

Green New Deal Oversight Board

March 16th, 2026
Public Meeting

3/16/2026

Green New Deal Oversight Board



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

Staff Updates



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Meeting with Council Members



Sign- Up Using the Spreadsheet

Official	Council Member Scheduling Update	GNOB Member	GNOB Member Can Meet: In Person, Online or Either	GNOB Member	GNOB Member Can Meet: In Person, Online or Either	GNOB Member	GNOB Member Can Meet: In Person, Online or Either	GNOB Member	GNOB Member Can Meet: In Person, Online or Either
District 1: ROB SAKA Chair: Transportation, Waterfront, & Seattle Center		Hannah	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
District 2: EDDIE LIN Chair: Land Use and Sustainability		Lizzy	<input type="text"/>	Nancy	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
District 3: JOY HOLLINGSWORTH Chair: Governance and Utilities			<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
District 4: MARITZA RIVERA Chair: Libraries, Eudcation & Neighborhoods			<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
District 5: DEBORA JUAREZ Chair: Housing & Human Services			<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
District 6: DAN STRAUSS Chair: Finance, Native Communities & Tribal Governments			<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
District 7: ROBERT KETTLE Chair: Public Safety			<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Position 8: ALEXIS MERCEDES RINCK Chair: Human Services, Labor & Economic Development		Hannah	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Position 9: DIONNE FOSTER Chair: Housing, Arts & Civil Rights			<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>

- In Person
- Online
- Either

Invite to the First People's Climate Fund Launch



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First People's Climate Fund- April 14th

- Seven Grant recipients will be announced
- There will be a panel discussion
- Opportunity to meet with five Native-led and serving organizations and two local Tribes to learn about the Climate Justice work they are leading
- This event is invite only! Invites coming soon via email.

Job Opening: Buildings and Energy Communication Specialist



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Help Us Spread the Word!

- Job details include
 - Responsible of leading long-range communications for BEPS
 - Helping business owners and energy service providers learn how to comply with BEPS and use new online tools
 - Leading digital communications for BEPS like e-news and website
 - Sharing success stories through case studies, blogs and more
- Application opens to all applicants Tuesday March 17th
- Application closes on Tuesday March 31st at 4pm.

Clean Heat Program Lunch and Learn



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Clean Heat Program Lunch and Learn

- Will be on March 31st at 12pm during the PPP Committee
- Staff from the Clean Heat Program will discuss:
 - How they are reaching out to frontline communities
 - Updates on their work
- The presentation will be recorded if Board members can't attend

Executive Committee Updates



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Social Housing Board Appointment



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Process Update

- Executive Committee needs support in getting more candidates
- Criteria: Need to be a Green Buildings expert and will have to have regular check ins with the Board
- Appointing a Social Housing Board member needs to be a priority
- Candidates must email their resume and letter of intent to Executive Committee members by Monday April 6th.

Proposed Action Item



Board Retreat Recap



GNDOB Board Retreat March 5th & 6th



Recap: Day 1

- Grounded in the purpose of being on the Board
- Asset mapped: mapped individual, collective strengths and connections to other groups, institutions and collective strengths
 - Discussed how these assets can build power in our advocacy.
- Emily led a discussion on the Community Engagement Committee

Community Engagement Committee

- Ideas on the Purpose of the Committee: Communications strategy, Coalition building with other Boards & Commissions, supporting Board members orgs, lunch and learns
- Members interested in joining: Brittani, Emily, Hannah, Leah
 - Have room for three more members
- This conversation will be revisited in May as the priority focus is on Budget recommendations through April



Workshop of CAP and Budget Recommendations

Recap: Day 2

- Climate Action Plan Manager, Narita Ghumman, presented on CAP updates, current process, as well as future opportunities for Board members to engage with CAP recommendations
- The Board then workshopped their CAP and annual Budget Recommendations



**We will
return
from our
break at
6:07**

2026 Draft CAP Recommendations



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CAP Recommendations Framing

By March 20th

CAP Recommendations Are

- Broader and longer term (~ 5 years)
- Preliminary and can be drafts
- A work in progress and will have different phases of revision and incorporating feedback as the CAP takes shape

CAP Recommendations Are Not

- Final
- Formally Adopted at this point
- The last time this Board will engage

Recommendation Feedback

- We will go through each recommendation one at a time
- Everyone will get time to read through the recommendation, the person(s) who worked on the idea will share additional context
- Then, using the form sent out provide feedback and indicate if you can or cannot live with the recommendation
- Feedback provided much be:
 - Quick fixes to language or sentence structure
 - Clear ways to make the recommendation stronger

Please provide your feedback by tomorrow morning. Feedback form will close at 9am tomorrow morning.

