



Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Agenda

Regular Meeting
 Thursday, March 13, 2025
 2:00 PM

Hybrid - Council Briefing Center / Microsoft Teams
 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201

Virtual Meeting Link - See Below for Information

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Public Comment Period:

3 minutes each | Citizens are invited to address the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board on any topic not on the agenda.

Board Briefing Session:

2:00 – 2:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roll Call 2. Approve 2/13/2025 meeting minutes 3. Chair Report 4. Secretary Report 5. Approval of current agenda 	Planning Staff All Brian Henning Jon Snyder All
-------------	---	---

Hearings:

2:15 – 2:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. *Aquifer Protection Area Resolution 	Marlene Feist, Public Works
-------------	--	-----------------------------

Workshops:

2:30 – 3:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Climate Planning Update 	KayCee Downey, Planning
3:15 – 3:45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. PFAS/PFOA Samples in Drinking Water 	Loren Searl, Water Department
3:45 – 4:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Sustainability Action Plan 	Tirrell Black, Planning
4:15 – 4:45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Plan Spokane 2046 	Tirrell Black, Planning

Adjournment: The next regularly scheduled CRSB meeting will be held Thursday, April 10, 2025.

* Items denoted with an asterisk may include final action taken by the Board. Written public comments will be accepted at eracrsb@spokanecity.org on these items up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Verbal testimony may also be accepted during the meeting.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Risk Management at 509.625.6221, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or mlovmaster@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Risk Management through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Meeting Information

Thursday, March 13, 2025

The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board will be held in a hybrid in-person / virtual format. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person at City Hall or online using the following information.

Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 297 827 294 047

Passcode: qhF8iY

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Meeting ID:
297 827 294 047

Passcode:
qhF8iY

Join with a video conferencing device

cityofspokane@m.webex.com

Video Conference ID: 112 012 615 5

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-618-1887,,999419515#](tel:+13236181887,999419515) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 999 419 515#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

Please note that public comments will be taken during the meeting, but the public is encouraged to continue to submit their comments or questions in writing to: eracrsb@spokanecity.org. Written public comments will be accepted on these items up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

The audio proceedings of the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board meetings will be recorded and are available online.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board

Upcoming Agenda Items (All items are subject to change)

April 10, 2025 Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (180 minutes available) Hybrid Workshop		
Time	Item	Presenter
2:00-2:15	Roll call/Briefing/ Agenda review, Secretary report	
2:15-2:45	Climate Planning Update	Maren Murphy, Planning
2:45-3:45	GHG Emissions Inventory Reporting	Logan Callen, Public Works
3:45- 4:15	Spokane Fire Department, Wildland Urban Interface	Lance Dahl

May 8, 2025 Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (180 minutes available) Hybrid Workshop		
Time	Item	Presenter
2:00-2:15	Roll call/Briefing/ Agenda review, Secretary report	
2:15-2:45	Climate Planning Technical Update #3 – Final CRVA	BERK Consulting Maren Murphy, Planning
May/June	Special Meeting possible: 3-hour tour of Public Works Facilities (Waste to Energy, Water Reclamation, Water) – date/time TBD	

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Risk Management at 509.625.6221, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or mlovmaster@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Risk Management through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board - Meeting Minutes Draft

Thursday, February 13, 2025

City Council Briefing Center

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM by Brian Henning

Public Comment: Citizens are invited to address the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board on any topic not on the agenda. 3 Minutes each.

- None

Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Brian Henning, Amanda Parrish, Kathryn Alexander, Happy Avery, Kerry Brooks, Kevin Fagan, Elyse Hochstadt, Larry Luton, Bob Lutz, Lea Molina, Kit Parker, Hala Zahalqa
- Board Members Not Present: Matthew Hollon
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Tirrell Black, Jon Snyder, Emily King, Marlene Feist, Maren Murphy, Katie Kosanke, KayCee Downey, Logan Callen, Elizabeth Schoedel, Kelly Thomas, Logan Kinnard, Sarah Sirott, Nicole White

Minutes: Minutes from 1/9/2025 approved unanimously.

Briefing Session:

- **Chair Report - Brian Henning**
 - Brian had a couple items to discuss:
 - Brian started off by thanking Tirrell for the improved briefing format. It helps board members to understand the relationship of the work they are doing and how it connects to other things.
 - Brian also noted that the mission and purpose of this board is to help assist the city in advancing climate resilience and sustainability especially as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan and to the Sustainability Action Plan. The board is currently focusing much of its attention on the update to the Comprehensive Plan, but part of work will involve the Sustainability Action Plan. Part of that will involve figuring out what the relationship is between these two documents. It could be a good idea for the board to consider creating a subcommittee that could be looking at the Sustainability Action Plan and what it would be to continue updating it after the Comprehensive Plan is updated on its own timeline by 2026.
 - Brian also discussed how much he values being a part of this board right now. It's invaluable that the board is able to be doing important and meaningful work to benefit the community. The board is fortunate to have a lot of agency and support from City Council, the Mayor, and a community.
- **Secretary Report - Jon Snyder**
 - Jon introduced himself as the new Director of Transportation and Sustainability and the new Secretary to the board. Jon has been fortunate to work with a governor with high priority on environmental concerns, and is just as excited to work for Mayor Brown, who has a great track record on the environment and a commitment to activating the city to do more on climate action. Jon is impressed with the wide range of knowledge and experience the board represents and their commitment to the work at hand. He's also looking forward to rejoining this team of City staff. The city has an amazing crew of talented public servants. We all believe in public action for the public good, and he's excited to see what can be accomplished together. He thanked everyone again for

deciding to volunteer their hard-earned time here with the city, and he looks forward to working together.

Current Agenda: The current agenda was approved.

Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Aquifer Protection Area
 - Presentation provided by: Marlene Feist, Director, Public Works
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.

- Climate Planning Technical Update #2 – Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment
 - Presentation provided by: BERK Consulting and Maren Murphy, Planning
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.

- Tree Equity Spokane Project
 - Presentation provided by staff member: Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester, Spokane Parks
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:52 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Meeting is on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

BRIEFING PAPER: Potential Aquifer Protection Area Ballot Measure
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
3/13/2025

Note to presenters: The CRSB is interested in having workshops with about 2/3 presenter time and 1/3 of a workshop reserved for questions and discussion.

Subject:

Aquifer Protection Area. Spokane County is planning to ask voters to reauthorize its Aquifer Protection Area (APA) in 2025 for another 20 years. The APA includes a per-parcel fee charged on residents' property tax bill for aquifer protection activities. The Spokane area has had an APA since 1984. The City participated in the APA from 1986-2004. The City did not join in the APA in the reauthorization between 2005 and today. The City has an opportunity to rejoin the APA as the County seeks reauthorization. Staff would like to provide information on this issue to the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board to allow the board to weigh in on this matter.

Background:

Aquifer Protection Areas are authorized by RCW 36.36 and approved by a public vote. They provide on-going financial support for a variety of aquifer protection activities, including planning related to protection and preservation of subterranean water, construction of drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater facilities to improve water quality, monitoring and enforcement of standards for protecting groundwater, and public education. The Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (SVRP) has been designated as a sole source aquifer since 1978, and today it provides drinking water to more than a half million people, including the residents and businesses within the City of Spokane.

Protection of our sole source aquifer is critically important to the City of Spokane, especially considering that we operate the largest drinking water utility in our region. We work and live over our drinking water source so stringent stewardship practices are an absolute must. For us, priority uses for such funding could include investing in infrastructure to manage pollutants of concern such as PFAS, controlling stormwater in both our separated and combined sewer areas, and projects that would mitigate impacts of climate change on the aquifer. We also support ongoing public education around best management practices over the aquifer.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

Participating in the Aquifer Protection Area would be consistent with the Water Resources chapter of the Sustainability Action Plan, which includes multiple goals around protecting the Spokane River and Aquifer.

It would be consistent with goals in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Water System Plan that encourage protection and stewardship of the Aquifer.

Additionally, as a purveyor of drinking water, we remain committed to protecting the aquifer. Annually, we collect more than 2,000 samples to ensure we are meeting all drinking water standards. We deliver up to 150 million gallons of drinking water in our community daily, as the third largest water purveyor in the state of Washington.

BRIEFING PAPER: Potential Aquifer Protection Area Ballot Measure
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
3/13/2025

Timeline/ Further Action:

A recommendation from the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board at its March meeting would provide timely input for the City Council. In order to participate in the APA, the Council would need to pass a resolution supporting its inclusion on the ballot. Additionally, the City and County would need to adopt an interlocal agreement related to its use.

Citizens could engage on this issue at the CRSB meeting, at the City Council meetings where this item is discussed and voted on, and through their vote, if the measure is forwarded to an upcoming election. We would also provide ballot measure education to the community if this moves ahead.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

CITY OF SPOKANE CLIMATE RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY BOARD
RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO JOIN THE SPOKANE
COUNTY AQUIFER PROTECTION AREA and PLACE THE ITEM BEFORE CITY
VOTERS

WHEREAS, the Spokane area is served by the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (SVRP), which was designated a sole-source aquifer in 1978 and today provides drinking water for more than 500,000 people in the region, including the residents and businesses within the City of Spokane; and

WHEREAS, protection of the SVRP is critically important to the City because it operates the largest drinking water utility in the region, delivering up to 150 million gallons of water in a day; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources chapter of the Spokane Sustainability Action Plan includes multiple goals around protecting the Spokane River and SVRP; and

WHEREAS, Spokane's Comprehensive Plan and Water System Plan also prioritize protection and stewardship of the SVRP; and

WHEREAS, mitigating the impact of climate change will require additional monitoring and protection of the SVRP as recent studies show that aquifer levels will go down and other changes are expected in the future; and

WHEREAS, Washington state law, in RCW 36.36, allows for the creation of Aquifer Protection Areas (APAs) to finance the "protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of subterranean water"; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County has had an Aquifer Protection Area since 1984 and is planning to ask voters in 2025 to reauthorize its APA for another 20 years; and

WHEREAS, under the County's APA, residents and businesses included in the APA pay a small annual fee included on their property tax bills to pay for a variety of activities to protect groundwater, including planning, monitoring, enforcement, education, and construction of stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water facilities to improve or maintain water quality; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County has used funds generated by its APA to remove septic systems over the aquifer, provide long-term monitoring of water quality indicators like nitrates and chloride, educate the community about water quality and protection, and participate in joint regional planning; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley are also part of the County APA; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane was part of the APA from 1984 to 2004 and now has an opportunity to rejoin the APA; and

WHEREAS, the City could use this funding to invest in infrastructure to address pollutants of concern such as PFAS, control stormwater, deliver projects that would mitigate the impacts of climate change on the aquifer, and provide public education related to the aquifer and best management practices to protect it; and

NOW, THEREFORE - - it is hereby resolved by the Spokane Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board to recommend to the Spokane City Council that:

- 1. The City should work to rejoin Spokane County’s Aquifer Protection Area.
- 2. The Council approve a resolution authorizing the County to place a measure reinstating the APA before City voters.
- 3. The City enter into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Spokane County to outline the operational aspects of the APA.

