

City of Sammamish Washington

SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE

Climate Action Progress - Practical Steps - Community Resources

Welcome | *2026-2027 Sustainability Guide*



In this guide, you will find:

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- Community Information and Actions You Can Take 4 - 11
- QR Codes & Links to Additional Resources 12

Read on to help the City build a more sustainable future!

Sammamish Climate Action Plan:

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted by City Council in 2023 to cut emissions, build resilience to climate impacts, and protect Sammamish's environment for the long-term. Since then, the City has:

- ✔ Hired a Sustainability Coordinator to lead the charge.
- ✔ Launched a Sustainability Commission to help guide policy and connect with residents.
- ✔ Studied how to electrify City facilities and operations.
- ✔ Swapped the fleet's diesel tank with renewable fuel made from repurposed plant and animal oils.
- ✔ Adopted a green purchasing guide to buy smarter.
- ✔ Joined Energy Smart Eastside, helping residents upgrade to energy efficient, electric heating and cooling systems.

Sammamish Climate Progress:

The City has planned and implemented actions across a variety of areas as noted in the chart below.

Transportation & Land Use

Buildings & Energy Use

Water & Natural Resources

Waste

Resilience

- 19 Complete
- 21 In Progress
- 32 Future Project

Learn more about CAP progress at **sammamish.us/climateaction**

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are the primary cause of recent climate change. To mitigate the most serious impacts, we need major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Measuring and understanding these emissions is important for our government operations and community as a whole.

The CAP sets a goal of reducing GHG emissions 50% by 2030 and 96% by 2050, using a 2019 baseline.

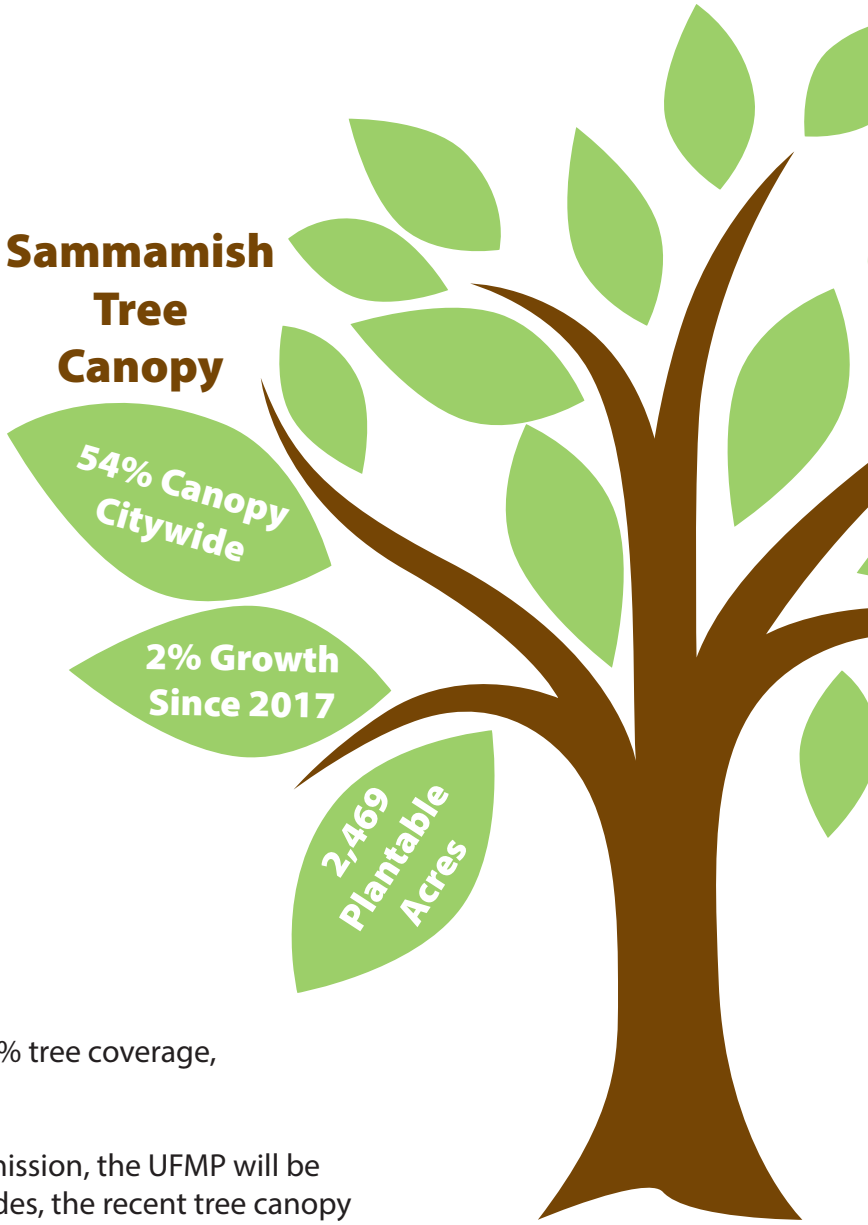
The good news is, Sammamish making progress. A recent GHG report shows that from 2019 to 2023, core emissions have decreased by 12%. With ongoing implementation supported by the City's Sustainability Commission, we expect to see these numbers improve over time.

