



From Commitments to Impact: Climate Action at the City of Olympia

Olympia City Council
February 10, 2026



CLIMATE
ACTION AND
RESILIENCE

Presentation Overview

1

**WHAT WE
HAVE
DONE**

**WHAT WE
LEARNED**

2

3

**WHERE WE
ARE GOING**

**WHAT WE
NEED**

4





Olympia has a long history of climate leadership and policy.



...but our youth knew we needed to do more.



The Youth Climate Inheritance Resolution set a goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040.

Since, Olympia has already experienced unprecedented extreme weather events.

A photograph of a city street lined with trees and buildings. A blue semi-transparent banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text. The street scene shows a dark SUV parked on the left, a white car in the distance, and various street signs and traffic lights. The trees are lush green, and the buildings are multi-story with windows.

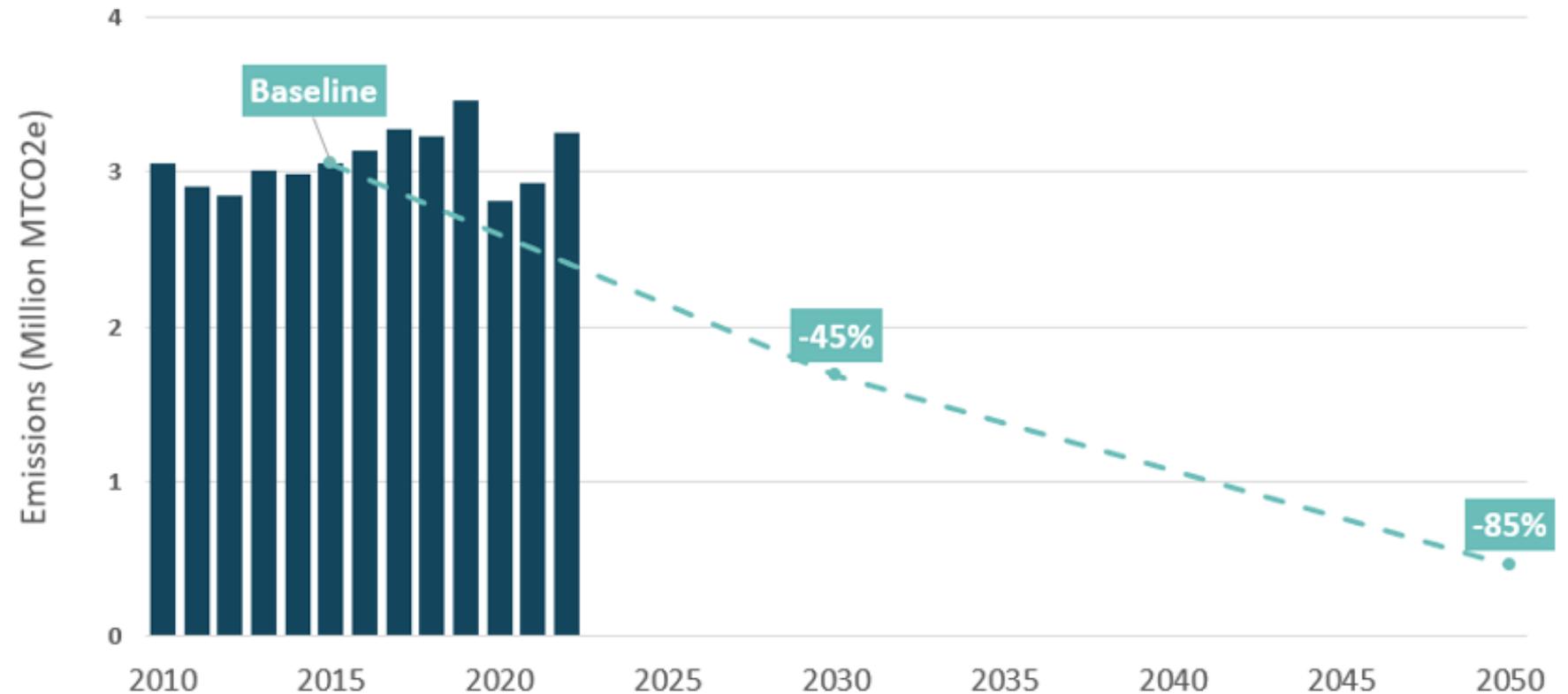
**The 2045 Comprehensive Plan is
our north star as we navigate an
uncertain future.**



Olympians want affordable, equitable, and high-impact climate solutions.