ADOPTED by the Spokane Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney

BRIEFING PAPER: Climate Planning Survey Results
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
3/13/2025

Note to presenters: The CRSB is interested in having workshops with about 2/3 presenter time and 1/3 of a workshop reserved for questions and discussion.

Subject:

Planning staff will facilitate a discussion with the CRSB on the Community Climate Planning Survey results, focusing on understanding how the community perceived climate impacts and how that information can be incorporated into future efforts. Analysis of the survey results will help support the analysis for the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, the framework for evaluating impacts to climate hazards and identifying risks to different sectors, resources, and communities, as well as future policy discussions. The Community Climate Planning Survey Results and Analysis report is attached for background.

See attachment of discussion question for the workshop.

Background:

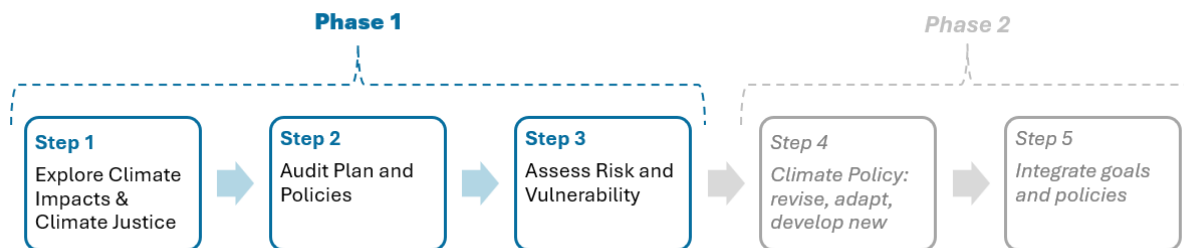
The City of Spokane is developing climate planning under HB 1181 to enhance community resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and prioritize environmental justice to avoid worsening environmental health disparities. Climate planning is part of the City's general periodic update requirement for the Comprehensive Plan, which is due in 2026. This work is supported by WA Dept. of Commerce climate planning grant which is funded from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board is serving as the Climate Policy Advisory Team for climate planning element.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

The City of Spokane is required under the Growth Management Act to have a climate element as part of the Comprehensive Plan. The climate element will be integrated throughout the Comprehensive Plan elements such as housing, transportation, land use, utilities, and natural environment. Integration of climate into the comprehensive plan was also identified in City Council's Sustainability Action Plan.

Timeline/ Further Action:

See below for timeline for Phase 1 climate planning. Engagement will be facilitated throughout, including an Earth Day community workshop scheduled for April 22, 2025.



Relevant Climate Planning Links:

BRIEFING PAPER: Climate Planning Survey Results
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
3/13/2025

City of Spokane	
Spokane Climate Planning Project Page	my.spokanecity.org/climate-planning/
Spokane Climate Planning Engage Spokane	engage.spokane.gov/hub-page/planning-services
PlanSpokane 2046 Periodic Update	planspokane.org
Spokane Comprehensive Plan	my.spokanecity.org/shaping Spokane/comprehensive-plan/
Spokane Environmental Programs	my.spokanecity.org/publicworks/environmental/
Spokane Parks Master Plan	my.spokanecity.org/parksrec/master-plan/
WA Dept. of Commerce	
Commerce Climate Planning	www.commerce.wa.gov/growth-management/climate-planning/
Commerce Guidance for Climate Planning	deptofcommerce.box.com/s/fpg3h0lbwln2ctqjg7jg802h54ie19jx
Commerce Menu of Measures	deptofcommerce.box.com/s/n34kivgzn9rfe74jfz2vvzxqlrv7j9m9

Discussion Questions

What input with the CRSB be providing at the next meeting?

Purpose: Feedback will identify how the survey results can be integrated into future work, including engagement gaps and policy discussions during Phase 2.

Feedback wanted:

- What climate challenges resonated with you?
- What results were the most surprising when reading the analysis? Why?
- What suggested climate solutions stood out to you that you think should be considered for future policies?
- Based on some survey responses, it appears community members have preconceived ideas of what climate planning is (e.g. attempting to change extreme weather events). What ideas do the CRSB have to push messaging around resiliency and local impacts?



PlanSpokane Community Climate Planning Survey Results and Analysis

Climate Planning Early Engagement

February 27, 2025



PLAN **SPOKANE**






Resilient | Connected | Livable | 2046

The City of Spokane is embarking on a transformative journey to support community resiliency to growing climate hazards. Mandated by the Washington State Growth Management Act and due in 2026, the City is undertaking a major update to its Comprehensive Plan. This foundational document guides policy for Spokane for twenty years at a time, with the current update looking towards 2046. The [PlanSpokane 2046](#) effort presents a unique opportunity to not only meet climate requirements of [House Bill 1181](#), but also to integrate resiliency considerations into every aspect of Spokane’s future.

Before looking at potential climate-related policies, it is important to understand climate hazards and impacts within the local context of Spokane. To that end, a number of elements of the Climate Planning effort have completed deep dives of local, state, and national data points to understand the *science and statistical trends*.

To get at the *lived experience* of Spokane’s community members, a Community Climate Planning Survey was launched on December 6, 2024 and ran through January 31, 2025. In the end, the survey heard from **1,573 community members** with a 100% completion rate who shared how they are or are not affected by climate impacts and what they were concerned about for the future.

The value of hearing from the local community is undeniable. It provides:

-  **Local Understanding:** Provides insight into how individuals perceive and navigate their world [here in Spokane](#)
-  **Contextual Relevance:** Uncovers nuances of culture, environment, and social factors influencing behaviors and decisions
-  **Human-Centered Insights:** Highlights personal stories, empowering participants by valuing their voices
-  **Actionable Data:** Reveals hidden needs, challenges, and opportunities that may not be immediately visible through numbers alone
-  **Community-Based “Pilot Testing”:** Tests data to see if it aligns with what the community is experiencing

The following report discusses results and trends identified through the Community Climate Planning Survey results that will support future work in developing policies that support the local community.



The WA Department of Commerce climate planning grant is supported with funding from Washington’s Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington’s climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. [Information about the CCA is available on their website.](#)

Table of Contents

<u>Who Responded?</u>	4
What role(s) best defines your roles in the City of Spokane?	4
Tell us generally where you live, work, go to school, or otherwise engage in Spokane	5
What are your household age groups?	6
Are you or do you know a community member who is more vulnerable to extreme weather and climate impacts?	6
What is your race and ethnicity?	7
What is your household income?	8
<u>How Have You Been Impacted?</u>	8
Have you been impacted by any of the following extreme weather and climate hazards in Spokane?	8
How have extreme weather and climate hazards affected you personally in the past five years?	11
Personal stories about your experiences and concerns	14
<u>As You Look to the Future...</u>	14
Within the next 20 years, how concerned are you with weather and climate impacts in the City of Spokane?	15
Which sectors do you think are most at risk from extreme weather and climate impacts in Spokane?	15
<u>Looking Towards Solutions</u>	17
What obstacles do you face when trying to reduce your household’s environmental impact?	17
What kinds of climate solutions would you most like to see in Spokane?	17
<u>Next Steps</u>	18
<u>Appendix A – Survey Analytics</u>	19

Who Responded?

All demographic related questions were optional and not completed by all survey takers. Despite not having information for all respondents, the collected information provides a general understanding of who completed the survey. Knowing who was reached through the survey allows for more accurate analysis and better-informed conclusions by:

- **Understanding Different Needs:** Identify patterns and trends within specific age, income, or other groups
- **Improving Decision-Making:** Support targeted strategies based on the characteristics of different respondents
- **Ensuring Representation:** Ensure the survey is inclusive and representatives of various segments in the population - who is missing?

What best defines your roles in the City of Spokane?

Survey takers were asked to self-identify their roles within Spokane. Are they homeowners? Renters? Do they work in Spokane or own a business?

Resident (Homeowner)	71.57%
Resident (Renter)	16.19%
Business Owner	8.16%
Employee/I Work in Spokane	30.02%
Commercial Landowner	1.47%
Housing Provider/Landlord	4.53%
Elected Official	0.32%
Tribal Member	0.57%
Tribal Elder	0.13%
Student	6.88%
Other	6.12%

Those who responded “other” included answers such as living just outside Spokane City limits, senior, Veteran, nonprofit volunteer, and parent.

A key takeaway from the results is of those who answered this question, a higher percentage of survey takers are homeowners than the City of Spokane population as a whole (approximately 58.4% of housing units in Spokane are owner-occupied according to WA Office of Financial Management estimates). Additionally, while not directly asked, the difference after removing homeowners and renters would point towards 12.24% of respondents living with others/not paying rent or not living within the City of Spokane.

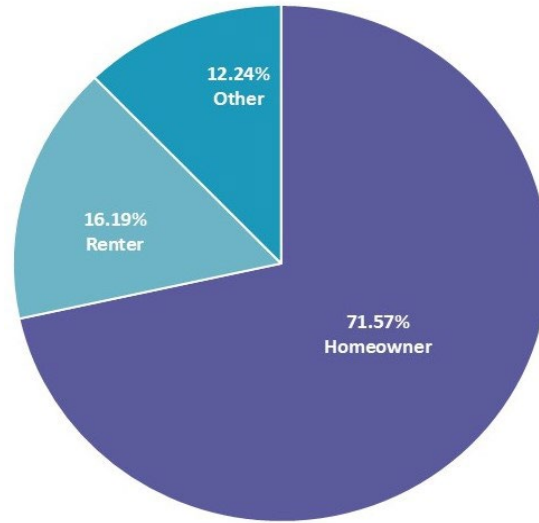


Figure 1. Pie chart showing Homeowner vs. Renter results.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

Tell us generally where you live, work, go to school, or otherwise engage in Spokane

Survey takers were asked what zip code they live, work, go to school, or otherwise engage in Spokane to identify general geographical information. The northwest and some southern portions of the City saw the most responses. When reviewing spatial analysis further in the report, maps that reflect the geographic distribution to the right are generally considered to reflect a consensus from survey takers.

Additional zip codes were provided in comment fields, noting responses related to Gonzaga University and areas within Spokane County, just outside of City of Spokane city limits.

