

2016 UPDATE

SUSTAINABLE CITY REPORT

COMMUNITY  
**Sustainability**  
INDICATORS



CITY OF  
**ISSAQUAH**  
OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY

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Mayor's Office

130 E. Sunset Way | P.O. Box 1307

Issaquah, WA 98027

425-837-3000

[issaquahwa.gov](http://issaquahwa.gov)

Dear Residents:

In Issaquah, sustainability is embodied throughout our City's mission and guiding principles. Supporting a sustainable, safe and vibrant community is our overarching goal.

In 2009, to shape our vision of sustainability and develop indicators to guide our progress, the City assembled a diverse group of 16 community leaders to form the Sustainability Sounding Board.

Now, as the sixth Sustainable City Report is released, I am proud to say that Issaquah is working hard to become a more sustainable community — not only to benefit our citizens today, but also for future generations in Issaquah and throughout our region.

### **Supporting a Sustainable Community**

Our citizens' quality of life is outstanding, thanks to a low crime rate and easy access to high-quality education and health care. I am proud to say our community is made up of a rising number of engaged citizens who volunteer with local organizations and schools.

Issaquah, nicknamed Trailhead City for outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, is known nationally for our natural environment and abundant parks, trails and open space. Compared to neighboring communities, Issaquah has the highest percentage of tree canopy. In fact, our community has been named a Tree City USA every year since 1992.

Our community's robust business climate continues to grow, thanks to sustained growth among businesses large and small. Our City Hall strives to make Issaquah a place where entrepreneurs want to invest and grow. In our most recent business survey, 84 percent of businesses said Issaquah is a "good" or "excellent" place to do business.

In Issaquah, encouraging and inspiring sustainable living, promoting responsible use of our resources, and preserving and enhancing our beautiful natural environment shape our efforts every day. Citywide, 19 percent of Issaquah's housing stock is certified as Built Green. As a City, we also work to facilitate sustainable new construction by encouraging LEED-certified projects.



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## **Embracing Challenges and Opportunities**

Together with City Hall, our community is working to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Traffic is our community's No. 1 concern — and a complex issue we must tackle from all angles. Work is underway to build a network of street improvements in North Issaquah and study solutions for Issaquah-Hobart Road, a regional headache for drivers in our community and beyond. We're also working to create a safer — and more convenient — network for pedestrians and cyclists so that they can easily access recreation, work and transit without a car.

Our entire region is struggling with a shortage of affordable housing. In Issaquah, we are developing a housing strategy and determining ways to incorporate more affordable housing in future development.

Although greenhouse gas emissions decreased from 2007-12, meeting our 80 percent reduction target by 2050 requires us to strengthen our commitment to combat climate change.

Our current priorities aim to create a successful, sustainable future, including investments in transportation and parks improvements, public safety and long-range planning.

In Issaquah, our vision is clear: Enhancing a livable community where our environment is protected, our economy is vibrant and our citizens help us succeed.

Sincerely,

Fred Butler

# SUSTAINABLE CITY REPORT OVERVIEW

The Community Sustainability Indicators provide an update on measuring the community’s progress toward long-term sustainability goals. The 26 indicators were established by the Sustainability Sounding Board in 2009. The foundational Sustainability Sounding Board Report, *Measuring What Matters* (2009), may be found [online](#). The Sustainability Sounding Board further identified 13 of the 26 indicators as “Keystone Indicators” of sustainability for the Issaquah community.

## Data Limitations

A snapshot of the Sustainability Indicators are included in the 2016 Sustainable City Report. The indicators and Sustainable City Report are updated every two years though data sets vary depending upon reporting cycles for agencies or organizations which collect, validate and report underlying data. In some cases, data reporting methodologies have changed, in which case the data set may show differing periods of coverage. In addition, while the indicators provide broad coverage of core sustainability areas (or themes, as noted below), they are not intended to provide a detailed and comprehensive rendering of individual issues or topics.

## Sustainability Themes & Keystone Indicators

The Community Sustainability Indicators are grouped into eight primary **Sustainability Themes**. A brief summary of these themes is provided below. The indicators are organized by these themes within the report with keystone indicators denoted by a green star.

Theme	How is Issaquah Doing?
<b>Basic Needs</b>	Residents have access to health care, the total crime rate is low, and service utilization at the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank has been steady for the last two years. However, homes (owner and rental) in Issaquah are becoming less affordable and as households pay an increasing percentage of their incomes toward housing, fewer resources will be available to cover other basic needs like food, health care, and transportation.
<b>Business Climate</b>	The business climate has continued to improve with sustained growth in the number of businesses—particularly small businesses—and increases in City revenue. There has been a slight increase in the jobs per home in Issaquah.
<b>Community Awareness &amp; Stewardship</b>	Community members rate quality of life measures either higher or similar to a national benchmark and there has been an upward trend in the number of people volunteering in Issaquah. Voter turnout has dipped in non-presidential election years, but registration remains steady.

<b>Education</b>	The Issaquah School District continues to rank among the best in the state and nation in assessments of the extended graduation rate and reports of feeling safe in school.
<b>Green, Compact, Mixed-Use Development</b>	The City has a plan to manage growth. Progress toward state 2031 targets has slowed in recent years for new housing units while job creation has increased. The City continues to encourage LEED certified buildings for new development projects and has seen the percentage of Built Green certified homes in the city increase to 19% of total housing stock.
<b>Natural Areas &amp; Open Space</b>	Issaquah is well known for its natural beauty and ease in accessibility to parks, trails and open spaces. These assets contribute to healthy habitats and strong ecological activity which is demonstrated in an excellent rating for the health of our streams in 2013. Issaquah has the highest percentage of tree canopy compared to neighboring communities and a thriving farmers market that sells local foods.
<b>Transportation - Mobility</b>	While greenhouse gas emissions decreased approximately 1.9% from 2007 to 2012, we still have a ways to go to meet our target of 80% reductions by the year 2050. Walkability in the City has improved slightly over the last few years; however, employees continue to rely heavily on their vehicles.
<b>Waste/Resource Use</b>	In 2015, a record hot year contributed to the city missing its target for water conservation. Community-wide electricity use has increased slightly over the last few years while residential electricity use has declined almost every year since 2000. Household participation in Puget Sound Energy's Green Power Program has remained at 6-7% of total households. Issaquah is on track to meet its waste generation and disposal goals for 2020, however, it is not on track to meet its 2020 overall diversion rate goal.

**BASIC NEEDS**

# Community Health



**What is Community Health?**

Community Health measures the percentage of residents with health insurance.

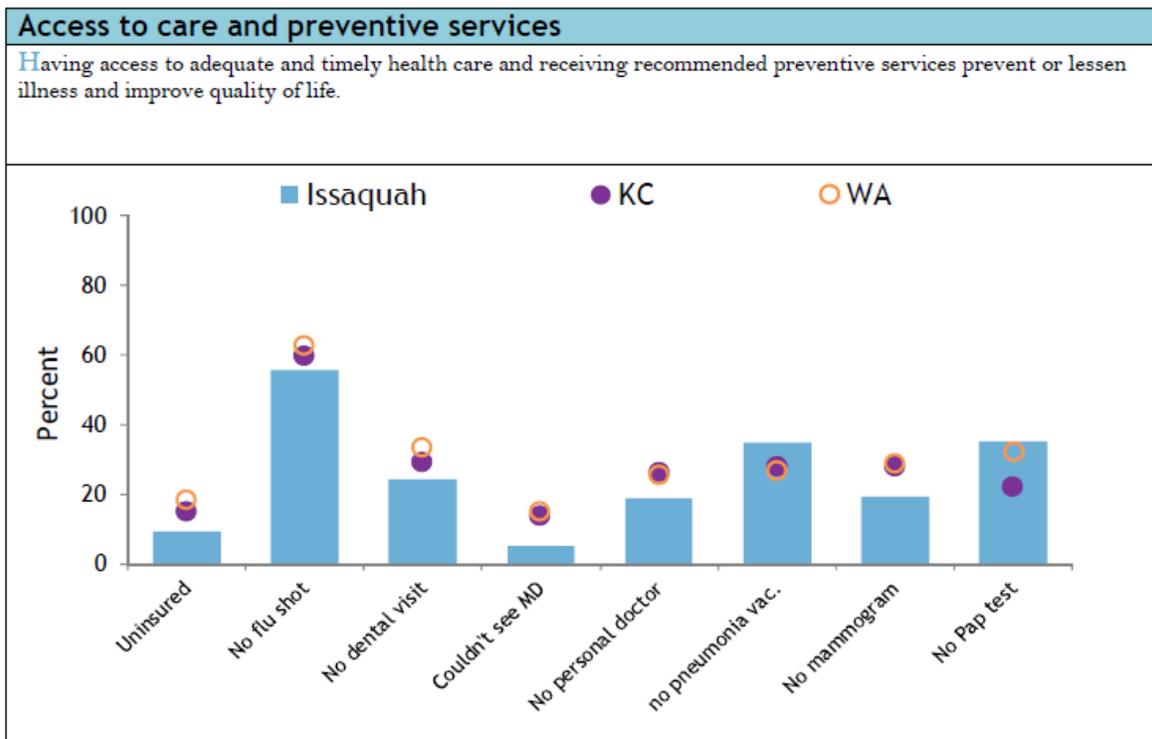
**Why is Community Health important?**

An inability to access primary healthcare needs has sweeping impacts on public health, economic stability, education and social equity across racial and ethnic groups and income levels within a community. Rising healthcare costs and unemployment have made this issue even more crucial.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

King County released a new City Health Profile for Issaquah in March of 2016. The 2016 statistics are based on the American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2010-2014. According to this data, 9% of residents in Issaquah are uninsured which is below both the King County rate of 15% and Washington State rate of 18% uninsured. Compared to the 2007-2011 rates, Issaquah had a one percent increase in uninsured residents while King County and Washington State each had a one percent reduction in the uninsured rate.

The King County City Health Profiles provide information on population health at the local level via select health indicators. Beyond the uninsured rate, the city did not significantly vary from the King County indicator rates, except for “Couldn’t see an MD”. The percent of people in Issaquah who could not see a doctor one or more times in the past year due to cost is significantly lower than the King County rate.



**BASIC NEEDS**

# Community Safety

**What is Community Safety?**

Community Safety is defined as the reported crime rate in Issaquah. Starting in 2010, the total crime rate is being reported using the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Previously, the reported property crime rate data was tracked and reported under a different protocol.

**Why is Community Safety important?**

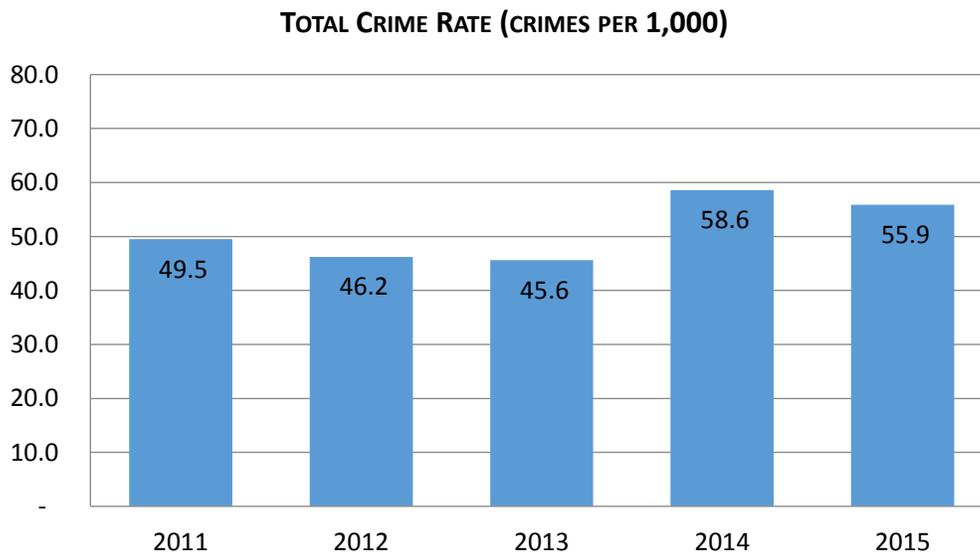
Crime affects communities in many ways, including physical safety, property damage, and allocation of public resources to the criminal justice system. A sustainable community must maintain the safety of its residents so they feel safe, supported, and secure.

**What are Issaquah's goals?**

While there is no specific target for this indicator, Issaquah strives to decrease property and violent crimes in the community. Furthermore, Issaquah strives to ensure that community members develop a sound relationship with each other and the Issaquah Police Department, by connecting residents to community resources.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

In 2015, the Issaquah crime rate was 55.9 crimes per thousand persons (utilizing the NIBRS tracking methodology). This is slightly less than 2014 but higher than 2011-2013. In total, there were 1,861 crimes reported in Issaquah in 2015.



According to the 2014 National Citizen Survey, 91% of residents rate Issaquah as a safe place to live, 38% of residents reported an overall feeling of safety as excellent and 53% rated it as good.

### **Community Highlights**

In 2015, the Issaquah Police Department added a dedicated Community Resource Officer (CRO) to engage with the community to identify problems and develop innovative solutions to crime in the community. The officer works closely with homeowners' associations, businesses and residents. The CRO initiated several community programs including the Coffee with a Cop program which offers community members the chance to speak with an officer. Another program called Paws on Patrol, provides presentations to dog owners in the City in an attempt to increase their awareness of crime and suspicious circumstances while they are walking their dogs. The CRO has also laid the groundwork for the Crime Free Storage program which will work with commercial storage facilities to increase awareness of criminal activity, and train employees in crime prevention.

**BASIC NEEDS**

# Food Bank Use



**What is Food Bank Use?**

Food Bank Use is defined as the number of individuals and families served by the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank per year.

