



Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Agenda

Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026
2:00 PM

Hybrid - Council Briefing Center / Microsoft Teams
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201
Virtual Meeting Link - See page two for information

TIMES GIVEN BELOW ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Briefing Session – 6:00-6:20

1. Roll Call – Staff
2. Public Comment Period – Citizens are invited to address the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board on any topic not on the agenda. 2 minutes each.
3. Approve [4/9/2026](#) meeting minutes – All
4. Chair Report – Brian Henning
5. Secretary Report – Jon Snyder
6. Approval of current agenda – All

Workshops: (All times below are approximate)

1. 2:15pm-2:35pm [Septic to Sewer Program Update](#) (Presenter: Marlene Feist)
2. 2:35pm-2:55pm [Solid Waste Organics Regulatory Environment/Waste Reduction Goals](#) (Presenters: Marlene Feist/ Chris Averyt)
3. 2:55pm-3:25pm [Community Composting Case Studies](#) (Presenters: Nicole White/Patty Lentz)
4. 3:25pm-3:45pm [Comprehensive Climate Action Plan \(CCAP\) Overview](#) (Presenter: Rylie Ellison DOE)
5. 3:45pm-4:05pm [State Legislative Agenda Discussion](#) (Presenter: Jon Snyder)
6. 4:05pm-4:15pm [SAP Review Update](#) (Presenters: Jon Snyder/Nicole White)
7. 4:15pm-4:25pm SAPW Update (Presenter: Amanda Parrish)

Adjournment: The next regularly scheduled CRSB meeting will be Thursday, June 11, 2026.

*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 two hours 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 Human Resources at 509.625.6373, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA, 99201; or ddecorde@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources 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 Teams Meeting Information

Thursday, May 14, 2026

The CRSB 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: qhF8i

Dial in by phone

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

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 999 419 515#

Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: cityofspokane@m.webex.com

Video ID: 112 012 615 5

[More info](#)

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 CRSB meetings will be recorded and are available online.

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board

Upcoming Agenda Items

(All items are subject to change)

June 11, 2026- Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (180 minutes available) Hybrid

- Tree preservation ordinance
- Recycling markets
- Participatory Budgeting/ GEG reduction
- State Comprehensive Climate Plan
- Hazardous Air Related Costs

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 Human Resources at 509.625.6373, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA, 99201; or ddecorde@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources 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, April 9, 2026

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. 2 Minutes each.

- *None*

Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Brian Henning, Amanda Parrish, Kathryn Alexander, Ryan Arnold, Happy Avery, Kerry Brooks, Claire Cooney, Kevin Fagan, Elyse Hochstadt, Larry Luton, Lea Molina, Hala Zahalqa
- Board Members Not Present: Bob Lutz, Kit Parker
- *Quorum Present: Yes*
- Non-Voting Members Present: Santiago Rodriguez-Anderson
- Non-Voting Members Not Present: None
- Staff Members Present: Tirrell Black, Emily King, Marlene Feist, Tim Thompson, Nicole White, CM Paul Dillon, Mayra Marroquin, Luis Garcia, Kristin Davis

Minutes: Minutes from 3/12/2026 approved unanimously.

Briefing Session:

- **Chair Report** – Brian Henning
 - Brian first recognized that today is Claire Cooney's last day with the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board. He thanked Claire for being the board's youth representative and looks forward to seeing the things she will accomplish after graduation.
 - Brian also mentioned regarding today's hearing item, it is exciting and important to be considering such matters for our community. National and state-wide organizations are paying attention to what is going on in Spokane. We want to have thoughtful, good considerations, and Brian is glad we're taking steps to have these discussions as we figure out what to do in our climate changed world.
- **Secretary Report** – Tirrell Black
 - Tirrell did not provide a report.

Current Agenda: The current agenda was approved.

Hearing Items:

- Renters Right to Cooling
 - Presentation provided by: Councilmember Paul Dillon
 - Public Testimony:
 - Jered Sweeney-Demezas
 - Kara Odegard
 - Abigail Saks
 - Jimmy Young
 - Ryan Drobny
 - Zili Chang, Spokane Housing Authority
 - Johanna Rohde, Spark Northwest
 - Rae Houghton
 - Hannah Hunter
 - Adalynn Rich
 - Luke Nester, Gonzaga Environmental Law Clinic

- Heidi Cahill, Gonzaga Environmental Law Clinic
- Fiona McLoughlin, 350 Spokane
- David Camp
- Questions asked and answered.
- Discussion ensued.

Motion: *I [Amanda Parrish] move to recommend the Spokane City Council support the Renters' Right to Cooling Ordinance as presented to the board on April 9th, 2026. Seconded by Kathryn Alexander.*

Motion passes unanimously, 12 to 0 to 0.

Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Septic to Sewer Conversion
 - Presentation provided by: Marlene Feist
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- SAPW Update
 - Presentation provided by: Amanda Parrish
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Recap of 2416: Waste to Energy Bill
 - Presentation provided by: Marlene Feist
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- West Plains PFAS Update, Interim Actions
 - Presentation provided by: Marlene Feist
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Code Modernization/Zoning Code Update
 - Presentation provided by: Tim Thompson
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Legislative Update/Wrap Up
 - Presentation provided by: Nicole White
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:36 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Meeting is on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

CRSB

Public Testimony

Received

On Renters Right to

Cooling

From: [Jered Sweeney-Demezas](#)
To: [Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board](#)
Subject: In support of the Renters' Right to Cooling Ordinance
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026 5:52:56 PM

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Hello,

I am writing in strong support of the Renters' Right to Cooling Ordinance under consideration. Given the increase in extreme heat experienced in Spokane, this is a critical step in protecting our most vulnerable neighbors.

Thank you for considering this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Jered Sweeney-Demezas

From: [Kara Odegard](#)
To: [Snyder, Jon](#); [Parrish, Amanda](#); [Henning, Brian](#)
Cc: [BDS Admin](#)
Subject: Right to Cooling Ordinance
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026 8:46:49 AM

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Hello Brian, Amanda, & Jon,

Please consider this email written testimony in support of the Right to Cooling Ordinance that is currently being considered by the CRSB and the City.

This ordinance offers desperately needed protection for some of the people most at-risk to climate change in our community. As you likely know, at least 19 people in the Spokane area lost their lives because of the 2021 heat dome. Prior to this heat event, the term “heat dome” was a little know weather phenomenon. Since then, the term has been used nearly every year by meteorologists across the country. There is a temperature range for human survival with an upper threshold and a lower threshold. With increasing heat waves, it is now clear that our housing policies must establish an upper temperature limit on dwellings just as we have established that lower limit.