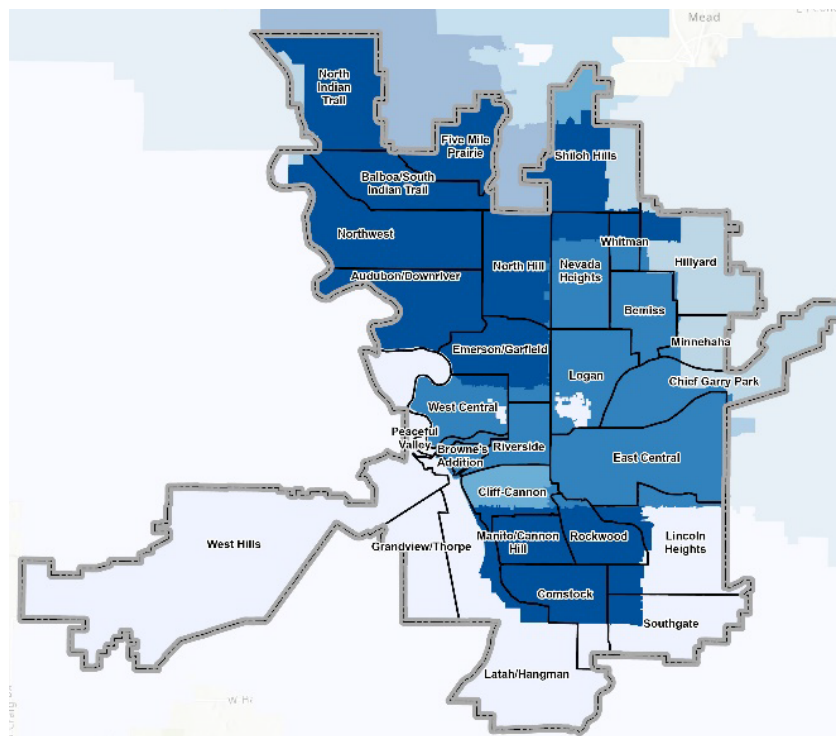
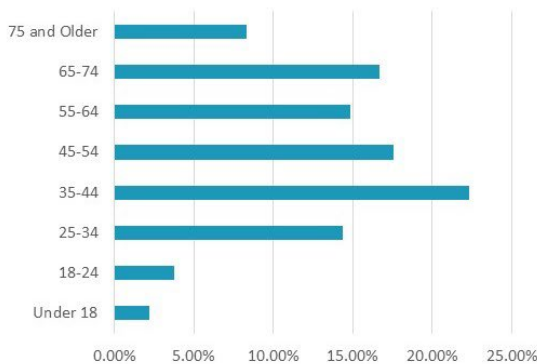


Figure 2. Spatial map of which zip codes had the most survey responses.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

What are your household age groups?

There was a range of age groups who completed the survey, including youth under 18. However, the most responses came from the age groups of 35-44, 45-54, and 65-74. People were also asked if there were children under 18 years of age in their immediate household. 32.25% of survey respondents said “Yes”.

What is your age group?



Do you have children under 18 in your immediate household?

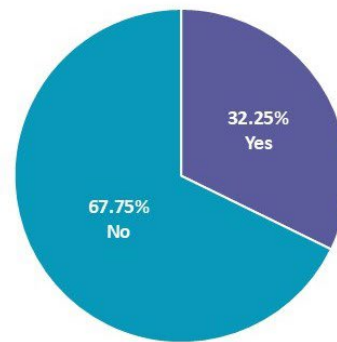


Figure 3. Graphs illustrating household age groups of survey respondents.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

Are you or do you know a community member who is more vulnerable to extreme weather and climate impacts?

The survey asked respondents whether they were, or had family members or friends who were, a member of communities identified as generally more vulnerable to extreme weather and climate impacts. Vulnerable communities were identified as those who tend to be impacted first and worst by climate impacts and/or tend to have less resources to respond to climate hazards due to health or socio-economic factors.

The below graph illustrates the responses received. This question also asked about Native American/Tribal community members, older residents, children, Black or African American residents, and Latino or Hispanic residents. However, a lack of responses with these communities identified prevents useable results. Based off other survey results, the responses are assumed to be due to lack of desire to answer this question rather than a lack of hearing from some of the identified groups. Further understanding will be explored in future workshops and focus groups.

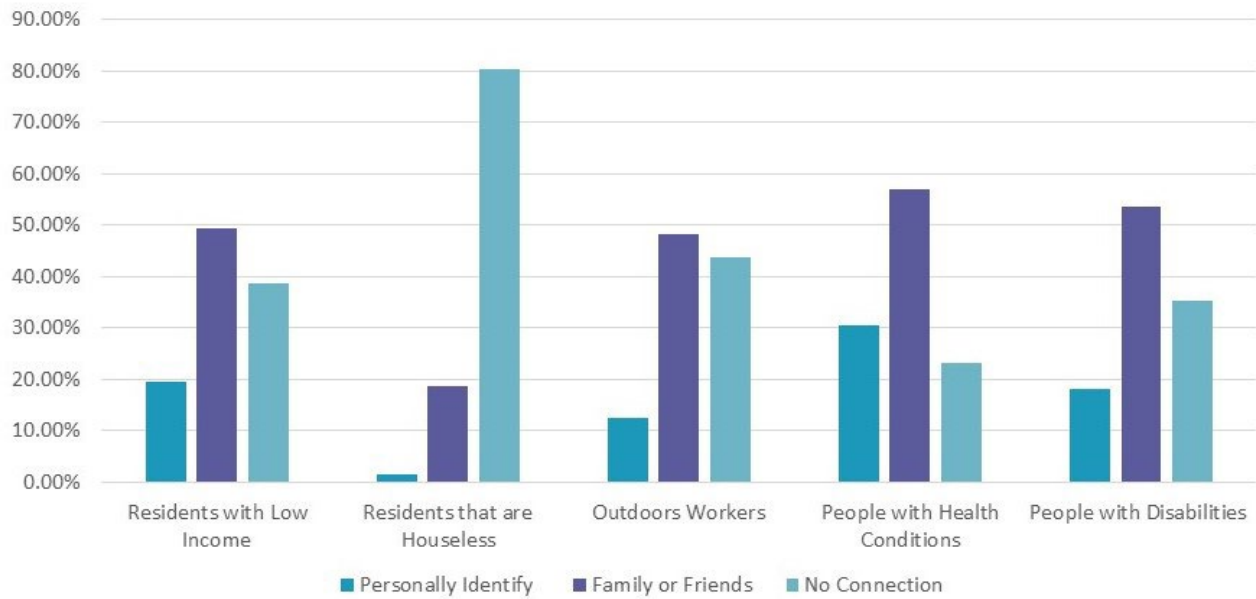


Figure 4. Graph illustrating responses from who identified as or have a connection with someone who is low income, residents that are houseless, outdoors workers, people with health conditions, and people with disabilities.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

What is your race and ethnicity?

Of those who provided their race and ethnicity, a higher percentage of survey takers are members of vulnerable populations identified in the recently published [Spokane Climate Impacts and Climate Justice Memo](#) than the City of Spokane population as a whole. For instance, 1.9% of the City of Spokane’s population is Black or African American, compared to 3.21% of survey respondents.

	Survey Responses	Spokane Population *
Black or African American	3.21%	1.9%
American Indian, Native American, or Alaska Native	4.07%	1.1%
Asian or Asian American	3.41%	2.2%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1.14%	0.6%
White or Caucasian	75.02%	84.8%
Other	3.74%	9.4% **
Prefer Not to Say	13.63%	

* Demographic data is from American Community Survey (ACS), 2023 update

**Data point is a combination of Other and Two or More Races to better reflect the survey question structure

What is your household income?

To understand the potential ability to respond to or be resilient from climate hazards, survey respondents were asked for their approximate household income. Approximately 37% of survey respondents are at or below Spokane’s Median Household Income, which is \$65,745. Additionally, while not broken down by household size, approximately 8% of survey respondents make at or below the poverty line, assuming an average household size of three people.

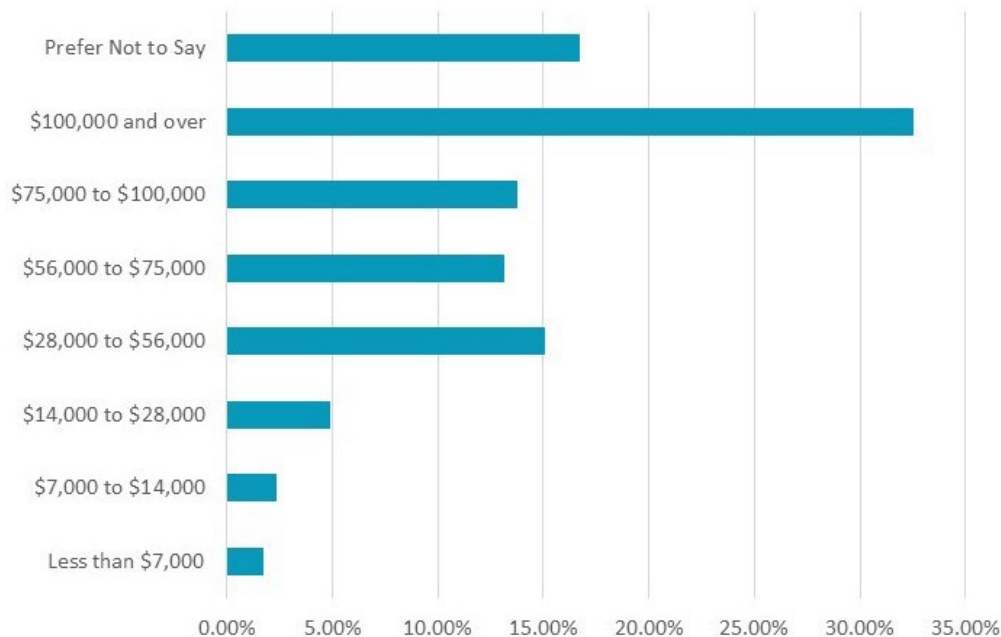


Figure 5. Graph illustrating indicated incomes of survey respondents.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

How Have You Been Impacted?

Survey respondents were asked how they have been impacted (or not impacted) by climate hazards in Spokane. When compared to national, state, and local data points on climate hazards, the analysis provides insight into how impacts are perceived and individually felt by community members.

Have you been impacted by any of the following extreme weather and climate hazards in Spokane?

When asked what climate hazards impact their lives, survey respondents indicated that smoke from **wildfires, extreme heat, and intense storms** are the top three hazards. Of note, 14.91% of survey respondents indicated that they were not personally impacted by any of the climate hazards and some open-ended responses questioned the cause of extreme weather or other climate hazards. “Other” responses included bad air quality (not just related to wildfire smoke), reduced ability to grow vegetables due to changing frost dates/extreme heat/drought conditions, high winds and hailstorms, increased pests due to variable temperatures, and power outages caused by extreme weather events.

