



Burien Climate Action Plan

Results from the Burien Climate Action Plan Community Survey

The Burien Climate Action Plan (CAP) provides a roadmap for the City of Burien and its citizens to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve their climate goals—carbon neutrality by 2050—with community solutions and individual actions.

Soliciting community feedback is a crucial part of the CAP process. We asked Burien residents to complete a survey and provide feedback on the proposed strategies of the CAP and identify any additional actions.

This survey was open from July 26th to August 25th, 2021. This survey was released on the Burien CAP webpage and was promoted through the City’s newsletters, social media channels, on flyers posted in the community, and at the Burien Farmers Market. The Community Advisory Group also promoted the survey among their organizations and connections in Burien. To increase accessibility and garner input from traditionally underrepresented communities, the survey was translated into the two most common languages in Burien, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Summary

In total, we received a total of **287 responses**. We received 277 English responses, 7 Spanish, and 3 Vietnamese. Some additional demographic information about the survey responses are below:

- Most respondents live in Burien (106)
- Most respondents live and work in Burien (45)
- The majority of respondents are between the ages of 32-41 (34)
- The majority of respondents have received an advanced degree (62)

Race and Ethnicity	
White or Caucasian	122
Black or African American	2
Latino, Latina, or Latinx	6
Asian or Asian American	11
Native American, American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab American	2
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1
I prefer not to say	14
Other	5 ¹

Gender	
Male	62
Female	79
Non-binary or non-conforming	3
Genderqueer	0
I prefer not to say	10

¹ Other responses included: Human, Biracial black and white, Mixed, Caucasian, American

Survey Results

Level of support for CAP Actions

Transportation & Land Use

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: **LOW** (I have major concerns), **MEDIUM** (I have some concerns but generally support), **HIGH** (I have no concerns and strongly support), **UNKNOWN/UNSURE**

75.53% of respondents strongly support or support the following actions

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
Action T-1.1.1 Work with community organizations, homeowners, and renters to identify and address key barriers to electric vehicle ownership in the community.	21%	25%	54%	1%
Action T-1.1.2 Develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure plan that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews current EV infrastructure in the city to identify gaps in charging locations. • Identifies locations for chargers in commercial, multifamily residence areas, and city facilities. • Reviews feasibility of fast charging stations. • Addresses barriers to charging for homeowners and renters. • Identifies key stakeholders to EV infrastructure use and development. • Identifies partners in the region who can assist with charging station infrastructure to lower program and construction costs. 	16%	25%	57%	2%
Action T-1.1.3 Continue to support the State in adopting clean vehicle standards by including this in Burien’s State legislative agenda every year.	15%	22%	59%	4%
Action T-1.2.1 Provide City sponsored bus passes for all regular and supplemental employees for commuting to work.	15%	19%	62%	4%
Action T-1.2.2 Continue to support remote work for employees by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating the City's telecommuting policy to increase the number of days staff work from home. • When feasible, allowing multiple virtual options to employees and city stakeholders. 	9%	18%	69%	4%
Action T-1.2.3 Train fleet drivers and employees on best practices for fuel efficiency.	12%	26%	57%	5%
Action T-1.2.4 Support active transportation options for employees by providing bicycle lockers,	17%	24%	57%	2%

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
showers, and other bicycle infrastructure at City buildings.				
Action T-1.2.5 Invest in transitioning the Burien fleet to all electric vehicles where feasible. Where infeasible, pursue short-term approaches (e.g., short-term leases) to acquire fuel-efficient vehicles.	16%	20%	61%	3%
Action T-1.3.1 Explore the use of new mobility options such as bike share, electric bikes and scooters, and ride hailing. This can include research into the feasibility of those options in Burien and partnering with community organizations to promote the use of these options in multiple languages.	23%	34%	40%	3%
Action T-1.3.2 Partner with public transportation services, frontline community organizations, and surrounding jurisdictions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key barriers to increased transit ridership • Identify areas of the community that lack reliable transit service • Focus changes to transit service in areas identified by partners • Pilot new routes and diverse transit options to improve efficiency and reliability throughout the community 	13%	19%	65%	3%
Action T-1.3.3 Encourage business owners to offer Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) programs or similar incentives to their employees for using transit or rideshare options.	10%	26%	59%	5%
Action T-2.1.1 Review and update land use, zoning, and planning policy to prioritize the development of affordable ten-minute communities (where work, shopping, schools, and play are within ten minutes of where people live). This can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altering zoning and planning policies to integrate Transportation Demand Management (TDM) standards into Comprehensive Plan code changes for institutional and commercial development. • Using code requirements, incentives, or impact fees as tools to integrate public amenities and services such as parks, open space, public art, street front retail and community services in neighborhoods. • Incentivizing infill and mixed-use development (e.g. through density bonuses, zoning amendments 	18%	23%	54%	5%

