

SUSTAINABLE SAMMAMISH

Practical steps you can take today!

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Sustainability Guide!

Inside this guide, you'll find practical steps you can take to help keep Sammamish a healthy, beautiful, and thriving community for generations to come. We've included ideas for everyone—some are quick, easy, and low-cost, while others may require more time and/or investment. Some actions are best suited for homeowners, while many can be done by renters too. Each action is marked accordingly, so you know which category it fits into. Please see key below. And because sustainability is a family effort, we've added a fun kids page to help younger Sammamish residents get involved and become Sustainability All-Stars! Let's work together to make a lasting impact, starting today.



Beginner Action

Great for kids, low cost of time/money.



Advanced Action

Requires more time or money, bigger effort = bigger reward!



Highest Impact Action

Biggest potential reduction in GHG emissions.



Renter Friendly Action

Do not need to own your home to do!

How is Sammamish Being Impacted by Climate Change?

Sammamish is already feeling the effects of climate change. As greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to rise, our planet is warming—leading to serious local impacts. In Sammamish, we're seeing warmer, drier summers; heavier rainfall and flooding in the winters; and reduced snowpack in the nearby Cascade Mountains. These changes are affecting our local ecosystems, putting stress on our community.

That's why the City of Sammamish created a **Climate Action Plan in 2023** - to reduce emissions, build resilience, and protect the health and well-being of our community now and into the future.

Climate Action Plan

In December 2023, the City of Sammamish adopted its first Climate Action Plan (CAP) to address the multifaceted challenges of climate change. While the City can set precedence, achieving our goals requires collective efforts from all community members.

Sammamish is a proud member of the King County-Cities Climate Collaborative and Eastside Climate Partnership. In alignment with these regional partners and the CAP, the City Council passed Resolution R2023-1000 which set forth ambitious goals, including:

- A 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and a 96% reduction by 2050, using data from 2019 as the baseline.
- A 30% reduction of per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 2030 and 50% by 2050, relative to a 2016 baseline.

Read the full CAP document here:



"Your participation is instrumental in reshaping the energy landscape and in fostering a more sustainable future for Sammamish."

Nick Garson,
Sustainability Commission Chair



Disclaimer: The content of this guide is meant to inform the Sammamish community on ways to make a positive impact on the environment while minimizing negative impacts. The City is not endorsing specific services, rather providing resources for residents' consideration.

Kids, Become a Sammamish Sustainability All-Star!

YOUR MISSION



Light Saver:

Turn off the lights every time you leave a room.



5-Minute Shower Power:

Take a shower in 5 minutes or less!



Draft Detective:

Use your hand to feel around the edges of doors and windows for cold or warm air sneaking in. Report the draft to an adults and work together to fix it.



Energy Saver:

Unplug something that is not being used to save energy.



Food Waste Fighter:

Take only what you eat and save the rest for later. Compost any food waste so that it can turn back to nutritious soil!



EcoRider:

Instead of taking the car, ride your bike, scooter or walk!



Captain Canopy:

Plant a seed in a pot or a tree in the ground and enjoy watching it grow!



SUSTAINABILITY ALL-STAR BADGE



Agent Photo



Agent Fingerprint

AGENT NAME:

☐

TRAINING COMPLETE

1. Sustainable Buildings and Energy

Benefits: Cost savings, GHG emissions reduction.

You can help the environment and save money by going electric and maximizing energy efficiency. Reducing the amount of energy and natural gas used in your home helps cut down the amount of emissions released into the atmosphere. The most impactful way to do this is by installing a heat pump system, which acts as a furnace and air conditioner. A few other things to do include turning off your lights and thermostat when away from home, unplugging appliances that aren't in use, using energy efficient light bulbs, and switching to energy efficient appliances. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has rebates and offers to save on energy efficiency upgrades to your living space.

www.pse.com/en/rebates.