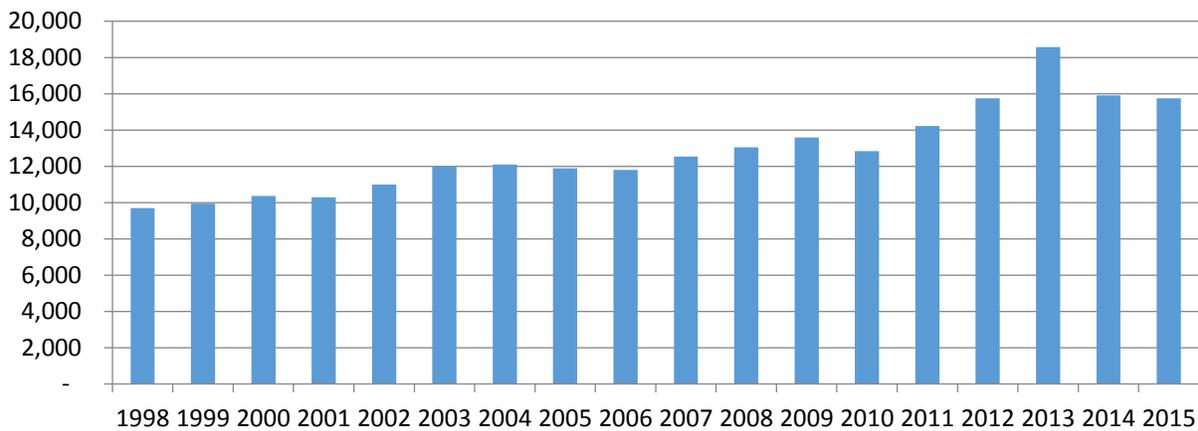
**Why is Food Bank Use important?**

The use of food banks by Issaquah households is an indicator of the number of residents in need, as well as how well the community is serving the basic economic and social needs of these residents.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

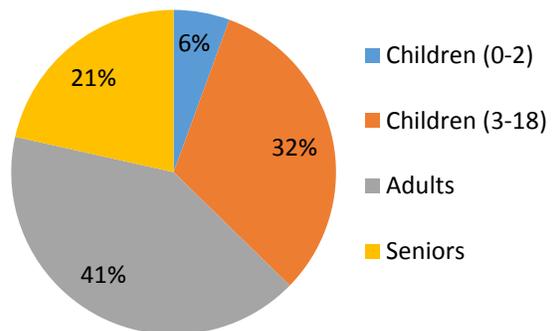
In 2014, the food bank implemented policies to ensure clients live in the defined service area. This resulted in a decrease in total households served and the number of services provided in 2014 and 2015 compared to 2013. In 2014 there were a total of 15,909 services to households and 15,745 in 2015.

**NUMBER OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO HOUSEHOLDS**



The breakdown of food bank clients has remained nearly unchanged in the last several years with about 60% of services provided to the community’s most vulnerable populations – children and seniors.

**FOOD BANK CLIENTS, 2015**



**Resources and Actions**

The mission of the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank is to provide basic needs to our community members to promote self-sufficiency. Visit their website to learn more or volunteer: <http://issaquahfoodbank.org>.

## BASIC NEEDS

# Housing Affordability Gap

## What is the Housing Affordability Gap?

The Housing Affordability Gap is defined as the difference between the price of homes affordable to median income households compared to the average price of homes on the market. Housing is considered affordable if it consumes no more than 30% of a household's gross income. The indicator also tracks the number of affordable units available as a percentage of total housing stock.

## Why is Housing Affordability Gap important?

Ensuring a supply of affordable housing options allows for increased diversity of income levels and supports living wage level occupations within a community. Low income households also typically pay a higher percentage of income for housing, leaving little for basic necessities.

## What are Issaquah's goals?

Targets for the housing affordability gap do not currently exist. The City would hope to see a downward trend in the difference between median income and average sales price. The City's 2015 adopted affordable housing goals are:

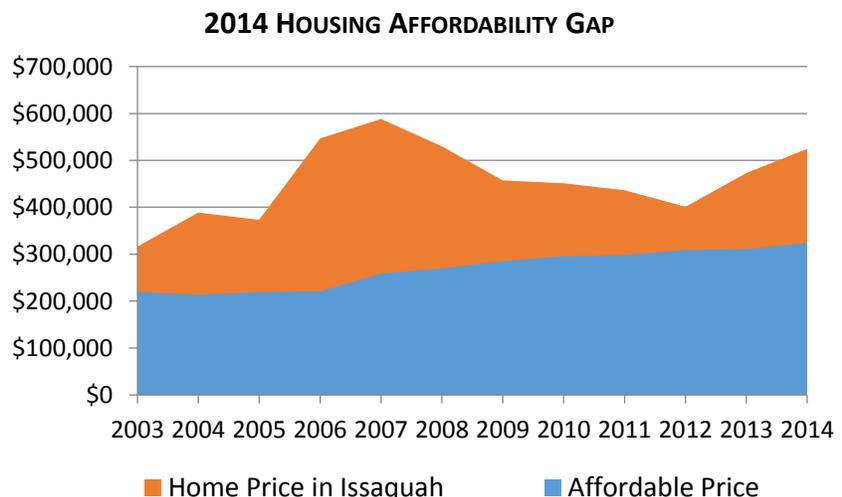
- 12% of total housing supply is affordable to very low-income households with 30% of the King County median household income
- 12% of total housing supply is affordable to low-income households with 31% - 50% of the King County median household income
- 16% of total housing supply is affordable to moderate-income households with 51%-80% of King County median household income
- Ensure that as Issaquah grows, there is no net loss in the supply of housing

## How is Issaquah doing?

***The affordability gap increased from 2012 through 2014 and the city has a ways to go to increase housing affordability at the very low and low-household income levels.***

The difference between the average home prices and the price affordable to a household earning the median income in King County increased to \$200,418 in 2014 from \$161,559 in 2013.

The levels of affordable housing are below the City's targets.



- In 2015, 3% of housing was affordable to very low-income households with 30% of King County median household income.
- In 2015, 3% of housing was affordable to low-income households with 31% - 50% of King County median household income.
- In 2015, 15% of housing was affordable to moderate-income households with 51% -80% of King County median household income.

**Resources and Actions**

Explore affordable housing options, volunteer and support more affordable homes locally.

[ARCH](#) - ARCH is a partnership of the County and East King County Cities who have joined together to assist with preserving and increasing the supply of housing for very low-, low- and moderate-income households in the region. ARCH assists member governments in developing housing policies, strategies, programs, and development regulations; coordinates the cities' financial support to groups creating affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households; and assists people looking for affordable rental and ownership housing.

**BUSINESS CLIMATE**

# Business Diversity



**What is Business Diversity?**

Business Diversity is defined as the number of businesses in Issaquah by size, employment and type.

**Why is Business Diversity important?**

The size, employment, type, longevity and ownership location of businesses in Issaquah are critical measures of the health of the local economy. At this time longevity and ownership location cannot be measured. A diverse business base is important because it provides a resilient economic foundation and access to a variety of products and services. Local ownership, investment and buying supports local businesses, entrepreneurial activity, local employment and connections to community values and priorities.

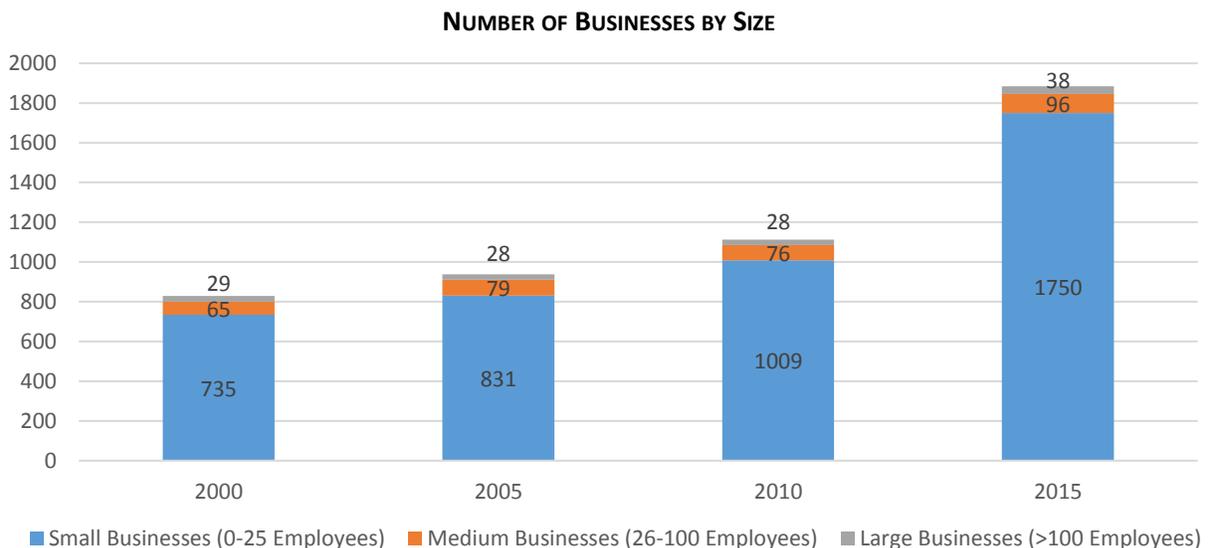
**What are Issaquah’s goals?**

Targets for Business Diversity do not currently exist. However, Issaquah strives to encourage local economic vitality by promoting and encouraging a diversity of goods and services and employment opportunities within the city. In 2015, the City established an Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan is oriented around four goals that make Issaquah:

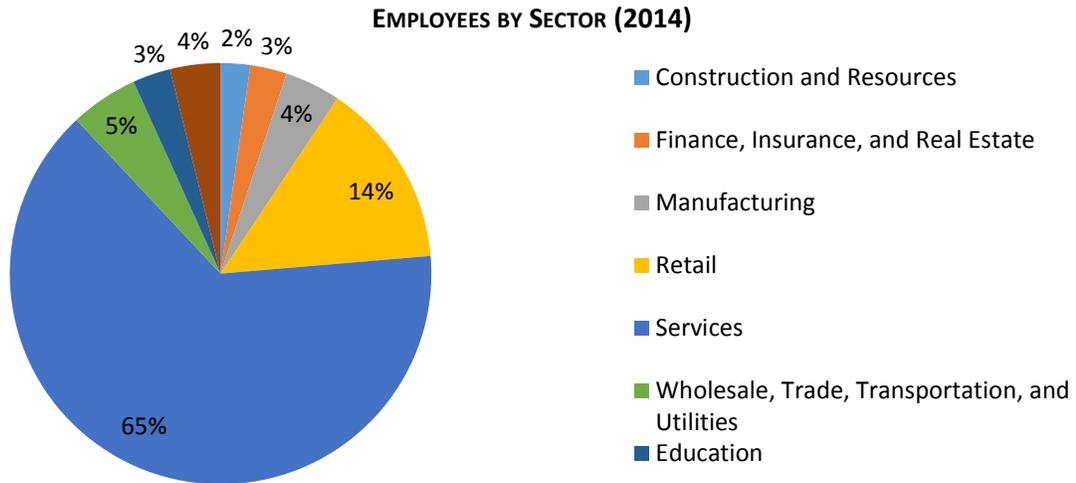
- **The place** where businesses thrive.
- **The first choice** for business location.
- **The place** for career advancement and housing diversity.
- **The place** to live.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

The total number of businesses in Issaquah has doubled over the last 10 years from 938 in 2005 to 1,884 in 2015.



- Over 90% of all businesses in Issaquah are small businesses (businesses with <25 employees). Growth in these businesses was particularly high from 2010 to 2015 with a 73% increase from 1,009 to 1,750 small businesses.
- The number of large businesses (businesses with >100 employees) increased by 36% over during the same period, from 28 to 38 businesses.



**Employment by Sector**

- 65% of all employees in Issaquah are in the service sector which includes several industries such as education, health services, and professional and business services. This category employs 15,286 people and is by far the largest sector in Issaquah. In 2005, this category represented about 50% of all employees and in 2010 it was 61%.
- The second largest sector is retail which currently has 14% of employment in the city or 3,397 employees. The retail sector has decreased since it peaked in 2008 with 18% of employees in Issaquah.
- The remaining sectors each make up between 2-5% of employees in Issaquah.

**Resources**

Downtown Issaquah ([www.downtownissaquah.com](http://www.downtownissaquah.com))  
 Issaquah Highlands Business District (<http://www.issaquahhighlands.com/doing-business/>)  
 Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.issaquahchamber.com/>),  
 Discover Issaquah (<http://discoverissaquah.com>)

**BUSINESS CLIMATE**

# Job-Housing Balance

**What is Job-Housing Balance?**

Job-Housing Balance is the ratio of total jobs to total housing units in Issaquah.

**Why is Job-Housing Balance important?**

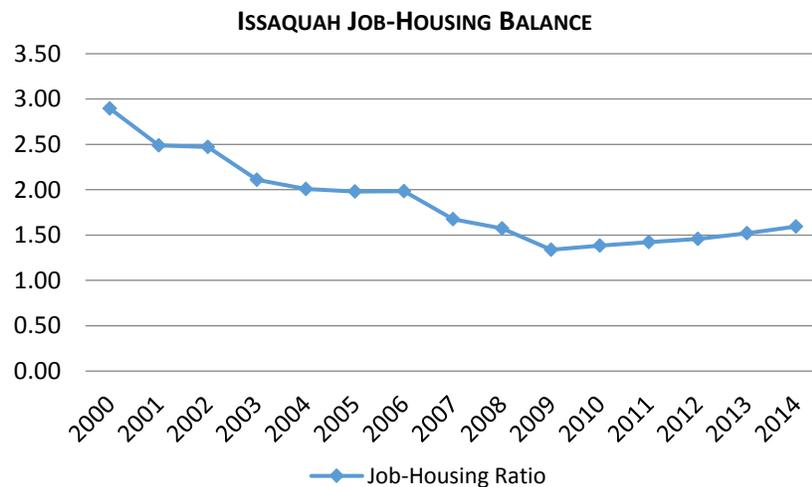
A balance between jobs and housing means that Issaquah is more evenly matched and more likely to be able to provide adequate housing for those working in Issaquah and adequate jobs for those living in Issaquah. There is a more adequate amount of housing growth to support employment growth in the City as this ratio nears 1.0. An imbalance results in longer commutes (either to homes or jobs), traffic congestion, air emissions, and deterioration of physical and mental health and community strength. It is important to note that while Job-Housing Balance reflects the ratio of jobs and housing, it does not describe the affordability of housing or the wage levels of jobs in the community.

**What are Issaquah's targets?**

The City of Issaquah works with King County and other jurisdictions to establish Growth Management Act (GMA) targets for jobs and housing that seek to create a regional or sub-regional "balance" between housing and jobs.<sup>1</sup> No specific target for job-housing balance exists at this time.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

In 2000, there were 2.9 jobs per home in Issaquah. The ratio reached 1.34 in 2009 and has slowly been increasing since, reaching 1.59 in 2014. Continued attention to both housing and jobs growth in concert with improvements in mobility and housing affordability will be required.



