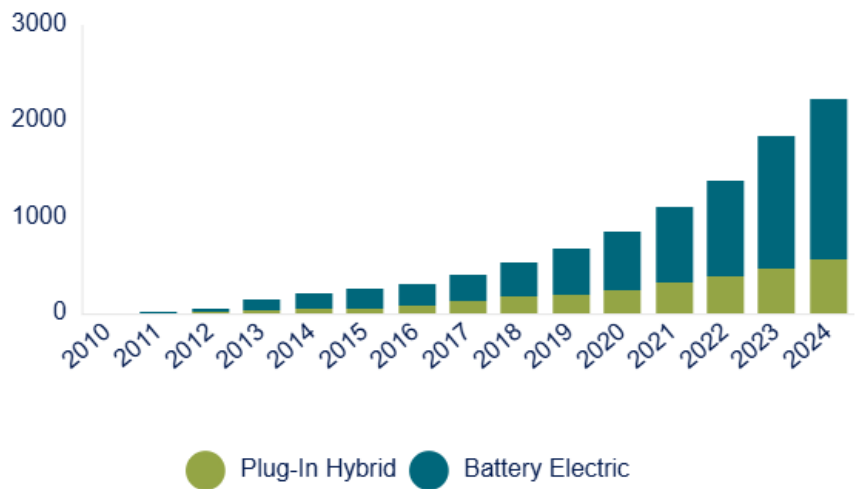


On-Island EV Registrations

Target - By 2045, 80% of registered vehicles on Bainbridge Island will be either electric vehicles or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles

What do we know?

On-island battery electric EV registrations has increased 916% in the last 10 years.



Source: WA Department of Licensing



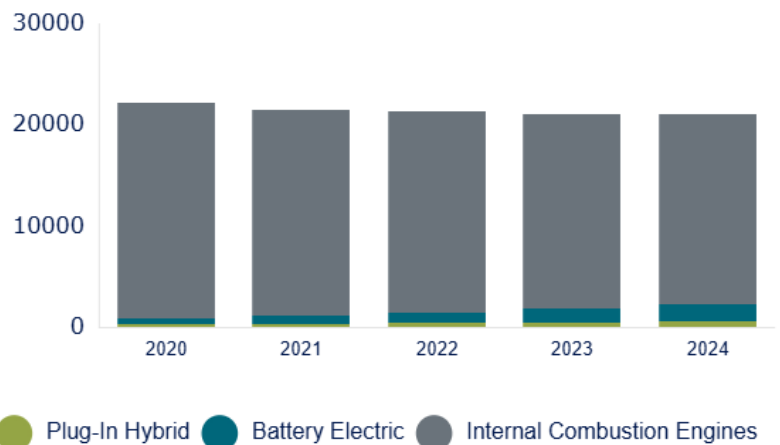
On-Island EV Registrations Compared with Gas Powered Vehicles

What do we know?

Battery electric EVs represent 8% of total on-island vehicle registrations.

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Plug-in hybrid EVs represent 3% of total on-island vehicle registrations.



Source: WA Department of Licensing

Data Snapshot

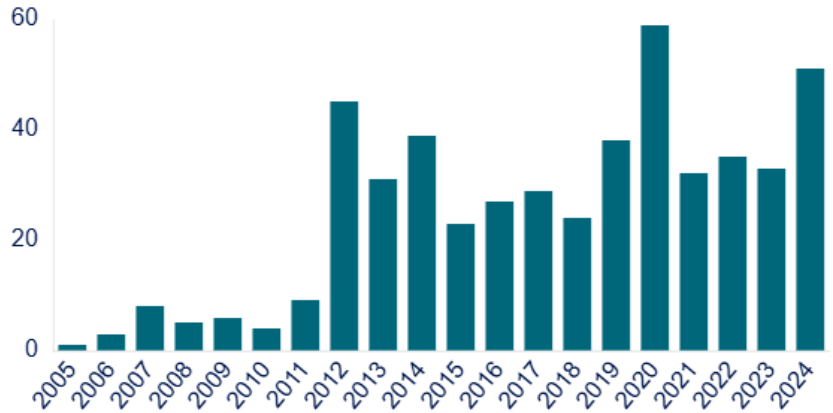


of Residential Solar Systems Installed Each Year

Target - By 2040, all of Bainbridge Island's sources of electricity are carbon-free.

