

An aerial photograph of a city street at dusk. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a sliver of blue light visible near the horizon. Below the sky is a wide, multi-lane road with traffic. To the right of the road is a steep, wooded hillside. To the left of the road are residential buildings, including houses and a larger commercial-style building. The overall scene is captured in the soft, low light of twilight.

Summary of Recommendations

Summary of Recommendations

*The 22 recommendations presented in this strategy address diverse elements of a clean economy: leadership, community engagement, resource efficiency, renewable energy, planning and growth, and economic development. Taken together, the recommendations provide initial direction to help the City **advance its four goals** identified at the start of this project:*

- 1. Reduce operating costs for both the City and the community through energy-saving and resource-efficiency measures.*
- 2. Understand greenhouse gas impacts and identify cost-effective steps to reduce emissions and save energy.*
- 3. Capitalize on opportunities for funding and investment, including federal grants, state infrastructure funding, and other investments in the region.*
- 4. Identify new initiatives for a competitive, clean local economy and fulfill Renton's commitment to stay "ahead of the curve."*

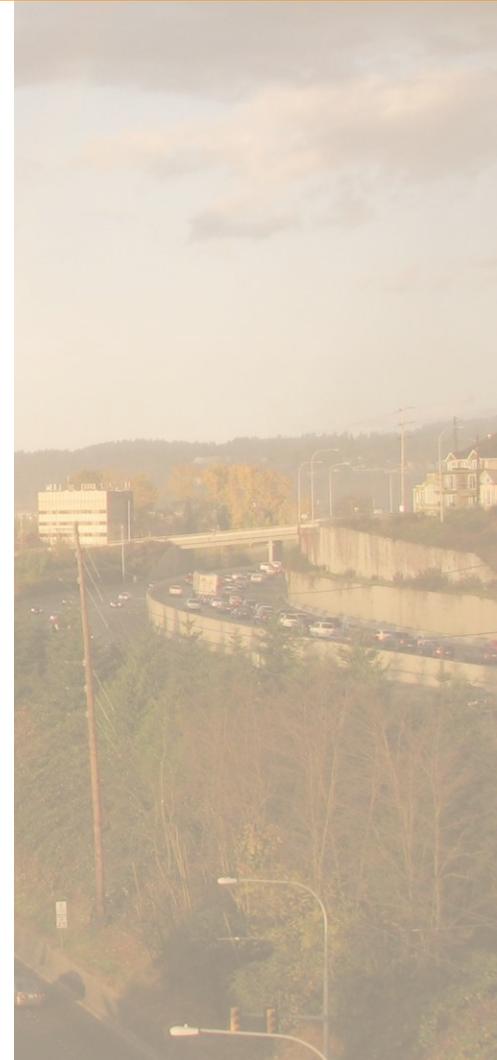
- Leadership & Governance
- Business & Community Engagement
- Resource Use & Renewable Energy
- Mobility, Land Use & Development

A snapshot of the 22 recommendations in each of the four topic areas above are highlighted in this section, with a more detailed discussion of each in subsequent sections of this strategy.

In addition, five immediate action steps are recommended to get Renton started on the path to a more prosperous and clean economy.

These steps integrate many of the recommendations and are designed to provide a focused way to create early momentum, build support for future efforts, achieve near-term cost-savings greenhouse gas reductions, and foster new initiatives.

The five steps are described in greater detail in the *Getting Started* section of this strategy.



Summary of Recommendations

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

- 1-1. Formalize Renton's clean economy goals, commitments, and desired outcomes.
- 1-2. Establish a Renton Green Team to shepherd the City's clean energy goals and spur staff innovations.
- 1-3. Showcase Renton's leadership and success.
- 1-4. Continue to collaborate on regional clean economy initiatives; develop key partnerships for Renton-specific actions.



BUSINESS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2-1. Engage Renton's leading employers in a dialogue on the clean economy and sustainability.
- 2-2. Organize and facilitate roundtables with Renton's business leaders focused on clean economy strategies.
- 2-3. Develop a green guide for Renton's business leaders.
- 2-4. Support the business community in facilitating local and regional transportation solutions.
- 2-5. Consider developing a green recognition program for Renton's community leaders.
- 2-6. Continue to develop and market tools and incentives to attract new businesses—particularly clean technology companies.
- 2-7. Spur local green jobs.
- 2-8. Provide green resources for residents on Renton's website.
- 2-9. Facilitate a community dialogue around a broader "Clean Economy Agenda" for Renton.