In 2014, the City's Urban Core was designated as an Urban Center in the King County Countywide Planning Policies (KC Ord #17783). Urban Centers are planning districts intended to provide a mix of housing, employment, commercial, and cultural amenities in a compact form. They support transit, walking and cycling. They are focal points of vibrant city life and activity, as well as strategic locations for accommodating a significant share of future population and employment growth.

<sup>1</sup> City of Issaquah, "Comprehensive Plan, 2015: Housing, Policy E2", City of Issaquah, <http://issaquahwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1268>

**BUSINESS CLIMATE**

# Participation in the Arts



**What is Participation in the Arts?**

Participation in the Arts measures attendance at entertainment, cultural, and art events in Issaquah.

**Why is Participation in the Arts important?**

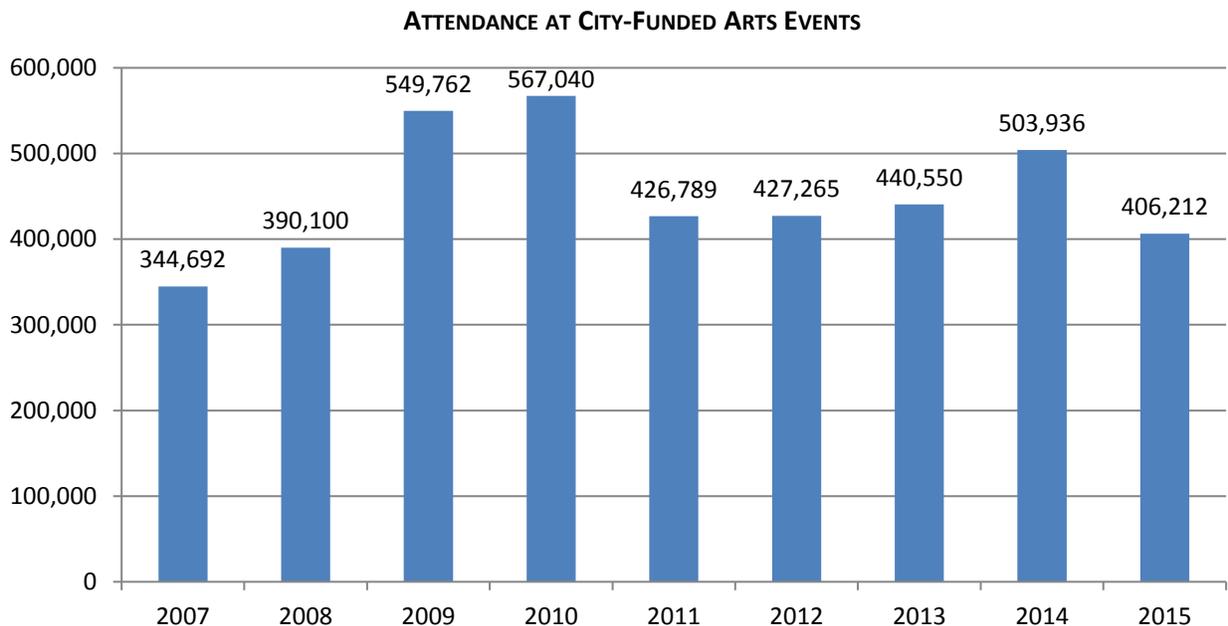
Arts and culture is seen as an asset to local economic development, as many businesses and residents look to these amenities when making location decisions. Furthermore, exposure to different cultures and ideas fosters understanding between diverse community members. In 2009, the Sustainability Sounding Board recommended participation in the arts as one of 13 ‘keystone’ indicators for the Issaquah community.

**What are Issaquah’s goals?**

Targets for Participation in the Arts do not currently exist. The City of Issaquah strives to enhance Issaquah residents’ quality of life through a balanced economic vitality strategy that includes diverse cultural resources. Since residents who participate in the arts are exposed to many diverse cultures, the City of Issaquah also strives to increase Issaquah residents’ quality of life through increased participation in the arts.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

Participation in the arts generally ranges from 400,000 to 500,000 people each year. In 2015 there was a slight decrease in the total number of attendees, however, this is partially due to the data from one organization not being included in the participation tally. Highlights include the Salmon Days Festival, Village Theatre, and summer events including ArtWalks, Concerts on the Green, outdoor Shakespeare performances and music at the Issaquah Farmer’s Market.



**BUSINESS CLIMATE**



# Revenue Base Diversity

**What is Revenue Base Diversity?**

Revenue Base Diversity is defined as total city revenue base by source (e.g. local taxes, sales tax, business license fees, etc).

**Why is Revenue Base Diversity important?**

The change in revenue base over time is seen as a core measure of the durability and breadth of the local economy. Furthermore, change in revenue also indicates Issaquah’s ability to meet the needs of its residents and provide them with opportunities that may have otherwise been unavailable. These needs include investments in infrastructure, police services, parks and recreation, human services, fire and life safety, and other provisions.

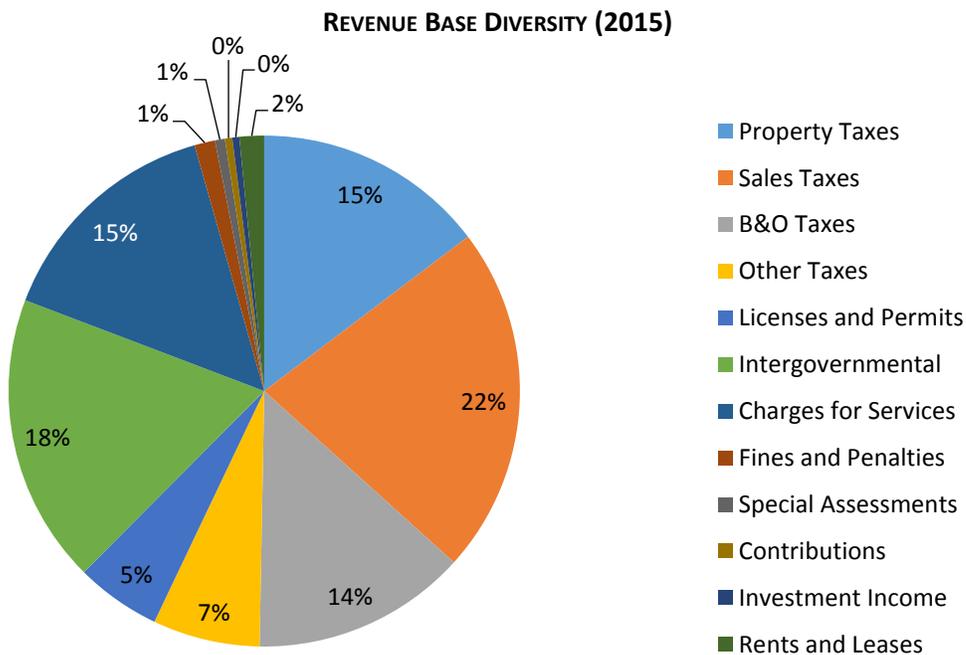
**What are Issaquah’s goals?**

The City of Issaquah strives to encourage and maintain a robust local economy that can meet the needs of and provide opportunities to its residents. Specific targets for revenue base diversity have not been determined.

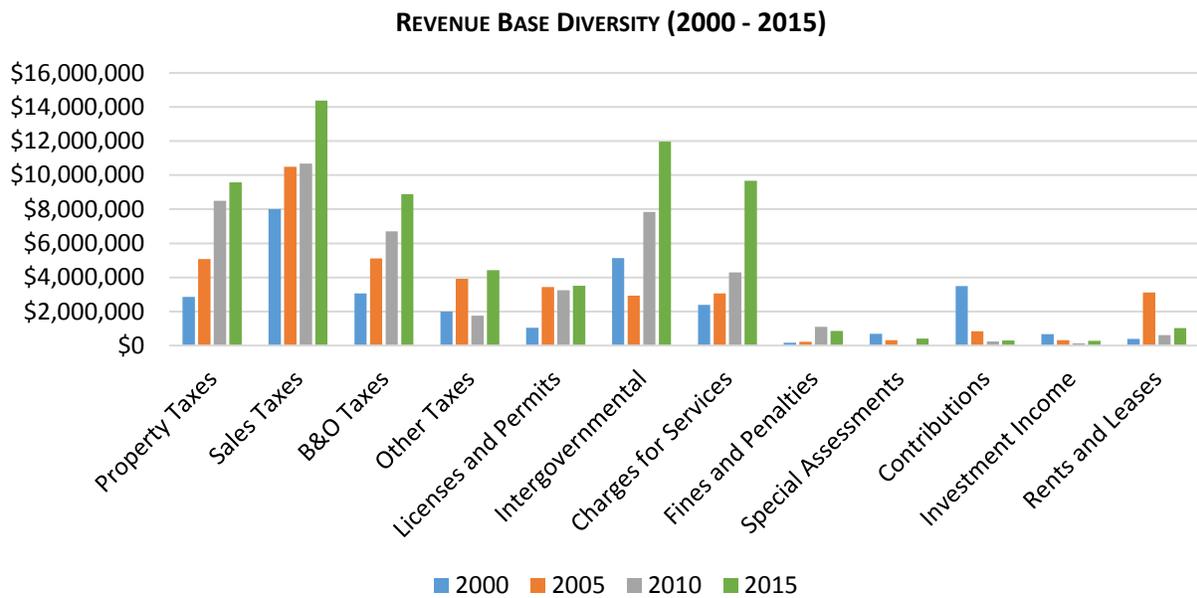
**How is Issaquah doing?**

The fiscal year 2015 budget reflects an economy that has continued to improve and performed better than in 2013.

- The City’s overall revenue base increased by about \$10 million from 2013 to 2015. In 2013, total revenue was \$54.8 million and in 2015 it was \$65.3 million.
- Development revenue in the City peaked in 2014 and 2015 and has started to slow.



- Sales taxes showed a 32.8% gain in 2015, largely due to construction-related sales tax and retail sales. There was also an increase in Business and Operations taxes primarily related to the increase in B&O tax rates which took effect April 1, 2015. Also contributing to the increase was a change in City legislation which now requires non-religious hospitals to file and pay B&O tax.
- Charges for services were lower in 2015 due to the pool closure for the majority of the year.
- The City has received higher total revenues from property taxes, sales taxes, B&O taxes, licenses and permits, charges for services, and fines and penalties as the City has grown. Revenue has increased with population growth and helps to accommodate the needs of Issaquah’s increasing population.



## COMMUNITY AWARENESS &amp; STEWARDSHIP

Quality of Life *(In Development)***What is Quality of Life?**

Quality of Life, or 'livability', is resident perception of the overall quality of life in Issaquah.

**Why is Quality of Life important?**

Quality of Life describes the opportunities for personal growth for Issaquah residents and Issaquah residents taking advantage of these opportunities. These opportunities can be expanded by local businesses, government, non-profits, community leaders, and community members. A higher quality of life leads to many positive outcomes for residents, which include a greater sense of place within the community, better health, and less stress.

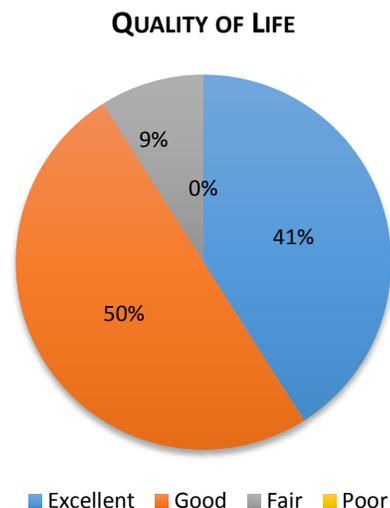
**What are Issaquah's goals?**

Issaquah seeks to maintain and improve the quality of life for all Issaquah residents by supporting programs which enhance personal and community living. Issaquah does not have specific targets for this indicator.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

In 2014, the City of Issaquah distributed *The National Citizen Survey* to a group of residents in Issaquah. The results of this survey and future surveys will be used to assess the Quality of Life indicator.

According to the survey, 91% of residents rated Issaquah as an excellent or good place to live. Survey respondents also rated several aspects of community quality including Issaquah as a place to raise children, to work, to visit and to retire. In each category, at least 2/3 of respondents rated these aspects of quality of life as excellent or good. These numbers were either higher or similar to the survey's national benchmark comparisons.



COMMUNITY AWARENESS & STEWARDSHIP

# Voter Turnout

**What is Voter Turnout?**

Voter Turnout is defined as the percentage of registered voters who vote in general and local elections and the percentage of eligible voters who are registered.

**What are Issaquah’s goals?**

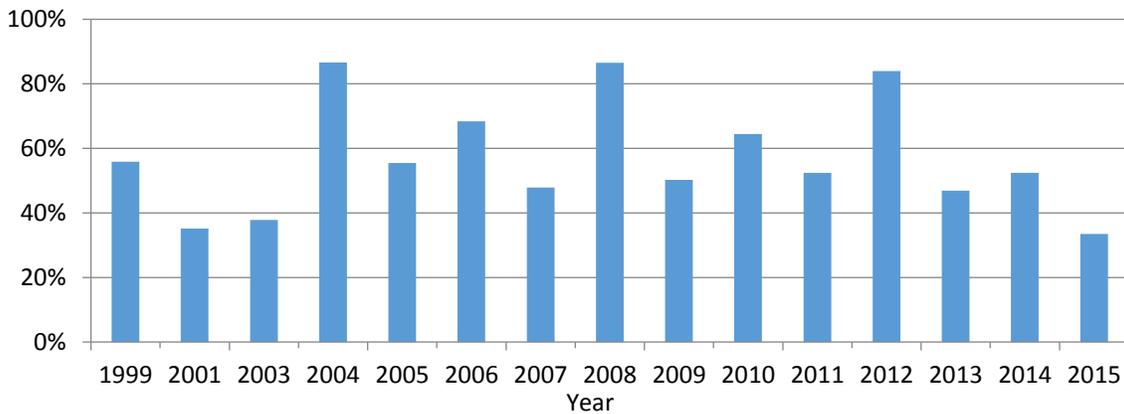
Issaquah strives to increase voter turnout in elections as well as the number of registered voters in the City.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

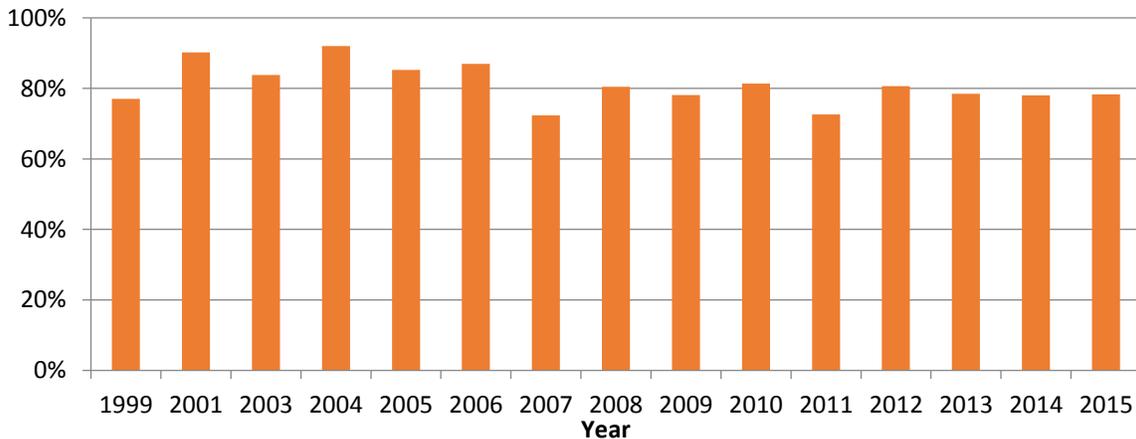
***Issaquah’s Voter Turnout is cyclical but was lower in 2015 than previous years.***

The first graph displays the percentage of registered voters who voted in elections. Voter turnout is cyclical in nature as more people vote in presidential election cycles. In Issaquah, voter turnout was only 33% in 2015 which is lower than previous years. However, the percent of eligible voters who are registered has remained steady around 78%.

