

2024

**ANNUAL
PROGRESS
REPORT**



CITY OF *Salem*
AT YOUR SERVICE

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Introduction

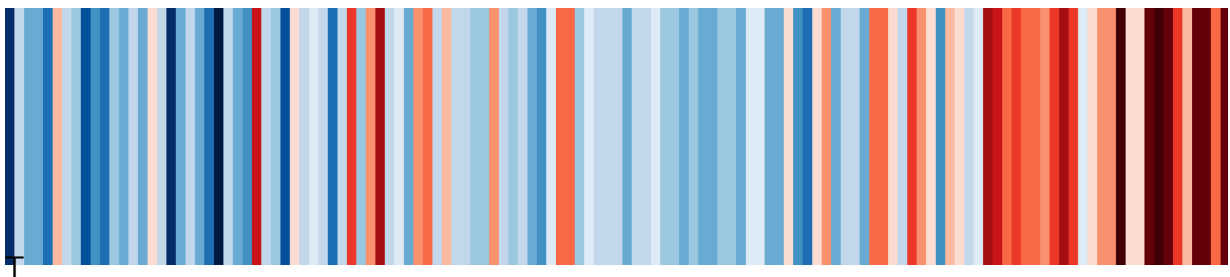
Salem City Council adopted two Climate Action goals in 2020:

- 50% community-wide greenhouse gas reduction by 2035 from the 2016 baseline
- Become a Carbon Neutral City by 2050

The Salem Climate Action Plan (CAP), finalized in 2022, was developed under the guidance of a diverse 41-member stakeholder task force and with input from the community. The Plan includes 183 different strategies that are designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase resiliency in Salem. These strategies are organized by seven different category areas: Transportation and Land Use, Energy, Economic Development, Natural Resources, Community, Food Systems, and Materials and Waste.

In January of 2024, a Work Plan was presented for 2024. The Work Plan identified 13 strategies to focus on during the calendar year. The status of each of those strategies, and ones that have seen progress during the year, are summarized in this report.

Strategies are organized in numerical order by category.



Graphic was created using #ShowYourStripes generator by Ed Hawkins

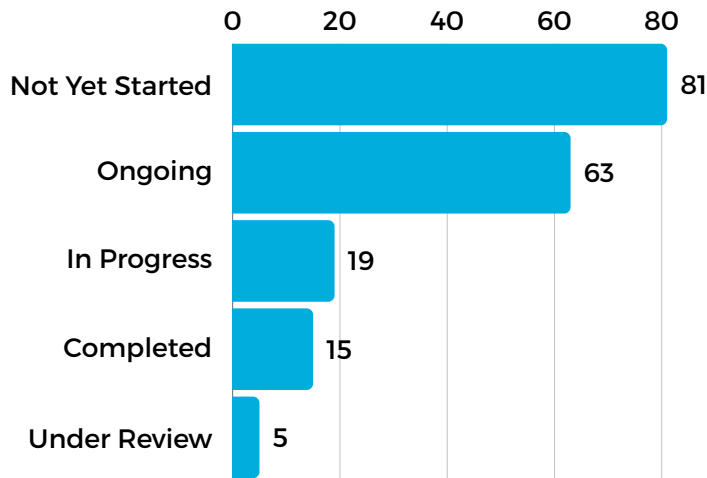
Strategy Implementation Progress

Progress on the 183 Climate Action strategies was evaluated on a spectrum between *Not Yet Started* to *Completed*. Some strategies will require ongoing work. *Completed* is only applied to strategies that do not require ongoing work. *Under Review* is a designation for a strategy that has been stalled outside of the City of Salem’s purview.