Recommendation

1: Make Energy Infrastructure Climate Resilient and Develop a Climate Resiliency Recovery Fund for Communities Impacted by Climate-related Disasters and Hazards.

Overview: Energy infrastructure is vulnerable to and is often impacted by climate-related disasters and hazards such as flooding, extreme heat, and wildfires. Damage to or failure of energy infrastructure from these events can lead to a disruption of energy services for low-income and frontline households and renters, leaving them vulnerable to increased risk during climate emergencies. Climate change is already here, and our frontline communities are feeling the impact of blackouts and disrupted energy services during these disasters.

Proposal: Reenforce energy infrastructure in high-risk neighborhoods and develop a Climate Resiliency Recover Fund to support frontline communities impacted by climate related disasters and hazards. The City of Seattle has already done the work to assess the vulnerability of our energy infrastructure and understand which communities are most impacted by and vulnerable to climate change hazards. Now is the time to be proactive and ensure that the City is mitigating impact of future climate-related disasters and hazards to frontline communities. This can be achieved by making our existing energy infrastructure more resilient to climate change and setting aside funding to help communities after climate-related disasters and hazards.

Goals:

- Design and implement climate resilient adaptations to current energy infrastructure where possible and redesign and build new components of the infrastructure where retrofits are not possible
- Fund recovery efforts and provide financial assistance for frontline and low-income households impacted by climate-related disasters and hazards

Thematic alignment: Climate Resilience & Public Health, Building Decarbonization & Energy Efficiency

***Recommendation 2: Fund A Program to Provide Resilience
Planning Technical Assistance to Communities
Throughout Seattle***



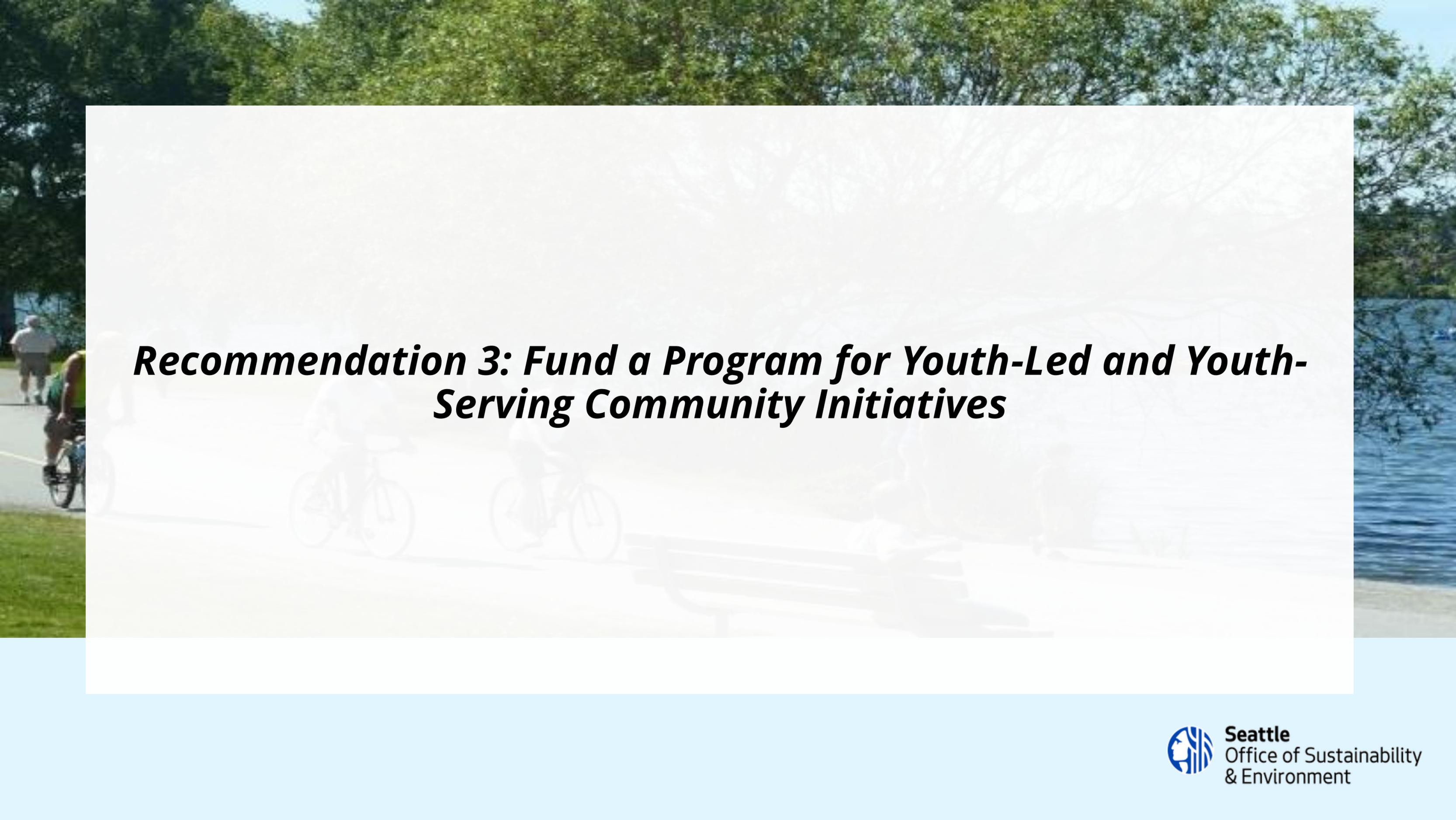
Overview: Neighborhoods and communities that are hit first and worst by the impacts of climate change often lack the resources to adapt and build neighborhood-scale resilience. To ensure Seattle's frontline communities can build climate resilience, the City must provide technical assistance and resourcing to organization already working on neighborhood resilience. Develop and implement a program to support communities across Seattle in developing resiliency pods and/or hubs. By building on the Climate Resilience Framework and the Juneau Street Resilience Pod Toolkit, communities most impacted by climate injustices can be prepared with resources and tools to create long-term, neighborhood-scale resilience and foundation for recovery in the face of increased climate impacts.

