

Snohomish County Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Dear Snohomish County Residents,

Snohomish County has a longstanding commitment to environmental protection and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to maintain momentum on reducing our environmental impacts. This *2019 SOAP Progress Update* shows that the County has made good progress in meeting the goals and objectives in the County's Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) for government operations since it was adopted in 2013. However, we also know that there is much more work to do to address the urgency of climate change.



Since taking office as the County Executive in 2016, I have worked in partnership with our County Council to introduce new, important action to address climate change and environmental protection. Below are just a few highlights of our SOAP progress through 2019, all of which were achieved through strong community partnerships with local residents, cities, utilities, and businesses:

- The County is on-track to meet its 20% greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal by 2020 for government operations;
- 24 new electric vehicle charging stalls were installed at various County facilities;
- The Public Works Department piloted new software to better plan and prepare for climate change impacts across a diverse portfolio of road, bridge, and other infrastructure projects;
- The County's Energy Smart Loan Program assisted over 1,400 customers make their homes more energy efficient and comfortable; saving enough energy to power over 267 for a year and providing more than \$17 million in work for local contractors;
- The County's Savvy Septic Program assisted more than 630 homeowners with a rebate, low-income grant, or low interest loan to repair, replace, or conduct maintenance on their septic systems;
- We are a founding member of the new regional Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative to better address climate change preparedness and resiliency.

More recently, the County Council and I issued Joint Resolution 19-006 on February 20, 2019, which commits the County to achieving 100% clean energy in County operations by 2045. It also outlines several key action items to help us get there, namely requiring all new County facilities to achieve LEED Gold Certification, establishing a dedicated energy efficiency fund in our annual budget, and a plan to transition County operations off of fossil fuels.

Last fall we launched a new Ad Hoc Climate Action Advisory Committee to provide input as we revise the SOAP and develop the first Countywide climate action plan. The Climate Action Advisory Committee is comprised of a diverse group of community stakeholders who can bring fresh perspective to our planning efforts, including strategies to better engage the public in addressing climate change.

I am proud of Snohomish County employees, and our partners, for their work to implement SOAP action items and reduce the environmental footprint from government operations. There is much more work ahead of us as we work to address one of the most challenging issues of our time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Somers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

GOAL 1 Implement Green Building Practices and Use Green Materials

➤ KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The County adopted its first green purchasing policy in 2012 via Snohomish County Code 3.04.177.
- A new green and high performance building ordinance, with requirements for LEED Gold certification for new County owned buildings, is expected to be adopted in 2020.

PERFORMANCE KEY:  Completing or ongoing  In Progress  Action Needed

OBJECTIVES UPDATE

-  **Objective 1A: Establish minimum green building practices for County owned buildings, including new construction and remodels.**
 - **Update:** The County's Green and High Performance Building ordinance (and accompanying policy), which is expected to be adopted in early 2020, requires new buildings over 5,000 square feet to achieve LEED Gold certification and prohibits the use of fossil fuels.
-  **Objective 1B: Protect human health and the natural environment by minimizing use of toxic and hazardous substances in daily operations and in the design, construction, and maintenance of facilities.**
 - **Update:** The County adopted its first Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPP) in 2012, and since then OES has hosted multiple trainings on environmentally preferable purchasing for internal staff and other local governments.
-  **Objective 1C: Establish green project guidelines for County capital projects where green building standards are not applicable.**
 - **Update:** The County's Green Building Advisory Team has accomplished this through the new County green building ordinance and policy, noted in the 1A Update above, and is expected to be adopted in early 2020.
-  **Objective 1D: Encourage green building practices within the community.**
 - **Update:** Good progress has been made (See Strategy Update 1(v) below), however there is still room for improvement.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

STRATEGIES UPDATE

- ◆ **Strategy 1(i) - Assemble an inter-disciplinary team, including industry experts, to develop internal standards for green building design, construction, and capital projects.**
 - **Update:** In late 2015, Snohomish County formed a new Green Building Advisory Team (GBAT) comprised of both internal and external stakeholders and subject matter experts. The new Team began convening in January of 2016 to guide the development of green building standards for the construction and remodel of County owned facilities. The Green Building Team, facilitated by the Office of Energy and Sustainability, created a recommended green building ordinance and policy which are expected to be adopted by the County in the first quarter of 2020. Highlights of the County's new green building standards include the following requirements: LEED Gold certification for new construction and remodels over 5,000 square feet; no use of fossil fuels as a primary heat source; and life cycle cost assessments for facilities and energy consuming components within a facility.