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
to increase density, tax benefits, and reduction in parking or other code requirements). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring pedestrian-friendly street frontages with landscaping, ample sidewalks, and parking that minimizes conflicts between pedestrians and automobiles (may require amendments to zoning code and road standards). 				
Action T-2.1.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of zoning codes and identify incentives to encourage Accessory Dwelling Units (i.e., mother-in-law units).	15%	31%	48%	6%
Action T-2.1.3 Adopt Missing Middle Housing policies and codes for all new development to allow for broader housing types in single family zones, particularly near transit, while ensuring affordability for current and future residents	23%	23%	48%	7%

General trends:

- ✓ **Lack of safety** is a barrier to pursuing alternative transportation modes; concerns about taking public transit/going to transit centers, riding bikes to work, etc.
- ✓ Improve and create **bike and pedestrian infrastructure** (bike lanes, bike stations, sidewalks around the City, prioritizing the most dense areas).
- ✓ **Promote green transit modes without creating barriers** for vulnerable populations (i.e., elderly people and those with varying levels of ability may not be able to walk/bike).
- ✓ **Protect tree canopy and plant more native species** around the city to reduce urban heating, especially in denser and low-income areas.
- ✓ **Reduce air pollution from the SeaTac Airport** and protect surrounding communities.

Additional Comments:

- Build HYPERLOOP lines to SeaTac
- Incentivize Passive House building efficiency standards in new residential buildings
- Connect with the Port of Seattle to monitor their development plans and how those would impact the Burien community
- Free shuttle service to bring people from neighborhoods into downtown
- Restrict the development of single-family houses on multifamily lots. Regulations/building codes for new buildings, require new buildings to meet LEED certification standards
- Expand outreach to non-city employees
- Partner with school districts to provide each student an ORCA card
- Discourage SOVs (i.e., by raising parking rates)
- More parking at the Burien Transit Center
- Increase speed limits to increase MPG
- identify bike friendly "route maps" through the city for commuters "Golf cart community designation"
- Incentive bike/scooter/car share programs (free parking/charging stations)
- Incentives homeowners/renters to make their vehicle charging systems available to others.
- Concentrate redevelopment along our commercial corridors such as 1st Ave & Ambaum
- Focus on single family housing zoning
- Open zoning to allow for building duplex, triplex, or quadplex structures in single family zones if the structure is built to Passive House standard.

Buildings & Energy

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: **LOW** (I have major concerns), **MEDIUM** (I have some concerns but generally support), **HIGH** (I have no concerns and strongly support), **UNKNOWN/UNSURE**

80.89% of respondents strongly support or support the following actions

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
Action B-1.1.1 Implement building code changes to promote energy efficient buildings. Ideally, these regulations would cover both new construction and major renovations of existing buildings. Code changes may include requiring electric heating/cooling pumps in all new builds or renovations (no new natural gas), or requiring EV infrastructure for all new commercial and multi-family development to increase available EV charging stations in the city.	20%	22%	57%	2%
Action B-1.1.2 Provide incentives for or require the development of new builds to be high-performance certified commercial and multi-family buildings through programs such as LEED (or built to LEED standards), EDGE, or Built Green, with the goal to achieve net zero GHG in new buildings by 2031. Incentives or requirements can be implemented through the zoning code through increased height and floor area.	11%	29%	57%	3%
Action B-1.1.3 Put in place a system to regularly update relevant building code ordinances, adopt green codes and mandate implementation; consider adopting further local standards to reduce GHG emissions over time.	13%	22%	61%	4%
Action B-1.1.4 Require building energy performance disclosure* and benchmarking from all privately-owned commercial buildings by 2030 (at a minimum, any multi-family or non-residential over 20,000 sq. ft) and set a maximum target for energy per sq. ft. by a determined year. (*Existing policy requires benchmarking of building over 50,000 sq. ft by 2026. Incentives available for buildings that adopt early.)	15%	24%	56%	4%
Action B-1.1.5 Explore suitable financing mechanisms to finance energy efficiency upgrades for commercial buildings.	10%	21%	67%	1%