GHG emissions are not yet on track with reduction targets.

Thurston County
GHG Emission Trends
(2015-2022)

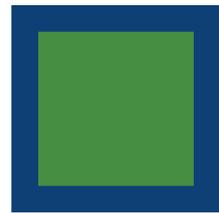


**How do we
get where
we need
to go?**



The Vision

Olympia 2045



Bringing it to Life

Citywide Implementation Plan

Actions to implement the Climate Element
across City departments and focus areas.



Building Blocks to Net Zero

Produce 100%
renewable
energy

Add 17.6 MW of
rooftop solar

Electrify and
improve energy
efficiency in
100% of buildings

Reduce vehicle
miles traveled
20%

Electrify 100% of
passenger
vehicles

Reduce solid
waste
generation 50%



Building Blocks to Resilience

Adapt
infrastructure to
future conditions

Build new
infrastructure to
mitigate sea
level rise

Be prepared
and respond to
climate-
emergencies

Protect public
health from
extreme heat
and smoke

Support
businesses in
adapting to
climate risks

Sustain
community
identity and
events





**WHAT WE
HAVE DONE**



**WHAT WE
HAVE DONE**

Buildings and Energy

Transportation

Land Use

Electric Vehicles

Community Preparedness



Buildings and Energy

Improve efficiency and electrify everything.

ENERGIZE THURSTON

Program Outcomes

Reduce residential energy use, Olympia's number 1 source of GHG emissions.

Provide reliable cooling and heating and reduce energy bills, improving health, safety and comfort.

