



Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Agenda

Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 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 Call2. Approve 4/10/2025 meeting minutes3. Chair Report4. Secretary Report5. Approval of current agenda	Planning Staff All Brian Henning Jon Snyder All
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Workshops:

2:15 – 2:50	1. 2025 State Legislature Sustainability Bills and Budget Items Recap	Jon Snyder & Marlene Feist
2:50 – 3:20	2. 2025 Federal Legislative and Budget Update	Jon Snyder, Adam McDaniel, & Brian Kristjansson
3:20 – 4:05	3. Climate Resilience Project Overview	Dante Jester & Mary Condon
4:05 – 4:35	4. Sustainability Action Plan Continuing Discussion	Jon Snyder

Adjournment: The CRSB will be holding a special virtual meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 3:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled CRSB meeting will be held Thursday, June 12, 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 mlowmaster@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, May 08, 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

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Video Conference ID: 112 012 615 5

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

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Passcode:
qhF8iY

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)

May 22, 2025 Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (180 minutes available) Virtual – Special Meeting		
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

June 12, 2025 Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (180 minutes available) Hybrid		
Workshop		
Time	Item	Presenter
2:00-2:15	Agenda review	
2:15-		
May/June	Special Meeting possible: 3-hour tour of Public Works Facilities (Waste to Energy, Water Reclamation, Water) – date/time TBD	
Hearing Items		

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Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board - Meeting Minutes Draft

Thursday, April 10, 2025

City Council Briefing Center

Meeting called to order at 2 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, Kathryn Alexander, Bob Lutz, Larry Luton, Happy Avery, Elyse Hochstadt, Kerry Brooks, Kevin Fagan, Lea Molina, Hala Zahalqa
- Board Members Not Present: Kit Parker, Amanda Parrish
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Jon Snyder, Tirrell Black, Emily King, Maren Murphy, Logan Callen, Lance Dahl, Elizabeth Schoedel, KayCee Downey, Nicole White, Sarah Sirott, Marcia Davis, Chris Averyt, Angie McCall, Kelly Thomas, Colin Quinn-Hurst, Kirstin Davis

Minutes: Minutes from 3/13/2025 approved unanimously as amended.

Briefing Session:

- **Chair Report** - Brian Henning
 - Brian had nothing to report.
- **Secretary Report** - Jon Snyder
 - Jon had a few things to report.
 - First, Jon discussed the membership of the board. Unfortunately, Doctor Matt Hollon has a conflict with the meeting time due to his clinic schedule that we were unable to resolve. He has stepped down from the board. With that, we have three vacancies. The goal had been to get a youth member on the board, and Jon is glad to say that we've succeeded with that. This week we submitted two new members to Council to go through their process. The first is Ryan Arnold who comes to us from Avista Corporation. He has a very interesting background in sustainability work. The second is Claire Cooney, who is a student at Gonzaga, and will be fulfilling our first youth member role on the board. Their next steps will be to do an interview with City Council, and they will then be voted on, then they will be joining us here. We still have one open slot, but Jon's intention is to keep that slot open probably through the rest of this year while we're still going through the climate planning process.
 - Another thing Jon wanted to talk about was that board member Bob Lutz had some interesting questions about our water contract with Airway Heights. Jon wanted to provide some information on that. The City has had a water-providing relationship with Airway Heights since the 80s, and that changed a bit with the PFAS issues in 2017. Our 2018 water supply agreement has the ability to have a new relationship with Airway Heights and has been extended multiple times. In February 2024, the Spokane City Council approved an amendment to the agreement for a small amount of additional water associated on a buy in charge to help them with their water issue. At the time we were able to expand the agreement from about 14 hundred gallons a minute up to a total of about 46 hundred gallons a minute. We're not expecting to reach those levels for maybe six to eight years, but it added some new capacity for them, understanding the constraints that they were under from the PFAS issues. Jon wanted to present this during the secretary's report just to give an example

that if issues like this come up and you feel it would be helpful to your work on this board for certain pieces of information, Jon will try to get that information and can provide it during his reports, or it can be included in the packet. These items can also be future presentations to the board. If you have questions about different city services related to sustainability, we don't always have to have a full-blown agenda item, but Jon can try to get you that information.

