

Office of Sustainability and Environment

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Department Overview

The Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) partners with City departments, community organizations, nonprofits, and businesses to solve pressing environmental challenges. OSE develops policies and promotes green initiatives through three functional areas:

Citywide Coordination: Coordinate interdepartmental work on priority programs, policies, and outreach to advance the City's environmental goals. OSE's coordination work includes a focus on food policy, urban forestry, and green infrastructure.

Innovation & Research: Conduct research and develop the City's next generation of environmental and sustainability policies and programs. OSE's innovation and research includes a focus on building energy, including implementing Community Power Works, a program to provide home energy upgrades; developing a district energy strategic partnership; and implementing the Building Energy Benchmarking & Reporting program.

Climate Change Action Planning and Measurement: Coordinate implementation of the Seattle Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce Seattle's greenhouse gas emissions, including goal assessment, action planning, community outreach, and performance measurement. OSE's climate change planning and measurement work also includes developing a climate change adaptation strategy that minimizes the disproportionate impacts of a changing climate while making Seattle less vulnerable and more resilient.

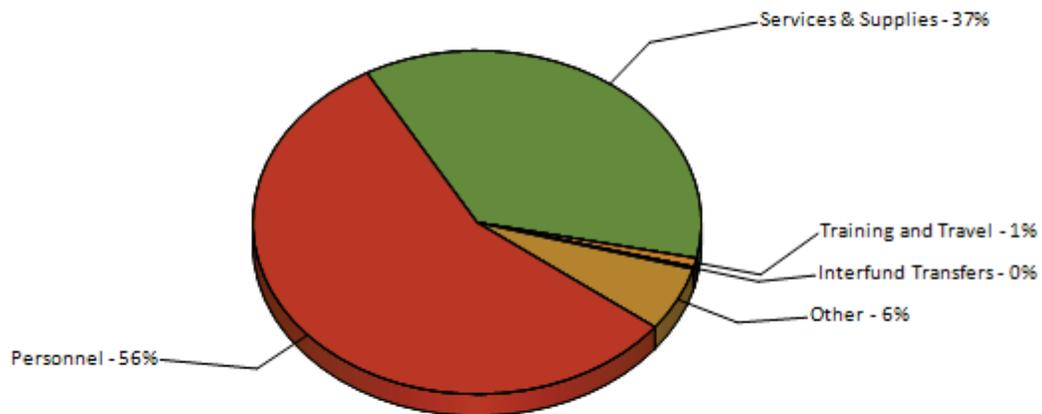
Budget Snapshot

Department Support	2012 Actuals	2013 Adopted	2014 Endorsed	2014 Adopted
General Fund Support	\$5,726,933	\$1,995,677	\$2,092,173	\$2,901,090
Total Operations	\$5,726,933	\$1,995,677	\$2,092,173	\$2,901,090
Total Appropriations	\$5,726,933	\$1,995,677	\$2,092,173	\$2,901,090
Full-time Equivalent Total*	15.00	14.00	10.00	11.00

* FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Personnel Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.

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2014 Adopted Budget - Expenditure by Category



Budget Overview

The City of Seattle remains committed to climate protection and energy efficiency. In 2012 OSE created a Resource Conservation Initiative to provide centralized monitoring of resource use and to improve the operations of City-owned facilities. During the next several years the initiative will look at all aspects of resource use in City buildings, but the first phase focuses on energy. The City's near-term goal is to achieve 20% energy savings in municipal buildings by 2020. The 2014 Adopted Budget maintains the Citywide Resource Conservation Advisor position to coordinate Citywide implementation of the Resource Conservation Management Plan and achieve energy and cost savings across multiple City facilities.

In 2014, the department will continue to implement the Energy Benchmarking program, which requires non-residential and multifamily buildings with more than 20,000 square feet to report energy use annually. Enforcement and outreach support to building owners is intended to help achieve the ultimate goal of increasing the energy efficiency of Seattle's buildings. The 2014 Adopted Budget includes funding to extend a temporary enforcement coordinator position.