What do we know?

By 2024, a total of 502 residences installed solar panels, representing approximately 5% of total households.



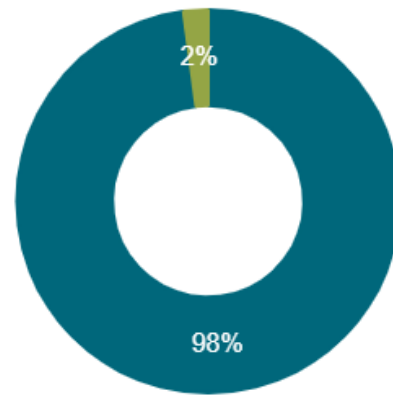
Sources: Puget Sound Energy, US Census



% of Solar Energy Generated Compared to Electricity Used

What do we know?

As of 2024, residential solar systems contributed 2% of energy used.



- Total Annual Electricity Used (235,919 MW)
- Expected Annual Solar Energy Generated (4,958 MW)

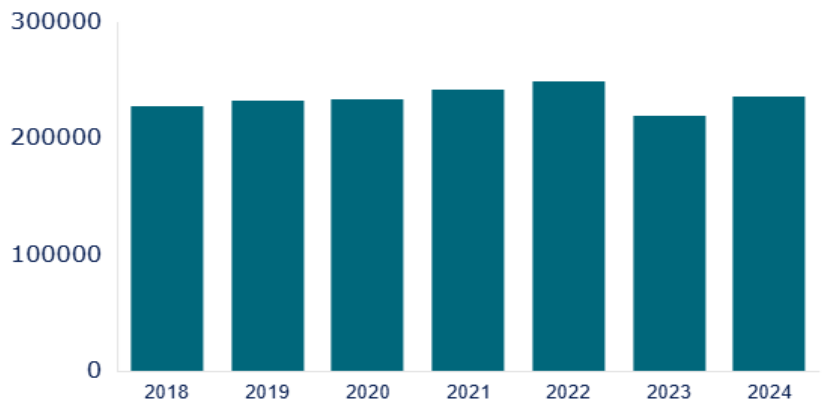
Source: Puget Sound Energy



Annual Electricity Use (MW)

What do we know?

Bainbridge Island's electricity usage has increased 3.5% since 2018 while the population grew 1.2% during that same timeframe.



Sources: Puget Sound Energy, US Census

Updates for Community Focused Projects

January - July 2025

Research

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update Underway CAP Actions 2.A.2.a & 9.C.1.b

What is happening? Research is underway to update both the community greenhouse gas inventory using 2023 emissions data.

Why is this important? Greenhouse gas inventories let us know the source of emissions so that we can focus efforts to reduce that source of pollution.

What's next? The final report should be available by the end of 2025.

Transportation Study Underway CAP Actions 4.A.3.b & 4.A.3.c

What is happening? A consultant has been hired to evaluate the feasibility of desired public transportation projects and provide implementation strategies.

Why is this important? Working with transportation experts ensures solutions are data-informed and evidence-based and will provide the City with needed information to work towards implementation.

What's next? The study should be completed by early Fall with a report on next steps.

Solar and Battery Storage Site Evaluation Underway CAP Action 3.C.1.a

What is happening? An engineering firm is being hired to evaluate the potential for solar panels and a battery back up storage system for critical City facilities and/or sites designed as disaster hubs.

Why is this important? The objective of this project is to increase the energy resilience and reliability at critical city facilities and disaster hubs in the event of prolonged power outages.

What's next? The firm will provide a feasibility analysis and report with evaluation of solar and/or battery energy storage potential at each site and a recommendation for at least one (1) site to receive a construction ready bid set and specification.

Bike Traffic Count Study Completed CAP Action 4.A.1.a

What is happening? The City periodically hires a consultant to count the number of cyclists at multiple intersections and what direction they travel over a period of time.

Why is this important? Understanding the volume of cyclists across the Island informs projects that upgrade the non-motorized transportation infrastructure.

