



Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board Agenda

Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 13, 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 – 2:00-2:15

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. Two minutes each.
3. Approve [6/11/2026](#) 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. 2:15 – 2:55 [Data Centers](#) (Alex Scott, Flavio Coppola)
2. 2:55 – 3:20 [Tree Preservation Ordinance](#) (CM Dillon)
3. 3:20 – 3:35 [Heating, Cooling, Weatherization Draft Ordinance](#) (Adam McDaniel)
4. 3:35 – 3:55 [Proposed Commercial Water Consumption Structure](#) (Marlene Feist)

Hearings: (All times below are approximate)

1. 3:55 – 4:30 [*CRSB Recommendations to Council for 2027 Legislative Agenda](#) (Nicole White, Jon Snyder)

Adjournment: The next regularly scheduled CRSB meeting will be Thursday, September 10, 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, August 13, 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: qhF8iY

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](#)

How to participate in virtual public testimony:

[**SIGN UP**](#)

Sign up to give testimony by clicking on the button above. This will take you to an online form where you can select the hearing item on which you wish to give testimony.

The form will be **open from 8:00am on 8/6/2026, until 1:00 p.m. on 8/13/2026**. The hearing will begin at 3:55 p.m. When it is your turn to testify, CRSB Chair will call your name, and you can begin your testimony. You will have 2 minutes to speak.

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 – Meeting Minutes Draft

Thursday, June 11, 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. Two minutes each.

- *None*

Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Brian Henning, Amanda Parrish, Kathryn Alexander, Happy Avery, Kerry Brooks, Elyse Hochstadt, Larry Luton, Lea Molina, Kit Parker
- Board Members Not Present: Ryan Arnold, Kevin Fagan, Bob Lutz
- Non-Voting Members Present: Community Assembly Liaison Santiago Rodriguez Anderson
- Non-Voting Members Not Present: None
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Maren Murphy, Emily King, Nicole White, Marlen Feist, Annikki Chamberlain, Jerrall Haynes, Sarah Nuss, KayCee Downey, Kirstin Davis, Mayra Marroquin, Raylene Gennett, Logan Callen, Elizabeth Schoedel, Chris Averyt

Minutes: Minutes from 5/14/2026 approved unanimously.

Briefing Session:

- **Chair Report** – Brian Henning
 - On June 22nd, the City Council agenda will have the Renter's Right to Cooling Ordinance at first reading. It has undergone some amendments since it was with the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board.
- **Secretary Report** – Maren Murphy
 - Maren Murphy filled in as secretary for Jon Snyder.
 - Maren reminded everyone that the July meeting will be canceled.
 - Nicole White provided some information on low-income assistance programs and rebates for weatherization and cooling. She looked at the Washington State University Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP). They are not accepting applications right now. SNAP has also been listed in the past, but they are not currently a part of that program. She also looked into the Department of Commerce Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program. They have not yet announced awards for the current application cycle.
 - The Tree Preservation Ordinance has been delayed until August.
 - Hala Zahalqa resigned from her role on the board; they are working on appointments to fill the vacancy.

Current Agenda: The current agenda was approved.

Informational, Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Water Conservation on City Property & Water Conservation Master Plan Update
 - Presentation provided by: Marlene Feist and Annikki Chamberlain
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Participatory Budget/GEG Reduction
 - Presentation provided by: Jerrall Haynes and Sarah Nuss

- Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- Inclement Weather Space Activations
 - Presentation provided by: Sarah Nuss
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- PlanSpokane 2046 Comprehensive Plan Update Check-In
 - Presentation provided by: KayCee Downey
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- SAP 5-Year Review Update
 - Presentation provided by: Nicole White
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.
- SAPW Update
 - Presentation provided by: Amanda Parrish
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.

Hearing Items:

- CRSB Recommendations to Council for 2027 Legislative Agenda
 - Presentation provided by: Nicole White
 - Questions asked and answered.
 - Discussion ensued.

The hearing was postponed until the August meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:14 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2026 is CANCELED.

BRIEFING PAPER: Data Centers Introductory Workshop

City of Spokane

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board

8/13/2026

Subject:

Flavio Coppola with Bloomberg Associates and Climate Mayors will give brief introduction to data centers and associated considerations for cities regarding regulatory frameworks. City Administrator Alex Scott will introduce the topic.