OSE has managed the successful Community Power Works pilot project since 2010. Launched with a \$20 million Department of Energy (DOE) grant, the program provides a "one-stop shop" for homeowners, businesses and commercial building owners in Seattle interested in energy efficiency upgrades. More than 5,000 Seattle homeowners signed up for the program in the past three years, making this one of the most effective DOE-funded programs in the country. Community Power Works also partnered with community and labor stakeholders to develop a "Community High Road Workforce Agreement" for all work completed in the single-family sector. This Agreement sets wage standards and helps ensure access to high-quality training programs in the clean-energy economy. The Agreement resulted in increased diversity of the single family home weatherization workforce. Since the program began, the contractor pool has more than doubled in size to 25 contractors, of which 16

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percent are minority owned and eight percent are women owned.

The DOE grant funding for Community Power Works ends in March 2014, and OSE will transition the day-to-day operations of the program to a non-profit organization, but the City will remain a key partner. The non-profit organization will continue the program using existing loan loss reserves, state funding, customer and contractor generated funds, and City funding. The 2014 Adopted Budget will fund a City liaison for Community Power Works and a consultant contract to monitor contractor compliance with the High Road Agreement.

OSE continues to explore opportunities for expanding district energy (DE) infrastructure in Seattle in First Hill and South Lake Union. A DE system heats and/or cools multiple buildings through one central energy plant, eliminating the need for mechanical plants in each individual building. This centralized heating and cooling allows for increases in energy efficiency and expands options for greener fuel sources. District energy is a key strategy in helping achieve the City's climate protection and energy conservation goals. The 2014 Adopted Budget includes funding for the next phase of analysis and system design in South Lake Union/Denny Triangle.

Finally, the 2014 Adopted Budget increases City support for the popular Fresh Bucks program, which provides consumers who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits with extra buying power to purchase fruits and vegetables at farmer's markets. The program matches up to ten dollars for fruit and vegetable purchases at any farmers market in the City. The program has been highly successful in expanding market communities, supporting local businesses and providing healthy choices for low-income residents.

City Council Changes to Proposed Budget

The City Council added funding and changed the proposed new part-time position for coordination of Community Power Works to a full-time position that will also work on other residential energy conservation policies. They also added funding for energy efficiency incentives for homeowners with oil heat. Oil is the most carbon-intensive home heating fuel, and upgrades to higher efficiency heating systems provide homeowners with significant energy and money savings.

Council made additions to two other existing programs: the Fresh Bucks food assistance program and the Community Climate Projects program. Council further expanded the Fresh Bucks food assistance program beyond the expansion in the Proposed Budget to assist additional families. The increased funding for the Community Climate Projects program nearly doubles the funding available for community-led climate projects in 2014.

Council also added funding to OSE's budget for a contract with Capitol Hill Housing to develop neighborhood-level sustainability indicators. In a proviso, Council directed the department on the coordination and use of these funds to help achieve City sustainability goals.

Finally, Council added a placeholder district energy capital project to the City's capital project list. OSE is leading City efforts to develop district energy with a focus on First Hill and South Lake Union (SLU)/north downtown. However, the fast pace of development in those neighborhoods might require City assistance to help jump-start private development of a neighborhood district energy system. To create the opportunity to move quickly on key district energy nodes while recognizing the need for further review of any City funding, Council created a project in Seattle City Light's Capital Improvement Project with \$0 in 2014 through 2019. The scope of the new project may be further developed in 2014.