What's next? The City will review data, share out with partners, and use as a resource for future transportation planning.

Updates for Community Focused Projects January - July 2025

Pilots

Kicking Gas Heat Pump Pilot Program Closing Out

CAP Actions 3.A.2.a

3.A.2.b & 3.B.1.d

What is happening? This pilot was designed to offset costs for income-eligible households to replace a carbon emitting furnace with a high efficiency electric heat pump.

Why is this important? Many homes on Bainbridge Island rely on propane, oil, or wood for heat, impairing indoor and outdoor air quality. An electric heat pump provides cooling in the increasingly hot summers and filter out air pollutants such as wildfire smoke and mold. As the cost to install a heat pump is a barrier for many households, this pilot seeks to assess the need and support income-eligible households.

What's next? Upon completion of the pilot, a final report will be available by the end of 2025 that includes opportunities to scale the program based on funding availability.

E-bike Subsidy Pilot Program Launched

CAP Action 4.A.1.g

What is happening? A pilot subsidy program was launched to reduce barriers and encourage the usage of e-bikes.

Why is this important? The high initial cost of e-bikes can be prohibitive for low- and moderate-income individuals. Subsidies make e-bikes more affordable, enabling a wider range of people to access this option while improving transportation access, promoting environmental sustainability, and enhancing the health and well-being of communities.

What's next? Upon completion of the pilot, a report will be made available that includes opportunities to continue the program based on funding availability.

Policy

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Code Updated

CAP Action 4.B.2.a

What happened? In 2022, the City implemented new regulations related to electric vehicle charging infrastructure. In 2024, the community requested a review of the regulations. In 2025, the City updated requirements to be in alignment with the State requirements and reduce the requirements due to challenges of compliance.

Why is this important? The City was responsive to feedback from the Climate Change Advisory Committee, residents and businesses that in a commercial setting, visitors tend to park for short times and that it's the employees that may be parked for longer periods of time. Policy for electric vehicle charging infrastructure should follow where charging primarily happens, such as at home or at your place of employment.

Updates for Community Focused Projects January - July 2025

Infrastructure

Solar Panels Installed at Woodward Middle School

CAP Action 3.B.1.b

What happened? A 120kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system was installed as a carbon offset for the newly built Ted Spearman Justice Center.

Why is this important? Carbon offsets are generated when local solar projects reduce emissions by displacing electricity from higher-carbon sources on the grid.



Bike Corral Completed

CAP Action 4.A.2.e

What is happening? The bike corral located along the street at Winslow green where bikes are locked. A mural chosen by the community through a survey was painted on the road surface.

Why is this important? This prioritizes using public space traditionally dedicated to cars for bikes and e-bikes and helps to manage sidewalk clutter.

What's next? The City is considering expanding the program to install additional bike corrals across the Island.



Plans

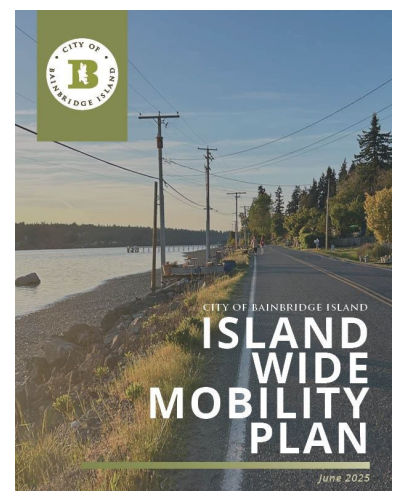
Island-wide Mobility Plan Adopted as Plan of Reference

CAP Actions 4.A.1.a, 4.A.1.h, 4.A.2.a & 4.A.2.b

What is happening? The Island-Wide Mobility Plan (IWMP) combines and updates the information in the Island-Wide Transportation Plan (2017) and the Sustainable Transportation Plan (2022) and will serve as the reference document to the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Why is this important? The merging of the IWTP and STP is intended to simplify transportation planning efforts and improve transparency. By linking to the comprehensive plan, this strengthens the City's commitment to sustainable transportation.

What's next? The IWMP will be considered for full adoption as part of the Comprehensive plan update process.



