

# 2021 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
OSE	006	A	001

**Budget Action Title:** Request that OSE propose a plan for consolidating urban forestry functions

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Alex Pedersen

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Dan Strauss

Staff Analyst: Yolanda Ho

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	TM	LG
	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), in consultation with the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) and the Urban Forestry Interdepartmental Team, develop a plan to consolidate the City's urban forest management functions within OSE. 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 UFC;
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) manages trees in the public right-of-way.
- Department of Finance and Administrative Services, 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.

Specifically, the plan should address how to transfer staff and regulatory authority, particularly in regards to the removal of trees, from SDCI and SDOT to OSE. The plan should also: (1) include a potential timeline for implementation; (2) consider staff involved in policy development, permitting and inspections, maintenance, community engagement, and stewardship; (3) identify code amendments needed to effectuate this change; and (4) provide an estimate of costs, including potential savings, for implementing the proposed reorganization.

OSE should submit the report to the Land Use & Neighborhoods Committee and the Central Staff Director

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by September 15, 2021.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):**

Land Use & Neighborhoods

**Date Due to Council:**

September 15, 2021