



**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
280 MADISON AVENUE NORTH
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA

AND

REMOTE MEETING ON ZOOM
[HTTPS://BAINBRIDGEWA.ZOOM.US/J/92947338351](https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/92947338351)
OR TELEPHONE: US: +1 253 215 8782
WEBINAR ID: 929 4733 8351

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL - 6:00 PM**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA / CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE - 6:05 PM**
- 3. REGULAR BUSINESS**
 - 3.A (6:10 PM) Receive 2024 Annual Report and Review 2025 Workplan for the Ethics Board, 15 Minutes**
[Ethics Board 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan_FINAL](#)
 - 3.B (6:25 PM) Receive 2024 Annual Report and Review 2025 Workplan for the Design Review Board, 15 Minutes**
[2024 Committee Work and 2025 Workplan -DRB.pdf](#)
 - 3.C (6:40 PM) Receive 2024 Annual Report and Review the 2025 Workplan for the Race Equity Advisory Committee, 15 Minutes**
[2025 REAC Workplan.pdf](#)
 - 3.D (6:55 PM) Receive 2024 Annual Report and Review 2025 Workplan for the Utility Advisory Committee, 15 Minutes**
[Memo Utility Advisory Committee 2024 Report 2025 Work Plan.docx](#)
 - 3.E (7:10 PM) Receive Presentation from Fire Chief Moravec on the Risk of Wildfire and the Need to Create Defensible Space, 15 Minutes**
[City Council Presentation - Wildfire 18MAR25.pdf](#)
 - 3.F (7:25 PM) Receive Update on Eagle Harbor Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy, 15 Minutes**
[Tsunami Maritime Strategy Presentation CC March 18 2025.pdf](#)

- 3.G (7:40 PM) Discuss Use of Low Emission Landscape Tools and Prohibition of Certain Small Gas Powered Engines - Executive, 30 Minutes**
[Lawn Care Options List.pdf](#)
[Climate Change Advisory Committee/Race Equity Advisory Committee Recommendations for Landscaping Ordinance.docx](#)
[Electric Leaf Blower Lending Program _ City of Lafayette, CA.pdf](#)
[Lawn Care Discussion PPT 3.18.2025.pdf](#)

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS - 8:10 PM

5. ADJOURNMENT - 8:20 PM

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding Principle #1 - Preserve the special character of the Island, which includes downtown Winslow's small town atmosphere and function, historic buildings, extensive forested areas, meadows, farms, marine views and access, and scenic and winding roads supporting all forms of transportation.

Guiding Principle #2 - Manage the water resources of the Island to protect, restore and maintain their ecological and hydrological functions and to ensure clean and sufficient groundwater for future generations.

Guiding Principle #3 - Foster diversity with a holistic approach to meeting the needs of the Island and the human needs of its residents consistent with the stewardship of our finite environmental resources.

Guiding Principle #4 - Consider the costs and benefits to Island residents and property owners in making land use decisions.

Guiding Principle #5 - The use of land on the Island should be based on the principle that the Island's environmental resources are finite and must be maintained at a sustainable level.

Guiding Principle #6 - Nurture Bainbridge Island as a sustainable community by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Guiding Principle #7 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the Island's climate resilience.

Guiding Principle #8 - Support the Island's Guiding Principles and Policies through the City's organizational and operating budget decisions.



City Council meetings are wheelchair accessible. Assisted listening devices are available in Council Chambers. If you require additional ADA accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 206-780-8604 or cityclerk@bainbridgewa.gov by noon on the day preceding the meeting.



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

City Council Study Session Agenda Bill

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2025

ESTIMATED TIME: 15 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM: (6:10 PM) Receive 2024 Annual Report and Review 2025 Workplan for the Ethics Board,

SUMMARY: The purpose of this presentation is to inform the City Council of the work performed by the Ethics Board in 2024, and to propose a work plan of activities for 2025.

The Ethics Board serves to provide training, respond to requests for advisory opinions, and review complaints alleging violations of the Code of Conduct or Code of Ethics.

A link to the Code of Conduct and Ethics Program can be found here:

<https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16607/Code-of-Conduct-and-Ethics-Program-->

Staff concurs with the work plan as presented.

AGENDA CATEGORY: Discussion

PROPOSED BY: Executive

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

I move to forward the 2025 Workplan to a future business meeting for consideration of approval.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:	
Ongoing Cost:	
One-Time Cost:	
Included in Current Budget?	

ATTACHMENTS:

[Ethics Board 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan_FINAL](#)

Ethics Board

2024 Annual Report / 2025 Workplan

Report on 2024 Activities

Pursuant to Article V, § D of the City of Bainbridge Island Code of Conduct and Ethics Program (the “Program”), the Bainbridge Island Ethics Board hereby provides its annual report and workplan to the Bainbridge Island City Council.

I. Complaints and Advisory Opinions

In 2024, the Ethics Board received complaint EB 2024 01. It was reviewed, discussed and dismissed per Determination Letter, dated April 15, 2024, and the Board concluded that the allegations did not indicate a violation of the financial conflicts of interest under Art. II, § D.1 (a) and (b).

The three previously reported complaints, referenced in the 2023 Annual Report, which are all related to each other, have been deferred while the Board continues to await a ruling in related litigation.

II. Ethics Board Members

The Board is presently operating with three members who are serving the final year of their initial terms: Rosemary Hollinger, Donna Davison and Rafael Escandon. Remaining members include Doña Keating, who was reappointed to complete her term expiring June 2026; Karen Anderson, a returning member appointed to complete the position 2 term expiring June 2026; and new members Mark Markuly and Hildja Saas, whose 3-year terms expire in June 2027.

Dr. Escandon completed his July 2023 – June 2024 term as Board Chair and Ms. Keating is now serving as Board Chair from July 2024 – June 2025. Ben Woodruff completed his January – June 2024 6-month term as Deputy Board Chair and Ms. Anderson is now serving her 6-month term as Deputy Board Chair.

III. Changes to the Ethics Program

Incoming City Council and Advisory Group members now receive Ethics Board training, which must then be confirmed by City Staff upon review completion. No other specific changes to the ethics program have occurred in 2024.

IV. Training

In 2024, the Board updated its written training content for distribution to City Council and relevant COBI Advisory Boards in accordance with the report/work plan presented to Council at its May 14, 2024 meeting. The Training Subcommittee is also working on case studies and will update the video training in preparation for conducting training and the Board's educational duties under the Ethics Program.

The training is structured to be completed as follows:

1. An in-person and remote, Zoom-based training and informational session for City Council.
2. Remote/Zoom-based and in-person training and informational sessions open to the public and all Advisory Group members, and to address questions on the ethics training materials.
3. A recording of the June 06, 2023 training presentation and the related materials was posted and remains available for review on the City's Ethics Board Web Page, under the "Resources" Section, available [here](#).
4. Update documentation and training program as applicable to reflect appropriate Ethics Code changes and effective dates.

In order to complete this training, the Board needs technical assistance from the Council and the City with the following:

- Sending notices of the training sessions to all current members of Advisory Group Committees, Boards, and Commissions.
- Scheduling the training sessions and providing the Board with the necessary tools and permissions to host the Zoom meetings.
- Scheduling the joint/training session with Council.
- Recording the training sessions and posting one on the Ethics Board website along with the PowerPoint slides.
- Keeping track of which Committee and Commission members have attended or viewed a training session.

V. Requests and Recommendations

A. Changes to Ethics Code and Operating Rules

The Board recommends revising or striking the following sections from the Ethics Code and Operating Rules since pamphlets are no longer created and distributed:

- Ethics Code: Article V (B)(1.)
 - *"At least every two years, the Ethics Board shall prepare and distribute a pamphlet describing the Code of Conduct (Article I) and Code of Ethics (Article II) to all Councilmembers and members of City Committees and Commissions, after review of the pamphlet by the City Attorney's Office. The Ethics Board shall ensure that all new Councilmembers and members of City Committees and Commissions receive a pamphlet on this Code of Ethics."*
- Operating Rules: 3(A)(ii.)
 - *"Pamphlet. At least every two years, the Training Subcommittee shall prepare, and members of the Ethics Board shall distribute, a pamphlet describing the*

Code of Conduct (Article I) and Code of Ethics (Article II) to all Councilmembers and members of City Committees and Commissions. The Ethics Board shall ensure that all new Councilmembers and members of City Committees and Commission receive a pamphlet upon election or appointment.”

The Board recommends changing the following section in the Operating Rules:

- Operating Rules: 2(D)(v.)
 - ⊖ *“Meeting Minutes. The Deputy Chair shall keep action minutes of each meeting of the board and provide said minutes to the Board in advance of the next meeting, where they will be reviewed, revised as necessary, and approved. Approved meeting minutes will be posted on the Ethics Board website. Minutes shall record what actions were taken by the Board, **and to the extent deemed necessary by the board, what was said.**”*

2025 Workplan Priorities

- A. Assist City Council by encouraging timely application, consideration, interview, and confirmation of qualified persons for the three Ethics Board positions (5, 6 & 7) whose terms will be completed in June 2025.
- B. Design any appropriate updates to the Ethics Program during the 2025 term based on experience in the application of the Ethics Code and provide such suggested updates to BI City Council.
- C. With the assistance of City Staff, ensure that all appropriate individuals have received Ethics Program training. Ensure that all new members are trained as soon as possible, perhaps at the same time or near the OPM training.
- D. Provide Q&A support relating to Ethics Code training for Councilmembers if requested and be available for questions from any members of Boards, Committees, and Commissions, after each has reviewed the archived (video) training content on the COBI Ethics Board website.
- E. Increase public exposure to the existence of the Ethics Board/Ethics Program, its membership and its function at times during the 2025 calendar year through outreach. This may be achieved by having member(s) available at scheduled times at the community farmer’s market, the moonlight market, the national night out, and other community events, as availability dictates.
- F. Continue to refine and clarify aspects of the Ethics Program as an educational resource that maintains the public trust and provides transparency to the process of Government operations to the residents of Bainbridge Island. This may include education on methods of how to apply elements of the Ethics Program in hypothetical cases.
- G. Continue to respond to official ethics complaints and inquiries for advisory opinions in adherence to the Ethics Program.

Approved, _____(Date)



City Council Study Session Agenda Bill

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2025

ESTIMATED TIME: 15 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM: (6:25 PM) Receive 2024 Annual Report and Review 2025 Workplan for the Design Review Board,

SUMMARY: The purpose of this presentation is to inform the City Council of the work performed by the Design Review Board in 2024, and to propose a work plan of activities for 2025.

The Design Review Board serves as an advisory body to the Planning and Community Development director, Hearing Examiner and Planning Commission, as applicable, regarding site plan and design reviews and conditional use permits. A link to the administrative duties of the DRB can be found here: <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/BainbridgeIsland/#!/BainbridgeIsland02/BainbridgeIsland0214.html#2.14.0>

The Design Review Board approved its workplan at its March 3, 2025 meeting.

Staff concurs with the work plan as presented.