Proposal: Pilot Resilience Pod/Hub Program with 5 groups in Othello, Rainier Beach, Chinatown-International District, Rainier Valley, and Beacon Hill. Build on partnerships with organizations and communities who have started this work from the Climate Resilience Framework early implementers and Office of Emergency Management Puget Sound Resilience Hub Cohort. As the City updates its Climate Action Plan, consider how to expand the program in the future with additional funding and resourcing options.

Thematic alignment: Climate Resilience & Public Health

Goals:

- Provide technical assistance to support neighborhoods in growing their knowledge on how to be climate resilience and grow capacity and resourcing for community resilience projects
- Strengthen partnerships between City and community partners to identify community-led stewardship of public green spaces
- Connect residents to existing relevant program offerings across City Departments to further prepare community members for climate impacts
- Develop communication chain for emergency correspondence within neighborhoods



Recommendation 3: Fund a Program for Youth-Led and Youth-Serving Community Initiatives

Overview: As we know and have heard time and again: young people are the future. They will enter the workforce as we retire and inherit the Earth and our changing climate. Investing in the education and skill development of youth is a necessary part of planning climate action. Currently in Seattle, there are many youth-serving career focused programs but very few of them bring youth into environmental justice work to build career skills, provide strong mentorship, and provide financial compensation. There is a need to address this gap as we plan for our future and ensure young people have the skills and confidence to go into climate and environmental careers.

Proposal: Establish a program to support initiatives focused on building youth leadership in climate and environmental justice. Through offering youth paid opportunities to learn leadership, organizing, advocacy, and civic engagement skills, this would support the City's workforce development goals, while adding capacity for community organizations. Contract with a community organization to establish and run a one-year pilot program in the form of a youth leadership fellowship, based off the examples of previous and existing programs such as Rooted in Vibrant Communities' former Green Pathways Fellowship and the Washington Bus's Summer Fellowship. The pilot project could start in Lake City or South Seattle and expand to other neighborhoods over time.