Urban Forestry

Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)

The UFMP is a guide for managing and growing trees in Sammamish to make the urban forest more resilient and promote a sustainable canopy cover. Adopted by City Council in 2019, progress includes:

- ✔ Tree City recognition in 2024 and 2025 for ongoing community forestry and restoration efforts.
- ✔ 2,400 trees and native shrubs planted across the city.
- ✔ A tree inventory to improve management of Sammamish's right-of-way tree population.
- ✔ Street tree list updates to align with best available science and climate considerations like drought tolerance.
- ✔ Citywide tree canopy assessment showing 54% tree coverage, an increase of 2% since 2017.



With the support of the City's SustainabilityCommission, the UFMP will be reviewed and updated to align with new state codes, the recent tree canopy assessment, available resources, and best practices.

To learn more about Sammamish's Urban Forest, visit sammamish.us/urbanforestry



"Planting trees and attending restoration events matter — but so do the everyday choices we make about how we power our homes, reduce waste, and get around. When residents collectively take small actions across all areas of sustainability, we accelerate progress toward our 2030 and 2050 climate targets and move closer to a more sustainable Sammamish. Pick one action from this guide and start today. Together, we make the difference!"

Christie Santodomingo, Sustainability Commission Chair

Energy Efficiency & Power

Benefits: Cost savings, climate resilience, home comfort, emissions reduction.



At-Home Checklist:

- ☐ Unplug unused electronics and use power strips with an off switch
- ☐ Install a smart thermostat and adjust thermostat setting (66-68 degrees is ideal)
- ☐ Try a home energy assessment and home weatherization
- ☐ Turn down the temperature setting on your water heater

More than 80% of electricity and natural gas emissions in Sammamish come from the residential sector. That's why your individual actions make a meaningful difference. By reducing the amount of electricity and natural gas used in your home, you can **lower your energy bills and help cut down on harmful greenhouse gas emissions** released into the environment.

The city's utility provider Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has rebates and offers to save on energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades to your living space. **Visit pse.com/rebates to learn more.**



"The easiest thing I did to reduce my home's environmental impact was signing up for PSE's Green Power program. For about $13 a month, it matches my electricity use with local renewables. No equipment, no permits. Just a few clicks to enroll. Then I swapped our gas stove for induction and our water heater for an electric heat pump model. We have noticed no change with the water heater, which is what we wanted. The stove has been a genuine upgrade with cleaner air, faster cooking, and safer for teaching my kids to cook."

Tim Hauser, Sustainability Commissioner



Did you know?

Heat Pumps produce 91% fewer emissions compared to a traditional gas furnace. They provide heating and air conditioning, as well as air filtration and dehumidification, keeping your home healthy and comfortable year-round.