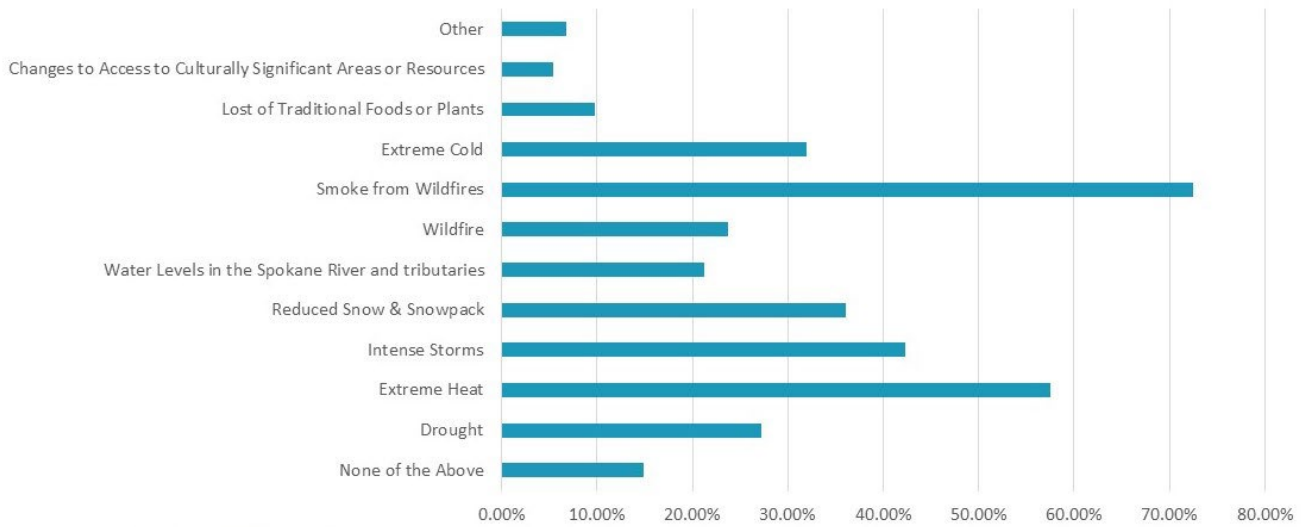


Figure 6. Graph illustrating overall responses to impacts of climate hazards.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

When the same question is broken down to see how individuals who indicated a household income generally at or below the poverty line, depending on household size, an increased percentage of respondents indicated some of the extreme weather and climate hazards as more impactful. Of note, **extreme heat** and **extreme cold** substantially increased, which may indicate how lower incomes may be less able to financially respond to climate hazards (difficulty to manage higher heating and cooling bills, inability to install air conditioning or improved insulation, etc.).

(Incomes \$28,000 or less responses)

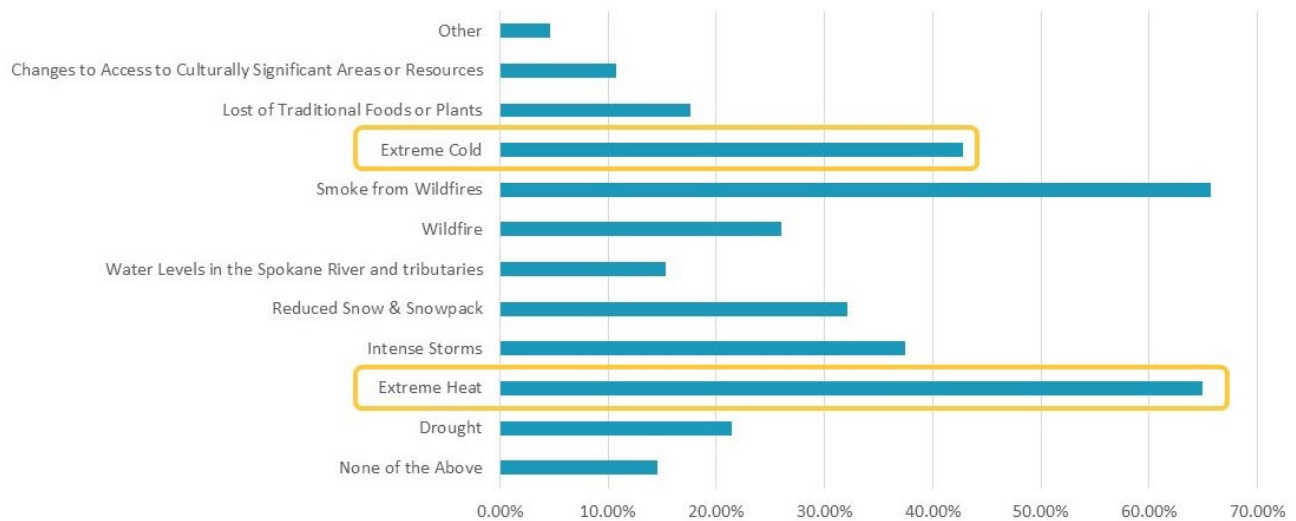


Figure 7. Graph highlighting response differences when broken down to income at or below \$28,000.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

In order to understand potential location variability, the responses for extreme heat, wildfire smoke, intense storms, and extreme cold were compared with survey respondents who provided their zip code.

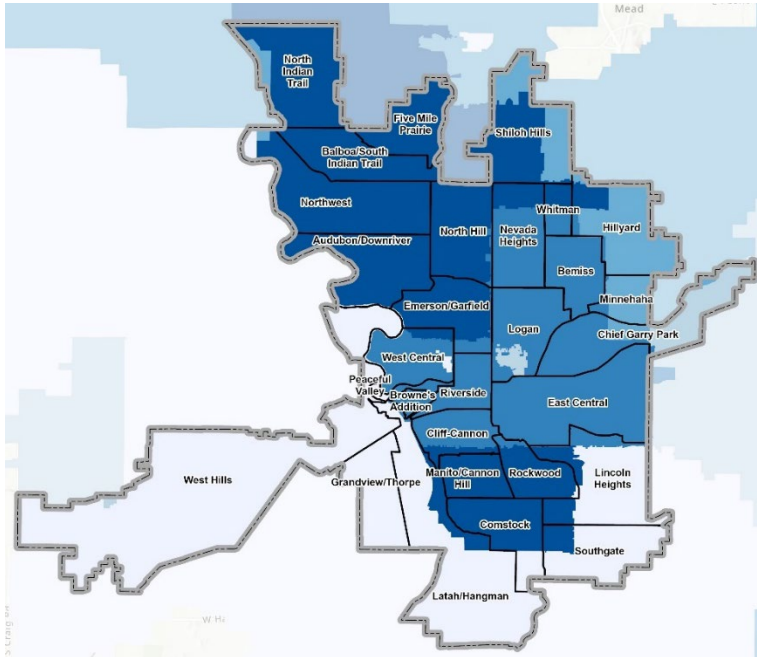


Figure 8. Map showing areas impacted by extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and intense storms. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

Extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and intense storms had the same spatial distribution. In general, the response distribution mirrors the distribution of individuals who took the survey, indicating an overall consensus of survey takers regardless of city location. Of note, portions of Shiloh Hills, the majority of Hillyard, portions of Minnehaha, portions of Chief Garry Park, and portions of Cliff-Cannon, as well as the westernmost portion of North Indian Trail and Northwest, all had a higher response rate, indicating more individuals in these areas reported having been impacted by extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and intense storms than other areas of the city.

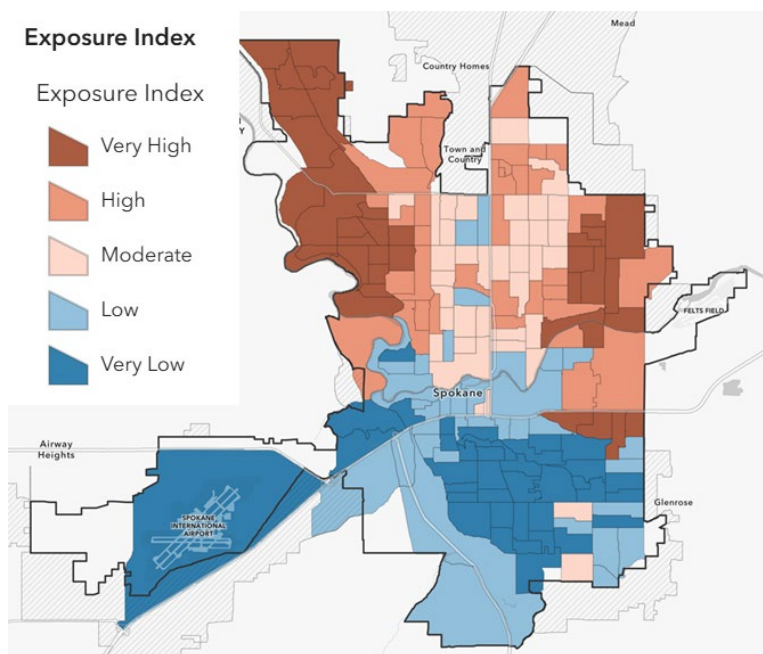


Figure 9. Exposure Index map. Source: Spokane Climate Risk and Vulnerability Index.

When comparing the results from the survey to the [Climate Risk and Vulnerability Index mapping tool](#), the Northwest of Spokane seems to align. Northeast Spokane, on the other hand, appears to indicate less perceived concern for climate hazards than the identified exposures would assume. However, a lower number of survey results coming from Northeast Spokane could potentially be masking the exposure risks identified for that region. The South Hill area also diverges from the Index, indicating a higher perception of impacts. [Prior community engagement with Neighborhood Councils](#) in the area indicated concerns of extreme storms

and impacts on trees, which is not easily captured by the Index and may explain some of the deviation.

When looking at those who said they were impacted by extreme cold, the distribution does not mirror the distribution of overall survey responses. Unlike the results above, this indicates that there is a lack of consensus within the city when it comes to perceiving the impact of extreme cold. Most of North Hill, portions of Emerson/Garfield, portions of Northwest, and portions of West Central had a higher response rate than other parts of the city. The results generally align with the [Climate Risk and Vulnerability Index](#) of “Poor Housing Conditions”, which shows areas with a high number of homes built before 1960, potentially pointing towards an explanation that is beyond actual temperatures (e.g. reduced insulation, lower use of heat, general less resiliency to cold temperatures, etc.).