- ◆ **Strategy 1(ii) - Review King County's sustainable infrastructure scorecard as a potential model for internal County projects.**
 - **Update:** In April of 2016, King County's Green Building Team was invited to present their green building policy and Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard to Snohomish County's GBAT. The GBAT learned from and utilized King County's work, including revising their Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard for use as an evaluation tool for minor renovations projects that are not eligible for LEED certification.

- ◆ **Strategy 1(iii) - Identify possible green building incentives that the County can offer to the community.**
 - **Update:** Between 2014 and 2015, OES staff worked with our local electric and natural gas utilities to successfully develop a joint application process for energy utility rebates. The outcome of this process enabled customers to receive conservation incentives and rebates from both utilities without necessarily having to submit two separate applications to each entity.

From 2016-2017, OES staff worked with our local electric and natural gas utilities to promote incentives for new single family and multi-family homes that achieve BuiltGreen™ certification. This effort was successful at the time, as Snohomish Public Utility District offered a new incentive for documented energy savings above code when verified through BuiltGreen™.

- ◆ **Strategy 1(iv) - Increase the community's access to information on energy efficiency, green building, and utility rebates on the County website and at the County campus.**
 - **Update:** OES created a new website with information and resources on related County programs, energy efficiency, green building, utility rebates, and conservation best practices. The County's Public Works, Planning and Development Services, and Emergency Management Departments have great resources for the public as they relate to these topic areas. Real time energy generation from the 16.4kW solar panels at the County campus can be accessed on the OES website.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

- ◆ **Strategy 1(v) - Partner with local agencies to host workshops on green design and construction for County staff and community stakeholders.**
 - **Update:** The County partnered with Built Green of King and Snohomish Counties, Puget Sound Energy, and Snohomish Public Utility District, to host two workshops on green building for building-industry professionals. The County's Department of Planning and Development Services and Surface Water Management Division hosted multiple trainings on low-impact development for staff and industry professionals between 2013 and 2018. The County has served on the Built Green Executive Committee since 2010, and encourages County and local government staff to attend and the annual Built Green Conference which the County sponsors.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

GOAL 2 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from County Operations

➤ KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The County is on-track to meet its 20% GHG reduction goal for municipal operations by 2020.
- The percentage of County employees that drive alone to work each day is 76%, a 5% increase from 2014.¹
- GHGs from transportation and buildings are the two largest source of emissions from government operations.²

PERFORMANCE KEY:  Completing or ongoing  In Progress  Action Needed

OBJECTIVES UPDATE

-  **Objective 2E: Reduce GHG emissions from County operations to 20% below 2000 levels by 2020.**
 - **Update:** The [County's 2014 GHG Emissions Inventory for Government Operations](#) found that the County is on track to meet the goal of reducing emissions 20% below 2000 levels by 2020. The next GHG inventory for County operations is scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2020.
-  **Objective 2F: Continue to increase the percentage of alternative fuel vehicles in the County's fleet, to the greatest extent feasible, when vehicles need to be replaced.**
 - **Update:** Since 2012, six new all-electric vehicles have been added to the County's fleet and a total of 46 hybrid electric vehicles.
-  **Objective 2G: Increase the amount of diesel fleet running on biodiesel from 70% to 90% by 2015.**
 - **Update:** Biodiesel consumption in 2019 generally increased in comparison to 2015 consumption, with a 26% increase in B10 consumption and a 31% increase in B20 consumption. B05 consumption decreased by 32%.³
-  **Objective 2H: Identify and implement technologies to improve the efficiency of Snohomish County service vehicles.**
 - **Update:** The County employed a number of technologies to improve service vehicle efficiency such as diesel engines retrofits, hybrid vehicle purchases, construction and utilization of a diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) station to reduce nitrous oxide (NOx)

¹ This data is from the County's 2014 and 2019 Commute Trip Reduction Survey which is mandated by the WA State Department of Transportation.

² *Snohomish County 2014 Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Government Operations.*

³ B05 means 5% biodiesel, B10 means 10% biodiesel, B20 means 20% biodiesel and the remainder of the fuel is petro diesel.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

concentration in diesel exhaust emissions. The Sheriff's office order four hybrid interceptor vehicles in 2019 to pilot in their vehicle fleet.

- ◆ **Objective 2I: Reduce GHG emissions from County vehicles by 2.5% per year against a 2007-2009 average baseline.**
 - **Update:** As of 2014 reporting, the County had achieved average GHG emissions reductions of 2.5% per year from County vehicles against a 2007-2009 baseline. The next report on vehicle emissions is scheduled to be published in 2020.

