

COBI CONNECTS



NEW WASTE REDUCTION RULES NOW IN EFFECT

When you visit Pegasus Coffee House, you'll notice a couple of changes: Sugar is now in a shared container and spoons have replaced stirrers.

As of Jan. 1, 2022, *all* Bainbridge Island food and drink retailers—including food trucks and caterers—will only provide single-use food service products when you ask or confirm you would like to use them.

The items include stirrers, utensils, straws, condiments in packaging, cups and lids for cold beverages (except for takeout, drive-thru or delivery orders).

"It is a change," said Matt Grady who is the owner of Pegasus Coffee House. "There are ways that the coffee industry has worked for a long time. Both customers and staff are used to things operating a certain way, but we fully support and are excited to be on board with moving to using fewer single-use products."

The waste reduction changes are part of a broader strategy to protect our marine environment and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions on Bainbridge Island by 25% by 2025.

"Reducing single-use plastic waste was a priority action identified in our Climate Action Plan," said Autumn Salamack who is the City's Climate Mitigation Officer. "Every effort that we can take as individuals, as community members and as businesses to reduce the amount of waste that we generate, in general, is helping to reduce energy use and natural resource consumption throughout the entire life cycle of a product. Everything we can do to reduce plastic waste now is helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally."

More changes related to reducing plastic waste from food service and lodging businesses are coming in 2023.

"These are the pieces that are going to be harder for the business community to adapt to quickly," said Grady. He represented the business community on the City's Waste Reduction Task Force, which made waste reduction recommendations to the City Council.

"I think everybody supports the 'what' and the goal, and everybody is behind it," said Grady. He added that some business owners have questions about how to implement the changes. For example, businesses that move to all reusable items may need to hire a dishwasher or install a dishwashing machine.


Continued on page 8.







Blackbird Bakery displays a waste reduction table tent, provided by the City, at the counter to inform customers of the new ordinance.

Waste reduction changes

2022 Ordinance

-  Requires businesses to provide single-use food service products only when customers ask or confirm they would like to use them.

2023 Ordinance


-  Requires reusable food service ware for on-site dining.
-  Requires that disposable food service products be "home compostable"—that is, made of a natural, fiber-based compostable material (e.g., paper, wood and wood pulp, bamboo) that can break down in your backyard compost bin or be put in your yard waste cart.
-  Adds a 25-cent fee for takeout cups (so customers should get in the habit of bringing their own).
-  Encourages lodging establishments (including vacation rentals) to use refillable dispensers for personal care products and requires them to use home-compostable packaging for single-use personal care products.

GET INFORMED - ON VIDEO!



We've launched City Update as another way to keep you informed and to help you understand how your local government works. The weekly videos include interviews with staff, questions from the community, information on current projects and more.

Ways to watch:

-  Sign up for the City Manager's Report at bainbridgewa.gov/500
-  Follow the City on social media (**Facebook + YouTube**)
-  Tune in to Bremerton Kitsap Access Television (**Channel 12 on Comcast and Channel 3 on WAVE**)