Goals:

- Provide opportunities for youth to build leadership skills
- Create pathways into climate and environmental justice focused careers
- Grow capacity for community climate resilience projects
- Strengthen partnerships between City and community partners

Thematic alignment: Workforce Development & Economic Inclusion, Climate Resilience & Public Health

The background of the slide is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, there is a paved path where several people are walking and cycling. A person is riding a bicycle towards the left, and another person is walking. In the middle ground, a person is sitting on a park bench. The background is filled with lush green trees and a body of water on the right side. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Recommendation 4: Long-term Investments for Small Businesses and Green Infrastructure Projects

Overview: The City is currently working towards decarbonization through the Building Performance Emissions Standards (BEPS) program. While this is a great step forward for reducing the city's greenhouse gas emissions, it leaves behind small businesses in buildings that still run on fossil fuels and may not be equipped to handle a changing climate. Small, local businesses are not immune to the impacts of climate change and may reduce operating hours or close during climate-related hazards resulting in loss of business and long-term financial challenges. Long-term investments for small businesses to implement green infrastructure projects will help our local economy be more resilient and support our transition to a cleaner future

Proposal: Provide long-term funding that invests in small businesses, makes buildings healthier to live and work in, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with the City's emissions reductions targets. Expand the City of Seattle's Building Decarbonization Grant that already supports under resourced building owners to upgrade and decarbonize their community-owned, affordable housing, and non-profit buildings to also include buildings owned and operated by small businesses. By making these investments into small businesses, the City can ensure the local economy thrives while reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Programs like Green Cost Share in Minneapolis and NextCycle WA are prime examples of this work in action.

Goals:

- Provide financial support to small businesses to reduce operating costs and incentivize decarbonization efforts
- Invest in the local economy by supporting small businesses to be more resilient to climate threats
- Increase the number of buildings in the City that are both energy efficient and resilient to climate impacts

Thematic alignment: Pollution Reduction & Circular Economy, Climate Resilience & Public Health, Building Decarbonization & Energy Efficiency



***Recommendation 5: Align with King County's 'Design Out Waste'
Goal of the 2025 Strategic Climate Action Plan***



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Overview: Every day, waste is transported by rail out of the City of Seattle to Oregon to be landfilled, everything from half-eaten meals to plastic packaging to perfectly good wood. It's the result of a "throwaway economy," where goods are designed to be cheap, short-lived, and disposable. This system wastes valuable resources, pollutes the environment, and fuels climate change—so much so that the emissions tied to the goods and services we consume are more than the emissions generated within the City itself. It's not just single-use plastics: everything from clothing to electronics to construction materials often ends up in the landfill far too soon. In fact, up to 63% of what the City of Seattle sends to the landfill could be reused, recycled, or composted. As our population grows and environmental and financial costs of riling garbage out of the city worsen, the City of Seattle must rethink how we reduce, reuse, and manage waste. Shifting to a circular economy—where we use less, waste less, and keep materials in circulation—means cutting emissions, creating local jobs, and reducing pollution, while protecting our forests, waterways, and communities most burdened by waste.

Proposal: Align with KC SCAP on the following 'Design Out Waste'" goals:

- Support the acceleration of the circular economy through providing technical support and funding to circular businesses and organizations through grants and incubator programs.
- Continue involvement with the Northwest Product Stewardship Council to support the development of Extended Producer Responsibility policies.
- Work with Solid waste Service Providers to provide education and outreach services for learning how to reduce emissions associated with consumption including reuse, repair, and refurbishment opportunities. Repair cafes, workshops, and reuse events.
- Ensure proper enforcement and education at all Seattle Transfer Stations to ensure proper waste diversion. Continue exploring material diversion and markets for resources recovered at transfer stations.
- Align the CAP with the 2022 Solid Waste Plan's Waste Prevention and Reuse Chapter
- Provide additional funding, resource allocation, and improvement processes to SPU's unsheltered services, specifically encampment trash program.

Goals:

- Pursue and expand Extended Producer Responsibility legislation State-wide with Seattle as a front-runner/champion of that legislation
- Align the CAP with the City of Seattle's Waste Prevention Plan launching in 2026.
- Provide resources and education for residents and partners to reduce consumption-related GHG emissions
- Develop new infrastructure, education, and enforcement practices to increase reuse and recycling at existing solid waste and city-owned facilities
- Expand and improve the SPU unsheltered services' Encampment Trash Program or the "Purple Bag Program"
- Increase reuse and recycling of building materials:
- Create C&D Mandate and Policy for new construction
- Support Salvage Lumber Warehouse and Network

Thematic alignment: Pollution Reduction & Circular Economy, Climate Resilience & Public Health

Recommendation 6: Ensure Climate and Environmental Related Plans, Community Initiatives and Programs, and Engagement are Strategically Coordinated Across City Departments



Overview: At present, the City has many strategic plans to address and mitigate climate change impacts and environmental hazards, yet many of these plans are not implemented in a coordinated, strategic way leading to disjointed and ad hoc responses to emergencies. Expand emergency planning to be more inclusive of climate and environmental hazards through a coordinated effort working with neighborhoods experiencing disproportionate climate impacts to develop neighborhood resilience plans. Upgrade existing infrastructure like community centers and libraries to designate them as Resilience Hubs for the purpose of distributing materials, resources, and communications.