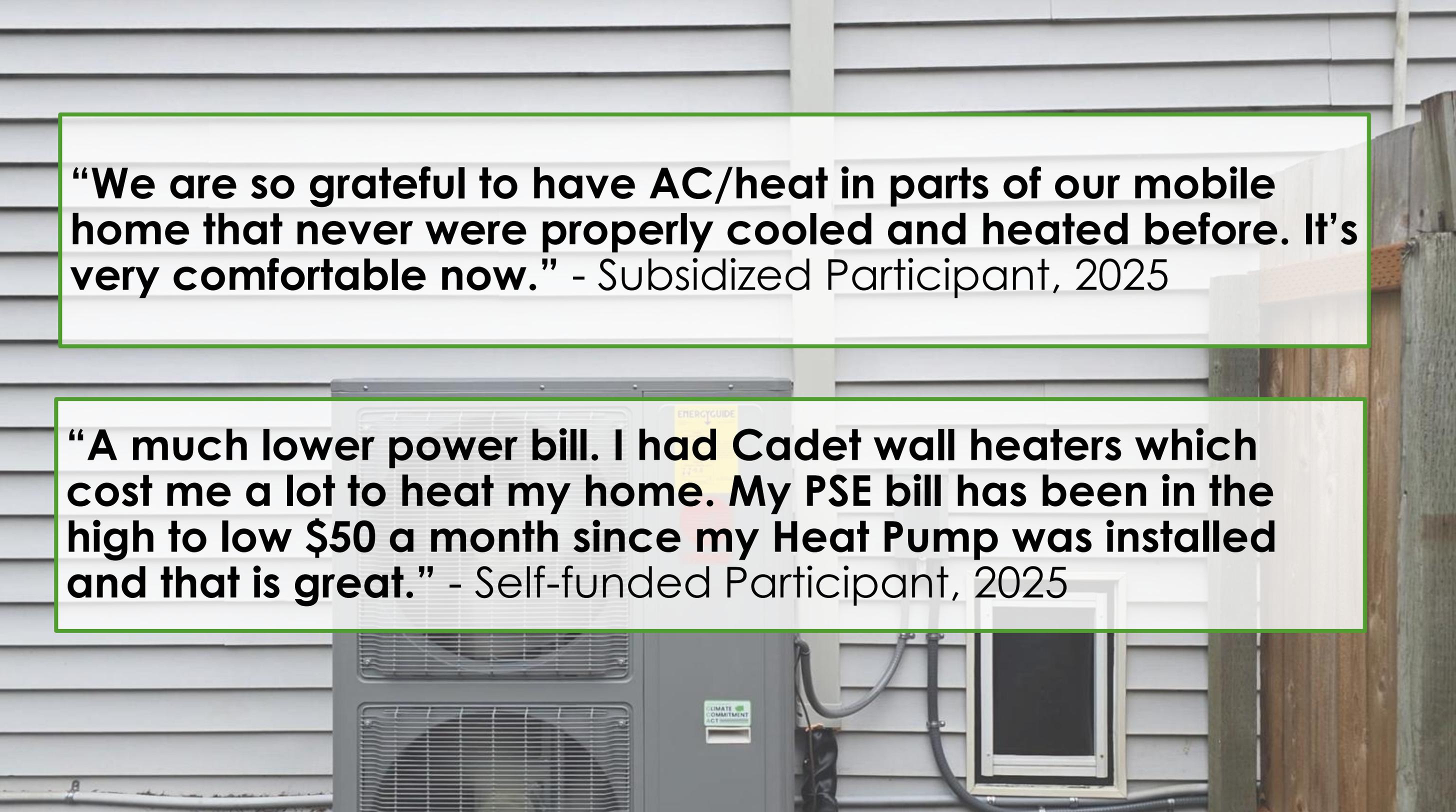
By the Numbers

- 228 heat pumps & 21 heat pump water heaters installed to date
- 139 (61%) subsidized heat pumps installed to date
- 149 households gained access to cooling
- 2,804 metric tons CO₂e reduced over the next 15 year

