

AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION March 20, 2024

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
5:15 PM - Regular Meeting**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members**
- 2. Approval of Agenda** (No Public Comment)
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.A February 21, 2024 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
- 4. New Business**
 - 4.A Arbor Day Tree Giveaway Program Expansion Proposal
- 5. Unfinished Business**
 - 5.A Comprehensive Plan Update
 - 5.B Sustainability Energy Plan Strategies
- 6. Bicycle Advisory**
 - 6.A Bike Month Event Discussion
 - 6.B Bicycle Friendly Community Report Card
 - 6.C Correspondance from Devorah Greenspan
- 7. Citizen Comment**
- 8. Staff Update/Discussion Items**
- 9. Adjournment**



For more information on the Environmental Commission, contact Planner Laura Wilson at 509-962-7235.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting

February 21, 2024

Time of Meeting

5:15 PM

Place of Meeting

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Christina Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Christina Wollman, Jean Marie Linhart, Jess Black, Raven Harlin, Brenda Devore

Absent: Kristine Steinkoenig, Aaron Peterson

Also Present: Jeremy Johnston-Planning Manager; Laura Wilson-Planner; Kathy Boots-Planning Technician; Nichole Baker-Sustainability & Energy Coordinator; Lily Frey-Housing & Grant Administrator; Chuck Doan-Building Official; Derek Mayo-City Engineer; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey-City Manager; Josh Mattson-Assistant City Engineer; Ryan Lyyski-Public Works Director; Nancy Lillquist-City Council liaison

2. Chair & Vice Chair Election

Laura Wilson opened the floor for nominations.

Christina Wollman nominated herself for Chair. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

Jean Marie Linhart nominated herself for Vice Chair. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Agenda

No change in the agenda. The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.A Regular Meeting Minutes December 20, 2023

Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the December 20, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

4.B January 17, 2024, Meeting Cancelled, No Quorum

5. Citizen Comment

None

6. Staff Update/Discussion Items

City staff that were present introduced themselves. Brenda DeVore introduced herself as a new member of the Commission.

6.A Comprehensive Plan Update

Jeremy Johnston discussed the City Comprehensive Plan update that is due in 2026. There will either be a new chapter or section under the Environment chapter to address climate resiliency. Johnston will send out the current chapter to the Commission members for review of goals and policies with a 20-year vision. Public participation will start in June. He would like to come back in March to get feedback.

6.B Washington State Energy Code Update

Chuck Doan, the Building Official, discussed the upcoming 2021 building code adoption. He reviewed possible changes to multifamily units, electric space heating, thermal envelope, and the location of water heaters. The state will have a 40-50% reduction in carbon usage, but it has to be at 70% by 2030. The amount of energy credits required will increase, so more solar and extra insulation may be a route owners use to achieve the credits needed.

6.C Sustainability & Energy Plan Update

Nichole Baker and Heidi Behrends-Cerniwey discussed the Sustainability & Energy Plan. The plan was adopted through a resolution by the City Council in January 2024. A Commission member had suggested adding a Regional Transportation section to the plan, which was successful. This Commission will have oversight over the plan, but there is uncertainty about how the plan will be implemented. This will be a new role for the Commission that will be developed with the help of the City Manager. Members would like to be informed about how other communities are implementing their energy plans. Proposals will be brought back to the Commission so that strategies can be prioritized. A work plan will be developed.

7. New Business

7.A Set 2024 Meeting Dates

The 2024 meeting dates for the third Wednesday of the month does not conflict with any holidays and will remain the same.

8. Bicycle Advisory

8.A Wayfinding/Guide Signs

Josh Mattson discussed the way finding signs on the shared use pathways. The look of the signs and spacing were contemplated. The members would like to see signs at the intersections to the pathway. The trails have been added to the great American rail trail website and google.

8.B Downtown On-Street Bicycle/Motorcycle Parking

Josh Mattson asked for the Commission's opinions on removing bicycle parking in seven identified parking spots in the downtown. The spots are narrow and not used. Four of the parking spots will be opened up for vehicle parking. The signs for the three parking spots will be changed from motorcycle/biking to motorcycle/atv.