**PERCENTAGE OF REGISTERED VOTERS WHO VOTED**



**% OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHO ARE REGISTERED**



## COMMUNITY AWARENESS &amp; STEWARDSHIP

## Volunteerism

**What is Volunteerism?**

Volunteerism measures the percentage of residents who volunteer and total hours volunteered in City or community programs. Because data on volunteerism is not currently available for all community programs, it is currently illustrated through hours volunteered for City or City sponsored programs.

**Why is Volunteerism important?**

By volunteering, Issaquah residents improve the quality of life in Issaquah for themselves and others, which is fundamental to building a more sustainable community.

**What are Issaquah's goals?**

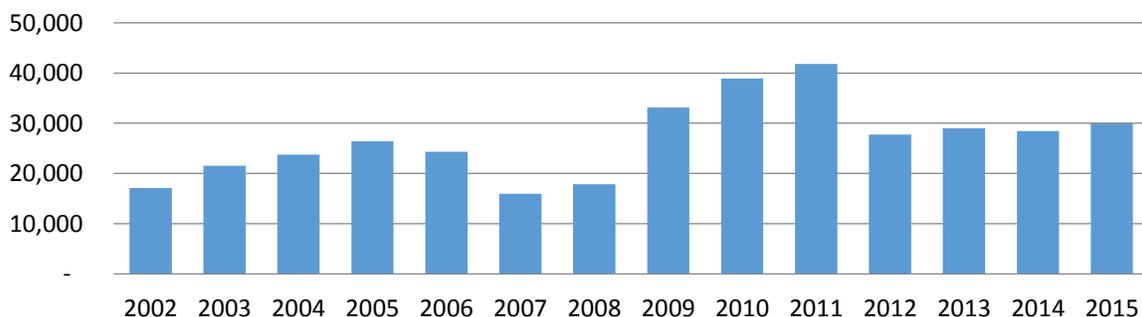
The City of Issaquah benefits from and supports volunteers in many of its program and service offerings within the community. A specific Volunteerism target does not currently exist.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

*Issaquah has a steady base of volunteers in the community.*

- Volunteerism for City programs has remained consistent for the last 4 years.
- Total volunteer hours in City programs, including recreation, stream restoration and other activities was about 30,000 hours in 2015. Volunteer time is worth \$23.56 per hour.<sup>2</sup> This equates to a value of about \$700,000 reinvested in our community.
- In 2014, 38% of City residents reported that they had volunteered their time to some group/activity in Issaquah in the last 12 months.<sup>3</sup> This volunteer rate is similar to the national benchmark established by The National Citizen Survey.

**TOTAL CITY PROGRAM VOLUNTEER HOURS**

**What can I do to help?**

Volunteer with the City or another organization that works in Issaquah!

- City of Issaquah: <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=920>
- Mountains to Sound Greenway: <http://www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer>
- Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank: <https://www.issaquahfoodbank.org/volunteer/>
- United Way King County: <http://www.uwkc.org/ways-to-volunteer/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time?s=volunteer%20time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time?s=volunteer%20time)

<sup>3</sup> City of Issaquah National Citizen Survey, 2014

**EDUCATION**

# Education



**What is Education?**

The indicators for education are still in development. However, the Sustainability Sounding Board identified three key areas of sustainability that should be addressed:

1. Pre-kindergarten
2. Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
3. Adult education

Currently, the primary data for the Education community indicator is being tracked by the Issaquah School District through the extended graduation rate, school safety and advanced placement class enrollment and other metrics as noted below.

**Why is Education Important?**

The quality of education – both formal and community-based – is paramount to each individual’s ability to achieve their goals and positively contribute to a sustainable society. Issaquah residents value education at all ages, and believe it is important to invest in education so that citizens feel empowered to enhance the quality of their lives and their community.

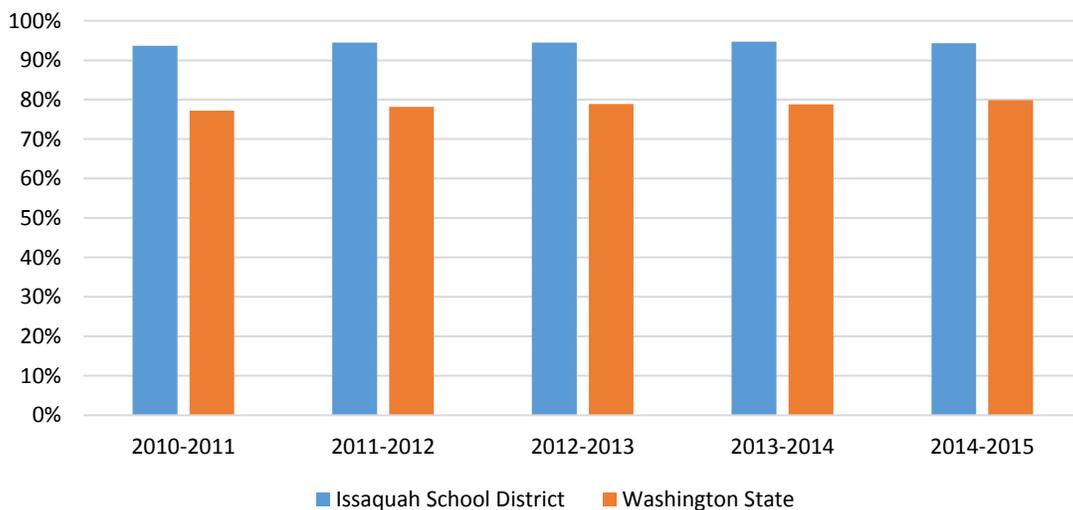
**What are Issaquah’s Goals?**

The Issaquah School District strives to prepare all students for the academic, occupational, personal, and practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment. While students continually rank among the best in the state and nation in assessments, schools here annually create research-based plans to challenge, support, and move every student forward to higher levels of learning. Accordingly, the Issaquah School District tracks graduation rates and SAT scores as indicators of student success.

**How is Issaquah Doing?**

The Issaquah School District continues to excel in several areas including extended graduation rates and school safety.

**ADJUSTED 5-YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATE**



- The Issaquah School District has had consistently high extended graduation rates over the last several years on its own and compared to Washington State. For the 2014-2015 school year, the adjusted 5-year cohort graduation rate was 94.3% for the Issaquah School District and 79.9% for Washington State.
- The Issaquah School District participates in the State’s biannual Healthy Youth Survey which measures several aspects of health at schools including the “Percent of students who report that they feel safe at school”. There was little change between the 2012 and 2014 survey results. In both years 92% of 6-graders reported that they felt safe at school. In 2014, 90% of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders reported feeling safe at school which is a one percentage point increase over the 2012 survey. The Issaquah school safety rate is higher than that of Washington State.

### **Community Highlight**

- The Issaquah School District continues to be a leader in resource conservation practices. In 2015, the City of Issaquah and Issaquah School District issued a “Waste Free Wednesday” Challenge to all schools for Earth Day to reduce cafeteria garbage. Nineteen schools, representing almost 15,000 students and staff, accepted the challenge. A total of 421 pounds were generated during lunch in the District. On a per student average that represents about half an ounce of waste per student or less than the weight of three United States quarters!
- The District has been formally participating in the King County Green Schools program since 2005. Of the district’s 24 schools, 22 have completed Level Two (energy conservation), 15 have completed Level Three (water conservation), and 12 schools have completed Level Four (sustaining green schools).
- Each of the 24 District Schools also has a Green Team which is a team of students, teachers and custodians that works on environmental initiatives in the school. This is a student-led effort that builds leadership skills, connects students and improves environmental sustainability throughout the district.

**GREEN, COMPACT & MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT**

# Current & Planned Density

**What is Current and Planned Density?**

Current and Planned Density is defined as achieved residential density in developable areas during periods of 6 years and the 25-year plan for density for developable areas.

**Why is Current and Planned Density important?**

Current and Planned Density is seen as key to understanding how well the City of Issaquah is managing growth. Smart growth focuses development in walkable, transit supportive and traditional neighborhood and town center design focused upon livability, and simultaneously uses infrastructure more efficiently, preserves natural open spaces, provides for more efficient transportation and promotes local economic vitality among other sustainability objectives. Higher residential densities and mixed-use buildings in key areas will promote these sustainability objectives.

**What are Issaquah's targets?**

State targets for additional housing units and jobs are adopted within the King County Countywide Planning Policies and then by the individual jurisdictions. Additional housing units and jobs are an implicit part of this indicator, as they provide for planned densities in developable areas within most zoning categories. Higher residential densities in appropriate areas will help Issaquah achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and pollution through less vehicular travel.

The current state target for Issaquah from 2006 to 2031 is:

- Housing: 5,750 additional units
- Job: 20,000 additional jobs

These appropriate areas include Central Issaquah and Lakeside. The Central Issaquah Plan, adopted in December 2012, provides policies that focus density in the Central Issaquah area.

**How is Issaquah doing?*****Issaquah is moving in the right direction.***

- In 2006, Issaquah had 9,437 housing units and built 1,834 additional units by 2012. Construction of units slowed the following three years with 829 new units added from 2013 through 2015. Another 2,308 units are needed to meet the 2031 target.
- There were 18,280 existing jobs in 2006. An additional 2,483 jobs were created from 2006 to 2012. From 2013 through 2015, another 2,989 were created, leaving 14,528 remaining to target.
- The Central Issaquah Plan is intended to guide the long-term evolution of the 1,100 acre commercial core from a collection of strip malls, parking lots, and office buildings into a more sustainable urban area to meet our community's needs for environmental protection, jobs, housing, livability, and rapid transit.

## GREEN, COMPACT &amp; MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

## Green Buildings

**What are Green Buildings?**

The Green Buildings indicator measures the number of LEED and Built Green certified buildings as a percentage of Issaquah's overall building stock.

**Why are Green Buildings important?**

Green Buildings use sustainable materials and green technology to reduce pollution and resource use, and protect vital habitat, watersheds, and natural areas throughout Issaquah.

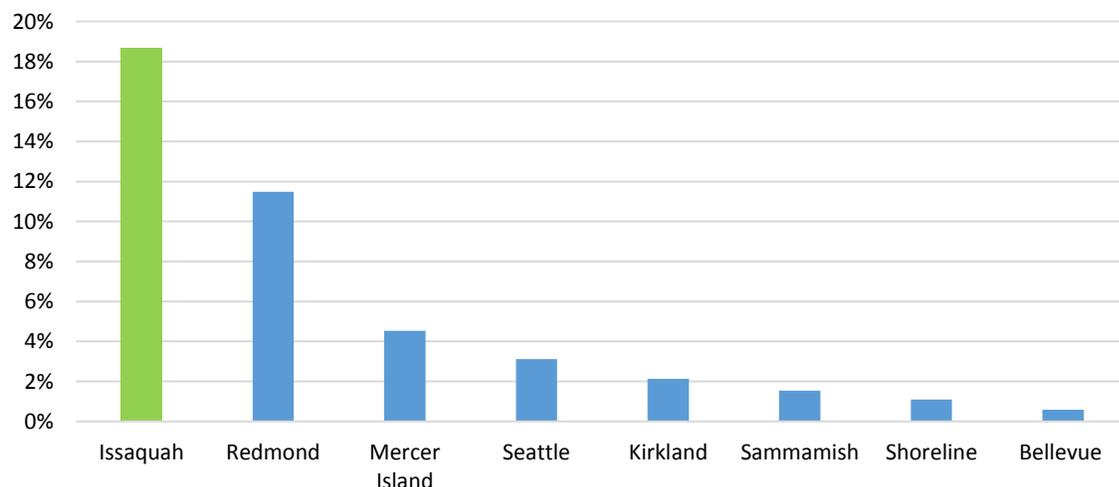
**What are Issaquah's goals?**

Issaquah strives to increase the number of LEED certified and Built Green certified buildings and to promote elements of sustainability in the natural environment by expanding sustainable building programs. A specific target for Green Buildings does not currently exist.

**How is Issaquah doing?*****Issaquah is moving in the right direction***

- 13 LEED projects have been completed since 2003, totaling more than 800,000 square feet of United States Green Building Council certified sustainable buildings. These include 1 certified, 7 silver, 4 gold and 1 platinum (Fire Station 72) certified buildings. In addition, 2 schools in Issaquah are certified as Washington High Performance Schools.
- Nearly 1 in every 5 homes in Issaquah is certified Built Green. In 2015, the City of Issaquah's percentage of Built Green certified homes was 19% of total housing stock which is more than neighboring communities.
- The City, along with a diverse set of partners, opened zHome in 2011, the nation's first zero net energy multifamily housing project. A 2015 post-occupancy study found that zHome in fact produces 3.5% more energy than is consumed.