ENERGIZE THURSTON

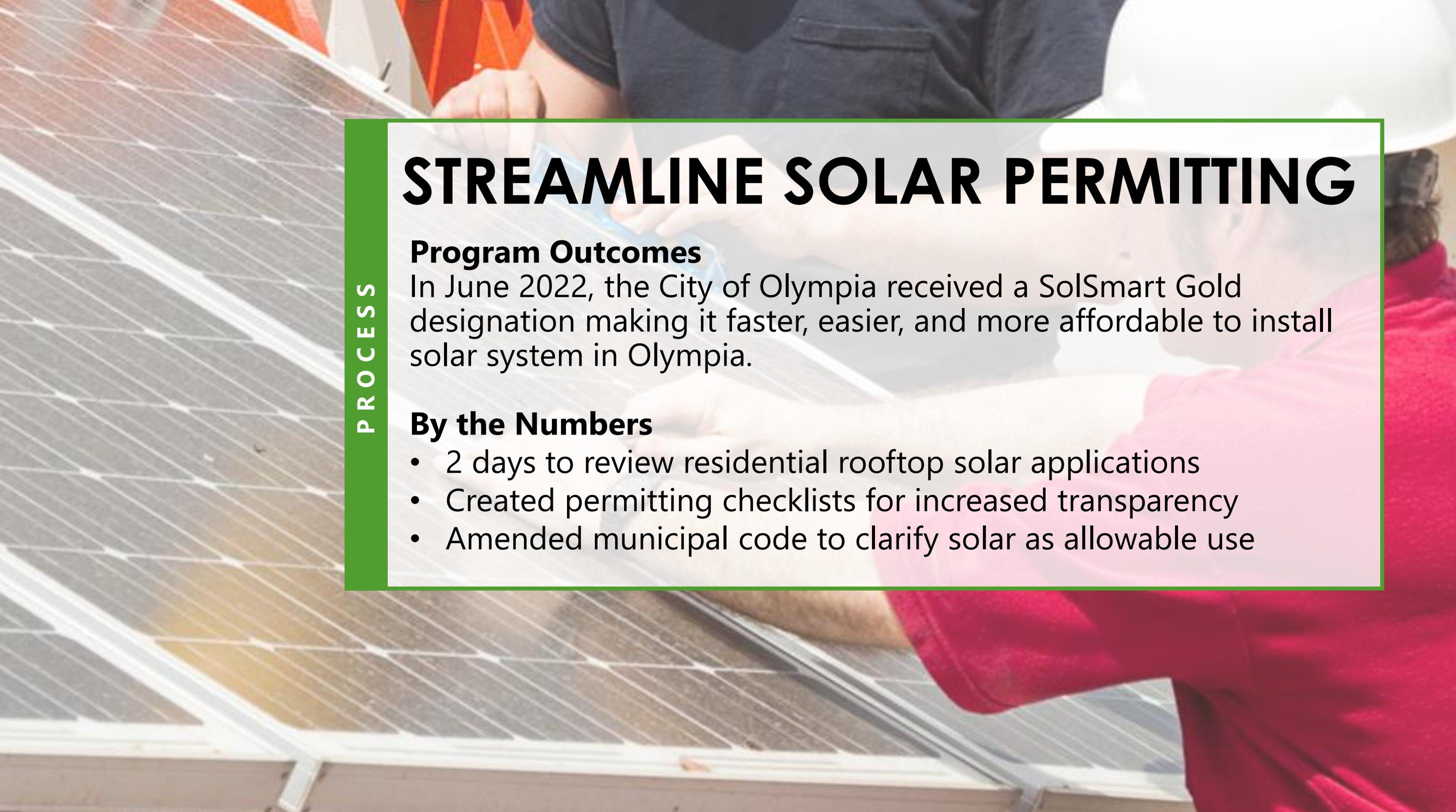
Funding

- **\$214K+** in City Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding invested in the program over the past 3 years
- **\$1.27M+** in state and federal grant funding for heat pump and water heater installations in low- and moderate- income households
- **\$620K+** in additional leveraged savings through program-negotiated discounts, utility rebates and manufacturer incentives

The background image shows the exterior of a mobile home with light-colored horizontal siding. A grey heat pump unit is mounted on the wall, featuring two large circular fans and a yellow 'ENERGYGUIDE' label. To the right of the unit is a window with a white frame. A wooden fence is visible on the far right side of the image.

“We are so grateful to have AC/heat in parts of our mobile home that never were properly cooled and heated before. It’s very comfortable now.” - Subsidized Participant, 2025

“A much lower power bill. I had Cadet wall heaters which cost me a lot to heat my home. My PSE bill has been in the high to low \$50 a month since my Heat Pump was installed and that is great.” - Self-funded Participant, 2025



STREAMLINE SOLAR PERMITTING

Program Outcomes

In June 2022, the City of Olympia received a SolSmart Gold designation making it faster, easier, and more affordable to install solar system in Olympia.

By the Numbers

- 2 days to review residential rooftop solar applications
- Created permitting checklists for increased transparency
- Amended municipal code to clarify solar as allowable use

PROCESS



Land Use

Building neighborhoods that bring people closer to what they need.

STRATEGIC INFILL DEVELOPMENT

Program Outcomes

Direct population growth to urban corridors and designated high-density neighborhood overlay areas, including Downtown, the Capital Mall Triangle, and the Pacific/Martin/Lily Triangle, making best use of existing infrastructure.

What's Next

- Accommodate growth in existing urban areas
- Add up to 3,000 new people in capital mall triangle, with emphasis on low carbon building materials and other GHG emissions reduction measures
- Develop subarea plan for third high-density neighborhood overlay

MIDDLE HOUSING

Program Outcomes

City Council approved code amendments to allow “middle” housing types, increasing density and housing supply, and “unit lot subdivisions”, which promotes home ownership opportunities.

