

**First speaker, Paul Bruno:**

Good evening Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and City Council Members. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak this evening.

My name is Paul Bruno. I live in Bellevue and am member of the People for Climate Action – Bellevue Chapter.



[Slide #1]

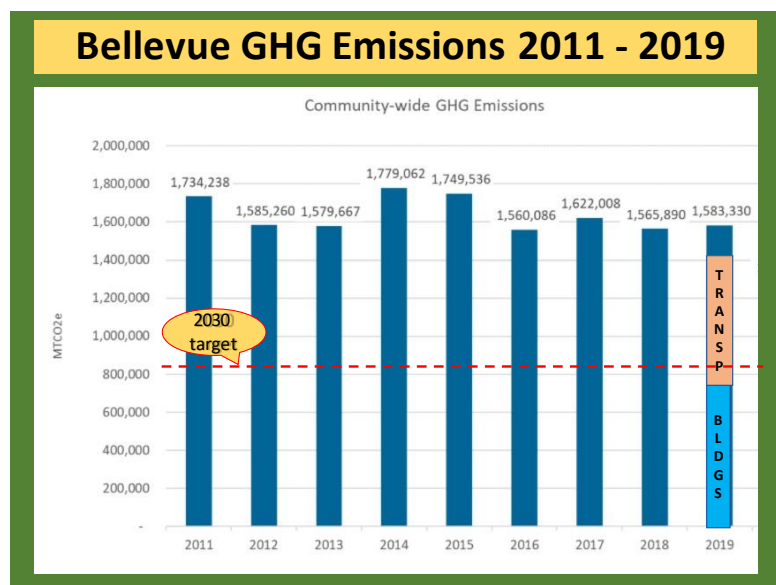
PCA is an all-volunteer organization and our mission is to support cities like Bellevue that have committed to cut Green House Gas (GHG) emissions 50% by 2030.

Three of us are here this evening to commend the Council for encouraging City staff to take on more climate action work. We are also here in support of the staff that has been working so hard since the Environmental Stewardship Plan was adopted in December of last year.

In addition, after Staff presented their quarterly Environmental Stewardship Plan update, we truly appreciate the comments made by Council members who wish to see accelerated progress in advancing the Plan rapidly.

And, PCA Bellevue members collectively want to help the City do just that. Some of our members have contributed time to research and compile what climate actions are being taken by other cities across the country.

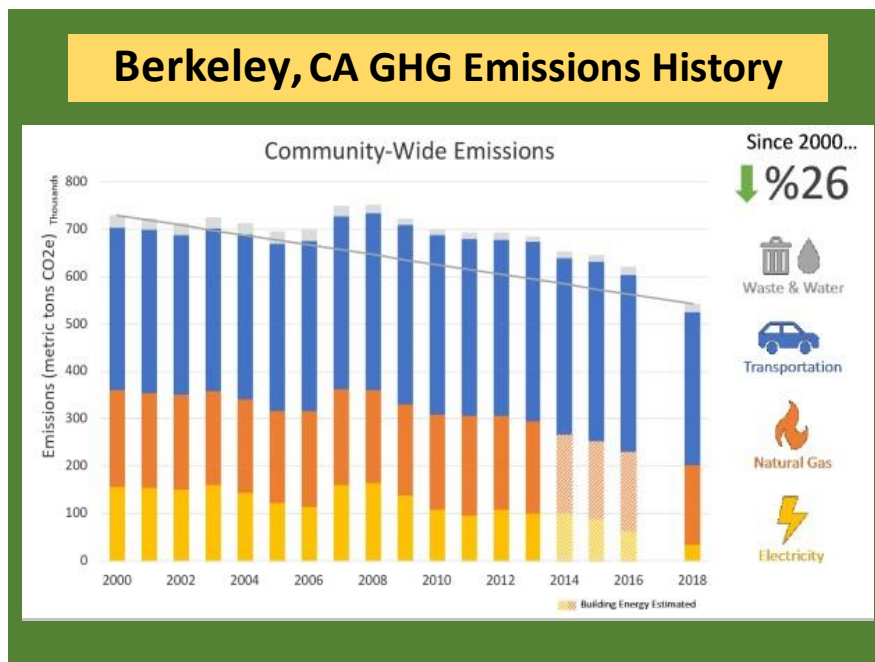
To put it in perspective, let's first look at the history of Bellevue's Community Wide GHG emissions that is found on the City's website:



[Slide #2]

For the nine years before the pandemic, our community emissions were essentially flat as you can see in this chart. That was good in the sense that emissions weren't increasing, but hasn't resulted in a downward trajectory toward the 2030 target, illustrated with the red dotted lines.