Background:

The city of Spokane passed a one-year data center permitting moratorium in July of 2026. As part of the moratorium, the City Council added a review of policies and regulations to the workplan of the CRSB and the Planning Commission.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

Potential impacts data centers have several environmental considerations that relate to the Sustainability Action Plan and the Climate Element of the Comp Plan.

Timeline/ Further Action:

The CRSB be will presented with a series of workshops regarding data centers throughout the fall with the goal of formulating potential recommendations to the City Council and the mayor in early 2027.



Climate Mayors Briefing: Governing in a Time of Data Center Growth

Data centers are reshaping local economies, infrastructure, and communities. Cities across the country are experiencing an exponential growth of data centers in their communities and regions, promising to bring economic benefits. While they may bring economic development, they also create immense strains on energy and water resources, driving up utility rates and, in some cases, sparking community pushback. Reasons for this include:

- A single data center can consume an average of [2 megawatt-hours \(MWh\) of electricity](#), comparable to the power usage of a small town.
- Most facilities use over [10 million gallons](#) of water per year, which is used to cool the heat produced by the centers.
- In 2024, approximately [8 GW of data centers were constructed. An additional 10 GW](#) are projected to come online in 2025, consuming enough energy to power 8 million homes.
- Growing demand on the electrical grid, fueled by data centers, can also [drive up electricity prices](#). Without intervention, consumers may bear the brunt of these utility rate increases and the initial infrastructure investments required to power new data centers.

As data centers are projected to [continue growing rapidly](#), mayors must understand how to ensure data centers are good neighbors in their communities, balancing development with climate and community well-being. With the right interventions, data centers can provide opportunities to stabilize the grid, foster economic growth, and even contribute to driving the clean energy transition. Mayors possess a unique opportunity to use policy, zoning, permitting, advocacy, and negotiating tactics to ensure data centers actively mitigate negative community impacts such as noise pollution, municipal infrastructure impacts, and land disruption. Some examples of this include:

- Designing new codes and regulatory frameworks that ensure data centers are designed and operated responsibly. Phoenix [recently updated a zoning ordinance](#) to specifically mandate that data center proposals address power grid reliability, fire risk, emergency response access, and noise impacts. Similarly, Atlanta requires [special-use permits](#) for data centers, requiring disclosure of water and energy usage, tree removal during construction, and new powerline development.
- Pushing for agreements that tie data center growth to clean energy procurement, investment in residential and utility-scale energy efficiency, renewable energy and water standards, storage, and affordability measures. This could include creating a [community benefits plan](#), which is a legally binding contract with deliverables that developers must meet.
- Requiring that data centers offset their impacts by investing in community buildings and infrastructure (schools, local fire departments, water treatment facilities, etc.), household



resilience (weatherization, heat pumps, smart thermostats, etc.), and investments in land, forest, and wetland restoration.

- Requiring that utility costs from data centers are not passed on to residents. Due to the immense amount of energy that data centers need, additional utility buildout is required.
- Advocate for well-paying jobs, with a focus on hiring locally. While touted as an economic driver, many data centers may only bring a handful of temporary jobs to a community. Mayors can create requirements around hiring local contractors for construction and making sure that the permanent jobs are well-paying.

Climate Mayors is actively building out resources for mayors. In the meantime, helpful resources include:

- Rewiring America Report: [Household upgrades could offset all new projected data center energy demand | Rewiring America](#)
- Sierra Club on energy: [Fools Gold: When 700 Gigawatts of Data Centers Come Knocking | Sierra Club](#)
- Business Insider on water usage: [How Data Centers Are Deepening the Water Crisis - Business Insider](#)
- University of Michigan research: [What Happens When Data Centers Come to Town?](#)
- Matt Rogers, Founder and CEO of Mill and Incite.org, Op-Eds: [AI companies have money and momentum. But look who's stuck with their utility bill](#); [AI companies have money and momentum. But look who's stuck with their utility bill](#)
- [State Policy Tracker](#)
- [Federal Policy Tracker](#)
- Sample Legislation:
 - [Harrisonburg, VA](#)
 - [Phoenix, AZ](#)
 - [Atlanta, GA](#)

BRIEFING PAPER: Tree Protection Ordinance
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
8/13/2026

Subject:

Updated Ordinance based on suggestions discussed during 3/12/26 Meeting.

Tree Protection for Spokane. Protecting trees and relating to urban forestry. This ordinance seeks to increase the preservation of trees, and to enhance urban tree canopy. It provides for additional protections for certain trees within the City of Spokane, and incentivizes community to plant and care for trees in the ROW.