PERCENTAGE OF HOMES BUILT GREEN CERTIFIED



GREEN, COMPACT & MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

# Population Density



**What is Population Density?**

Population Density measures the average number of residents per acre in each subarea in Issaquah. Each subarea may be categorized into three different levels, based on its population density. Level one is for subareas with fewer than 6 people per acre; level 2 is for subareas with more than 6 and fewer than 40 people per acre; level 3 is for subareas with more than 40 people per acre. Currently, population density includes all area within a subarea and does not reflect the density of specific development areas within those subareas.

**Why is population density important?**

Population Density is a key measure to understanding how well the City of Issaquah is managing growth. Smart growth is connected to the use of resources, transportation, the local economy, and other sustainability issues.

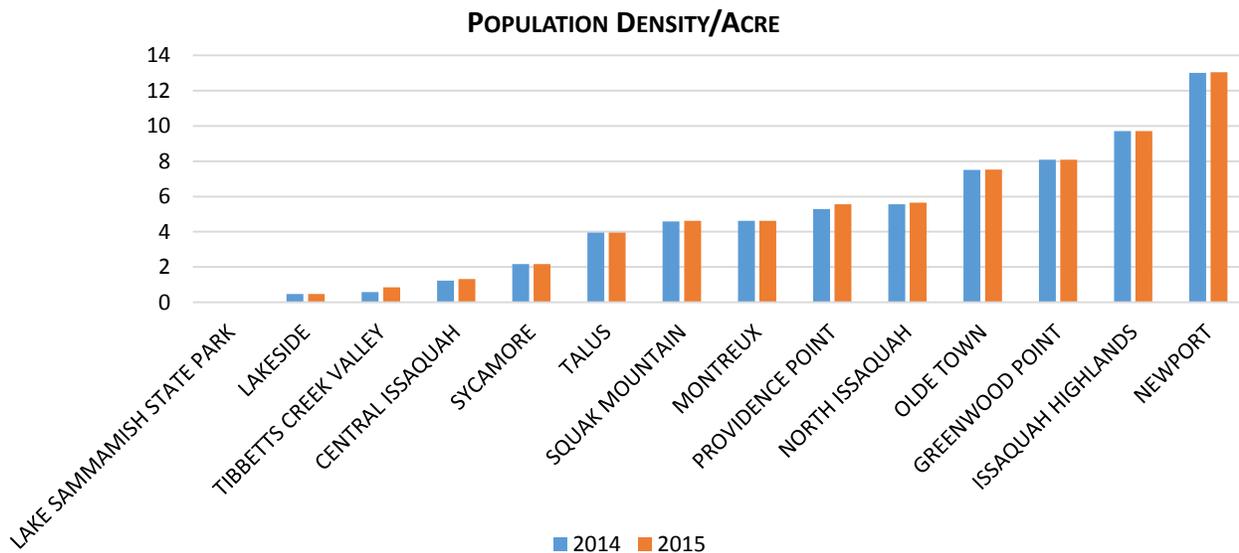
**What are Issaquah’s targets?**

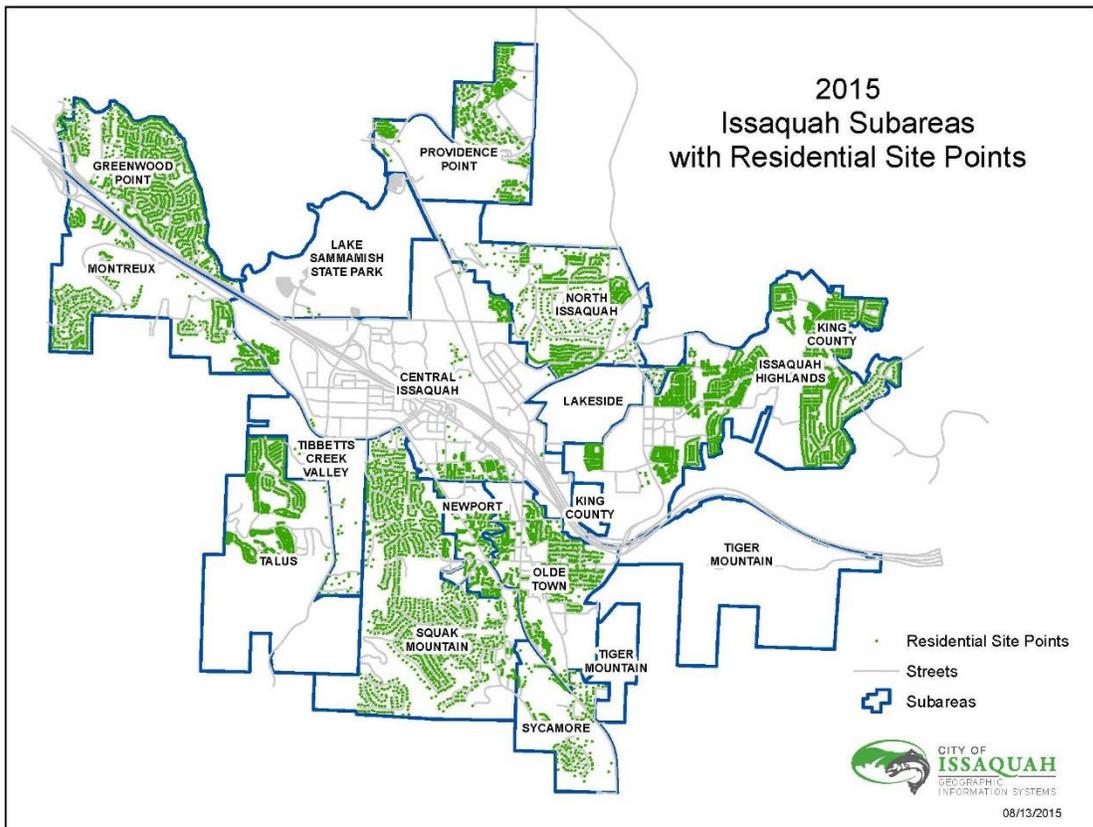
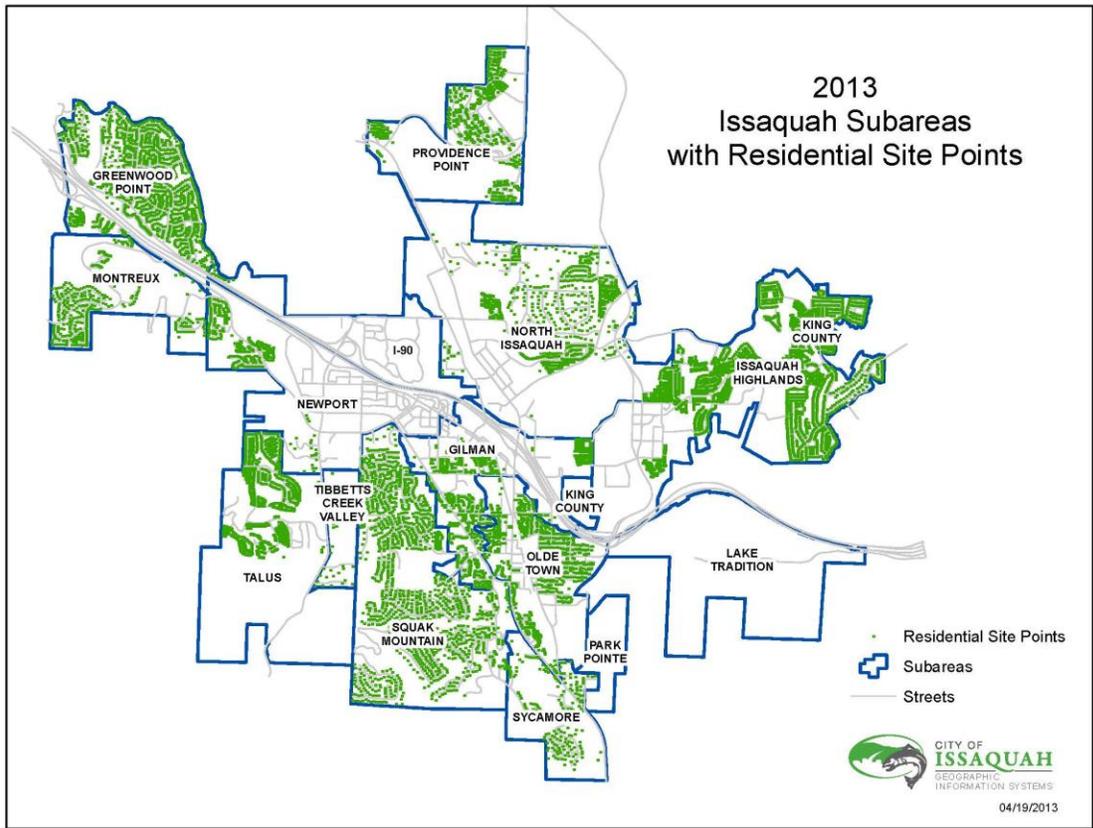
Higher population density in appropriate areas will help Issaquah achieve efficiencies in mobility options, increase efficiency of infrastructure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

The City established the Central Issaquah Plan to manage growth by channeling the majority of future development into Central Issaquah in order to provide a more livable, sustainable and balanced mixed-use urban area. This will help protect the character and scale of Issaquah’s existing neighborhoods, while creating a vibrant urban community with convenient access to shopping and jobs downtown.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

Density in Issaquah increased in each subarea from 2009 to 2013. In 2015, the City amended the Issaquah Comprehensive Plan which redrew the City’s planning subareas. The 2014 and 2015 data is shown below using the new subarea designations. Newport is the densest subarea as it has a large concentration of multifamily properties. The Issaquah Highlands is the second densest followed by Greenwood Point and Olde Town.





## NATURAL AREAS &amp; OPEN SPACE

# Food Grown Locally

## What is Food Grown Locally?

Food Grown Locally is measured by farmers market sales by product type.

## Why is Food Grown Locally important?

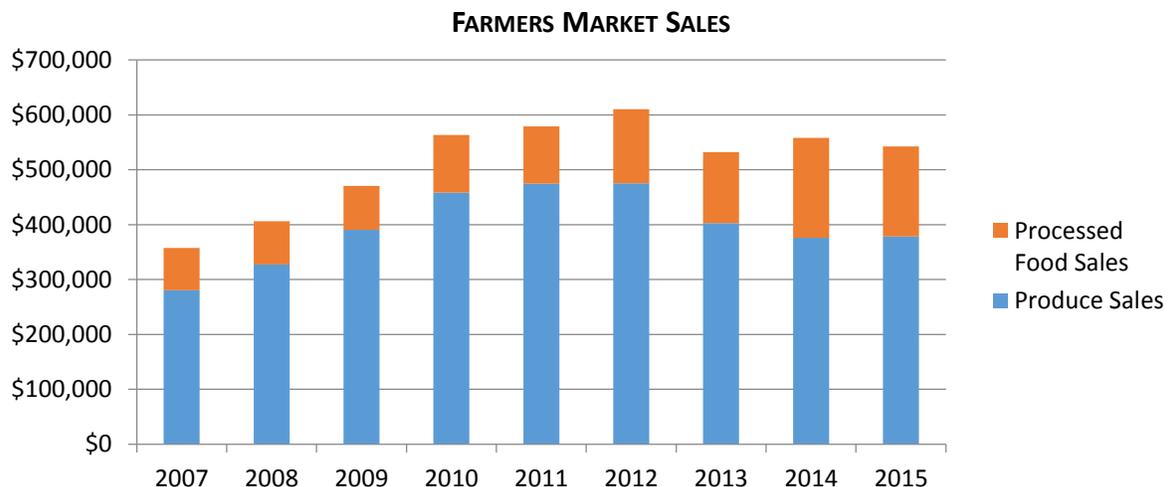
A piece of produce in a typical grocery store travels over 1,500 miles on its way from farm to consumer. These significant ‘food miles’ result in impacts due to shipping and the transfer of ‘food dollars’ outside of the community and away from area farmers. Supporting local food production helps ensure that the Issaquah community supports a secure regional food supply connected to northwest values and supportive of local businesses.

## What are Issaquah’s goals?

Regarding food production, Issaquah will permit small scale agriculture, horticulture and hobby farm activities to continue where existing or where such uses would not adversely impact critical areas or the character of the surrounding area. There is not a specific local food production target at this time.

## How is Issaquah doing?

From 2009 through 2014, food sales at the Issaquah Farmers Market generally shifted such that the share of total sales from produce declined from 83% to 67% while the share of total sales from processed foods increased from 17% to 33%. However this trend did not extend into 2015. Produce sales at the farmers market rose from \$376,256 in 2014 to \$378,635 in 2015 while processed food sales dropped from \$182,026 to \$164,039. In 2015 these sales produced a 70/30 split of total sales between produce and processed food.



The City of Issaquah owns the Pickering Demonstration Garden, which produces fresh, organic produce for households served by Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank. The City offers volunteer drop-in hours providing opportunities to get involved in the garden and learn about organic food growing techniques. There are also several P-patches and community gardens in the city.

NATURAL AREAS & OPEN SPACE



# Preserved Natural & Open Space

**What is Preserved Natural and Open Space?**

Preserved Natural and Open Space is defined as the percentage of acres city-wide in parks, stream and wildlife corridors and preserved natural areas.

**Why is Preserved Natural and Open Space important?**

As Issaquah grows and changes, it is critical that we protect its beauty and natural areas. These assets can provide habitat, recreation, and essential ecological functions.

**What are Issaquah’s goals?**

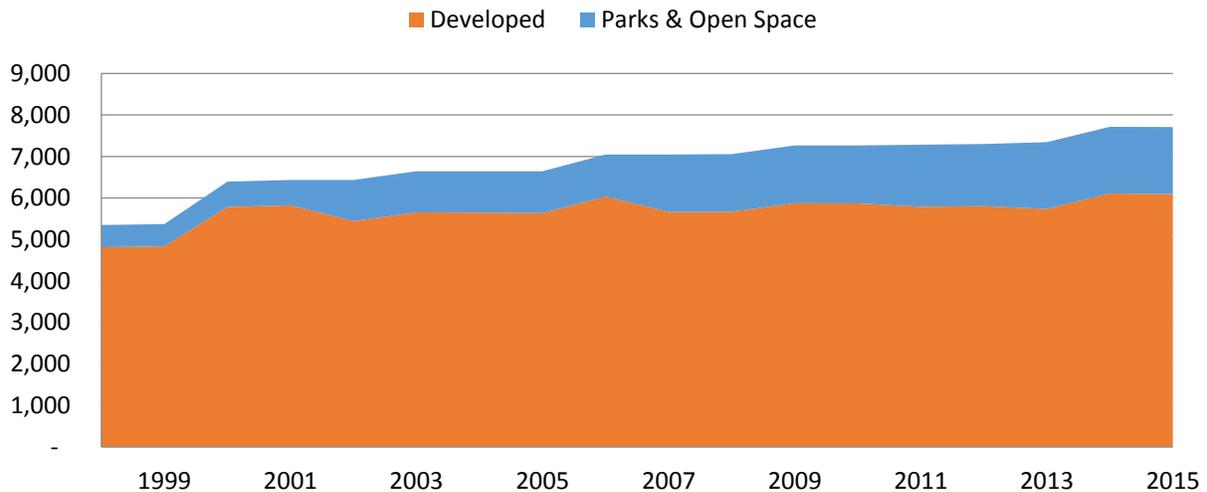
Issaquah seeks to increase the percentage of acres preserved in open space, although no specific target exists.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

*Issaquah is maintaining a significant percentage of acres of preserved open space.*

- The percentage of open space has steadily increased. In 2015, the City had a total of 212 acres of maintained parks and 1,404 acres of open space for a total of 1,616 acres.
- Approximately 21% of the City’s total acreage is in Preserved Natural and Open Spaces, up from 15% just 10 years ago.