WINTER WEATHER PREPARATIONS

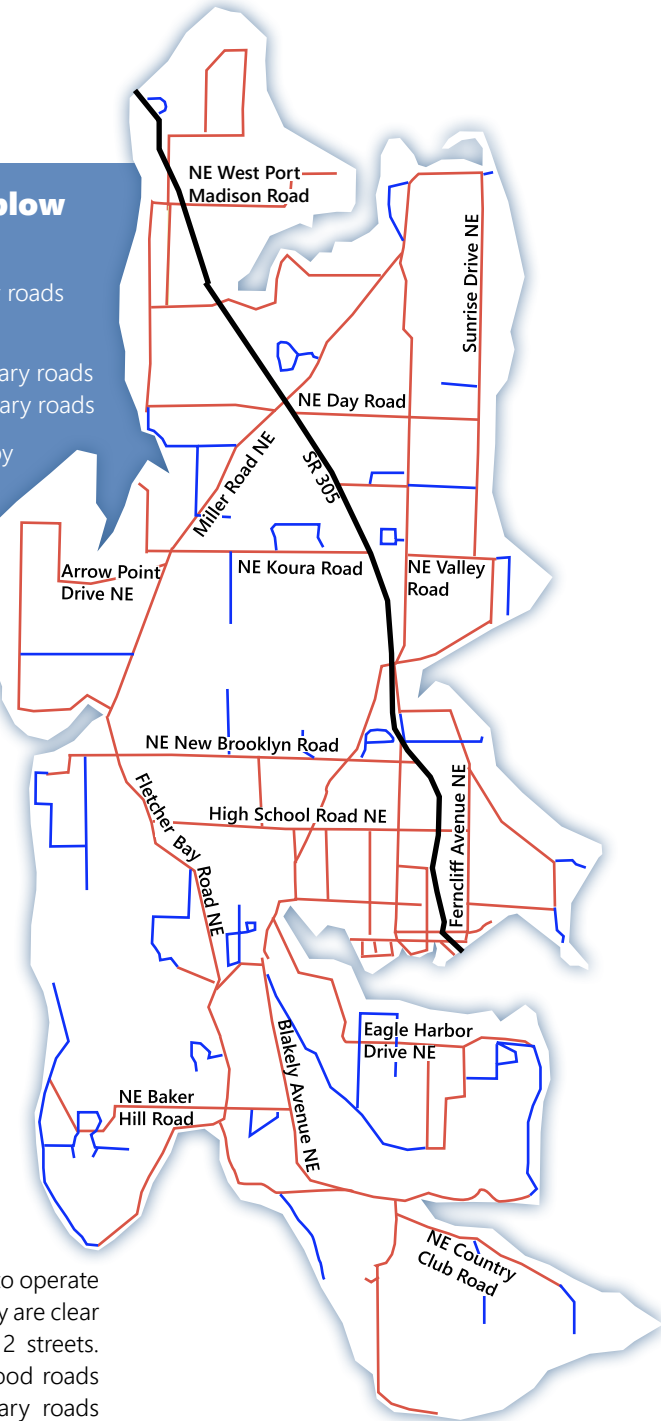
2021 storm summary

- ❄️ 9,965 feet of sidewalks cleared at City-owned property
- ❄️ 142 miles of paved roads maintained
- ❄️ 70+ requests for snow and ice removal
- ❄️ 18 Operations & Maintenance staff responded
- ❄️ 8 days of Severe Weather Shelter activation
- ❄️ 4 large plow & sander trucks mobilized
- ❄️ 3 small plow & sander trucks mobilized
- ❄️ 1 salt brine tanker truck mobilized

Priority streets & snowplow route map

- **Priority 1 Plow Route** Primary roads (main arterials, high volume)
- **Priority 2 Plow Route** Secondary roads that link communities with primary roads
- **State Route 305** (maintained by WSDOT)

Note: Neighborhood streets are cleared after priority 1 and priority 2 streets are cleared.



Snow and ice removal

If snow is coming, crews pre-treat streets with anti-icer (during dry conditions). When snow begins to fall, crews plow their routes and treat the roads with salt. Their goal is to keep the roads reasonably clear of snow and ice.

During a major storm, the Operations and Maintenance team provides 24-hour coverage, using 12-hour shifts (noon to midnight and midnight to noon).



The City's **Snow and Ice Control Plan** categorizes many City-maintained streets as priority 1 or priority 2 based on the volume of traffic, speed limits and road classification. Crews focus first on priority 1 streets. If there's constant snow, then crews continue to operate on priority 1 routes until they are clear before moving to priority 2 streets. Crews work on neighborhood roads after primary and secondary roads are cleared and as time allows.

What the City does not do during a snowstorm

The City does not clear snow and ice from sidewalks in front of homes and businesses; property owners are responsible for this maintenance. The City only maintains sidewalks on or abutting City property.

