



TACOMA 2030 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2025 PROGRESS REPORT

LETTER FROM THE CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Progress has continued across many areas over the past year, with especially big strides made in the natural systems, municipal decarbonization, and adaptation sectors. Notably, this progress has been made despite ongoing challenges related to limited funding and staffing. We extend our sincere thanks to City staff whose commitment to the environment has made this work possible.

While we are proud of the progress being made, the City's sustainability efforts must continue to advance and remain a core priority across all departments. Additionally, while many near-term actions have moved forward, the City must begin implementing or laying the foundation for its long-term climate actions to ensure the City meets its climate goals by 2030 and beyond.

The urgency is clear. Washington State is entering its fourth consecutive year of drought after a warm winter that led to below normal snowpack, and recent atmospheric rivers in December 2025 led to record flooding across Puget Sound, highlighting the real and growing impacts that our region faces. At the same time, federal uncertainty and reduced support place increased pressure on community-based climate organizations in providing services for residents.

While we recognize that the City is currently experiencing a budget crisis and organizational constraints, we need the City to fill leadership vacuums and be a stable and reliable pillar for climate action.

Additionally, investments in climate action today will deliver long-term benefits, including cost savings, improved public health outcomes, and increased community resilience during climate events. Now is the time to build on that foundation, maintain positive momentum, and continue advancing our climate goals for a more sustainable and resilient Tacoma.

THE WHY

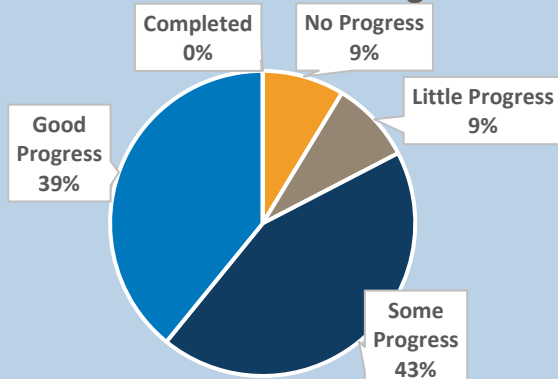
The Climate Action Plan charts a path towards reaching net-zero emissions in 2050 in a way that helps build a better Tacoma in 2030. It is a commitment to doing our part through short and long-term investments to respond to the climate crisis and improve community health, safety, job opportunities, and access for all.

The City of Tacoma works to both reduce carbon pollution and adapt to the worsening impacts of our changing climate. This progress report is part of the City's commitment to remain transparent and accountable in those efforts.

Tacoma's [2030 Climate Action Plan](#) was first adopted by City Council in 2021. It described 2022-2024 short-term action as well as two dozen 2030 indicator targets. Last year, the Council approved new [short-term actions for 2025-2027](#). It is these actions, plus the 2030 indicator targets, that the City is now monitoring progress on annually. You can view past CAP Progress Reports [here](#).

Get involved! The City can only achieve these goals in partnership with you and other Tacomans.

2025 Climate Action Progress



MOBILITY AND LAND USE

Increase complete, connected neighborhoods and active and zero-emission mobility

BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

Reduce energy emissions from new and existing buildings

CONSUMPTION AND MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

Increase waste prevention and circular economy opportunities

GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Empower climate leaders through engagement and transparency

GREEN ECONOMY

Green our economy through a just transition

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND LOCAL FOOD

Increase healthy natural systems & local food access

ADAPTATION

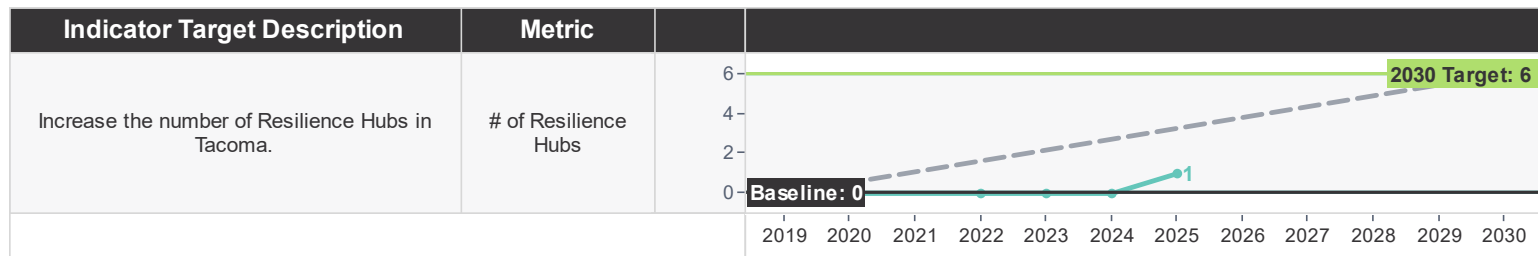
Prepare and protect our people, ecosystems, and infrastructure from worsening climate impacts

MUNICIPAL CARBON NEUTRALITY

Demonstrate leading by example from City leadership

COMMUNITY INDICATOR TARGETS

✘ Not improved from baseline
 + Improved from baseline
 ✔ On track to meet target by 2030