What’s Next

- Promote residential infill in residential neighborhoods
- Add to “pre-approved” Accessory Dwelling Unit plans (2 new and larger ADU plan sets)
- Update subdivision code to be user-friendly and address new state requirements (lot splits)

A photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a person is walking across a crosswalk. The background shows a street with a white SUV, traffic lights, and buildings, including one with a vertical sign that says 'CAPITOL'. A semi-transparent green and blue overlay covers the middle of the image, containing the text 'Transportation' and a subtitle.

Transportation

Making walking, rolling, biking, and taking transit the easy choice

TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT REVENUE

Program Outcomes

In 2023, the City Council passed a 0.1% sales tax to fund pedestrian, bicycle, and other active transportation projects.

By the Numbers

- Approximately \$3.1M is collected annually.

What's To Come

- State and Pacific Avenue pedestrian and bike safety project
- Designated sidewalk repair crew

TRANSIT SIGNAL PRIORITIZATION

Program Outcomes

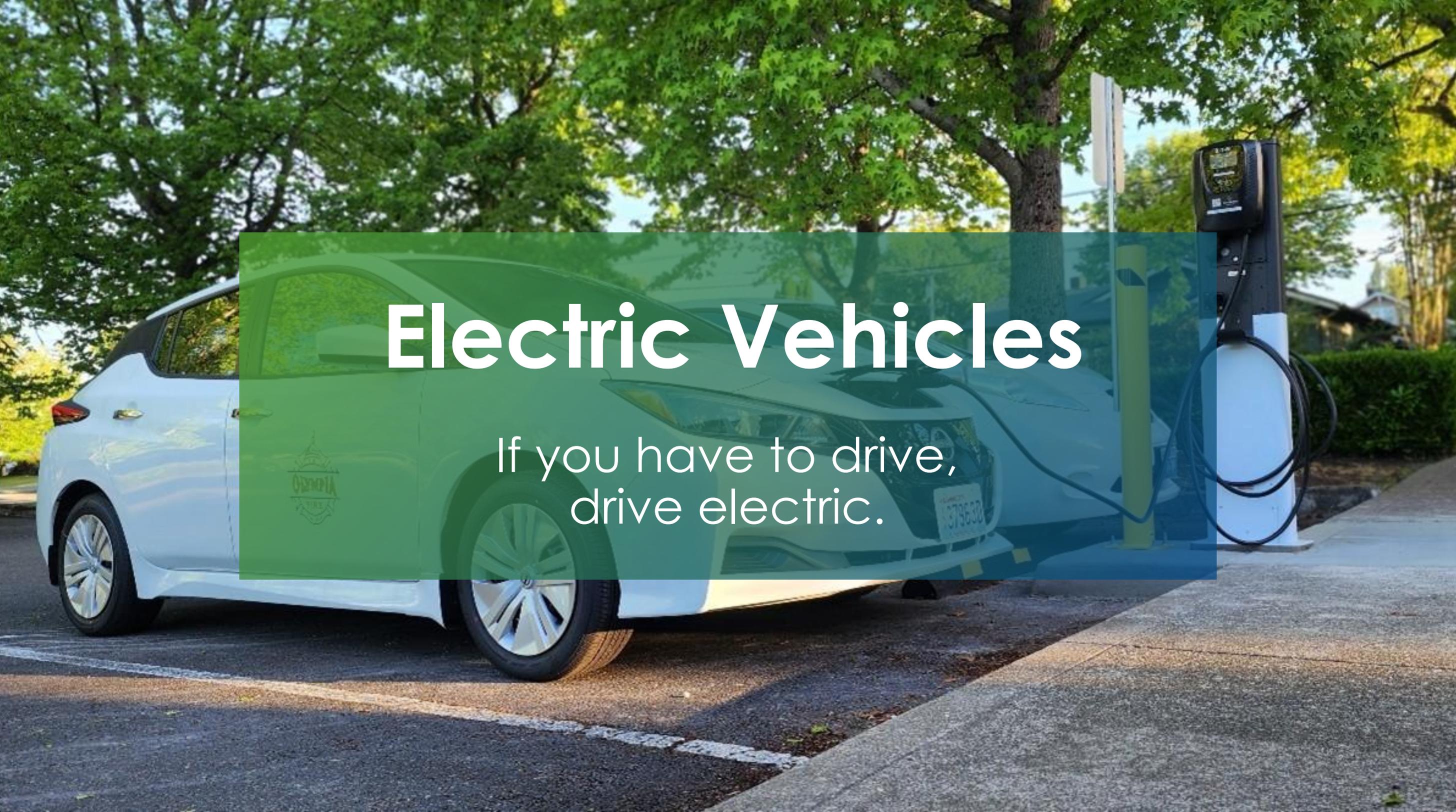
Gives Intercity Transit buses priority and longer green lights on Martin Way, making buses more on time and reliable