Proposal: Coordinate across departments to ensure emergency responses are aligned and ready for rapid response. Leverage existing community serving institutions such as libraries and community centers to distribute resources and information and provide services during climate and environmental hazards and emergencies. Build on partnerships with organizations and communities who have started this work from the Climate Resilience Framework.

Thematic alignment: Climate Resilience & Public Health, Building Decarbonization & Energy Efficiency

Goals:

- De-silo emergency planning across City departments
- Extend hours during extreme heat and poor air quality days
- Equip and empower community to mobilize quickly during climate and environmental emergencies by providing materials and resources to community centers, libraries, and other trusted spaces ahead of such events
- Coordinate with Seattle-King County Public Health, OEM, and OSE
- Coordinate with community groups to develop neighborhood climate resilience and health emergency planning
- Designate all City libraries and Community Centers as Resilience Hubs

Recommendation 7: Improve Coordination and Establish Long-term Plans Among Washington State, Accountable Communities of Health, King County, and the City of Seattle during Climate and Environmental Emergencies

Overview: Gaps in coordination and efforts to respond to climate and environmental hazards are disjointed in Washington state between City, County, and State governments. Many frontline communities lack health services such as community clinics, posing day-to-day access challenges and could be particularly detrimental during extreme weather events when our centralized hospital system may not be accessible or reliable. Healthcare providers and public health professionals are early responders during climate emergencies. Additional resources and education around best practices for supporting community health amid climate hazards as well as improved coordination around care is essential for community climate preparedness and public health.

Proposal: Enhance the health care provider system in the region with Community Health Workers and improve coordination between the City of Seattle and Public Health Seattle King County by using City funds to bolster Public Health Seattle King County's (PHSKC) climate work. These funds should be used to:

- Increase the number of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in the county who focus on the intersection between climate and health. CHWs are critical to connecting frontline communities to healthcare services, providing culturally relevant and in-language health education, and understanding community health challenges and solutions. CHWs have a proven track record in mitigating health inequities and improving public health communications in hard to reach communities, and with better resourcing, could play an essential role in saving more lives when the next climate emergency strikes.
- Create new positions and/or better resource existing positions in the County to coordinate across City Departments, PHSKC, Washington State Department of Health, other nearby Local Health Jurisdictions, community health clinics, hospitals, CHWs, Healthier Here, and other health service providers. Other responsibilities would include linking various climate and health plans and procedures that would benefit Seattle's residents, researching and implementing best practices for community climate adaptation strategies that can protect health, creating public health guidance and communications so community can be prepared for climate emergencies, community outreach, public health metric and data tracking, and scenario planning for how communities can access clinics and emergency rooms across the City during climate-related infrastructure failures.

Goals:

- Increase the number of Community Health Workers who are well resourced and able to do climate and health outreach
- Create a position at Public Health Seattle King County to coordinate across health service providers and provide more climate and health programming and resources
- Create a coordinated alert system for climate hazards through emergency management system, schools, senior living facilities, etc.
- Align Seattle's Heat Resilience Work with King County Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy
- Align Food Action Plan goals and ensure food security and access to impacted communities during climate and environmental emergencies
- Track and report number of hospitalizations and mortality during extreme weather events, and other relevant data and metric

Thematic alignment: Climate Resilience & Public Health

The background of the slide is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, there is a paved path where several people are walking and cycling. The path is bordered by green grass on the left and a body of water on the right. In the background, there are dense green trees under a clear blue sky. A large, semi-transparent white rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the main text.

Recommendation 8: Coordinated Neighborhood-Scale Decarbonization and Resilience

Overview: The City is already advancing building and home decarbonization through many programs such as Building Performance Emissions Standards, Clean Heat, and the Municipal Energy Efficiency Program. While these programs are beneficial and move Seattle toward a decarbonized future, these programs focus on individual buildings and owners which can result in some homes and buildings electrifying while others cannot. The focus of decarbonization and climate resiliency efforts needs to shift away from an individual building-by-building approach to a collective, neighborhood-scale approach. Pairing upgrades for energy efficiency and climate resiliency, while also ensuring anti-displacement measures are in place will make real progress toward meeting emissions reduction goals while also protecting frontline community health. By prioritizing communities who are most overburdened by pollution and have the fewest resources to adapt to our changing climate for these upgrades, this effort also advances environmental justice and lower income households can have lower utility bills, are not stuck using aging gas infrastructure, and are better equipped to handle a changing climate. This work is already taking place on a small scale like the Resilience District work in the Duwamish Valley or by Brighton Communities that is building decarbonized community-driven housing at a neighborhood scale. By building off this work, the City could scale up more neighborhoods and intentionally plan communities for resilience and energy transition.