Heat Pump Rebates

Energy Smart Eastside (ESE) provides significant heat pump funding, resources, and education to residents. **Rebates range from $1,000 to over $10,000 depending on your heating source and income qualifications.** This City-run climate program is made possible through the Eastside Climate Partnership interlocal agreement between the cities of Sammamish, Issaquah, Redmond, Bellevue, Mercer Island, and Kirkland.

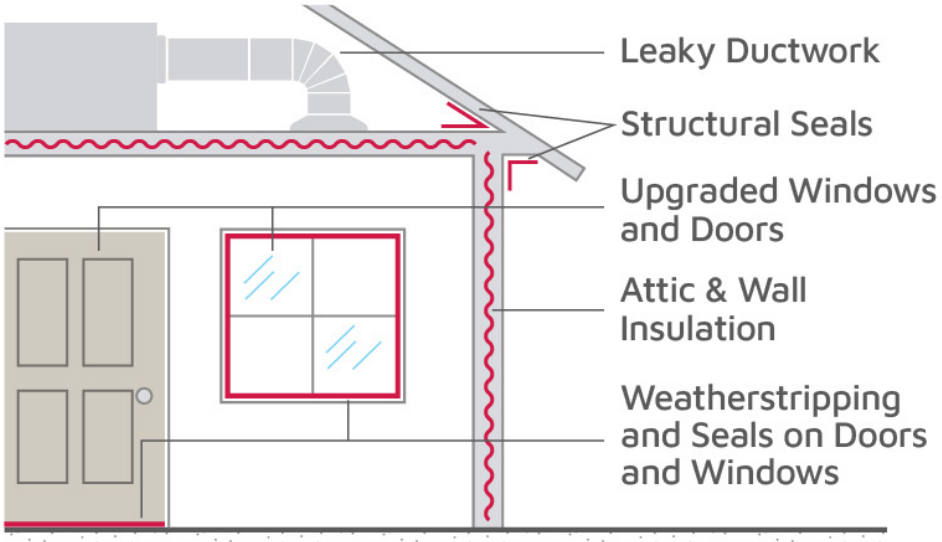
Find how much you can save: energysmarteastside.org/incentive-calculator

What is Weatherization?

Weatherization can include adding or upgrading insulation, and sealing air leaks in attics, walls, and around windows. This helps keep your home more comfortable and increases energy efficiency, which also makes it less expensive to heat and cool. **PSE's rebates can cover up to 60 - 70% of typical weatherization project costs.**

Pairing a heat pump with weatherization upgrades means the heat pump does not have to run as often, using less energy to maintain a steady indoor temperature year-round.

What to Look for When Weatherizing Your Home



Sustainable Transportation

Benefits: Reduced traffic congestion, easier connections to bus and light rail, emissions reduction, improved health outcomes.



Ways To Get Around:

- ☐ King County Metro Bus Route 269
- ☐ Community Van
- ☐ Metro Flex
- ☐ Light rail station connections

Learn more:
sammamish.us/transportationoptions

Transportation accounts for nearly half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Washington, and 19% in Sammamish. You may be asking yourself: What even are the transportation options in Sammamish? We have more than you think.

1. Traveling to Bellevue or Seattle and looking to connect via the 2 Line light rail? **Marymoor Village Station in Redmond has 1,400 parking spaces,** bike racks, and BikeLink lockers. The 269 bus can take you to and from light rail stations at Marymoor Village and Mercer Island.
2. In addition to the bus, Community Van, and Metro Flex, it's better for the environment when you carpool with friends and family, or try walking or biking to nearby destinations. **Plan ahead for more efficient trips!**
3. Use King County Metro Trip Planner to search for the quickest public transit route, real-time departures, and other essential transit information. **tripplanner.kingcounty.gov**



"As a UW commuter student, I was ecstatic when the new 2 Line opened across Lake Washington, connecting the Eastside to Seattle. Bus Route 269 to the Marymoor Village Station also recently increased frequency of service and expanded weekend hours. With improved connections directly to the light rail, I am feeling inspired to choose public transportation more often. Additionally, I recommend setting up a Vanpool for your commute and considering walking or biking for short distances. You'll quickly find that traveling sustainably makes life easy and fun!"

