

**2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent**

**Approved**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
114	2	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Coordinating and consolidating the City's public tree planting and education programs.

**Councilmembers:** Clark; Conlin; Licata

**Staff Analyst:** Christa Valles

**Budget Committee Vote:**

Date	Result	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
11/12/2010	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

The Council requests that by May 16, 2011 the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) provide a range of options for Council to consider regarding the administration of the City's tree planting and education programs that directly involve the public. OSE should be sure to coordinate with the Department of Neighborhoods (DON), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), and Seattle City Light (SCL) to determine how best to administer, coordinate, and perhaps further consolidate the City's tree planting and education programs.

The report should include the following:

1. Identify and evaluate current department tasks, staffing and funding related to tree planting and education programs that directly involve the public or have a public participation component.
2. Clarify relationship of public tree planting and education programs with Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) goals and implementation.

While the 2011- 2012 Proposed Budget consolidates some monies dedicated to the purchase and planting of trees and public education related to tree care, it is unclear how the proposal fits into the broader context of the City's UFMP activities and how it will help to advance the goals of the UFMP.

2. Identify options to implement public tree planting and educational programs.

To the extent possible, options should be developed that use the City's existing infrastructure and expertise. One option could contemplate the possibility of administering the program through the DON Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) while strengthening the NMF program to provide on-going tree maintenance and care, while another option could include administering the program through SPU's natural yard care or drainage program. However, the range of

options should not necessarily be restricted to these two departments. In addition, OSE should address whether it makes sense to further consolidate the City's tree planting and outreach activities involving the public and identify which City department(s) is best positioned to administer and implement a newly consolidated program.

Council will consider the following factors when evaluating the range of options:

- Administrative efficiency & effectiveness
- Availability of technical expertise and education to the community
- Improvements in long-term tree survival via education and outreach
- Maximization of grant funds and direct services available to the public

Once Council has evaluated the proposed options and identified a preferred option for proceeding, it will lift the green sheet 114-1-a-1 proviso on funds for tree grants and tree education programs and transfer any funds as necessary to the appropriate department to administer.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Regional Development & Sustainability

**Date Due to Council:** May 16, 2011