8.C Bicycle Friendly Community Status

Nancy Lillquist stated she would like to work regularly on implementing

changes so that when the next application is due in three years, the City can achieve gold status as previously discussed. A plan will be developed at a future meeting.

9. Adjournment

Christina Wollman will be unable to attend the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Arbor Day Program Expansion

Environmental Commission 3/20/2024

New York Arbor Day, 1908 #3 is a photograph by Granger which was uploaded on July 7th, 2016.



Arbor Day History



1872
First Arbor Day



1920
45 States/Territories
Celebrate



1982
Ellensburg Initiates
Giveaway Program



1983 - 1st in WA

TREE CITY USA
An Arbor Day Foundation Program



City of
Ellensburg
WASHINGTON

Existing Program

Eligibility

- City of Ellensburg resident
- Planting space within ROW

Process

- Two staff site visits
- Voucher awarded to resident
- Resident picks up tree(s) at participating nurseries

Support

- Street Division funded
- Stormwater Utility staffed
- \$150/tree

Proposed Expanded

Staff Recommendation

- Non-ROW areas
- Private, residential zones
- City of Ellensburg resident

Benefits

- Community participation
- Carbon sequestration
- Carbon storage
- Clean air
- Stormwater management

Support

- SEP, UTCA
- Stormwater Utility funding
- Existing program staff

Benefits: Carbon Sequestration & Storage

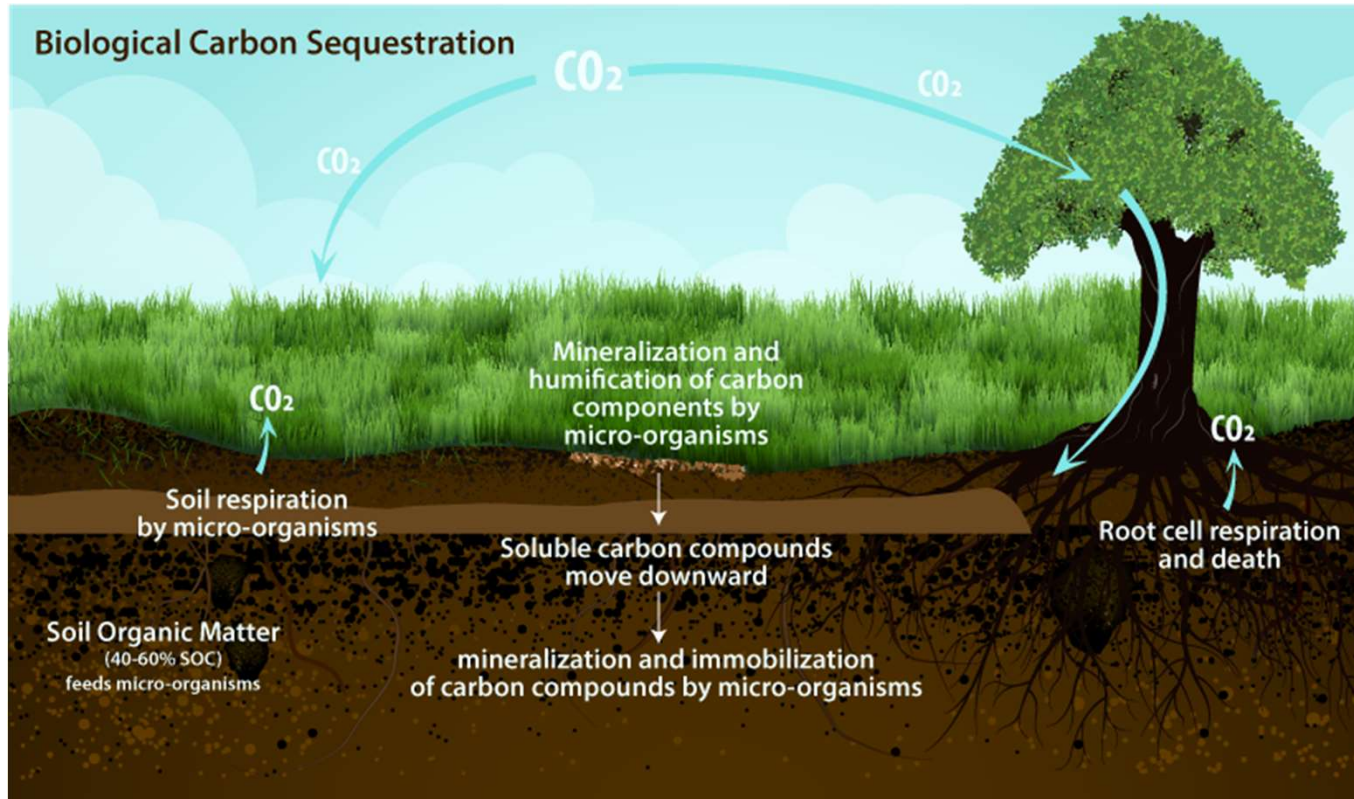


Photo credit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov>

Clean Air

- Absorbs pollutants
- Produces oxygen

Stormwater

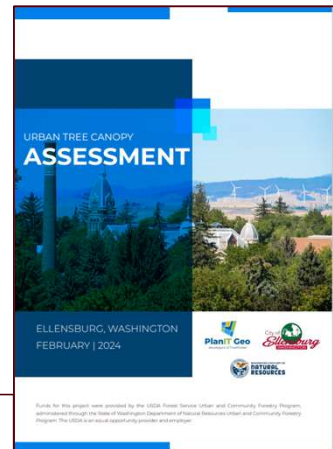
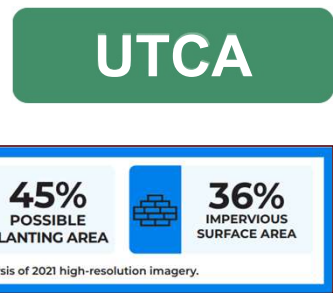
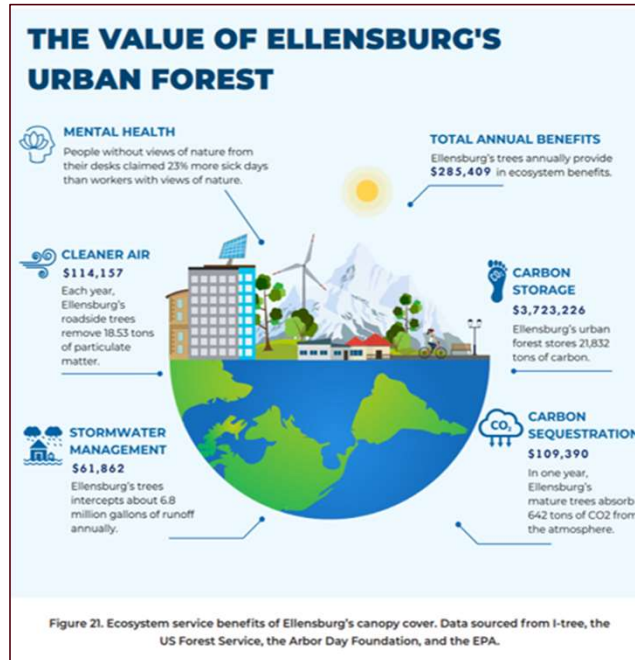
- Stabilizes soil
- Slows down water
- Absorbs water
- Intercepts rainfall