Stephanie Velea, Sustainability Commissioner

How to: Community Van and Metro Flex

This dynamic transportation duo can get you anywhere you need to go within and outside of Sammamish! But what's the difference between the two?

Community Van



How to ride:

- Request a ride at least two business days in advance.
- **Travel to destinations up to two hours away.** Your round-trip must begin and end in Sammamish.
- **Accommodates 2 – 11 riders**
- Free for youth 18 and under, $3 for adults, $1 for Seniors 65+

Where can you go?

Community Van is great when groups of family or friends are going further out of the city and would prefer to travel together to an event, fair, hike, or recreation activity. With Community Van, you can get certified to drive your own trips, or volunteer to help out with community trip requests.

Learn more: sammamish.us/communityvan

Metro Flex



How to ride:

- App-based, on demand rides are requested day-of.
- **Operates within a specific service area and schedule:** 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. on weekdays, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturdays. No service on Sundays.
- **Accommodates 1 – 4 riders**
- Free for youth 18 and under, $3 for adults, $1 for Seniors 65+

Where can you go?

Take Metro Flex on local trips to the grocery store, to visit friends and neighbors, and attend school events or medical appointments. You can also use it as a connection to local transit stops and park and rides for additional transportation options.

Learn more: sammamish.us/metroflex

Natural Resources

Benefits: Wildlife protection, habitat restoration, resource conservation, improved health outcomes.



Be an Earth All-Star:

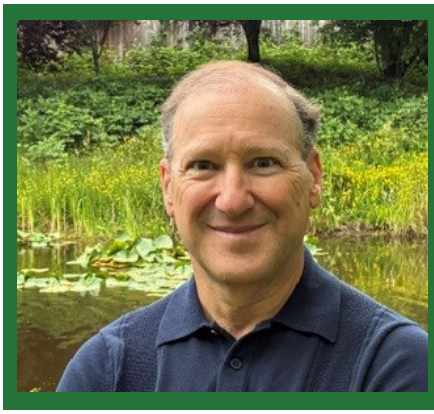
- ☐ Stay on designated park trails to protect the natural habitat
- ☐ Appreciate wildlife from a distance
- ☐ Pick up litter when you spot it
- ☐ Volunteer at community restoration events sammamish.us/volunteer

Natural resources play a key role in Sammamish. They provide many benefits, including a healthy tree canopy, habitat for wildlife, and improved air and water quality for the Sammamish community. **Natural resources underpin every aspect of daily life – from the materials in our homes to the energy we use – making them central to our wellbeing.**

Tips For Yards and Gardens:

- Replace some or all of your lawn with native shrubs, clover, or wildflowers
- Establish a pollinator garden
- Get your yard certified as a wildlife habitat
- Use natural weed and pest control like companion plants and neem oil

More information about gardening and yard care, including lists of native plants and species best suited to your space: **sammamish.us/habitat**



"Protecting nature means taking care of our community, our environment, and each other. Through everyday choices, we all play a part in creating a more sustainable and resilient tomorrow. You can directly help the City restore natural habitat and care for native species through volunteering. At home, it makes a huge impact if you replace your lawn with native species. These plants require much less water than a lawn and also support local species of pollinators."

Nick Garson, Sustainability Commission Vice-Chair

Water Conservation

Benefits: Healthier ecosystems, cost savings on your water bill, reduced emissions from water treatment.



At-Home Checklist:

- ☐ Only run the laundry and dishwasher with full loads
- ☐ Shower smarter and shorter
- ☐ Upgrade fixtures with water-saving (low-flow) alternatives
- ☐ Turn on eco-friendly/water efficiency settings on appliances if available

Your water-saving efforts mean less water is diverted from our rivers, bays, underground aquifers, and estuaries, which helps improve resource availability, ecosystem functionality, and resilience to droughts.

Even simple actions can have a large impact when scaled up, helping ensure water use that sustains both the environment and future generations.