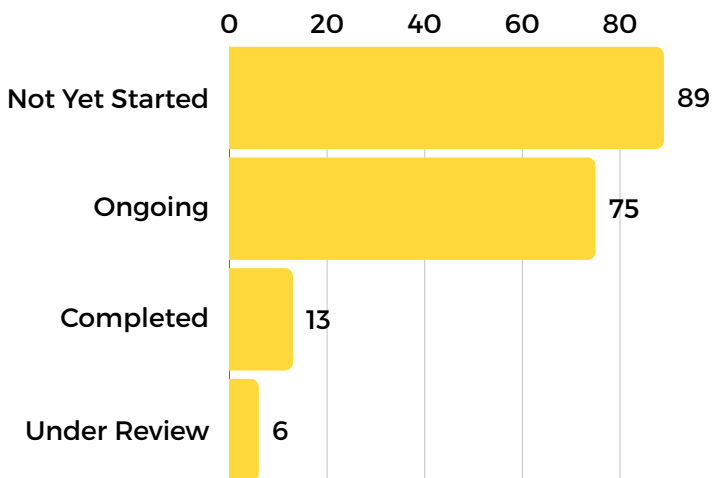
Strategy Status	Activity / Project
Completed	For strategies or adopted ordinances that do not require ongoing work.
In Progress	For strategies that have been started and either can be completed or will require continued work to reach a maintenance phase.
Under Review	For strategies that are under legal review or require action at other levels of government.
Not Yet Started	For strategies not yet allocated staff time.
Ongoing	For ongoing strategies that require continuous work or maintenance.

Climate Action Plan Implementation - At A Glance

2024 Progress



2023 Progress



The 'In Progress' status (new for 2024) helps distinguish between strategies that require ongoing staff effort and time to reach either a maintenance phase or eventual completion, from those that have already been allocated sufficient resources for continued execution.

Key Statistics Since Plan adoption in 2022.

- **53%** of strategies have made progress towards implementation
- **8%** of strategies are completed
- Over the past year, there has been a **9% decrease** in the number of strategies with no progress toward implementation.

Transportation & Land Use

In Progress

TL19: Salem Transportation System Plan Update

At the July 8 Climate Action Plan Committee meeting, City planners provided an update on the multi-year project to update the Transportation System Plan (TSP), which is being conducted in two phases. The project is currently in Phase 1, which focuses on developing a Regional Scenario Plan, as required by the State's Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities rules. *The State's goal is to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita by 30% in the Salem-Keizer region by 2050.* Planners are working with Keizer, Marion County, the State, and a consultant team to understand and test how various strategies impact VMT. Examples of strategies being tested include: increasing transit frequency, improving active transportation infrastructure, and encouraging land use changes that support walkable, mixed-use areas. An Advisory Committee of local officials will determine which combination of strategies should be pursued to meet State and local goals.

Phase 1 is projected to be completed by mid 2025. City staff are also working with the State and others to begin Phase 2, updating the Salem TSP. A consultant team is expected to be on board to kick off Phase 2 by Spring 2025.

Transportation & Land Use

In Progress

TL21: Commute Trip Reduction


In partnership with Cherriots, City of Salem employees participated in the Get There Challenge from September 16 to September 22. The most commonly used alternative transportation method was walking (46 trips), followed by carpooling (31 trips), e-bikes (26 trips), transit (22 trips), and bicycles (20 trips). Only seven remote work trips were logged. From January to mid-October 2024, City employees logged alternative transportation trips that resulted in an estimated reduction of 1,249 pounds of CO₂e emissions.


Survey results from participants revealed that the average one-way commute distance is 6.5 miles, with an average monthly commuting cost of \$93. The biggest barrier to using alternative transportation is commute length. Respondents also indicated that regular prize drawings would help incentivize greater use of alternative transportation.


 **152**
ALTERNATIVE TRIPS

 **569 lbs**
CO₂ REDUCED

 **154**
TOTAL TRIPS

 **23k**
CALORIES BURNED

 **838.0 mi**
ALTERNATIVE DISTANCE

 **\$404**
MONEY SAVED

 **868.0 mi**
TOTAL DISTANCE

In Progress

TL24: Charge for City-Controlled Parking (Starting With On-Street) In Central Business District

On October 24, 2024, at the Riverfront Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Board Meeting, Salem's downtown paid parking consultants and marketing team provided a project implementation overview and kicked off the community engagement phase of the project. A city-wide survey will be released over the holiday season to provide user feedback on the downtown parking system. The collected information will assist in the program rollout and advise the communications plan for the new paid parking system launch in July 2025.