The City does not own any parking lots by the ferry terminal. The parking lot at the ferry terminal is owned by Washington State Ferries. The City contacted WSF during the recent storm to assist with clearing the icy sidewalk so that people could safely get to the ferry terminal. We are committed to ensuring this area is clear sooner so that people can safely get to and from the ferry terminal.

The City does not work on State Route 305, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Transportation.

The City does not plow private driveways.

When plowing streets, the City does not turn the plow at every driveway because that would defeat the effort to keep arterials open, but crews do try to avoid creating a large snow "wrinkle" on driveways and around mailboxes.





Warming Center

During severe weather and power outages, the City will activate a warming center to provide a warm place for people to stay overnight. Our primary warming center is at the Senior Community Center, located at 370 Brien Drive SE. Any activation is overseen by Emergency Management Coordinator Anne LeSage with support from Bainbridge Prepares volunteers.

FOOD FOCUS PREPARE NOW FOR THE NEXT WINTER STORM

David Lewis remembers the deadly snowstorm of December 1990 that toppled trees, stranded kids on school buses and knocked out power for days on Bainbridge Island. "That storm set in motion being better prepared," he said.

Following the 1990 storm, Lewis and his husband, George, stocked a one-week supply of emergency food in their Wing Point home consisting of canned goods, water and extra pet food for their three dogs. Despite their planning efforts, the recent storm that brought snow and icy road conditions prompted David to wonder, "How prepared are we?"

During the storm, the City received many requests for snow and ice removal from people trying to leave their homes to pick up groceries. "I think the thing that surprised us the most was that we just didn't think the recent storm through the whole way—snow is usually just a one-day occurrence," said Lewis who remained at home for a couple of days to avoid the treacherous road conditions.

City officials would like to keep more people off the roads during storms by helping them prepare now. Anne LeSage, Emergency Management Coordinator, explained: "We need islanders to prepare in advance of an emergency. As we saw during the recent snowstorm, local grocery stores and pharmacies struggled to keep up with resupply. Road conditions across the state made it difficult for vendors to get here. And that was just a snowstorm—imagine the complexity of getting food, water and other essential goods after a major earthquake when there is no ferry and no bridge."

Your emergency food supply should consist of enough food to feed everyone in your household for a minimum of three weeks, as emergency officials believe that's the amount of time following a disaster for state and federal resources to reach us. The food kit should include nonperishable food, so you don't have to worry about it spoiling if the power goes out. Some good foods to have on hand are salt-free crackers, protein bars, dried fruit, canned goods, peanut butter, grains and nonperishable milk. Don't forget to add a few comfort food items and drinks as well as food for pets and livestock.

Curious to know how others are preparing their emergency food supplies, Lewis posted a message on the Bainbridge Islanders Facebook page. Prompted by the responses, he recently purchased from Costco a 30-day supply of freeze-dried meals with a shelf life of 30 years. He said, "I want us to try some of this food now, so we know what to expect when we're stressed out during an emergency."

Water supply is the weak link in Lewis's emergency preparedness kit. "We have some water in cases and pouches good for 25 years, but certainly it's not enough," he said. Some of his kit's freeze-dried meals need water to be prepared. This is important to consider when stocking your home with water. Emergency officials advise that each person needs one gallon of water per day (for hydration, sanitation and cooking). Again, don't forget the water needs of your pets and livestock. It's best to keep your emergency food kit in airtight plastic tubs stored in an easily accessible area of your home such as a front closet, garage or outdoor shed.

For information on other ways to prepare for a winter storm, please visit bainbridgewa.gov/preparedness. If you have a specific emergency preparedness topic that you'd like us to focus on in a future newsletter, send an email to communications@bainbridgewa.gov.

Other emergency food tips:



Rotate out foods and water as they expire—use it or donate the food to Helpline House at least two weeks before the expiration date.



Make sure to have an alternative cooking appliance, like an outside propane grill or a butane one-burner camp stove and a pack of butane fuel. Charcoal grills and camp stoves are for outdoor use only.