AGENDA CATEGORY: Discussion

PROPOSED BY:

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

I move to forward the 2025 workplan to a future business meeting for consideration of approval.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:	
Ongoing Cost:	
One-Time Cost:	
Included in Current Budget?	

ATTACHMENTS:

[2024 Committee Work and 2025 Workplan -DRB.pdf](#)

Design Review Board

Annual Report and Workplan for 2025

Report on 2024 Activities

During 2024, the DRB held seventeen meetings (a threefold increase from the previous year). The work focused on review of development projects as required by Bainbridge Island Municipal Code. The Design Review Board reviewed and made recommendations on the following projects:

- 257 Wood Ave Cottage Dev
- HRB-Ericksen
- Clark Construction Office
- Pippinger 4-lot Short Subdivision
- Deercliff Community
- Nishi Gardens Short Plat
- Perilstein Kallgren Preliminary Short Plat
- PBV South Subdivision

Several of these development projects help address climate and housing priorities identified by City Council.

Additionally, on January 13, 2023, the City Council directed the city manager to work with the Design Review Board to develop proposed amendments to the municipal code and administrative procedures to comply with new state rules regarding design review. This mandatory change to design review entailed a chapter-by-chapter effort on the part of the entire Board to analyze existing standards in the Design for Bainbridge manual and identify possible amendments to ensure objectivity. The DRB also worked on reducing the design review meeting process from three meetings to one.

2025 Workplan Priorities

The DRB will focus on implementing the new processes that were developed over the course of 2024 at the direction of City Council. Specifically:

- The DRB will work on updating procedures regarding revised meeting documentation, including template conditions to ensure design consistency throughout building process.
- The DRB will support the adoption process as the package of amendments is anticipated to be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council during Q1/Q2 2025.
- The DRB will review development projects as outlined in code as the projects are submitted.



City Council Study Session Agenda Bill

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2025

ESTIMATED TIME: 15 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM: (6:40 PM) Receive 2024 Annual Report and Review the 2025 Workplan for the Race Equity Advisory Committee,

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this presentation is to inform the City Council of the work performed by the Race Equity Advisory Committee (REAC) in 2024, and to propose a work plan of activities for 2025.

REAC serves to provide informed recommendations to the City Council on programmatic, community, and legislative options to address and rectify systemic and structural racism and bias within government and law enforcement. REAC works closely with the Equity and Inclusion Manager on developing a work plan for the year. A link to the administrative duties of REAC can be found here:

<https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/BainbridgeIsland/#!/BainbridgeIsland02/BainbridgeIsland0272>.

Staff concurs with the work plan as presented.

AGENDA CATEGORY: Discussion

PROPOSED BY: Executive

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

I move to forward the 2025 Workplan to a future business meeting for consideration of approval.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:	
Ongoing Cost:	
One-Time Cost:	
Included in Current Budget?	

ATTACHMENTS:

[2025 REAC Workplan.pdf](#)

Race Equity Advisory Committee

Annual Report and Workplan for 2025

Members

Position 1: Lynn Beck

Position 2: Eric Stahl

Position 3: Caitlin Lombardi

Position 4: Olivia Hall

Position 5:

Position 6:

Position 7: Jing Fong

Position 8: Renni Bispham

Council Liaison: Ashley Mathews

Council Liaison: Jon Quitslund

Staff Liaison: Anshu Wahi

2024 Activities

- Collaborated and communicated with COBI's Equity and Inclusion Manager
- Organized Council/REAC workshops with Scott Winn to come closer to shared understanding and vocabulary around race equity, and roles and responsibilities of REAC members
- Consulted on race equity implications of COBI's Uncrewed Aerial Systems Memorandum of Understanding
- Helped plan and support Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration
- Helped plan and support MLK Day Celebration
- Helped plan and support Juneteenth Celebration
- Provided feedback on Racial Equity Toolkit for application in city-related decision making
- Provided recommendation to City Council for Zero Emissions Hand Tools Ordinance
- Assisted in the development of equity-focused questions for, and participated in Planning Commission interview panels
- Appointed to affordable housing RFP review panel
- Gave input and guidance for Winslow Subarea Plan and Comprehensive Plan outreach and engagement process following the DEIS
- Hosted community engagement event for the DEIS

- Submitted recommendation to Council on community response to affordable housing project at 625 Winslow
- Submitted recommendation to Council on applying a racial equity lens to their discussions around affordable housing and expansion alternatives
- Organized Bystander Training attended by over 65 community members
- Assessed Guiding Principles with a racial equity lens
- Engaged with BHS youth groups
- Met regularly with City Manager and Chief of Police
- Responded to community instances of racism and bias both publicly and personally

2025 Workplan Priorities

- Respond to and initiate discussions with Council on recommendations for policy, actions, and community engagement, including issues arising on a national level
- Meet regularly with Equity and Inclusion Manager, Police Chief, and City Manager
- Collaborate with Equity and Inclusion Manager on implementing the Racial Equity Toolkit
- Schedule and participate in a Racial Equity Toolkit workshop with Scott Winn and council members.
- Encourage Council to apply a racial equity lens to policy decisions and guide them through the process
- Initiate and produce community engagement events such as bystander trainings, educational events, and events responsive to anticipated hate behavior
- Send recommendations to Council regarding revised Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles with racial equity lens applied
- Continue to engage with youth
- Develop recommendation to update city code for who can serve on REAC to include off-island business owners and those who have significant ties to the community
- Collaborate with the Climate Change Advisory Committee on making recommendations for the Zero Emissions Hand Tool ordinance
- Continue to advise on community engagement efforts for the Comprehensive Plan and Winslow Subarea Plan
- Support Council's commitments to immigration and community safety
- Support Council's commitments to the Housing Action Plan



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

City Council Study Session Agenda Bill

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2025

ESTIMATED TIME: 15 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM: (6:55 PM) Receive 2024 Annual Report and Review 2025 Workplan for the Utility Advisory Committee,

SUMMARY: The purpose of this presentation is to inform the City Council of the work performed by the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) in 2024, and to propose a work plan of activities for 2025.

AGENDA CATEGORY: Discussion

PROPOSED BY: Public Works

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

I move to forward the 2025 workplan to a future business meeting for consideration of approval.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

None planned at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:	N/A
Ongoing Cost:	N/A
One-Time Cost:	N/A
Included in Current Budget?	true

BACKGROUND: The purpose of this presentation is to inform the City Council of the work performed by the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) in 2024, and to propose a work plan of activities for 2025.

The UAC serves to make recommendations to the City Council on actions to develop plans, policy and project issues related to City utilities. The UAC works closely with the Public Works Director on developing a work plan for the year. Staff concurs with the work plan as presented.

A link to the administrative duties of the UAC can be found here:

<https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/BainbridgeIsland/#!/BainbridgeIsland02/BainbridgeIsland0233.html#2.33>

ATTACHMENTS:

[Memo Utility Advisory Committee 2024 Report 2025 Work Plan.docx](#)



Memorandum

From: Utility Advisory Committee

To: City Council; City Manager

CC: Public Works Director

Date: January 19, 2025

Subject: Utility Advisory Committee – Report on 2024 Activities; Proposed 2025 Work Plan

Summary of 2024 Activities

A. Larger work:

1. Provided guidance and support for the Winslow Water Tank contract award
2. Provided guidance and support for the Puget Sound Energy franchise agreement
3. Provided guidance and support for the Kitsap County Sewer District #7 Interlocal Agreement
4. Provided guidance and recommendations on the Stormwater System Plan
5. Provided guidance and support for Stormwater Source Control Program
6. Provided guidance and support for the 2025-26 Biennial Budget and 2025-2030 Utility Capital Improvement Plan

B. Guidance on other issues: (ordered chronologically)

1. Wastewater Treatment Plan (WWTP) capacity upgrades
2. Wastewater Beneficial Re-use study
3. Waste Management Study
4. Water System Business Plan
5. Utility Element for Winslow Subarea Plan and Comprehensive Plan
6. Utility rate update

C. Participated in sub-committee discussions related to the following:

1. Electrical Utility (Puget Sound Energy) Franchise and Agreements
2. COBI Ground Water Management Plan (GWMP)

2025 Proposed Work Plan

A. Recurring / Continuing Efforts

1. Water System
 - a) Provide guidance and make final recommendations on Water System Business Plan

- b) Provide guidance and make final recommendations on an update to Water Utility rates
 - c) Provide guidance and support for Water Utility financing plan
- 2. Sewer System
 - a) Provide guidance and support for Sewer Utility financing plan
 - b) Provide guidance and make recommendations on continuing relationship between Kitsap Sewer District 7 and Kitsap Public Utility District
 - c) Provide guidance and support on wastewater beneficial reuse project
 - d) Provide guidance and make recommendation on adopting fat, oils and grease (FOG) / pre-treatment ordinance
- 3. Storm and Surface Water Management (SSWM)
 - a) Provide guidance and support for SSWM operations plan and mid-biennium staffing plan
- 4. Provide guidance and make recommendations on the adoption of the Groundwater Management Plan
- 5. Provide guidance and make recommendations on Utility Element for Winslow Subarea Plan and Comprehensive Plan
- 6. Provide guidance on the City's approach to solid waste management
- 7. Make recommendation on adoption of the 2024-25 Utility Capital Improvement Plan mid-biennium updates
- 8. Continue subcommittee consultations with other COBI committees
 - a) ETAC and CCAC on Ground Water Management Plan
 - b) CCAC on PSE Memorandum of Understanding
- 9. Host tour of utility facilities with new Council members

B. Emergent Issues

- 1. Respond to inquiries and requests from citizens, COBI staff and Council

Approved by UAC on 19 January 2025

Andy Maron
 Wanda Schulze
 Svend Brant-Erichsen
 Charles Averill, Co-Chair
 Sheina Hughes
 Martin Pastucha
 Ted Jones, Co-Chair



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

City Council Study Session Agenda Bill

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2025

ESTIMATED TIME: 15 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM: (7:10 PM) Receive Presentation from Fire Chief Moravec on the Risk of Wildfire and the Need to Create Defensible Space,

SUMMARY: Fire Chief Moravec will provide a presentation on the 2024 wildfire season and updates on mitigation activities related to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the COBI Climate Action Plan. Chief Moravec will also discuss what Firewise mitigation activities are currently allowed within City code, and highlight additional efforts that are necessary to mitigate the impact of wildfires on Bainbridge Island.

AGENDA CATEGORY: Presentation

PROPOSED BY: Executive

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
Information only.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:	
Ongoing Cost:	
One-Time Cost:	
Included in Current Budget?	