HOA cannot prohibit solar installation, RCW 64.38.055

ACTION: Low Cost Energy Saving Choices

- ☐ Use Natural Ventilation
- ☐ Adjust Thermostat Setting (68 degrees recommended to balance comfort and energy savings)
- ☐ Unplug Unused Electronics
- ☐ Turn Off the Lights
- ☐ Seal Door and Window Drafts 

ACTION: Appliance Conversion

- ☐ Look for EcoLabels
- ☐ Install Smart Thermostats
- ☐ Electrify Natural Gas Appliances 
- ☐ Weatherize with Insulation and Switch to Double-Paned Windows 

ACTION: Clean Energy

- ☐ Support Renewable Energy Programs
- ☐ Try a Home Energy Assessment
- ☐ Try Solar 

"With a long time interest in climate change, I transitioned to cleaner electric heat by installing a Heat Pump. During the last heating season, my personal home heating carbon footprint has been reduced by ~70 percent with a slight decrease in my energy bill."

Steve Christensen,
Sustainability Commissioner

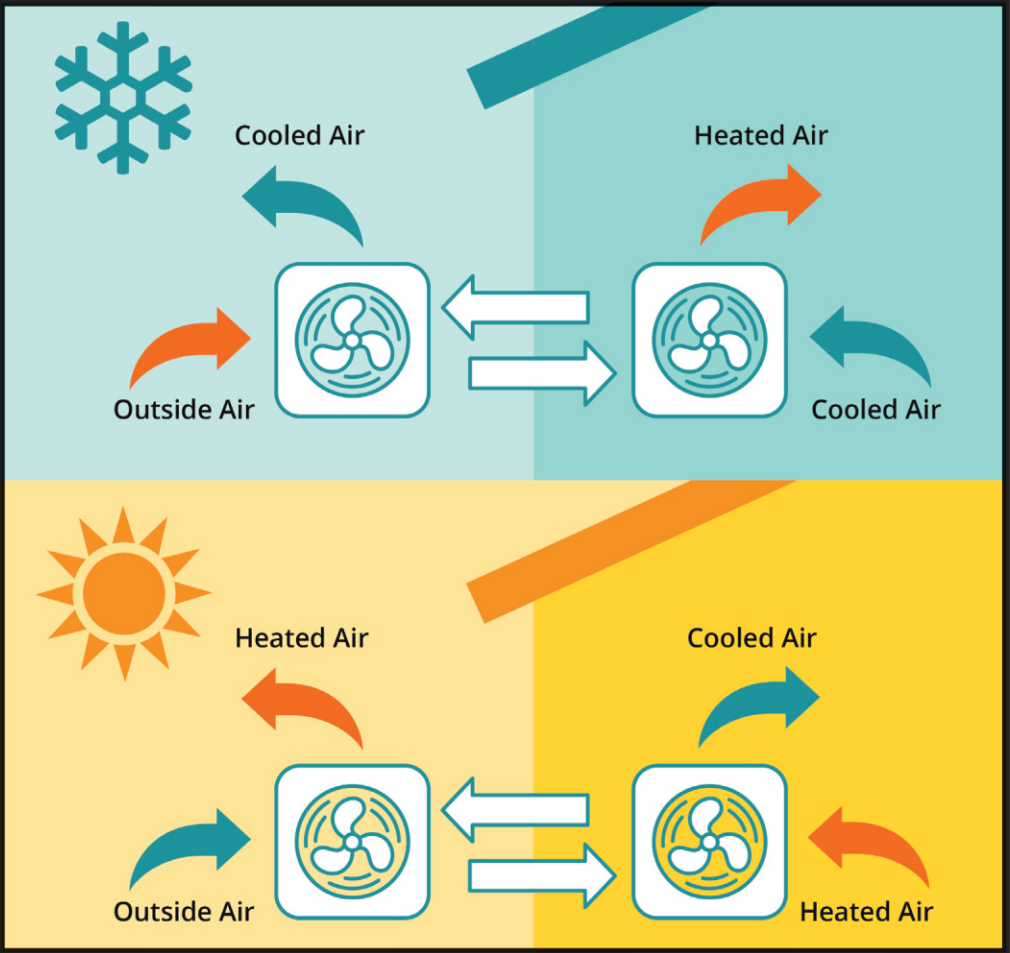




Clean Energy Rebates Resource Guide

Incentive	Rebate Value	Deadline
Electric Heat Pump 	Up to \$8,600 off (Through Energy Smart Eastside plus federal tax credits)	Install by Dec 31, 2025 for tax credits
Rooftop Solar Panels 	Up to 30% of qualifying costs (Check eligibility on the IRS website)	Complete by Dec 31, 2025
Energy Efficiency Projects 	Up to 30% of costs or \$1,200 in federal tax credits (Check eligibility on the IRS website)	Complete by Dec 31, 2025
Disclaimer: Please review details for credits on the IRS clean vehicle and energy website and consult a tax professional to confirm that you qualify for tax rebates. • Federal Form 5695 (Residential Energy Credits) and 8936 (Clean Energy Credits)		

How Does a Heat Pump Work?





2. Sustainable Transportation

Benefits: GHG reduction, first mile/last mile connections, improved health outcomes.

Transportation accounts for nearly half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Washington and nearly 14% in Sammamish. By riding your bike, taking public transit, walking, or carpooling with family, friends and neighbors, you can reduce the amount of GHG emissions created from travel. Walking and biking are also great exercise for long-term personal health.

ACTION: Public Transportation and Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) Alternatives

- ☐ Carpool with Family and Friends 
- ☐ Try Walking or Biking to Work/School 
- ☐ Use Metro Route 269 or Sound Transit Route 554 
- ☐ Park and Ride on the New Light Rail
- ☐ Take Metro Flex or Community Van
- ☐ Set Up a Vanpool with Coworkers or Neighbors