Proposal: Scale up existing City work to decarbonize and harden buildings to make them more climate resilient by taking a neighborhood-scale approach to this work starting in frontline communities across Seattle. Partner with existing organizations, affordable housing developers, and trusted community spaces who support low-income residents stay in place, and ensure that work to upgrade buildings is done by union labor.

Thematic alignment: Building
Decarbonization & Energy
Efficiency Climate Resilience & Public
Health

Goals:

- Ensure frontline and priorities communities are part of the energy transition
- Center community needs, resilience, and leadership
- Support energy democracy, lower utility bills, and equip residents and small businesses with emergency kits and other climate resilience resources
- Create good union jobs



***Recommendation 9: Sustain Investments
in Community Leadership through Community Assemblies
and Community-led Research***



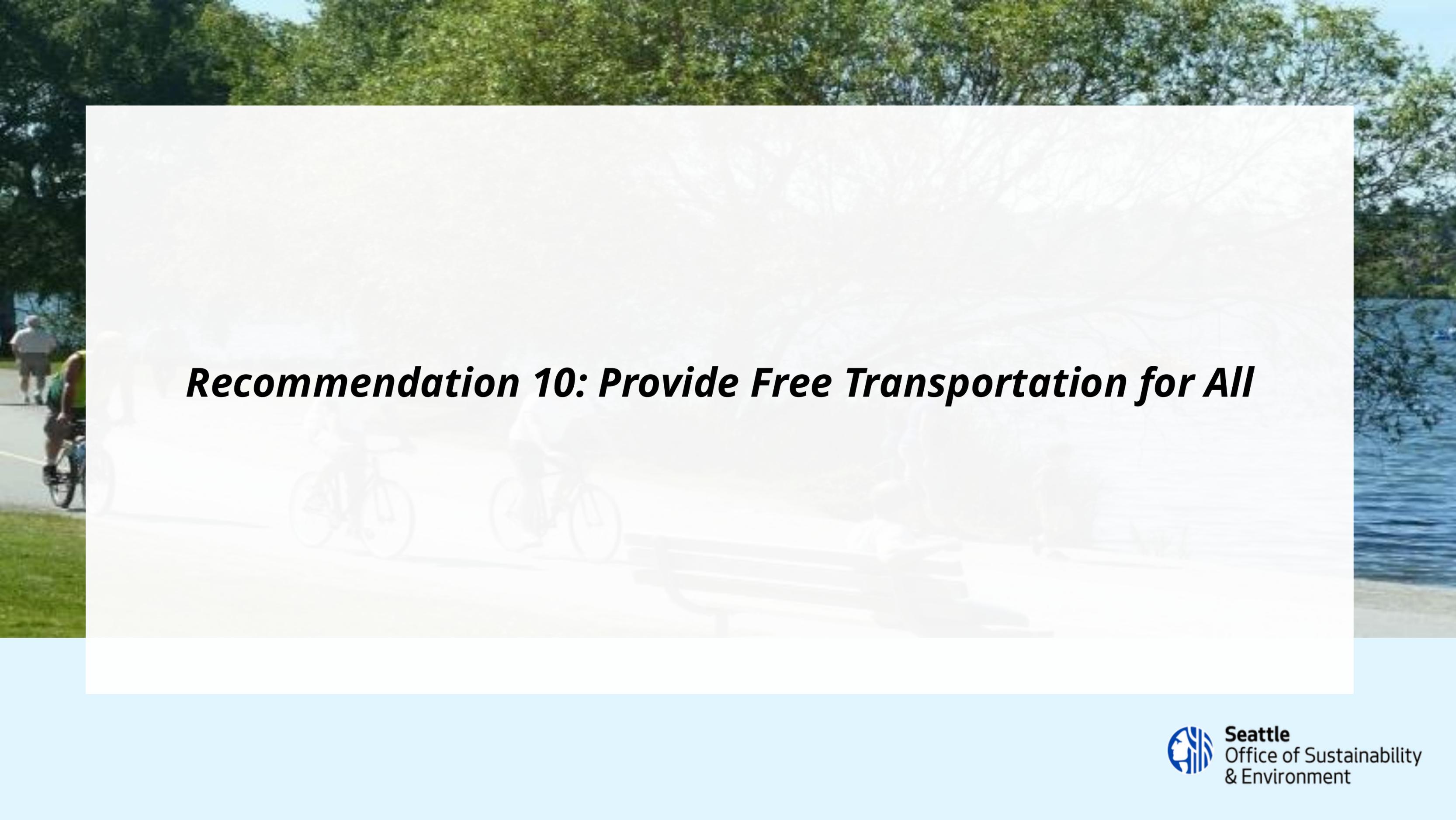
Overview: People who are closest to the problems hold the solutions. City government and Seattle residents and businesses stand to benefit from co-governance practices that lead to the co-creation of policies, programs, and projects that provide multiple benefits and reach communities most in need of those benefits. The City should continue to build on its existing work to fund community assemblies and other community-led research and other co-governance practices.