- Lastly, we have some time constraints for our climate work regarding the comprehensive plan. This may require the board to do a mid-May meeting. Maren Murphy spoke to this - the regular May CRSB meeting is a little too early to bring results for the climate risk and vulnerability assessment. We're just finishing up our workshops and focus groups, and we want to make sure we can integrate that feedback from the lived experience as well as we'll be going through our internal staff review. However, the June 12th meeting is a little bit late. Our grant materials for phase one are due to the Department of Commerce on June 15th, which means there would be limited opportunity for feedback. So, the request is to consider a virtual meeting, potentially on May 22nd, which would help the team to get through their process and would get a draft to the board for review. The team could come back in June as well and have a final discussion before everything is submitted to Commerce. Materials for review would be sent out about a week in advance. This would be an optional online meeting on May 22nd beginning at 3:15pm and ending at 4:45pm. Look out for the calendar invite for that meeting. If people are unable to attend, Jon will accept any written feedback and can pass that along.

Current Agenda: The current agenda was approved.

Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Climate Planning Update
 - Presentation provided by: Maren Murphy, Planning
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - GHG Emissions Inventory Reporting
 - Presentation provided by staff member: Logan Callen, Public Works
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - Wild Urban Interface
 - Presentation provided by staff member: Lance Dahl, Deputy Chief Spokane Fire
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - Sustainability Action Plan, Continuing Discussion
 - Presentation provided by staff member: Jon Snyder, Secretary
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Motion (on the table from March meeting)
- *I [Larry Luton] move that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (CRSB) empanel a standing Sustainability Action Plan Committee with the charge to develop climate and sustainability action recommendations for consideration by the CRSB.* Seconded by Elyse Hochstadt. Deliberation ensued.
 - *Kathryn Alexander motioned to amend the motion to change committee to workgroup.* Seconded by Elyse Hochstadt. The motion passes unanimously, 9-0-0.

- *Kerry Brooks offered a friendly amendment to strike the word “standing” from the initial motion. Accepted by Larry Luton.*
- *Elyse Hochstadt motioned to amend the motion to say: The Chair and Vice chair of the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (CRSB) empanel a Sustainability Action Plan Workgroup with the charge to consider the Sustainability Action Plan and the past work of the Sustainability Action Subcommittee Steering Committee in order to develop climate and sustainability action recommendations for consideration by the CRSB. Seconded by Kathryn Alexander.*

The motion passes unanimously, 9-0-0.

The amended motion passes unanimously, 9-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:44 PM.

Next regularly scheduled Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Meeting is on Thursday, May 8, 2025.

BRIEFING PAPER: State and Federal Legislative and Budget review
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/8/2025

Subject:

A review key policy and budget items related to climate and sustainability from the 2025 state legislative session.

A review a recent federal policy and budget developments.

Background:

State: The legislature has adjourned and the Governor has a few weeks to sign remaining bills and the three budgets (Operating, Capital, and Transportation.) These signings are not likely to be completed by the time of this meeting.

At the federal level, the President has just released his budget proposal with many implications for climate and sustainability policy.

The Spokane City Council's current state and federal legislative agendas are included in the packet for reference.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

State and federal policy and budget items can have a significant impact on the goal articulated in the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Sustainability Action Plan, and/or environmental stewardship policies of the City.

Timeline/ Further Action:

The CRSB can consider future resolutions and recommendations based on the direction of state of federal policy.

City of Spokane

2025 State Legislative Agenda

Priority Issues (formerly tier 1)

1. Waste-to-Energy to protect environment, ratepayers

Spokane is the only community in Washington whose solid waste disposal system is subject to Climate Commitment Act (CCA) penalties, which will cost residents an estimated \$8 million annually beginning in 2026.

A recent Department of Ecology study shows that Spokane's waste-to-energy facility produces fewer greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change than landfills, which were exempted from the CCA in 2022.

The City, along with our environmental, labor and other community partners, seeks to correct this inequity by extending the landfill exemption to waste-to-energy solid waste disposal systems. This will allow Spokane to continue working toward state-sanctioned emissions reduction strategies, including significant carbon capture technology funded by the Legislature last session.