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Incremental Budget Changes

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	2014	
	Budget	FTE
Total 2014 Endorsed Budget	\$ 2,092,173	10.00
Baseline Changes		
Correction of Central Cost Rates	\$ 0	0.00
Proposed Changes		
Energy Efficiency Improvements and Planning for City Buildings	\$ 127,583	0.00
Energy Benchmarking Compliance and Outreach Support	\$ 75,000	0.00
Community Power Works Support	\$ 128,475	0.50
District Energy Infrastructure in South Lake Union/Denny Triangle	\$ 100,000	0.00
Fresh Bucks Program	\$ 100,000	0.00
Proposed Technical Changes		
Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes	-\$ 105,141	0.00
Council Changes		
Expand Residential Energy Conservation Efforts	\$ 48,000	0.50
Home Heating Energy Efficiency Incentives	\$ 200,000	0.00
Fresh Bucks Program	\$ 50,000	0.00
Community Climate Projects	\$ 40,000	0.00
Capitol Hill EcoDistrict	\$ 45,000	0.00
Total Incremental Changes	\$ 808,917	1.00
2014 Adopted Budget	\$ 2,901,090	11.00

Descriptions of Incremental Budget Changes

Baseline Changes

Correction of Central Cost Rates

This dollar neutral adjustment corrects the allocation between temporary labor and regular salary costs.

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Proposed Changes

Energy Efficiency Improvements and Planning for City Buildings - \$127,583

This change extends funding for the Citywide Resource Conservation Advisor position, which has been entirely grant-funded to date and was due to sunset at the end of 2013. This position will work to create a comprehensive energy savings strategy and will serve as an advisor and liaison to guide energy conservation investments across departments. The work will collaborate with FAS and other City capital departments to conduct energy efficiency audits and make cost-effective physical improvements to City buildings.

Energy Benchmarking Compliance and Outreach Support - \$75,000

This change provides funding to maintain a half-time enforcement coordinator position in 2014 to ensure the City has the capacity to establish a strong track record of compliance for the City's energy benchmarking requirement. In 2013, the City began issuing notices of violation to businesses that were not in compliance with the energy reporting requirement. Based on initial results from penalties issued to date and the outcomes of appeals, revenue estimates to the General Fund are 60% above the 2014 Endorsed Budget level. This position, which was previously grant-funded, will maintain the current enforcement capacity for the energy benchmarking project.

Community Power Works Support - \$128,475/.50 FTE

The Council made changes to this proposal as described in the Council Changes section below. The Proposed Budget description follows:

The Department of Energy grant that funded the Community Power Works for Home pilot program ends in March 2014. The program's day-to-day operations will transition to a nonprofit organization that will continue to provide energy upgrades to Seattle homeowners. While less involved in ongoing operations, the City will remain a key partner in the program, helping to ensure it meets the City's environmental and workforce goals. This funding supports a half-time position and consultant resources to continue a strong partnership with the program, provide ongoing oversight of the program and ensure compliance to City-mandated wage and hiring standards. The consultant work will include tracking wage compliance, conducting site visits, preparing monthly summaries and online reports, and contractor surveys.

District Energy Infrastructure in South Lake Union/Denny Triangle - \$100,000

In 2013, the City supported a preliminary study of the opportunities to implement a District Energy heating system in the South Lake Union area. The study identified substantial opportunity and significant interest from key developers in the area for District Energy investment. This funding will enable the City to provide time-sensitive analysis and engineering to ensure that infrastructure planning stays on track with the neighborhood's development timelines.

Fresh Bucks Program - \$100,000

The Council made changes to this proposal as described in the Council Changes section below. The Proposed Budget description follows:

This change doubles the City's support for the Fresh Bucks program as it transitions from a pilot project to an ongoing, sustainable program at all fourteen Seattle farmers markets. The funding provides partial support for the program's financial incentives to low income families and partial support for program administration. The remainder will be covered by grants and donations. Building on the success of the Seattle Fresh Bucks program and other incentive programs in the state, the Washington State Farmers Market Association is replicating the program to expand access to healthy food for low-income shoppers at farmers markets across the state.

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Proposed Technical Changes

Citywide Adjustments for Standard Cost Changes - (\$105,141)

Citywide technical adjustments reflect changes due to inflation, central cost allocations, retirement, healthcare, workers' compensation, and unemployment costs. These adjustments typically reflect updates to preliminary cost assumptions established in the 2014 Endorsed Budget.