Coordinate closely with Intercity Transit and regional transportation planning

What's To Come

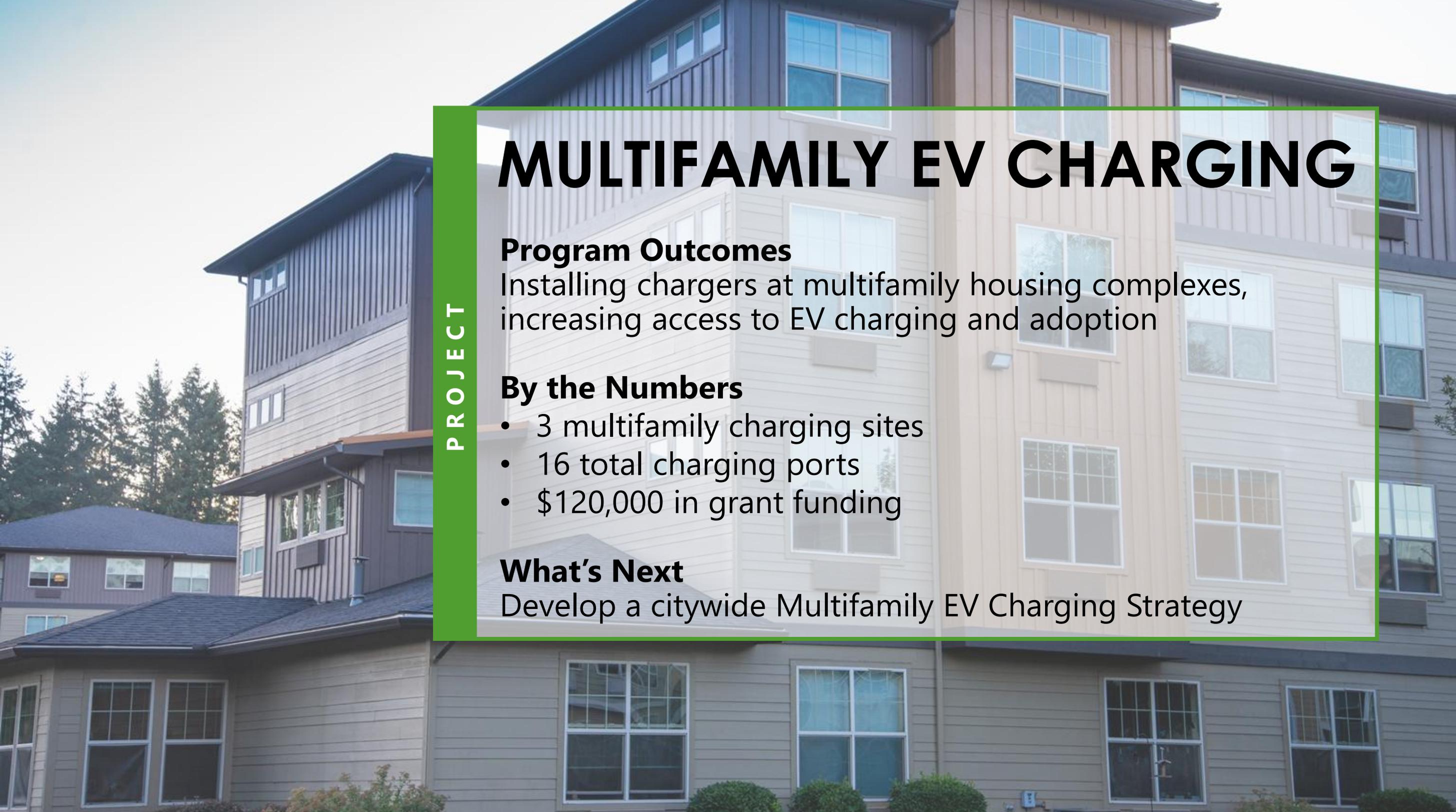
Implementing in-lane bus stops



A white electric car is parked at a charging station. The car is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The charging station is on the right side of the frame. The background consists of lush green trees and a clear sky. A semi-transparent green and blue overlay covers the middle of the image, containing the text.

Electric Vehicles

If you have to drive,
drive electric.



MULTIFAMILY EV CHARGING

Program Outcomes

Installing chargers at multifamily housing complexes, increasing access to EV charging and adoption

By the Numbers

- 3 multifamily charging sites
- 16 total charging ports
- \$120,000 in grant funding