- ◆ **Objective 2J: Increase the number of employees participating in alternative commute and telecommute programs to 10% above 2009 participation levels by 2017.**
 - **Update:** The County offers a variety of incentives for employees to take transit and other alternatives to reduce the amount of single occupant commute trips. However, the County's most recent commuter survey indicates that single-occupant commuting among County employees has steadily increased since 2000. The percentage of County employees that drive alone to work each day is 76%, a 5% increase from 2014.

STRATEGIES UPDATE

- ◆ **Strategy 2(i) – Continue to track greenhouse gas emissions from County operations, especially transportation related sources, and evaluate annually to ensure we are meeting GHG reduction goals**
 - **Update:** The County tracks and reports greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from County operations approximately every five years, with [the most recent GHG emissions inventory report](#) published in 2015 for 2014 data. Stationary source emissions from combustion equipment and landfills is reported on annually as required by EPA and Ecology. Overall, 2014 GHG emissions decreased 8.5% from 2000 levels and the County is on-track to meet its 20% goal by 2020.

- ◆ **Strategy 2(ii) – When existing vehicles are ready for replacement, identify opportunities for the purchase of alternative fleet vehicles**
 - **Update:** As the County continues to replace aging vehicles, a larger share of Fleet vehicles will be more fuel efficient due to higher corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards, which the Federal government raised for the first-time in more than 25 years in 2011. In 2019, a new internal Green Fleet Team was assembled to develop recommended policies to accelerate GHG emissions reduction from County fleet and equipment.

- ◆ **Strategy 2(iii) – Continue to support County biodiesel production and the installation of alternative fueling stations for County fleet vehicles.**
 - **Update:** The County is no longer producing biodiesel at the crusher/dryer facility as that system is no longer in operation.

In 2014, a total of 32 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations were installed at a number of County owned facilities through federal energy efficiency and conservation block grant (EECBG) dollars. Public EV charging stations were installed at the County campus,

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

Willis Tucker Park, McCollum Park, and the Evergreen State Fairgrounds. The McCollum Park stations have since been decommissioned due to repeated vandalism. The Arlington Public Works facility and Everett Fleet facility each have four EV stalls for government vehicles only. The County recently installed eight additional EV stalls at the County campus, bringing the current total EV charging stalls across County facilities to 36.

◆ **Strategy 2(iv) – Host continuing education trainings for employees on “green driving” and “green fleet” practices.**

- **Update:** A total of six training sessions were held for County staff between 2013-2014 on how to drive an electric vehicle, and an EV guide was published on the OES internal Sharepoint site. In 2016, the County received a Workplace Charging award from the U.S. Department of Energy for its leadership in promoting clean transportation options for County employees. In 2018 and 2019, the County partnered with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) to host EV “Ride and Drive” events at the County’s annual Earth Day event.

◆ **Strategy 2(v) – Continue tracking SmartRide program participation and identify new opportunities to increase participation in the program. Report on participation rates annually.**

- **Update:** The County reports on the SmartRide program participation biennially. Since 2014, the County has offered bus passes at no cost to County employees as an employee benefit and to help reduce single occupant trips for daily commuting. The most recent commuter survey indicates that single-occupant commuting among County employees has steadily increased since 2000, despite the incentives provided to encourage commuting via transit, carpool, vanpool, and walk or bike.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

GOAL 3 Conserve Resources and Use Renewable Energy Technologies

➤ KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The energy conservation work completed in County facilities since 2010 has resulted in a greenhouse gas emissions reductions equivalent to taking 965 passenger vehicles off the road each year.
- 2017 water consumption for the County’s nine highest water consuming buildings was 8 million gallons less than 2012 levels, meeting 2017 reduction targets (SOAP Objective 3M).