Tips For Yards and Gardens:

- Optimize outdoor watering with smart irrigation equipment
- Install a rain barrel for non-potable purposes like watering
- Try permeable materials in landscaping to reduce surface water runoff and erosion

Cascade Water Alliance has a YouTube channel with how-to videos such as converting to drip irrigation, healthy lawns, and testing a toilet for leaks: **youtube.com/cascadewateralliance**



"Research at the University of Washington led to identification of tire additive 6PPD-quinone as the driver for Coho Salmon mortality in local urban streams. Plainly put, worn out dust from tires on the road drain into water bodies from rainwater and surface runoff. Reducing vehicle trips and the number of vehicles on our streets will help reduce the amount of toxic chemicals in our rivers, streams, and lakes, and decrease harm to aquatic organisms."

Mizan Rashid, Sustainability Commissioner

Waste Reduction

Benefits: Less pollution, reduction of emissions from manufacturing, landfill, and end of life waste processing.



Be A Waste Warrior

- ☐ Say no to single-use plastics. Use reusable items like bags, cups, and water bottles instead
- ☐ Know what belongs in your recycling and compost bins
- ☐ Visit a Sammamish recycling event to dispose of materials like electronics, styrofoam, tires, and bulky wood

What goes where?

By decreasing the amount of waste created, we can reduce negative effects on the environment. **Properly sorting waste helps ensure recyclables can be made into new products** and keeps compost contamination down. For hard to recycle items, the City holds five recycling events each year: two in the spring, one in the summer, and two in the fall. **sammamish.us/recyclingevents**

Additional information on toxics in the home, hazardous waste, and Washington State's recycling programs is available on the Department of Ecology website: **ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics**



"Earlier this year, the Sustainability Commission took a tour of a materials recovery facility (recycling center). We saw how everything that is placed in the recycle bin is sorted and processed, and learned that anything placed in the garbage does not get sorted or processed at all. In reflecting on my personal experience composting to support my garden and this recycling center tour, I cannot emphasize enough the positive impact of recycling, reuse, and repair on the waste stream - rather than throwing items away."

Steve Christensen, Sustainability Commissioner



Sustainability Commissioners and Sustainability Coordinator at Earth Day

Sammamish is already feeling the effects of climate change. In our community, we're seeing warmer, drier summers; heavier rainfall and flooding in the winters; and reduced snowpack in the nearby Cascade Mountains. These changes are affecting local ecosystems and putting stress on our community and environment, but together we can help mitigate the effects.

A sincere thank you from the Sammamish Sustainability Commission, City Council, City staff, and your fellow Sammamish residents for taking action to support sustainability initiatives. The information in this guide is meant to serve as a starting point for you to live a more sustainable and environmentally conscious lifestyle.

Many of the actions in this guide can be taken multiple times and we hope that protecting our city's natural environment becomes second nature over time. We encourage you to refer back to this and previous guides as a centralized source of information and resources so you can be part of the solution, help the City achieve its goals, and sustain this beautiful place we call home.

WHAT IS ONE ACTION YOU'LL TAKE TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT AFTER READING THIS GUIDE?



"Every action we take towards a healthier environment has a measurable impact, and when we act collectively that impact grows exponentially. Sammamish is mostly neighborhoods and schools, so start local, start small, but don't stop there. Strive to go a little farther with every step, and together our strides will change the world."

Swan Jacobson, Sustainability Commissioner



City of Sammamish
801 228th Ave SE,
Sammamish, WA 98075
425-295-0500 · www.sammamish.us

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Learn More

Sustainability Home Page
sammamish.us/sustainability

Sustainability Commission
sammamish.us/sustainabilitycommission

Climate Action Plan
sammamish.us/climateaction

Urban Forest Management Plan
sammamish.us/urbanforestry

King County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report
sammamish.us/emissions

King Conservation District Tree Canopy Assessment and Viewer
sammamish.us/canopyassessment

This Guide is printed on recycled paper with soy-vegetable based inks.

Disclaimer: The content of this guide is meant to inform the Sammamish community on ways to make a positive impact on the environment while minimizing negative impacts. The City is not endorsing specific services, rather providing resources for residents' consideration.