

City Innovation Snapshot | Seattle, United States

Overview

- ▶ Mayor: Jenny Durkan
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: Tina Walha
- ▶ Population of municipality: 730,400 estimated (2018)
- ▶ Innovation/open data website: www.seattle.gov/innovation-performance

Spotlight on Seattle | Spreading innovation capacity

The City of Seattle is championing the widespread use of innovation approaches such as design thinking, human-centred design, and data-driven management beyond the innovation team, and promoting them as tools for general use throughout departments within the city.

Vision and approach to innovation capacity

The city's innovation strategy

Along with **56%** of cities surveyed, Seattle does not have an **explicit innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with the following terms:

Technological innovation

Big picture re-thinking

Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to over **34%** of cities surveyed, Seattle approaches innovation capacity from **specific policy areas**.

The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Transport / mobility

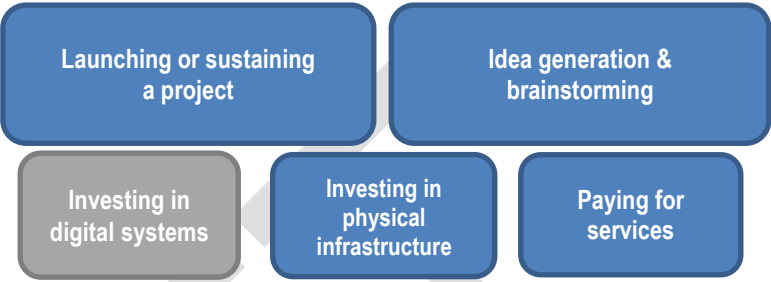
Housing



Most common innovation activities

Seattle's most common innovation activity includes **data-driven analytics/public data management; engaging residents in new ways; facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration; and human-centred design**.



Funding for innovation capacity

<h3>Funding to support innovation capacity</h3> <p>Like 77% of cities surveyed, Seattle has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which originates from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Municipal budget (city council approved funds) ✓ External funding (philanthropy/non-profit) 	<h3>Types of activities being funded</h3> <p>Seattle's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards launching or sustaining a project, and generating ideas & brainstorming. These are the two most commonly funded activities all cities surveyed. Seattle is also investing in physical infrastructure and paying for services.</p> 
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<h3>Organisational structure & staffing</h3>  <p>Situated in the Mayor's office, Seattle's dedicated team for innovation was created by a grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, and consists of 8 staff.</p> <p>Staff skills and profiles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Protect manager ✓ Data/Computer scientist ✓ Designer ✓ Sociologist 	<h3>Partnerships for innovation & data</h3>  <p>Seattle has developed partnerships to promote innovation capacity with departments throughout the city's administration, other levels of government, private firms, non-profit and philanthropic sector, academia/think tanks, city residents/resident associations and other cities.</p> <p>Members of Seattle's Innovation & Performance unit attend Stanford's Design School's Designing for Social Systems training program focused on social impact.</p>
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<h2>Measuring outcomes</h2>																				
<p>Policy areas that benefit from sufficient data, or lack sufficient data, to support innovation capacity in the city:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="159 1579 997 1944"> <tr> <td>Transport / mobility</td> <td>Economic development</td> <td>Housing & built environment</td> <td>Policing & law enforcement</td> <td>Health</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water</td> <td>Waste and sewage</td> <td>Labour markets & skills</td> <td>Environment & climate change</td> <td>Education</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Culture</td> <td>*Social inclusion, equity</td> <td>Public works</td> <td>Tourism</td> <td>Digital governance</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey. *survey results listed as sufficient and insufficient.</i></p>					Transport / mobility	Economic development	Housing & built environment	Policing & law enforcement	Health	Water	Waste and sewage	Labour markets & skills	Environment & climate change	Education	Culture	*Social inclusion, equity	Public works	Tourism	Digital governance	<p>Innovation is helping the city to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve resident outcomes ✓ Improve internal operations ✓ Simplify administrative procedures <p>The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dedicated funding ✓ Focus on measurement ✓ Dedicated innovation team
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