PERFORMANCE KEY:  Completing or ongoing  In Progress  Action Needed

OBJECTIVES UPDATE

-  **Objective 3K: Achieve a 30% normalized net reduction in energy use for 30 County buildings by 2020 against a 2007-2009 baseline.**
 - **Update:** While 2018 weather normalized energy consumption for the 30 County buildings listed in the SOAP was 11% lower than the baseline year, the 30% net normalized reduction was not achieved.
-  **Objective 3L: Reduce energy and water use through equipment upgrades, procurement and construction practices, and resource conservation in County operations.**
 - **Update:** Between 2010 and 2017, the County implemented energy saving retrofits through multiple energy services companies, resulting in annual savings of 5,338,821 kilowatt hours of electricity, 195,483 therms of natural gas, and more than 7 million gallons of water. The greenhouse gas emissions savings from these building retrofits is the equivalent of taking 965 passenger cars off the road each year⁴. The County also participates in two utility sponsored Strategic Energy Management (SEM) programs through Puget Sound Energy and Snohomish County Public Utility District. The County’s SEM program focuses on reducing energy use through operational, maintenance, and behavior change actions.
-  **Objective 3M: Reduce potable water use in 30 County facilities by 1.25% per year by 2017 against 2007-2009 average baseline.**
 - **Update:** The [Snohomish County Facilities Water Benchmark Report](#), showed that 2013 potable water use in County facilities decreased by about 3% or 1 million gallons from 2010 levels. However, for all 30 buildings, the County fell 8.7% short of meeting SOAP Objective 3M. Additional water conservation efforts were implemented since the Water Benchmark Report was published. By 2017, the nine largest water consuming buildings reduced annual water use by approximately 8 million gallons over 2012 consumption, meeting the 2017 reduction targets.

⁴ 4,546MT CO₂e calculated using [EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#).

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

- ◆ **Objective 3N: Produce, use, or procure renewable energy equal to 15% of the energy requirements for 30 County buildings by 2020.**
 - **Update:** The County procures electricity from Snohomish Public Utility District (SnoPUD), which has a fuel mix with 98% comprised from non-carbon emitting sources. The County’s two largest solar energy installations, which were installed in 2011, total 20.6 kW and produce more than 16,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year which goes back into the grid.

STRATEGIES UPDATE

- ◆ **Strategy 3(i) – Continue to track GHG emissions from County operations, especially transportation related sources, and evaluate annually to ensure we are meeting GHG reduction goals.**
 - **Update:** Energy and water conservation audits were completed in all 30 County buildings listed in Appendix D of the SOAP, and a Facility Action Plan was created for each building.
- ◆ **Strategy 3(ii) – When existing vehicles are ready for replacement, identify opportunities for the purchase of alternative fleet vehicles.**
 - **Update:** A Resource Conservation Plan was created for County facilities. Energy consumption for nearly 80 County facilities are monitored to identify additional opportunities for conservation, as well as any changes to operation and maintenance of those buildings.
- ◆ **Strategy 3(iii) – Measure and monitor energy, water, and waste at County facilities using a utility tracking software program. Annually evaluate progress toward Objectives 3K-3N.**
 - **Update:** The Office of Energy and Sustainability measures and monitors energy, waste, and water usage through several different utility tracking software programs.
- ◆ **Strategy 3(iv) – Upgrade inefficient equipment to facilitate energy and water conservation and recovery, as funding becomes available.**
 - **Update:** The County worked with energy services company McKinstry between 2011 and 2017 to identify and retrofit County facilities in order to conserve energy and water. This work resulted in 2.7 million kilowatt hours per year in electricity savings, nearly 43,000 per year in natural gas savings, and more than 7 million gallons of water annually. The annual cost savings of these conservation retrofits totals over \$350,000 per year.
- ◆ **Strategy 3(v) – Develop a resource conservation “best practices” guide for employees to help conserve resources at work.**
 - **Update:** In 2012, OES developed a guide called Green at Work, which was posted on the Office of Energy and Sustainability intranet homepage, with simple and easy tips for employees for employees to engage in environmental stewardship each day at

DID YOU KNOW?
SnoPUD supplies electricity to all County owned facilities, and 98% of this electricity supply is from non-carbon emitting resources.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

work. In 2014, OES launched the PrintWise campaign to reduce paper consumption which resulted in a 13.6% reduction in paper usage over the course of the year.

◆ **Strategy 3(vi) – Conduct a feasibility study on using treated greywater and rainwater harvesting for non-potable water needs at County facilities.**

- **Update:** In 2014, OES conducted feasibility studies for rainwater harvesting and reuse at the County Fairgrounds and at the Airport. The study revealed that rainwater harvesting is not as cost-effective at each of these sites as initially anticipated, but will be considered in future capital improvement budgets.