ACRES OF NATURAL AREAS AND OPEN SPACE



## NATURAL AREAS &amp; OPEN SPACE

## Stream Health

**What is Stream Health?**

Stream Health measures the biological condition of local streams. This is measured through a sampling of water-borne stream insects (benthic macro-invertebrate species) and evaluation of the Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI). The B-IBI ranges from 0 to 50, 0 being very poor and 50 being excellent. Conditions are further categorized as very poor (10-16), poor (18-26), fair (28-36), good (38-44), excellent (46-50).

**Why is Stream Health important?**

Healthy streams support salmon and other wildlife habitats and they reflect the overall quality of surrounding open space and forested areas as well as the impacts of development, pesticide and fertilizer use, flooding, and other activities.

**What are Issaquah's goals?**

Issaquah strives to increase Stream Health by decreasing water runoff from roads, land, parking areas, lawns and roofs. A specific target regarding stream health has not been established at this time.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

***Issaquah's stream health has not significantly degraded over the last 10 years and has maintained "fair" to "good" B-IBI scores.***

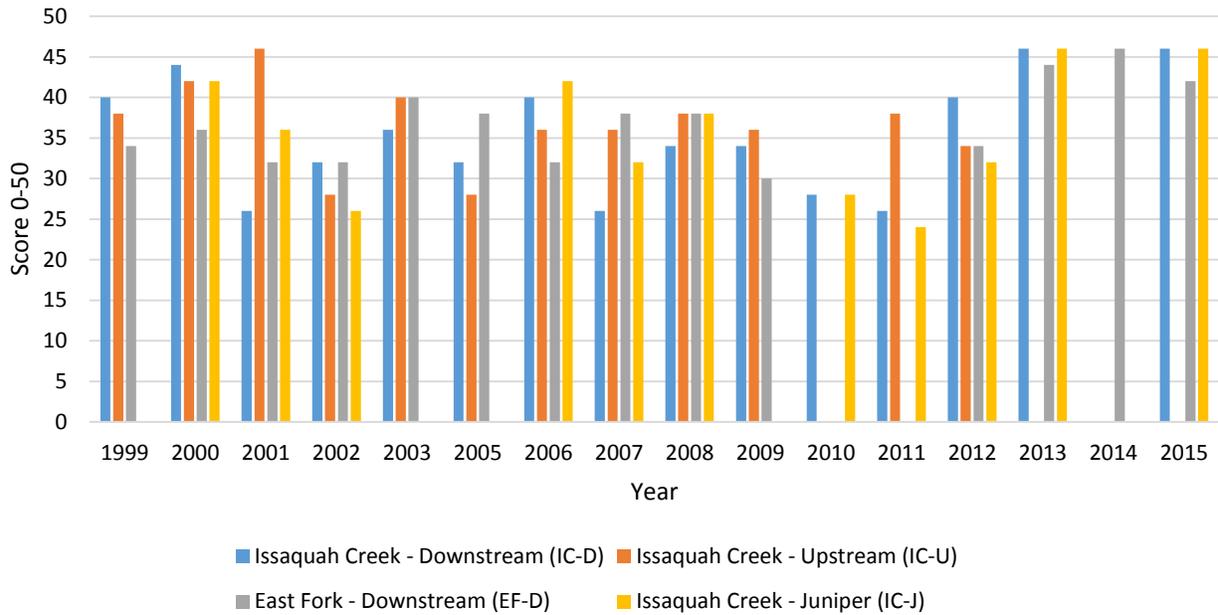
Tracking the changes in the B-IBI score at a site over time can give an indication of the trend in the health of the site. However, many of the monitoring stations have limited data, and data can vary based on sampling method and skill of samplers. The most complete sets of data are for Issaquah Creek Upstream, Issaquah Creek Downstream, East Fork of Issaquah Creek, and Issaquah Creek Juniper. In 2012, the City discontinued the volunteer stream monitoring program and now depends on sampling from King County for data. In 2014, only East Fork was sampled from sites with the most complete data sets. In 2013 and 2015, only the East Fork of Issaquah Creek, Issaquah Creek at Juniper and Issaquah Creek Downstream were collected. For East Fork, King County samples at different sites along the creek each year, so the scores are from that years sampling and not necessarily from the same exact site.

Predicting trends from limited data sets is generally inconclusive, but can be used as a basis against which future data can be measured. Comparing the data collected at Issaquah Creek Upstream, Downstream, Juniper, and East Fork Downstream shows that our stream health is consistently in the fair to good range with occasional readings in the excellent range, where it has been for the last three sampling years. It is possible that King County professional samplers are getting more thorough sample results than past volunteers, and this could be the reason for the increased scores in 2013-2015.

In comparison to the rest of the region, the water quality in Issaquah is better than many of the more urbanized areas. Look at local data from the entire region at

<http://pugetsoundstreambenthos.org/Default.aspx>.

### B-IBI SCORES



### Resources and Actions

- Follow natural yard care, eco-friendly car washing and other stream friendly practices at home and at work. Find out more at: [www.pugetsoundstartshere.org](http://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org)
- Properly dispose of hazardous waste.
  - General KC Hazardous Waste Site <http://www.lhwmp.org/home/BHW/index.aspx>
  - Household hazardous waste <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/hazwaste.asp>
  - Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal <http://www.lhwmp.org/home/BHW/documents/1001SQGhazDISPfly.pdf>

## NATURAL AREAS &amp; OPEN SPACE

# Tree Canopy

*Note: An update to the City's Tree Canopy occurs as data becomes available. A tree canopy analysis is expected in 2016 and will be available for the next Sustainability Indicators Update.*

## What is Tree Canopy?

Tree Canopy is a measure of city-wide tree canopy coverage through aerial surveys.

## Why is Tree Canopy important?

Trees provide many important environmental benefits including improving air quality, reducing stormwater runoff and providing natural habitats. They also have aesthetic value and are a part of Issaquah's identity.

## What are Issaquah's targets?

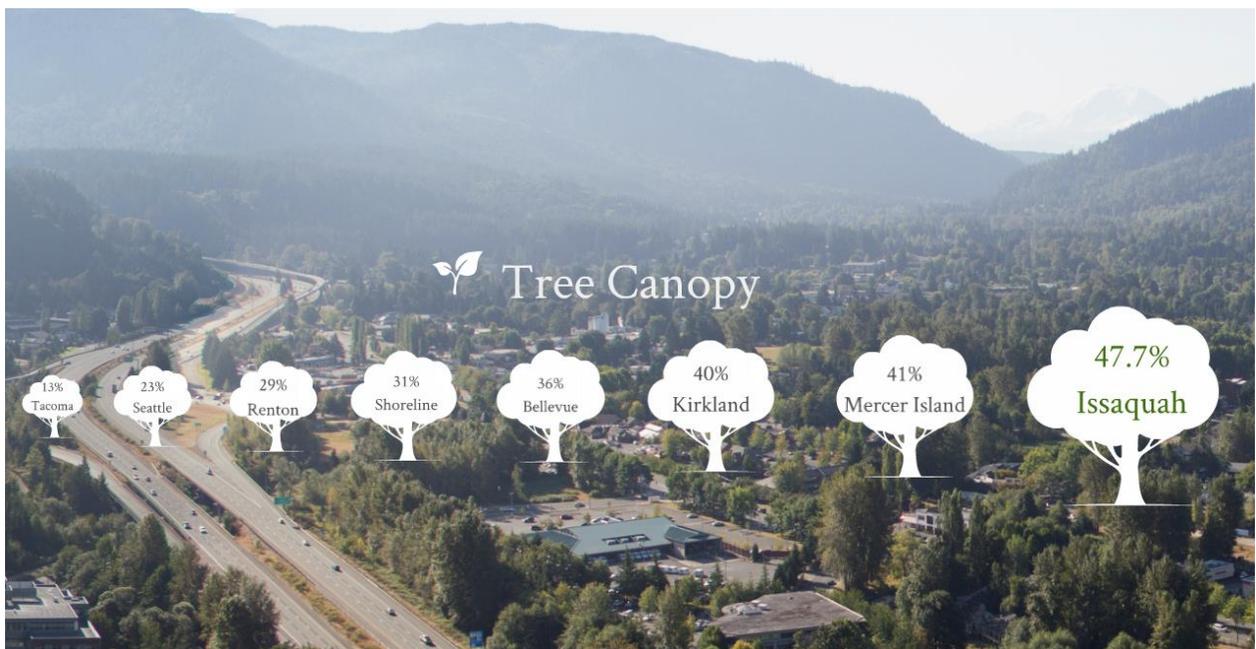
In 2008, Issaquah adopted two targets:

- Tree canopy coverage of 51% of total land within Issaquah.
- No net loss of overall tree canopy coverage.

## How is Issaquah doing?

In 2012 the City of Issaquah established a baseline summary of the City's Urban Tree Canopy (UTC). Aerial photography classified land cover and demonstrated where it is possible to plant trees in the future in order to meet Issaquah's current tree canopy cover goal of 51%. Issaquah is comprised of 48% tree cover, 31% impervious surfaces, 17% non-forest vegetation, 4% soil and 1% water. Compared to neighboring communities, Issaquah possesses the highest percentage of tree canopy.

Previously, the city calculated the tree canopy to be 59% of the city acreage. The updated data is not considered a decrease in city canopy but instead reflects the study's increased technological sophistication.



## TRANSPORTATION - MOBILITY

## Carbon Footprint

Keystone  
Indicator

*Note: An update to the City's Carbon Footprint occurs once every five years and was last updated in 2012. The next update will be in 2017.*

**What is a Carbon Footprint?**

A Carbon Footprint is a measure of the greenhouse gas pollution associated with our activities. It measures the total carbon dioxide and carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions produced within the Issaquah community. The indicator describes emissions by sector (i.e. transportation, residential, industrial, commercial, waste and other sources).

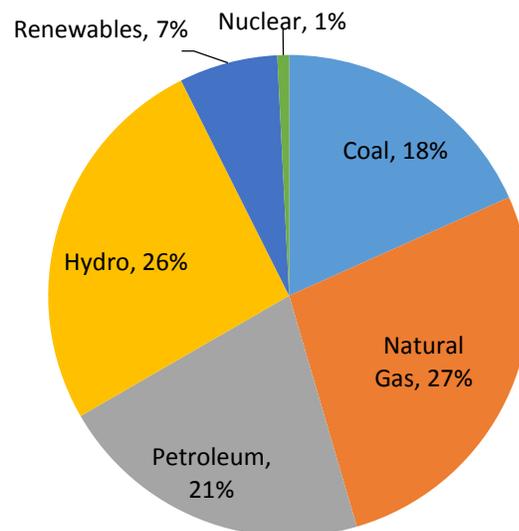
**Why is a Carbon Footprint important?**

Carbon emissions are linked to climate change and associated with adverse impacts to humans and natural systems. There is scientific consensus that human based actions—primarily the burning of fossil fuels for energy, but also deforestation, industrial and commercial processes—are the primary drivers of climate change. Changes to the climate impact our health, transportation systems, forests, coastlines, emergency management, agriculture and food and water resources – all of which are fundamentally connected to our economic and societal foundations.

Locally, climate studies at the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group identify multiple, related impacts on natural resources, human health, wildlife, water supplies, stream flows, agriculture, regional economics and other considerations. The *Washington State Integrated Climate Response Strategy* notes the following impacts associated with a two degree centigrade increase in temperatures:

- 44% decline in spring snowpack across Washington State
- 14-29% increase in the magnitude (i.e. amount of precipitation) of 24 hour storm events in the Seattle-Tacoma area
- More extreme river flooding. At a temperature increase of roughly 3°C, the 100-year flood event for the Green River near Auburn could increase in magnitude up to 76% - with a similar range projected for the Snohomish River

**COMMUNITY WIDE ENERGY FUEL MIX BY SOURCE  
(2012)**



### What are Issaquah's goals?

Issaquah has adopted a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, with a base year of 2007. The City's targets are aligned with the King County greenhouse gas reduction targets. Washington State has adopted greenhouse gas emissions requirements, limiting emissions to 50% below 1990 levels by 2050.

In addition, the City joined over 500 mayors to endorse the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

### How is Issaquah doing?

Greenhouse gas emissions have decreased approximately 1.9% from 2007 to 2012 concurrent with a downturn in the economy over this same period of time. Historically, emissions generally have followed growth in the city as the number of residents, for example, has increased from 24,710 persons in 2007 to 31,150 persons in 2012. During this time, however, total carbon emissions per capita has declined from approximately 11.4 to 8.9 tons per person, and residential energy use per house has also declined significantly as the newer housing stock has become more energy efficient.

Issaquah is one of only a few Cities in King County with a formally adopted greenhouse gas emissions target. Several policies also are aimed at reducing Issaquah's carbon footprint. Projects such as zHome, LED streetlight retrofits, Municipal building retrofits, electric vehicle infrastructure, and waste reduction and trip reduction strategies are aimed at reducing emissions.

Comparing 2007 and 2012 emissions:

Sector	Estimated GHG Emissions (metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e)			
	2007	%	2012	%
Residential	81,970	29.2%	82,480	29.9%
Commercial	92,330	32.8%	93,050	33.7%
Industrial	13,870	4.9%	11,730	4.3%
Transportation	92,920	33.1%	88,630*	32.1%
Waste	n/a		n/a	
<b>Total</b>	<b>281,090</b>		<b>275,890</b>	

*\*Based upon 2011 PSRC data available at the time. Sector emissions updated September 2013 with 2012 fuel mix data.*

### Resources and Actions

Find your personal carbon footprint: Check out the EPA's carbon calculator to see where you could reduce your footprint.