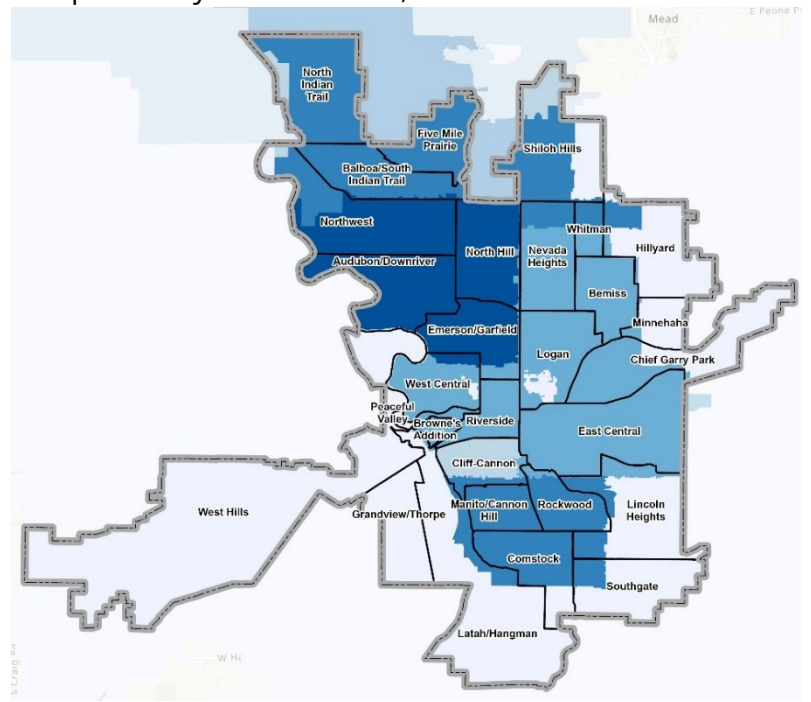


Figure 10. Map showing areas impacted by extreme cold. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

How have extreme weather and climate hazards affected you personally in the past five years?

The next question, how have the respondents been personally affected by extreme weather and climate hazards, relied on individual experiences and perceptions to identify how local lives are impacted. **Rising costs of living and basic needs** and **changes to recreational activities** were the top areas survey respondents stated they have been affected. 16.94% of respondents stated that they had not been impacted by any of the options. In the open-ended answers to “Other”, increased or cancelled property insurance was brought up, as well as property damage and the increased use of government funds on projects related to climate and resiliency.

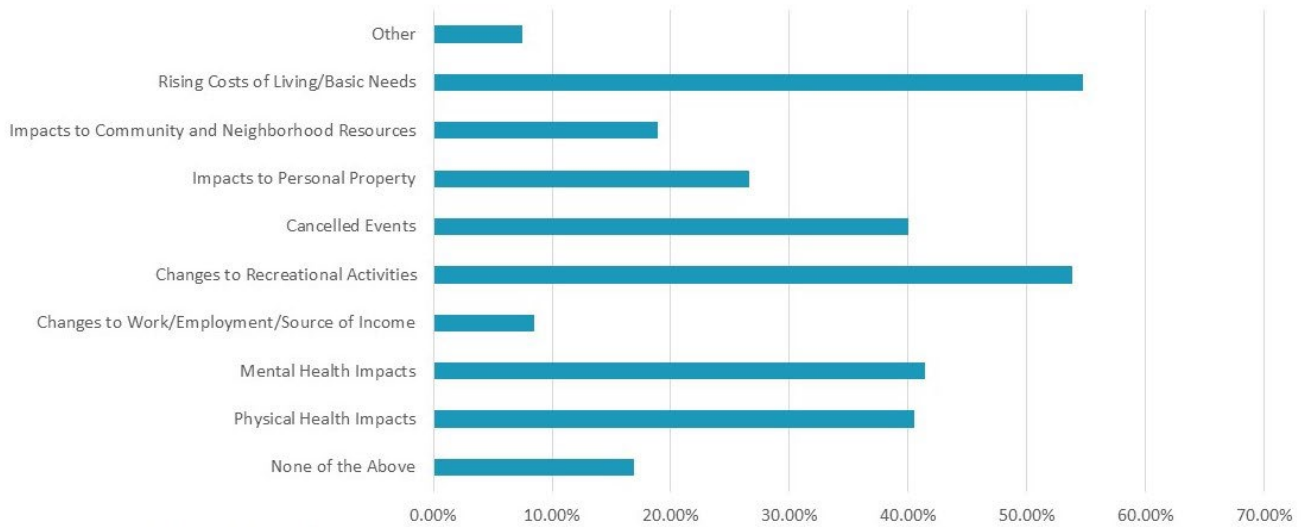


Figure 11. Graph illustrating how survey respondents have been personally impacted by extreme weather and climate hazards. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

When evaluating the responses from those who indicated a household income generally at or below the poverty line, depending on household size, an increased percentage of respondents indicated being impacted by **rising costs of living/basic needs**, **mental health impacts**, and **physical health impacts**. While income is not directly tied to homeowner or renter status, another key insight is that 64.82% of renters indicated being affected by rising costs of living/basic needs, compared to 56.06% of homeowners, and 61.26% of renters indicated their mental health being affected, compared to 38.36% of homeowners.

(Incomes \$28,000 or less responses)

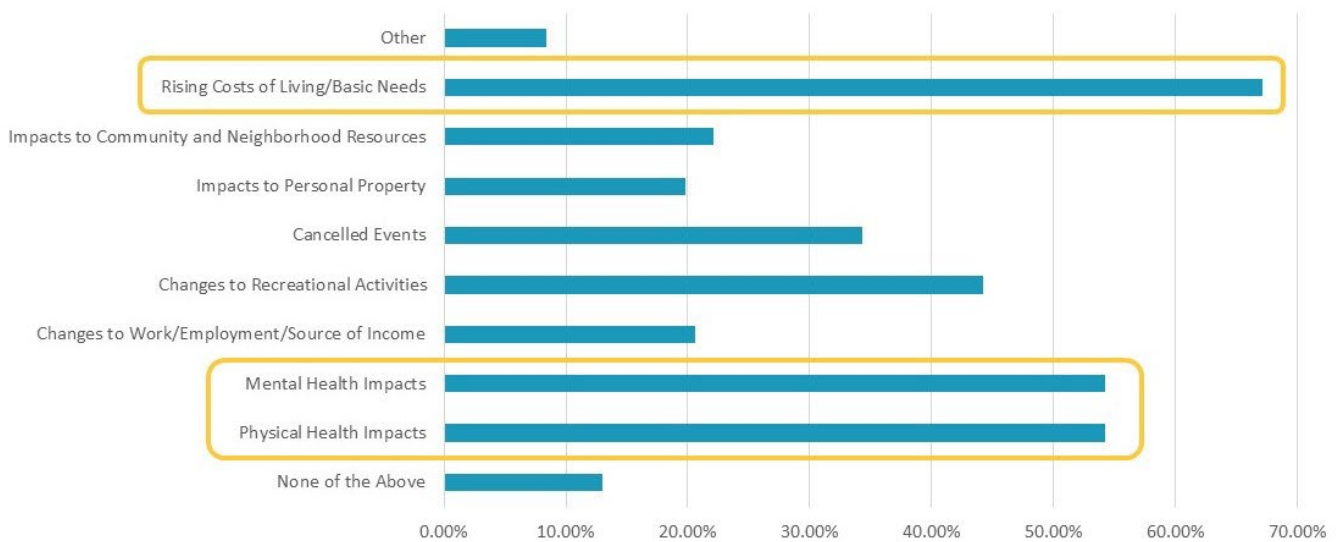


Figure 12. Graph illustrating how survey respondents below the poverty line have been personally impacted by extreme weather and climate hazards. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

This question was also broken down by age group, to better understand the impacts on Spokane’s youth. Results indicate a significantly higher percentage of respondents indicating that extreme weather and climate hazards have **impacted youth mental health** the most.

(Younger than 18, 18-24 age responses)

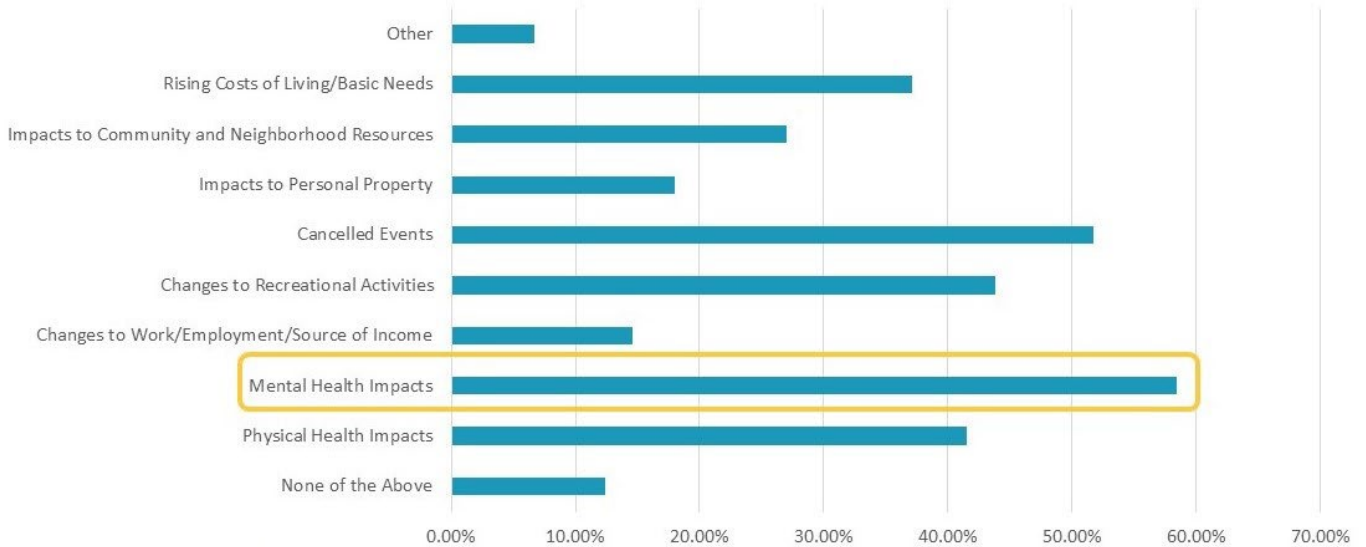


Figure 13. Graph illustrating how survey respondents 24 years of age and younger have been personally impacted by extreme weather and climate hazards. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

Due to the variability seen in responses related to mental and physical health, the analysis took a