Background:

In 2025 the Friends of Spokane Trees began working with the Spokane City Council to develop a tree protection ordinance.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

Urban forestry and tree protection are important parts of the comprehensive plan, SAP and environmental stewardship policies of the city.

Timeline/ Further Action:

Current timeline:

8/13 Introduce ordinance to the CRSB

ORDINANCE #

An ordinance titled “Tree Protection Ordinance For Spokane”, relating to urban forestry and protection of trees, amending Sections 12.02.960 and 12.02.970 of the Spokane Municipal Code and enacting new sections 10.91 of the Spokane Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane recognizes the essential role that trees play in our culture, our environment, and our city’s distinctive character; and

WHEREAS, mindful of the importance of the urban forest to Spokane and the significant contribution of the Ponderosa Pine to the quality of life in the city, in 2014 the City Council adopted Resolution 2014-0039, declaring the Ponderosa Pine as the official tree of the City of Spokane, and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City Council adopted Ordinance C35758, codifying in Section 12.02.905 of the Spokane Municipal Code an urban tree canopy goal to increase coverage to 30% by 2030, supported by the Protecting Leaves and Adding New Trees (PLANT) program; and

WHEREAS, Spokane’s urban forest provides many economic, health and environmental benefits for city residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, trees produce oxygen and filter airborne particulates which improves Spokane’s air quality;

WHEREAS, community partners like The Lands Council’s Urban Forestry Program aim to equitably increase Spokane’s urban canopy coverage by planting free trees in low-income neighborhoods with below average canopy coverage; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a \$6 million grant award to Spokane Urban Forestry and these funds will be used to plant and care for trees in areas of Spokane that have the most need, to replace dead trees that have been removed, to create more canopy coverage, and provide community forestry education; and

WHEREAS, it is well established that trees improve water quality and reduce storm water runoff, reducing pollutants and mitigation costs; and

WHEREAS, drought tolerant trees are more likely to survive and thrive as our climate produces less moisture; and

WHEREAS, tree protection policies will increase Spokane’s climate resilience and reduce urban heat islands in the City, particularly in low income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, groves of trees on private and public property provide additional climate, environmental and cultural benefits, above and beyond those gained from individual trees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane has regulations relating to the planting, care and pruning of trees on public property and public rights of way, there are few regulations that ensure proper planting, maintenance and removal of trees on private property; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for Spokane's urban forest that all trees, regardless of their location, are protected and properly nurtured;

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That Title 12, Section 12.02 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 12.02.900 Findings, Purpose and Intent

- A. The City of Spokane recognizes that the design of the urban environment must ultimately be for the benefit of the quality of life of the human inhabitants, and that a healthy urban forest is a key component of the quality of life.
- B. The focus of the urban forestry program is to balance competing needs of the community, in the context of limited municipal resources, while promoting and maintaining a healthy urban forest.
- C. The City of Spokane intends, by enacting this chapter, to:
 - a. promote the restoration and preservation of desirable trees and shrubs;
 - b. advocate for the establishment and retention of adequate tree planting spaces while considering the community's desire for urban aesthetics; and
 - c. as resources may allow, to address problems arising from improper planting, maintenance, or removal of trees and shrubs((-)); and
 - d. to preserve and enhance the urban tree canopy by preventing the indiscriminate removal or destruction of trees.
- D. The implementation of this Article V is at all times subject to appropriations. It is not a purpose of this article to create or expand any duty, responsibility, or liability on the part of the City of Spokane, its officers, agents, employees, or contractors. Any such duty nonetheless deemed created does not extend to any specific or identifiable person or class. Additionally, nothing in this article and no action taken or inaction by the City, its officers, agents, employees, or contractors shall reduce the responsibility of other persons or entities for intentional or negligent acts or omissions, including failure to maintain their property, curtilage or related areas with reasonable care. This subsection (D) controls all other provisions.

