



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Deputy Mayor John Hines, Council Member Kristina Walker, and Christina Caan, Policy Analyst, City Manager's Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Council contingency fund request to support an urban wood reuse program assessment and action strategy
DATE: October 30, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE

A resolution authorizing a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support an urban wood reuse program assessment and action strategy.

COUNCIL SPONSORS

Deputy Mayor John Hines, Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh, and Council Member Kristina Walker

Council Contingency Fund Request: We ask for your support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support the development of an urban wood reuse program assessment and action strategy. This work would help enable the City of Tacoma's Urban Forestry Team to set up the first formal urban wood reuse program within the city. The City would contract the work with Cambium Carbon, a unique and innovative company that evaluates and assists in the creation of local regenerative wood supply chains. With assistance from Cambium Carbon, the City would be able to design a program that diverts wood from the landfill for its highest and best use, as well as integrating wood reuse into a holistic urban forestry management strategy.

In early 2023, the City began a small pilot program that enabled the diversion of waste from hazardous trees within historically underserved communities by coordinating a partnership between the City's on-call tree work contractor and a hyper-local mill. This program has shown a great deal of promise, but expansion requires a more robust understanding of the wood waste stream and biomass processing solutions. With a better understanding of how to expand this work, Tacoma would be well-positioned to navigate tree removal in a way that helps ensure removed trees are kept out of our waste stream.

The specific objectives of the study are designed to evaluate the wood waste stream, engage with key stakeholders, develop an ecosystem map, provide a complete economic and market analysis of biomass processing solutions, and submit a proposed collective action strategy. This work will take an estimated 18 weeks from the official start date to be completed and Environmental Services staff have confirmed capacity to manage the contract.

- The City's Solid Waste Management Division intends to match the Council contingency fund with an additional \$20,000 to cover the full cost of the work, as it aligns with their goals for waste reduction.

This work would help advance key components of the City's Climate Action Plan, Urban Forest Management Plan, and Green Economic Development Strategy.



- The Climate Action Plan notes the need to develop and enhance Tacoma’s local circular economy and foster the reuse of materials.¹ Establishing a wood reuse program is also in alignment with Climate Action Plan goals to reduce carbon emissions and increase deconstruction and salvage efforts.
- The Urban Forest Management Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2019, includes several targets and actions related to urban wood reuse, such as: establishing protocols for tree debris management, wood utilization, and wood waste diversion for routine tree maintenance, removals, and storm response, as well as reusing wood waste from high-risk tree removals as biomass, woodworking, firewood, and other uses.²
- Tacoma’s Green Economic Development Strategy calls for increasing efforts to create new jobs and tap new markets for work that has environmental benefits.³ The development of an urban wood reuse program assessment and action strategy would help contribute to laying the groundwork for action that helps to advance this strategy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH

During the two-year public engagement process (2017 through 2019) to develop the City’s Urban Forest Management Plan, community members shared a robust concern for trees and climate related goals. While their primary concerns were supporting mature tree protection, there was a recognition that trees, like all living things, one day reach the end of their productive life. When trees need to be removed for public safety or to allow for construction, the community called for the City to put trees to their highest and best use, to continue to hold their embodied carbon and remove downed trees from the wood stream. Deputy Mayor Hines and Council Member Walker have also been in contact with local wood companies regarding their desire to expand programs that support the reuse of wood.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Equity and Accessibility: This study will be vital for creating the design and partnerships that are needed to launch a wood waste reuse program, which will contribute to improving Tacoma’s circular economy, decreasing the wood waste stream, and addressing carbon emissions reductions. In addition, such a program would help expand business opportunities across the city, potentially creating new sources of revenue and jobs for the local economy.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?² (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

¹ [Tacoma Climate Action Plan Sections.pdf \(cityoftacoma.org\)](#)

² [City of Tacoma - File #: RES40492 Urban Forest Management Plan \(legistar.com\)](#)

³ [From Climate Emergency to Shared Prosperity: Tacoma’s Green Economic Development Strategy \(cityoftacoma.org\)](#)



ALTERNATIVES

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Provide less funding	Preserve some additional contingency funds for other Council priorities.	The City would not be able to assess and design an effective urban wood reuse program.
Provide more funding	Cambium Carbon could provide additional services to help launch a citywide urban wood reuse program.	The Council would not have additional funds for other Council priorities.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP

The Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee will receive an update on the findings of this study and next steps on how implementation will move forward when it is completed.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION

Sponsors recommend providing \$20,000 to support an urban wood reuse program assessment and action strategy.

FISCAL IMPACT

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 1030 – Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$20,000
TOTAL			\$20,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Council Contingency Funds

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

The Council Contingency Fund provides an established amount of funding each year for unbudgeted Council sponsored initiatives.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

NO

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

NO

ATTACHMENTS:

None

Contingency Commitments

2024	\$	225,000.00
(Remaining balance that will be carried over in March / April 2024)	\$	19,450.00

Resolution 41354

Council Requested - Raising Girls Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor 500 Raising Girls winter care bags with personal hygiene and menstrual products, as well as warm winter items, for low-income Tacoma students.

Resolution 41372

Council Requested - Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange	\$	5,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 request to sponsor the Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange.

Resolution 41373

Council Requested - Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Culture Festival	\$	5,500.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,500 to sponsor Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Cultural Festival.

Resolution 41378

Council Requested - Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest	\$	10,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) for their Phone Call Fund to support access to phone services for detainees in the Northwest Ice Processing Center

Resolution 41386

Council Requested - Tacoma Refugee Choir's First Annual Symposium Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
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A Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Refugee Choir's first annual symposium, "From Welcoming to Cooperation."

Resolution 41442

Council Requested - Facilitation of Pierce County Climate Conversation Meetings	\$	20,000.00
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Resolution authorizing \$20,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Pierce County Climate Conversation

Resolution 41449

Council Requested - Broadway Street Broken Window Repairs	\$	25,000.00
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A \$25,000 Council Contingency Request for matching funds to support broken window replacement for businesses affected along Broadway

Resolution 41448

Council Requested - Youth Sponsorship to Fuzhou, China	\$	12,500.00
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A Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$12,500 to support youth attendance at the Fuzhou Youth Week Convening in late June

Resolution 41471

Council Requested - South End Neighborhood Council (SENCo) Block Party & Resource Fair	\$	10,000.00
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A resolution authorizing the \$10,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the South End Neighborhood Council's 2024 Block Party & Resource Fair for the purpose of sharing information about public resources offered by the City of Tacoma and other organizations, and to build community connections and increase participation in SENCo meetings and activities.

Resolution 41526

Council Requested - Historic Cushman Street Fair Support	\$	5,000.00
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A Resolution for support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$4,000 to support the Historic Cushman Street Fair

Resolution 41539

Council Requested - Pride-themed Decorative Crosswalk	\$	35,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$35,000 for a Pride-themed decorative crosswalk on Broadway in downtown Tacoma.

Resolution 41533

Council Requested - Alchemy Skateboarding Expansion and Youth Access Fund	\$	10,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Alchemy skateboarding expansion project and youth access fund.

Resolution 41534

Council Requested - Historic McKinley District Halloween Parade	\$	5,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Historic McKinley District Halloween Parade .

To Council November 5 2024

Council Requested - Urban Reuse Program Assessment and Action Strategy	\$	20,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support an urban wood reuse program assessment and action strategy.

Starting Balance	\$	244,450.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	183,000.00
Current Balance	\$	61,450.00