If the power is out, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. The refrigerator will keep cold for about four hours if it's unopened.

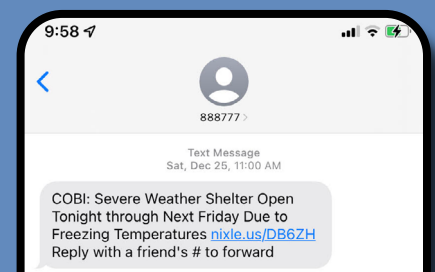


Refrigerated or frozen foods should be kept at 40°F or below. Use a refrigerator thermometer to check temperature.

Sign up for emergency alerts

Nixle, a free text and email notification system, is the City's official emergency notification and alert system. During severe weather, the City uses Nixle to provide updates on road closures, downed power lines or other emergent issues. Nixle is also used to inform the public of missing persons or public health threats. When outside agencies respond to an issue that may affect Bainbridge Island, the City may also send out a Nixle alert. Sign up for Nixle by texting **98110** to **888777** or at nixle.com.

Learn more about Nixle and when messages are sent at bainbridgewa.gov/nixle.






GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Bainbridge Island residents, workers and visitors rely on groundwater for all water supply needs: from drinking water and dishwashers to toilets and garden watering. Groundwater also plays a vital role in supporting healthy streams and wetlands.

City Hydrogeologist Maureen Whalen and Public Works staff, directed by the Council, are developing a Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) that will take an islandwide approach to managing our precious groundwater resource and will serve as a document that can be adapted as our needs change. The plan will include a summary of what we know about the island's geology; groundwater systems; streams, lakes and wetlands; climate and climate change projections; land use; and population projections.

GWMP goals and objectives

-  Ensure clean and sufficient groundwater for our natural environment and ourselves
-  Reduce and adapt to climate change impacts
-  Develop communitywide understanding

A community **information session** on the GWMP is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 2**, at 5 p.m. on Zoom to share progress on the plan and to seek your input.

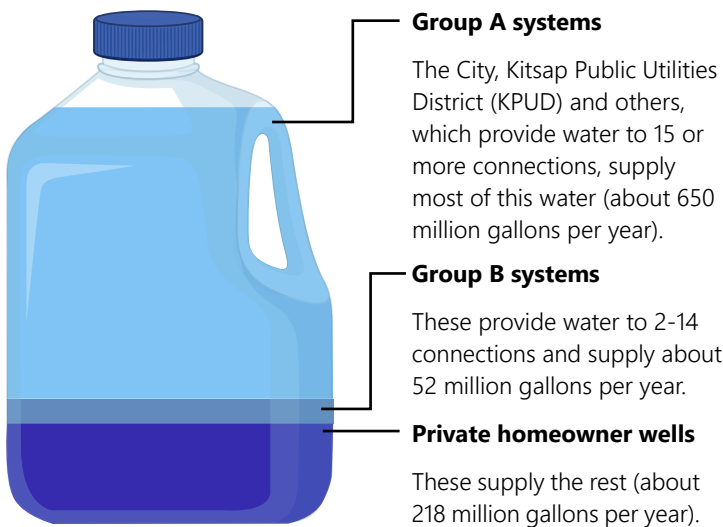
Island water sources

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated Bainbridge Island a **sole source aquifer**, meaning there is no other water supply source for the island. The Washington Department of Ecology has designated the entire island a **Critical Aquifer Recharge Area**, which the City of Bainbridge Island requires to be protected by plans incorporated into all new development.