ACTION: Electrification

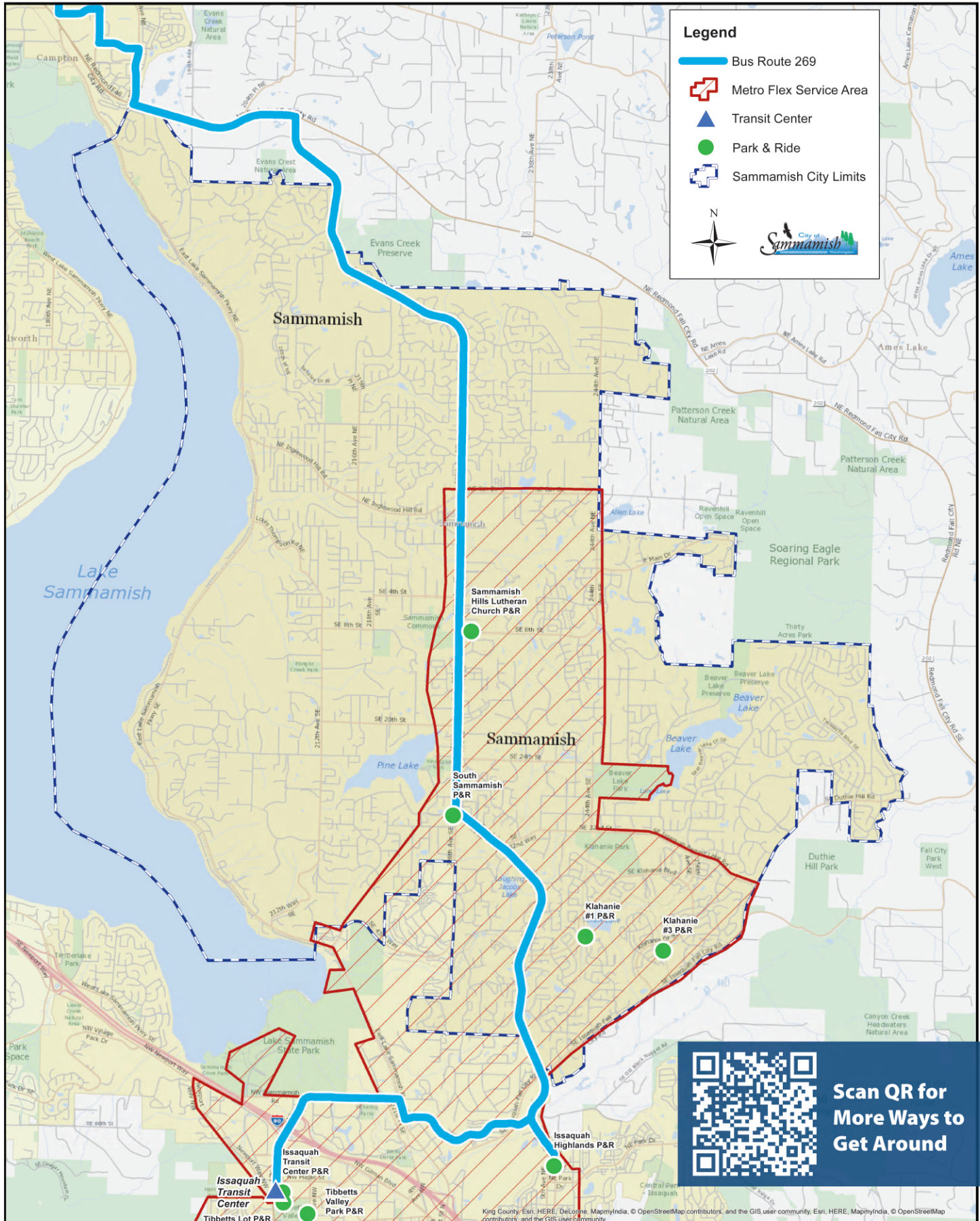
- ☐ Try an Electric or Hybrid Vehicle 
- ☐ Consider an E-Bike or E-Scooter

“People often assume that reducing car use means giving up independence, but it actually opens up new ways to connect with our community and environment.”

*Brian Lee,
Sustainability Commissioner*



Public Transportation in Sammamish



3. Sustainable Natural Resources

Benefits: Ecosystem services, climate resilience, community aesthetics, and health impacts.

Natural resources are materials or resources drawn from nature that support life and meet people's needs. Resources such as native species along with bodies of water, soil, and open space play an essential role in Sammamish. They provide numerous tangible and intangible benefits called ecosystem services to residents, visitors, neighboring communities, and wildlife. This includes improved air and water quality, energy savings, and health and socioeconomic benefits for the Sammamish community.

ACTION: Hands-On Opportunities

- ☐ Volunteer with the City or Other Local Organization
- ☐ Join a Neighborhood or Community Garden.

Scan QR for City Volunteer Opportunities.



ACTION: Native Species

- ☐ Plant Native Species 
- ☐ Replace Your Lawn with Eco-Friendly Ground Covers Like Native Moss or Clover
- ☐ Establish a Pollinator Garden 
- ☐ Use Natural Pest and Weed Control

Scan QR for the Native Plant Guide.