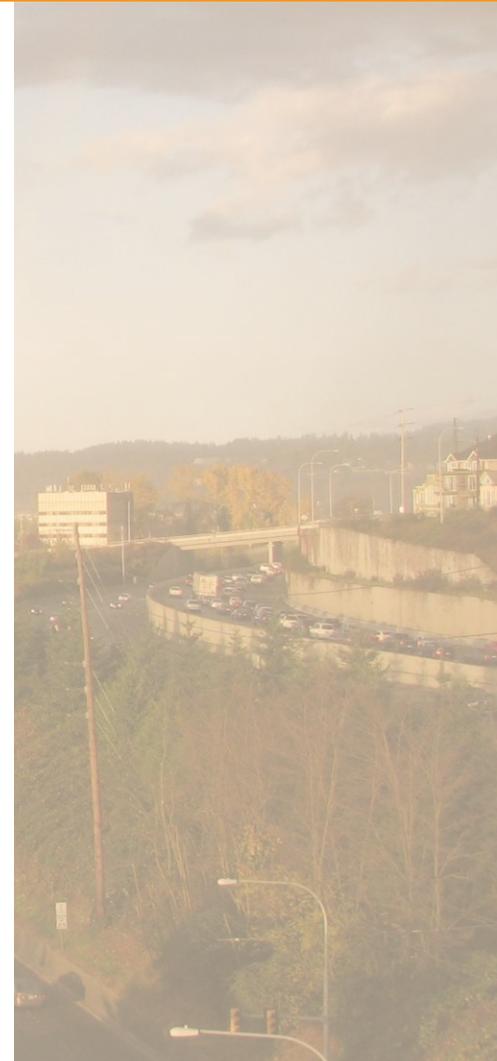
Summary of Recommendations

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 3-1.** Streamline procurement and incorporate environmental guidelines into purchasing policies and contracts.
- 3-2.** Establish energy performance standards and reporting for city buildings and pursue additional energy efficiency opportunities.
- 3-3.** Team with PSE and other partners to implement weatherization and energy efficiency efforts throughout the Renton community.
- 3-4.** Incorporate renewable energy generation into city projects and foster private-sector investments.
- 3-5.** Advance waste prevention and diversion of materials in the City's own operations, with haulers, and through targeted efforts in specific sectors.

MOBILITY, LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

- 4-1.** Renton should continue to promote clean vehicle incentives and programs.
- 4-2.** Work with King County METRO and local businesses to reduce single-occupancy vehicle commute trips.
- 4-3.** Foster smart growth and compact, walkable communities through policies, plans, and incentives.
- 4-4.** Model low impact development (LID) practices on high-profile parcels and public right-of-ways and incorporate green elements into public and private developments through investments, policies, and incentives.



Summary of Recommendations

Step 1

Formalize the commitment and establish a Green Team

(Actions 1-1, 1-2, 1-3)

A critical first step is to secure top-level support to make sustainability and clean energy a priority. This commitment should also be embedded into the City's brand to promote these values internally and externally. Forming a Green Team is a key step for implementing clean economy investments and actions across the various departments and lines of business and demonstrating City leadership in the community.

Step 2

Identify and implement additional resource conservation upgrades at City facilities and set high standards for new infrastructure

(Actions 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 4-1)

Leading by example sets the right example and can generate significant cost savings. City buildings,

fleets, and other infrastructure improvements are often easy to implement in that they fall within the purview of the City. Resource conservation activities provide tangible actions with quantifiable outcomes to show immediate progress in reducing cost and greenhouse gas emissions.

Step 3

Engage with employers on efforts to green their businesses and the Renton community

(Actions 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, and 3-4)

Many of Renton's employers are national leaders in resource conservation. They expressed strong green values and corporate leadership in these areas. At the same time, smaller businesses could benefit from greater assistance. Renton can collaborate with others to support the City's businesses community with green initiatives, help to facilitate a cross-business dialogue, and foster greater public-private partnerships to achieve the City's climate protection and clean economy goals.

Summary of Recommendations

Step 4

Partner with utilities, institutions, employers, and others to implement a community energy program

(Actions 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 3-2)

Targeting a particular neighborhood or business sector in Renton for direct install or upgrades of weatherization measures or developing a cooperative effort such as district energy or community solar are opportunities for helping the community reap clean energy benefits such as cost savings, green jobs, and healthy air. The initiative could begin small by packaging and marketing available energy rebates and financing or could involve developing new programs with community partners. Climate Solutions' New Energy Cities program is one opportunity for leveraging outside resources to support community energy initiatives.



Step 5

Launch a transportation campaign to engage the community in short-term actions and long-term advocacy for regional transportation investments in Renton

(Actions 2-4, 4-1, 4-2)

Renton's greenhouse gas inventory shows that just under 50 percent of the city's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation activities. Given high community interest in this topic and the role Renton serves as a regional transportation hub, the City should initiate a local campaign to engage community leaders in implementing highly visible transportation actions at the local level (e.g. employee commuting) as it builds a community constituency to advocate for longer-term regional transportation investments in Renton.