What's Next

Develop a citywide Multifamily EV Charging Strategy

PROJECT

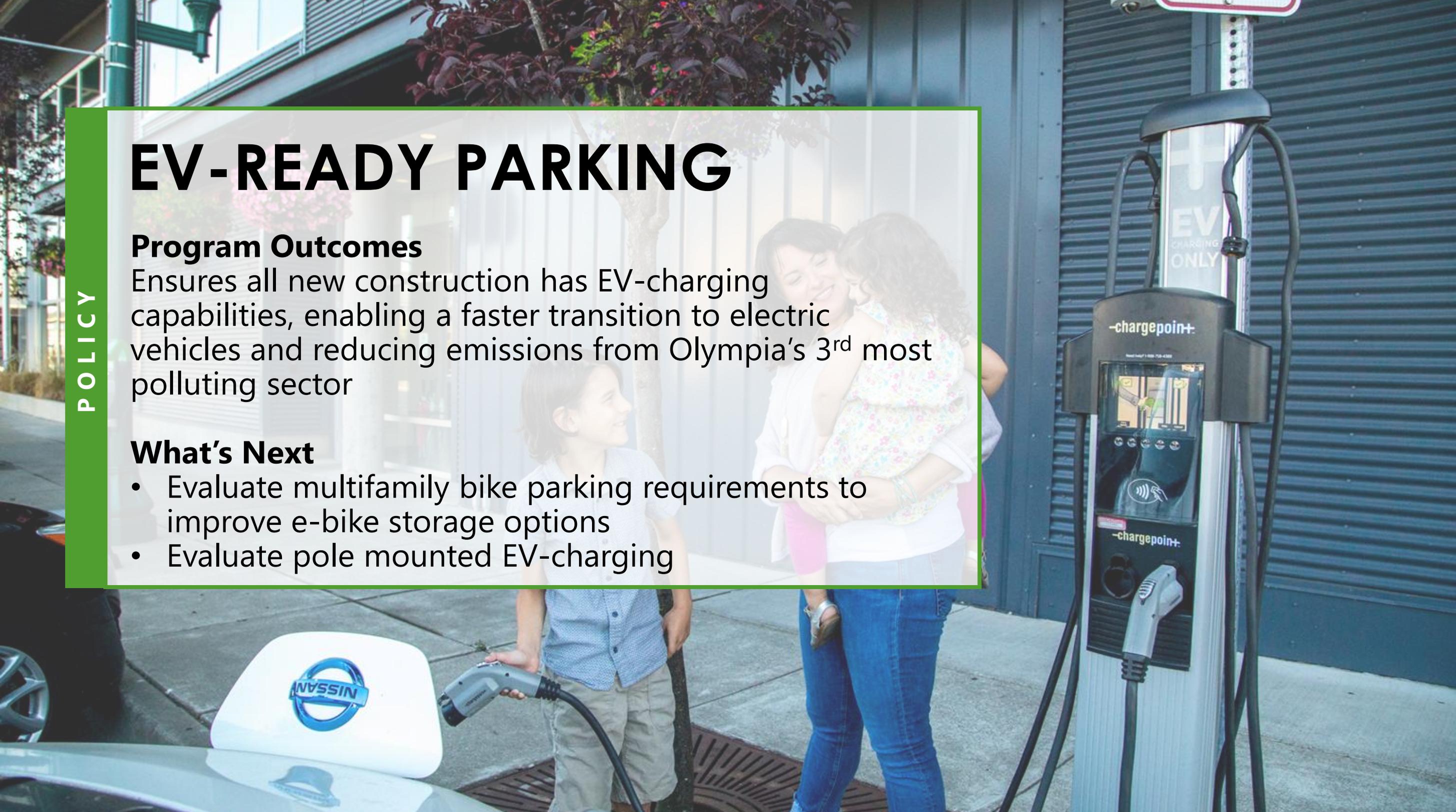
EV-READY PARKING

Program Outcomes

Ensures all new construction has EV-charging capabilities, enabling a faster transition to electric vehicles and reducing emissions from Olympia's 3rd most polluting sector

What's Next

- Evaluate multifamily bike parking requirements to improve e-bike storage options
- Evaluate pole mounted EV-charging



Community Preparedness

Manage the unavoidable.



SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION

Program Outcomes

Reducing flood risks downtown by adapting our infrastructure systems, streamlining emergency response, and planning for future conditions

By the Numbers

- 7 agencies are part of the Sea Level Rise Collaborative
- 6 years of active implementation of the response plan
- 86% of near-term actions completed



POLICY

WILDFIRE AND DROUGHT MAINTENANCE

Program Outcomes

Developed standard operating procedures for brush maintenance in parks, reducing the risk of wildfires

Updated maintenance protocols for street trees to 3 years, increasing tree survival in more extreme conditions

WHAT WE LEARNED

2



**WHAT WE
LEARNED**

2

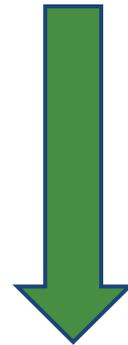


Action over the last 5 years has refined our approach and will lead to future success.

Take initiative, and others will join.

ENERGIZE OLYMPIA

Pilot program



ENERGIZE THURSTON

Regional expansion

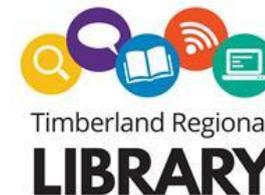


*Accelerate
and scale
with
trusted
partners.*

PREVIOUS AND EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS:



THURSTON CLIMATE MITIGATION COLLABORATIVE





**WHERE WE
ARE GOING**