Energy

In Progress

EN04: Begin Reporting Community GHG Emissions on A Regular Basis

Staff has been collaborating with Geographic Information System (GIS)/ Information Technology (IT) through the Data Strategy process to develop a Microsoft Power BI dashboard for regular community GHG emissions reporting. A license for the software has been purchased, and mock-ups of the dashboard have been created. The team is currently in the data inventory and data gathering phase.

Completed

EN11: Create A Climate Champion Partnership Program

In 2024, Marion County's long-standing Earthwise program was rebranded as the Marion County Sustainable Business Network, using GreenBiz Tracker to enhance monitoring and provide greater benefits to regional sustainability efforts. Salem has partnered with Marion County to extend eligibility and service to businesses in west Salem.

The Marion County Sustainable Business Network held its annual summit on September 27, 2024, as a zero-waste event, featuring a dozen sessions and over 100 registrants. The City of Salem coordinated a session on upcoming state Building Performance Standards, with speakers from the Oregon Department of Energy and the Energy Trust of Oregon. Thirty-one people registered for this session.



Energy

In Progress

EN12: Develop a Comprehensive Approach to Increasing Energy Efficiency in Municipal Buildings

The City of Salem applied for a \$214,750 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to support energy efficiency initiatives. In partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory through the Communities to Clean Energy Expert Match, the City developed a scope of work for a Municipal Energy Master Plan. When initial bids in April exceeded the allocated funding, the project was divided into two parts: Part A focuses on municipal facilities, with a revised Request for Proposals (RFP) issued in September. Applications are currently being scored. Part B, addressing operations such as water and wastewater conveyance and transportation systems, will follow.

The City has also enrolled in the Strategic Energy Management (SEM) program with the Energy Trust of Oregon. SEM incentives include energy savings of \$0.02 per kWh and \$0.20 per Therm, along with \$1,000 per milestone (five milestones per year). Additional support includes \$10,000 in funding for an intern and up to \$1,400 for Building Operator Certification. This program will cover City buildings in Portland General Electric and Northwest Natural service areas, positioning the City to receive incentives for early adoption of Building Performance Standards under House Bill 3409.

Energy

Ongoing

EN29: Work to Create a Network of Renewable Base Microgrids Throughout Salem

Salem was awarded a \$100,000 planning grant from the Oregon Department of Energy to support the development of an in-line hydroelectric turbine at the Turner Pump Station and Franzen Reservoir. Additional planning funding of \$200,000 is being sought from the Energy Trust of Oregon. Once developed, this renewable energy resource would generate enough electricity to power approximately 150 homes.

Under Review

EN30: Adopt a Communitywide Clean Energy Program per House Bill 2021

At the March Climate Action Plan Committee meeting, Portland General Electric (PGE) presented on options for a communitywide clean energy program. However, PGE has since declined to file with the Public Utility Commission and will not be moving forward with a Community Green Tariff program, the program outlined in House Bill 2021.

Ongoing

EN32: Promote incentives offered by the Energy Trust of Oregon

The webpage, "Salem's Climate Action Plan for Individuals," has been updated to include links to resources for incentives and rebates. In addition to summer energy and water conservation kits, information on the Energy Trust of Oregon incentives has been shared with residents to encourage participation.

Community

In Progress

CM01: Create an Environmental Screening Tool and Formalize Use in City Planning Efforts

A Climate Justice lens has been drafted and refined with input from the Climate Action Plan Committee and the Equity Roundtable. Two versions have been developed: one for larger projects that require more objective and quantitative data, and another low-barrier tool designed to offer feedback and resources for smaller projects. The Climate Justice lens is ready to be piloted with the leadership team.

Ongoing

CM37: Create a Public Engagement Campaign to Reduce GHG Emissions

Community outreach and engagement efforts surrounding the Climate Action Plan have included:

- Updating Salem’s Climate Action Plan webpages, which have garnered a total of 3,277 views in the past year.
- Distributing 196 conservation kits at the following events:
 - World Beat Festival
 - Englewood Forest Festival
 - Viva Salem
 - Northeast Neighbors June meeting
 - North Lancaster Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Night Out
 - Southwest Association of Neighbors October meeting
 - Salem 350 Climate Film Festival
 - Quiet Clean Salem September meeting
 - Lord & Schryver Conservancy “Outside Insights” event
 - Marion County Sustainable Business Network Summit

These initiatives are aimed at raising awareness and encouraging community participation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Materials and Waste

In Progress

MW15: Implement an Education and Outreach Campaign for Food Waste Reduction

In collaboration with the Franchise Administrator, a plan has been developed to pilot a food waste reduction project and implement education campaigns in conjunction with Food Waste Reduction Week in 2025.