ATTACHMENTS:

[City Council Presentation - Wildfire 18MAR25.pdf](#)



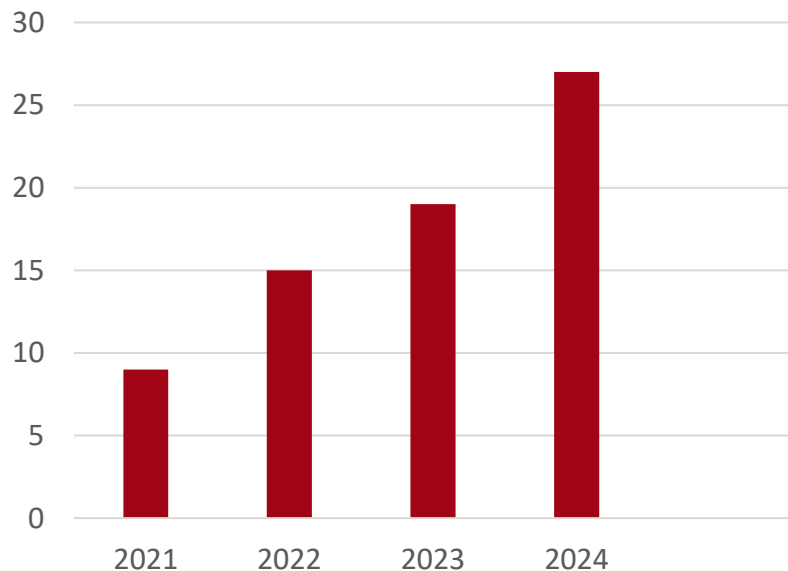
WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION

PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL, MARCH 18, 2025

Jared Moravec, Fire Chief



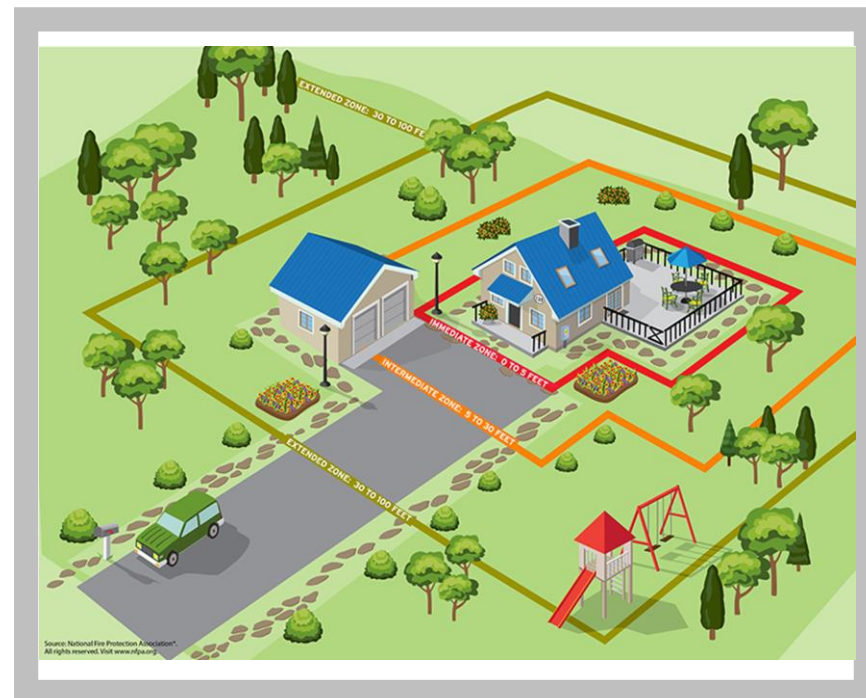
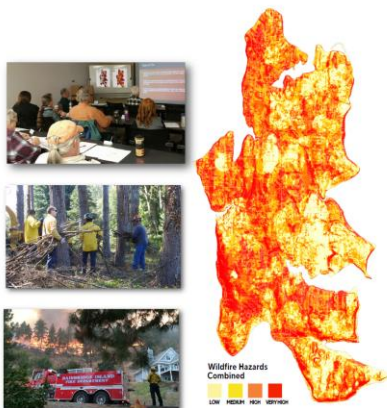
VEGETATION FIRES ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (2022)

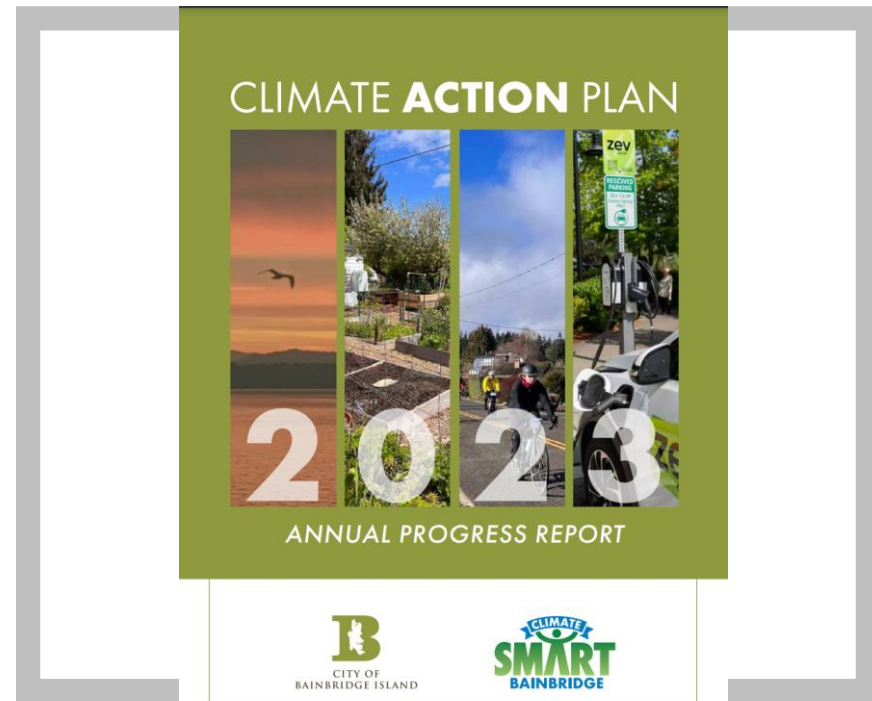
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Community Wildfire Protection Plan



COBI CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

6.A.3.b. Ensure that COBI policies prioritize wildfire risk reduction in proximity to homes consistent with Firewise guidelines and strengthen wildfire risk-reduction design guidelines for Island construction (residential and business) using approaches such as reviewing new subdivision standards for opportunities to integrate wildfire risk reduction.



FIREWISE PROGRESS – IMMEDIATE ZONE (0-5’)

IMMEDIATE ZONE 0-5' from the exterior of the house				
FIREWISE BEST PRACTICE	SHORELINE AREAS	CRITICAL AREAS	AQUIFER RECHARGE PROTECTION AREA	ALL OTHER AREAS
Clean roofs and gutter of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles.	●	●	●	●
Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.	●	●	●	●
Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves, soffits, foundation, and crawlspace by installing 1/8-inch metal screening.	●	●	●	●
Remove debris that may accumulate at roof-to-wall intersections. Embers from a fireplace can exit the chimney and could ignite a wildfire; to prevent this, install a spark arrestor.	●	●	●	●
Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.	●	●	●	●
Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors—mulch, leaves and needles, firewood piles—anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks and porches.	●	●	●	●
Remove any small, flammable shrubs and plants.	●	●	●	●
Trim tree limbs that overhang from immediate zone into this area.	●	●	●	●
Use non-flammable fencing materials when attaching directly to siding. Do not add vines or other types of vegetation to fencing. Wooden fences can carry flames directly to the house.	●	●	●	●

GO!

● Best practice can be implemented without any additional permitting, requirements or approvals.

IDEALLY LEFT FOR HABITAT

● Snags, fallen tree trunks, and large branches are important wildlife habitat and do not adversely affect safety in all cases and are encouraged to be left in place. Contact the City Arborist for questions or concerns.

CERTIFIED ARBORIST NEEDED

● Allowed if work is done by certified arborist.

CAUTION! INQUIRE

● Tree removal may be allowed without a permit: In accordance with BIMC 16.18.040.B., properties located outside of the Mixed-Use Town Center and High School Road zoning districts may remove three significant trees every 36 months if the parcel is less than one acre and six significant trees every 36 months if the parcel is larger than one acre. This allowance doesn't apply if a tree of interest

- is required to meet any other tree retention provisions (Tree units, Kitsap County Plats, etc.),
- is located within an applicable critical area, critical area buffer, or shoreline areas,
- and/or qualifies as a Landmark Tree in accordance with BIMC 16.3.2.

Contact the City Arborist before using this allowance.

STOP! REVIEW MAY BE REQUIRED

● Vegetation or tree removal may be subject to City of Bainbridge Island review and preapproval. Contact the City Arborist for more information.

FIREWISE PROGRESS – INTERMEDIATE ZONE (5-30')

INTERMEDIATE ZONE				
5–30' from the exterior of the house				
FIREWISE BEST PRACTICE	SHORELINE AREAS	CRITICAL AREAS	AQUIFER RECHARGE PROTECTION AREA	ALL OTHER AREAS
Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks	●	●	●	●
Create fuel break with driveways, walkways/ paths, patios, and decks,	●	●	●	●
Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of 4"	●	●	●	●
Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to 6–10' from ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.	●	●	●	●
Space trees to have a minimum of 18' between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.	●	●	●	●
Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than 10' to the edge of the structure.	●	●	●	●
Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.	●	●	●	●

GO!

● Best practice can be implemented without any additional permitting, requirements or approvals.

IDEALLY LEFT FOR HABITAT

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CERTIFIED ARBORIST NEEDED

● Allowed if work is done by certified arborist.

CAUTION/INQUIRE

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- is located within an applicable critical area, critical area buffer, or shoreline areas,
- and/or qualifies as a Landmark Tree in accordance with BIMC 16.3.2.

Contact the City Arborist before using this allowance.

STOP! REVIEW MAY BE REQUIRED

● Vegetation or tree removal may be subject to City of Bainbridge Island review and preapproval. Contact the City Arborist for more information.

FIREWISE PROGRESS – EXTENDED ZONE (30-100’)

EXTENDED ZONE 30-100' from the exterior of the house				
FIREWISE BEST PRACTICE	SHORELINE AREAS	CRITICAL AREAS	AQUIFER RECHARGE PROTECTION AREA	ALL OTHER AREAS
Dispose of heavy accumulation of ground litter/debris.	●	●	●	●
Remove dead plant and dead tree material.	●	●	●	●
Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.	●	●	●	●
Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within the area.	●	●	●	●
Trees 30'-60' from the home should have at least 12' between canopy tops.*	●	●	●	●
Trees 60'-100' from the home should have at least 6' between the canopy tops.*	●	●	●	●

GO!

● Best practice can be implemented without any additional permitting, requirements or approvals.

IDEALLY LEFT FOR HABITAT

● Snags, fallen tree trunks, and large branches are important wildlife habitat and do not adversely affect safety in all cases and are encouraged to be left in place. Contact the City Arborist for questions or concerns.

CERTIFIED ARBORIST NEEDED

● Allowed if work is done by certified arborist.