**WHERE WE
ARE GOING**

Key Projects in Progress:

- Home Energy Score
- SHARE Accelerator
- Climate Resilient Design Guidelines for Capital Projects
- Climate Element Development code updates
- Downton Waterfront Revisioning for sea level rise
- Extreme heat and wildfire smoke preparedness

Explore all our future actions at our website: www.olympiawa.gov/climate





3

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Home Energy Score

Consider a proposed policy to require a Home Energy Score (HES) assessment when a home is listed for sale.

HES is a tool that helps households understand the full cost of home ownership, including energy costs. It provides a whole-home efficiency rating, estimates the home's annual energy costs, and provides a list of recommended upgrades to lower energy bills and make the home more comfortable.





3

**WHERE WE
ARE GOING**

SHARE Accelerator Pilot

Launch the SHARE Accelerator pilot to improve health, safety, and energy efficiency in 10 affordable rental units. The program will provide landlords with technical assistance, project management support, and streamlined access to incentives to accelerate upgrades.

Explore more at <https://www.olympiawa.gov/share>



**WHERE WE
ARE GOING**

Climate Resilient Design Guidelines

Develop guidance to standardize and integrate future climate projections in all capital projects, making our public investments ready for the future.



WHAT WE NEED

4



**WHAT WE
NEED**

4

- Continued support for policy actions
- Predictable and increased funding to scale and sustain programs
- City and community-wide action





Contact

Pamela Braff, PhD

360-753-8249

pbraff@ci.olympia.wa.us