

2023 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
OSE	301	A	002-2023

Budget Action Title: Request that OSE provide a report on Citywide funding for tree planting, stewardship, and other urban forestry-related activities

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Dan Strauss

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Alex Pedersen, Andrew Lewis

Staff Analyst: Yolanda Ho

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	SN
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent would request that the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) collaborate with the City Budget Office and Urban Forestry Interdepartmental Team (IDT) to develop a report on the City's funding and expenditures for tree planting, stewardship, and other related activities. Currently, there are nine City departments that have a role in managing Seattle's urban forest:

- OSE coordinates citywide policy development, updates the Urban Forest Management Plan and monitors its implementation, and provides administrative support for the Urban Forestry Commission;
- Seattle Department of Transportation manages trees in the public right-of-way;
- Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS), Seattle Center, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) manage trees on their property;
- SPU engages community in urban forest stewardship on both private property and in the right-of-way;
- Seattle City Light maintains trees near power lines;
- Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) and the Office of Planning and Community Development develop policies and plans; and
- SDCI enforces regulations for trees on private property.

This distributed structure of the City's urban forest management functions makes it challenging for the public to have a comprehensive understanding of how the City invests in maintaining and enhancing Seattle's urban forest. FAS has recently agreed to create a Funding Source code to track revenue from illegal tree removal penalties and ensure that this revenue is used to support tree planting, stewardship, and planning activities. This modified accounting system will be implemented beginning on January 1, 2023.

The report should include funding and expenditures for tree planting, stewardship, planning, and other related activities by department. Where possible, the report should provide information over multiple years to help reveal trends. Additionally, the report should offer recommendations for how the City can improve its practices on reporting the requested information moving forward and identify areas where additional funding may be needed so that the City can successfully implement the actions described in Seattle's 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan.

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OSE should submit the report to the Land Use Committee and the Central Staff Director by June 1, 2023.

Responsible Council Committee(s):

Land Use

Date Due to Council:

June 1, 2023