Please do what you can to ensure this legislation is passed.

Thank you,
kara

Kara Odegard (she/her)
MEASURE MEANT
founding partner & climate planner
509.939.8665
www.measurepnw.com
kara@measurepnw.com

From: [Abigail Saks](#)
To: [Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board](#); [Snyder, Jon](#); [Henning, Brian](#); [Parrish, Amanda](#)
Subject: Tenants Right to Cooling
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026 2:44:39 PM

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Hello. I am writing in support of the Tenant's Right to Cooling being proposed.

I am the tenant of the third floor of an old house that currently doesn't have AC or any box fans. In the summer, it gets uncomfortably, swelteringly hot, and my landlord has refused to install anything. Besides curtains, I haven't had the time or money to install something to prevent it from getting too hot at night. This is obviously on the low end of the dangers of extreme heat. People will die or experience severe health consequences if they're not able to escape the heat.

As a young person who also cares about my future and the planet we're leaving behind, I also urge you to move forward with this in a way that is also considerate of increasing energy needs, minimizing our carbon footprint, and provides/incentivizes other alternatives to cooling besides AC that still ensure safe temperatures for tenants.

Thank you for your consideration.
Abby Saks, Spokane resident

From: [Jimmy Young](#)
To: [Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board](#); [Snyder, Jon](#); [Henning, Brian](#); [Parrish, Amanda](#)
Subject: Renters right to cooling
Date: Friday, April 3, 2026 4:24:37 PM

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Folks,

I write to ask you kind folks to help ensure the passage of the Renters Right to Cooling Ordinance for the sake of health and welfare of the vulnerable and less fortunate.

Thank you and God bless.

Jim Young
Spokane WA

From: [Henning, Brian](#)
To: [King, Emily](#)
Cc: [Snyder, Jon](#)
Subject: Fw: Right to Cooling Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 6:37:23 AM

FYI

From: Ryan Drobny <ryan.drobny@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 8:21 PM
To: Henning, Brian <bhenning@spokanecity.org>; Parrish, Amanda <aparrish@spokanecity.org>
Subject: Right to Cooling Ordinance

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

To the Chair and Vice Chair of the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board,

Please accept this written testimony in support of the Renters Right to Cooling Ordinance.

As temperatures rise, it is not just daytime heat that poses a risk - warmer nighttime lows prevent the body from recovering, compounding heat stress and increasing the likelihood of harm.

Safe housing must include the ability to both heat and cool living spaces. Renters deserve this basic protection.

<https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/scorching-days-sweltering-nights>

Thank you for your time,
Ryan Drobny, MPH

From: [Zili Chang](#)
To: [Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board](#)
Cc: [Pamela Parr](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Renters Right to Cooling Draft Ordinance
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026 11:39:34 AM

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Dear Chair Henning and Members of the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board,

The Spokane Housing Authority (SHA) respectfully submits the following comments regarding the Renters Right to Cooling draft ordinance. SHA is committed to the health and safety of Spokane residents and appreciates the intent behind the draft ordinance. However, certain provisions may have adverse impacts on the development and operation of affordable housing.

SHA owns, manages, and develops affordable multi-unit housing in Spokane County. Our portfolio currently includes 758 units, with an additional 366 in our development pipeline. Most existing units do not have cooling in each bedroom, as required in the draft ordinance. Spokane's climate is heating-dominant, and most garden-style apartments in the region have through-the-wall air conditioners in living rooms and baseboard heat. For one property, SHA did acquire portable air conditioners for each unit—but not for each bedroom. All properties have community spaces with cooling and clean air refuges.

Of our two projects currently under construction, one will include air conditioning in bedrooms, while the other will include air conditioning only in living rooms.

Requiring cooling in each bedroom of a unit would substantially increase development and operating costs:

- Retrofitting older buildings is challenging and expensive. To meet this requirement, we would likely purchase many portable air conditioners or install through-the-wall solutions, both of which are costly.
- For new construction, including air conditioning in every bedroom would likely increase per-unit costs by \$7,000-\$10,000 or more, depending on equipment and electrical needs. It would also increase maintenance and replacement costs on the operating side.
- Cooling would increase buildings' electrical loads, making it harder to implement the Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS).
- Window-mounted air conditioners can pose safety and liability risks if improperly installed, potentially leading to higher insurance premiums or insurance restrictions.

Although SHA's properties are income-restricted, it is also important to consider that the proposed requirement could reduce the supply of naturally occurring affordable housing. Much of this housing stock consists of older buildings with less insulation and no central air conditioning, and retrofitting these units is often impractical or expensive. Increased costs would likely translate into higher rents.

To safeguard the health and safety of residents while minimizing unintended impacts on affordable

housing, SHA recommends the following alternatives:

1. Require community spaces with cooling and clear air refuges. All SHA properties already meet this standard.
2. If additional requirements are necessary, require cooling in at least one room or refuge area in each unit, rather than in each bedroom. Only one SHA property would not meet this standard. Initially, we would likely purchase portable air conditioners for each unit at an estimated cost of \$50,000-\$60,000 for that property. A permanent solution, such as installing a heat pump or Packaged Terminal Air Conditioner (PTAC), would cost approximately \$500,000-\$600,000, assuming no electrical upgrades are needed.

SHA also respectfully requests clarification on the following:

- Will Section 10.57.175(B) be revised to align with Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6200 (2026)?
- Section 10.57.175(G)(3) adds “capable of filtering PM2.5 smoke particles” and “or other devices or methods” to cooling. Will future drafts align this with the definition of cooling or clarify the distinction?
- Some provisions refer to the effective date of the ordinance, but it is not clear if that date aligns with the January 1, 2027 date by which cooling must be provided in new construction, the January 1, 2031 date by which landlords must provide cooling, or another date.
- Would this ordinance result in any changes to the plan review process, building permit application, etc.?
- How would this ordinance affect local energy conservation goals?
- Would the electrical grid be able to supply sufficient power?
- Is the landlord responsible if a tenant-supplied device fails to achieve required cooling? Or if a landlord-supplied device fails to achieve required cooling due to tenant misuse or abuse of the device?
- How will compliance with indoor temperature be determined when a tenant provides a written notice of defect? Who determines compliance?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let us know if we can clarify these comments or provide more details.