Updates for Community Focused Projects January - July 2025

Outreach & Education

Wildfire Preparedness

CAP Action 6.A.3.c

What happened? A wildfire mitigation cleanup event took place in May and provided roll-off dumpsters for neighborhoods to dispose of vegetation.

Why is this important? Wildfires are an increasing hazard. Maintaining defensible space using Firewise principles are encouraged for prevention.



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What happened? A wildfire safety mailer was sent to every residential mailing addresses in June.

Why is this important? All residents should have access to information to protect their homes and families.

Waste Reduction

CAP Action 7.A.3.a

What happened? Education about backyard composting and reducing food going into landfills was provided to the public, including 1 open house, 3 postcards mailed to every resident, information made available at 7 public outreach events, and 2 waste audits of compost bins along Winslow way, showing a contamination rate of around 35%.

Why is this important? Composting organic material reduces greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and creates a valuable soil amendment that increases soil fertility and the soil's ability to infiltrate water. Knowing the contamination rate of any material stream provides data into behavior and can be used to create improved programming better aimed to meet goals.



Awards

City Awarded Bronze for Bicycle Friendly Community

CAP Actions 4.A.1.a & 4.A.1.e

What is happening? The League of American Bicyclists awarded the City of Bainbridge Island as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the bronze level.

Why is this important? The League evaluates a community's engineering, education, encouragement, evaluation & planning, and equity & accessibility. The City has made enough progress in these areas to earn a bronze level.

What's next? The City will continue to improve the safety of the Island's cycling network and move towards an application for a silver and then gold certification.



Updates for Municipal Focused Projects

January - July 2025

Research

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Update Underway

CAP Actions 2.A.2.a

& 9.C.1.b

What is happening? Research is underway to update the City's greenhouse gas inventory using 2023 data. Example data collected includes amount of electricity used at each City facility, number of miles employees commute, and amount of propane purchased.

Why is this important? Greenhouse gas inventories let us know the source of emissions so that we can focus efforts to reduce that pollution.

What's next? The final report should be available by the end of 2025.

Policy

Commute Trip Reduction Ordinance 2025-11 Updated

CAP Action 4.A.1.a

What is happening? This administrative update better aligns the City's ordinance with the County's CTR 4 year plan.

Why is this important? Washington State's Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Law was first passed by the State Legislature in 1991 with goals to improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion, and reduce the consumption of petroleum fuels through employer-based programs that encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone. The 2018 GHG inventory shows that 8% of all City greenhouse gas emissions come from City employee commutes. The City offers incentives to reduce driving alone and to switch commute trips to a sustainable mode.

Infrastructure

Installation of Fleet Electric Vehicle Charging Completed

CAP Action 4.B.1.b

What is happening? The City was awarded a WA State Department of Commerce grant to install 6 level 2 electric vehicle charging ports at two City locations for fleet vehicle charging.

Why is this important? This grant supports the city's effort to convert its fleet to electric while aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.



Updates for Municipal Focused Projects

January - July 2025

Capacity Building

City's Climate Manager Hired

CAP Action 9.A.1.b

What happened? In February, the City hired a new Climate & Sustainability Manager to implement and measure progress on actions in the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Why is this important? There is a large amount of coordination and administrative work associated with advancing the CAP and having paid staff is critical to moving the work forward.

City Hosts UW Intern

What is happening? The City is hosting an intern who recently earned their graduate degree in Public Administration at UW. They will be working on a number of priority City projects, one being to advance the electric vehicle charging code update for multifamily properties.

Why is this important? With limited staffing at the City to implement the CAP and other Council priorities, hosting interns helps both provide professional experience while moving projects forward in a more timely manner.

What's next? The internship will be wrap up around mid-October.

City Participating in IRS Direct Pay Program

What is happening? For the first time, the City is participating in the IRS Direct Pay program, also called Elective Pay, which allows local governments, along with other tax-exempt entities, to receive a cash payment for clean energy investments electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging, and solar installations, for example.

Why is this important? Taking part in the program incentivizes clean energy investments and provides filers with a funding source to be used for further investments.

What's next? The City will be filing for the purchases of 3 electric vehicles that occurred in 2024, resulting in funds that will be provided back to the City.