



# MOVING THE NEEDLE

CITY OF SEATTLE  
Environmental Progress Report  
APRIL 2017





# LEADING ON INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS THAT FOSTER EQUITY, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES, & SHARED PROSPERITY

Seattle enjoys a well-earned reputation for being a leader on the environment. For years now we have been powered by clean, carbon neutral electricity, enjoyed bountiful clean drinking water from mountain watersheds, and benefited from a robust urban forest. More recently Seattle has taken bold steps to electrify our transportation system, bolster access to local food, and aggressively increase our housing supply to ensure more Seattleites can live close to where they work and play.

These steps are critical to preserving our quality of life and as we continue to grow, we will continue to advance innovative environmental solutions that create healthy outcomes for Seattle's residents. At the same time, we need to take steps to ensure that people of color, immigrants, refugees, and people with low incomes benefit equitably from our progress.

Our lowest-income neighborhoods are also the neighborhoods where residents often deal with higher levels of pollution and related health problems, and have less access to healthy foods,

open space, and affordable, quality housing. This is particularly true for communities of color and it is unacceptable.

We can and will do better.

Last year—in partnership with the community—we launched the Equity & Environment Agenda, a strategy to address these disparities and ensure that everyone benefits from our progress. It is the underpinning of Seattle's commitment to racial equity and environmental justice.

As we continue to build on our environmental leadership, I call on all our partners—policy makers, community and environmental leaders, businesses and residents—to continue to be creative and unrelenting in creating a prosperous, just, and equitable future for our city.

Thank you for all your work,

Mayor Ed Murray



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# TOWARD A HEALTHY, EQUITABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE SEATTLE

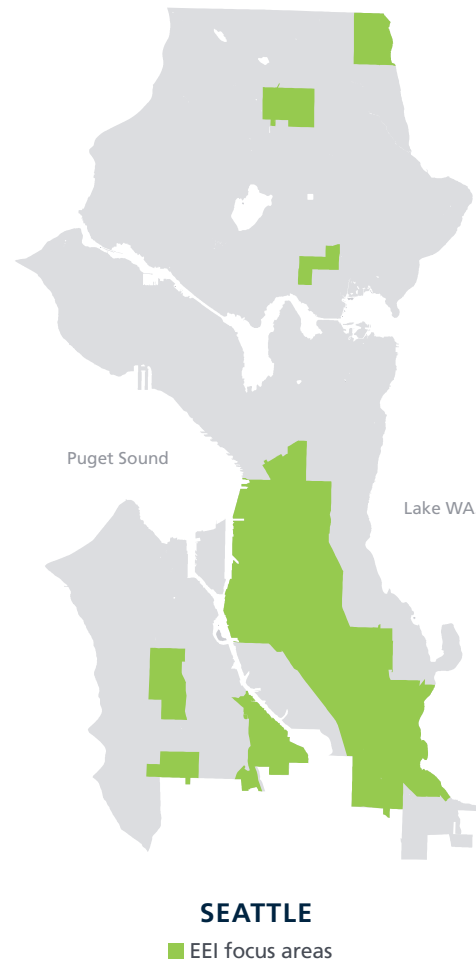
The City of Seattle prioritizes actions and initiatives that foster healthy people, healthy communities, and a healthy and flourishing natural environment. Partnerships and collaboration among City departments, community organizations, and residents and businesses have been instrumental in advancing Seattle's environmental goals. This report provides a high-level overview of our accomplishments to date as well as highlights opportunities for improvement.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

While Seattle has long been a pioneer for environmental progress, this success comes with a caveat. People of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes and limited-English proficiency individuals bear a disproportionate burden of environmental health impacts, benefit less directly from our environmental progress, and environmental concerns of these communities often go unaddressed due to systemic racism and lack of data that includes a racial or economic analysis.

OSE's Equity & Environment Initiative is shifting the City's approach so those most affected by environmental challenges and racial-socio economic conditions will lead on designing solutions and directly benefit from our programs and policies.