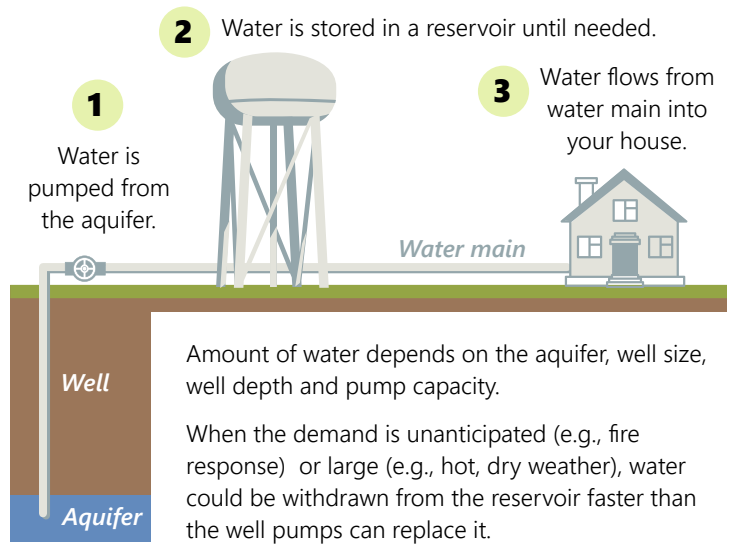
Groundwater is water in saturated ground (bedrock or sediments) that flows from recharge areas to discharge into springs, seeps, shoreline or wells or deeper into the subsurface. If you were able to take a giant knife and slice through the water-filled layers of sediment (mixtures of clay, silt, sand and gravel) underlying Bainbridge Island, you would see four major aquifers. Most of the island's residents and businesses take water from those four.

The vulnerabilities facing the City's groundwater distribution are the mechanical systems and pipes that pump water from the ground and distribute it to homes and businesses. The City will be developing water conservation messaging and plans that will help relieve stress on systems during extreme weather events. The City is also planning for implementing water system resiliency projects and emergency measures.

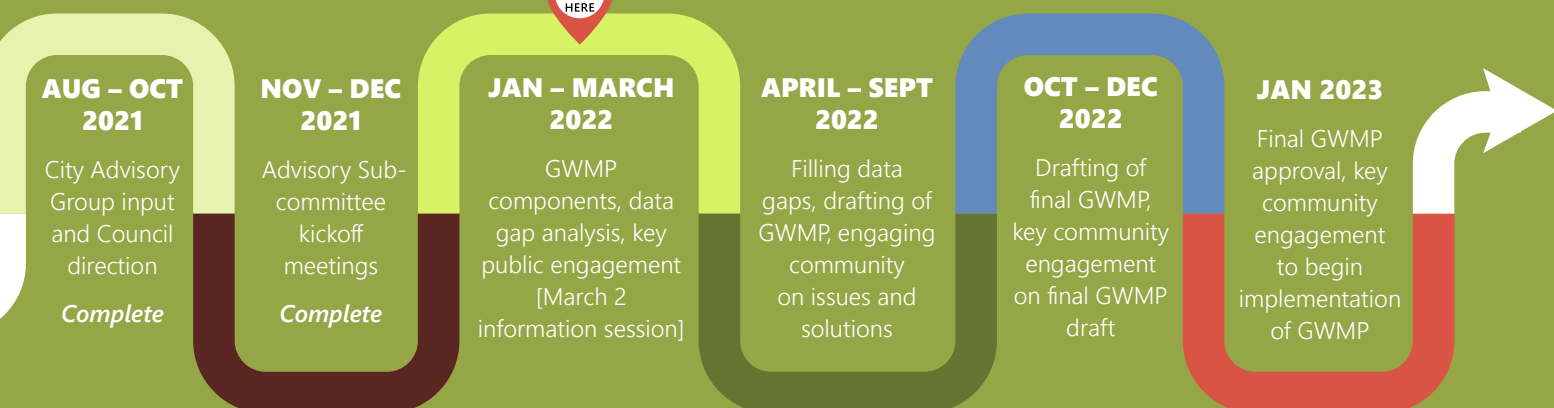
Water supply (delivered to households and businesses on the island)



How water gets to you (public water supply customers)



Project timeline





Q&A WITH THE CITY HYDROGEOLOGIST

What role does your job play in the overall service to the community?

Given our reliance on groundwater for both drinking water and to support our surface water systems, I think this role is invaluable to the community, providing a central focal point for an islandwide approach to understanding the groundwater system and to support effective resource management.