[http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html)

TRANSPORTATION - MOBILITY

# Mobility



**What is Mobility?**

Mobility measures transportation by mode, which is the percentage of total travel trips by the mode of transportation (i.e. foot, bicycle, drive alone vehicle, car/vanpool, bus, and rail). Since data is unavailable for the travel patterns of all Issaquah residents, transportation by mode trends are drawn using data from the Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) survey that captures the commuting trends of employees of businesses with more than 100 employees.

**Why is Mobility Important?**

Transportation accounts for about 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in King County and the majority of those are from single occupant drivers. Reducing the number of single occupancy vehicles will reduce transportation emissions, improve air quality, and reduce traffic congestion.

**What are Issaquah’s goals?**

Reduce auto-travel and encourage alternate forms of transportation.

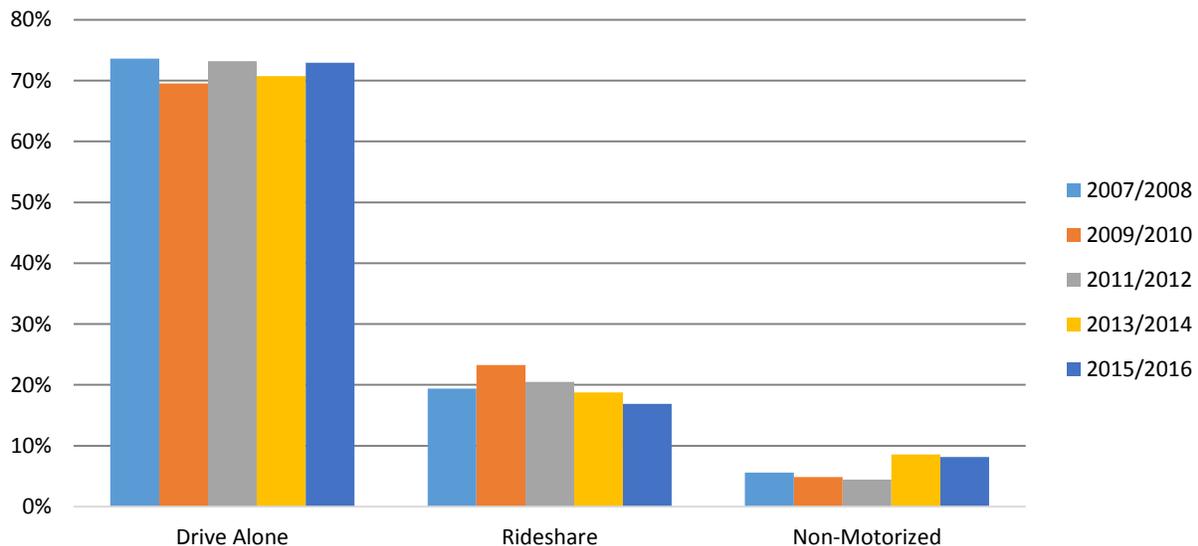
- 10% reduction in Single-Occupancy Vehicle travel
- 13% reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled

**How is Issaquah doing?**

*Issaquah has one of the highest vanpool mode shares of any CTR affected jurisdiction in the state, but like other similar cities, it is still heavily car dependent.*

For businesses with more than 100 employees, the 2013/2014 survey showed that employees are continuing their dependence on personal vehicles. Drive alone rates increased from 70.8% in 2013 to 72.9% in 2015. Vanpools and carpools continue to be popular alternative methods for commuting to work. At Costco, one of the City’s largest employers, ridesharing accounts for 1 out of every 4 commute trips. SanMar, another of Issaquah’s larger employers, has reduced its employees’ drive alone rate by promoting teleworking. In 2015, 35% of their employees’ weekly trips were eliminated by teleworking.

TRANSPORTATION BY TYPE



**TRANSPORTATION - MOBILITY**

# Walkability



**What is Walkability?**

Walkability is defined as the percentage of residents who live within a walkable distance (generally within ¼ mile) of essential services (i.e. schools, retail, grocery, parks and open space, health services and public transportation). At this time walkability data limitations do not allow for consideration of other factors affecting walkability, such as grade, elevation, sidewalk condition or connectivity, safety, amenity access points or amenity sub-types.

**Why is Walkability important?**

Walkability is influenced by a range of issues including urban design, business district development, and mixed use housing as well as pedestrian, bike and transit access, among others. Walkable communities are often characterized by positive improvements in public health, thriving local businesses, transportation options, and smart growth patterns which use infrastructure efficiently and preserve sensitive natural areas. Walkability is a key indicator of livability of a community.

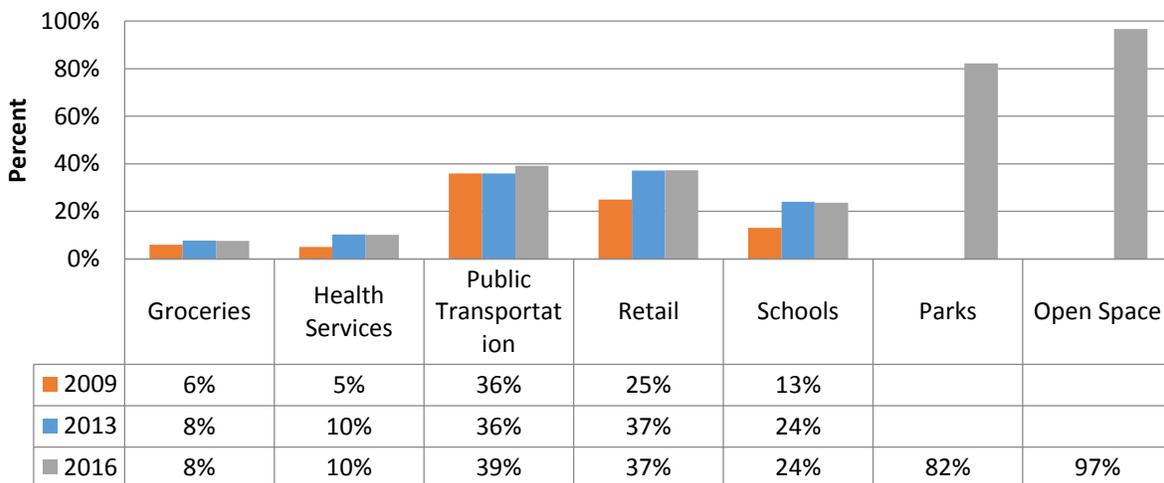
**What are Issaquah’s goals?**

Issaquah seeks to create livable housing and neighborhoods for all residents, but no specific target exists for Walkability.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

Walkability to amenities in Issaquah did not change much in the last two years. Issaquah remains largely automobile dependent, but has increased walkability to amenities since 2009 including grocery stores, health services, retail and schools. Olde Town and Central Issaquah are the most walkable subareas in Issaquah.

**WALKABILITY TO KEY AMENITIES (CITY-WIDE)**



PERCENT OF RESIDENTS WITHIN A WALKABLE DISTANCE TO KEY AMENITIES, BY SUBAREA (2015)							
Subarea	Groceries	Health Services	Public Transportation	Retail	Schools	Parks	Open Space
CENTRAL ISSAQUAH	16%	74%	67%	100%	41%	98%	100%
GREENWOOD POINT	0%	0%	60%	0%	1%	96%	88%
ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS	10%	10%	39%	63%	16%	100%	100%
LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%	100%	100%
LAKESIDE	0%	3%	97%	67%	0%	97%	100%
MONTREUX	0%	0%	34%	6%	18%	73%	100%
NEWPORT	3%	19%	61%	95%	87%	97%	100%
NORTH ISSAQUAH	3%	4%	71%	9%	0%	1%	100%
OLDE TOWN	40%	29%	81%	76%	76%	93%	100%
PROVIDENCE POINT	0%	0%	0%	0%	44%	39%	69%
SQUAK MOUNTAIN	3%	3%	6%	18%	16%	85%	100%
SYCAMORE	0%	0%	0%	0%	27%	94%	100%
TALUS	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	100%	100%
TIBBETTS CREEK VALLEY	0%	5%	19%	32%	0%	69%	100%

WASTE/RESOURCE USE

# Energy Use

### What is Energy Use?

Energy Use is defined as total energy use per capita and by sector.

### Why is Energy Use important?

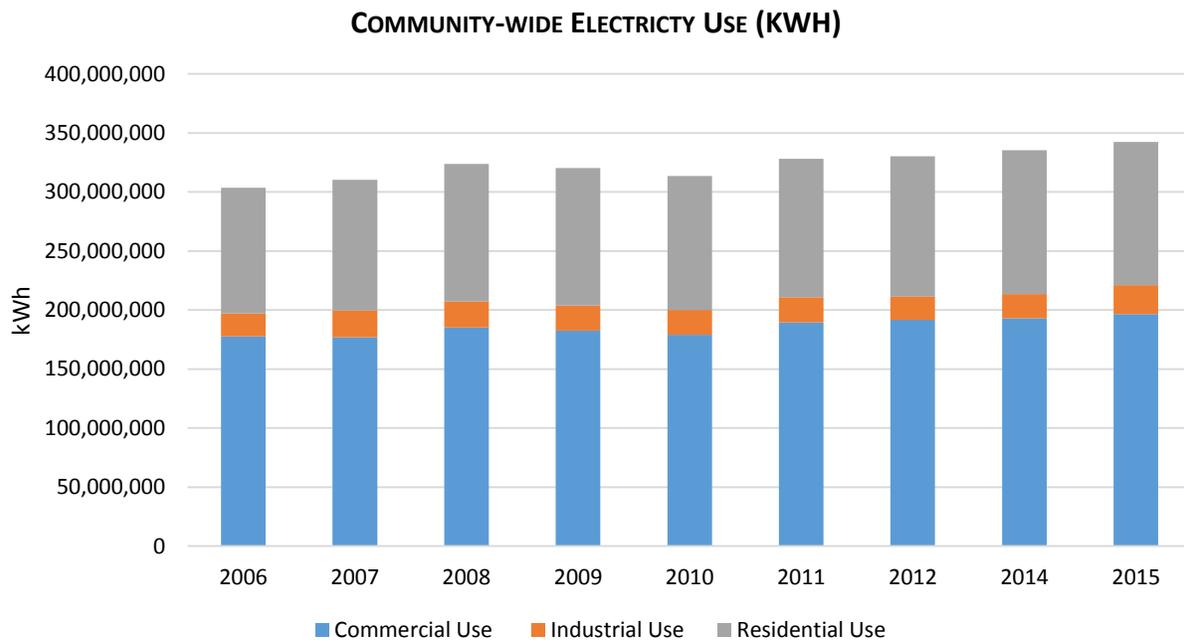
Energy Use creates pollution and depletes resources. Emissions associated with energy production are a primary source of carbon pollution. Energy conservation will ensure reductions in carbon emissions and that the region will be able to continue to provide energy to its residents now and well into the future.

### What are Issaquah’s goals?

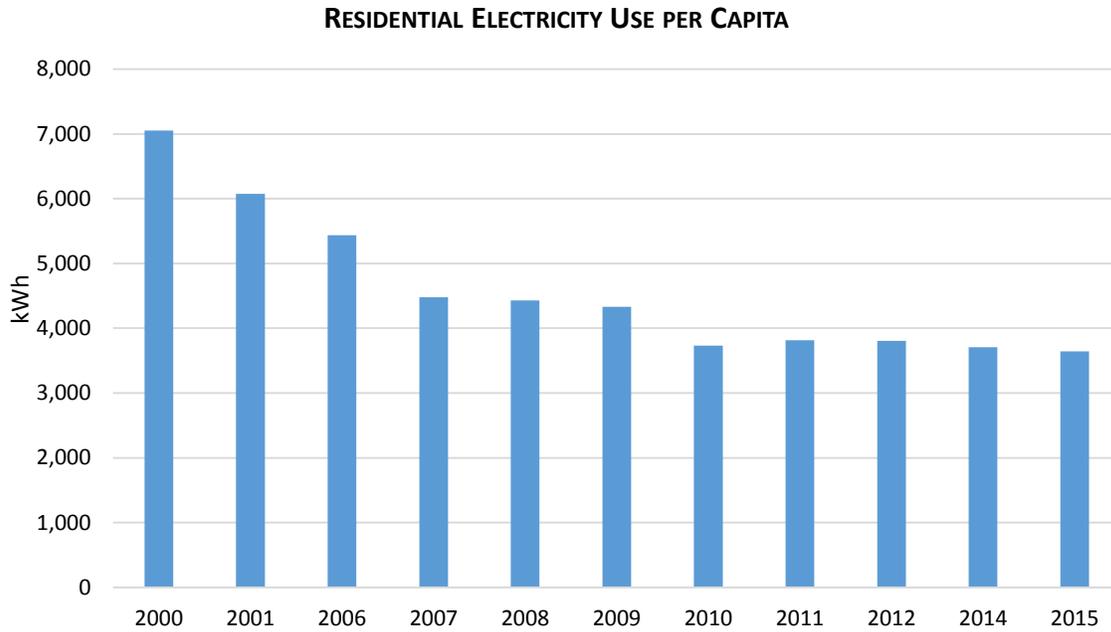
The City’s goal is to reduce energy use in all existing buildings 25% below 2012 levels by 2030. In 2014, Issaquah adopted goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, from a base year of 2007. The energy use goal was identified as a pathway toward meeting these emission reductions. Issaquah would also hope to see an overall decrease in residential energy use per capita.

### How is Issaquah doing?

Total community wide electricity has remained relatively flat over the last 10 years but increased slightly from 2012 to 2015. In 2015, commercial energy made up 57% of total energy use, with residential representing 35%, and industrial uses 7%.



Residential energy use per capita has declined significantly since 2000. This is thought to reflect newer, more efficient and Built Green housing stock as well as increased density, appliance efficiency standards and building codes.



## WASTE/ENERGY USE

# Renewable Energy Use

## What is Renewable Energy Use?

Renewable Energy Use is defined as the percentage of citywide energy use from renewable sources such as wind, geothermal and solar sources. The indicator tracks use as a percentage of total city-wide energy use, and average consumption of energy per person by different sources (e.g. hydropower, coal, natural gas, wind, etc).

## Why is Renewable Energy Use important?

Renewable energy reduces pollution and resource use, while encouraging ongoing investment in energy sources which do not rely upon fossil fuels. Such investments help to ensure that the region will be able to continue to provide energy to its residents now and well into the future.