Sincerely,

Zili Chang

Intergovernmental Affairs Manager

Spokane Housing Authority
25 W. Nora Ave., Spokane, WA 99205
Phone: 509-252-7134 | Work Cell: 509-496-2400
Fax: 509-327-5246
Web: www.spokanehousing.org

Home is where the start is.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic mail transmission may contain privileged/confidential information belonging to the sender. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking any action based on the contents of this electronic mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this electronic mail in error please contact sender

by replying to this message before deleting it from your computer. Thank you. Please consider the environment before printing this email. Spokane Housing Authority ©

BRIEFING PAPER: The Septic to Sewer Program Update
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/14/2026

Subject:

The Public Works Division is seeking to adopt a resolution to create the “Septic to Sewer Amnesty and Incentive Program” that would provide residents, who currently utilize a septic system but are within the City of Spokane Wastewater service area, a reduction in the sewer General Facilities Charge (GFC) to help offset connection fees and encourage connection to the sewer. The City would use Aquifer Protection Area funds to pay for the incentive, since state law precludes waivers or reductions for GFCs without a non-utility backfill funding source. This program would be available upon adoption through December 31st, 2028.

Background:

The City of Spokane strives to protect and enhance the quality of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. It is our most precious drinking water resource and was designated as a sole source aquifer by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1978. City voters expressed their desire to protect the aquifer with the passage of the ballot measure in August 2025 which extended the Aquifer Protection Area to City properties for the next 20 years.

Failing septic systems are a potential source of pollution to our drinking water resources, and homes and businesses within the City are required by Spokane Municipal Code to connect to public sewer service if the sewer is located within 200 feet from the premises (SMC 13.03.03.04). The City has identified approximately 180 properties in already developed areas that meet these criteria.

The City of Spokane charges a connection fee, called a General Facility Charge (GFC), to recover infrastructure costs when a new service location is added to the sewer system. The GFC is based on the size of the water meter. For 2026, the current GFC for a ¾” connection is \$7,330, and a 1” connection is \$12,216. These rates increase annually based on inflation. For these selected projects only, the GFC will be charged a special incentive rate of \$3,600 for a ¾” connection and \$5,300 for a 1” connection if the project is completed prior to December 31, 2028.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

This program is consistent with goals in the Comprehensive Plan, Water System Plan, and Sustainability Action Plan to protect water quality in the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Additionally, it is consistent with the voters’ approval of the Aquifer Protection Area in August 2025.

Timeline/ Further Action:

City Council will consider a resolution supporting the creation of this program in May 2026. The program would be available to properties who connect to the City’s sewer system by December 31, 2028.

Mandatory Organics Management Law Impacts to Spokane
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/14/2026

Subject:

This briefing provides an overview of Washington State's Organics Management Law and its implications for the City of Spokane. It outlines regulatory requirements, infrastructure and capacity constraints, financial impacts, and key policy considerations as the City prepares for mandated organics collection.

Background:

Washington State's Organics Management Law is designed to reduce the disposal of food and yard waste in landfills, where decomposition produces methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas. The law sets a statewide goal to reduce organic material in landfills by 75% by 2030.

The law requires:

- Source-separated collection of organic materials (food and yard waste)
- Minimum collection frequency of 26 times per year
- Universal residential organics service for single-family homes by April 1, 2027
- Gradual expansion of commercial requirements based on waste generation thresholds
- Updates to local Solid Waste Management Plans to address organics diversion and processing capacity

The City of Spokane is designated within an Organics Recycling Collection Area (ORCA), requiring universal residential service by 2027. However, Spokane is not currently designated as a Business Organics Management Area (BOMA) due to insufficient processing capacity.

Spokane's current system faces significant constraints:

- The region's primary composting facility is operating at approximately 97–100% capacity
- Existing demand has already resulted in overflow of yard waste that cannot be processed
- Mandatory expansion of residential collection will increase material volumes beyond current system capabilities

Organics represent roughly one-third of Spokane's waste stream, highlighting both the scale of the challenge and the opportunity for diversion.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

Implementation of organics collection requirements aligns with the City of Spokane's Comprehensive Plan and sustainability goals by:

- Supporting waste reduction and diversion efforts
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfill disposal
- Advancing climate resilience objectives

At the same time, the city must address:

- Infrastructure and processing capacity limitations
- Financial impacts to the Solid Waste Fund and ratepayers
- Operational challenges, including contamination management and service expansion

The law also necessitates updates to the City's Solid Waste Management Plan after July 2026, including planning for multifamily collection and future processing capacity.

Timeline/ Further Action:**Key Deadlines:**

- July 2026: Solid Waste Management Plan updates required
- December 2026: Deadline to apply for a state waiver (if pursued)
- April 1, 2027: Universal residential organics collection must be available
- April 1, 2030: Organics collection becomes mandatory for all customers

Near-Term Actions:

- Initiate detailed planning for 2027 compliance, including service design and route expansion
- Evaluate eligibility for a state waiver based on processing capacity constraints and economic feasibility
- Develop a rate structure to support universal organics service
- Identify and secure funding for implementation (preliminary estimate: \$3.2M+)
- Coordinate with Spokane County on expanding processing capacity
- Update the Solid Waste Management Plan

Operational Considerations:

- Procurement of containers and potential fleet expansion
- Staffing increases to support collection services
- Risk of contamination with rapid program expansion
- Limited processing capacity as a critical constraint

Opportunities for Engagement:

- Public education and outreach
- Coordination with haulers and regional stakeholders
- Policy discussions with City Council and advisory board

Scraps to Soil: Growing a Greener Spokane – Community Composting and Food Waste Reduction

City of Spokane

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board

May 14, 2026

Subject:

This briefing provides an overview of composting practices, community outreach efforts, and food waste reduction initiatives led by the City of Spokane Solid Waste Division. It highlights current education and engagement strategies, partnerships, and opportunities to expand composting participation to support local and state sustainability goals.

Background:

Composting is the natural process of organic materials breaking down into nutrient-rich soil. By combining carbon-rich materials (such as leaves and paper), nitrogen-rich materials (such as food scraps and yard waste), water, and oxygen, organic waste can be diverted from disposal and returned to the soil as a valuable resource.

The City of Spokane supports both backyard composting and curbside organics collection through its Green Cart service. Backyard composting provides residents with a low-cost, on-site solution for managing food scraps and yard debris, while the Green Cart service offers a convenient option for a broader range of materials, including meat, dairy, and food-soiled paper.