Other Benefits

- Reduces heating & cooling cost
- Wildlife habitat
- Aesthetics
- Community

Supporting Documents

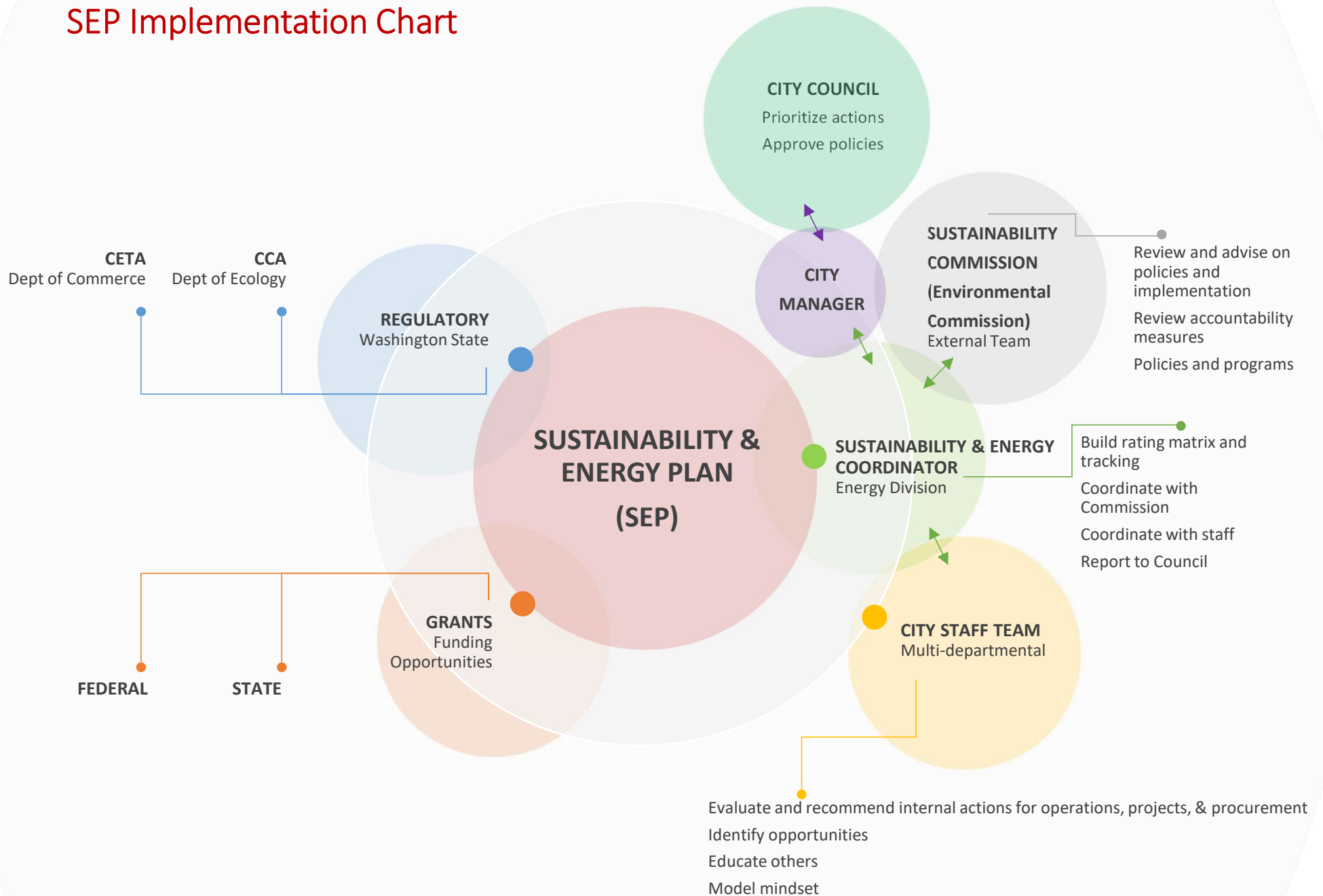
Energy	SEP	
Green Buildings	 SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY PLAN City of <i>Ellensburg</i> WASHINGTON 2024	
Transportation		
Water		
Land Use	Land Use	L-1.5



Identify spaces for dedicated green space and tree canopy cover to promote climate resilience and carbon sequestration	
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Recommendation 3: 1,300+ acres of plantable space on residential zoned lands.

SEP Implementation Chart



BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY REPORT CARD



Ellensburg, WA



Award: Silver | Spring 2023

Award History:
Silver since 2015.

