



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

Energized by Climate Change

Healthy Environment Stories



Seattle has positioned itself as a leader in carbon reduction and climate change mitigation since 2000, when it became the first city in the country to adopt a green building standard for all new City buildings. In 2006, the City adopted its Climate Action Plan, which called on the City to reduce energy use 20 percent by 2020. In 2018, Mayor Jenny Durkan increased this goal and called on the City to reduce energy intensity and carbon emissions 40 percent by 2025. As a city, we have also signed on to the Paris Climate Agreement.

To ensure that Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) does its part to help the City meet its goals, we use a variety of tools to monitor and track energy consumption. Our data indicate that SPR has reduced the Energy Use Intensity in our building portfolio by more than 16% between 2008 and 2017.

SPR's Facilities Maintenance Division, in conjunction with the City's Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE), implements a variety of energy efficiency building retrofit projects each year. In 2018, SPR completed 23 energy conservation projects, reducing energy consumption at those buildings by an average of 58% over baseline. We installed more than 3,500 LED lights!

In addition, SPR is in compliance with the City's Building TuneUp Ordinance, designed to reduce a building's energy consumption by at least 10 percent. This includes ensuring that the heating and ventilation systems are operating at maximum efficiency, sealing the building to prevent air leaks through windows, doors and cracks, and upgrading any outdated, low-efficiency lighting, among other measures.

The next important focus is to remove carbon from SPR's building portfolio. In 2018, SPR converted three of the few remaining oil-fired furnaces to electric heat pumps. We'll convert two more in 2019. Our challenge in the next decade will be to stop using fossil fuel to heat our buildings and pools.

"Every LED light bulb, every energy efficient boiler, every electric heat pump we invest in gets us closer to our goal of removing carbon from our energy portfolio," said Joelle Hammerstad, SPR's Sustainable Operations Manager. "By putting climate change mitigation at the center of our decision making, SPR is modeling the change we want to see."

Learn more

seattle.gov/environment/climate-change/building-energy

Solar Microgrid



SPR and Seattle City Light (SCL) are working together to install a one-of-a-kind \$3.3 million solar microgrid at Miller Community Center. With a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, and a match from SCL, the City will install a large solar array on top of the community center and pair it with a large battery that stores the solar power, and will be used in power outages. The pilot will support emergency preparedness and be in operation in 2020. SCL estimates it will save SPR about \$4,000 per year through energy reductions and about \$70,000 over the project's 14-year life.