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
Action B-1.2.1 Partner with Seattle City Light and Puget Sound Energy to promote incentives for energy conservation.	4%	15%	78%	3%
Action B-1.2.2 Support Homeowner Energy Efficiency Workshop Events designed to inform the community about green building and efficiency certification programs, project permitting, financing, innovative products, as well as architect and contractor certification resources.	6%	23%	68%	3%
Action B-1.3.1 Conduct energy audits in all city operated buildings and partner with the local utility and private contractors to make improvements.	7%	17%	74%	2%
Action B-1.3.2 Assess various options for financing and grants for energy efficiency projects for city buildings and facilities.	10%	17%	70%	3%
Action B-1.3.3 Join either the Seattle City Light Green Up program or Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Green Direct program to reduce emissions from government operations. Through Green Direct, Burien can purchase 100 percent of their energy from local, renewable energy resources.	10%	22%	63%	5%
Action B-1.3.4 Continue to implement energy efficient outdoor lighting, such as light emitting diodes (LED) for all streetlights and parks lighting infrastructure in Burien.	3%	11%	84%	3%
Action B-2.1.1 Evaluate and assess the barriers and challenges homeowners face in shifting to renewable energy sources. Based on the results of the assessment, begin to support the development of community solar projects that benefit all residents, particularly communities of color, low-income populations, and members of limited-English-speaking communities (e.g. Spark Northwest).	13%	17%	68%	2%
Action B-2.1.2 Partner with utilities and contractors to help businesses and school districts improve efficiency and upgrade equipment that improves affordability, comfort, indoor air quality and energy efficiency in all commercial/multi-family buildings and schools.	8%	14%	77%	1%
Action B-2.1.3 Require EV infrastructure for all new commercial and multi-family property development to increase available EV charging stations in the city.	20%	24%	54%	2%

General Trends

- ✓ The **cost** of transitioning to green energy is a **major barrier**, particularly to vulnerable individuals, communities and small businesses
 - Major equity concerns if vulnerable communities are penalized for not being able to afford energy efficient upgrades.
 - Concern that cost will fall on taxpayer
- ✓ **Support for** residential and commercial **solar panels**
- ✓ Create and promote more **funding opportunities** for individuals, communities and small businesses to help with the green transition

Additional Comments

- EV infrastructure should be a Pay-As-Used Service supporting more locations and equity for all taxpayers.
- Work with King County's Regional Code Collaboration to implement building and EV-related codes.
- Create a Public Utility District for Burien to break from the dependency on PSE
- Develop residential building codes and ordinances for remodeling houses and multiple family dwellings that exceed the State standards. This includes banning new gas hookups. Focus on water use efficiency
- Greenery in buildings (i.e. green roofs)
- Minimize damage of street lighting
- Require all new home construction to be "solar ready" and "EV Ready"
- Require LEED or Living Building certification on all new City-owned buildings and major renovations
- Support for banning new natural gas hookups and new gas lines
- Ban new "natural" gas hookups
- Encourage replacement of gas heating, cooking, and water heating with heat pumps
- Incentivize all-electric homes

Materials & Consumption

Level of support for existing strategies

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: **LOW** (I have major concerns), **MEDIUM** (I have some concerns but generally support), **HIGH** (I have no concerns and strongly support), **UNKNOWN/UNSURE**