◆ **Strategy 3(vii) – For buildings that have achieved high energy efficiency performance, explore options for renewable and passive energy measures (solar shades, glazing, passive solar orientation, etc).**

- **Update:** The County consistently tracks and evaluates opportunities for renewable energy installation at County facilities, especially solar.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

GOAL 4 Reduce, Recycle, and Repurpose Waste

➤ KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The Zero Waste Fair initiative diverts nearly 50% of the waste produced during the 12 day Fair to recycle and compost markets; a cumulative total of 244 tons since the initiative launched in 2014.
- The County’s Public Works Department consistently recycles materials from road and bridge construction projects; 148,000 pounds of scrap metal and aluminum was recycled from the Road Maintenance Division in 2014 alone.
- Multiple waste reduction trainings have been held for County employees, new resources created, and an instructional video on what is recyclable at work.

PERFORMANCE KEY:  Completing or ongoing  In Progress  Action Needed

OBJECTIVES UPDATE

 **Objective 4O: Reduce waste from County facilities by 30% by the end of 2013 (or until goal is met) against a 2011-2012 average baseline.**

- **Update:** Due to difficulties obtaining waste data for County facilities, efforts under this goal has focused on the Zero Waste Fairgrounds initiative and recycling education refresh for County employees. Since launching the Zero Waste Fair initiative in 2014, nearly half of the waste produced during the 12 day fair is diverted from the landfill each year – a cumulative total of approximately 244 tons of recycled or composted material.

 **Objective 4P: Start a recycling education program for new employees. Provide periodic recycling education for all employees.**

- **Update:** The County’s internal recycling program was revamped in 2012 with extensive education for employees along with new infrastructure. In 2018, OES provided in-person training sessions for departments and offices.

STRATEGIES UPDATE

 **Strategy 4(i) – Reduce paper and printing whenever possible via double-sided printing and electronic record keeping.**

- **Update:** In 2013, OES launched a County wide Print Wise campaign, asking employees to help reach a 20% paper reduction goal by printing less and printing wisely. The year-long campaign resulted in a 13.6% reduction in paper consumption saving approximately \$21,000. The Solid Waste Division in Public Works, as well as the Department of Planning and Development Services, were both early adopters of transitioning from paper to online systems. The Solid Waste Division implemented a

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

new electronic time keeping system and the Planning & Development Services department moved to a paperless permitting process, both of which have reduced vehicle trips, paper consumption, and the amount of storage needed for paper files.

◆ **Strategy 4(ii) – Track waste and recycling leaving County facilities to evaluate progress toward Objective 40.**

- **Update:** OES started tracking waste and recycling data from County facilities in 2012, but is still working to centralize and streamline the data gathering process across all County departments and offices.

◆ **Strategy 4(iii) – Develop new signage and informational resources for employees regarding recycling and garbage.**

- **Update:** OES partnered with Facilities Management and the Solid Waste Division to revamp the County’s internal recycling program in 2012, including the installation of new three stream recycling infrastructure in public areas and employee break rooms. This effort also included new signage, the elimination of bag liners for all paper recycling bins, hands-on departmental recycling trainings, and staff engagement activities with prizes. This effort increased recycling at County facilities by approximately 103 tons.
- OES and Solid Waste refreshed best practices for employee recycling in 2018.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Litter Wranglers in the County’s Public Works Department collected 6,400 bags of garbage from more than 800 road miles in 2019 – a nearly 25% increase from 2018.

◆ **Strategy 4(iv) – Incorporate a brief training on recyclable items at work in new employee orientation.**

- **Update:** OES worked with Human Resources to include information on recycling and conservation in the County’s training for on-boarding new employees. OES publishes best practices for recycling at work available on the County’s internal website. In 2018, Planning and Development Services (PDS) staff and OES staff developed a video-based recycling training for use in PDS new employee orientation.

◆ **Strategy 4(v) – Host brief recycling trainings for all departments and offices every three years.**

- **Update:** OES held recycling trainings for departments and office in 2012, and then more recently in 2018. As noted above, a short video on County in-house recycling was created to train employees on what is recyclable at work.

◆ **Strategy 4(vi) – Purchase recycling containers for County facilities in high traffic, public areas.**

- **Update:** As noted in (4iii) above, new three stream recycling infrastructure was purchased and installed in public areas and employee break rooms at the County campus and at Cathcart.

◆ **Strategy 4(vii) – Create a plan to reduce waste through recycling and composting at the Evergreen State Fair.**

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

- **Update:** The County’s Zero Waste Fairgrounds initiative launched in 2014 to recycle and compost 100% of the waste generated at the Evergreen State Fair by 2017. In its first year, 33% of the waste was recycled or composted above 2013 levels, and since then approximately 45% of the waste is recycled or composted each year. Total waste diversion at the Evergreen State Fair from 2014-2018 totaled over 244 tons. The County is working towards a year-round Zero Waste initiative at the Fairgrounds.