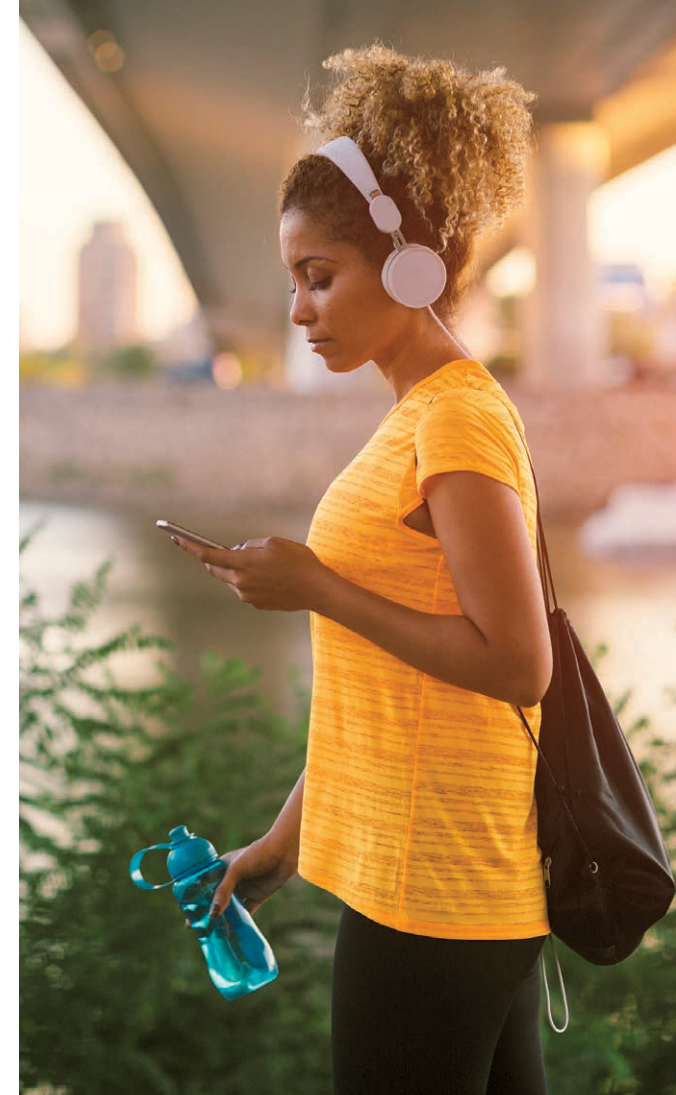
Because of Seattle's history of land use and segregation, we can utilize a geographic approach to begin to understand racial inequity in Seattle. However, geographic considerations should not substitute for race as many of the concerns of communities would persist even if communities moved to a new location. Collecting data with a racial lens is a key way for the City to lead by example and understand our residents' experiences. Having this type of data is an important step in advancing racial and environmental justice in our work ahead.



## EQUITY & ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (EEI) FOCUS AREAS

These are the geographic areas where communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes and limited-English proficiency individuals tend to live. These areas are highly impacted by socio-economic and environmental challenges.

In this report, we analyze, where possible, data as it relates to EEI focus areas or racial demographics of program users.



## DATA CITATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

All data sources used to calculate progress metrics in this report are cited and available at:

[www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OSE/MTN\\_Data\\_2016.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OSE/MTN_Data_2016.pdf)





# CREATING A CARBON NEUTRAL AND CLIMATE FRIENDLY SEATTLE

Seattle continues to be a leader in climate action and we remain committed to becoming a climate-friendly and sustainable city. We're proud that we reached "peak emissions" in 2008, and emissions have been on a downward trend since. However, emissions are not declining as quickly as we need to meet our carbon neutral goal.

We know we must scale up the pace of our emissions reductions. We are aggressively implementing strategies such as leveraging our clean and carbon-neutral electricity to power an electric and shared transportation system, improving efficiencies in our buildings, supporting equitable access to healthy, local foods, and building complete neighborhoods with increased walkability, rich green spaces, frequent transit service, and affordable housing.

Reducing our climate impacts also creates opportunities to advance a range of community goals like improving health, creating shared prosperity, and strengthening racial equity. Environmental justice is a core value guiding our climate work because communities of color and residents with low incomes have not equitably shared in our environmental progress and will be disproportionately impacted by climate change.

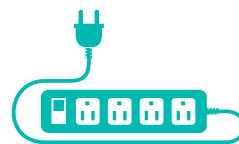
## OUR APPROACH

Seattle's climate strategies focus on core GHG emissions sources where local government has the greatest influence.



### ROAD TRANSPORTATION

This includes cars, trucks, and buses.



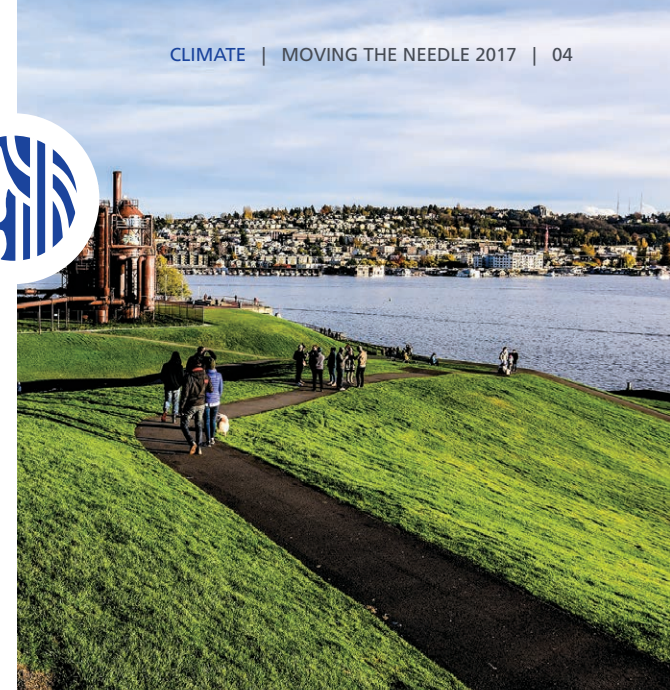
### BUILDING ENERGY

This includes the energy used to heat and cool buildings as well as the energy to power the devices and equipment inside those buildings.