To show you that such a trajectory is possible, here is a similar chart from Berkeley California, a city about the same size as Bellevue:



[Slide 3]

From Berkeley's chart we see what a city can do, showing a 26% reduction in GHG Emissions over an 18-year period. Given this is a simplistic slide, the next People for Climate Action speaker, Barbara Braun, will provide a bit more of the details for Berkeley and other U.S. Cities, similar in size to Bellevue.

Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening and I wish you well.

**Second speaker, Barbara Braun:**

Good evening City Leaders. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

My name is Barbara Braun. I am a resident speaking on behalf of People For Climate Action, Bellevue (PCA-B) on the topic of Sustainability Investments.

PCA-B is excited that Council consensus is moving toward taking much bolder action on Sustainability.

To get an idea of the investment level that might be appropriate for Bellevue, we thought it would be helpful to share information from other cities who are currently making progress much faster than Bellevue.

PCA-B looked at 5 similar sized cities and looked at what they are spending in 2021 on Sustainability. Refer to CHART A:

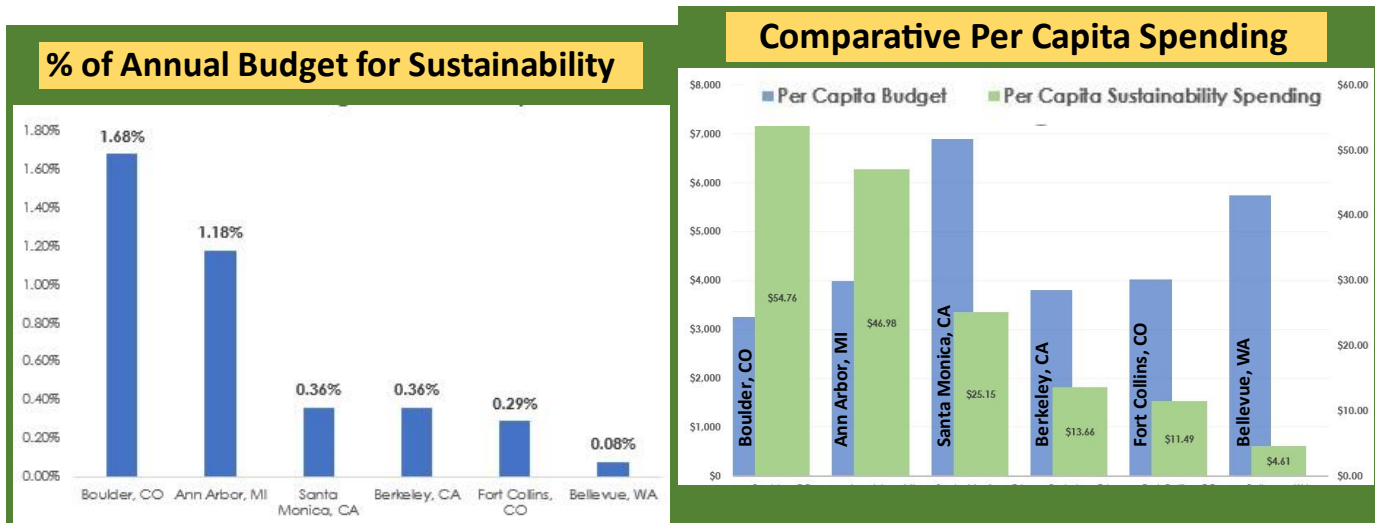
2021 Sustainability Spending Across Similar Size Cities						
	Boulder, CO	Ann Arbor, MI	Santa Monica	Berkeley, CA	Ft. Collins, CO	Bellevue, WA
City Population	105,003	117,082	88,991	120,763	174,081	148,100
2021 Budget	\$341,700,000	\$465,698,664	\$613,600,000	\$459,499,835	\$700,300,000	\$850,000,000
Per Capita Budget	\$3,254	\$3,978	\$6,895	\$3,805	\$4,023	\$5,739
2021 Sustainability Budget*	\$5,750,000	\$5,500,000	\$2,238,138	\$1,650,000	\$2,000,000	\$683,000
% of Annual Budget - Sustainability	1.68%	1.18%	0.36%	0.36%	0.29%	0.08%
Per Capita Sustainability Spending	\$54.76	\$46.98	\$25.15	\$13.66	\$11.49	\$4.61
2021 Sustainability Staff Size (FTEs)	18	8.5	9	7	13.75	2

\* Ft. Collins Sustainability Dept. budget only. Excludes sustainability funds dispersed across other departments.