What's the question you get asked the most in your job?

Although I've only been here a few months, I understand one of the more common questions here is whether we will have enough groundwater, particularly in the face of climate change and increased demand from population growth. In my previous job, the questions were more focused on groundwater quality because of impacts from intensive agriculture (dairying) in New Zealand.

Based on my research and understanding of the island's groundwater sources and uses, it appears that groundwater resources are currently sufficient. However, that doesn't mean we shouldn't be planning for careful stewardship of those resources. As we've seen in other places, the impacts of climate change can be unpredictable, and we want to ensure we have the tools and understanding of the groundwater system so we can monitor and adapt in the future.

Your career has taken you across the globe. How are the various places similar/different when it comes to water resources?

It has been the most amazing adventure! I've always enjoyed seeing and experiencing new places and meeting the people who make them special.

Most of my career has been spent as a consultant working on contaminated groundwater projects in the eastern and southwestern United States. Several years ago, I began to think about shifting my career from cleaning up groundwater to preventing contamination in the first place.

The position at Environment Canterbury (a regional council on the South Island, New Zealand) was a chance to use applied groundwater science to inform regional government planning and management decisions.

The groundwater systems underlying the Canterbury region of the South Island, including Christchurch (a city of about 350,000 people), and Bainbridge Island are very similar. Both



Whalen on assignment in Little Mt. Peel, South Island, New Zealand

systems are found in thick layers of unconsolidated sediment (i.e., not cemented or held together like bedrock). These sediments were deposited by glaciers, meltwater running from glaciers or rivers/nearshore marine processes. The way groundwater flows through both systems is pretty much the same—especially near the Canterbury coast. Both Christchurch and Bainbridge Island rely on groundwater for drinking water and to support surface water health. The residents of both cities are very concerned with the quality and availability of groundwater.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I think we all need to work together to understand and protect groundwater and our environment. Based on my experience, it's much easier to prevent contamination than to clean it up. We only have one earth, and we must not mess it up.

Maureen Whalen was hired as the City's Hydrogeologist in July 2021. Prior to her arrival, Maureen spent five years working in New Zealand as the Groundwater Science Team Leader for the Canterbury region. Her work on that team closely resembles the work she is performing for the City as the Groundwater Management Plan lead.

Maureen was also a consulting Senior Geologist in New York where she worked on hydrogeologic investigations and groundwater monitoring for municipal landfill closures and other environmental remediation projects.

She is pursuing part-time a Master of Science in science communication and public engagement.

JOB DUTIES

- » Leads the development of the Groundwater Management Plan. An important part of the plan will be creating and maintaining an online information-sharing platform for the community and visitors.
- » Assists with development of the City's Wastewater Beneficial Reuse Project, which will evaluate how wastewater could be repurposed for irrigation, groundwater recharge or other uses.
- » Analyzes prior studies.
- » Issues reports and modeling on water quantity, quality and related data.
- » Presents results and products to a variety of audiences .

FUN FACTS



Whalen's hobbies include hiking, landscape photography, quilting and gardening.

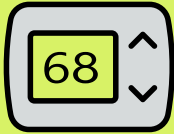


Whalen spent seven days in 2020 on a refurbished Russian research vessel cruising to the Subantarctic Islands south of the South Island, New Zealand.

BE CLIMATE SMART THIS WINTER

More than 60% of greenhouse gas emissions on Bainbridge Island come from building energy use and transportation. The City's Climate Action Plan addresses our need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2025. Whether you're at home or heading out for the day, you can help. Follow these simple tips to save money, lessen air pollution, safeguard public health and fight climate change.

TURN IT DOWN



Set your thermostat to 68°F while you're awake.



Set it 7 to 10 degrees lower when you're asleep or away.