Section 12.02.910 Definitions

- A. "Arboricultural manual" means the Arboricultural Specifications and Standards of Practice for the City of Spokane which contains regulations and standards for the planting, pruning, removal, and maintenance of trees and shrubs on public property and a program for developing and improving the tree, shrub, and other plant resources of the community.
- B. "Commercial tree work" means any work performed on street or public trees by a person retained by the property owner or public utility.
- C. "Development" means land disturbing activities, including structural development, construction or installation of a building or other structures; the installation of utilities; creation or addition of impervious surfaces; the expansion of a building footprint or addition or replacement of a structure.
- C. "Director" means the director of the parks and recreation division or the director's designee.
- D. "Hazardous tree" means any tree or tree part that poses a high risk of damage to persons or property.
- E. "Heritage tree" means a tree or collection of trees that is particularly desirable because it has valued, unique characteristics that set it apart from other similar trees as specified by [SMC 12.02.975](#).
- F. "Major pruning" means the pruning or cutting out of branches two inches (2") in diameter or greater, root pruning, cutting out of branches and limbs constituting greater than fifteen percent (15%) of the tree's foliage bearing area and pruning trees with branches that are within ten feet (10') of overhead power lines. The work shall retain the natural form of the tree.
- G. "Minor pruning" means pruning or cutting out of water sprouts, suckers, twigs, or branches less than two inches (2") in diameter, or which constitutes less than fifteen percent (15%) of the tree's foliage bearing area. The work shall retain the natural form of the tree. Removal of dead wood, broken branches, and stubs are included within the definition of minor pruning. Minor pruning of street trees may be performed by the owner of the adjacent property without obtaining a permit from the City.
- H. "Public place" means property owned in fee by the City of Spokane.
- I. "Public Tree" is a tree on City-owned property. A public tree may also be a street tree.

J. "Public utility" means any organization that has a franchise to utilize the public rights-of-way.

K. "Right-of-way" means that strip of land:

1. dedicated for public travel, including the main traveled portions of the streets and sidewalks as well as parking or planting strips, pedestrian buffer strips, and other associated areas, or over which is built, public streets, sidewalks, or alleys for public travel; or
2. used for or dedicated to utilities installation within the right-of-way.

L. "Severe crown reduction" means the specific reduction in the overall size of a tree and/or the severe internodal cutting back of branches or limbs to stubs within the tree's crown to such a degree as to remove the normal tree canopy and disfigure the tree. Severe crown reduction is not a form of pruning and, for street trees and trees within the public right-of-way, is prohibited.

"Street tree" means any tree or shrub located within the public right-of-way.

~~((N))~~ O. "Tree committee" means the urban forestry tree committee created by [SMC 04.28.010](#).

~~((Q))~~ P. "Tree lawn," "parking strip," and "planting strip" are used interchangeably to mean the area between the curb and sidewalk.

~~((P))~~ Q. "Urban forestry plan" means a comprehensive plan addressing the long-term goals and strategic planning related to tree planting, pruning, removal, and maintenance needs of trees located in public places to encourage the sustainability of the urban forest. Neighborhood specific tree plans or neighborhood land use plans which incorporate sections or language related to public trees shall be incorporated in the general urban forestry plan and neighborhoods shall consider the urban forestry plan in the development of neighborhood specific tree plans or land use plans.

Section 12.02.960 Tree Permit Required

A. Pruning and Removal of Trees on Public Right of Way

No person may perform major pruning or cause or authorize any person to prune or remove, street trees or trees located in planting strips or other public places without first filing an application and obtaining a street tree pruning/removal permit from the City.

1. Application Data.

The application must state the location, number, and kind of trees to be pruned or removed; the kind of maintenance or other work to be done; and such other information as the director may find reasonably necessary to a fair determination of whether a permit should be issued.

2. Standards for Issuance.

The director issues the permit if in his or her judgment the proposed work is consistent with the ordinance and the proposed method and workmanship are satisfactory.

3. Time.

Any permit issued shall contain a date of expiration and the work must be completed in the time allowed on the permit.

4. Major Pruning.

The City requires that major pruning must be performed by a person licensed by the City pursuant to [SMC 10.25.010](#).

B. Planting of Trees.

~~No person may plant a tree in any City rights-of-way without first obtaining a street tree permit from the City.~~ Any person may plant a tree in any City rights-of-way if they obtained a street tree permit from the City of Spokane. The City of Spokane would encourage the planting of drought tolerant trees whenever possible.

C. Notice of Completion.

A notice of work completion concerning tree planting, removal, or major pruning must be given by the permit holder within five days to the director for inspection. Inspection shall be completed within ten working days.