Composting plays a key role in reducing the volume of waste sent to the Waste-to-Energy facility and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. It also aligns with Washington State's food waste reduction goal to decrease total food waste by 50% by 2030 (from 2015 levels).

To support these efforts, the City has developed a robust outreach and education program that includes:

- Youth education programs (Pre-K through middle school)
- Adult education through the Waste Ambassador program
- Free composting classes offered quarterly
- Compost facility tours
- Community events focused on waste reduction and food waste diversion

Community engagement efforts demonstrate strong public interest. For example, the annual Compost Fair at Finch Arboretum reaches approximately 600 residents and includes distribution of compost bins and food waste collection containers.

The City also partners with local food rescue organizations to reduce edible food waste and strengthen community connections.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

These composting and food waste reduction initiatives directly support the City of Spokane's sustainability and climate resilience goals by:

- Reducing reliance on waste-to-energy disposal
- Lowering greenhouse gas emissions associated with organic waste decomposition
- Supporting soil health and local environmental quality
- Advancing state and regional food waste reduction targets

These efforts align with broader Comprehensive Plan policies related to waste reduction, resource conservation, climate action, and community engagement.

Timeline/ Further Action:

Ongoing efforts will focus on expanding and strengthening composting participation through:

- Increased public education via events and communication channels
- Continued growth and support of the Waste Ambassador program
- Enhanced youth education initiatives
- Strengthened partnerships with community organizations and food rescue programs
- Continued support for community events promoting composting and waste reduction

There are ongoing opportunities for community engagement through public events, educational programming, and volunteer participation. Future actions may include scaling outreach efforts and identifying additional strategies to increase participation in both backyard composting and Green Cart service.

BRIEFING PAPER: Community Composting – Case Studies
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/14/2026

Subject:

The Division of Transportation and Sustainability (DoTS) will provide an overview of community composting case studies to inform organics diversion strategies.

Background:

The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (CRSB), through its Sustainability Action Plan Workgroup, has requested a workshop on community composting and organics diversion strategies. In response, staff from the DoTS will present case studies highlighting community-scale composting models.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

The proposed discussion aligns with multiple adopted and ongoing policy frameworks:

- **Sustainability Action Plan (2021):** *Strategy Waste Diversion & Material Consumption 1.1* calls for maximizing composting of inedible food, yard waste, and other organic materials.
- **Spokane Comprehensive Plan** (“PlanSpokane,” ongoing): Greenhouse gas reduction and climate mitigation strategies, including organics diversion, are being integrated into the plan update.
 - CRSB Policy Recommendations (February 2026): Included organics diversion strategies as a priority action in the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- **Washington State Organics Management Laws (2022, 2024):** Recent legislation supports greenhouse gas reduction goals under the Climate Commitment Act and establishes requirements for organic waste management. Additional information is available here:
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2407025.pdf>

Timeline/ Further Action:

This is an informational workshop. Feedback from the Board will help guide future staff analysis and potential policy or program recommendations related to community composting and organics diversion.

Organics Diversion Strategies Community Composting Peer Comparison

Prepared for Spokane Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board, May 14, 2026 Meeting

WASHINGTON

We Compost Community Hubs (Clark County, Washington)

Clark Co. We Compost Community Hubs provide shared composting access through supplying food scrap drop sites, weekly food waste collection and transport to a commercial compost facility, called Dirt Hugger. The primary goal is to divert food waste from landfills. The program is geared towards apartment/condo residents and neighborhoods/areas without curbside service with limited ability to compost at home. Drop sites include faith-based organizations.

- Founded: 2021
- Business Model: Independent - County contract with privately-owned composting facility
- Structure: Public-private partnership
- Scale - County size ~ 527,269
- Customers: Primarily residential including multifamily units
- Services: Food scrap drop sites, commercial processing
- Capacity: 90,000 tons annually (2023)
 - Accounts for 70% of the facility's organic materials processed
- City Relationship: Independent – Contract with county
- Property Ownership: Privately-owned commercial facility

CompostWise Program (King County, Washington)

CompostWise is a county program that enables public agencies to make better use of compost and meet policy goals for purchasing local compost products. The program focuses on developing the market for compost use by offering education, training, and technical assistance. They also use compost in county projects to lead by example.

- Founded: 2019
- Business Model: Public program
- Scale - County size ~2,340,211
- Services: Education, training, technical assistance, and resources
- Capacity: N/A
- City Relationship: Dependent – County-organized
 - Utilizes food and yard waste compost in King County projects.

Winton Mfg. Compost Works (Winton, Washington)

Winton Mfg Compost Works is a membership-based commercial business. Members can bring their food and yard waste to the organization's drop sites. The facility uses aerobic composting technology, which produces nutrient-rich soil. The program serves Leavenworth, Cashmere, Peshastin, Wenatchee, Lake Wenatchee, and East Wenatchee.

- Founded: 2022
- Business Model: Membership-based service; for-profit, membership fee (\$60/yr)
- Scale - Community size ~42,500
- Services: Community food scrap drop sites
- Customers: Commercial + Residential
- Capacity: 12 tons of waste per week
- Property Ownership: Privately-owned – Winton Mfg. Compost

Restaurant 2 Garden (Seattle, Washington)

Restaurant 2 Garden is a pilot project that is a collaboration between restaurant owners, businesses and property owners. This program has expressed interest in expanding to support other restaurant-oriented neighborhoods, once the pilot project was completed.

- Founded: 2022
- Business Model: Hyperlocal community partnership
- Scale: Two businesses participating in the pilot project
- Services: Food scrap collection to provide free compost to neighborhood gardeners, in the Danny Woo Community Garden.
- Capacity: 4,000 lbs of waste from two restaurants
- Property Ownership: Publicly-owned – Community Garden
- City Relationship: Grant funding from city/state departments

OREGON

Love Food Not Waste (Eugene, Oregon) The city of Eugene’s Waste Prevention Team established a collaborative Love Food Not Waste campaign with local businesses to turn food scraps into compost, later accepting residential food scraps. The campaign has diverted 28,342 tons of food waste to date and the compost can be purchased at different businesses in the city. ⁱ

- Founded: 2011
- Business Model: Commercial food waste collection service
- Scale - City size ~180,000
- Services: Residential pickup, commercial pickup, schools
- Capacity: 28,342 tons diverted to date
- Customers: Residential + Commercial
- City Relationship: Dependent - Contracts with Rexius
- Property Ownership: Commercially-owned – Rexius

Free Community Compost Program (Lane County, Oregon)

The Free Community Compost program is a USDA-funded initiative that provides up to 5,000 tons of free compost to Lane County residents and agricultural producers. The program addresses a missing element in the food waste reduction plan, ensuring that increasing supply of commercially produced food-waste compost is accessible to county residents, particularly historically underserved communities. Between the fall of 2024 and the spring of 2026, there were eight free compost events across the county, with compost sourced from Eugene, Springfield, and Veneta.