CAUTION! INQUIRY

● Tree removal may be allowed without a permit. In accordance with BIMC 16.18.040.B, properties located outside of the Mixed-Use Town Center and High School Road zoning districts may remove three significant trees every 36 months if the parcel is less than one acre and six significant trees every 36 months if the parcel is larger than one acre. This allowance doesn't apply if a tree of interest

- is required to meet any other tree retention provisions (Tree units, Kitsap County Plats, etc.),
- is located within an applicable critical area, critical area buffer, or shoreline areas,
- and/or qualifies as a Landmark Tree in accordance with BIMC 16.3.2.

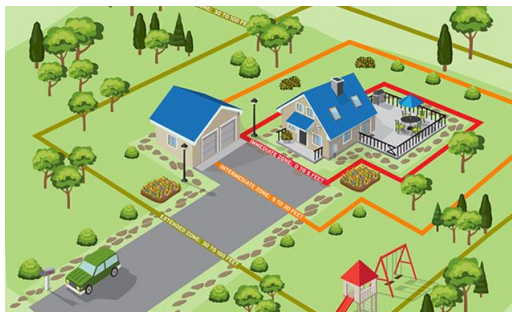
Contact the City Arborist before using this allowance.

STOP! REVIEW MAY BE REQUIRED

● Vegetation or tree removal may be subject to City of Bainbridge Island review and preapproval. Contact the City Arborist for more information.

* The distance listed for crown spacing are suggested based on NFPA 1144. However, the crown spacing needed to reduce/prevent crown fire potential could be significantly greater due to slope, the species of trees involved, and other site-specific conditions. Check with your local forestry professional to get advice on what is appropriate for your property.

PRIMARY MITIGATION EFFORTS REQUIRED



DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Area around a structure to slow fire spread and reduce intensity.

Balances safety and natural resource values.

Requires updates in COBI Municipal Code to allow homeowners to implement.



IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

Specified in ICC Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

Addresses building construction materials and techniques.

Statewide adoption pending DNR risk mapping.

Bainbridge has already adopted roof material standards.



WATER SUPPLY

Only ~50% of the Island has fire hydrant coverage.

Lack of available hydrants contributing factor to fire loss on Bainbridge.

Evaluation required for most robust coverage.



CONTACTS



HEADQUARTERS

206.842.7686

contact@bifd.org



**JARED MORAVEC,
FIRE CHIEF**

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CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

City Council Study Session Agenda Bill

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2025

ESTIMATED TIME: 15 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM: (7:25 PM) Receive Update on Eagle Harbor Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy,

SUMMARY: Back in early 2024, the City of Bainbridge Island was asked by the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) to participate in a tsunami maritime response and mitigation strategy focused on Bainbridge Island's Eagle Harbor. This selection by WA EMD made Bainbridge Island the first City in Washington's inner coast to participate in a tsunami maritime strategy.

The process kicked off in Summer 2024 with a series of bi-weekly meetings with City staff and two community and partner-agency workshops that took place in August and October 2024. The project wrapped up in December 2024 with the publication of the "Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy for the City of Bainbridge Island's Eagle Harbor."

AGENDA CATEGORY: Presentation

PROPOSED BY: Executive

RECOMMENDED MOTION:
Information only.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:	
Ongoing Cost:	
One-Time Cost:	
Included in Current Budget?	

ATTACHMENTS:

[Tsunami Maritime Strategy Presentation CC March 18 2025.pdf](#)



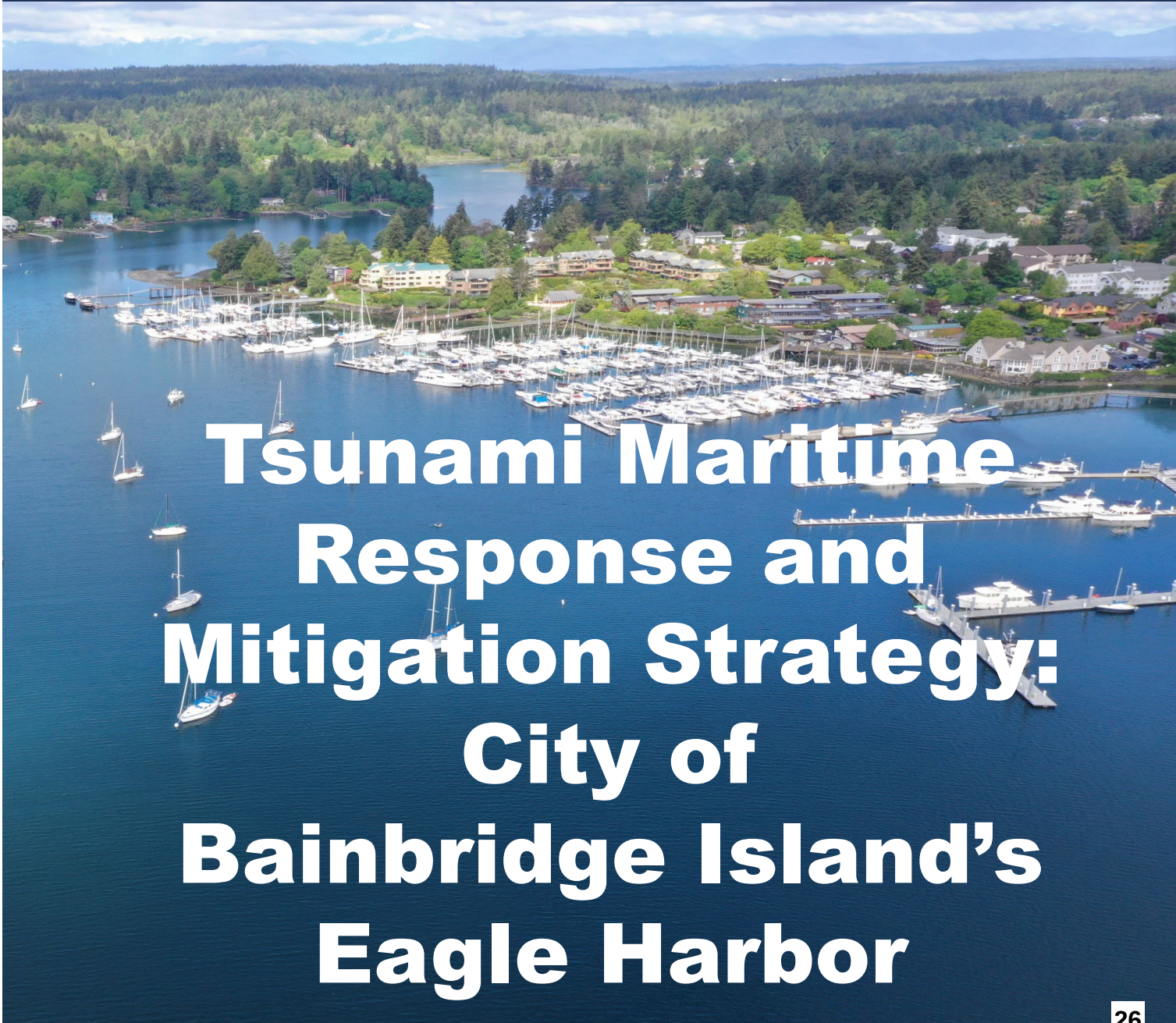
CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Prepared for City Council:

Anne LeSage, COBI
Emergency Manager

Ethan Weller, WA State
EMD Tsunami Program
Coordinator

March 18, 2025



Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy: City of Bainbridge Island's Eagle Harbor

Overview



- Received updated Statewide Tsunami Modeling released in July 2022 that shows a severe impact to Bainbridge from a Seattle-fault based earthquake and tsunami
- Reviewed potential impacts to Bainbridge Island and began process to become StormReady and TsunamiReady
 - Received StormReady designation in March 2023
 - Received TsunamiReady designation in December 2023
- Selected by WA State EMD to participate in the development of a Tsunami Maritime Response & Mitigation Strategy for Eagle Harbor

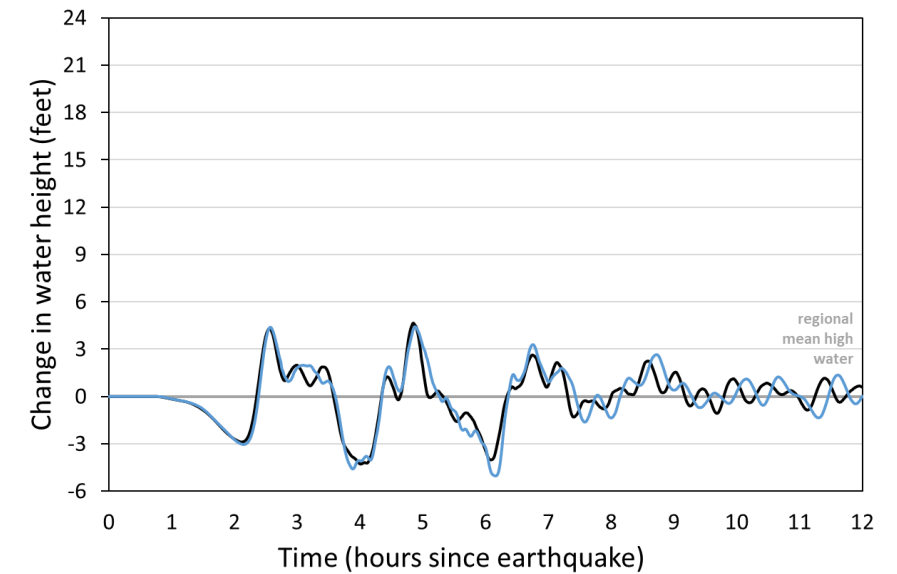
Tsunami Mitigation Strategy Overview

- First City on the inner-coast of Washington to participate in a tsunami maritime strategy
- First strategy to use Seattle Fault Zone tsunami modeling
- Held weekly/bi-weekly coordination meetings with State EMD and WA Geological Survey
- Hosted two strategy workshops – Response (August 2024) and Mitigation (October 2024)
 - Participants: Bainbridge Prepares, BI Fire Department, COBI – EM, Police, Public Works, Kitsap Transit, WA EMD, WA Geological Survey, WSDOT/WSF
- Published the “Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy: City of Bainbridge Island’s Eagle Harbor” in December 2024