- ◆ **Strategy 4(viii) – Develop demolition standards for County facilities to maximize reuse and recycling of materials. Set a recycling target for construction and demolition standards.**
 - **Update:** The County is working to establish standards and targets for reuse and recycling of materials when demolition is planned for County facilities. Once developed, these standards will most likely be incorporated into the new County Green and High Performance Building Standards.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

GOAL 5 IMPLEMENT GREEN PURCHASING PURCHASES

➤ KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The County's first green purchasing policy was adopted in 2012 through new Snohomish County Code section 3.04.177.
- New resources were created and trainings held for County staff to help implement the green purchasing policy.

PERFORMANCE KEY:  Completing or ongoing

 In Progress

 Action Needed

OBJECTIVES UPDATE

 **Objective 5Q: Apply an emphasis on environmentally preferable purchasing to all County operations and facilities.**

- **Update:** The County adopted a new Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Utilization Policy (EPP) in 2012 and provided subsequent training and resources for departments and offices. More coordination and consistency is needed to better incorporate the EPP in the County's daily decision making and purchasing processes.

 **Objective 5R: Provide guidelines, resources, and periodic training for County employees on environmentally preferable purchasing.**

- **Update:** OES created the Green Product Resource Guide for County employees and published on the internal website. A variety of trainings sessions on green purchasing were also provided.

STRATEGIES UPDATE

 **Strategy 5(i) Update:** The County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Product Utilization Policy (EPP) was completed and adopted by Council Motion in 2012. OES continues to work with the Purchasing Division on EPP implementation and improving County purchasing practices to better achieve the goals outlined in the policy.

 **Strategy 5(ii) Update:** In 2012 and 2013, OES held EPP trainings for County staff, including examples on the importance of life cycle cost assessments as part of the purchasing criteria. Life cycle cost assessments are a requirement for the new Green and High Performance Buildings ordinance.

 **Strategy 5(iii) Update:** The County's Purchasing Division began issuing bids electronically in 2012.

 **Strategy 5(iv) Update:** OES created a Green Product Resource Guide as one tool to help employees in with decisions. OES also joined the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) and provided County employees with access to RPN's online resources.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

- ◆ **Strategy 5(v) Update:** In March of 2014, OES hosted a day-long workshop for local jurisdictions and organizations called Green Purchasing: Beyond the Basics. The event was a success with approximately 40 attendees and presentations from local subject matter experts. Purchasing and OES collaborated on providing further training and conference attendance opportunities. Purchasing and OES participated in “Green Mini-Trade Shows” to County staff for education on more sustainable purchasing decisions.
- ◆ **Strategy 5(vi) Update:** EPP language was added to standard bid and RFP/RFQ templates, including sustainability criteria and weighted evaluation points. At the request of Purchasing, OES began reviewing specifications for bids and RFP/RFQs in 2014 and created a tracking sheet to see what specifications were recommended, if any. Sustainable purchasing tips are provided in Purchasing Monthly Newsletter. The County is a member of multiple sustainable purchasing associations (e.g. Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council and Responsible Purchasing Network).
- ◆ **Strategy 5(vii) Update:** No progress has been made on developing green purchasing recommendations for internal events.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

GOAL 6 PROMOTE ECOLOGICAL PRESERVATION AND HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

➤ KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The County’s Puget Sound Initiative highlights the good work that the County is already doing to address some of the SOAP goals, objectives, and action items. It also includes new projects to move the needle on climate change and ecological conservation.
- Nearly 65% of all road and bridge projects constructed by Public Works have incorporated some form of bioretention.
- Paine Field Airport achieved Salmon Safe Certification in 2019.

PERFORMANCE KEY:  Completing or ongoing  In Progress  Action Needed

OBJECTIVES UPDATE

 **Objective 6S: Manage County land, facilities, and infrastructure in a way that minimizes negative impacts to the natural ecosystem while meeting the functional needs of the site.**

- **Update:** Many of the other Objectives and Strategies highlighted in the SOAP address this Objective 6S, such as: development of a new Green and High Performance Building Policy, the Zero Waste Fair initiative, and all of the education and training regarding waste reduction.