Complete

MW21: Explore incentives to reduce waste, including use of a pay structure.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee voted to advance the Solid Waste Management Council Policy to City Council. Current solid waste rates include a pay structure designed to incentivize reductions in trash volume and encourage proper use of recycling and composting. While the Solid Waste Management Council Policy aims to balance equity with policy, fees will be based on costs, with assistance available for those in need.

Future revisions to the policy will look towards other mechanisms of waste reduction that balance the equity of the rate structure and the needs of households.

Additional Strategy Progress

EN03

Review Reports From the Oregon Climate Action Commission

Climate Action staff continues to monitor the activities of the Oregon Climate Action Commission (formerly the Oregon Global Warming Commission) and plans to align Salem's climate actions with the Commission's recommendations.

EN14

Collaborate With Energy Providers and Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) to Help Residents Weatherize and Improve Energy Efficiency

Students from the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program developed an educational campaign to promote the adoption of heat pumps, highlighting the energy efficiency benefits for residents. Additionally, submitting an application for the Community Change grant for \$8 million towards energy efficiency upgrades and heat pumps.

EN19

Set a Goal to Increase Number of Businesses Certified Under Marion County Sustainable Business Network Program

During the Marion County Sustainable Business Network Summit, a competition was introduced to encourage businesses to register their buildings with the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings program by next year's summit. The winner will be the business with the highest percentage of building stock enrolled.

EN20

Implement a City Ordinance That Requires a Home Energy Score

Climate Action staff participated in a regional networking group organized by the Oregon Department of Energy. The group includes cities currently running Home Energy Score programs and those considering implementing them. This collaboration allows Salem to learn best practices for future ordinance development.

EN23/

Implement Small-Scale Renewable Energy Solutions, Evaluate Local Community Solar Array Projects.

28

A solar feasibility study for the Salem Airport has been completed, identifying options for incorporating renewable energy into future projects.

Additional Strategy Progress

EN37 **Develop and Implement Plan to Phase Out Combustion and Two-Stroke Engines in Salem**

A subcommittee of Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is developing an electrification plan to support the transition of Parks Maintenance equipment from combustion engines to cleaner alternatives.

TL27 **Incentivize the Installation of EV Charging for Multifamily Residents**

The City of Tualatin was awarded a regional Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant, which includes a partnership with the City of Salem to install a minimum of 25 electric vehicle charging ports.

EC08 **City-Based Program for Local Businesses and Organizations Who Improve Their Sustainability Practices**

The City of Salem is partnering with the Marion County Sustainable Business Network to expand services to all businesses in Salem, offering assistance in enhancing sustainability practices.

CM07 **Create Network of Resilience Hubs**

In collaboration with Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, Climate Action staff are applying for the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice and Community Change Grant. The grant will fund severe weather resilience projects, including the creation of a resilience hub and sub-awards to initiate a network of resilience hubs.

MW13 **Engage City Employees in Activities to Encourage Behavior Change**

Staff from Climate Action, Fleet, Employee Wellness, and Transportation Planning staff created internal campaigns focused on staff behavior change. Campaigns were for vehicle idle reduction and promoting commuter transportation options through the Get There Challenge.

MW22 **Explore How to Send Waste to Landfill Rather than Covanta Plant**

Covanta will be ending waste incineration services at the Reworld facility on December 31, 2024.