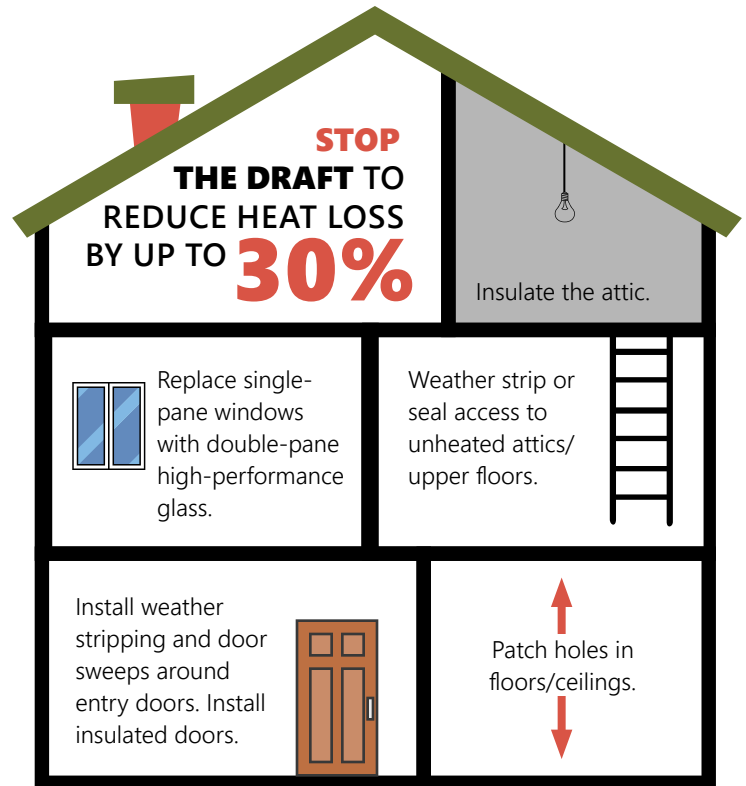
You can save as much as **10%** a year on heating/cooling and lower your home's contribution to greenhouse gases.



Turning down just 3° in winter and up 3° in summer reduces carbon dioxide emissions by about 1,050 pounds per year.



Install a programmable thermostat to make this change even easier.



CUT THE IDLE



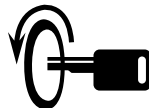
Idling for 10 minutes generates one pound of carbon dioxide.



Idling wastes fuel (up to 1/2 gal. of gas per hour).



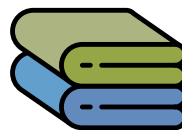
Idling hurts people, especially children whose lungs are developing.



Turn off your engine whenever waiting for more than 10 seconds (except in traffic).



A poorly tuned engine will use up to 15% more fuel than a well-tuned vehicle, so get your car to the mechanic regularly.



Keep blankets in the car to help you stay warm when waiting for the ferry or when you're in a backup.

GEAR UP & GET OUT

Even in the winter, you can leave the house without using your car—you just have to be prepared.



It's colder so you'll need to dress right for the weather in warm and waterproof gear.



Make sure you're visible by using lights and wearing reflective clothing.

Q&A WITH THE RACE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The City's Race Equity Advisory Committee (REAC), made up of volunteers, provides recommendations to the City Council on programmatic, community and legislative options to address and rectify systemic and structural racism and bias within government and law enforcement. Race equity is the ongoing process of making changes to systems, policies and practices to improve the experience of people of color.

The City Council established a Race Equity Task Force in December 2018 to advise the City on how to help Bainbridge Island be an open and welcoming community for all following compelling public comment from community members about race inequality experiences on Bainbridge Island. The work of a task force is intended to be of limited duration and focused on specific assignments, so in December 2020 the Council approved an ordinance to create a standing committee.

There are nine positions on the REAC, and eight of them are currently filled. The REAC consists of people from varying ethnicities, age groups and professional backgrounds and includes a veteran, small business owner, attorney, parents, nanny, former teacher, library employee and artist.

How does REAC measure success?