- Founded: 2024 – April 2026
- Business Model: Grant-funded county program
- Structure: Free compost distribution
- Scale - County size ~384,207
- Services: Free compost events
- Capacity: 5,000 tons distributed
- City Relationship: Dependent, Managed by County, Collaboration with cities

Community Compost (Rogue Valley, Oregon)

Rogue Produce is a private service that collaborates with other organizations to produce compost. They offer weekly residential food scrap pickup for a fee and supports the Southern Oregon Food Solutions compost program. There are no residential food waste services offered in the Rogue Valley.ⁱⁱ The program reduces waste in the local landfill and provides benefits to local farmers.

- Founded: 2011
- Business Model: Commercial; partly membership-based service
- Structure: Food waste collection and delivered to local farms (in food scrap form to be turned into compost)¹
- Scale - Region size ~89,686
- Services: Residential pickup, farm/business drop off, community drop sites
- Capacity:
 - 300 residential customers
 - 3-4 vehicles for weekly pickup (2023)
- Customers: Residential + Rural
- City Relationship: Independent
- Property Ownership: Private - Food scraps delivered to local farms.

Ashland Community Composting (Ashland, Oregon)

Ashland Community Composting program diverts food waste from landfills, creating compost for residents, schools, and farms. The program aims to help build a circular economy that tackles food insecurity. The program collects food scraps from residential communities and commercial businesses for a fee, in addition to area drop off collection sites. Their composting method allows for meat to be included in the scraps.

- Founded: 2022
- Business Model: Membership-based service
- Structure: Food scrap collection
- Scale - City size ~21,360
- Services: Residential pickup, drop-off sites, commercial pickup, schools, at home kits, information sharing
- Capacity: TBD – Not clear on quantity
- Customers: Commercial + Residential
- City Relationship: Independent
- Property Ownership: TBD – Not clear where compost is processed.

IDAHO**Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center (SOAC) Compost Program** (Sandpoint, Idaho)

SOAC is a collaborative demonstration project that was initially funded by a 3-year \$530,000 EPA Grant (Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program). The program focuses on diverting food and lumber from landfills in Boundary & Bonner Counties and building composting infrastructure and feasibility plans.

- Founded: 2026

¹ “Rogue Produce doesn’t pick up from the Ashland Food Co-op because a pig farmer takes the food scraps to feed their pigs.” (<https://www.ijpr.org/food-and-agriculture/2023-11-09/rogue-valley-entrepreneur-turns-food-waste-into-black-gold>)

- Business Model: Private Partnership between SOAC staff, the Kootenai Tribe, Schweitzer Mountain Resort and Stimson Lumber.
- Scale – Currently serves partners (may expand in future)
- Services: Compost production (for eventual sale), home composting for Kootenai Tribe
- Capacity: 2,746lbs /month processed (1st month), up to 200 tons/year
- City Relationship: Independent
- Property Ownership: University of Idaho SOAC (with tribal contributions)

Curb It Waste: [Residential Compost Program](#), [Food Scrap Drop Off](#), and [Community Compost Giveback](#) (Boise, Idaho)

The city offers a Food Scrap Drop Off and Residential Compost Program to turn food scraps and yard waste into compost, that is then distributed in the Community Compost Giveback program. Residents and community organizations can either pick up compost at self-serve sites or have it delivered through this program.

- Founded: 2017, 2024, 2019
- Business Model: Public program
- Scale - City size ~482,000
- Services: Pick up, drop off sites, delivery, and self-serve collection sites
- Capacity: 150 lbs/week collected (2024)
- Customers: Individual residents, Neighborhood groups, community organizations, schools and groups of at least five households
- City Relationship: Dependent, Managed by City
- Property Ownership: Processed at a city facility in South Ada County

EASTERN US CO-OPs

[Farmer Pirates Compost](#) (Buffalo, NY)

Farmer Pirates Compost is a worker-owned cooperative dedicated to diverting food scraps from landfills and transforming them into nutrient-rich compost used by urban farmers. With partners across western NY, Farmer Pirates aims to build a sustainable community that manages food waste responsibly and empowers local growers to restore and replenish our soils.

- Founded: 2012
- Business model: Worker-owned cooperative
- Scale - City ~276–278K people
- Services: Residential pickup, drop-off, commercial, schools, municipal, events
- Capacity: 141,133 lbs/month processed
- Customers: Residential + commercial
- City Relationship: Independent + grant-supported residential program
- Property ownership: Unknown

[Rust Belt Riders](#) (Cleveland, OH)

Rust Belt Riders (RBR) is a worker-owned cooperative with a mission to “Feed People, Not Landfills.” RBR provides membership options for pickup and drop off food scrap diversion. Compost from food scraps is used in retail soil mixes. They intend to expand services to include yard waste.

- Founded: 2014
- Business Model: LLC with worker-owned co-op model (15 owners, 33 employees)
- Scale - City ~365K people
- Services: Residential pickup/drop-off, commercial, schools, municipal, events

- Capacity: 538,055 lbs/month processed
- Customers: Residential + commercial
- City Relationship: Independent + 3 municipal contracts
- Property ownership: Unknown

Queen City Commons (Cincinnati, OH)

Queen City Commons (QCC) is a worker-owned cooperative that offers food scrap collection services. QCC partners with regional and local organizations to create a network of composting infrastructure.

- Founded: 2020 (6 years)
- Business Model: Worker-owned co-op (4 employees, ownership unknown)
- Scale – City ~317K people
- Services: Residential pickup, commercial, schools, municipal, events
- Capacity: 47,539 lbs/month processed
- Customers: Residential + commercial
- City Relationship: Independent + 1 contract, 3 pilot programs
- Property ownership: Local farms

ⁱ [Eugene Award for Excellence 2020 - web.pdf](#)

ⁱⁱ [Rogue Valley entrepreneur turns food waste into 'black gold' | Jefferson Public Radio](#)

**BRIEFING PAPER: State Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
overview
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/14/2026**

Subject:

The state Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) overview.

