

Office of Sustainability & Environment

2026 Proposed Budget Overview

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Seattle City Council Select Budget Committee



City of Seattle

Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)

OSE works to ensure a clean and healthy environment for all Seattle residents.

- We advance Mayor Harrell's **One Seattle Climate Justice Agenda** to transition away from fossil fuels and invest in healthy, more resilient communities.
- We **prioritize those impacted by racial, economic, and environmental injustice.**
- We serve as **cross-department and community collaborators, innovators, and drivers** of cutting-edge policy and programs.
- We **leverage external funding** to scale proven solutions.



OSE's Core Services



Climate & Environmental Justice

- Environmental Justice Fund
- Climate Workforce
- Duwamish Valley Program
- Climate Action Plan
- *Green New Deal Oversight Board*



GHG Emissions Reductions

- Building Emissions Performance Standards
- Clean Heat Program
- Transportation Electrification
- Municipal Energy Emissions Program



Food Policy & Programs

- Healthy Food in Schools
- Fresh Bucks
- Food Action Plan
- *Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board*



Seattle's Trees & Forests

- Tree Canopy Cover Assessment
- Urban Forest Management Plan
- Foresting Communities
- *Urban Forestry Commission*

Summary

The 2026 Proposed Budget **maintains existing programming** and **adds significant new one-time General Fund investments**, backed by proposed local Business & Occupation Tax changes, to **expand the Fresh Bucks program** and **increase food access** in Lake City.

TOTAL BUDGET (\$000s)	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
General Fund	\$8,361	\$8,743	\$14,469
Other Funds	\$18,779	\$19,003	\$18,945
FTE	54.50	54.50	55.50

Maintaining Impactful Investments

Implementation of Building Emissions Performance Standards (BEPS)

- **Building Navigator Grants** that support buildings serving communities hit first and worst by climate change

Clean Heat Program provides rebates for households converting homes from oil to electric heat

Municipal Energy and Emissions Program drives climate and energy goals through partnerships with capital departments

Clean Energy Apprenticeships that prepare participants for clean energy jobs

Healthy Food in Schools increases access to fresh food in Seattle Public Schools

Environmental Justice Fund supports community led climate justice projects



Maintained Impactful Investments (cont'd)

\$1.2M to support the **Duwamish Valley Program**, a place-based environmental justice strategy to support climate and community resilience.



Duwamish Valley Youth Programming to support community-led youth leadership programs



Duwamish Valley Small Business Support helps Duwamish Valley businesses thrive in place



Duwamish Valley Industrial Greening to improve tree canopy in South Park and Georgetown



Environmental Justice Fund sets aside funding specifically for climate justice projects that benefit residents of the Duwamish Valley

Duwamish Valley Investments

SPU Duwamish Valley Resilience Office (\$1.5M)

CIP Projects (\$17.3M in 2026)

- Georgetown Steamplant Rehabilitation (SCL)
- South Park Campus Improvements (SPR)
- South Park Stormwater Project (SPU)
- South Park Development (SPU)

Housing Funding (\$54M+)

- SeaMar South Park project
- Yarrow Cottages and Townhomes
- South Park Henderson Street

External Funding (\$4.4M)

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (OSE)
- Conservation Futures Tax Open Space Acquisition (SPR)
- Seattle Foundation (OSE)
- FEMA: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (OSE, OEM, SPU)

Cost Savings

1. Align Building Emissions Performance Standards (BEPS) Technology Platform Budget with anticipated spending

- Reflects updated technology project costs estimates for the BEPS compliance tool
- No negative impacts on project delivery

		2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed	% Change (Endorsed to Proposed)
	(\$000s)				
General Fund		--	--	--	--
Other Funds		\$1,437	\$1,463	\$1,083	(26%)
FTE		--	--	--	--

Significant Additions

1. Expand Fresh Bucks and increase benefit amount

- This one-time funding from the proposed Business & Occupation Tax increase will **enroll 4,400 customers** (the entire existing waitlist) and **increase the monthly benefit** from \$40 to \$60
- Part of a package of food investments to mitigate adverse impacts of federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

(\$000s)	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed	% Change (Endorsed to Proposed)
General Fund	\$1,429	\$1,429	\$7,704	114%
Other Funds	\$4,099	\$4,099	\$4,099	--
FTE	6.0	6.0	6.0	--

Fresh Bucks Growth and Expansion

Fresh Bucks grew from a \$50,000 grant in 2012.

Program currently serves **12,000 customers**.

- 80% are BIPOC
- 40% prefer a language other than English

Recent UW evaluation finds Fresh Bucks households experience **31% higher rate of food security** and eat at least three daily servings of **fruits and vegetables 37% more often** than those assigned to waitlist.

Fresh Bucks waitlist currently has over **4,000 applications**.



Significant Additions

2. Support for Lake City Farmers Market Expansion

- One-time, 3-year funding commitment (\$317k total) to expand the Lake City Farmers Market by 15 weeks through December and shift market hours from Thursday evenings to Saturday mornings.
- Increases food access in Lake City following the upcoming closure of the neighborhood's grocery store

(\$000s)	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed	% Change (Endorsed to Proposed)
General Fund	--	--	\$136	New
Other Funds	--	--	--	--
FTE	--	--	--	--



Questions?