2. 911 emergency communications tax equity

Spokane residents pay excise taxes for 911 dispatch services that are distributed to the Spokane Regional Emergency Communications system for fire dispatch, but not for police dispatch provided by the City of Spokane. Requiring a portion of these taxes to go toward police dispatch will ensure city residents are receiving services they pay for, and support Spokane police with providing fast, effective emergency response.

3. Supporting the Growth Management Act

The Legislature has extended the periodic comprehensive plan review and revision deadline for select local governments. The City of Spokane and neighboring governments seek an additional six months in the next update cycle to incorporate climate and housing information required under the Growth Management Act. Moving the deadline from June 30, 2026, to Dec. 31, 2026, will allow sufficient time for public and legislative review by Spokane's Plan Commission and City Council.

4. Land value tax to encourage investment, tax fairness

Granting the City of Spokane authority to pilot a local land value tax (LVT) would:

- encourage development of vacant and underutilized property
- discourage land speculation
- promote tax fairness by rewarding property owners who make investments rather than paying more when improvements are made.

LVT is a method of assessing property taxes that considers only the value of the land itself and related improvements, not the structures built on the land. This approach has already been adopted in Pennsylvania, and many other states are looking at it as a revenue-neutral strategy to increase housing supply, revitalize neighborhoods, and improve public safety.

5. City Capital Budget requests

- \$3.5 million for Northeast Public Development Authority's 3011 E. Wellesley Project (workforce housing, childcare facility)
- \$500,000 for completion of Spokane Police Academy facility upgrades, which were funded in the 2022 Capital Budget
- \$500,000 for Meadowglen Neighborhood Park development phase one (Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program)
- \$500,000 for Coeur d'Alene Park playground improvements and restroom replacement (WWRP)

Association of Washington Cities Priority Issues

Fiscal Sustainability

Revise the property tax cap to tie it to inflation, up to 3 percent, so that local elected officials can adjust the local property tax rate to better serve their communities.

Public Safety

- Support efforts to prevent and address juvenile crime, including expansion of juvenile behavioral health treatment capacity and state correctional capacity.
- Enhance officer training through continued state funding of 100% of Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) costs; and expansion of existing regional academies and establishing new regional academies; and replacement the outdated Criminal Justice Training Center (CJTC) main facility.
- Increase funding to meet local public safety needs including additional direct state funding opportunities and enhancing the existing local public safety sales tax and allowing for councilmanic implementation.
- Support creation of programs designed to improve law enforcement retention, such as state supported law enforcement officer wellness and injury prevention programs.

Infrastructure investment

- Advocate for direct and meaningful investments in traditional local infrastructure (such as drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems) for operations and maintenance of aging systems, including expanded and reliable funding for the Public Works Assistance Account.
- Support sustainable state transportation revenue that provides funding for local preservation, maintenance, and operations including direct distributions to cities and town in addition to grant opportunities.
- Develop new fiscal tools to build infrastructure to support housing development and growth including increased funding for the Connecting Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP).
- Expand cities' ability and flexibility to use REET for additional capital needs including maintenance as well as to support affordable housing. Pursue other flexibility options including additional REET authority, harmonizing REET 1 & 2, and the ability to set a progressive rate model similar to the one the state has adopted.

Increase behavioral health treatment capacity statewide

- Expand funding for grants to establish and support ongoing funding for local behavioral health crisis co-responder programs. Support additional training and certification and workforce development for co-responders.
- Seek increased investments in community behavioral health treatment funding – both capital start-up and operational expenses; support expansion of continuum of treatment capacity, from crisis stabilization to inpatient to outpatient; continued expansion of forensic behavioral health treatment capacity; additional mental health support for students.

Significant Issues (formerly tier 2)

-current as of 11/13/24-

Extreme weather grants

A state grant program was created last session to help local and tribal governments with the cost of responding to community needs in periods of extremely hot or cold weather, or when severe poor air quality from wildfire smoke threatens public health. More funding is needed to stand up this program, especially in the Spokane region which faces dangerous weather conditions throughout the year.