**CHART A**

- Each of these cities has a sizeable fulltime Sustainability staff ranging from 7 to 18 employees. These include technical staff with expertise in reducing emissions from buildings and transportation. Currently Bellevue has 2 staff, working at the programmatic level, and no resident technical experts. BTW, we really appreciate what Jennifer Ewing and Anna Hagerup have done to bring us to where we are today!
- Each of these cities has elevated Sustainability to be central to their City Charters and Strategies. Their Climate Action Plans are much more robust and integrated across all city departments. PCA-B sent Council thoughts on how Bellevue might do this via email on June 19, 2021, titled *Suggested updates for the City Council Vision and 2021-2023 Priorities*.
- Budget size varies widely from Boulder at \$341M to Bellevue at \$850M. On a per capita basis, spending varies from a low of \$3,254 per resident in Boulder to a high of \$6,895 per resident in Santa Monica. Bellevue is on the high end at \$5,739 per resident. Budgets are dependent on the basket of services each city provides, so this is not an apples-to-apples comparison or a commentary on Bellevue's efficiency.
- Each of these cities has a dedicated Sustainability department. While these departments invest in a variety of programs, it's helpful to get a big picture view by looking at the size of their budgets.
  - Today Bellevue is spending about \$683,000 on the ESI plus one-time grants. By comparison, Boulder and Ann Arbor each are spending over \$5.5M.
  - Berkeley is spending far less, ~\$1.65M but is making excellent progress on GHG reductions.
  - Bellevue is spending .08% of its budget on Sustainability as shown on the left of CHART B. As shown on the right of CHART B, per capita Bellevue is spending only \$4.61 per resident on Sustainability while the comparison cities are spending between \$11.49 to \$54.76 per resident.

**CHART B**



Next Court Olson will speak on how we might proceed from here.

Thank you for taking the time to look at this information and thank you for leading Bellevue into the future.

**Third speaker, Court Olson:**

- Hello again Mayor Robinson and Council members. My name is Court Olson. I'm a long-time resident of Bellevue. I'm here to wrap up remarks from People for Climate Action Bellevue members.
- Last week, we were encouraged by comments by several of you who wished to see more rapid advances of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. Thank you for those observations. Tonight, we'll offer recommendations for the future, but first, let's look back.

## What We Learned in Last Week's Environmental Stewardship Update

**Q2 Accomplishments**

**Trees**

- Completed design of tree giveaway program
- Launched the Tree Giveaway application
- Identifying community partners for tree planting

**Energy**

- Program Design for Clean Buildings Act Technical Support
- RFP for technical support consultant

**Community Engagement**

- Launched the Sustainable Bellevue Partnership
- July 13 Sustainable Bellevue Online Community Townhall

• [Slide 9]

- In the 6 months since the ESP was adopted in December, we've seen a slow start; also, several actions scheduled for 2021 have now delayed into 2022.
- However, we don't think existing staff is the problem. Both Jennifer Ewing and Ana Hagerup have had ongoing duties for several years. We believe that they've just not had time to rapidly advance the December plan.
- So, we are urging the City to appropriate more funds this fall to hire three new Environmental Stewardship staff. As Barbara Braun just showed you, other cities our size with robust climate action plans, have 7 to 18 staff devoted to sustainability work.
- This is a long-haul effort. Full-time staff would bring a long-term vision, develop institutional memory, and make a personal investment to the City's sustainability work.

## Sustainability Investment Scenarios

	% of Annual City Budget *			
	1.50%	1%	0.36%	0.29%
(Like)	(Boulder)	(Ann Arbor)	(Santa Monica & Berkeley)	(Ft. Collins)
<b>Annual investment</b>	\$12,750,000	\$8,500,000	\$3,060,000	\$2,465,000
<b>Per Capita Investment*</b>	\$86	\$57	\$21	\$16

\* Based on 2021 population of 148,100

• [Slide 10]

Accordingly, Bellevue needs to catch up with other leading cities. **Based on our research, we feel that Bellevue's ESI program should have at least a \$3 million annual budget, and have 8 full time staff.**

## Suggested 2022 ESI Staff roles

1. Over all ESP coordinator (Jennifer E.)
2. Internal City gov't emissions reduction planning & implementation. (Ana H.)
3. ESP Public education programs mgr. (new)
4. Annual ESP community-wide actions drafter and implementation mgr. (new)
5. Long range ESP actions researcher, developer, and scheduler. (new)

• [Slide 11]

This fall, when the current budget is reviewed, we ask that at least \$500,000 be carved out to hire 3 new Environmental Stewardship staff in early 2022 with the above roles.

### Suggested 2023 additional ESI Staff

6. Specialist in Buildings Sector GHG actions.
7. Specialist in Transportation & Land Use GHG actions.
8. Specialist in GHG emissions cutting actions relating to Food Habits & Food Waste, Refuse Control, Water Usage, and Organic Lawns & Gardens.

- [Slide 12]

Then, in the Fall of 2022, to boost the ESI staff level up to 8 in 2023, a \$3 million annual budget can be established with three more specialized roles.



Let's do this for them !



- [Slide 13]

Thank you for listening!