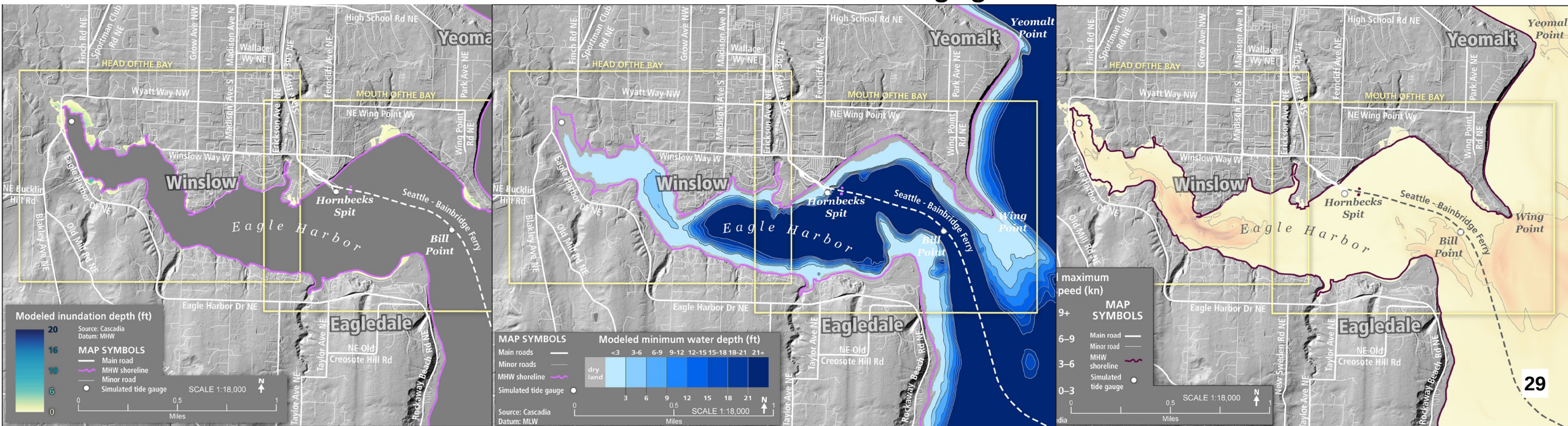
Modeling for Eagle Harbor

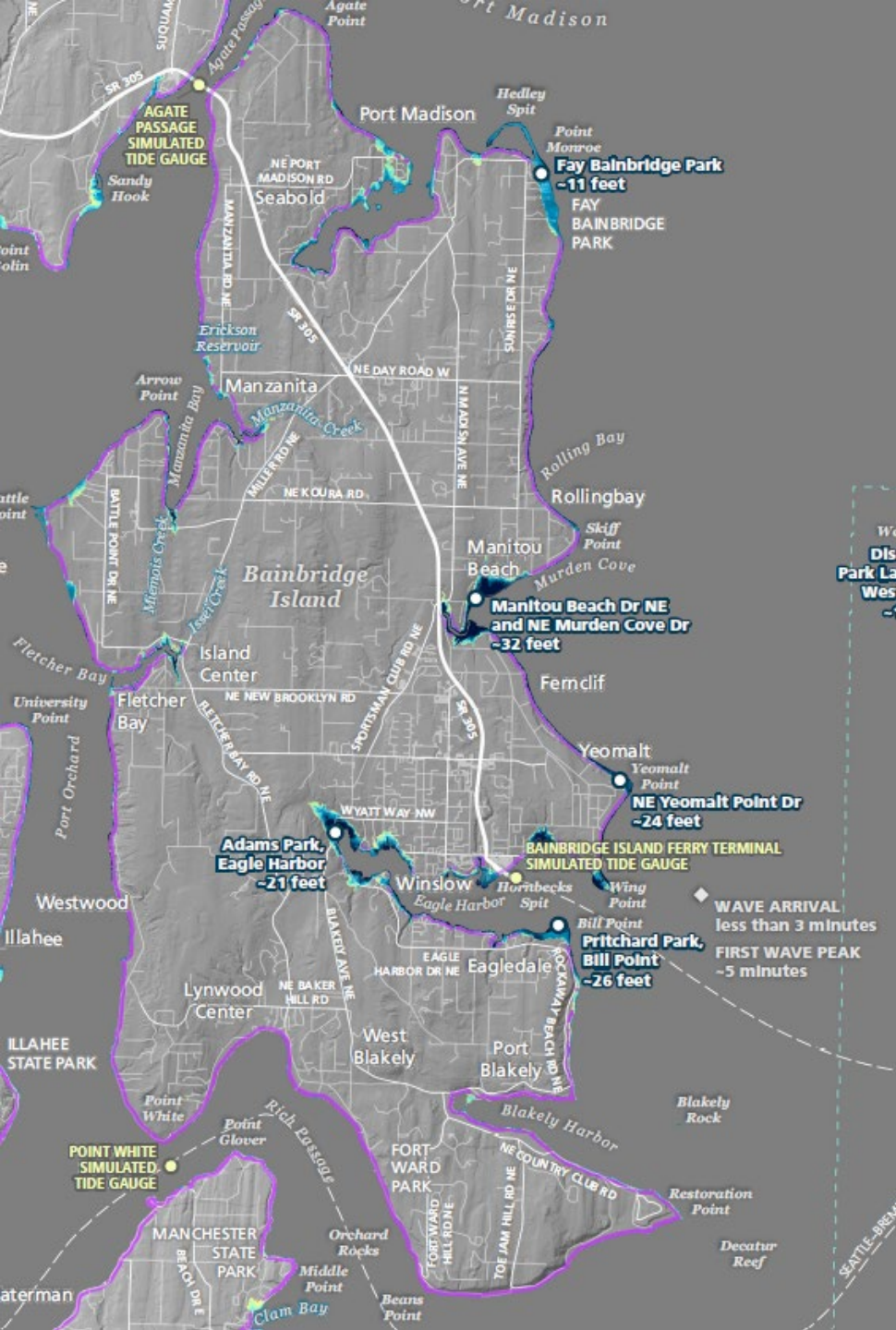
- Used simulated points (tide gauges) at strategic locations
- Evaluated two tsunami scenarios: Cascadia Subduction Zone and Seattle Fault Zone tsunamis
- The following maps were created for both scenarios
 - Maximum Inundation
 - Drawdown (minimum water depth)
 - Maximum Current Speeds
- These impacts were also evaluated over time

City Dock
(Cascadia)



Cascadia Subduction Zone modeling figures





Seattle Fault Modeling

- Wave arrival within 3 minutes
- Primary impacts on the east side of the island
- Fay Bainbridge 11 feet of inundation
- Manitou Beach/Murden Cove 32 feet of inundation
- Yeomalt Point 24 feet of inundation
- Head of the Bay 21 feet of inundation
- Bill Point/Pritchard Park 26 feet of inundation

Tsunami Response and Mitigation Actions

Response

- Evaluated feasibility of 17 response actions
 - Notification processes and coordination
 - Protecting maritime assets
 - Evacuation
 - Emergency Management Functions

Highlights

- Pre-stage emergency equipment
- Bainbridge Prepares Flotilla group
- Able to utilize the Wildfire Evacuation Plan as a baseline for evacuation discussions

Mitigation

- Evaluated feasibility of 15 mitigation actions and outlines potential funding sources
 - Maritime infrastructure upgrades and assets
 - Signage
 - Large infrastructure projects

Highlights

- First strategy to categorize mitigation actions as “completed”
- Large infrastructure projects limited by the Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor Superfund site
- Emphasis on coordination with partners for feasible projects

Key Findings

- Bainbridge Island has already made great strides in implementing tsunami preparedness and mitigation actions:
 - Tsunami signage in place
 - TsunamiReady status achieved and community outreach ongoing
 - City Dock infrastructure upgrades completed in 2019
 - Bainbridge Prepares Flotilla
- Due to the rapid nature of the response – pre-incident planning and mitigation is key to enhancing resilience on island

Tsunami Signage on Bainbridge prior to 2023

Hazard Zone Signage Only

- Manitou Beach
- Fay Bainbridge Park
- Waterfront Park
- Pritchard Park
- Lytle Road End
- Fort Ward Park



New Signage Added

Assembly Area Signs

Blakely Harbor Park
Fay Bainbridge Park
Hawley Cove Park
Manitou Beach
Pritchard Park

Entering/Leaving Tsunami Zone

Manitou Beach

Tsunami Hazard Zone

Point Monroe
Rolling Bay Walk



Key Recommendations

- Develop targeted outreach to boat owners and liveaboards in Eagle Harbor
- Purchase additional PFDs for Marine 8
- Continue to build community partnerships and formalize mutual aid agreements

Tsunami Maritime Response and
Mitigation Strategy:
City of Bainbridge Island's Eagle Harbor
Bainbridge Island, Washington
2024



Next Steps

- Update City website with TsunamiReady information
- Develop QR code linking to website and place sticker on tsunami signs across the island
- Continue targeted TsunamiReady outreach and presentations to neighborhoods in the inundation zone and to the liveaboard community
- Continue to evaluate location and placement of current tsunami signs and identify gaps

Thank you



**CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**

Submitted by:

Anne LeSage

Emergency Manager

alesage@bainbridgewa.gov



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

City Council Study Session Agenda Bill

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2025

ESTIMATED TIME: 30 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM: (7:40 PM) Discuss Use of Low Emission Landscape Tools and Prohibition of Certain Small Gas Powered Engines - Executive,

SUMMARY: According to the findings of fact contained in Washington State House Bill 2051 in the 2024 legislative session, gasoline-powered and diesel-powered landscaping and other outdoor power equipment emit a host of air pollutants, including nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants. In 2023, consistent with the Climate Action Plan, the city transitioned its gas-powered leaf blowers, string trimmers, hedge clippers, pole saws, and lawn edgers to all electric equipment. Now, Council input is requested on whether or not Council wishes to consider the prohibition of gas-powered hand tools community wide, and if so, how should the ordinance be constructed.

AGENDA CATEGORY: Discussion

PROPOSED BY: Executive

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Receive presentation and provide direction.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:

Previous discussions on restrictions were brought to the Climate Change Advisory Committee and the Race Equity Advisory Committee for their feedback on possible restrictions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:	
Ongoing Cost:	
One-Time Cost:	
Included in Current Budget?	

BACKGROUND: According to the findings of fact contained in Washington State House Bill 2051 in the 2024 legislative session, gasoline-powered and diesel-powered landscaping and other outdoor power equipment emit a host of air pollutants, including nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 17,000,000 gallons of fuel, mostly gasoline, is spilled each year while refueling lawn equipment. Nationally, the Department of Transportation data shows in 2018, Americans used nearly 3,000,000,000 gallons of gasoline running lawn and garden equipment, equivalent to the annual energy use of more than 3,000,000 homes. Pursuant to the findings of HB 2051, one hour of running a gas leaf blower can contribute as much smog-forming pollution as driving a passenger car 1,100 miles.

The State of California has banned the sale of new small off-road engines 25 horsepower or less. According to data provided by the public interest organization TexPIRG, cities in 26 states and the District of Columbia have

restricted or prohibited the use of gas-powered lawn tools. Washington State is considering a prohibition on the sale of small gas-powered engines. However, this prohibition has not been adopted. Conversely, three states, Texas, Florida, and Ohio, have enacted laws prohibiting local governments from imposing bans on gas-powered equipment.

In 2023, the City's Climate Adaptation Manager documented, as part of the 2018 greenhouse gas emissions inventory, that the city recorded close to 6,500 gallons of fuel consumption per year for the use of gas-powered equipment for vegetation management, accounting for about 3% of the emissions from city government operations.

In 2023, using the prerogative of the city manager, with the consent of the City Council, the city transitioned its gas-powered leaf blowers, string trimmers, hedge clippers, pole saws, and lawn edgers to all electric equipment.