Increasing housing supply

The state tax incentive for converting commercial buildings to housing requires that 10 percent of the converted units be dedicated to those at 80 percent or less average median income (AMI). A similar tax incentive for converting parking lots to housing requires 30 percent of units to be between 80-115 percent AMI. By making these incentives uniform, using the commercial building standard, and allowing them for leased as well as owned projects, more workforce housing would be built. This is especially important in Spokane's downtown core, where there's an abundance of extremely low-income housing.

The City also supports:

- Land bank enabling legislation to help put vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties back into productive use
- Real Estate Transfer Tax dedicated to funding affordable housing
- New funding options for needs along the housing continuum including incentives for home ownership and construction of condominiums.
- Additional funding for emergency and transitional housing.

Enabling sidewalk utilities

Spokane is exploring the potential benefits of a sidewalk utility to help create people-friendly streets that prioritize health, safety and accessibility for all. The utility can fund missing sidewalks, critical repairs, and ongoing maintenance which are currently property owners' responsibility. The City seeks state assistance with fiscal analysis and authorization to pilot a Spokane sidewalk utility.

Use of force prosecutions

The City continues to support legislation from last session that creates an Office of Independent Prosecution (OIP) within the state Attorney General's Office to help investigate and prosecute criminal conduct arising from police use of force.

Indigent defense

The State Supreme Court is considering new reduced caseload standards for indigent defense. The City joins AWC in supporting a separate and more detailed analysis of the current state of indigent defense for misdemeanor cases to determine what changes in the standard are warranted. Cities also seek enhanced state funding for indigent defense.

Document recording fee administrative charge

Counties that distribute a portion of document recording fees to cities within their jurisdiction for housing and homelessness programs may assess a 10 percent administrative charge. The City of Spokane and Spokane Valley support legislation to clarify this percentage is the total amount that can be retained from all cities receiving funds, not from each individual city, to maximize funding for these critical programs.

Crypto-currency consumer protection

Spokane Police Department has been working with the state Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) to stem the tide of digital-currency fraud including new regulations on digital kiosks (ATMs). The City supports DFI-request legislation that imposes daily transaction limits and caps fees charged by operators.

Product stewardship for packaging (WRAP Act)

The City is a longstanding supporter of proposals to establish a product stewardship framework for packaging to reduce the impact on local solid waste programs.

Increase availability of affordable and accessible childcare

The City supports efforts to increase affordable childcare access statewide, including reducing barriers for providers, construction of new facilities, increasing workforce development, and improved access for state subsidized childcare slots.

Community partner Capital Budget requests

- \$3 million for Excelsior Wellness Infrastructure Expansion project (behavioral health primary care, youth mental health & substance abuse recovery)

2025 Legislative Session Highlights

This year's 105-day state legislative session ended tonight with some big policy and funding wins for Spokane.

Teamwork was the story of this year's success. Council, Mayor, City staff and lobbyists, AFSCME Local 270 and other community partners were a combined force in Olympia. Their work testifying on bills, communicating with legislators, and rallying stakeholders made all the difference.

Here are highlights from budgets that were adopted this weekend, and a rundown of bills on the City's legislative agenda that passed. As always, there were a few bills that didn't reach the finish line, but they are technically still alive and in play next session as part of the Legislature's two-year cycle.

City Funding Priorities

- North Spokane Corridor (NSC): no delay, no cuts – transportation budget adds \$51.7 million to the amount needed at end of FY 2029 to complete construction
- Spokane River Centennial Trail renovation, phase 2: \$2.27 million
- Spokane Police Department BLEA training center expansion: \$750,000
- Northeast Public Development Authority housing & childcare: \$350,000
- NSC noise mitigation in East-Central: \$300,000
- Coeur d'Alene Park playground & restroom replacement: \$480,000
- Fish Lake Trail connection: \$1.0 million

Priority Bills

911 bill is victory for tax fairness

[HB 1258](#) is the culmination of a multi-year effort to ensure 911 excise tax revenue generated by Spokane residents is equitably shared with the City for emergency dispatch services. The bill became even more critical following the move by Spokane Regional Emergency Communications (SREC) to expel Spokane Fire Department from the County's system and impose a deadline of Jan. 1, 2026, for the City to establish its own 911 service.