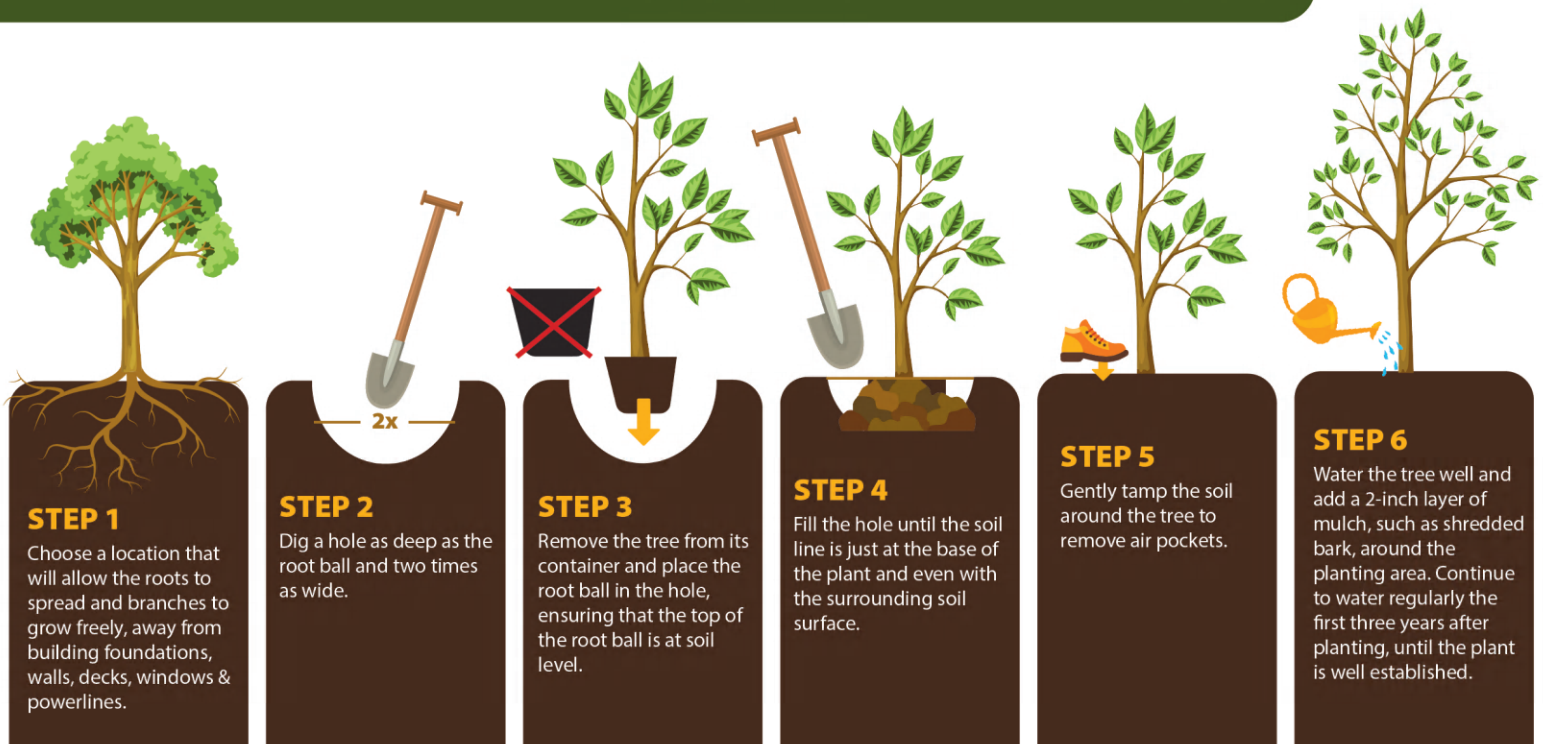


ACTION: Trees

- ☐ Plant in the Fall Season
- ☐ Learn Proper Tree Care Techniques
- ☐ Plan for Enough Space to Grow