Proposal: Build upon and continue the co-governance strategies OSE has been leading through resourcing additional Community Climate Assemblies. Community Assemblies have already been successful in streamlining City planning processes by generating clear recommendations from frontline communities about how to use City resources to design plans, policies, and programs to efficiently and effectively design community climate solutions. Communities reached thus far through Community Assemblies are local labor union members, South Seattle communities, youth, and Indigenous and Urban Native people.

Thematic alignment: Climate Resilience & Public Health

Goals:

- Foster long term partnership and investment in community-centered policy making
- Sustained opportunities to workshop and improve programs, projects, and policies with impacted communities
- Engage communities not usually included in climate resilience conversations such as:
 - Health care providers: Community Healthcare Workers, hospitals, and related non-profits
 - Immigrant communities
 - Elders
 - People with disabilities
 - Small business owners and employees

The background of the slide is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, a paved path runs horizontally. On the left, a person is walking away from the camera, and a cyclist is riding towards the camera. In the middle ground, a person is sitting on a wooden park bench. The background is filled with lush green trees and a glimpse of a blue body of water on the right side. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle that contains the main text.

Recommendation 10: Provide Free Transportation for All

Overview: Implement a program that enables every transit system across Seattle to allow passengers free transportation. By eliminating fares within Seattle, communities become more connected and have more opportunity. Free transportation improves access to key resources and enables social participation. Cities with free transportation see improved health, safety, increased ridership which can lead to increased economic and employment opportunities, as well as household stability.

Proposal: Convene regional transit partners such as Seattle Department of Transportation, King County Metro, and Sound Transit and build a partnership with transit advocacy groups such as Transportation Choices Coalition, Transit Riders Union, Seattle Streets Alliance, Commute Seattle, and Mass Coalition with guidance from the Transportation Equity Workgroup, to create a long-term, sustainable plan to roll out fare-free rides and a plan for transit lines and hours expansion to EJ communities. The Statewide Free Youth Transit program utilizes Climate Commitment Act funding; this should be considered for initial funds for a Fare Free Seattle.