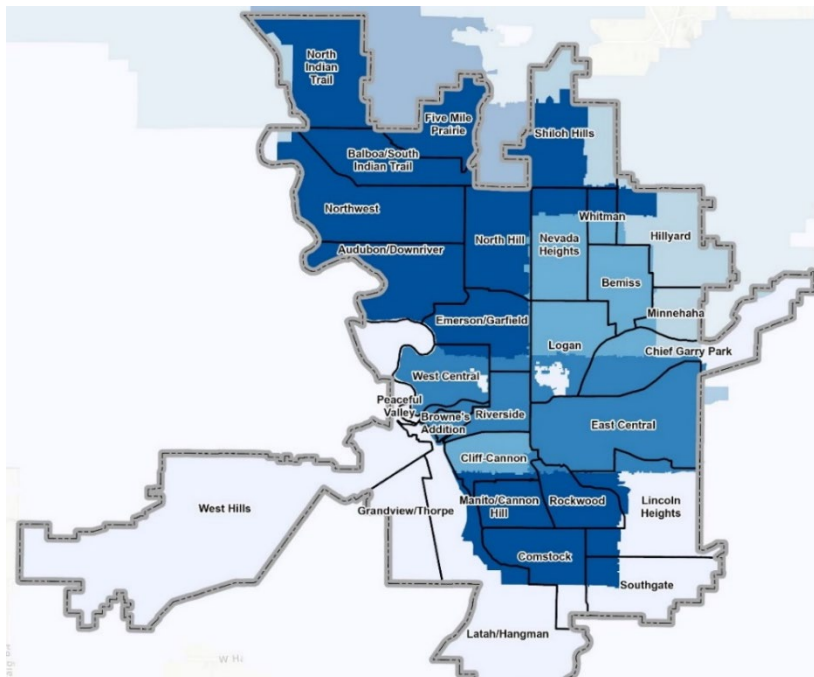


Figure 14. Map showing those who responded that their mental health and their physical health have been impacted by climate hazards. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

closer look into those areas. In order to understand whether mental and physical health impacts vary depending on location within the City of Spokane, the responses were compared with survey respondents who provided their zip code. The maps for both mental and physical health impacts had the same spatial distribution. In general, the response rate distribution mirrors the distribution of individuals who took the survey, indicating an overall consensus of survey takers regardless of city location. However, the northernmost portion of Shiloh Hills, portions of Nevada Heights, Bemiss, portions of Logan, and portions of Whitman all indicated a

slightly lower response rate, indicating fewer individuals in these areas reported having their mental and/or physical health impacted by climate hazards.

Personal stories about your experiences and concerns

When asked to share personal stories about their experiences and concerns (or lack of) around extreme weather and climate impacts, respondents largely discussed their concerns over **smoke and wildfires**, as well as **extreme heat**. Impacted activities included sports, camping, and gardening, with many expressing concerns over not being able to continue growing their own food. The increased cost of utilities due to greater demand for heat and air conditioning usage was also a common story.

Some survey respondents believe the weather events are not unusual, but many still acknowledge the personal or financial impact of extreme weather. This result indicates a **collective desire for community resiliency**, regardless of personal thoughts around changing climate patterns or hazards.



Figure 15. Personal stories submitted that reflected consistent patterns from survey respondents.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

As You Look to the Future...

Survey respondents were also asked to think into the future about climate impacts. The City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan looks at a twenty-year vision for the city, identifying policies to guide future growth. The intent of these questions was to identify potential areas for future policy consideration.

Within the next 20 years, how concerned are you with weather and climate impacts in the City of Spokane?

When asked how concerned they are about certain weather and climate impacts within the next twenty years, respondents indicated a general extreme concern over **extreme heat, wildfire, and smoke from wildfires**. Drought, intense storms, reduced snow and snowpack, extreme cold, and water levels were generally of moderate concern. Most respondents indicated little to no concern over flooding, landslides, loss of traditional foods or plants, and changes in access to culturally significant areas or resources. The below graph breaks down the results by extremely concerned and not at all concerned responses. It is important to note that moderately and slightly concerned were also potential responses, which is how the impacts of moderate concern above were identified but were not graphed below to make it easier to identify the highest and lowest concerns.

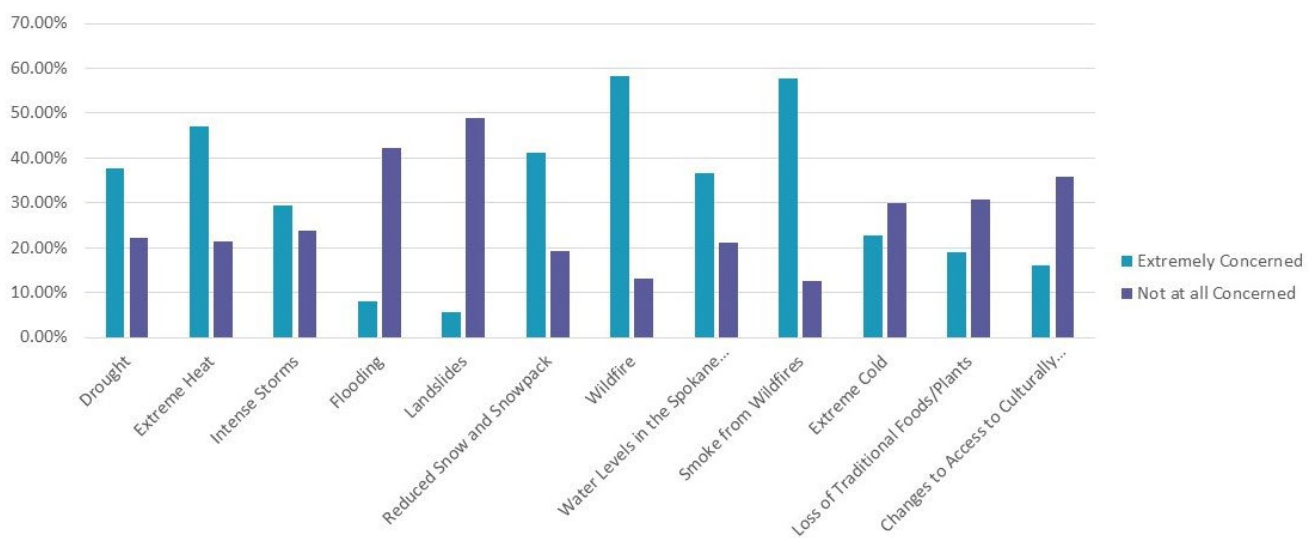


Figure 16. Graph illustrating the number of respondents who indicated extremely concerned or not at all concerned to future climate impacts. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

Which sectors do you think are most at risk from extreme weather and climate impacts in Spokane?

Survey respondents were asked to rank how at risk they believe certain sectors or categories of assets will be in the future, ranked from 1 to 11. **Agriculture and food systems** were largely ranked most at risk, while neighborhoods and communities were largely ranked least at risk.

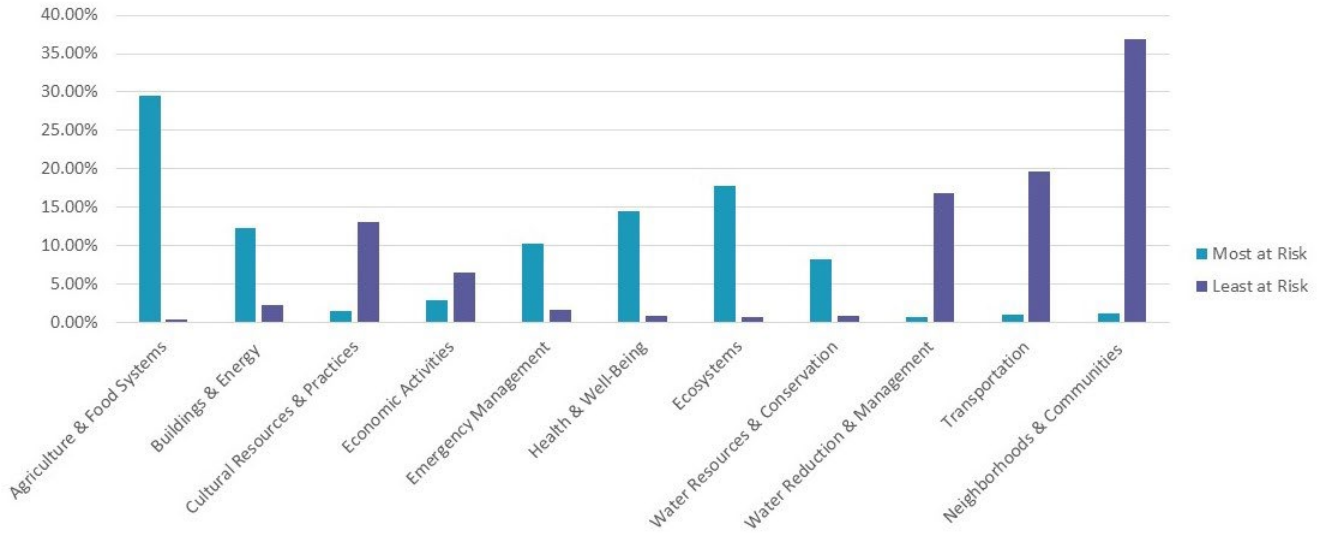


Figure 17. Graph illustrating the number of respondents who indicated most at risk or least at risk for provided sectors. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

Survey respondents were also asked to provide comments on why or why not they are concerned about the sectors reviewed, or if there were any specific resources and infrastructure they thought were at risk. Common themes include concerns over local food production and small farms, the resiliency of the natural ecosystem and wildfires, water quality and the aquifer, how unhoused residents are more affected, the impact of trash and littering, and the support of multi-modal transportation options. Other comments included concerns over community safety and crime, as well as rising costs.



Figure 18. Comments about sectors submitted that reflected consistent patterns from survey respondents. Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

Looking Towards Solutions

When looking toward the future, it's important to also look at potential future actions and solutions in the face of extreme weather and climate hazards. Feedback received from these questions will help **inform potential policies** that will be incorporated into the City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan.

What obstacles do you face when trying to reduce your household's environmental impact?

When asked what **obstacles** they may face when trying to reduce their household's environmental impact, a majority of survey respondents indicated the **costs** and **time** needed to make changes – such as improving insulation, updating windows, or replacing lawn – kept them from making changes they wanted to do. Other common themes included a lack of control over rented properties, lack of information on how to reduce their impact, not being sure individual actions make a difference, neighborhood covenants that restrict actions, businesses being viewed as having more of an impact, limited options of goods available to purchase, and limited recycling of once every other week.