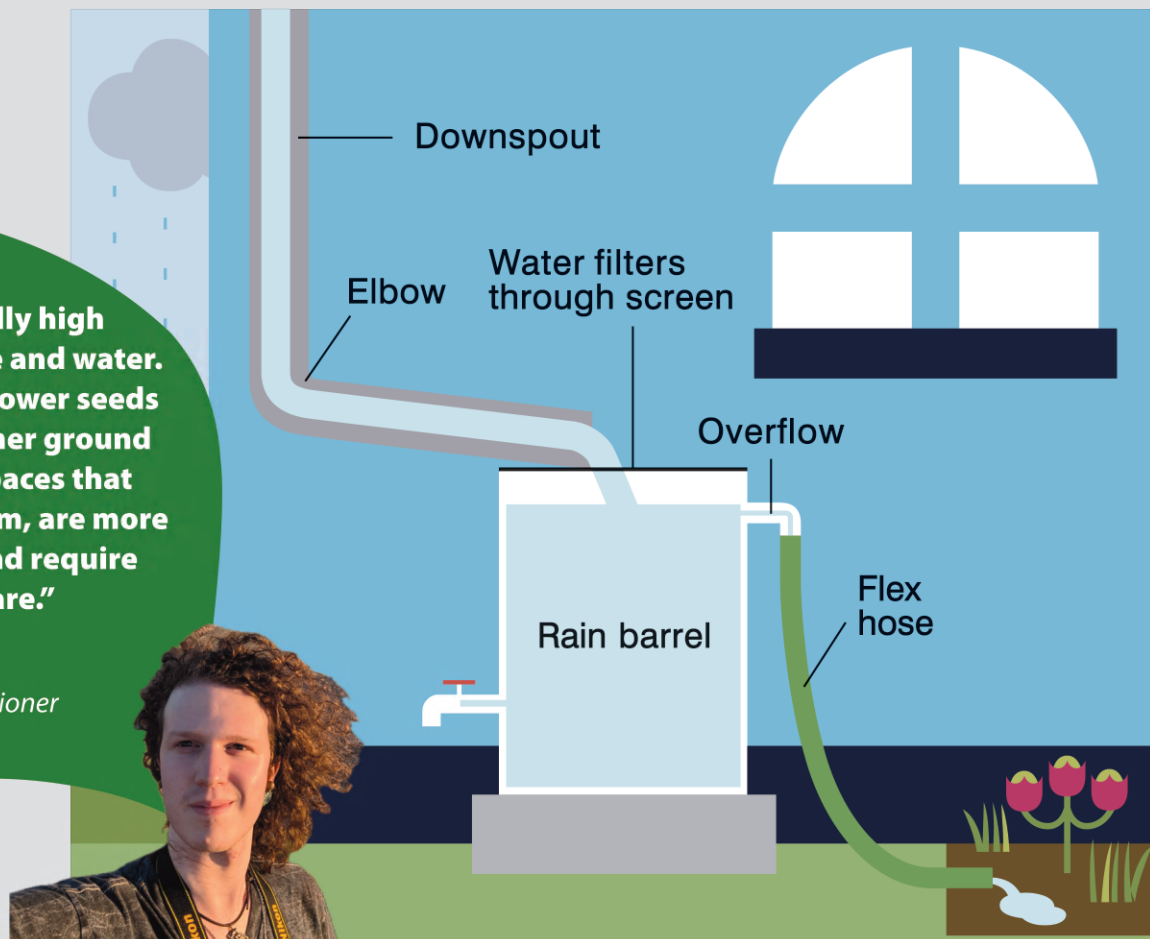
How To Plant A Tree



How to Set Up a Rain Barrel

"Grass lawns are usually high maintenance, in both time and water. With a scattering of wildflower seeds and planting moss (or other ground cover!), we can create spaces that support the local ecosystem, are more interesting to look at, and require much less active care."

*Swan Jacobson,
Sustainability Commissioner*





4. Sustainable Water

Benefits: Cost savings on your water bill. Reduced GHG emissions from water treatment.

Water conservation directly impacts resource availability, ecosystem functionality, and resilience to droughts. Water efficiency can also reduce water and wastewater treatment costs, and the amount of energy used to treat, pump, and heat water. Improving water conservation means less water is diverted from our rivers, bays, underground aquifers, and estuaries, which helps keep the environment healthy. Water-saving efforts, even simple actions, can have a large impact when scaled up to ensure water use that sustains both the environment and future generations.