2025-2027 COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1 None
 2 Little Progress
 3 Some Progress
 4 Good Progress
 5 Completed / Ongoing

| Action Summary | Progress in 2025 | Progress Goal |
|--|--|---------------|
| Coordinate with partner agencies & organizations to create a Resilience Hubs program. | Through grant funding, three Tacoma organizations, Asia Pacific Cultural Center, 350 Tacoma, and Native Daily Network conducted Resilience Hubs assessment through a grant with the City of Seattle. Each group engaged community around emergency planning, preparation, and resilience needs. | |
| Work with partners to develop a Sea Level Rise Master Plan to prioritize adaptation actions. | Began grant funded Commencement Bay Restoration and Resilience Master Plan with key partners including the Port of Tacoma, Puyallup Tribe, Parks Tacoma, and Pierce County. The Plan and online story map will be finalized in late 2026 and 4 high priority pilot sites scoped for future implementation. | |

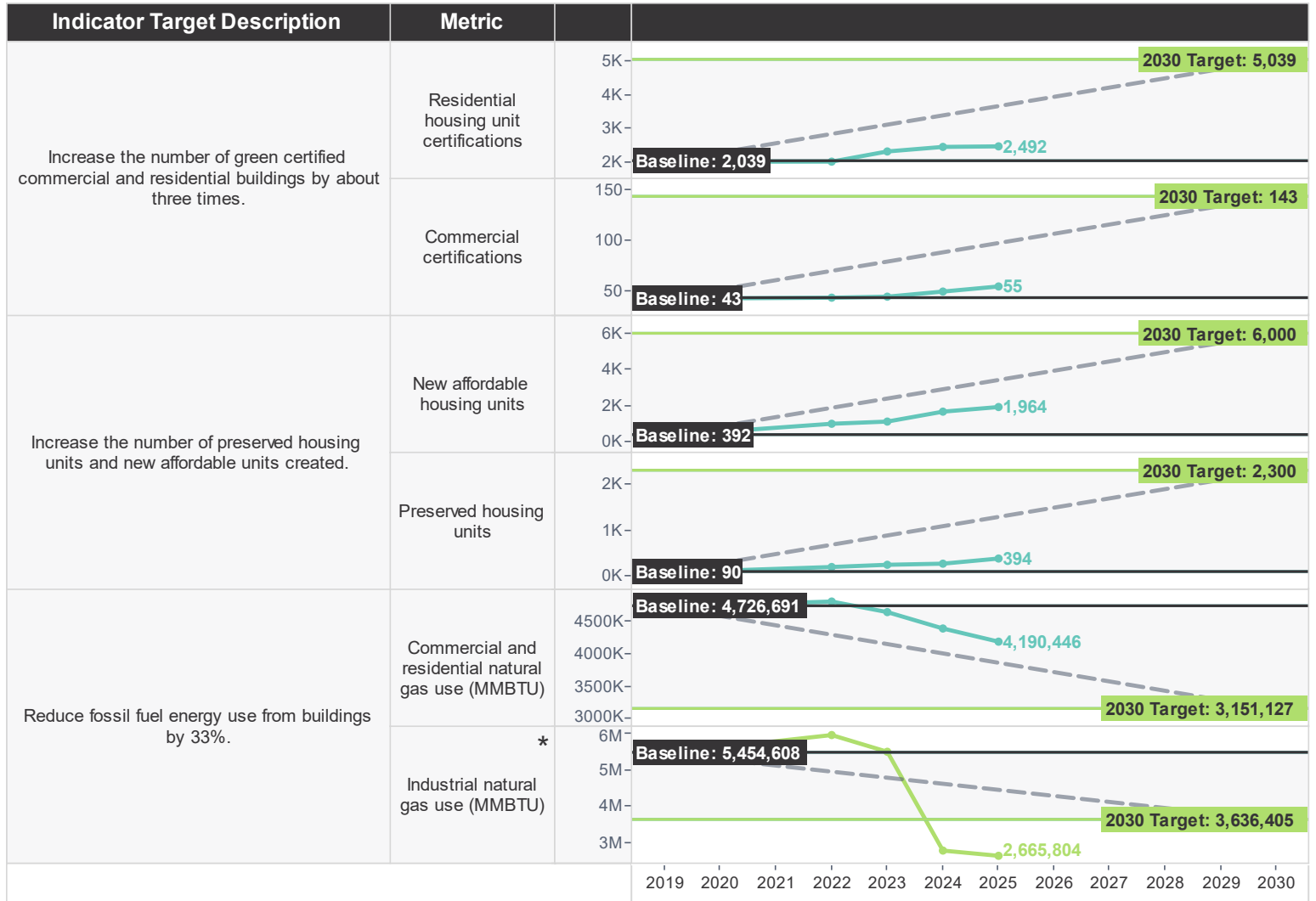


Commencement Bay Master Plan

The grant-funded Commencement Bay Restoration and Resilience Master Plan effort kicked off in 2025 with active participation and support from local partners such as Parks Tacoma, Pierce County, City of Fife, Port of Tacoma, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and Puget Sound Institute. This Plan will be completed in 2026 and will develop strategies to adapt to sea level rise by identifying opportunities to protect critical infrastructure from flooding and improve habitats along our shorelines.