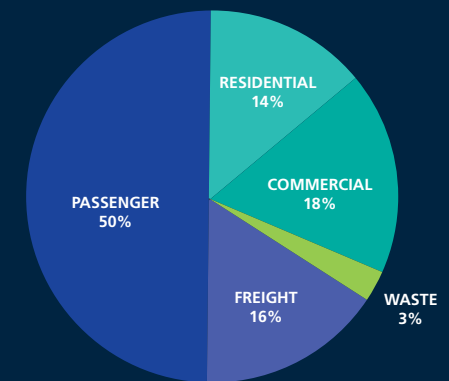


### WASTE MANAGEMENT

This includes the GHG emissions that result from landfilling Seattle's waste.



## SEATTLE'S 2014 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



Nearly two-thirds of Seattle's climate pollution comes from Road Transportation. Emissions from Building Energy and Waste Management make up the remaining third.

# CLIMATE ACTION

## OUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Reduce total core greenhouse gas emissions 58% by 2030 and become carbon neutral by 2050

SINCE 2008  
TOTAL GHG  
EMISSIONS DECLINED



CITY WIDE



**13%**

POPULATION GROWTH occurred at the same time, making this a significant accomplishment.

SINCE 2008  
PER PERSON GHG  
EMISSIONS DECLINED



PER PERSON



At

**5.1**

TONS

Seattle's per person emissions are among the lowest in the country!

SINCE 2008  
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION  
EMISSIONS DECLINED



CITY WIDE



**12%**

PER PERSON

reduction occurred as a result of more fuel efficient vehicles and driving fewer miles.

However, as Seattle's population and jobs continues to grow, we'll need to continue improving.

SINCE 2008  
TOTAL BUILDING ENERGY  
EMISSIONS DECLINED



CITY WIDE



**23%**

PER PERSON

reduction occurred as a result of energy efficiency measures, increased multifamily living, and warmer weather that reduced heating needs.

SINCE 2008  
TOTAL WASTE  
EMISSIONS DECLINED



CITY WIDE



**23%**

PER PERSON

reduction occurred as a result of Seattle residents recycling and composting more and sending less waste to the landfill.



# BUILDING ENERGY

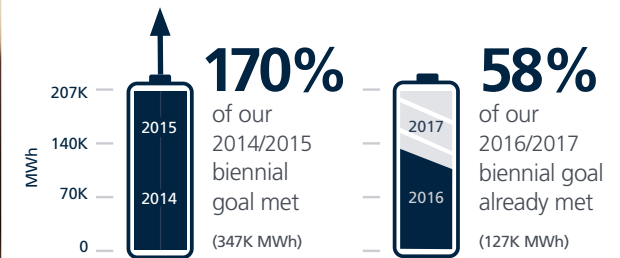
## CLEAN & EFFICIENT

Seattle prioritizes clean energy because the environmental and health costs of fossil fuels are too great. The cost of dirty energy reveals itself as asthma, cancer, air and water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. Due to a history of systemic racism, those impacts disproportionately affect communities of color.

Most of Seattle's electricity comes from clean, carbon-neutral hydroelectric power. Since 2005, Seattle City Light has met all of our electricity needs through conservation or renewables—a strategy that is key to keeping Seattle healthy and electricity costs low.

It is critical that we continue the transition away from fossil fuels for heating our buildings. Making sure that our electricity is affordable for our residents is key to creating a sustainable energy system. National data shows low-income households spend 12% of their income on utilities compared to the average household that spends 3%. Seattle's Utility Discount Program helps qualified households reduce their electricity bills by as much as 60% to keep energy costs affordable.

### Meet or exceed electricity conservation targets



### Increase energy efficiency for low-income homeowners and renters

**1,742** LOW INCOME residents have received weatherization upgrades through the Homewise program since 2014. Over half were people of color.

**497** Single-family homes

**1,245** Multi-family homes

# CLEAN & EFFICIENT ENERGY USE

## OUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Reduce energy use in homes by 20% and commercial buildings by 10% by 2030

Reduce number of oil heated homes

Grow Seattle's solar capacity

Acquire 15% of electricity from new renewable sources by 2020

### SINCE 2008, WE'VE SAVED



Seattle recently passed a commercial building "Tune-Ups" program that is expected to improve energy efficiency in individual buildings by 10-15%.

### SINCE 2012, WE CONVERTED



homes previously using dirty oil to clean Seattle City Light energy.



With approximately 19,000 oil heated homes still in Seattle, we still have much work to do!

### OUR SOLAR CAPACITY IS NOW



100 TIMES MORE THAN IN 2008



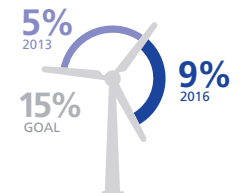
Over 2,700 residents and businesses have installed solar panels in Seattle and over 1,300 residents have joined community solar programs through Seattle City Light.