REAC is currently in the process of developing a strategic plan and goals. Much of the activity of REAC so far has been in the realm of community engagement. Hundreds of people have attended REAC events including conversations, marches, rallies and programs. REAC also created five welcome signs posted around the island. In addition, REAC has advised the Council on relevant matters, including how to allocate the American Rescue Plan Act funds designated for Bainbridge. REAC recommended the funds be used equitably for those affected by the pandemic, especially supporting essential workers, affordable housing and human and health services.

How can we expand the conversation on race and culture to be as inclusive as possible?

REAC has grappled with this challenge. Often, it is the same people who show up for equity events and participate in community equity organizing. Engaging people who are sitting on the sidelines is more difficult. REAC has partnered with other organizations such as the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island School District Multicultural Advisory Council, Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, ERACE (Equity, Race and Community Engagement), the Indipino Community, the Japanese American Community, BI Pride and the Senior Community Center to build a strong equity network that will hopefully expand to include many more organizations and people. Relationship building is critical to equity work as is authentically amplifying voices of marginalized communities.

How is the committee addressing the full range of race and cultural issues present on Bainbridge Island?

In addition to the efforts already mentioned, REAC operates a booth at the Bainbridge Farmers Market to engage the community in conversation and has actively engaged in the planning and execution of the Bainbridge Martin Luther King Jr. community celebrations, Black

History Month and Indigenous Peoples Day events. REAC has also published statements condemning public acts of racism, such as attacks on Asian Americans, and advised the City to engage in equity training, to join the Governmental Alliance for Race Equity (GARE), to create a City Equity Plan and to create and use a Race Equity Tool in decision making.



LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/1124



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Co-Chair



Savanna Rovelstad
Co-Chair



Renni Bispham



Peggi Erickson



Jing Fong



Deanna Martinez



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Sue Wilmot

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Business support

To support the business community with the waste reduction change and ensure businesses are ready to comply, the Chamber of Commerce, Bainbridge Island Zero Waste and the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association joined forces to create a Business Ambassador Program financed by the City.

Program ambassadors walked the commercial centers of Bainbridge Island and gathered information from staff at more than 90 businesses. They found that most businesses surveyed were in support of the 2022 waste reduction changes and had begun

implementation prior to Jan. 1. A few businesses expressed concerns about altering their setup to align with the new changes that require customers to request items.

"It's very impactful," said Lani Sordello who is the co-owner of Via Rosa 11 and serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. At Via Rosa 11, the new rules coming in 2023 will require a major transition. The business pivoted to a takeout model due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Now 80% of the business is takeout. Sordello explained that "To take a pizza home there are four to five different components that build that order for one pizza, and to think now that all that has to be home compostable is really challenging. That said, we certainly want to be able to achieve this goal. The only way we're going to be able to do it is if we all come together and leverage different companies' strengths and leverage the Council in terms of the expertise that's there to find these materials."

Business Ambassador Program overview

- » Partnership includes the City, Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce, Bainbridge Island Zero Waste and Bainbridge Island Downtown Association.
- » City provided \$3,000 to the development of this program.
- » Team contacted more than 90 Bainbridge businesses.
 - » 62% were in compliance with the order prior to Jan. 1.
 - » Most businesses supported the new ordinance.
 - » Businesses expressed concerns about lack of compost disposal and difficulty finding reliable products.

Throughout the year, the City will help businesses find products that meet the new home compostable standards. The City will also focus on education and outreach efforts to support the business community and to make sure that customers are aware of the new rules and how they can help reduce waste.

"I believe we can get there," Sordello said. "Like everything, when you want to make a monumental, transformational change, there's never going to be an easy solve. We're the people who are going to figure this out so that's the exciting part of it."

LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/climateaction



TOGETHER WE CAN ERASE THE WASTE

Need something? Just ask!

Single-use cups, lids, straws, stirrers, utensils, and condiment packets are only available upon request.

Learn more about waste reduction efforts at www.bainbridgewa.gov/climateaction.



Bainbridge Island

Sustainable Transportation Plan

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Council to review final draft Sustainable Transportation Plan recommendations **Feb. 15.**
bainbridgewa.gov/sustainabletransportation