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* The 2024 decline in industrial natural gas use is mainly due to the Westrock plant closure in fall 2023.



Building Electrification

Using federal grant funding, the City partnered with Tacoma Power to offer incentivized electrification assessments that guide customers in transitioning from gas to electric options, with 32 completed in 2025 and more planned for early 2026.

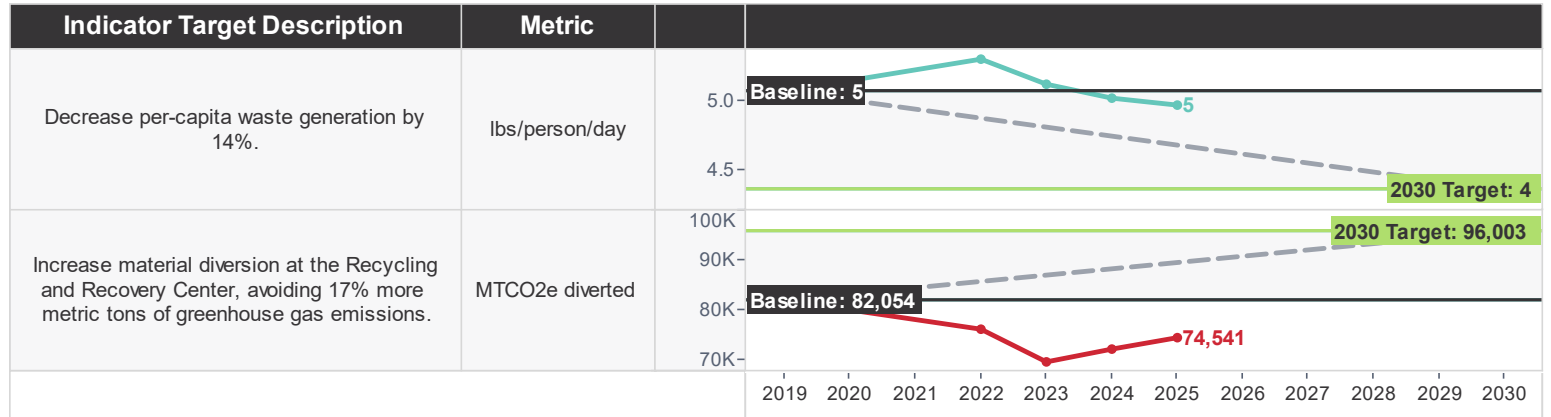
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|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Advocate for building codes that accelerate decarbonization for the 2026 State building code cycle. | State building code cycle will occur in 2026. | Progress Goal 2024: 1, 2025: 1 |
| Ensure that existing repair and rehabilitation programs support low-carbon, healthy, or efficient appliances and equipment. | Strengthened relationships with weatherization and repair program administrators in the city. | Progress Goal 2024: 1, 2025: 3 |
| Increase awareness of and access to codes, loans, and incentives for energy-efficient upgrades, such as heating/cooling systems and weatherization for existing buildings. | Through Pierce County Healthy Housing Collaborative, engaged many local partners through regular information sharing and networking regarding clean electrification opportunities. | Progress Goal 2024: 1, 2025: 3 |
| Increase permits for middle housing across urban residential zones. | Tacoma adopted Home In Tacoma in February 2025 to allow for different housing options within areas historically zoned for single unit development. | Progress Goal 2024: 1, 2025: 4 |
| Reduce water use in the summer months. | In 2025, there were 2,192 net new MyAccount leak notification enrollments. Tacoma Water also partnered with nonprofit and government organizations to launch the Golden Lawn campaign, encouraging reduced lawn watering during summer peak months. | Progress Goal 2024: 1, 2025: 4 |
| Seek grant funding for retrofit programs that address rental and income-qualified single- and multifamily homes. | Participated in development of Puget Sound-wide Energize building decarbonization program. \$45 million EPA grant administered by King County for free or low cost energy projects. Tacoma-Pierce Co. buildings will be selected in 2026. Tacoma Power continued to use WA grant to install heat pumps and heat pump water heaters in low income homes in Tacoma for a total of 72 homes switched from natural gas to clean electricity in '24-'25. | Progress Goal 2024: 1, 2025: 3 |
| | | 2024 2025 2026 2027 |

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| Develop program to increase salvaged material from residential wood framed structures. | Due to budgetary limitations, a Deconstruction Review Analyst position has not been created, and public outreach has been limited. However, a program framework plan with defined implementation steps has been created. Steps include creating a salvage and deconstruction permit record, resources and informational documents, incentive program, and a possible amendment to zoning comp plan policy. Zoning regulation to support incentives/requirements is being explored. | |
| Increase financial support for waste prevention leaders & reach more diverse community groups. | The Community Ambassador Program was implemented in 2025 and maintained 5 community partnerships and facilitated 19 community workshops for 305 ambassadors, in 4 different languages, and on topics including recycling, food recovery, and waste reduction. Solid Waste initiated a new program - Beyond the Bin - to divert and redistribute 16,000 lbs. of reusable items from the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center. | |
| Increase food waste diversion programs & implement Organics Management Laws. | Solid Waste diverted 65 tons of food waste and compostables from 3 Tacoma Venues and Events facilities for composting, began an internal pilot to divert food waste from some City facilities using Mill Food Recyclers, and installed a public food waste drop-off at the Recycle Center. Solid Waste also conducted education and outreach via Food Waste Prevention Week, STEAM education workshops at Tacoma Public Libraries, and collaboration with Tacoma Public Schools on a food waste reduction grant. | |