### IN 2016, WE ACQUIRED

9%

OF OUR ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

This is a combination of renewable energy credits and new renewable sources including wind power, landfill gas capture, and waste to heat cogeneration.



### SEATTLE CITY LIGHT'S DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM SAVES RESIDENTS ENERGY & MONEY

Since 2010, City Light has contracted to install free LED light bulbs, showerheads, and faucet aerators in customers' homes. Efficient showerheads, aerators, and advanced powerstrips with sensors and automatic shut-off are also available for residents who request them. 26,729 households were served through this program during 2015 and 2016. Elderly and low-income residents made up at least 23% of total number served. More information about this program and other conservation incentives can be found at: [www.seattle.gov/light/conserve](http://www.seattle.gov/light/conserve).

Photo provided by EnviroIssues



# TRANSPORTATION

## CONVENIENT & ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Transportation is the largest single source of climate and air pollution in Seattle and presents the greatest opportunity for individuals to make an impact. The good news is that Seattleites are riding transit more, driving cleaner cars, and putting less miles on them. This is a trend we expect to continue. Our challenge lies in the fact that we must continue to reduce our transportation pollution even as our population grows.

If Seattle is to become a carbon neutral city we must make transit, bicycling, and walking the easiest ways for residents to meet their daily needs. Puget Sound Sage and Got Green's 2016 community based participatory research project "Our People, Our Planet, Our Power" noted that people in lower-income households who live near transit drive significantly less than people in higher income households who live the same distance from transit. This underscores that those most burdened by climate change impacts contribute the least to the problem.

As we continue to build our transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure, we not only increase the community's access to opportunity, we create a healthier and more just Seattle.

MILE  
00

### Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

6%

PER PERSON VMT decrease since 2008

6%

TOTAL SEATTLE VMT increase since 2008

13%

SEATTLE POPULATION increase since 2008

### Increase transit access for people with low incomes

24.6K  
LIFT CARDS

have been issued to Seattle residents since the start of ORCA LIFT in 2015. ORCA LIFT is a reduced transit fare for income qualified people.



# CONVENIENT & ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION

## OUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Increase transit ridership



Reduce drive alone rate to downtown Seattle



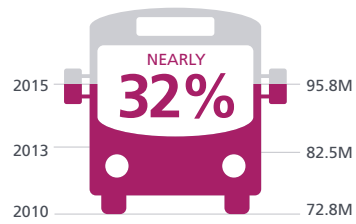
Increase electric vehicle ownership to 30% by 2030



Increase bicycle and pedestrian volumes



### TRANSIT RIDERSHIP HAS GROWN



SINCE 2010

Seattle passengers used the bus, Link Light Rail, and Seattle streetcar for

**95M**

trips in 2016.

### DRIVE ALONE RATE IS NOW

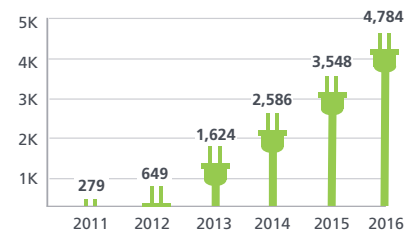


From 2010 to 2016, downtown Seattle added 45,000 jobs. During this time, 95% of the gain in net commute trips was absorbed by non-drive alone modes.

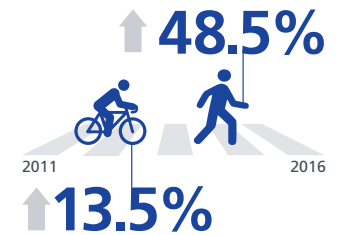
### IN 2016, SEATTLE RESIDENTS OWN

**4,784**

electric vehicles, representing 1.2% of total vehicle ownership.



### WE'VE INCREASED BY



SINCE 2011

The number of people who walk and bike to get around continues to grow.



### SEATTLE STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATE FOR BETTER TRANSIT OPTIONS

In 2015, students from Rainier Beach High School marched and held a town hall to raise awareness of the challenges they faced getting to school every day. In response, SDOT launched the Youth ORCA program in 2016 in partnership with Seattle Public Schools to distribute cards to income-eligible youth who did not already receive an ORCA card from the school district. The goal for the program is to provide 3,000 middle and high school students with youth ORCA cards throughout the school year.

Photo provided by Ty Celeste



# FOOD

## HEALTHY, LOCAL, & SUSTAINABLE

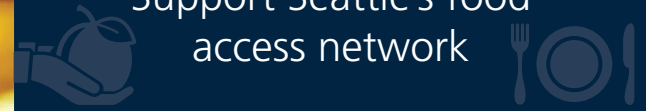
How we grow, process, and transport our food is nearly as important as what we eat. A diet rich in local fruits and vegetables reduces greenhouse gas emissions, protects our natural resources, and helps create stronger cultural and community connections.