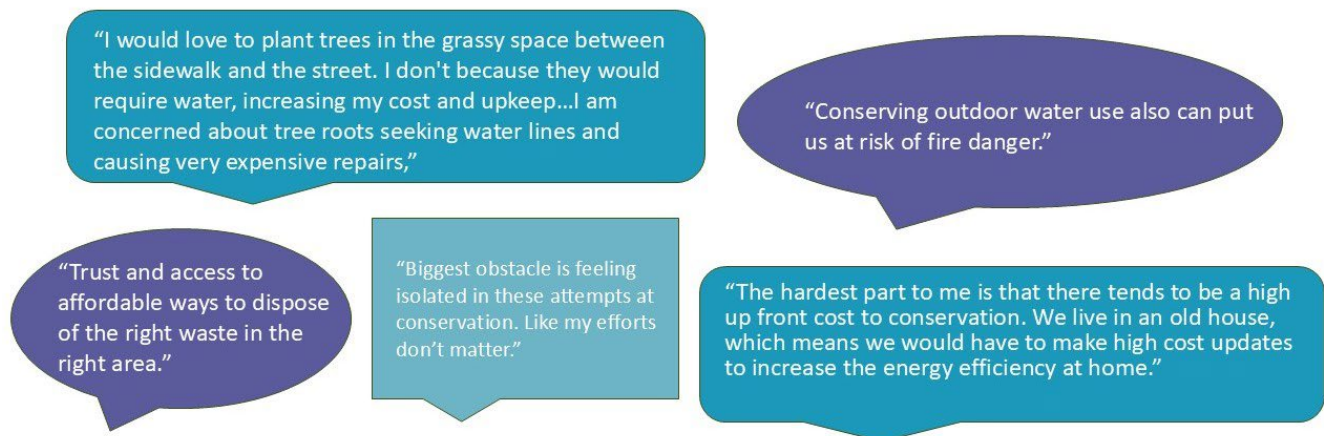


Figure 19. Comments about obstacles that reflected consistent patterns from survey respondents.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

What kinds of climate solutions would you most like to see in Spokane?

Rather than just identifying concerns, risks, and obstacles, survey respondents were also asked to think specifically about **potential solutions** to increase Spokane's resiliency. Common themes included **water and waste reduction**, **incentives for more sustainable upgrades** (particularly for low-income residents), **tree management**, and **more trees and greenspace** throughout the city. Education and formal information sharing was also highlighted throughout the received comments.



Figure 20. Comments about potential solutions that reflected consistent patterns from survey respondents.
Source: 2024-2025 City of Spokane Community Climate Planning Survey.

Next Steps

The Community Climate Planning Survey was one tool used to seek feedback about climate impacts experienced by Spokane’s community. The engagement will continue throughout 2025 and 2026 and will be jointly considered along with data and scientific analysis throughout the phases of the Climate Planning efforts, ultimately resulting in proposed climate and resiliency focused policies to be incorporated into the City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan. The public is encouraged to stay engaged and keep an eye out for future opportunities to have their voice heard.



- **Stay Informed:** Follow the City of Spokane on social media and [sign up for email updates](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest developments in our climate planning efforts. You can also find more information on the project webpage at my.spokanecity.org/climateplanning.
- **Attend Events:** Look out for upcoming community workshops and events to chat, share information, and have your thoughts on climate planning heard.
- **Participate in Engage Spokane:** Community members can weigh in on Spokane’s climate and resiliency planning efforts through [Engage Spokane](#), an online community space to offer input and help shape the future of our thriving city.
- **Share Your Voice:** Your input is crucial in shaping our city's response to growing climate hazards. Join us for community workshops, town hall meetings, and online surveys to share your ideas, concerns, and priorities. You can also directly email the Climate Planning project team at climateplanning@spokanecity.org.

Appendix A – Survey Analytics

Analytics of survey responses and outreach efforts are documented to provide insight into how the survey was taken and shared.

SurveyMonkey Analytics

The Community Climate Planning Survey used SurveyMonkey to create and distribute the survey to the community. With a total of **1,573 responses**, the **survey completion rate was 100%**. This means everyone who started the survey submitted their responses. The first full week of January saw the most survey responses in one week, corresponding with PeachJar distribution (details below).

The survey was provided in **six languages**: English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Marshallese, and Vietnamese. One response was submitted through the Spanish survey, and one was submitted through the Russian survey. While not a high rate of responses, translation of the survey provided an opportunity for more community members to learn about the survey and Climate Planning efforts.

Digital Media Analytics

The City of Spokane leveraged its digital media to promote the Community Climate Planning Survey. A blog post and a news release advertising the survey were published. In January 2025, a total of **thirteen City newsletters** from various Departments and including the citywide Community Update newsletter reached over **80,000 unique emails** and resulted in **over 800 individual “clicks”** to learn more about the survey. Collectively, through the various City social media channels, the survey was **promoted to accounts over a half-million times, seen 190,000 times, and engaged with 1,300 times.**

PeachJar Analytics

PeachJar is an online bulletin board for the Spokane School District. The survey was shared through their system from January 6, 2025 through January 31, 2025. Distribution went to **56 schools**, with a total of **15,767 impressions** and **299 views**. 44 individuals visited the City of Spokane webpage or otherwise took action from the dashboard.

Community Distribution

A focused effort to distribute the Community Climate Planning Survey outside of City platforms was also conducted. Partnerships that helped amplify the survey with their audience include Spokane Public Schools (including non-English speaking families), Spokane Transit Authority, Spokane River Forum, the Northeast Community Center, Spokane Zero Waste, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, The Lands Council, a number of faith-based organizations, and many more. Information about the survey, as well as digital flyers, were emailed to approximately 85 organizations and all Spokane Neighborhood Councils.

Non-digital efforts included physically posting flyers at Spokane libraries, community centers, throughout City Hall, and general community boards throughout the city. Survey flyers were available at the City Council Legislative Session sign up table and City staff promoted the survey during a tabling event outside City Council Chambers before the January 27, 2025 legislative session. The survey was also advertised during numerous Plan Commission, Climate Resiliency & Sustainability Board, and City Council committee meetings.

BRIEFING PAPER: PFAS/PFOA Samples in Drinking Water
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
3/13/2025

Note to presenters: The CRSB is interested in having workshops with about 2/3 presenter time and 1/3 of a workshop reserved for questions and discussion.

Subject:

A look at the presence of PFAS chemicals in the City of Spokane's drinking water system, new EPA rules, and related information.

Background:

The presence of PFAS in drinking water is a hot topic nationally, particularly as high concentrations of these chemicals have been found around military bases. Airway Heights, our neighbor to the west, was one of those communities, and more information is being collected about the presence of PFAS on the West Plains.

Using new, more sensitive testing methodology, the City detected PFAS/PFOA chemicals in our water system for the first time in April 2023. That 2023 testing was coordinated with the Washington state Department of Health, following the establishment of new state standards for these "forever" chemicals. More recently, the US EPA also has adopted standards for PFAS compounds in drinking water.

Since that initial testing, the City has completed multiple quarters of testing on the source water from all of our wells for PFAS. This presentation will focus on the results of that testing and quantifying the effects to the City of Spokane's water system.

The City also has joined multi-district litigation about PFAS in drinking water with some funding expected as early as this year.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

Addressing these contaminants is consistent with the Water Resources chapter of the Sustainability Action Plan, which includes multiple goals around protecting the Spokane River and Aquifer.

This work also is consistent with goals in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Water System Plan that encourage protection and stewardship of the Aquifer.

Additionally, as a purveyor of drinking water, we remain committed to protecting the aquifer. Annually, we collect more than 2,000 samples to ensure we are meeting all drinking water standards. We deliver up to 150 million gallons of drinking water in our community daily, as the third largest water purveyor in the state of Washington

Timeline/ Further Action:

This is an informational-only presentation. This forever chemical is regulated by the federal government. The City's water system is in compliance with those requirements, but additional work may be needed in the future.

BRIEFING PAPER: Sustainability Action Plan 2021
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
3/13/2025

Subject:

The City of Spokane's first work into Climate Planning began with a Sustainability Action Plan in 2009 under Mayor Vernor. The most recent effort in a Sustainability Action Plan was completed in 2021 and led by the City Council.

Now that Climate Planning is mandated by state law to be included into the City's Comprehensive Plan and more sustainability initiatives are being integrated into city operations

This workshop is a discussion about the 2021 Sustainability Action Plan and how some elements of this document can be used in the required periodic update to the City's Comprehensive Plan and can also inform the city's sustainability implementation efforts.

Background:

The 2021 Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) is an update to the City's [2009 Sustainability Action Plan](#). The Sustainability Action Subcommittee developed this update over a period of two and a half years, including a six-month public feedback period resulting in hundreds of recommended revisions.

This final version of the SAP was adopted by City Council on October 25th, 2021. Select the links below to read the plan.

[Full Report](#) (PDF 6.8 MB)

[Executive Summary](#) (PDF 1.6 MB)

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

As an assessment of where we are now, the City's Climate Planning consultant has prepared a [Policy Audit Memo](#). This memo documents review of the existing comprehensive plan goals and policies and looked at other key documents, this included the 2021 Sustainability Action Plan.

Feedback question for discussion at CRSB:

- Which of the SAP strategies, that were identified in the [Policy Audit](#) and recommended to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan, should the City prioritize for implementation, and why?
- Is the Sustainability Action Plan's goal of including equity considerations being met?

The City's Climate Planning consultant has prepared a [Climate Impacts and Climate Justice memo](#) which is meant to guide climate justice and resilience planning by informing the engagement process by identifying specific communities to engage in depth, and prioritize benefits to address the compounding and disproportionate impacts to frontline communities. The [Climate Policy Audit](#) further looked at equity indicators of City policies to understand how actionable current policies are to addressing equitable outcomes. The Sustainability Action Plan included an "equity checklist" on p. 27 to 29. Climate planning is implementing two of the SAP Environmental Justice actions: EJ 1.2 Identify the communities that are disproportionately at risk of climate impacts; and EJ 1.3 Identify and prioritize the most urgent issues impacting the at-risk communities.

BRIEFING PAPER: Sustainability Action Plan 2021
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
3/13/2025

The Spokane Climate Vulnerability Index also highlights climate justice considerations and overburdened communities in understanding climate risks and vulnerabilities.

Climate Planning is engaging Tribal and Urban Native communities with a Tribal Engagement Workgroup to build relationships and deepen understanding on Tribal priorities for climate resilience.

Timeline/ Further Action:

Current staff focus is on integration of the required Climate Element into the Comprehensive Plan. See PlanSpokane.org for more information about that effort.

BRIEFING PAPER: Plan Spokane 2046
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
3/13/2025

Subject:

The City of Spokane is beginning a periodic update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan as required by the [Growth Management Act \(GMA\)](#). A “periodic update” is the state’s term for a full review of a Comprehensive Plan to make sure it’s in conformance with any legislative changes to state law. The last periodic update was completed in 2017. Since the last periodic update, state law has added additional considerations especially around Climate Planning and Planning for Housing for all income levels that need to be added to the City’s plan.

Due in June 2026, the periodic update will identify policies and future regulations to guide the next 20 years of our city.

The periodic update will include robust community outreach and engagement around climate, housing, economic development, land use, transportation and much more.

Background:

HB 1181, the state legislation requiring the integration of climate considerations into jurisdictions Comprehensive Plans, allows for two ways to meet the bill’s intent: create a stand-alone Climate Element (also known as a chapter) or integrate climate policies throughout the document.