Ellensburg's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **0**
of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
of Local League Cycling Instructors: **1**
Washington's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#3**

Community Profile

Population: 20,970
Area: 8 square miles
Population Density: 2621 people/square mile
Land Classification:
Mixed Urban/Suburban
Poverty Rate: 28%*
Median Household Income: \$43,567*
Percent of the Population that Speaks a
Language Other Than English at Home: 9.6%*
Percent with Disability: 11.5%*
Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 8.2%*
*Source: <https://data.census.gov/profile?g=160XX00US5321240>

Ellensburg's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:
<https://www.bikemap.net/en/I/5793639/>
Bike Plan, if available:
<https://ci.ellensburg.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/527/NMT-Plan-Final?bidId=>

The 5 Es Category Scores	Ellensburg	Max Score this round
Engineering	27%	53%
Education	21%	56%
Encouragement	30%	68%
Evaluation & Planning	28%	42%
Equity & Accessibility	9%	37%

Percentages shown above are the points received out of total points available in that category. See pages 2-3 for Ellensburg's subcategory points earned within each Category.

Key Outcomes

Overall Commuter Ridership: 1.1%

Male Commuter Ridership: 2.1%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0%

(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)

Bicycle Mode Share: unknown

(Reported by applicant)

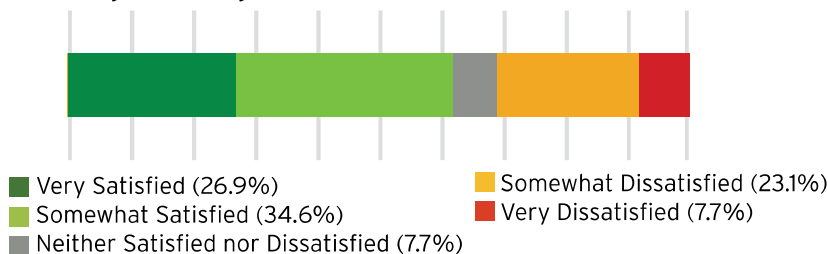
Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 7.6

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0

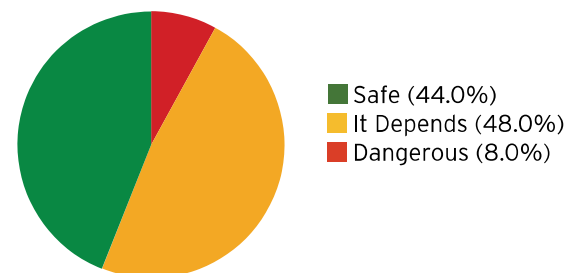
(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Spring 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Ellensburg, WA

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 26)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 25)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 26)

1. More bike paths (26.9%)
2. More bike lanes (23.1%)
3. Improve markings and signage that direct people to safe bike routes (15.4%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Ellensburg in the Spring 2023 Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) submission round. These scores reflect a combination of automatically-generated points earned through the online application, as well as judge-assigned points and bonus points given by BFC reviewers.

The League updated its Bicycle Friendly Community application and awards criteria in the Summer of 2022, after nearly a year of research, focus groups, interviews, listening sessions, and other outreach. The updated application includes a new section on Equity and Accessibility, and other changes throughout. As such, **this Bicycle Friendly Community Report card is a beta version** as we refine our new scoring system and develop a greater understanding of how to convey new information.

All Spring 2023 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are significant changes to the points system after the next round of BFC applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

ENGINEERING	<i>Ellensburg earned 27% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ellensburg earned in each subcategory of the Engineering section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Ellensburg's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	10 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	12 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	26 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	13 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	9 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 21 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	2 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	14 / 23 pts
	Engineering Bonus Points	3 / 10 pts

EDUCATION	<i>Ellensburg earned 21% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ellensburg earned in each subcategory of the Education section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Ellensburg's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	15 / 69 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	16 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	6 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	2 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	1 / 26 pts
	Education Bonus Points	2 / 7 pts

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Ellensburg earned 30% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ellensburg earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Ellensburg's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	3 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	5 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	31 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	8 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	1 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	2 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Ellensburg earned 28% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ellensburg earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Ellensburg's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	11 / 40 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	6 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	10 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	15 / 24 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	4 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	14 / 42 pts
	Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	1 / 7 pts

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Ellensburg earned 9% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ellensburg earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Ellensburg's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	4 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 12 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	2 / 31 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	7 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	0 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	4 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	7 / 58 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1 / 9 pts



Ellensburg, WA

Award: Silver | Spring 2023 | Award History: Silver since 2015.

FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

To maintain and improve on Ellensburg's Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community award, BFC Reviewers recommend...