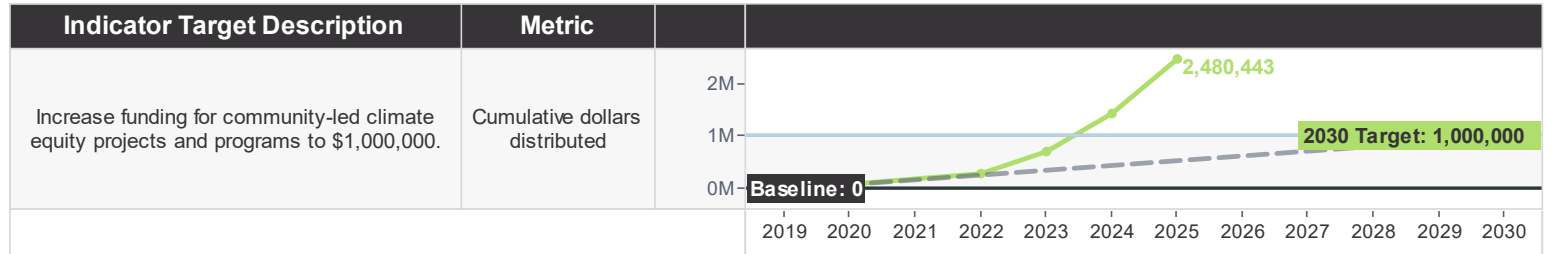
Beyond the Bin

The City's Waste Management (SWM) Division developed a program called Beyond the Bin to further the City's waste reduction initiatives. From May to September 2025, SWM hosted eight community reuse events at the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center (TRTC), through which community members diverted and donated over 16,000 pounds of reusable items to 4 local nonprofit partners.

These events helped the City provide community members with a convenient “one-stop shop” for safe, responsible disposal, recycling, and reuse; divert more reusable materials away from the landfill; recirculate valuable items back into the community; and build strong partnerships with local and regional organizations leading in waste reduction.

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| Increase communication & staff engagement around climate equity. | With Department leadership, over 1000 Tacoma Public Utilities employees took the Sustainability online training in 2025. | <p>Progress Goal —————</p> |
| Pilot a climate budget report that outlines City funding programming for climate equity work. | 2025 was not a budget year for the City. Work will begin in early 2026 for implementation for the 2027-2028 biennium. | <p>Progress Goal —————</p> |
| Provide training & resources to build capacity in community groups regarding climate equity. | The 4th cohort of the Tacoma-Pierce County Climate Leaders was held in September with 20 frontline community members participating to learn about how to get involved in local climate action through dialogue with community organizations and elected officials. | <p>Progress Goal —————</p> |
| | | <p>2024 2025 2026 2027</p> |

Branch Out

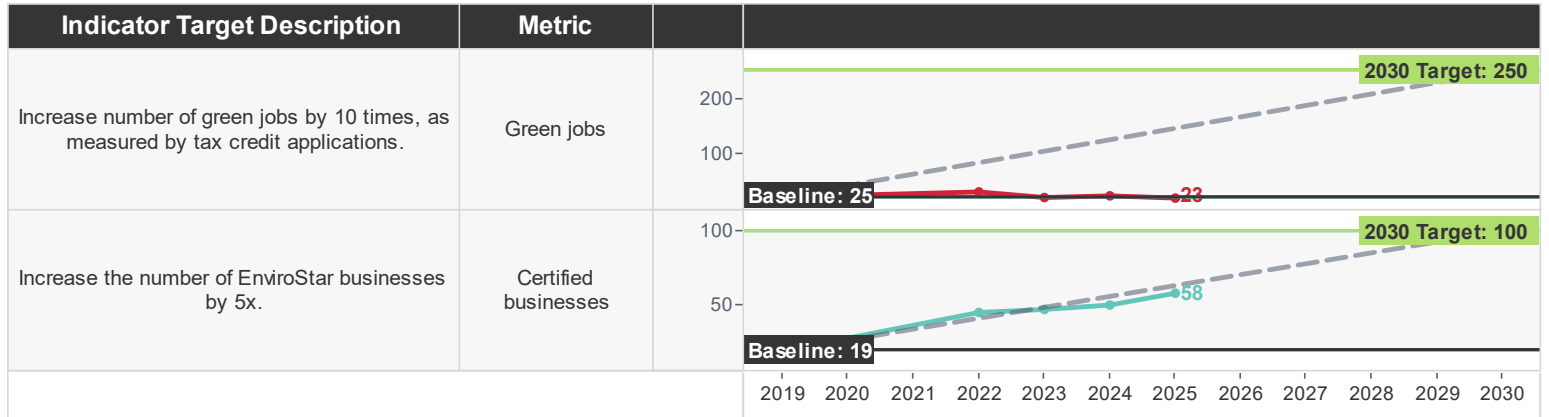
In 2025, Branch Out deepened its impact through strong partnerships between the City's Urban Forestry & Language Access teams, Tacoma Tree Foundation, and Tacoma residents. Amid heightened political violence targeting immigrant communities, many local partners canceled community events due to safety concerns. The City received direct community feedback to move forward with its annual tree share with some adaptations, like conducting direct outreach via trusted language ambassadors, limiting public promotion of this event, and prioritizing multi-lingual event support.