Special thanks to Reps. Ormsby and Hill for cosponsoring HB 1258, Sen. Riccelli for championing this issue in the Senate, and Rep. Volz for supporting the bill in the House. It will ensure taxpayer fairness and fortify Spokane's police and fire departments' ability to respond quickly and effectively when it matters most.

WTE: making progress

Economic and environmental justice was the theme at two Senate hearings and many productive discussions with legislative leaders about Spokane's waste-to-energy (WTE) facility,

the only solid waste disposal system in Washington subject to Climate Commitment Act (CCA) penalties estimated at over \$4 million per year beginning in 2027.

[SB 5703](#), sponsored by Sens. Holy, Riccelli, Christian and others, would grant WTE the same CCA exemption that municipal landfills received in 2022. The bill cleared the Senate Local Government and Ways & Means Committees with bipartisan support but did not receive a floor vote. The City will continue working with legislators and stakeholders to alleviate this unfair burden on ratepayers and prevent having to transport Spokane's waste to landfills.

GMA bill boosts city planning

[SB 5558](#), with a slew of bipartisan sponsors including Sens. Riccelli and Holy, provides Spokane and other municipalities with an extension of the comprehensive plan review deadline under the Growth Management Act. Moving this deadline back six months will afford the City more time to incorporate vital climate and housing data, ensuring that our planning processes benefit from thorough public input and legislative scrutiny. This priority legislation passed with broad bipartisan support and has been signed into law.

Significant Issues

[HB 1515](#) – *Modernizing the regulation of alcohol service in public spaces*

World Cup soccer was the inspiration for this bill that passed with support from Spokane. It will enable designated Fan Zone cities like ours to provide a safer and more practical approach to alcohol service at large public events. HB 1515 authorizes the state Liquor and Cannabis Board to approve liquor license permits for single and multi-day events in places like Riverfront Park.

[HB 1774](#) – *Expanding options for the lease of unused highway land*

This legislation provides additional opportunities for WSDOT to lease surplus NSC property for public benefit such as housing, parks and trails, and transit. It builds on legislation championed by Sen. Billig in 2022 that addresses past impacts to historically marginalized populations resulting from construction of I-90, particularly in East-Central.

[HB 2015](#) – *Public safety funding for local governments*

Spokane joined Association of Washington Cities in advocating for this bill which authorizes a new 0.1 percent sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes. It also creates a Law Enforcement Grant Program for hiring, retaining, and training law enforcement officers, peer counselors and behavioral health personnel.

[HB 1747](#) – *Expanding protections under the Fair Chance Act*

Rep. Ormsby was a sponsor of this legislation that enhances protections for people with criminal history seeking employment. It incorporates provisions from Spokane's "Ban the Box" ordinance from 2017, requires that employers wait until a conditional offer of employment to run a background check, and prescribes a stepped enforcement process. The bill has been signed into law.

[SB 5662](#) – *Waiving utility connection charges for affordable housing*

Sen. Riccelli prime sponsored this bill granting Spokane the option to waive general facility charges which have proven to be a cost impediment for developers of emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing. It passed with strong support from the City, Habitat for Humanity, and Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium.

[HB 1260](#) – *Document recording fees for local homeless programs*

Rep. Ormsby prime sponsored this legislation for the cities of Spokane and Spokane Valley, whose separate homeless housing programs receive distributions from real estate document recording fees collected by Spokane County. The bill boosts funding for these programs with a 10 percent cap on the administrative fees Spokane County is allowed to withhold. It has been signed into law.

[SB 5284](#) – *Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes*

The City has been supporting various versions of this “extended producer responsibility” policy for the past several years, but final passage has been elusive until now. The bill shifts the costs to producers of certain packaging materials and incentivizes them to use more sustainable packaging. It will generate funding to improve waste disposal rates and expand recycling opportunities.

[SB 5595](#) – *Establishing shared streets*

Spokane got behind this bill authorizing cities to designate a “shared street” where pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular traffic share a portion or all of the same street, with a maximum speed limit of 10 miles per hour. Picture Wall Street between Main and Spokane Falls Blvd. for a potential shared street designation.