- » Congratulations on adopting the 2020 Active Transportation Plan! Ensure that there is dedicated funding for the implementation of all types of bicycle infrastructure recommended by the new plan.
- » Develop a design manual that meets current NACTO standards or adopt the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide, as a higher standard than your current adopted guidance. (For example, amend your Complete Streets ordinance to specify use of NACTO design resources under 4.05.050 "Design criteria.") This will make it easier for city staff to propose and implement bicycle facility designs that have been shown to improve conditions for people who bike in other cities throughout the United States.
- » Continue to expand the bike network and increase connectivity through the use of different types of bicycle facilities appropriate for the speed and volume of motor vehicle traffic on each road. On roads where automobile speeds regularly reach or exceed 35 mph, it is recommended to provide protected bicycle infrastructure such as protected bike lanes/cycle tracks, buffered bike lanes or parallel 10ft wide shared-use paths. In slower speed areas such as quiet neighborhood streets, develop a system of bicycle boulevards that create an attractive, convenient, and comfortable cycling environment welcoming to cyclists of all ages and skill levels.
- » Consider launching a bike share system that is open to the public. Bike sharing is a convenient, cost effective, and healthy way of encouraging locals and visitors to make short trips by bike, make bicycling more accessible to all, and to bridge the 'last mile' between public transit and destinations.
- » Improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages by incorporating more on-bicycle education opportunities and by expanding the program to all K-12 schools. Providing bicycles in schools for on-bike education -- including adaptive bikes for students with disabilities -- ensures that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household. Work with the school district, local bicycle groups, and interested parents to expand and improve the Safe Routes to School program.
- » Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar or sponsoring a City staffer or local bike advocate to attend an existing seminar elsewhere. Having several active instructors in the area will enable you to expand cycling education for youth and adults, recruit more knowledgeable cycling ambassadors, deliver Bicycle Friendly Driver education to motorists, and have experts available to assist in encouragement programs.
- » Develop education and encouragement outreach methods and programs that specifically target families, women, seniors, low-income, and non-English speaking communities, in addition to general non-targeted outreach and media campaigns that discuss current and new bicycle facilities, safe driver and bicyclist behavior, and events related to walking and biking.
- » Encourage more local businesses, agencies, and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business program. City Hall or other municipal buildings could apply to the BFB program as an employer to lead by example among other local employers.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY REPORT CARD



Ellensburg, WA

Award: Silver | Spring 2023 | Award History: Silver since 2015.

FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Develop a community-wide trip reduction ordinance/program, commuter incentive program, and a Guaranteed Ride Home program to encourage and support bike commuters in Ellensburg.
- » Increase the amount of staff time spent on improving conditions for people who bike and walk, either by creating a new dedicated position or expanding the responsibilities of current staff. Ensure that this position is well supported with training and professional development opportunities to stay up-to-speed on the latest best practices and safety guidelines for bicycle planning, outreach, and infrastructure.
- » It's great that your community already has a Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) that meets monthly. Consider how to expand the diversity of roles and representatives who sit on the committee, and ensure that the members of the committee reflect the full range and ability levels of cyclists in your community.
- » Collect more socioeconomic and demographic data as it relates to current transportation habits and patterns, and establish equity-related indicators to inform future prioritization and budgeting processes for your community.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-Sp23>
- » **League of American Bicyclists:** <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/community>
- » **Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community:** https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources
- » **About the BFC Application Process:** <https://bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process>
- » **The Five E's:** <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » **The League's Benchmarking Project on Biking and Walking Data and Reports:** <https://data.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly State Rankings and Report Cards:** <https://bikeleague.org/state>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/university>
- » **Smart Cycling Education Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » **Advocacy Reports and Resources from the League:** <http://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » **Federal Funding Resources from the League:**
<https://bikeleague.org/take-action/policy-advocacy/federal-policy/federal-resources/>
- » **Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities from U.S. DOT Transit, Safety, and Highway Funds:**
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf
- » **U.S. DOT Navigator:** <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

Laura Wilson

From: vagabondtoo@msn.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:16 PM
To: Laura Wilson
Subject: [Ext] bicycles

CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL: The email below is from an external source. Please exercise caution before opening attachments, clicking links, fulfilling requests, or following guidance.