While 36 trees were distributed to 13 households, lower than in previous years, the program adaptations led to a safe and accessible tree distribution event for the City's most vulnerable neighbors. It strengthened community trust, honored cultural connections to nature, and affirmed that safety and belonging are as essential to urban forestry as the trees themselves.



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| Conduct enhanced business engagement to industrial & manufacturing firms. | Green Economy Hub Committee remains active, though turnover at key organizations will require introducing new members. Chamber Manufacturing Incubator has completed curriculum development and is recruiting businesses. With rollback of federal incentives/IRA, we are exploring alternative approaches to help businesses green up. | |
| Engage directly with businesses about the EnviroStars business recognition program. | Deployed EnviroStars deployment strategy, including business district presentation, technical assistance workshop, and direct support; Engaging with Tacoma Water to explore further strategies. Green Business Video Feature Project completed. | |
| Reengage Sustainability Professionals Network with green business tours. | Hosted 2 events in second half of 2025, with Q1 '26 event scheduled. Enhanced City promotion and awareness via social media. | |

Green Building Tour

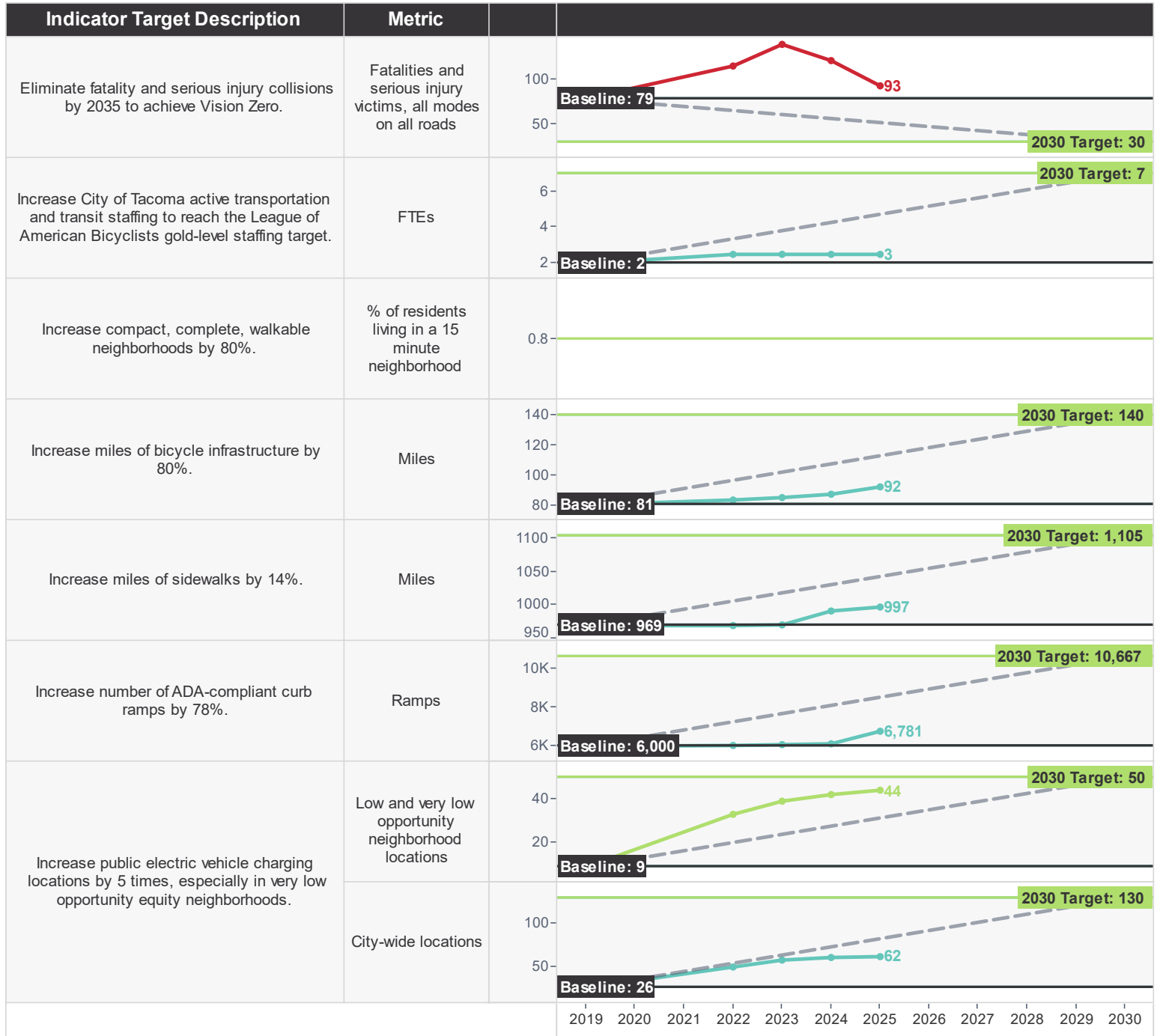
2025 saw the revitalization of the Tacoma Green Business Alliance, with two tours of local green businesses. Originally launched in 2023, the tour series brings together participants from the public, private, and non-profit sectors to learn about best practices, network among sustainability-minded professionals, and explore the businesses that are putting Tacoma on the map as an epicenter of green innovation.