Access to healthy, culturally appropriate, and affordable food has consistently been identified as a top climate concern among people of color, immigrants, refugees, and people with low incomes. Overall food hardship for residents in the Seattle/King County area grew from 6% to 12% between 2010 and 2013, and Latino communities saw a significant increase in food hardship—from 27% to 41% in the same timeframe.

With Seattle's rising cost of living, healthy food is out of reach for many in our community. Seattle's food work is aimed at increasing food access—especially among communities of color—as well as strengthening our local farm and food economy. Seattle has made a healthy, local, and accessible food system a priority, because a strong local food system improves the health and well-being of Seattle's residents, promotes equity, and strengthens our economy.



## Support Seattle's food access network

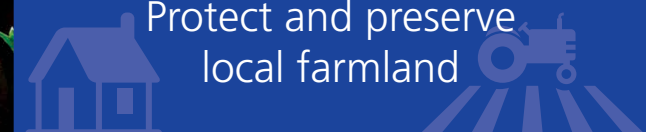


In 2016  
SEATTLE GARDENERS DONATED

**47,711** = **95,000**  
POUNDS SERVINGS

of organically grown fruits and vegetables to Seattle residents suffering from food insecurity.

## Protect and preserve local farmland

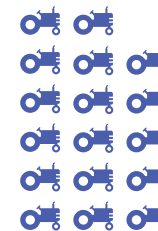


**1,174**

ACRES OF FARMLAND

preserved through Seattle-King County Transfer Development Rights (TDR) program since 2013.

The TDR program is an innovative and voluntary program that preserves rural and resource land and steers development into urban areas.



**17 FARMS**

# HEALTHY, LOCAL, & SUSTAINABLE FOOD

## OUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Grow local food economy

Increase access to healthy food for children and seniors

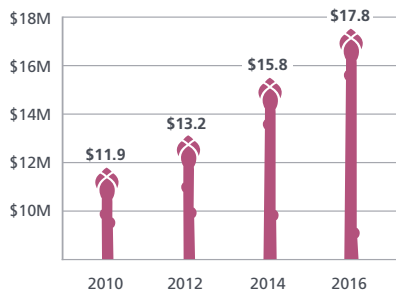
Increase access to healthy food for people with low incomes

Increase participation of people of color in food access programs

### FARMERS MARKET SALES GREW

**49.6%**

BETWEEN 2010 & 2016



### IN 2016, THERE ARE

**86**

CITY-SUPPORTED CHILDCARE AND SENIOR SITES

purchasing produce from local farmers. Up from 42 in 2013.

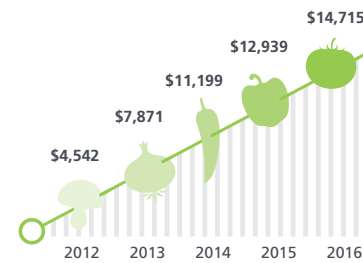
**4,484**

CHILDREN AND SENIORS were served healthy, local, and organic produce along with nutritional education and training.

### FRESH BUCKS USAGE INCREASED

**223%**

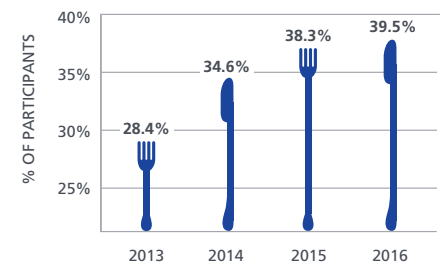
BETWEEN 2012 & 2016 at Seattle Farmers Markets.



### PARTICIPATION INCREASED

**39%**

IN THE FRESH BUCKS PROGRAM between 2013 & 2016 for people of color.



### GROWING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITY & FOOD

Seattle Parks and Recreation is building a foodshed-based youth leadership and career development program with impacted communities located in food desert areas. The program provides culturally responsive activities and skill-building associated with food systems while promoting civic engagement, education, health, and wellness. In fall 2016, a pilot crew of 30 youth based out of South Park Community Center attended over 120 hours of training which included garden bed renovation, food handling licensing, job shadowing, and race and social justice analysis.

Photo provided by Kristie McLean



# TREES & GREEN SPACE

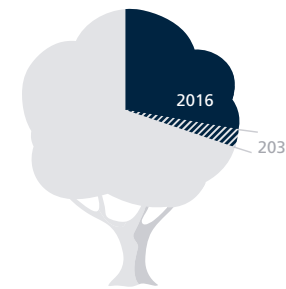
## THRIVING & ACCESSIBLE

Trees and green spaces have significant environmental, economic, and social benefits including improving air and water quality, natural stormwater management and soil protection, and attracting people to local business districts and community spaces. The collective impact is significant: Seattle's urban forest removes 725 metric tons of pollution from the environment and sequesters carbon at a level valued at \$11.7 million annually.

Seattle's reputation for being the "Emerald City" is well known, but residents do not experience those benefits consistently throughout the city. Large parts of Seattle—notably where our communities of color, immigrants, refugees, and residents with low incomes tend to live, learn, work and play—have less tree canopy cover than neighborhoods that are home to a majority of white, upper income residents. Seattle is working to address this disparity to bring the benefits of trees and green spaces to all our communities.