Background:

The state Department of Ecology has recently completed the CCAP. Ecology staff in the Climate Pollution Reduction Program will give an overview of the current effort and next steps for the plan.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

State planning efforts assist with implementation of the climate element of the City's comprehensive plan.

Timeline/ Further Action:

No further action at this time.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and overview	2
Key takeaways	3
Key recommendations	5
Benefits, impacts, and expected outcomes	8
Vision for climate action in Washington	9



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and overview

Washington residents are experiencing the harmful impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, less water availability, and more wildfire risk. To reduce the state’s contribution of pollution causing these harmful impacts, the state has set ambitious, science-based [legal limits on greenhouse gas emissions](#).

Washington already has a strong set of [policies](#) to advance climate action. However, the state can and must do more. The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) is designed to meet this need and be a far-reaching, implementable, equitable, and thorough roadmap to ensure a sustainable future for our state.

The CCAP identifies opportunities across all sectors of the economy to further reduce emissions and provide direct benefits to communities and businesses such as cleaner air, healthier communities, boosting the economy, and protecting vulnerable populations.

This plan was written by the Washington State Departments of Commerce and Ecology and reflects direct feedback from impacted communities, Tribes, businesses, workers, subject matter experts, and more. Developing the CCAP required extraordinary collaboration and cooperation and enacting it will too. By working together, state government – along with partners and communities across the state – can advance an affordable, reliable, and equitable future, while mitigating our state’s contribution to climate change.



The CCAP includes:

- **Key priorities and recommendations for decision-makers:** High-level recommendations and specific priority actions to make the biggest climate impact in the near future.
- **Where we are now: the Washington climate context:** An overview of the current climate landscape in Washington, including existing policies, plans, laws, and climate science up to this point.
- **Greenhouse gas emissions projections:** Modeled projections of different pathways to achieve greenhouse gas reduction limits through 2050.
- **Greenhouse gas reduction plan:** A comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction plan that lays out various ways (consisting of 36 strategies and 135 measures) to reduce emissions and invest in communities across all parts of Washington and the economy. This is the bulk of the CCAP.
- **Benefits and impacts analysis of climate actions:** Air quality, health, and economic impacts of actions proposed in the CCAP.
- **Workforce planning analysis:** Describes the state workforce ecosystem, workforce needs to implement the CCAP, and opportunities to grow high-quality, green jobs.
- **Next steps:** For implementation and tracking progress.

Key takeaways

The CCAP is a comprehensive assessment of Washington’s climate landscape. This plan brings together decades of existing climate action and planning efforts across the state. It builds off this foundation and – with extensive analysis, collaboration and engagement – assesses where we are now, where we need to go, and how we can get there. The points below summarize the report’s main findings and provide context for state climate policy:

- **Washington is a climate innovator and must do more.** Many of the measures in this plan are already in place. Even with this foundation, to meet our greenhouse gas reduction limits we need to expand successful programs, encourage private investment in clean technologies, and create new policies and programs when needed.
- **Climate action directly benefits communities and households.** This plan offers a Washington-scale blueprint for combating global climate change while providing immediate community benefits, such as energy cost savings, increased public health and safety, and healthier ecosystems.

- **Environmental justice and equity are essential.** This includes building on the requirements of the Healthy Environment for All Act by ensuring the benefits of future climate action are equitably distributed.
- **Expanding clean energy production and improving energy efficiency remain affordable and effective strategies.** This will require Washington to harness a diverse portfolio of affordable clean energy resources to ensure a reliable electric grid and improve when and how we use energy.
- **Workforce development goes hand-in-hand with effective climate action.** The measures proposed in this plan will drive demand for new jobs and a highly trained workforce. Meeting this demand will require strategic collaboration with labor groups and sustained investments in workforce development.
- **State climate action is not one-size-fits-all.** As we implement new measures, continued collaboration with communities across the state is necessary to account for differences in population density, climate, local sources of greenhouse gas emissions, and community preferences.
- **Washington must continue to lead.** Climate change is a global problem, and we need more governments to take action. Washington's success has a strong influence on progress in other jurisdictions.



Key recommendations

This plan is intended to help policy- and decision-makers identify actions to achieve statutory greenhouse gas emission reduction limits while providing direct benefits to communities. With input from partners and the public, we prioritized measures¹ that cost-effectively cut the most emissions, provide direct community and environmental benefits, and can be realistically carried out by the state. Priorities for each sector were grouped thematically into seven overarching recommendations:



Build out transmission and in-state clean energy resources.

Transmission holds the greatest potential and remains the biggest bottleneck to clean, reliable, and affordable electricity. New and expanded sources of clean, reliable, and affordable electricity are also needed to power many of the measures recommended throughout the plan.

- **Electric power:** Upgrade existing transmission lines and improve transmission and clean energy siting and permitting.
- **Electric power:** Develop and adopt emerging technology like geothermal energy and virtual power plants.



Meet growing energy needs through a combination of electrification and clean fuels.

To meet demands for new clean energy, electrify where possible and continue to develop clean fuels where electrification is not feasible.

- **Transportation:** Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure and clean transportation fuels in Washington.
- **Buildings:** Boost incentives to electrify buildings and remove fossil fuels from publicly owned district energy systems.
- **Industry:** Encourage hydrogen investments for strategic end-uses.

¹ See the **Key priorities and recommendations for decision-makers** section of the CCAP for a full list



Maximize conservation to save money, resources and reduce emissions.

Conservation of energy, materials, and other resources is necessary to reach the state's emissions mandates. These measures also reduce costs and overall demand for new resources.

- **Transportation:** Improve transportation efficiency through land use planning and expanding public transit.
- **Buildings:** Incentivize energy efficiency improvements in large commercial buildings and single- and multi-family homes.
- **Industry:** Expand voluntary efficiency audits and implementation incentives for industrial facilities.
- **Agriculture:** Expand tools for farmers to enhance fertilizer and irrigation efficiency and invest in local food systems.
- **Waste and materials management:** Reduce carbon footprint through environmentally preferable government purchasing, reuse, and repair.



Advance carbon dioxide removal through natural and technological solutions.

Cost-effective carbon removal will be necessary to close gaps in emissions reduction mandates. Many solutions are technologically feasible now and can be implemented through state action in the near term.