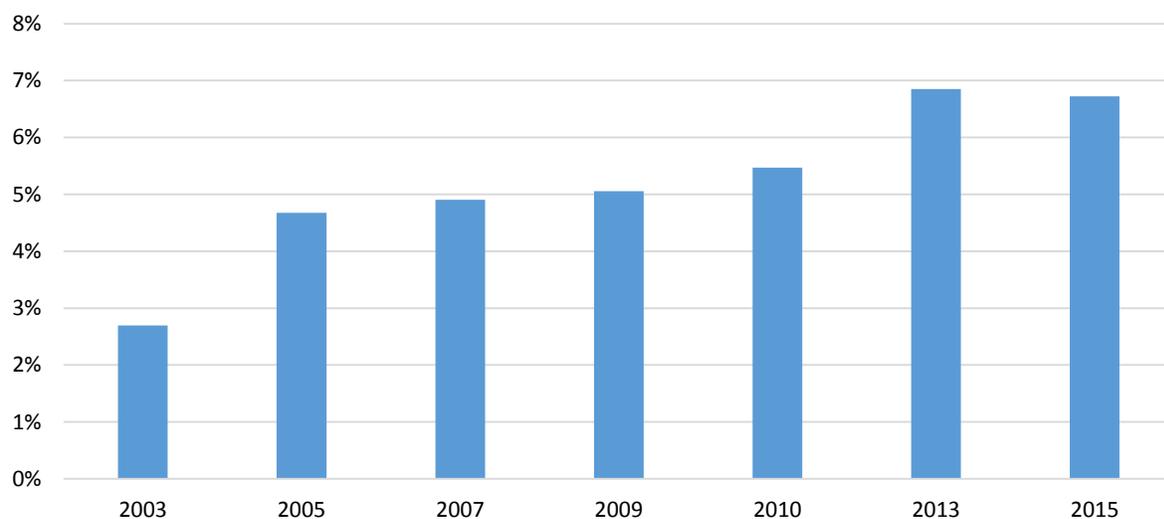
## What are Issaquah's goals?

Increased purchases of renewable energy by Issaquah businesses and residents will reduce pollution and climate change contributing emissions. A specific target does not currently exist, but leading communities like Olympia, Washington have demonstrated green power participation rates of 13% or more.

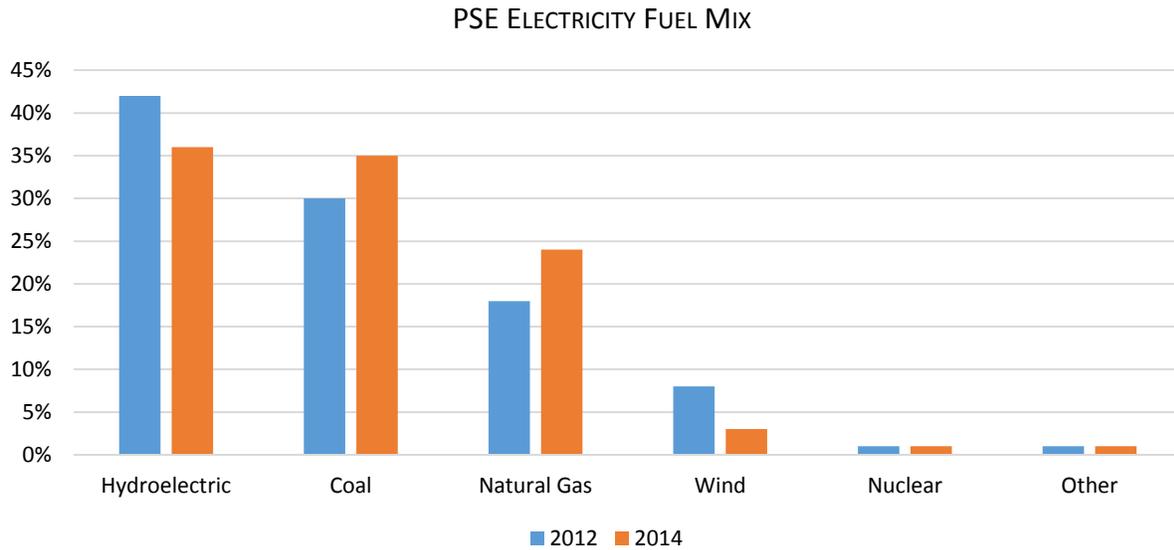
## How is Issaquah doing?

- In 2015, there were a total of 1,014 households enrolled in the Green Power Program. In 2014, the City participated in Puget Sound Energy's Green Power Challenge. As a result, there were 502 new enrollees to the program.
- The percentage of households participating in the Green Power Program has hovered between 6% and 7% of total households over the last 2 years.

**NUMBER OF GREEN POWER ACCOUNTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSING UNITS**



- Puget Sound Energy supplies electricity to Issaquah. In 2014, there was an increase in overall fossil fuel usage and a decrease in renewable energy. In 2012, nuclear, wind, and other fuel sources made up 10% of the fuel mix and in 2014, they were only 5%. The category ‘Other’ includes biomass, landfill gas, petroleum and waste. Coal emits the highest greenhouse gas pollution emissions per unit of energy produced.



**Resources and Actions**

- Start buying renewable energy by enrolling in Puget Sound Energy’s [Green Power Program](#).
- Be efficient! Conduct a [do-it-yourself home energy audit](#) and take some steps to be more efficient at home and work.
- Learn about [rebates available for efficiency upgrades from PSE](#).

WASTE/ENERGY USE

# Waste Generation



### What is Waste Generation?

Waste Generation is defined as the total waste generated, amount landfilled, and amount diverted (i.e. recycled, composted, etc.) by sector.

### Why is Waste Generation Important?

Waste Generation is seen as a core measure of resource use. In 2009, the Sustainability Sounding Board recommended Waste Generation as one of the 13 ‘keystone’ indicators of sustainability for the Issaquah community.

### What are Issaquah’s goals?

In line with the 2013 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, the City of Issaquah plans to decrease the total waste per capita, while increasing the recycling and composting rate for single family, multi-family, and commercial customers.

King County targets were formally adopted by the City of Issaquah in 2001, and are currently updated in the 2013 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Although currently not yet adopted, these targets include:

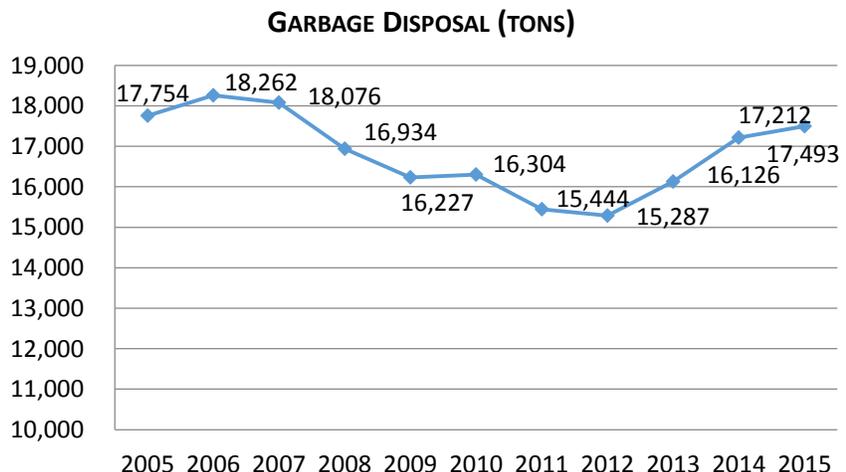
- Overall diversion rates to 55% by 2015 and 70% by 2020.
- Overall residential (both single family and multi-family) waste generation rates to 20.4 pounds per week per capita by 2020. This represents a 15% reduction from the disposal rate in 2007 of 24 pounds per week.
- Overall residential (both single family and multi-family) waste disposal rates to 14.2 pounds per week per capita by 2020. This represents a 15% reduction from the disposal rate in 2007 of 16.7 pounds per week per capita.

### How is Issaquah doing?

**Issaquah is on track to meet its waste generation and disposal goals but did not meet its 2015 overall diversion rate goal.**

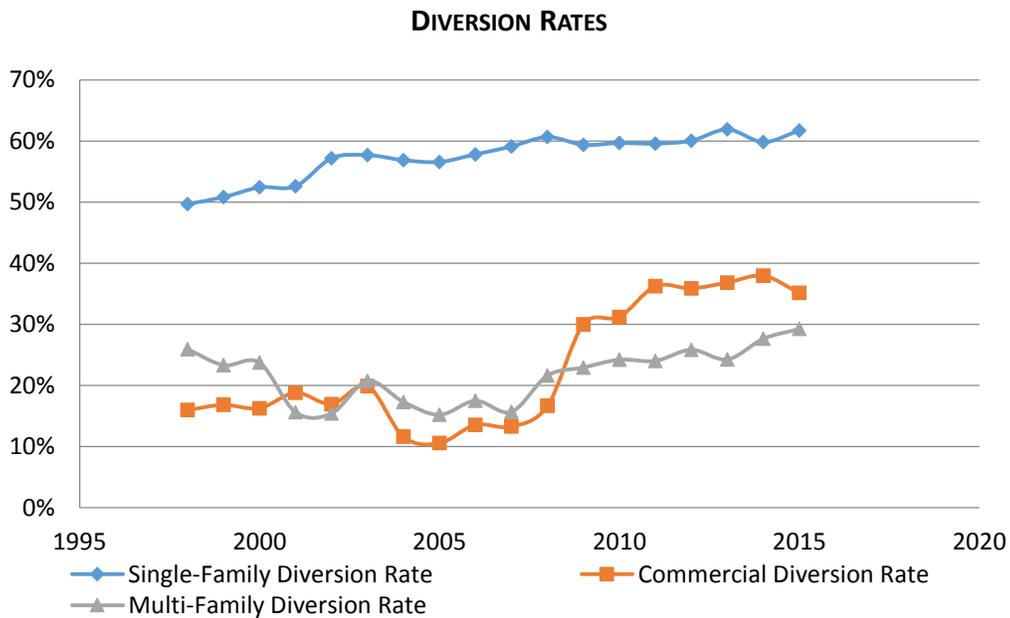
#### Total Waste

- Total (single family, multi-family and commercial) waste generation in Issaquah decreased from 2006 to 2013. However, from 2013 to 2015, overall waste has increased in the City.



*Diversion Rates*

- The overall 2015 diversion rate is 43.3%, falling short of the goal of 55% diversion. Over the past several years, diversion rates across each sector have been increasing, with a slight decrease in the commercial diversion rate in 2015, and overall increases in both single family and multi-family sectors.
- Diversion rates by sector in 2015:
  - Single-family: 61.7%
  - Multi-family: 29.2%
  - Commercial: 35.1%



*Per Capita Waste Generation*

- Per capita waste generation is currently 16.9 pounds per week per capita. This is an improvement from 2013 when per capita waste generation was 18.9 pounds per week. The 2015 figure exceeds the City and regional target of 20.4 pounds per week by 2020.

## WASTE/ENERGY USE

## Water Use

*Note: Starting in 2012, an updated methodology for determining water service area population figures was implemented, affecting comparison to prior years' methodology.*

**What is Water Use?**

Water Use is defined as total water use per capita and by sector (i.e. single-family, multifamily, commercial, public property irrigation, private irrigation, public, and fire) as well as water supplied by source (i.e. groundwater and regional supplies).

**Why is Water Use important?**

Abundant and clean water is indicative of a healthy ecosystem and essential to protect human, plant and animal health. Clean drinking water is a basic community need and resource. As Issaquah grows, the demand for water has also grown. Water is a renewable resource, and with wise management there can be enough to meet the needs of people, businesses, natural resources, and wildlife.

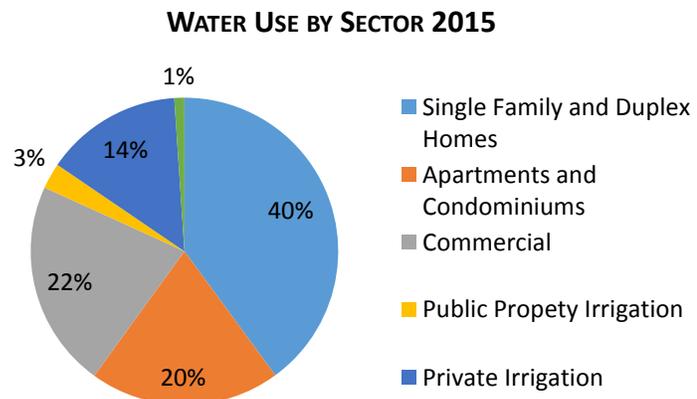
**What are Issaquah's goals?**

- Issaquah's Goal: Reduce water usage by conserving 6% per household by 2020 from 2010 levels, corresponding to approximately 141 gallons per equivalent residential unit or 170,000 gallons per day on an average annual basis. The City completed the Water System Plan and updated the water use targets in 2013.<sup>4</sup>
- Cascade Water Alliance Regional Goal: Achieve a cumulative drinking water savings of 0.6 million gallons per day on an annual basis and 1.0 million gallons per day on a peak season (June -September) basis by 2020.

**How is Issaquah doing?**

2015 was the hottest year on record for Washington State. Historic low river levels combined with hotter and dryer weather significantly increased the demand for water in the region.

- On average, Issaquah used 143.7 gallons per equivalent residential unit per day which is just slightly higher than the 2020 target of 141 gallons.
- Average residential water use from both single-family and multifamily properties in 2015 was 50.9 gallons per person per day which is 3 gallons more per day than in 2013.



<sup>4</sup> This corresponds to 141 gpd (gallons per day) per ERU (equivalent residential unit) or a savings of approximately 170,000 gpd on an annual average basis.

- Single-family homes and duplexes accounts for the highest percentage of water usage by sector (39.94% in 2015) and their usable as a percentage of total water use by sector in the City has remained relatively stable from 2007 to 2015.
- In 2015, the percentage of total water use by public and private irrigation (17.13%) increased slightly due to hotter and dryer summer temperatures.
- Issaquah is purchasing more water from outside sources each year—38.7% in 2015 (341.7 million gallons). This is considerably more compared to the 5.7% (41.6 million gallons) that was purchased 10 years ago. As Issaquah continues to grow, it has increasingly shifted to regional resources to meet its needs, while reducing or maintaining demands on the Issaquah Valley Aquifer.

**WATER SUPPLY BY SOURCE  
(MGD PRODUCED)**