Addressing gas powered hand tools is consistent with other climate action initiatives the city has taken. Some of these actions include:

- Heat Pump Program - \$261,500 for heat pump education and subsidy for approximately 10 heat pumps
- Vehicle Fleet Electrification - estimate cost \$19.4 million
- Electric Vehicle ready development standards
- Home Compostable Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance
- Spearman Center Carbon Offset - \$582,000

A draft ordinance to limit gas powered hand tools was shared with the Climate Change Advisory Committee and the Race Equity Advisory Committee. The draft presented to those committees is not recommended for adoption. In response to the draft, the Climate Change Advisory Committee and the Race Equity Advisory Committee provided the attached memorandum. In brief, the Race Equity and Climate Change Advisory Commissions raised the concern that the ordinance as presented was too restrictive and would limit the number of commercial landscapers working on Bainbridge Island.

Now, the Council is requested whether or not it wishes to consider the prohibition of gas-powered hand tools, and if so, how should the ordinance be constructed.

- 1) Does the Council wish to restrict the use of small powered hand tools (defined as 25 horsepower or less) within Bainbridge Island?
- 2) Which specific tools should be prohibited:
 - Leaf Blowers
 - Hedge Trimmers
 - Lawn Edgers
 - String Trimmers/weedwhacker
 - Push lawn mowers
 - Chainsaws
- 3) Should enforcement be targeted towards property owners or the user
- 4) Effective date
 - 12 months
 - 18 months
 - 24 months
- 5) Off sets, buy-backs, incentives, or lending program.

Consultation has occurred with Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District and Bainbridge Island School District. Both agencies prefer as much transition time as available. Bloedel Reserve was also consulted. Bloedel's receptiveness has evolved with its management. Currently, they feel electric tools are not as effective.

As restrictions on hand tools have been adopted by local jurisdictions, various mitigations and off-sets have been provided. One such form of mitigation is a lending program. Attached is information from Lafayette, California's

Electric Leaf Blower Lending Program. (Lafayette, Louisiana also has a tool lending program.)

The City of Seattle and King County also offer tool library programs. Similar to traditional libraries, a tool library serves as a sustainable public service that provides community access to tools and facilitates the exchange of knowledge, often at little to no cost. Typically, fees are limited to an annual membership, while other models permit rentals for a specified period at a nominal fee. These programs are generally operated by nonprofit organizations and staffed by volunteers. Council may instruct staff to prepare further information on a conceptual tool lending program.

Additionally, an alternative approach to offset costs for residents could involve the implementation of a voucher program. Various cities and counties, from California to Kansas, have successfully operated lawn care voucher initiatives. These programs may be contingent upon income thresholds, such as 80% of the Area Median Income, though this requirement is not always necessary. Eligible participants would first purchase electric lawn care equipment and retain the receipt. They would then deliver their gas-powered lawn equipment to the transfer station on Bainbridge Island and obtain a receipt as proof of drop-off. Finally, they would submit both the receipt for the electric lawn care purchase and the drop-off receipt using a form provided by the city. A check would be mailed to the recipient upon approval. The Council may also direct staff to prepare additional information regarding a conceptual voucher program.

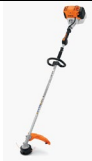
ATTACHMENTS:

[Lawn Care Options List.pdf](#)

[Climate Change Advisory Committee/Race Equity Advisory Committee Recommendations for Landscaping Ordinance.docx](#)

[Electric Leaf Blower Lending Program _ City of Lafayette, CA.pdf](#)

[Lawn Care Discussion PPT 3.18.2025.pdf](#)

Landscaping Tool		Enforcement	Implementation Timeline
	Hedge Trimmer	Property Owners	12 Months
	Lawn Edger	Users	18 Months
	Leaf Blower		24 Months
	Non-riding lawn mower		
	String trimmer		

Memorandum

To: Bainbridge Island City Manager and Bainbridge Island City Council

From: Climate Change and Race Equity Advisory Committees

Date: February 28, 2025

Re: Recommendations regarding draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Zero Emission Landscaping ordinance as presented to the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) on May 15, 2024, and to the Race Equity Advisory Committee (REAC) on June 6, 2024 (see Attachment 1—Draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance). While both Committees support the spirit and direction of the draft ordinance, we share the following concerns and recommendations.

Our Concerns

We believe an all-encompassing ordinance such as the draft presented to CCAC and REAC in the spring of 2024 would effectively force residents and contractors to completely retool all of their landscaping equipment at once. In our view, this approach is not appropriate for Bainbridge Island. Our recommendations are based on concerns around the ordinance's scope, the feasibility of adoption at this time, the impractical time restrictions on equipment use, and equity issues, all of which could hinder its acceptance and adoption, and, thus, its effectiveness.

Considering the state of the technology, costs, and the specific landscaping demands on Bainbridge Island, we are concerned that enacting the ordinance as drafted would place severe hardship on Island residents and landscaping contractors, and potentially force many landscapers to cease operations on the Island. Such disruption could lead to significant push back from Island residents who would need to purchase more costly landscaping equipment or services. Moreover, enforcement of the ordinance could be challenging, rendering it less effective.

Our Proposed Alternative

As an alternative to the draft ordinance, we recommend Council take a more targeted and phased approach by adopting a Council resolution that (1) considers banning the use of all gas-powered leaf blowers on the Island in the near-term, (2) sets an overall goal for how many landscaping tools used on the Island should be non-gasoline powered by 2030; and (3) supports the business and residential community in their efforts to transition away from their gas-powered tools. This approach broadly resembles efforts by other cities and considers the particularities of Bainbridge Island.

Our Objectives

The proposed approach, as described further below, supports both the objectives of COBI's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) on the Island by 90% by 2045, as well as the goal to apply an equity-based approach to city actions.^{1,2}

Detailed Analysis and Recommendations

Emissions from gas-powered landscaping tools are an identifiable and manageable GHG source category, and we consider it appropriate for the City to take steps to reduce them. The transition to electric landscaping tools provides an effective, identifiable step that individuals can take to contribute to the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). These individual actions could also accelerate residents' electrification efforts in other sectors like heating/cooling and transportation.

Meaningful and equitable communication, including meetings with residents and businesses, are needed to help ensure a smooth transition and sufficient community support for successful implementation. By addressing the points below, we believe the City Council can create a more efficient, effective and equitable approach that considers the needs of all community members while still achieving important environmental and public health goals.

Establish an Achievable Goal

We recommend that the City Council adopts a resolution setting a goal that by 2030 at least 80% of all landscaping tools used on the Island will be non-gasoline powered. Once adopted by Council, COBI's "Go Electric" website³ should communicate the goal and the rationale behind it and encourage all residents, contractors, and businesses to plan accordingly.

Establish a Phased Approach-- Starting with Leaf Blowers

We also recommend the City consider a more targeted ordinance now to make some progress and adopt a phased approach to regulating landscaping tools in the future. As a first step, and subject to input received from residents and landscaping companies, we recommend banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the near term, starting as early as possible but preferably not later than June 2026. The effective date should be based on consultation with landscapers and public input.

The rationale for this first step is the fact that leaf blowers represent the most commonly reported noise nuisance, they tend to emit the most fumes and emissions and pose the greatest health threat to those who operate them. There are reasonably priced, relatively effective, electric alternatives, thus easing the economic impact of such an ordinance.

¹ <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1331/Climate-Action>

² <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1124/Race-Equity-Advisory-Committee>

³ <https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1413/Go-Electric>

Moreover, given the nuisance factor, there is likely to be less pushback, and more support from our community.

As a second step, the City could consider restrictions on additional landscaping equipment, such as string trimmers and lawn mowers in subsequent phases as equipment capabilities improve. Part of that transition would need to include a more thorough analysis of equipment performance, charging needs, as well as realistic ways to ensure access to sufficient battery storage and recharging throughout the day.

Provide Information to the Community on the Health and Environmental Impacts

We recommend providing information regarding the health and environmental impacts from gas-powered tools. Options for electric alternatives should be widely shared with the Community and landscape professionals. Extending the outreach beyond updates to COBI's "Go Electric" website should include a communications or social marketing campaign that would aim to gain community support for the proposed actions. All communications regarding landscaping equipment should be at least bilingual, i.e., English and Spanish, to reach all impacted communities.

Revise the Incentive Program

The currently proposed rebate program applies only to income-qualified Bainbridge residents, not to commercial companies and is limited to one piece of electric- powered equipment per property address every two years (see Attachment 2 - Lawn Care Rebate Program Proposal).

We recommend that the rebate program consider rebates to both residents and to commercial landscaping companies operating on the Island. Limiting incentives only to income-qualified residents owners will limit the usefulness of the program.

A program should ensure rebates for equipment and batteries are available for companies that conduct landscaping business on Bainbridge. Financial incentives also need to be significant and inclusive enough to meaningfully encourage the purchase and use of electric landscaping tools. The City, in conjunction with the CCAC and the REAC, could explore sources of funding that could potentially support the rebates.

Explore Partnerships with Area Retailers

We recommend reaching out to local retailers such as Ace, Home Depot, and Lowes to see if it is possible to get bulk discounts if we aggregate demand from multiple purchasers.

Apply the City's Climate Lens to Any Proposed Ordinance.

We recommend the City use the climate lens developed for projects on the Island for this program. The CCAC would be happy to help with its application.

Prioritize Equity Concerns From the Start of the Process.

Equity considerations should guide both the outreach and scope when developing the resolution or leaf blower ordinance. Similarly, equitable practices in education and outreach are essential once the resolution or ordinance is adopted. We recognize that initiative efforts may be constrained by limited staff capacity, available funding for rebates and incentives, limited local equipment suppliers, and other resource limitations. The following actions will help prioritize equity:

a. **Early Inclusion for Equitable Implementation.** Inclusive outreach to Latino, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) residential and commercial landscapers must occur before adoption of the resolution or ordinance. We acknowledge that some landscapers may have had negative experiences with government officials in the past and that not all may be licensed and may be hesitant to engage with City officials. As a result, these landscapers will require engagement beyond traditional means. Direct, personal conversations and informal focus groups may provide the City with valuable insights into the practical and financial impacts of transitioning to electric or battery-powered landscaping equipment.

b. **Ensure equitable and effective communication and engagement by:**

- Providing multilingual opportunities for education, information, and questions in at least Spanish and English. Outreach will help determine what other languages may be appropriate.
- Holding multilingual workshops to demonstrate the use and maintenance of electric equipment, potentially with the City's or Parks District's landscaping crews sharing their experiences in transitioning to electric tools. Create short videos that can be shared on the City's website and in emails to residents and landscaping firms.
- Establishing a dedicated Spanish-language hotline or office hours for questions and clarifications. Appointing a Spanish-speaking representative to address questions and provide further information on the initiative.
- Collaborating with the REAC to develop and implement an outreach plan.

c. **Apply a Racial Equity Lens.**

- The current draft of the COBI racial equity lens should be applied to the resolution and any forthcoming ordinance. A racial equity lens must be applied from the outset and throughout the proposed Zero Emission initiative.
- This initiative presents a key opportunity to simultaneously apply both a racial equity lens and a climate lens concurrently to a City project.

d. Assess Staffing and Resources for Equitable Implementation.