March 6, 2024

Hello Ellensburg Environmental commission,

Bicycles are environmentally friendly means of transport. However there are a few traffic issues I would like to call to your attention. I had to pick the most "suitable" committee here.

1) Water Street, last year was only partially resurfaced. There is this uneven overlay between new and old surfaces intersecting in the bicycle lanes.

2) In conjunction with bicycle lane signage: "Dooring" is becoming a greater issue as Ellensburg grows and bicyclists ride closer to parked cars. I suggest signage reminding drivers with a graphic showing a car door opening and hitting a bicyclist. Tinted windows are a hazard in this respect.

3) This point overlaps with the county: A simple four way stop signs at Dry Creek and Reecer Creek. Stop signs are low maintenance. Some courteous drivers on Reecer Creek already stop for cyclists crossing at Dry Creek.

Spring will be here soon. Get out and ride!
Devorah Greenspan
Ellensburg

Laura Wilson

From: Derek Mayo
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:26 AM
To: Laura Wilson; Josh Mattson
Cc: Nancy Lillquist
Subject: RE: [Ext] bicycles

Laura and Nancy,

Thanks for forwarding this to us. Josh and I briefly discussed, see brief comments below in red text. Let us know if you would like further detail and/or explanation, or if we are needed to attend a future EC meeting.

Thanks,
Derek

From: Laura Wilson <wilsonl@ci.ellensburg.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:37 PM
To: Josh Mattson <mattsonj@ci.ellensburg.wa.us>; Derek Mayo <mayod@ci.ellensburg.wa.us>
Cc: Nancy Lillquist <lillquistn@ci.ellensburg.wa.us>
Subject: FW: [Ext] bicycles

Josh and Derek,

I reached out to Nancy already and this will go on the March EC meeting agenda. She recommended it also be forwarded to you.

Laura J. Wilson
(509)962-7235
wilsonl@ellensburgwa.gov

From: vagabondtoo@msn.com <vagabondtoo@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:16 PM
To: Laura Wilson <wilsonl@ci.ellensburg.wa.us>
Subject: [Ext] bicycles

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March 6, 2024

Hello Ellensburg Environmental commission,

Bicycles are environmentally friendly means of transport. However there are a few traffic issues I would like to call to your attention. I had to pick the most "suitable" committee here.

1) Water Street, last year was only partially resurfaced. There is this uneven overlay between new and old surfaces intersecting in the bicycle lanes. **Water St. was recently chip sealed, and we stopped the chip seal short of the bike lanes, as the chip sealed surfaces are a little rougher and more difficult for cyclists. The lip left between the chip sealed travel lane and the bike lane is fairly minimal (approx. ½" or less).**

2) In conjunction with bicycle lane signage: "Dooring" is becoming a greater issue as Ellensburg grows and bicyclists ride closer to parked cars. I suggest signage reminding drivers with a graphic showing a car door opening and hitting a bicyclist. Tinted windows are a hazard in this respect. **We have reviewed the Manual on**

Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and we were not able to find an approved sign for this. We also have not received reports of dooring incidents on Water Street, but this is always a safety concern that we want both motorists and cyclists to be aware of. Although there is not typical signage, we have seen a few safety slides/exhibits. Sharing these on our social media outlets or including as an insert in utility bills could be an option.

3) This point overlaps with the county: A simple four way stop signs at Dry Creek and Reecer Creek. Stop signs are low maintenance. Some courteous drivers on Reecer Creek already stop for cyclists crossing at Dry Creek. There are specific warrants/guidelines as to when intersections should be converted to all-way stop configurations, that are outlined in the MUTCD. I suspect that the recommended warrants would not be met at this intersection. This intersection is currently outside of the Ellensburg City Limits, so a warrant analysis and determination would fall under the jurisdiction of Kittitas County Public Works. City limits is adjacent to this intersection, so we would be willing to assist the County with these efforts and provide our recommendation, but ultimately this would be their determination to make.

Spring will be here soon. Get out and ride!
Devorah Greenspan
Ellensburg