Following a brief hiatus, the series returned with a third quarter tour of Richlite-- a Tacoma pioneer in sustainable materials manufacturing-- and wrapped up 2025 with a tour of Nocturn Apartments, Tacoma's first and only Passive House Certified multi-family housing project.



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| Create finance plan & seek funding to complete Vision Zero by 2035 and the City's bicycle and pedestrian network by 2050. | City Council adopted Transportation Impact Fees in December. Fees collected will support infrastructure improvements for all modes. | <p>Progress Goal</p> |
| Implement the recommended actions of the Tideflats Subarea Plan that protect our lands and increase green jobs. | The Tideflats Subarea Plan was adopted by the City Council in December 2025. The Subarea Plan identifies specific actions for near and long term implementation. One of the High Priority Actions was to implement the zoning and land use framework - this was accomplished concurrently with Plan adoption. | <p>Progress Goal</p> |
| Support curbside public EV charging with right-of-way guidebook for charging strategies. | Minimal work completed in 2025. Coordination with Seattle and Puget Sound jurisdictions on right-of-way EV charging planning and permitting on-going. | <p>Progress Goal</p> |
| | | <p>2024 2025 2026 2027</p> |



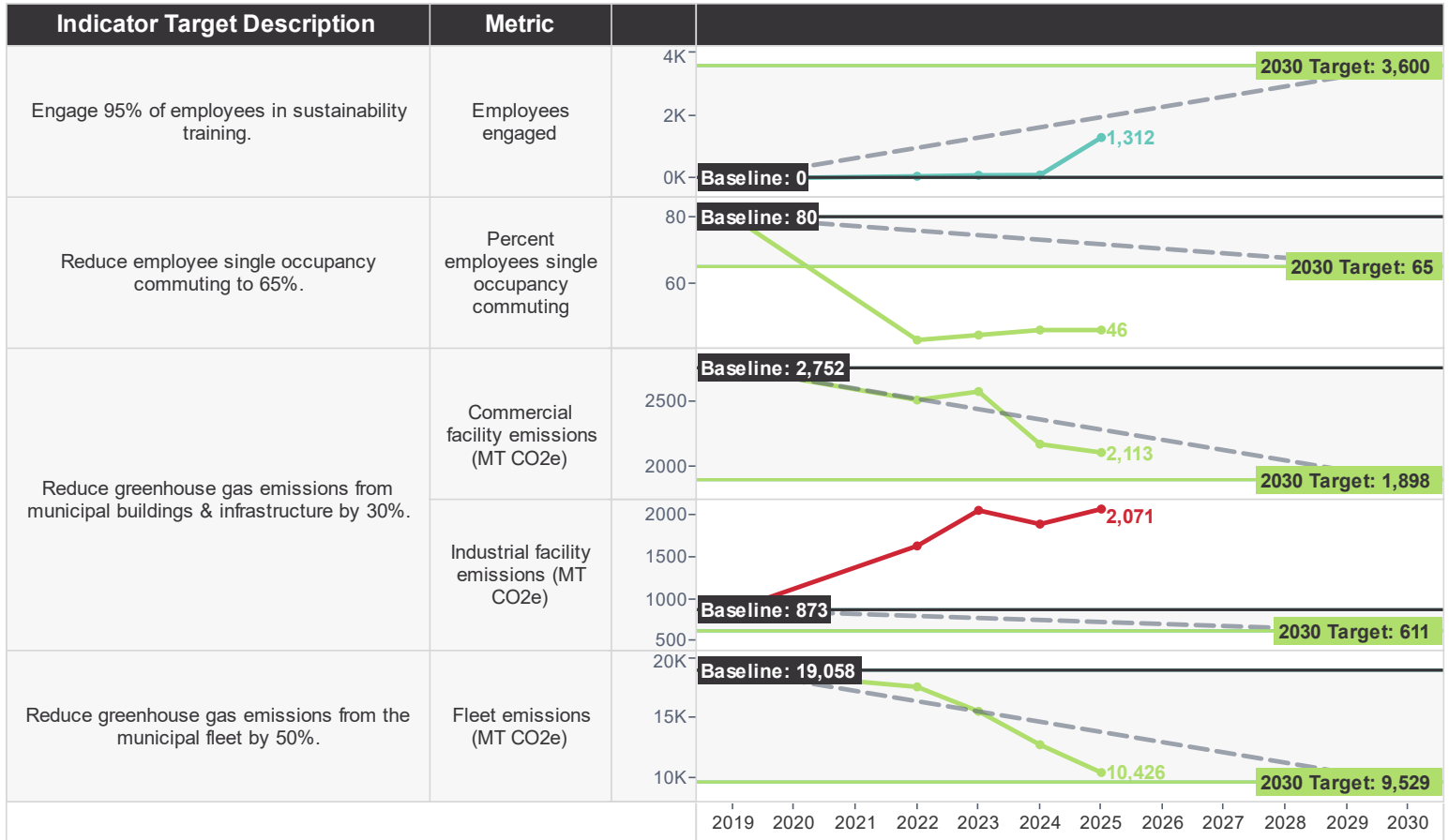
E-bike Rebate Program

In spring 2025, the City of Tacoma launched an e-bike rebate program to make e-bikes more affordable and support new riders! This program was funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Recipients received \$300 or \$1,200 towards the purchase of an e-bike at qualifying vendors, depending on income. 213 Tacomans received e-bikes using the City of Tacoma grant funds, with 95% of the rebates going toward low-income individuals. This grant also supported outreach and free learn to ride classes for new riders. Learn more at Tacoma.gov/ebikes.

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Clean Fuels

Last year, the City's garbage and recycle trucks switched from compressed natural gas to renewable natural gas, reducing emissions and saving the City approximately \$200,000 in fuel costs.