- Staffing and resources will be critical for equitable outreach, education, and successful implementation. City staff may need to be involved in outreach during the resolution’s development phase and most likely in supporting events such as equipment demonstrations and trade-in programs.
- Exploring additional funding sources, such as grants and partnering with community nonprofit organizations, will be essential for ensuring equitable outreach, education, and implementation.

Additional Background and Discussion

Summary of Key Elements of the Draft Ordinance

The draft ordinance proposed to prohibit the use of internally combusted hedge trimmers, lawn edgers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, and non-riding lawn mowers rated at 25 horsepower or less on Bainbridge Island after July 1, 2026. Electric-powered hand tools could be used in residential areas on weekdays and Saturdays only between 8AM and 5PM, and in non-residential areas any day between 8AM and 6PM except holidays. Using electric small landscaping tools is prohibited island wide on holidays. There are exceptions for emergency responders.

Support for Transition to Electric Tools

Overall, we support the Council’s goal to limit the use of small gas-powered landscaping tools on Bainbridge Island. These efforts strengthen the City’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable environment. We also recognize the negative impact on human health and the environment from these tools (e.g., toxic emissions, particulate emissions, GHGs, vibration, noise harm to users and general nuisance).

We applaud the City for setting an example to transition its own landscaping tools to electric power in 2023.⁴ We agree with the City’s desire to also encourage residents and landscaping maintenance professionals to shift to electric landscaping maintenance tools as soon as possible

Similar Efforts in Other Jurisdictions

Although efforts are underway in some jurisdictions in the U.S. to put in place some level of restrictions on gas-powered landscaping tools, there are relatively limited instances of comprehensive regulation (See <https://pirg.org/edfund/resources/interactive-map-of-lawn-mower-and-leaf-blower-policies/>). Regulatory approaches vary and may include prohibitions on the sale or use of specific types or categories of equipment, noise restrictions or incentive programs. While some jurisdictions in Washington are transitioning from gas to electric for at least some equipment (i.e. leaf blowers), to date

⁴ [2023 Climate Action Plan Progress Report](#)

statewide bills to require the transition for all landscaping equipment have failed to pass the State Legislature.

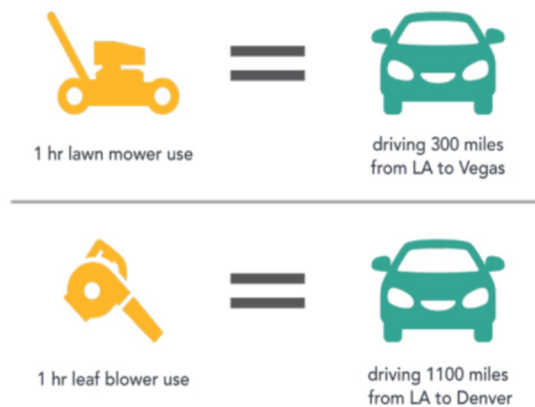
Health Related Impacts and Opportunities

Information on the health effects of gasoline-powered equipment is of concern and the direct health impact on equipment users needs to be communicated throughout the residential and business community. An Island-wide ordinance limiting gas-powered landscaping equipment would help improve our community's air quality. It also would improve the occupational health of landscape workers.

COBI's "Go Electric" website provides some information about environmental and health related impacts from gas-powered landscaping tools. For example, it explains that lawn tools with a two-stroke engine can spew 20 to nearly 300 times the emissions of a car.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the harmful emissions of landscaping equipment are significant. Data for 2020 indicates such equipment emitted on a national level:

- Nearly 22,000 tons of fine particulates – pollutants that have been linked to respiratory ailments, reproductive and mental health issues. That's as much pollution as would be produced annually by 234 million typical cars.
- More than 68,000 tons of nitrogen oxides and 350,000 tons of volatile organic compounds – the two chemical components of ground-level ozone, which triggers asthma attacks and contributes to premature death. Nitrogen oxide emissions from lawn equipment are equal to annual emissions from 30 million typical cars.
- More than 30 million tons of carbon dioxide, the leading cause of global warming.
- A wide array of chemicals that cause cancer, including benzene and formaldehyde.
- The following graphic from Colorado demonstrates the air emission contribution of leaf blowers as compared to lawnmowers by equating one hour of their use with the distance driven by a gas-powered vehicle.



Mixed Opinions on Regulating Landscaping Equipment

In 2023, the City of Bainbridge Island conducted a survey seeking community input on possible ways to regulate landscaping equipment. Responses from Bainbridge residents were varied with many expressing support for some level of regulation, especially around leaf blowers. Others believed this is city overregulation and not a priority. Responses included support for a rebate or incentive program and specific financial assistance for small businesses. Other respondents also expressed concerns about the cost and efficacy especially for larger acreage properties.

The survey results indicate limited support for such a regulation from business owners. They stated that increased cost of equipment and batteries, the significant impact on small businesses, efficacy and efficiency of electric equipment for commercial use, and the ability to recharge throughout the day are the biggest issues for commercial users.

Needs to Recognize the Costs Imposed on Landscaping Businesses

In our view, the ordinance needs to recognize the costs imposed on the owners of landscaping businesses for switching to electric-powered equipment and thus, move judiciously to gain support for these changes. The current proposal does not address the business needs of the people who will be most impacted by a ban on all gas-powered tools: the professional landscaping crews who work on the Island. These workers, predominantly Latino, take care of Island properties but operate their businesses from off-island locations. Expecting landscaping companies to just pass the increased cost of new equipment to their customers is not reasonable and does not appear to be supported by the wider community.

Learn from the Experience of the BI Parks District and the City

We understand that the Bainbridge Island Parks District is transitioning to electric tools for its landscaping work. An informal discussion with staff indicates they have been able to make a partial transition but have found it challenging to do so for various aspects of their work. The Parks District staff did not feel a wholesale transition would be

practicable at this time given the varied work requirements. Also, the City's transition to electric tools led to the following staff level conclusion regarding the efficacy of electric landscaping tools: *Electric tools are good for some applications but are problematic for others. Overall, the consensus is they have their uses and do well in some applications, but we should look at what the application is and determine what the most efficient and appropriate tool for the job is.*

Conclusions and Attachments

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft ordinance. We are happy to work with the City staff on a specific resolution or ordinance language, community education and outreach.

Attachment 1 Draft Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance

Attachment 2 Lawn Care Rebate Program Proposal

Electric Leaf Blower Lending Program

Switching from gas to electric leaf blowers

Gas leaf blowers pollute our air, are harmful to its users, and are a noisy disturbance in our neighborhoods. In 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law AB 1346, which bans the sale of gas-powered gas leaf blowers and other small off-road engines within California effective January 1, 2024. As the Lafayette Environmental Task Force looks for ways we can transition from gas to electric leaf blowers as a community, residents are encouraged to educate neighbors and local gardeners on the benefits of switching to electric leaf blowers or rakes.

Code Compliance Call (925)299-3279 or email codeenforcement@lovelafayette.org

Electric leaf blower lending program

Have you considered trying an electric leaf blower? Borrow one for free from the City of Lafayette! The city is offering two types of battery-operated leaf blowers for residents to borrow: a handheld blower and a commercial-grade backpack blower.

- Register for the City of Lafayette's free electric leaf blower lending program registering online [here](#) (for the handheld blower), and [here](#) (for the commercial-grade blower). **Registration is free of charge and open to all Lafayette residents 18 years of age or older.**
- Once the leaf blower of interest becomes available, you will be contacted by City of Lafayette staff to coordinate a pick-up time at the Lafayette Community Center. Please be prepared to bring a current government-issued form of identification (e.g. driver's license) to verify age and residence prior to checking out the equipment.
- The **Agreement, Release and Waiver form** must be completed and signed by the pick-up date.
- Take the leaf blower home and try it out for **up to two weeks!**
- The handheld leaf blower kit comes with a cordless 56-volt electric leaf blower (EGO Power+ LB5302, 530 CFM), 2.5 Ah rechargeable battery (EGO Power+ 56V 2.5 Amp hours ARC Lithium-ion battery), standard charger, and educational materials. The battery charger can be plugged directly into a standard household electric outlet.
- The commercial-grade leaf blower kit comes with a cordless 56-volt electric leaf blower (EGO LBPX8006-2, 800 CFM), two rechargeable batteries (EGO Power+ 56V BA5600T 10 amp Hours ARC Lithium-ion batteries), 560W dual port rapid charger, and educational materials. The battery charger can be plugged directly into a standard household electric outlet.
- Return the leaf blower equipment to the Lafayette Community Center on-time, clean, and in good condition.

What are the benefits of battery-powered electric leaf blowing?

While the most eco-friendly way to move debris from pathways or turf is manually with a rake or broom, an electric leaf blower can save time. Compared to gas-powered leaf blowers, you'll experience the benefits of cleaner air, quieter running noise, lower maintenance, and possible cost savings.

1. Cleaner air. Gas leaf blowers combust fossil fuels, and as a result emit a range of hazardous pollutants, including but not limited to carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide (i.e. smog), formaldehyde, and benzene. Breathing

in these exhaust fumes and fine particulates has been linked to higher rates of cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, respiratory disease, neurological disease, and birth defects. Electric leaf blowers are better not only for health reasons but also for the climate because they do not emit these toxic gasses.

2. Quieter noise level. While gas leaf blowers usually run at 80-100 decibels, which often result in hearing loss to its users over sustained exposure, electric leaf blowers run quieter at 60-70 decibels. The models in these kits are specified to max at 65 decibels, which is equivalent to the sound level of a normal conversation.

3. Lower maintenance. Running a cordless leaf blower does require charging the battery between uses, but to run the leaf blower is quite simple since you can turn it on at the touch of a button. Gas leaf blowers, on the other hand, require filling a gas can, tugging on a cord to start, as well as maintaining a gas engine. Carburetor fluids and engine degreasers, are also toxic and require special handling for disposal. The gas engine may also have air filters, fuel filters, spark plugs, and carburetors which need to be maintained and replaced

4. Lighter weight and feel. Handheld Electric leaf blowers are usually 5-10 pounds and vibrate very little. The handheld blower available to borrow weighs 7.4 pounds. However, the commercial-grade backpack blower weighs 16.3 pounds, and with both batteries comes to a total of 32 pounds. In contrast, gas leaf blowers weigh 15-20 pounds, but they vibrate heavily which is harder on the user's body.

5. Cost savings. Generally, gas leaf blowers are more expensive to purchase than electric leaf blowers. However, if you expect to run electric leaf blowers at their highest power setting for most of its use, then you might need several battery packs, which can drive up costs. There are also corded electric leaf blower models on the market, which are much lower in cost to purchase.