[SB 5184](#) – *Minimum parking requirements*

The City supported this bill limiting the number of parking spots municipalities may impose for residential and commercial buildings with the goal of reducing construction costs and increasing housing supply.

[HB 1813](#) – *Behavioral health crisis response*

This bill, supported by both the City and Spokane County, creates Medicaid funding efficiencies to help promote local coordination, stabilize funding, and ensure that crisis care is accessible, effective, and sustainable.

CITY OF SPOKANE

2024-25 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

The City of Spokane will advocate for federal policies, direct funding and financing tools to:

- Invest in transportation, water infrastructure, and sustainability initiatives;
- Create more housing opportunities and provide essential human services to address homelessness, respond to the fentanyl crisis, and improve public safety; and
- Grow the region's economy and support its workforce.

TRANSPORTATION, WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, SUSTAINABILITY

- **Latah Bridge:** The City will work with our Congressional delegation and regional transportation stakeholders to secure federal grant funding for the \$65 million Latah Bridge rehabilitation project.
- **US 195:** The City will partner with regional stakeholders and our Congressional delegation to identify and implement solutions that increase safety and freight mobility in this key corridor.
- **Monroe Street Bridge:** The City will seek additional funding for safety improvements on this historic bridge, building on the success of last year's Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant to address suicide prevention.
- **Infrastructure in Northeast and East Central Communities:** The City is prioritizing projects in communities that have experienced historic underinvestment and will continue working to maximize opportunities associated with completion of the North Spokane Corridor.
- **PFAS:** The City will advocate for funding to help mitigate contamination of PFAS "forever chemicals" and protect public health. The City will also advocate to exempt utilities from CERCLA (commonly known as Superfund) liability.
- **Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP):** The City supports current legislation making LIHWAP permanent to assist those struggling with utility costs and ensure financial sustainability for City utilities.
- **Water Project Grants:** The City will push for federal policies that allow larger cities to access water infrastructure grants that currently are available only to smaller jurisdictions.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** The City will advocate for additional capacity in this program that invests in open space and recreation priorities such as Riverfront Park and High Bridge Park.
- **Waste to Energy (WTE):** The City is committed to protecting this vital regional facility and shielding ratepayers from additional regulatory costs. We will seek additional opportunities to promote recycling, waste reduction, and new technologies that advance the WTE facility as a more sustainable alternative to landfilling.
- **Li-Ion Batteries:** Spokane Fire Department and the City support current legislation creating federal safety standards for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries to help prevent the growing threat of fires in e-bikes, e-scooters, and other micromobility devices.

HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS, HUMAN SERVICES

- **Street Medicine and Alternative Response Units:** The City is working with community partners to provide more capacity for effective crisis interventions, particularly for individuals experiencing homelessness and fentanyl addiction. The City is pursuing a Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant and other funding to accelerate expansion of the Spokane Mobile Alternative Response Teams (SMART) initiative.
- **Medicaid Institutions of Mental Disease (IMD):** The City supports lifting the IMD exclusion, which limits Medicaid coverage for mental health treatment in facilities with 16 or more beds. This exclusion contributes to overuse of emergency rooms treatment for mental health and substance use disorders.
- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credits/Private Activity Bonds:** The City supports the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, which would expand low-income housing tax credits and lower the private activity bond financing threshold. These federal tools are the primary drivers for encouraging private investment of affordable housing in the Spokane region.

ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

- **Childcare:** The City will support federal initiatives to strengthen early learning and help ensure families can access high-quality, safe, affordable childcare. The City will advocate for Northeast Public Development Authority's CDS request to fund a childcare center for workers with nontraditional hours, including swing shifts and weekends.
- **Child Tax Credit:** The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit as part of the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act was a critical tool for addressing child poverty. The City supports Congressional efforts to expand this tax credit for low- and middle-income families.
- **Tech Hub:** The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) officially designated Spokane's American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center as a Tech Hub. The City will support the AAMMC's applications for federal funding and advocate for EDA programmatic funding to support the Tech Hubs initiative.
- **Broadband & Digital Equity:** The City will advocate to expand funding for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program and improve broadband access.
- **New Markets Tax Credit:** The City will support extension of the federal New Markets Tax Credits Program, which helps to promote economic growth and community development in underserved areas by incentivizing private investment.
- **Fairchild Air Force Base:** The City is committed to preserving Fairchild Air Force Base and working with base leadership and regional stakeholders on key issues of mutual interest, including the development of additional on-base housing to relieve pressure on Spokane's housing stock, and workforce initiatives that benefit military spouses and the community.
- **Protecting Retail Businesses:** The City supports stronger partnerships between local governments and federal law enforcement to combat organized retail crime. On their own, local jurisdictions do not have the capacity or tools to address criminal enterprises that are operating across larger regional areas.

BRIEFING PAPER: Climate Resilience Project Overview
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/8/2025

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:

Dante Jester (Climate Resilience Program Manager) and Mary Condon (Climate Resilience Program Coordinator) will present on the work of the Climate Resilience Project at the Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment (Climate Institute). They will provide a high-level explanation of the work, including the role of the Spokane Community Resilience Collaborative, the partnership with City of Spokane Office of Emergency Management to draft city extreme heat and wildfire smoke plans, and the formation of the Spokane Community Resilience Hub Network.

Background:

The Climate Resilience Project presented to Mayor Nadine Woodward in April of 2023 about their work mapping urban heat islands within Spokane and the resulting environmental justice implications from the correlations found with income levels and race. The Mayor at that time expressed interest in joining forces to create a heat action plan for the City of Spokane that would detail how to prepare for and respond to extreme heat events.

Around that same time, the Climate Institute partnered with the City of Spokane on an application to an EPA grant opportunity: Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings. The application was successful and the \$1.1M grant awarded to Gonzaga in April of 2024, and that same month the Climate Institute started the Spokane Community Resilience Collaborative (SCRC), of which the City was a founding member. The wildfire smoke grant included funding for City of Spokane Office of Emergency Management to partner with the Climate Institute to draft and launch a city-wide wildfire smoke action plan.

Initial research for both city plans started in March of 2024. The Climate Institute presented a first draft for the table of contents, along with supporting research, to SCRC in October of 2024. Over the months since, SCRC, the Climate Institute, and the City have worked in tandem to develop drafts of the plans that are scheduled to launch before summer 2025. They integrate much of the recommendations mentioned in the City's Sustainability Action Plan.

The plans include recommendations for the establishment of the Spokane Community Resilience Hub Network. This project was dreamed up by the City and Climate Institute in December of 2023 and will be made possible by EPA funding through the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program that the two applied for jointly and received in January of 2025. The goal of the resilience hub program is to provide a well-equipped network of trusted community buildings in Spokane that can serve as places of refuge during extreme weather events.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

Many of the action items and partnerships proposed in the city extreme heat and wildfire smoke plans take into account existing goals from the Sustainability Action Plan. The Climate Institute has been involved with the City's planners who are currently working on the climate planning element of the revised Comprehensive Plan. Those city planners have been involved in SCRC meetings to inform the plans' development.

BRIEFING PAPER: Climate Resilience Project Overview
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/8/2025

Timeline/ Further Action:

The city extreme heat and wildfire smoke plans are currently scheduled to launch in early June, assuming no unexpected delays. Once launched, they will be available for public access on the Climate Institute's website with a form for community members to provide feedback. Throughout summer of 2025, the Climate Institute plans to engage local community organizations to share about the plans and gather feedback and support. In the fall, the plans will undergo a review of efficacy and then revisions before next summer.

The Spokane Community Resilience Hub Network is currently in the early planning stage, and City staff in the Office of Emergency Management are working through the procurement process for the contracting required for the solar array and battery backup installations at four City-owned buildings (Liberty Park Library, Central Library, Northeast Community Center, West Central Community Center). The network is on a three-year grant project period and scheduled to be established by the end of 2027.

The Spokane Community Resilience Collaborative plans to continue running indefinitely. Local organizations and agencies are encouraged to submit a letter of interest for joining SCRC if they would like to be part of the work. They accept letters on a rolling basis.