As our city continues to grow, protecting and enhancing our urban forest and green space remains a key priority in order to ensure the benefits of our natural assets are enjoyed by all Seattle residents.

Achieve a 30% canopy cover by 2037

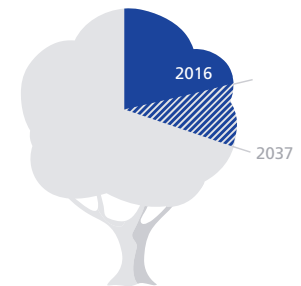


We achieved a  
**28%**  
CANOPY COVER  
in Seattle in 2016.

However, our EEI focus areas only had a

**20%**

CANOPY COVER  
in 2016.



Area of Seattle where people of color and people with low incomes tend to live have less tree canopy than the rest of Seattle.

# THRIVING & ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE

## OUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Increase Seattle's tree canopy

Restore 2,500 acres of forested parkland by 2025

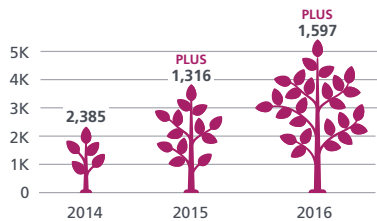
Develop new parks at land-banked sites

Provide 3 acres of open space per 1,000 people

### SEATTLE DEPARTMENTS PLANTED

**5,298**

TREES SINCE 2014



During the same time frame, forest stewards have planted over 40,000 seedlings as part of our forest restoration efforts!

### SEATTLE HAS RESTORED

**1,374**

ACRES OF FORESTED PARKLANDS

and other designated natural areas since 2005 through the Green Seattle Partnership.



### SEATTLE CURRENTLY HOLDS

**14**

UNDEVELOPED PARKS



With funding from the Seattle Park District, the City will begin planning for the development of all 14 parks by 2018.

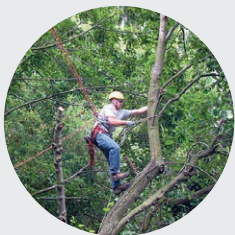
### SEATTLE CURRENTLY HAS

**9.34**

ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS  
(6,414 acres total)



Seattle Parks & Recreation is currently updating the development plan and gap analysis and the thresholds for open space are subject to review as part of this process.



### TRACKING, MEASURING, AND SHARING THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF TREES

In 2016, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) launched the Street Tree Management Plan—a 9-year targeted approach to improve the condition of Seattle's street trees. To do this, they organized the city into 27 management units, and will prioritize 3 per year for tree planting, maintaining, and inventorying. Tree maintenance crews worked in South Park/Highland Park neighborhood during 2016, where they inventoried over 6,000 trees, planted 144 trees, and maintained 700 trees. Collectively, these trees provide benefits worth over \$375,000 annually through energy savings, carbon sequestration, air quality, and aesthetics.

Photo provided by SDOT



# COMPLETE NEIGHBORHOODS

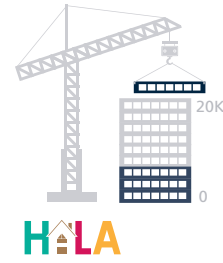
## VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE

To create a truly sustainable city, Seattle's neighborhoods must include the community anchors, goods, services, and amenities people need to lead healthy lives and flourish. This includes access to housing, frequent and affordable transit service, public amenities such as schools, job opportunities, and community-serving organizations that provide services, social cohesion, and cultural programs. As Seattle experiences this surge of economic and population growth, we will pursue policies and programs that ensure we grow with prosperity, stability, and equity.

In the past two years, Seattle has underscored our commitment to race and social justice by elevating Race & Social Equity as a core value of the Comprehensive Plan, launching the Equitable Development Initiative, and publicly proclaiming Seattle's status as a welcoming city. We are intentionally charting a path forward that ensures communities of color, immigrants, refugees, and people with low incomes can live and thrive in Seattle.



### Increase affordable housing supply



**5.8K**  
AFFORDABLE UNITS  
were built or permitted  
in 2015-2016.

29% OF OUR GOAL  
of 20K new affordable  
units by 2025.

### 72% of Seattle households have access to frequent transit service by 2025



**52% AND 70%**  
CITY WIDE EEI FOCUS AREA

households are within  
a 10 min walk to service that  
comes every 10 minutes.

# VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

## OUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Create better career opportunities for local workers

Increase housing supply

Increase walkability of Seattle's neighborhoods

Increase access to community center programming

### WORKER HOURS INCREASED

# 233%

from 7 City construction projects under a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA). These workers live in economically distressed neighborhoods in Seattle and received about \$2.5 million in additional wages.

# 200%

increase of African American workers on projects.

# 300%

increase of hours worked by women compared to national average.

### WE BUILT OR PERMITTED

# 22,630

UNITS BETWEEN 2015-2016  
45% of our goal.



Our Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) has a goal of 50,000 new housing units between 2015-2025.