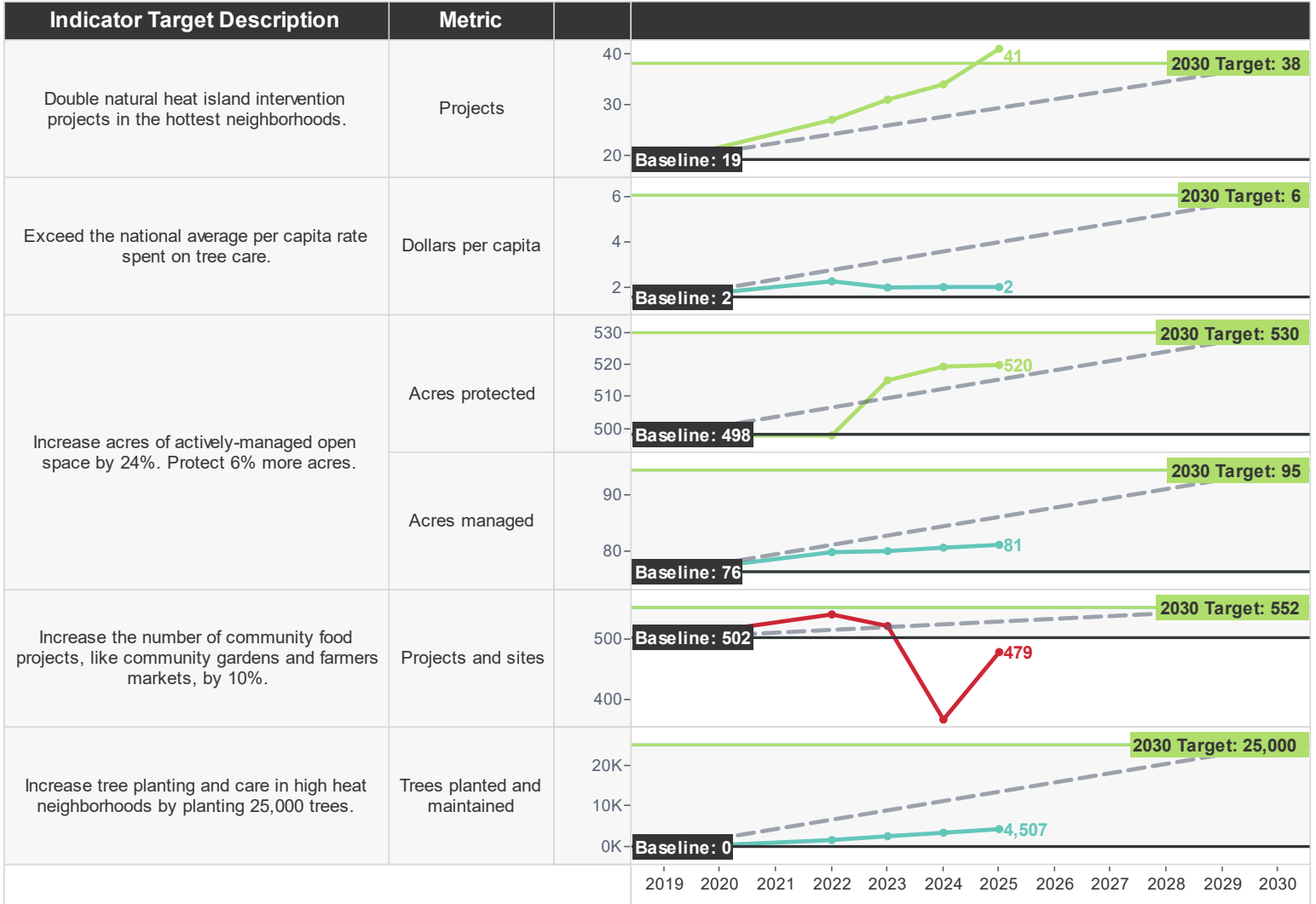


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| Consider tree preservation citywide. | In response to overwhelming community support for enhancing Tacoma’s tree canopy, City Council adopted the Urban Forest Priority Action Plan, in May 2025. The plan outlines a set of phased actions to expand the City’s work planting and maintaining trees, as well as regulatory and non-regulatory tools for tree preservation citywide. The four phases of this plan are designed to steer public engagement, policy options, and budget proposals for City Council consideration in 2026 & 2027. | <p>Progress Goal</p> |
| Create open space acquisition plan. | Finalized inter-departmental Climate Ready Urban Habitat and Landscape Strategy that will guide city action and investment. In 2025, the City’s open space program gained 0.5 acres. | <p>Progress Goal</p> |
| Update the Critical Areas Ordinance to preserve urban natural resources & adapt to climate change | Draft Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) presented to Planning Commission. Completion expected in 2026. | <p>Progress Goal</p> |