- **Agriculture:** Establish programs that support management practices to store carbon in soil and vegetation on farms.
- **Natural and working lands:** Manage forests for wildfire resilience and carbon storage, and plant climate-adapted vegetation in developed areas.
- **Natural and working lands/Industry:** Develop guidelines for carbon dioxide removal.



Use existing authority and fill gaps in regulatory environment for emissions reductions.

Washington has a foundation of existing laws that can be utilized to further advance climate action. Some sources of carbon emissions are not currently regulated by state policies and could be addressed with future legislative/regulatory action.

- **Transportation:** Implement zero-emission vehicle standards.
- **Industry:** Develop guidance for further aligning environmental review with climate laws.
- **Waste and materials management:** Expand extended producer responsibility and require environmental product declarations on carbon-intensive materials.



Support climate action from other governments and the private sector.

Washington can empower Tribal, regional, and local governments, as well as private sector climate actions, through a combination of incentives, policies, and technical assistance.

- **Transportation:** Advance policies and incentives to decarbonize local transportation systems.
- **Agriculture:** Expand tools, assistance and incentives for farmers to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices.
- **Natural and working lands:** Avoid forest and wetland conversion through land-use planning and stronger zoning laws.
- **Waste and materials management:** Reduce landfill emissions by funding and implementing food and organics management systems.
- **Economy-wide:** Support the Washington Green Bank to develop clean energy financing solutions.



Build processes for continued climate planning and improved data analysis.

Climate action is rapidly developing. New developments in funding opportunities, technology advancements, and state and federal budgetary outcomes require up-to-date plans to prioritize future climate actions. Improved data collection and analysis are also required to better understand and track the outcomes of climate policies as they are implemented.

- **Natural and working lands:** Define “net zero” and establish monitoring, reporting, and verification protocols for carbon dioxide removal to ensure accurate accounting.
- **Waste and materials management:** Improve data on the carbon footprint of materials and products to make better choices around consumption.
- **Economy-wide:** Support ongoing Comprehensive Climate Action Plan updates.

Benefits, impacts, and expected outcomes

While current policies reduce most of Washington’s greenhouse gas emissions, it’s unlikely that limits will be met without additional action. **The CCAP identifies pathways to fill the remaining gaps and advance action in ways that will save Washingtonians money, provide additional benefits to communities, and grow the economy.** The climate actions proposed in the CCAP have wide-ranging community and ecological benefits, including: cleaner air, water, and soil; lower energy and transportation costs; economic development and job growth; and new community and ecological services. Specifically:

- **Acting on climate in the near term avoids significant costs in the long term.**
 - Emissions reductions under the CCAP, consistent with the required greenhouse gas emissions reduction limits, would avoid social costs (i.e., damages caused by climate change to agriculture, property, human health, etc.) of approximately \$10 billion per year in 2030, rising to nearly \$35 billion per year in 2050, when compared to 2024 emission projections.
 - Modeling shows that implementation of a suite of measures consistent with those included in the CCAP could result in cumulative capital and operational cost savings of nearly \$17 billion by 2050.

- **Clean vehicles and home energy upgrades can save households additional money.** Modeling shows that by implementing measures included in the CCAP, all households with cars are likely to save money by adopting electric vehicles and most types of households are likely to save money through home electrification and efficiency upgrades.
- **Reducing climate pollution, especially from burning fossil fuels, leads to healthier communities. Implementation of the CCAP would lead to:**
 - Reduced harmful co-pollutant emissions from fossil fuel combustion, especially near industrial facilities and transportation corridors.
 - Improved indoor air pollution, as well as improved access to heating and cooling from building electrification and efficiency improvements.
 - Reduced risk of wildfire, which lowers greenhouse gas emissions but also protects communities from fire and smoke.
- **New and existing climate actions will spur job creation.** Implementation of a suite of measures consistent with those included in the CCAP is projected to:
 - Create 18,500 jobs by 2035 and over 38,000 jobs by 2050. Most growth would come from developing clean electricity infrastructure and electric vehicle infrastructure, especially in the construction sector.
 - Increase annual labor income by \$44.4 billion total across all industries from 2026 to 2050, with the largest growth for construction, professional services, utilities, and transportation industries.
- **Total economic output is projected to grow \$4.8 billion by 2035 and \$10.3 billion by 2050** if actions are taken that are representative of what is proposed in the CCAP.

Vision for climate action in Washington

Washington has a longstanding commitment to climate action and leadership. Swift, comprehensive action to reduce climate pollution is not optional in Washington; it is the law.

This plan outlines a strategic path forward. While it focuses on state-level actions, successfully achieving our emission limits requires coordinated engagement across all levels of government, the private sector, communities and individuals. Many of the strategies presented here are adaptable to other jurisdictions and can be supported not only through public funding, but through private or philanthropic funding as well.

Immediate acceleration of existing solutions is necessary to remain on track to meet the state's 2030 emissions limit. Several priority measures have been identified throughout

the plan that build upon existing work and can be implemented within the next few years. This plan also recognizes that, to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, implementation of new solutions must be phased and responsive to available resources, technologies, and political will.

Climate change is already impacting Washington. The focus of this plan is emissions reductions, but climate adaptation must proceed in parallel to minimize future harms (for additional detail on adaptation strategies, see [Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy](#)). As responsible global citizens, we have a duty to act – both to protect our own residents and to contribute to broader global efforts.

This plan envisions a future where every household and business has access to abundant and affordable clean energy, where everyone enjoys clean air and water and where all communities are protected from the disproportionate effects of climate change.



BRIEFING PAPER: State Legislative Agenda Discussion
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/14/2026

Subject:

Recommendations to the City Council for potential inclusion in the City's 2027 State Legislative Agenda.

Background:

Each year the Spokane City Council passes a resolution setting the City's state legislative agenda. CRSB board members have expressed an interest in making a recommendation to the Council for possible inclusion in that agenda. Board members will have an opportunity to suggest general priorities or specific policies related to climate resilience and sustainability for consideration by the entire board. In April the board had a workshop detailing climate and sustainability legislation that was passed in this year's legislative session.

The reference to the City's 2026 legislative agenda is included in this packet.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

Changes in state policy can assist with implementation of the climate element of the City's comprehensive plan.

Timeline/ Further Action:

The City Council passes its legislative agenda in the fall. If the board can come to agreement on legislative priorities the CRSB should pass them in a hearing before the end of August in order for the recommendations to be properly considered.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-0103

A Resolution adopting the City of Spokane's legislative agenda for the coming 2026 state legislative session.