 **Objective 6T: Protect water resources and watersheds from actions that can degrade water quality.**

- **Update:** The County’s new Puget Sound Initiative, which started in late 2016, outlines a variety of new projects, including: a new Integrated Pest and Vegetation Management (IPVM) policy and guidelines for County owned facilities; a new Green Fleet Team to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from government vehicles and fuel consuming equipment; a chemical reduction policy; and the Healthy Forest Project.

DID YOU KNOW?

The County’s Surface Water Management Division performed 12 culvert or drainage improvement projects during summer of 2019. These important projects will help improve fish passage and curb road flooding.

STRATEGIES UPDATE

 **Strategy 6(i) – Provide educational opportunities for staff on environmental best practices for management of land, infrastructure, and facilities.**

- **Update:** This Strategy is an on-going effort that is typically implemented by individual departments and divisions based on their needs. The County continues to provide staff with educational opportunities and best management practices to further conservation efforts in land management. OES worked with several County departments to identify and offer additional training opportunities that would enhance employee knowledge

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

with examples such as leading employee visits to a local materials recovery facility and providing educational booths at the County’s annual Earth Day celebration. Public Works staff provided NEPA/SEPA training for the Department, as well as classes on the use of its new Climate Impact Decision Support Tool.

◆ Strategy 6(ii) – Use Low Impact Development (LID) best management practices at all County facilities to the greatest extent feasible (new development, maintenance, and renovations).

- **Update:** As a Phase I community under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, low impact development (LID) best practices are now a requirement of the permit unless LID proves to be infeasible. As such, LID best management practices are an integral part of County operations and have also been incorporated into the most recent Drainage Manual. Recent examples of County projects that incorporated LID BMPs include:
 - As of 2018, Paine Field Airport was nearing completion of a Salmon-Safe Certification. Salmon Safe certification at the Airport focuses on enhancing water quality and natural habitat to support salmon health.
 - Installation of approximately 17,300 square feet of permeable pavement in conjunction with County road construction projects, infiltrating and treating up to 630,000 gallons of storm water.
 - Nearly 65% of all road and bridge projects constructed by Public Works have incorporated some form of bioretention.
 - In 2013, use of bioretention on the Jim Creek Bridge #42 Replacement Project eliminated the need for storm water vaults or ponds on the site, effectively treating and detaining all storm water through low impact development techniques.
 - The Seattle Hill Road Project, a two mile road corridor project designed in 2014, is an example of how Snohomish County is utilizing bioretention in conjunction with other LID practices to manage all storm water on site without the use of ponds or vaults.
 - The Surface Water Management (SWM) Division of Public Works completed approximately 65 culvert replacements to eliminate blockages to fish passage along waterways in the County.

◆ Strategy 6(iii) – Identify plants for landscaping that can tolerate heat, extreme weather events, and can better adapt to a changing climate (native plants preferred and “right plant, right place” policy).

- **Update:** A multi-divisional team within Public Works compiled an updated list of plants and planting practices for a new Urban Street Tree and Native Plant List for use in Public Works. The list is still in review and not yet in use for County projects.

◆ Strategy 6(iv) – Identify strategies to reduce the urban heat island effect in the development and maintenance of public infrastructure and facilities.

- **Update:** No progress has been made on this Strategy.

◆ Strategy 6(v) – Identify potential programs and incentives that the County could provide to promote resource conservation in the permitting process.

- **Update:** As part of the County Executive’s STEP Program, the Department of Planning and Development Services collaborated with the Continuous Improvement Office to convert to a paperless permitting process in 2018.

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

GOAL 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

➤ KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The County has been a leader in climate preparedness through the incorporation of climate adaptation and resiliency into its 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Public Works' has designed and installed multiple pervious sidewalk projects, resulting in over 500,000 gallons of annual stormwater runoff treatment.
- The Airport's successful zinc removal pilot project from metal roofing resulted in treatment of 160,000 gallons of stormwater runoff.
- The County's annual Earth Day event has been very successful and continues to grow each year.

