



# Building Seattle Better

The City of Seattle is committed to equitable climate action for a more just and livable future.

## September 2025

For the health of people and our planet, Seattle must significantly reduce the use of polluting fossil fuels in our buildings in the coming years. This is not a problem for tomorrow — from toxic air pollution to the impacts of extreme heat and flooding events, communities in Seattle are already bearing the brunt of climate impacts.

Here in Seattle, buildings are one the largest and fastest growing sources of Seattle's climate pollution, responsible for 40% of our city's greenhouse gas emissions. Nearly 90 percent of these emissions come from burning fossil gas for heat, hot water, and cooking, per the **2022 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory**.

## Proven Strategies to Cut Emissions

We're committed to a clean energy future that's healthier for people and the environment, and supports an inclusive, local economy. We're working with communities to meet this goal.



### Energy Benchmarking

Owners of nonresidential and multifamily buildings (20,000+ square feet) track annual energy performance, which can highlight inefficiencies and opportunities for energy, emissions, and cost savings.



### Washington Clean Building Performance Standard

Washington State is implementing the first ever statewide Energy Performance Standard to improve the efficiency of existing large multifamily and nonresidential buildings (20,000+ square feet), and encourage the use of renewable energy, with financial incentives for early action.



### Building Tune-Ups

Building owners implement low- or no-cost actions to improve their energy and water efficiency for commercial buildings (50,000+ square feet), resulting in 10 to 15 percent energy savings on average.



### Building Emissions Performance Standards (BEPS)

Building on the state standards and existing city actions, the City is implementing BEPS. BEPS sets greenhouse gas emissions targets to help transition Seattle's existing commercial and multifamily buildings (20,000+ square feet) to clean energy in phases.



### Seattle Commercial Energy Code

This construction code ensures that commercial and multifamily buildings are constructed to be efficient and low-emissions from the start and to be renovated to these same standards.

## Learn More

The Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment is protecting and enhancing Seattle's distinctive environmental quality and livability.

To learn more, visit [www.seattle.gov/environment](http://www.seattle.gov/environment) or contact [CleanBuildings@seattle.gov](mailto:CleanBuildings@seattle.gov).