ACTION: Appliances

- ☐ Only Run the Laundry and Dishwasher with Full Loads
- ☐ Shower Smarter and Shorter
- ☐ Upgrade Faucets and Showerheads with Water-Saving Alternatives 
- ☐ Fix Leaks Promptly, Learn How to Read Your Water Meter

ACTION: Rainwater Management

- ☐ Install a Rain Barrel
- ☐ Try Permeable Materials in Landscaping

ACTION: Drought Preparedness

- ☐ Build a Rain Garden
- ☐ Optimize Outdoor Watering with Smart Irrigation

“Conserving water starts at home—by replacing my lawn & ivy with native plants, using drip irrigation, and watering only in the mornings when needed. Small actions can make a big impact!”

*Christie Santodomingo,
Sustainability Commissioner*



5. Sustainably Reduce Solid Waste

Benefits: Less pollution, reduction of emissions from manufacturing, landfill, and end of life processing.

The products that people purchase, use and throw away have a significant impact on the climate. Each stage of a product's life, from production to disposal requires energy use resulting in greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing the amount of waste created, you can reduce the negative effects on the environment. Republic Services is the waste hauler in Sammamish. Additional information on waste, including information on toxics in the home, household hazardous waste, and Washington's recycling programs is available on the Department of Ecology website <https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics>

ACTION: Reduce

- ☐ Think Before You Buy, Buy Less
- ☐ Reduce Food Waste Through Proper Storage and Preparation
- ☐ Downsize Your Garbage Receptacle, Republic Offers Six Sizes 



Scan QR for Solid Waste Resources.

ACTION: Reuse

- ☐ Use Reusable Bags, Cups, Water Bottles, and More 
- ☐ Try to Repair Before you Replace Damaged Items
- ☐ Join Your Local Neighborhood Swap Group In Person or Online

ACTION: Recycle

- ☐ Practice Recycling Right – Clean, Empty, Dry 
- ☐ Visit a Community Recycling Event to Dispose of Hard to Recycle and Hazardous Materials
- ☐ Practice Composting

“Before tossing anything useful out, I always post on local gifting groups. It’s amazing how often someone can use what you’re ready to part with - and it’s a great way to keep things out of the landfill while building community.”

*Brooke Hansen,
Sustainability Commissioner*



Conclusion

A sincere thank you from the Sammamish Sustainability Commission, City Council, City staff, and your fellow Sammamish residents for taking action on sustainability. The information in this guide is meant to serve as a starting point for you to live a more sustainable and environmentally conscious lifestyle.

Many of these actions can be taken once or multiple times and will hopefully become second nature over time. We encourage you to refer back to this guide as a centralized source of information and resources so you can be part of the solution, help the City achieve its collective Climate Action Plan goals, and sustain this beautiful place we call home.



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

■ Buildings and Energy



Eco-cool Remodel Tool

Interactive tool for whole-home sustainability with ways to green up your next home remodeling project.



Eastside Climate Partnership - Energy Smart Eastside

A multi-city energy efficiency program that connects you with information, financial incentives, and resources on heat pump systems.

■ Transportation



King County Metro Trip Planner

Search for the quickest public transit route, real-time departures, and other essential transit information.



Department of Energy Electric Vehicle Charging Station Locations

Locate electric vehicle charging stations across the United States and Canada.

■ Natural Resources



King County - NW Yard and Garden

Browse lists of native species and tips on plants best suited to your space.



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Habitat at Home

How to create wildlife habitat at home.

■ Water



Cascade Water Alliance

Learn how to reduce your "water footprint" and use water more efficiently.

■ Waste



City of Sammamish Recycling Events

Information on yearly recycling events in Sammamish. Make sure to check out the accepted materials list for each event date before bringing your items.