PERFORMANCE KEY:  Completing or ongoing  In Progress  Action Needed

OBJECTIVES UPDATE

-  **Objective 7U: Incorporate climate adaptation and resilience strategies into the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.**
 - **Update:** The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) worked with the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group to include climate adaptation and resiliency into the [County's 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). In addition, staff from DEM, OES, and PW participated in several trainings on climate change adaptation and resiliency through the Institute for Sustainable Communities.
-  **Objective 7V: Be a leader in the early adoption and promotion of innovative technologies that promote resource conservation and renewable energy.**
 - **Update:** County staff conducted research and identified opportunities to adopt new technologies for resource conservation and renewable energy. However, no major projects moved into the implementation phase, primarily due to a lack of funding.
-  **Objective 7W: Design and build pilot projects for new and emerging technologies and policies.**
 - **Update:** The County made good progress in designing and implementing new technologies and policies. For example, Public Works designed and installed over [24,000 feet of new impervious sidewalks for various projects](#), resulting in over 500,000 gallons of annual stormwater treatment. A second example is the [Airport's pilot project](#) to remove zinc from metal roofs at Paine Field. This project resulted 99% zinc removal, effectively treating 160,000 gallons of stormwater in 2016. Read more about some of the County's innovative projects under the [Snohomish County Puget Sound Initiative webpage](#).
-  **Objective 7(X): Communicate the environmental, economic, and community benefits of County sustainability initiatives to the public.**
 - **Update:** The County has made some good progress on this, however there is still more room for improvement. The County's Puget Sound Initiative is one example of coordinated

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

communication to the public on shared multi-benefits of various projects across County Departments. [Public Works' 2018 Annual Report and new interactive website](#), is a great example of the County's efforts to better communicate our work with the public. The Office of Energy and Sustainability has worked to include co-benefits in various reports, including the recent highlights documents for the [Savvy Septic Program](#) and [Energy Smart Loan Program](#). Lastly, OES has led an annual conservation themed behavior-change campaign (i.e. "Power Down Friday", "PrintWise", "Recycle More, Recycle Right") to educate staff and/or the general public on how to reduce resource consumption at County facilities.

STRATEGIES UPDATE

- ◆ **Strategy 7(i) – Incorporate climate adaptation and resilience strategies into the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.**
 - **Update:** In 2015, the County's Public Works Department piloted new software to assist staff in climate change planning, adaptation, and resilience. The testing and evaluation of this tool helped to identify changes the County needs to make to address these needs, as well as gaps that may exist. OES, in partnership with the Department of Emergency Management, piloted the GEAR-UP initiative in 2015 to help several local communities 'Get Emergency Action Ready'.
- ◆ **Strategy 7(ii) – Identify climate adaptation and resilience tools to aid County planning and decision-making for climate change impacts.**
 - **Update:** The County has been successful in securing funding for these efforts, including various rounds of energy efficiency grants from the Department of Commerce's Clean Energy Fund to implement the energy conservation retrofit work that is cited under Strategy 3(iv). The County has also been successful in installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure for two dozen vehicles at various County locations. Lastly, the County has pursued additional opportunities for renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction efforts, but in many cases a lack of available match funding dollars has prevented these projects from moving forward.
- ◆ **Strategy 7(iii) – Actively pursue sustainable funding strategies for energy efficiency, renewable energy and GHG reduction efforts.**
 - **Update:** The County regularly sought out, applied for, and received funding for a variety of projects. A few highlights include:
 - Facilities and Fleet received multiple Clean Energy Fund grant awards from the Department of Commerce for energy efficiency retrofits to County facilities.
 - OES, in partnership with the County's Surface Water Management Division, applied for and was awarded a grant for \$292,659 in 2015 to start the Savvy Septic financing and education program. Subsequent applications for Savvy Septic Program funding through the Department of Health were also successful, totaling \$400,000 in additional program funding between 2016-2022.
 - OES, in partnership with the County's Solid Waste Division and Parks Department, has received multiple grant awards from the State for the Zero Waste initiative at the Evergreen State Fair, including a Coordinated Prevention

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

Grant of approximately \$35,000 in 2014, and State Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Grant for more than \$26,000.

- ◆ **Strategy 7(iv) – Track aspects of the County’s performance on meeting sustainability targets in SnoStats.**
 - **Update:** As of 2014, SnoStats were no longer used by the County.

- ◆ **Strategy 7(v) – Establish an annual employee green awards program to recognize exceptional participation in the County’s sustainability commitment.**
 - **Update:** OES and the County’s internal Green Team developed components of a green awards program however the program was not launched.

- ◆ **Strategy 7(vi) – Actively support a Living Building Challenge project in the County, whether County-owned or not.**
 - **Update:** The County supported and found sponsorships for a Living Building Challenge project for the Greenhouse via the SnoCo Sustainable Development Task Force (now dissolved).

- ◆ **Strategy 7(vii) – Host a fantastic Earth Day event in 2015.**
 - **Update:** The County has hosted an annual Earth Day event, in partnership with other local organizations, since 2015. Participation in this annual event has grown each year, with participation expanding to more than 21 departments, divisions, and outside organizations in 2019.