WHEREAS, Spokane Municipal Code section 02.03.030 provides that "[a]ny legislative agenda to be advocated for by the City of Spokane at the state or federal level shall be adopted, and may be amended by resolution of the City Council, after consultation with the Mayor, as the official legislative agenda of the City of Spokane"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council historically has identified a list of multiple legislative goals for the coming session of the Washington Legislature as well as congressional goals, and among those goals categorizes its highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has consulted with its contract lobbyists, state legislators, administration staff and interested stakeholders to form the attached Exhibit "A," which identifies highest priority issues for the City of Spokane and other issues of significant interest to the City during the coming state legislative session(s); and

WHEREAS, the attached exhibit shall guide the City of Spokane's efforts at the state level for the 2026 regular legislative session and any special session(s) that may be held.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane City Council hereby adopts its City of Spokane 2026 State Legislative Agenda, as specified in Exhibit A to this Resolution.

ADOPTED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2025.

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney

Exhibit A

City of Spokane 2026 State Legislative Agenda Priority Issues

Support WTE to protect jobs, ratepayers, and the environment

The City of Spokane's Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility is the only solid waste disposal system in Washington subject to the state's Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which limits the amount of greenhouse gases an entity can emit, or else face costly penalties.

These penalties will cost Spokane residents an estimated \$8 million per year through higher rates, beginning in 2027.

WTE produces fewer greenhouse gasses than landfills, which were granted an exemption from the CCA. To correct this inequity, reduce costly CCA penalties and protect jobs, the City seeks more time and state support to implement technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including but not limited to carbon capture, and improved reuse, recycling, diversion and reduction systems.

Expand "parking to people" to create more housing

The City of Spokane supports expanding Washington's sales tax deferral program for conversion of surface parking lots to affordable housing. By also allowing the deferral for partially used, underutilized and underdeveloped properties, more workforce housing would be built in Spokane and throughout the state.

Building exemptions for fairer taxation

Authorization for cities to exempt buildings and improvements from local property taxes would:

- Encourage development of vacant and underutilized property
- Discourage land speculation
- Promote tax fairness by rewarding property owners who invest in homes and businesses rather than penalizing them with higher taxes for improvements.

With a building exemption, the property tax is based more on the value of the land itself, not the structures built on it. This is a revenue-neutral approach to help increase housing supply, revitalize neighborhoods, and improve public safety.

Budget priorities

- Reappropriate lapsed funding to complete critical improvements and expansion of the Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Academy, which is overcapacity. The renovation will enable more officers to learn and practice locally, reducing the cost of having to train recruits outside the region.
- Expand behavioral health and substance treatment capacity, including support for City of Spokane’s SMART teams that provide multidisciplinary and rapid response to people in crisis. Secure additional funding for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and other programs that address needs of the unhoused. Increase affordable childcare access, including more state-subsidized childcare slots, workforce development and construction of new facilities, including
- Northeast Public Development Authority’s development of a childcare center serving people who work nontraditional hours.

Significant Issues

Affordable and attainable housing

The City of Spokane seeks new investments and funding tools to meet the needs for affordable housing across the housing continuum, including construction and preservation of affordable housing, home ownership, and senior housing, as well as support for tools such as local option real estate excise tax, short-term rental taxes, and expanded use of lodging taxes for housing.

The City also supports:

- Land bank enabling legislation to help put vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties back into productive use.
- Harmonizing the disparate affordability requirements of existing state tax incentives for converting surface parking lots and commercial buildings to housing, which will lead to more development of workforce housing – especially in downtown Spokane, where there is an abundance of extremely low-income housing.

TBD reform to fix streets and sidewalks

Vehicles over 6,000 pounds are exempt from paying Transportation Benefit District tab fees used for street maintenance projects and pedestrian improvements. These heavier vehicles cause significantly more wear on roadways compared to lighter vehicles. Raising the TBD weight threshold will help Spokane and other cities improve our streets and sidewalks while ensuring that heavier vehicles pay their fair share.

Sidewalk fees

The City of Spokane seeks authorization to enact a sidewalk fee to help create people-friendly streets that prioritize health, safety and accessibility for all. The fee can fund missing sidewalks, critical repairs, and ongoing maintenance which are currently property owners' responsibility.

Metal-studded tires

Metal-studded tires cause significant damage to local roadways while providing marginal benefits in a narrow range of environmental conditions. To improve road safety and reduce the escalating cost of street repair, the City of Spokane supports the Washington Traffic Safety Commission's proposal for a statewide ban of metal-studded tires with a two-year phaseout.

Keep Washington Working

The City of Spokane supports legislation authorizing the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute local law enforcement and corrections agencies for violations of the State Constitution and state laws – including the Keep Washington Working Act, which helps protect immigrant rights and provides guidance to local law enforcement in collaborating with federal immigration enforcement.

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 from last session that imposes daily transaction limits and caps fees charged by operators.

Tourism promotion

The City of Spokane supports reinstating and expanding authority for Tourism Promotion Areas (TPAs) to impose local lodging charges that generate revenue for marketing, special events and other tourism-related activities. These TPA charges are due to expire in 2027.

BRIEFING PAPER: Sustainability Action Plan Review - Update
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
5/14/2026

Subject:

The Division of Transportation and Sustainability will provide an update on the progress of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) 5 Year Review.

Background:

The SAP provides a guide to mitigate risks from climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and invest in strengthening our communities. The objective is to ensure the equitable prosperity of Spokane residents and the protection of our natural resources for generations to come. The 2021 SAP update included extensive public engagement.

The original technical advisory body for the SAP was the Sustainability Action Subcommittee (SAS). The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (CRSB) has replaced the SAS. Broader internal outreach is ongoing to fill in gaps in the status updates.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

These plans listed below relate to the SAP. Some of these documents already emphasize climate and sustainability solutions outlined in this Plan, while others will need to be updated to integrate sustainability and climate action.

- Spokane Comprehensive Plan “Shaping Spokane” (2017) – Climate is currently being integrated in the current Comprehensive Plan Update
- Spokane Water Conservation Master Plan (2020) - currently undergoing an update
- Spokane City Bicycle Master Plan (2017)
- Spokane Pedestrian Master Plan (2015)

Timeline/ Further Action:

The Division of Transportation and Sustainability presented a preliminary status review at the February 2026 CRSB meeting. Periodic updates to the SAP review will be presented to the CRSB throughout 2026.