The City of Spokane has opted to integrate climate policies throughout to identify co-benefits that increase Spokane’s future resiliency while also supporting other goals. More information about the Climate Planning efforts can be found at planspokane.org.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

The periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan will incorporate some of the policies from the Sustainability Action Plan as well as policies developed during this community outreach.

Timeline/ Further Action:

The graphic features the City of Spokane logo and the 'PLAN SPOKANE' title with the tagline 'Resilient | Connected | Livable | 2046'. Below this, the main heading 'Community Visioning Workshops' is displayed. Four blue boxes provide the following details:

Date	Workshop Name	Location	Time
March 5	District 1 Visioning Workshop	Northeast Community Center LL-Main Room	5:30-7 p.m.
March 12	Community-wide Visioning Workshop	Central Library, Events A	12-1:30 p.m.
March 25	District 2 Visioning Workshop	Liberty Park Library Events Rm	5:30-7 p.m.
March 27	District 3 Visioning Workshop	Shadle Park Library Events Rm	5:30-7 p.m.



What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-term planning document that establishes a vision, goals, and policies that guide all aspects of Spokane’s growth and development over the next twenty years. The plan guides the City’s actions related to land use and growth, housing, economic development such as workforce and business opportunities, natural environment protection, as well as infrastructure, parks, emergency response, wastewater and stormwater, and more.

Spokane’s current Comprehensive plan – [Shaping Spokane](#) –includes the following chapters:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Implementation](#)
- [Land Use](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Capital Facilities and Utilities](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Urban Design and Historic Preservation](#)
- [Natural Environment](#)
- [Social Health](#)
- [Neighborhoods](#)
- [Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Local Government and Citizenship](#)
- [Shorelines](#)
- [Glossary](#)

Why does the Comprehensive Plan require updating?

The PlanSpokane Periodic Update the Comprehensive Plan will update the document to help guide Spokane’s growth through 2046. Washington State’s Growth Management Act (GMA) requires each city and county to periodically review and update their Comprehensive Plans to ensure consistency with State, Regional, and County policies. The update also provides an opportunity to review population and other growth forecasts with the most up to date data, allowing for policies to be reviewed for Spokane’s evolving needs and wants. Spokane’s Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2017, with the next due in 2026.

Recent legislative updates that will need to be incorporated into this Periodic Update include House Bill 1181 which requires cities to incorporate climate considerations into their Comprehensive Plans, as well as House Bill 1220, requiring provisions for housing of all income segments.

How will Climate be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan?

HB 1181, the state legislation requiring the integration of climate considerations into jurisdictions Comprehensive Plans, allows for two ways to meet the bill’s intent: create a stand-alone Climate Element (also known as a chapter) or integrate climate policies throughout the document. The City of Spokane has opted to integrate climate policies throughout in order to identify co-benefits that increase Spokane’s future resiliency while also supporting other goals. More information about the Climate Planning efforts can be found at my.spokanecity.org/climateplanning.

What does plan for and accommodate housing for all incomes mean?

House Bill 1220 passed in 2021, specified that Comprehensive Plans must have policies regarding the provision of housing for all income segments. It also requires each community to identify the number of new housing units needed at each income level. Those housing units include supportive housing for incomes that are 0 to 29 percent of Spokane’s area medium income (AMI), housing for 30-50 percent AMI, 50 to 80 percent AMI, 100 to 120 percent AMI, housing for over 120 percent AMI, and emergency housing units.

What is a “growth alternative”?

As part of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, Spokane will be performing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This document allows the City to identify potential growth options for the next twenty years, the potential environmental and other impacts of those growth options, and what mitigation may be required to prevent any negative effects of those options.

The potential growth options are known as Growth Alternatives and will be reviewed in the Draft EIS.

The community will then be provided the details of each Growth Alternative, allowing for feedback to refine and determine which types of growth meet the community’s future vision.

A Final EIS will then be developed, based on a Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative is developed from the community’s feedback of the Growth Alternatives and may include various components of one or all of the Growth Alternatives. The Preferred Alternative will be the foundation of the final Comprehensive Plan policies.

DRAFT ALTERNATIVES

Multiple Draft Alternatives that examine elements of different growth options for Spokane will be identified. The Preferred Alternative can be a combination of various elements from all the Draft Alternatives.



ANALYSIS

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will review the Draft Alternatives, identifying potential impacts and mitigation measures. This analysis will help compare the various elements of the Draft Alternatives.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City’s Boards and Commissions will provide feedback on the Draft Alternatives. Their discussions and recommendations will help Spokane City Council select the elements that will go into the Preferred Alternative.

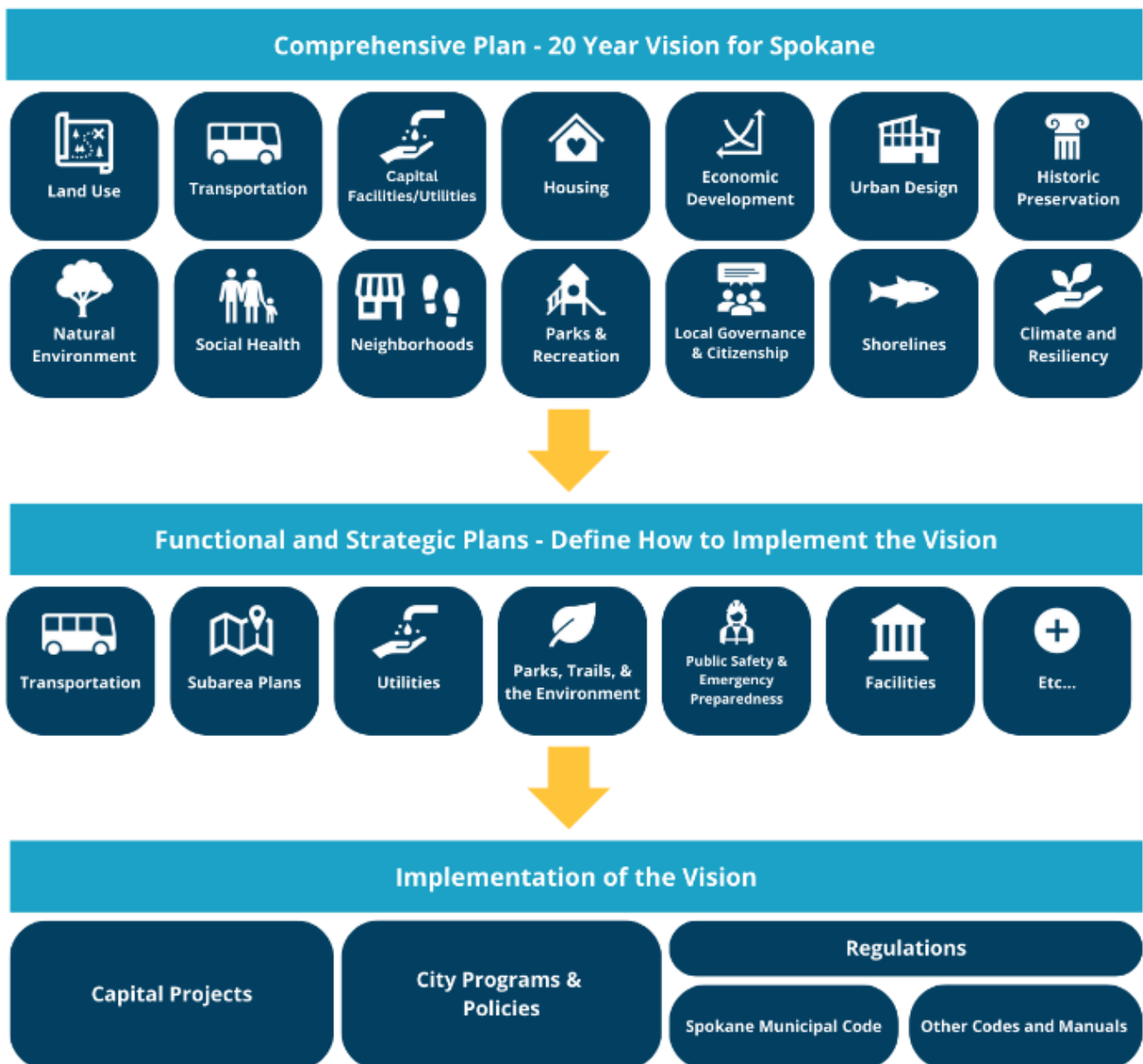
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Feedback from the community about likes, dislikes, and desires for future growth of Spokane will be incorporated into the Preferred Alternative.

How does the Comprehensive Plan affect the city and my property?

A City's Comprehensive Plan guides future growth and development of the community for the next twenty years, through visions, goals, and policies. Those policies then filter down into regulations, such as the Spokane Municipal Code, and decision-making, such as budget allocations.

On a property-by-property basis, the Periodic Update will potentially look at modifying existing land uses within the City. Depending on the Preferred Alternative that is selected, this could result in the land use of your or surrounding properties changing, which could impact what future development could occur. However, regardless of any changes that occur, existing uses are permitted to remain and there are no requirements to redevelop or otherwise modify the existing use or structure.





How much does it cost to update the Comprehensive Plan?

Like many required plans and updates, the Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan is a standard local government requirement and part of the City's standard working process. The City of Spokane Planning and Economic Development Services Department is tasked with managing the Comprehensive Plan, in addition to other obligations. In addition to internal staffing, the state has issued several grant opportunities to support local governments in implementing new legislative requirements. Spokane has received the grants to provide resources to conduct analysis, community engagement, and other work to inform the Comprehensive Plan update. Those grants include the Periodic Update Grant for up to \$325,000 and the Climate Planning Grant funded by the Climate Commitment Act for up to \$700,000, which are partially being used to hire consultants for technical assistance.

The City is also leveraging recent and current projects to reduce the work necessary to complete the Periodic Update. Those projects include, but are not limited to:

- [Centers and Corridors Study](#)
- [Building Opportunity for Housing](#)
- [South Logan TOD Project](#)
- [Housing Action Plan](#)
- [Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan](#)
- [Bicycle Priority Network](#)

How can I get involved in the Periodic Update?

The City of Spokane is working on robust and diverse community engagement to hear from as many residents and visitors as possible. To get involved:

- **Visit the Website.** You can review materials, drafts, and other information on the [PlanSpokane Webpage](#).
- **Visit Engage Spokane.** An online community space to offer input and help shape the future of our thriving city, [PlanSpokane](#) and [Climate Planning](#) each have an [Engage Spokane site](#).
- **Send an Email.** You can send comments, feedback, or additional information to PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org.
- **Sign up for the PlanSpokane Newsletter.** [Sign up for email updates](#) to stay up to date on the latest developments and upcoming engagement opportunities.
- **Attend events.** Look out for upcoming community workshops and events throughout 2025 and 2026 to chat, share information, and hear your thoughts on climate planning.