| | | 2024 2025 2026 2027 |



Tree Canopy Grows

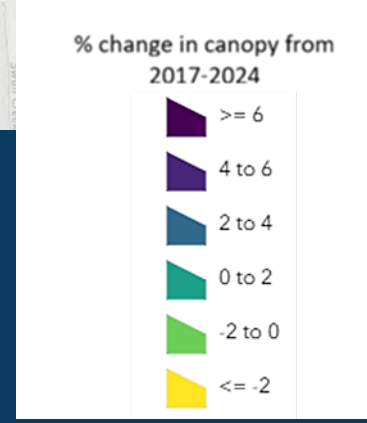
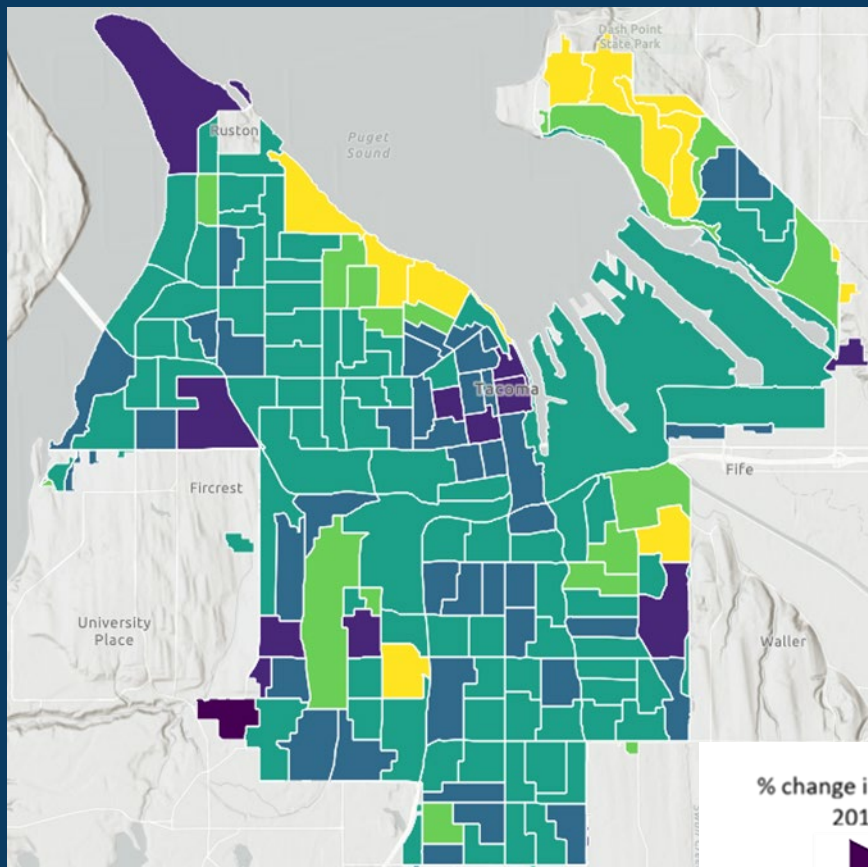
In 2024, the City of Tacoma conducted an airplane LIDAR (Light Imaging Detection and Range) analysis to measure land cover throughout the City, with the specific intent to measure Tacoma’s tree canopy coverage.

The LIDAR study concluded that the City's tree canopy has increased by 1% since the 2017 analysis, bringing the City-wide tree canopy to 21% of the City’s land area.

While tree canopy has increased by 1% City-wide since 2017, the City's LIDAR, however, shows an increase of 2-4% tree canopy in priority census blocks where the City actively manages tree planting programs to increase access to the health benefits of trees for communities that need it the most.

The City uses a tree planting prioritization tool to determine our priority census blocks, “neighborhoods of focus”, using the Equity Index, tree canopy, and urban heat island data.

www.tacoma.gov/treemap





CITY OF
Tacoma