### SINCE 2009 THE CITY HAS ADDED

# 200

BLOCKFACES  
of new sidewalks and made crossing improvements at over



### INTERSECTIONS

Pedestrian improvements are prioritized for streets that connect families and children to schools and people to transit stops.

### WE'VE ADDED

# 125

OPERATING HOURS  
at six community centers.



Additional staff capacity at seven community centers.



And eliminated drop-in fees for activities such as toddler gyms and basketball at all community centers.



### PRIORITIZING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national movement to make it easier and safer for students to walk and bike to school. Since 2015, SDOT has completed 19 Safe Routes to Schools engineering projects, 12 of which are in Equity & Environment Initiative Focus Areas. Engineering projects can include crossing treatments, traffic calming, sidewalk improvements, and improved signage. Prioritization is based on data-driven criteria that ranks schools on collision data, race and ethnicity data, and pedestrian master plan scores that include equity considerations.

Photo provided by SDOT



# HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

## FRESH AIR, CLEAN WATER, & ZERO WASTE

Seattle is committed to protecting the quality of our air and water and reducing waste so future generations will continue to enjoy a healthy, safe, and clean city. However, the level to which Seattle residents experience these outcomes varies widely by race. Seattle has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest level of measured nitrogen dioxide—air pollution produced as a result of road traffic—in the country. Due to our historical land use patterns, the majority of residents who live closest to our city's heavily trafficked roadways are people of color and people with low incomes. These residents experience poorer air quality compared to the rest of Seattle.

The quality of our drinking water is excellent thanks to our well-managed watersheds. However, our major bodies of water—the Puget Sound and Seattle's only river, the Duwamish River—are unacceptably polluted from stormwater runoff and historical industrial pollution. Through regional partnerships, Seattle is advancing solutions to reduce pollution in both waterways. Their health is critical to supporting and protecting the cultural traditions and economic livelihood of many Seattle residents, especially indigenous communities in our region.

## Track air quality and mitigate air pollutants

### IN 2016 SEATTLE ONLY EXPERIENCED



days that did not meet  
PSCAA Quality Health Goals  
(measured fine particles).

Fine particles cause asthma attacks, cancer, strokes, heart attacks, and premature death.

## Provide clean, safe drinking water

### OUR WATER QUALITY LABORATORY ANALYZES



more than

# 50

SAMPLES A DAY

365 days per year, totaling over 20,000 microbiological tests.



to ensure we are

# 100%

IN COMPLIANCE

with health regulations, and that our water is clean and safe to drink.



# FRESH AIR, CLEAN WATER & ZERO WASTE

## OUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Reduce waste sent to landfill

Increase pollutant removal from roadways

Reduce stormwater pollution

Clean up Duwamish River  
- in partnership with King County, Port of Seattle and The Boeing Company

WE HAVE SENT

**23%** 

LESS WASTE TO LANDFILLS SINCE 2008 despite a population increase.

**60%** 

OF OUR WASTE IS RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED

WE HAVE REMOVED

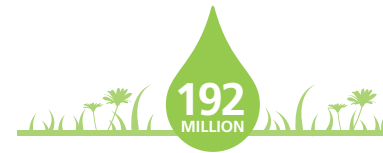
**424**

TONS OF POLLUTANTS SINCE 2014  
Nearly a 20% increase from 2014 to 2016.



Street sweeping is remarkably effective in removing pollutants from our air and waterways. This is critical for people who live near heavily traveled roadways—many of whom are people of color.

AS OF 2016, WE MANAGE



GALLONS OF POLLUTED STORMWATER

annually with Green Stormwater Infrastructure—nearly a 100% increase from our 2012 baseline.

And, between 2014-2017, Seattle built three projects that will protect Lake Washington from 5.2 million gallons of combined sewer overflow during every storm.

TO DATE, WE HAVE CLEANED



ACRES OF THE WATERWAY through dredging, capping, and pollution source control.

By 2030,



more acres will have been actively cleaned up by the partnership and others.



### CONNECTING COMMUNITY TO OUR WATER SOURCE

Seattle Public Utilities' Environmental Justice & Service Equity Division (EJSE) partners with community-based organizations to increase trust between government and people of color, low-income, migrant, and refugee communities. Through educational tours of the Cedar River Watershed and Water Quality Lab, community members connect with their water source, learn the steps that keep Seattle's drinking water safe and develop a greater appreciation for Seattle's water.

Photo provided by SPU



# ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN SEATTLE

Across the US, people of color, immigrants, refugees, and people with low incomes experience greater health impacts from environmental hazards than white, upper income individuals due to the cumulative impacts of stress, racism, pollutant exposure, proximity to hazardous sites, disparate health care, and lack of affordable healthy food. Seattle's Equity & Environment Initiative focuses on those most-affected—communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and limited English proficiency individuals—to lead on solutions and directly benefit from environmental programs and policies. The cornerstone of this Initiative is the Equity & Environment Agenda, jointly owned by the City and community.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

No single organization can reverse environmental injustices or singlehandedly ensure equitable environmental benefit. Community based organizations embedded in communities of color have long been charting the path forward on environmental justice. These organizations are transforming our communities by increasing community cohesion, developing leaders, and bringing community-led solutions into government. We can only achieve environmental justice through a strong ecosystem of environmental justice leadership and multi-racial collaboration.