Council Changes

Expand Residential Energy Conservation Efforts - \$48,000/.50 FTE

This change provides funding for OSE to increase the 0.5 FTE part-time position proposed above to a full-time position. This position, in addition to facilitating the City's partnership with the Community Power Works program, will work on additional residential energy conservation policies, such as an energy disclosure policy for the single-family residential sector, state legislation for a rental housing energy efficiency tax exemption, and more strategic direction to develop and support innovative financing options for residential conservation.

Home Heating Energy Efficiency Incentives - \$200,000

In 2014 the Community Power Works program will transition from a federal grant-funded building energy efficiency program to a program managed by a non-profit partner. Under the new model, incentives for energy upgrades and financing are offered by City Light for electrically heated homes and Puget Sound Energy for natural gas heated homes. This funding addresses the incentive gap for oil-heated homes. OSE estimates there are approximately 22,000 oil-heated homes in Seattle. Incentives are about \$200 for an energy audit and \$700 on average for an energy-saving upgrade of an oil-heated home.

Fresh Bucks Program - \$50,000

Council added an additional \$50,000 of General Fund to further expand the Fresh Bucks food assistance program, which will result in more customers for farmers markets and more access to healthy locally grown food for families receiving food stamp benefits.

Community Climate Projects - \$40,000

The Community Climate Project program supports community efforts to foster climate-friendly, purchasing, transportation and food and home energy choices. The increased funding for the Community Climate Projects program nearly doubles the funding available for community-led projects in 2014.

Capitol Hill EcoDistrict - \$45,000

This change adds funding for a contract with Capitol Hill Housing (CHH) for implementation of the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict. An ecodistrict is a geographic area where sustainability policies are integrated and applied in a neighborhood context. The Capitol Hill EcoDistrict is led by CHH, a public Community Development Corporation that owns and operates 44 low-to-moderate income housing buildings in Capitol Hill and nine other Seattle neighborhoods. CHH states that the next steps for the EcoDistrict include creating a sustainability index for tracking progress toward the performance targets, acquiring a geographic information system for data analysis and reporting, and establishing more formal coordination between CHH as the EcoDistrict lead and City departments. Council also imposed a proviso related to this funding, listed below.

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City Council Provisos

The City Council adopted the following budget proviso:

- *Of the appropriation in 2014 budget for the Office of Sustainability and Environment BCL, \$45,000 is appropriated solely for contracting with Capitol Hill Housing for implementation of the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict and may be spent for no other purpose. The Council further directs the Office of Sustainability and Environment to coordinate with other City departments (including the Department of Planning and Development, Seattle City Light, the Office of Culture and Arts, and others) to facilitate sharing of City data with Capitol Hill Housing, identify opportunities to work with the EcoDistrict on on-the-ground pilot projects to test new sustainability approaches, identify opportunities for removing regulatory barriers that thwart sustainability goals, and create incentives for achieving City sustainability goals.*

Expenditure Overview

Appropriations	Summit Code	2012 Actuals	2013 Adopted	2014 Endorsed	2014 Adopted
Office of Sustainability and Environment Budget Control Level	X1000	5,726,933	1,995,677	2,092,173	2,901,090
Department Total		5,726,933	1,995,677	2,092,173	2,901,090
Department Full-time Equivalents Total*		15.00	14.00	10.00	11.00

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Appropriations By Budget Control Level (BCL) and Program

Office of Sustainability and Environment Budget Control Level

The purpose of the Office of Sustainability and Environment Budget Control Level is to coordinate interdepartmental environmental sustainability initiatives, identify and develop next generation policies and programs, and lead the City's climate change action planning to move towards carbon neutrality.

Program Expenditures	2012 Actuals	2013 Adopted	2014 Endorsed	2014 Adopted
Office of Sustainability and Environment	5,726,933	1,995,677	2,092,173	2,901,090
Total	5,726,933	1,995,677	2,092,173	2,901,090
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