84.21% of respondents strongly support or support the following actions

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
Action M-1.1.1 Strengthen and implement the City's sustainable purchasing policy focused on end-use for materials, the recyclability of products, and encouraging city staff to solicit bids from local contractors and purchase from local vendors, services, and stores to reduce GHG emissions from commerce-related transportation, food production, and distribution. King County's Sustainable Purchasing Guide is a potential model for internal standards.	7%	21%	68%	4%
Action M-1.1.2 Require all three-waste stream (garbage, recycle, and compost) bins at all City facilities to increase waste diversion rates from City operations. Work with the City's waste hauler on a campaign to educate staff and visitors on how to dispose more responsibly through materials, signage, and installations.	6%	15%	77%	2%
Action M-1.1.3 Adopt King County's Construction and Demolition waste diversion requirements.	9%	14%	58%	20%
Action M-1.1.4 Conduct waste stream audits every two years at all city buildings. Develop a strategy to cut back in consumption of top 5 non-recyclable and other landfill waste stream items identified in the waste audit.	12%	25%	61%	3%
Action M-1.1.5 Switch to digital for all internal and external paper uses when feasible. • Internal: HR paperwork, meetings, timesheets, presentations, reports, invoices, ext. • External: invoices, payments, contracts, digital signatures, ext.	8%	21%	69%	3%
Action M-1.1.6 Increase City employee education and awareness around waste reduction by hosting annual sustainability events such as Earth Day/Earth month or Green Office Day. This event serves to educate employees and reinforce commitment to sustainable behavior.	13%	27%	58%	2%
Action M-1.2.1 Promote prevention and redistribution of food waste through: • Expanding	8%	12%	75%	5%

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
and encouraging community and school gardens, urban agriculture, and farmers markets that sell locally produced food. • Once developed, using the Use Food Well Washington Plan as a guidepost to reduce food waste in Burien • Work with local grocery stores to support a food donation program to send surplus food				
Action M-1.2.2 Mandate recycling and composting at multi-family properties by 2026. Use education and incentives to guide building owners, operators, and residents to achieve this goal. Use culturally competent multilingual education and outreach alongside incentives to guide building owners, operators, and residents to achieve this goal while reducing contamination within waste streams.	11%	14%	73%	2%
Action M-1.2.3 Work with King County, K4C, and solid waste haulers to develop a composting mater plan to expand the composting infrastructure in the Puget Sound.	10%	15%	73%	3%

General Trends

- ✓ **Develop more robust and accessible waste education** (i.e., how much waste the city, individuals, and communities generate, what is recyclable/compostable, etc.)
- ✓ Reduce plastic packaging and promote compostable alternatives.
- ✓ **Require composting and recycling** for commercial and residential properties.

Additional Comments

- More recycling events for residents to recycle and purchase compost bins/rain barrels
- Place to drop of Styrofoam and used propane bottles
- Promote reusable food ware for restaurants and residents
- Incentivize businesses to reduce packaging on the sale of and ensure that packaging is compostable and made from renewable sources
- Promote/fund avenues repair/exchange programs
- Implement Circular Economy tracking and guidelines. Provide incentives to corporate businesses to begin moving to a fully circular economy.
- Mandate recyclable packaging
- More community gardens to minimize food waste
- Mandate recycling and composting at all locations, including public parks and schools.
- Signage around city to not litter and to recycle
- Put responsibility to recycle packaging on producer rather than consume

Water and Natural Resources

Level of support for existing strategies

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: **LOW** (I have major concerns), **MEDIUM** (I have some concerns but generally support), **HIGH** (I have no concerns and strongly support), **UNKNOWN/UNSURE**

84.36% of respondents strongly support or support the following actions

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
Action W-1.1.1 Support regional efforts to strengthen, revise, and enforce codes for critical areas including fish, tree, frequently flooded areas, unstable slopes, and associated areas and ecosystems to protect native habitats. Consider best available climate science when strengthening and revising codes (such as future flooding patterns) and update codes as best available climate science changes.	9%	12%	77%	2%
Action W-1.1.2 Consider hiring an Arborist. The Arborist will support the preservation of native trees, educate city staff on best practices, assist in the development and implementation of tree codes, and track and report tree removal to enable the city to effectively manage tree cover.	13%	21%	65%	1%
Action W-1.1.3 Seek opportunities to improve stream resilience to high flows.	9%	14%	69%	7%
Action W-1.1.4 Assess opportunities to retrofit existing untreated areas to improve flow control and water quality, with a priority on locations providing the most benefit and areas that are historically under-resourced.	9%	16%	72%	4%
Action W-1.2.1 Incentivize green stormwater infrastructure projects such as rain gardens and other low impact designs, with a priority for frequently flooded areas and paired with policies to prevent displacement resulting from the potential increase in property values.	6%	17%	74%	3%
Action W-1.2.2 Maintain or replace aging stormwater infrastructure including pipes, catch basins, ponds, and swales using LID where feasible.	5%	15%	73%	7%
Action W-1.2.3 Study the feasibility of including climate change predictions for precipitation into the sizing of new and replaced stormwater infrastructure.	13%	22%	62%	3%