Thematic alignment: Clean & Equitable Transportation

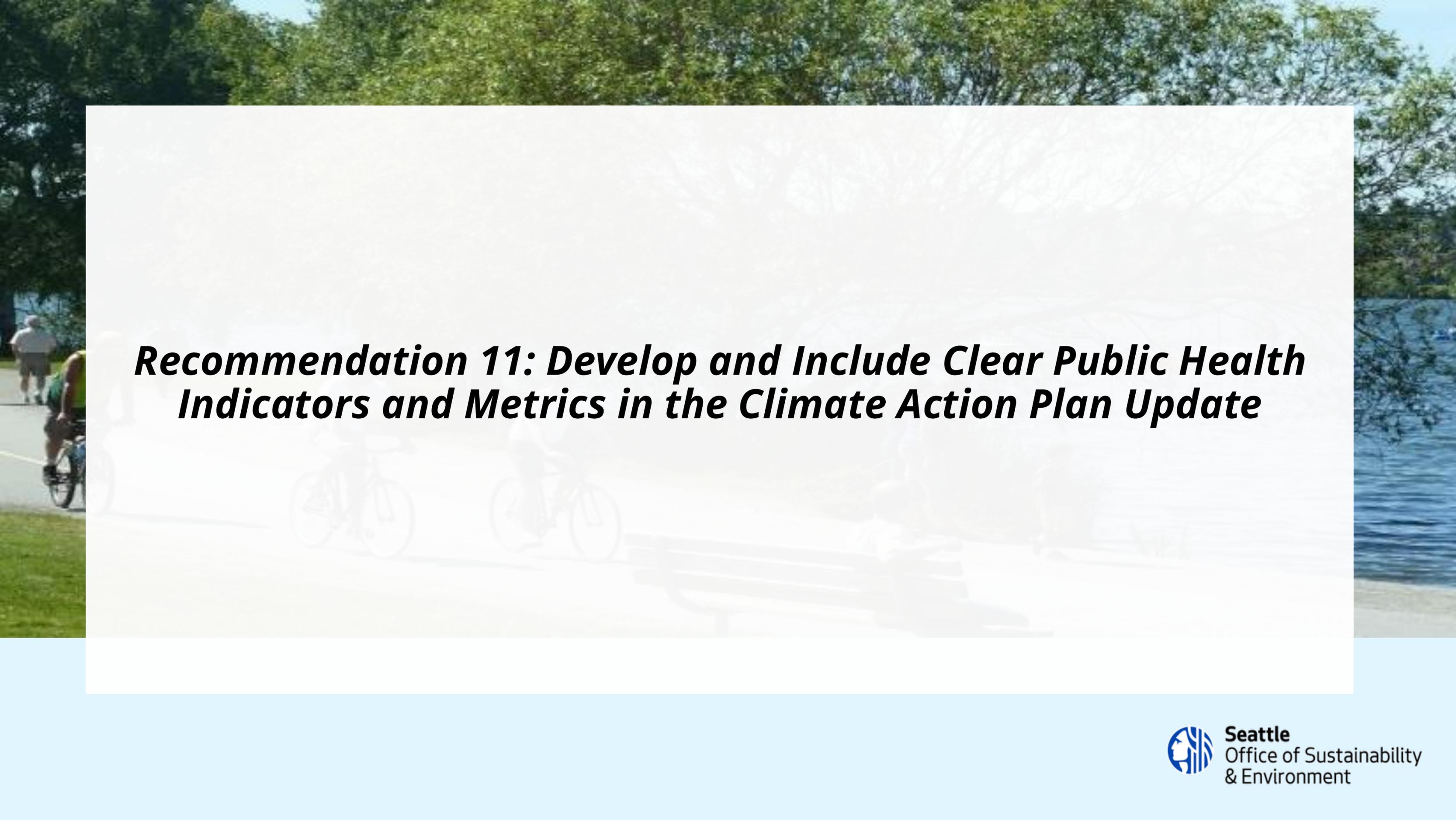
Goals:

Short Term (0-5 years)

- Provide free transportation via bus, link, and trains to Seattle neighborhoods
- Strengthen partnerships between regional transportation agencies, advocacy groups, and community partners to form a Seattle Equitable Transit Consortium that will co-design a Fare Free Seattle
- Implement a system to measure program success and gaps annually in the first 10 years

Long Term (5-10 years)

- Funded research effort that captures ridership, demographics, health outcomes, and economic impacts from the program implementation
- If there is initial success from our research findings, we can share this model with neighboring cities, counties, and possibly the state
- Continue to co-collaborate and manage the fare free program, while making improvements based on yearly assessments

The background of the slide is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, there is a paved path where a person is walking and another is riding a bicycle. In the middle ground, a person is sitting on a park bench. The background is filled with lush green trees and a body of water on the right side. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle that contains the main text.

Recommendation 11: Develop and Include Clear Public Health Indicators and Metrics in the Climate Action Plan Update

Overview: City plans often lack a clear way of how progress will be tracked and measured. This results in a lack of transparency with the public and leaves the public unsure if progress towards a plan's goals are being achieved. As the City is planning for a future with a changing climate, it is important to ensure meaningful progress is being made to address public health issues and environmental injustice. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) should include clear and transparent metrics for tracking progress on public health and environmental injustice.

Proposal: As part of the CAP update planning process, the City work group should create clear indicators and metrics to measure progress on how the public's health is being protected and improved as CAP actions are implemented. Among others, clear metrics and indicators should include greenhouse gas emission reductions, adaptation, and resilience.

Goal:

- Create clear indicators and metrics that can demonstrate progress toward climate goals for community climate resilience and reducing emissions and waste. These metrics and indicators should be made public and be regularly updated.

Thematic alignment: Climate Resilience & Public Health