6. Powerful. Electric leaf blowers are just as powerful as gas leaf blowers. However, batteries may only last 10-20 mins if you are running at the most powerful setting the entire time. The backpack blower in this kit can last up to 40 minutes on its peak TURBO setting with the two included batteries. A suggested use of a cordless leaf blower is to use it on its lowest setting most of the time, and paired with a manual means (i.e. rake, broom, leaf sweeper) for the harder-to-move debris, such as wet leaves. Corded leaf blowers are just as powerful as gas, except they are limited by the length of one's extension cord!

Tips for successful leaf blowing:

1. A leaf blower is most effective for gathering the bulk of a lawn's leaves into large piles, to be removed with a tarp or by hand. Don't blow debris into your neighbor's yard, onto the street, or into a storm drain. **Don't expect to blow every last leaf off your lawn with a leaf blower.**
2. Wear safety equipment, such as goggles and a mask, if you're planning to operate the equipment in a dusty environment. Keep long hair tied back.

What are features to look for in a battery-powered electric leaf blower?

Power. This can be measured in terms of cubic feet per minute (CFM) and miles per hour (MPH) of the air that is being pushed. If you are wanting a serious blower, you'll want both of these numbers to be high. Gas leaf blower models can run between 350-700 CFM. The handheld blower operates at variable speeds of 250 CFM, 400 CFM, and maxes out at 530 CFM and 110 MPH. The backpack blower kit operates at variable air speeds and maxes at 800 CFM and 190 MPH.

Battery option. This can be measured in ampere hours (Ah) and voltage. The Ah is the amount of amperage/current that the battery can deliver (based on one hour). A higher number means a higher energy charge, which is a good thing. Voltage can be described as the power that pushes the current through the battery. Again, higher the better. The two measurements working together will help you find the watt battery capacity. More wattage means the higher energy capacity of the battery. The handheld blower includes a 56 Volt, 2.5 Ah Lithium-ion battery and standard charger, which will charge the battery from zero to full in 50 mins. The

backpack blower kit includes two 56 Volt, 10.0 Ah Lithium-ion batteries. From zero, the included dual port rapid charger will fully charge the batteries in 160 mins. Both EGO Power+ ARC batteries are compatible with all EGO Power+ equipment and show remaining battery life in 20% increments.

How much do electric leaf blowers cost?

Electric leaf blowers and lawn equipment are growing in popularity. Hardware stores carry corded leaf blowers for as low as \$45. Cordless models can range \$89-400, depending on power and battery capacity. If you're looking to purchase additional batteries, those can sometimes cost \$200-500 alone.

Vouchers to help local professionals

California's Air Resource Board (CARB), in partnership with CALSTART, launched the Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project (CORE) to accelerate the purchase of zero-emission off-road equipment in CA. [Point of sale vouchers](#) are now available for small business landscape professionals to purchase discounted zero-emission lawn mowers, blowers, or other equipment. Here's how to participate: <https://californiacore.org/how-to-participate-professional-landscape/>

Gas leaf blower recycling

As long as there is no gas in the gas leaf blowers, you can retire your leaf blower at the following locations for free:

- Concord Recycling Center <https://concordrecyclingcenter.com/recyclables.php>
- Rapid Recycle <https://rapidrecycle.net/>

Battery recycling

Improper disposal of batteries can cause fires, putting people and property at risk. Make sure to drop off your old batteries for free at a location near you (e.g. Home Depot, Lowes, Staples) or contact [CalRecycle](#) via 1-877-723-1297 to learn alternative ways to recycle batteries.

Support

Questions or problems with your leaf blower kit, please reach out to our Lafayette staff at (925) 284-2232 or recreation@lovelafayette.org.

Electrification Resources

Interested in more electrification opportunities for your home or business? Visit <https://electrifynow.net/> and Lafayette's Electrification web page at <https://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/environmental-task-force/building-electrification>



**CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**

Prepared for:
City Council Study Session

March 18, 2025

Electric Powered Lawn Care Hand Tools

Today's Discussion

1

Background

2

Type of Tools

3

Ordinance
Components

4

Mitigation and
Offsets

Background

State Legislature Findings

- Gasoline-powered and diesel-powered landscaping and other outdoor power equipment emit a host of air pollutants, including, but not limited to:
 - nitrogen oxides
 - particulate matter
 - carbon dioxide
- Air pollutants contribute to climate change and negatively impact public health.

State Legislature Findings (Cont'd)

- An EPA calculation shows gas-powered mowers contribute five percent of United States air pollution and estimates indicate more than 17,000,000 gallons of fuel, mostly gasoline, is spilled each year while refueling lawn equipment
- US Department of Transportation data shows that in 2018, Americans used nearly 3,000,000,000 gallons of gasoline running lawn and garden equipment, equivalent to the annual energy use of more than 3,000,000 homes

State Legislature Findings (Cont'd)

- One hour of running a gas lawnmower can contribute as much smog-forming pollution as driving a passenger car 300 miles
- One hour of running a gas leaf blower can contribute as much smog-forming pollution as driving a passenger car 1,100 miles
- Small gas engines used in lawn and garden equipment can cause asthma, hearing loss, and other health issues, especially for workers who regularly use them
- The Washington State legislature has found that the technology and consumer markets are ready for the transition to cleaner, all-electric lawn and garden equipment.

City of Bainbridge Island Actions

- In 2023, gas-powered vegetation management equipment accounted for 3% of emissions from City government operations and 6,500 gallons of fuel per year
- In 2023, the City transitioned its gas-powered leaf blowers, string trimmers, hedge clippers, pole saws, and lawn edgers to electric.

Other City Adoption

- Cities in 26 states and the District of Columbia have restricted or prohibited the use of some type of gas-powered lawn tools

Source: TexPIRG

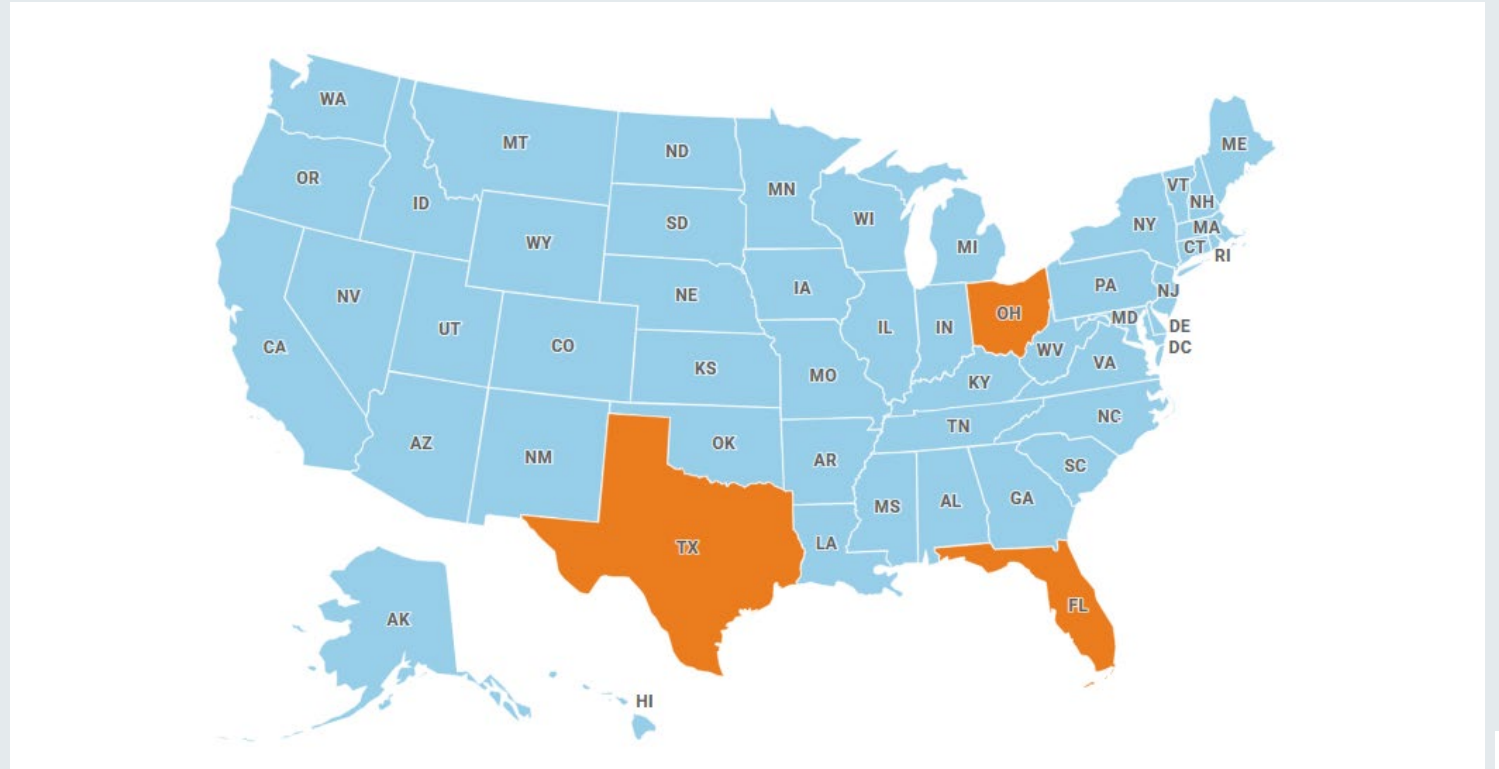
State Prohibitions

- Three states have enacted laws prohibiting local governments from imposing bans on gas-powered equipment

Florida

Ohio

Texas



Other City of Bainbridge Island Climate Change Actions

- Heat Pump Program
- Vehicle Fleet Electrification
- Electric Vehicle Charging Facilities
- Electric Vehicle Ready Development Standards
- Home Compostable Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance
- Ted Spearman Justice Center Carbon Offset

Types of Tools

Leaf Blower

Electric vs Gas Powered Decibel Test



Other Tools

Hedge Trimmers

Lawn Edgers

Non-riding Lawn Mowers

String Trimmers



Ordinance Components

Restriction Options

- Blanket restriction for tools under a certain horsepower
- Specific Tools:
 - Leaf Blowers
 - Hedge Trimmers
 - Lawn Edgers
 - Non-riding Lawn mowers
 - String trimmers

Enforcement Options

- Property Owners
- Users

Timeline Options

- 12 Months
- 18 Months
- 24 Months

Mitigation and Offsets

Options

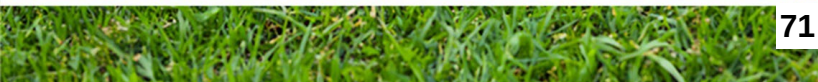
- Equipment Lending
- Vouchers



 Residential *Electric*
Lawn & Garden
EQUIPMENT
Rebate Program

Get up to \$250 per Equipment
When You Replace Your Old, Polluting Lawn and Garden Equipment with Electric Models

Purchase up to 3 lawn and garden equipment in store or online and get up to \$250 cash back per equipment.



Thank you



**CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**

Submitted by:
Executive Department

March 18, 2025