## EQUITY & ENVIRONMENT AGENDA:

*A blueprint for advancing race and social justice in the environmental movement.*

A multi-ethnic Community Partners Steering Committee (CPSC) partnered with OSE to engage over 1000 residents to develop the Agenda. The Agenda broadens the analysis of environment beyond natural and built environments to incorporate a greater complexity of issues of where and how people live, learn, work and play. Starting with civic leadership allows us to proactively advance environmental, economic, community, and cultural benefits while addressing environmental justice issues historically ignored by government.

## EQUITY & ENVIRONMENT AGENDA OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR ▼

- **Healthy environments for all:** Air, water, green space, food, safety & quality of life
- **Jobs, local economies & youth pathways:** Opportunities for local green careers
- **Equity in city environmental programs:** Increasing community access and decision-making
- **Environmental narrative & community leadership:** Celebrating Stories and investing in community



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Environmental Justice Committee is a new opportunity for those most-affected by environmental inequities to have ownership of Equity & Environment Agenda implementation.

### IN 2017-2018 THE COMMITTEE WILL ▼

- Advise City staff on integrating the goals of the Equity & Environment Agenda into environmentally-focused policies/programs
- Develop and implement a pilot project in partnership with OSE to demonstrate environmental justice in action
- Engage deeply with each other to increase environmental justice community cohesion and grow individual environmental leadership capacity

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## OUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Amplify and support community based environmental justice solutions for people of color, immigrants, refugees, youth, people with limited English proficiency and people with low incomes

### PUGET SOUND SAGE

#### Community Leadership Institute (CLI)

CLI educates, resources and places emerging leaders of color and people with low-incomes on municipal boards and commissions. Fellows learn the details of government processes, such as municipal budgeting, parliamentary procedures, and lawmaking as well as advocacy, storytelling, and communication skills. CLI curriculum covers a variety of subject areas such as transit, housing, economic and climate justice.

The 2015-2016 CLI graduated

**20**

FELLOWS

and over 50% of graduates currently serve on boards and commissions in Seattle and King County.

### GOT GREEN

#### Green Pathways out of Poverty

Green Pathways Out of Poverty is making sure there are living wage green opportunities for all in Seattle. After releasing the community-based research project "Breaking the Green Ceiling" in 2013, the Young Leaders Committee began advocating for a City of Seattle Resolution – which passed in 2016 – to encourage the City to lead by example and recruit, retain, and support low income young adults of color in green jobs. Now the Young Leaders are engaging local businesses in the conversation with a goal of

**Now HIRING**

**100**

NEW INTERNSHIPS across public and private sector organizations.

### CHINESE INFORMATION SERVICE CENTER (CISC)

#### Go Green

Through their Go Green campaign, in 2014, CISC began a new focus on environmental stewardship. Since then CISC has worked with their community to have culturally connected conversations on the environment, empowered residents to ask questions, and supported advocacy and engagement in the City's environmental work. In 2016, CISC stepped into several leadership roles in environmental stewardship, water quality education, the work of Seattle Public Utilities, and shaping the Equity & Environment Agenda. CISC has engaged



**230**

FAMILIES

in these efforts and others through this environmental Go Green campaign.

### DUWAMISH RIVER CLEANUP COALITION/TAG

#### Youth Corp

The Youth Corp was established in 2014 in partnership with the City of Seattle to support restoration and revitalization of the Duwamish Valley neighborhoods of South Park, Georgetown and surrounding areas. The program is a paid environmentally-based job skills training program for youth ages thirteen-nineteen. Youth Corps members are leading the way in transforming these neighborhoods through trees, green walls and rain gardens.



**700**

TREES & SHRUBS PLANTED



LARGE RAIN GARDENS

### LATINO COMMUNITY FUND

#### Healthy Latino Families Initiative

The Healthy Latino Families Initiative has worked for the past five years to engage community members about health issues and environmental conditions that impact Latino communities. LCF has done this through building strong trust and relationships with a diverse range of Latino community members. In 2016, LCF collaborated with OSE's Fresh Bucks program to reach over 200 people from Latino communities and have distributed



**500**

FRESH BUCK VOUCHERS to ensure community members most affected by food insecurity have access to fresh, healthy food.

# MOVING THE NEEDLE



PREPARED BY SEATTLE OFFICE OF  
**SUSTAINABILITY  
& ENVIRONMENT**

[www.seattle.gov/environment](http://www.seattle.gov/environment)

## DATA PROVIDED BY:

- Office of the Mayor
- Office of Economic Development
- Office of Housing
- Office of Planning and Community Development
- Office of Policy and Innovation
- Office of Sustainability & Environment
- Department of Finance and Administrative Services
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Neighborhoods
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Transportation
- Seattle City Light
- Seattle Public Utilities