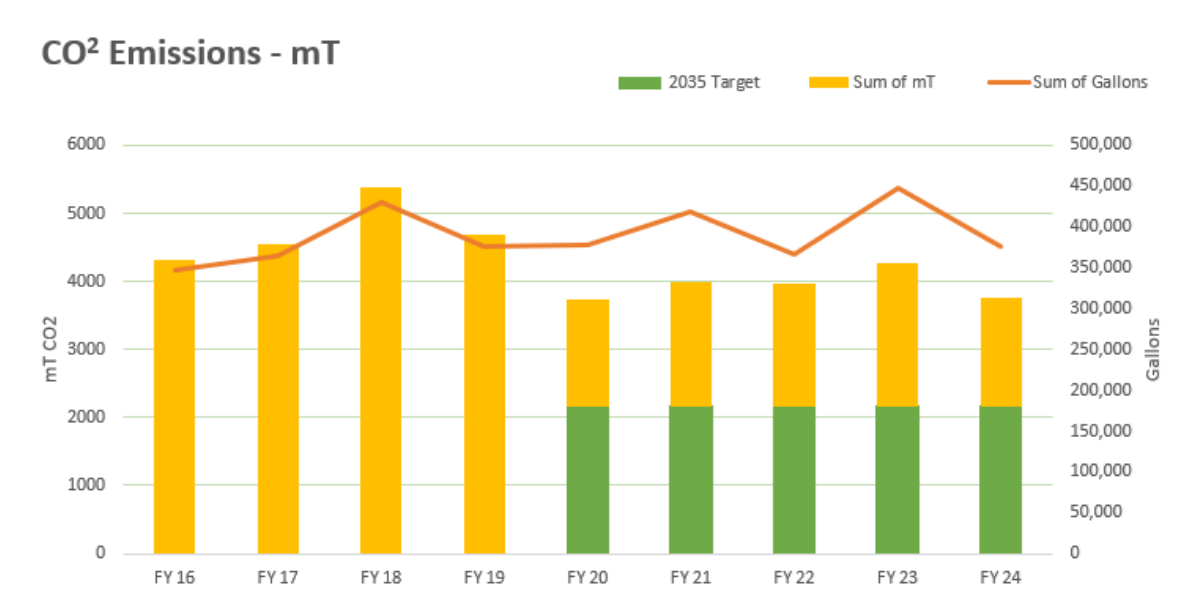
Fleet Services Spotlight

TL 30: Transition City Fleet towards zero emission

City Fleet Services currently has three electric vehicles (EVs): a mini-street sweeper and two pickup trucks.

Avoided Emissions Through Low-Emission Fuels

Fleet Services uses a low-emissions fuel (R99 diesel). This avoided 493.35 Tons of Carbon dioxide equivalency (mTCO₂e) year-over-year. See graph below:



Motor Oil Recycling Program

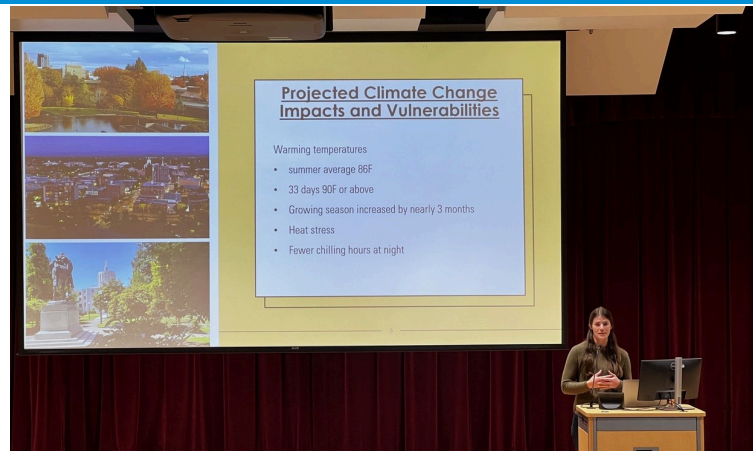
Fleet Services recycles used oil through ORRSCO Oil Re-Refining Company, with 3,187 gallons of motor oil recycled last year. Re-refining oil can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 70%.

Community Engagement



University of Oregon Sustainable City Year - Heat Pump Campaign

Outside Insights: Lord and Schryver Workshop



University of Oregon Sustainable City Year - Increased Electric Vehicle Access

Tabling at Viva Salem alongside Transportation Planners, Long-Range Planning, and Current Planning



2024 Climate Action Plan Annual Report

Acknowledgements

Progress on the Climate Action Plan is made possible by the Climate Action Plan Committee, dedicated staff, community partners, and residents. Thank you for your role in creating a clean and sustainable Salem.