General Themes

- ✓ **More education** about water use, stormwater infrastructure, water pollution and the importance of water conservation to residents
- ✓ **Protect and preserve our trees** and plants and penalize for irresponsible management

Additional Comments

- Prohibit home car washing and pesticide use
- Implement a tree removal permit and penalize removal of important trees
- Require all new builds and major renovations to include permanent alternatives for all continuous asphalt and concrete off roadway surfaces
- Remove English Ivy
- Incentivize retention and preservation of mature trees and stands
- Have the City conduct soil samples regularly
- Give residents information on how much water is used annually, and how to conserve; revise annually to show progress
- Add provisions/laws to preserve un-developed green spaces, incentivize the planting and preservation of trees on public and private land
- Develop a plan for tree protection and urban forest management
- Investigate tree equity as it relates to low versus high income neighborhoods, and incentivize the expansion and connection of greenbelts and natural habitats
- City of Burien should distribute monthly newsletter to residents that identifies/informs CAP-related policies
- Require developers to offset all tree removals with more significant open space and tree plantings
- Assist low-income neighborhoods on septic systems to receive financial support to convert to sewer systems
- Disallow development in areas of natural stream flow
- Make stormwater treatment/management policies more transparent and consistent
- Promote native plants and preserve existing vegetation
- Improve local parks
- Improve air quality, especially near SeaTac and monitor air quality trends around there

Community Resilience & Wellbeing

Level of support for existing strategies

Level of support was ranked on the following scale: **LOW** (I have major concerns), **MEDIUM** (I have some concerns but generally support), **HIGH** (I have no concerns and strongly support), **UNKNOWN/UNSURE**

82.69% of respondents strongly support or support the following actions

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
Action C-111 Partner with community organization and key stakeholders to host culturally competent and multi-lingual educational workshops around aspects of sustainability, including waste reduction, zero waste, upcycling, natural yard care, water conservation, benefits of trees, air quality, and energy conservation	12%	17%	68%	3%
Action C-112 Implement a sustainable business recognition program to publicly recognize businesses with a commitment to sustainable practices (eg EnviroStars)	12%	24%	62%	2%
Action C-121 Assess City staff knowledge and ability to act on climate change in their role through a staff survey Tailor awareness-building and other capacity building based on survey results	17%	24%	56%	3%
Action C-122 Create a centralized City sustainability coordinator to support CAP monitoring and implementation The sustainability coordinator would be responsible for developing a cross-departmental group to expand participation across departments in climate action implementation	21%	23%	52%	4%
Action C-211 Identify current and future vulnerable populations and implement resilience-building actions to support populations most affected by climate change in Burien Resilience-building actions can include jobs training, volunteer opportunities, community organizing, and school and recreation-based activities	16%	23%	59%	2%
Action C-212 Conduct targeted outreach with vulnerable populations to understand their needs and how the City can best assist them in preparing to meet those needs	17%	17%	60%	6%
Action C-213 Partner with community organizations to conduct wildfire smoke outreach and education campaigns to increase awareness of how homeowners and renters can prepare for the negative impacts of wildfire smoke Prioritize	14%	21%	63%	2%

CAP Strategy	Percent Distribution of Responses			
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	UNKNOWN/ UNSURE
communities without air conditioning or air filtration, health co-morbidities, and those who work outside				
Action C-214 Ensure equitable access to parks, green space, and recreational services by creating more usable green space in Burien’s activity centers and incorporating a higher volume of smaller parks and urban public spaces	8%	11%	78%	3%

General Themes

- ✓ Create **more City green spaces**
- ✓ Encourage **underrepresented and youth communities to be involved**
- ✓ **Increase education** on climate and sustainability issues

Additional Comments

- Create public cooling centers
- Work with schools to engage students in planning and implementation processes
- Incorporate climate resilience into every City planning document to ensure comprehensive adoption and planning
- Ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable and of ethnic minorities are included on all committees, action groups, and strategizing teams working these goals for Burien
- Create community gardens
- Contractors should be required to plant replacement trees where they do their projects
- Set up a rating system where citizens can determine their negative impact on the environment
- Provide public access to Lake Burien, which is a public lake
- Encourage citizens to get out into nature
- Establish plans for extreme weather events Shelters and staffing should be planned for and not rely upon volunteers and churches to provide shelters