D. Annual Permit for City Departments and Utilities with Easements or Franchises Within the Rights-of-Way.

City departments and utilities may apply for an annual permit to perform pruning, planting, or removal of street trees. The permit application must include an annual plan that identifies work that will be done during the year. The permit holder must

file quarterly reports which will identify all work done on street trees and trees in public places. Quarterly reports shall identify how many trees were removed and how many received major pruning.

E. Emergency Pruning and Removal.

If immediate removal or major pruning is required to protect the health and safety of the public or property owner, tree work to mitigate the immediate hazard may be performed without a permit. The director must be notified on the first working day after the tree work is begun and a permit must be obtained. In the case of a declaration of emergency notification may be made within a reasonable time.

F. Removal or Pruning of Infested or Diseased Trees

If a tree shows signs of infestation, it shall be evaluated by a certified arborist and a permit for major pruning or removal issued, depending on the extent of the damage, and to prevent further spread to healthy trees. Trees infested with wood-boring beetles, or another communicable disease, shall be removed promptly and disposed of appropriately.

G. Trees located in the public right of way that are the responsibility of the abutting property owner consistent with SMC 12.02.925 and have been determined to be dead trees, shall be removed and replaced by the abutting property owner.

H. The director may decline to issue a permit, or revoke a permit issued, to any person who refuses or neglects to comply with any of the provisions of this code.

Section 2. That a new Chapter 10.91 of the Spokane Municipal Code is enacted to read as follows:

Chapter 10.91 Trees on Private Property

Section 10.91.010 Tree Removal and Replacement on Private Property

- A. To administer tree removal on private property the City of Spokane shall require a permit to remove any heritage tree as defined in SMC 12.02.975.
- B. Planting a replacement tree is encouraged after tree removal.
- C. The City of Spokane encourages the planting of drought tolerant trees whenever possible as they are more likely to survive and thrive in the area climate.

Section 10.91.020 Tree protection during development

- A. Heritage trees as defined in Section 12.02.975, shall be protected prior to any land disturbance. A permit to remove a heritage tree shall be required.
- B. Incentives for property owners to retain or replace existing trees can be found in the table at SMC 17C.200.150-1.

Section 10.91.030 Penalty

Violations of this section may result in a class 1 civil infraction

Section 3. That Title 17C, Section 17C.200.150 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 17C.200.150 Incentives

- A. Property owners who retain or replace existing trees during new construction activities on their property may be eligible for additional reductions in their water service (for residential customers) or water meter (for commercial customers) charges based on the number of points accumulated according to Table 17C.200.150-1, under which each point is equal to a 1% reduction, up to a maximum point accumulation of 50 points.

Table 17C.200.150-1 – Tree Retention Incentives (new construction only)

For lots < 0.5 acre, if tree is:	Then points received are:		For lot > 0.5 acre, if tree is:	Then points received are:
8-15" diameter measured at 4 ½' above the ground	10		8-15" diameter measured at 4 ½' above the ground	5

16" + diameter measured at 4 ½' above the ground	20	16" + diameter measured at 4 ½' above the ground	10
Ponderosa Pine bonus	5/per additional tree	Ponderosa Pine bonus	5/per additional tree
To determine additional discount available on water service or water meter charges, add the number of points received from this table. Each point equals a one percent (1%) reduction to the water service or water meter charge. For example, if a property owner retains one 16" diameter tree and two Ponderosa Pines that are both 8" in diameter on a lot > 0.5 acre during new construction, that property has accumulated 30 points and therefore receives a thirty percent (30%) discount on either the water service or water meter charge for that lot.			

B. Additional Eligibility Criteria:

1. Applicant must show and describe tree protection zones ("TPZ") in development plans.
2. Applicant must maintain TPZ's during the entire period of construction.
3. Species maintained must be in fair condition or better.
4. Retained tree(s) must be in fair condition or better.
5. All eligibility determinations may be subject to site inspections, upon reasonable notice to the property owner, and may be conducted before, during, and after construction activities.
6. Tree retention incentives as described in this section shall have a duration of one year for commercial customers and three years for residential customers.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality thereof shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance. In the event of conflict between this ordinance and any other

provision of the Spokane Municipal Code, with respect to employee information, this ordinance shall control. This ordinance shall not be construed or applied with any conflicting federal or state law.

Section 5. Clerical Errors. Upon approval by the city attorney, the city clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including scrivener's errors or clerical mistakes; references to other local, state, or federal laws, rules, or regulations; or numbering or referencing of ordinances or their sections and subsections.

Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective _____, 2026 or on that date set forth in Section 19.B of the Spokane City Charter, whichever is later.

PASSED by the City Council on _____

Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

City Attorney

Mayor

Date

Effective Date

BRIEFING PAPER: Heating, Cooling, Weatherization Draft Ordinance
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
8/13/2026

Subject:

Expanding access to cooling, warming, and weatherization services for vulnerable residents.

Background:

This ordinance expands access to cooling, heating, and weatherization services using existing funds dedicated to ensuring habitability. This ordinance expands the allowable uses of the Legal Services and Relocation Fund to support efforts to expand access to cooling, heating, and weatherization services that improve public health and safety and improve the habitability of the city's housing stock.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

The ordinance aligns with Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan and Ordinance C36877 (Ordinance Establishing a Right to Cooling).

Timeline/ Further Action:

The City Council will consider this ordinance on September 2nd.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance expanding access to cooling, heating, and weatherization services; amending Sections 07.08.158 and 10.57.10 of the Spokane Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, a study published in 2025 demonstrated that 84% of survey respondents in Spokane have in-home air conditioning (58.8% with central air and 34.9% with a portable or window unit), but 23% reported limitations to use, primarily due to utility costs; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan, published by the Spokane Community Resilience Collaborative, finds that improving accessibility to high-efficiency residential HVAC systems that can provide in-home cooling is essential for creating healthier and more equitable communities; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan calls for services aimed at increasing accessibility of air conditioning that consider both homeowners and renters as well as the cost of maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan recommends low-cost weatherization services that support income-eligible residents; and

WHEREAS, according to Spokane's "Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment," the elderly and youth are particularly vulnerable to health impacts resulting from extreme heat; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to expand access to cooling, heating, and weatherization services using existing funds dedicated to ensuring habitability.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That Section 07.08.158 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Section 07.08.158 Legal Services, Habitability, and Relocation Fund

- A. There is established a special revenue fund entitled the "legal services, habitability, and relocation fund" into which shall be paid two percent of all revenue collected pursuant to [SMC 8.07C](#) each year for five calendar years (2023-2027) to seed the fund and then it shall thereafter be maintained with 100% proceeds from substandard housing enforcement actions (~~((by the Legal Services and Relocation Program))~~) and monetary sanctions collected from enforcement actions pursuant to [Chapter 10.57](#).
- B. As provided in the annual budget, the "legal services, habitability, and relocation fund" is appropriated to provide for legal services and relocation funds arising out of rental units that fall below standards of habitability, as established by [SMC](#)

10.57.070, and to expand access to cooling, heating, and weatherization services that improve public health and safety and improve the habitability of the city's housing stock. The city council may also provide for additional revenues to be paid into such fund from time to time from any available funds of the City.

Section 2. That Section 10.57.100 of the Spokane Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**Section 10.57.100 Legal Services, Habitability, and Relocation ((Program))
Programs**

- A. The City of Spokane is authorized to use monies from the Legal Services, Habitability, and Relocation Fund to expand access to cooling, heating, and weatherization services that improve public health and safety and improve the habitability of the city's housing stock. Additionally, the City may contract with another entity to provide attorney services for landlord and tenant legal services and mediation costs, with a focus on habitability and violations of the Chapter 59.18 RCW - Residential Landlord Tenant Act ("RLTA"). ~~((The city investment would provide seed money for first year of salary and benefits for an attorney and reasonable litigation costs, including mediation fees. Legal fees from successful representation would be used to sustain the attorney(s) and associated costs for the long term.))~~
- B. The City is further authorized to disburse monies from the Legal Services, Habitability, and Relocation Fund to provide immediate relocation funds to tenants living in rental units that are below the standards of habitability and likely to be able to recover relocation funds from their landlord, which will reimburse the fund. The City is also authorized to disburse monies from the Legal Services, Habitability, and Relocation Fund to landlords to assist with tenant removal or relocation. ~~((The attorney described in Section A shall establish an application, review, and appeals process for the relocation fund program.))~~
- C. Minimum program requirements:
 - 1. A program that focuses on pursuing legal remedies for rental housing units that clearly fall below standard of habitability defined in the Spokane Municipal Code and/or violate the RLTA in consultation with Code Enforcement.
 - 2. A program that provides prompt relocation funds from City directly to the tenant once it appears ~~((to the attorney described in Section A))~~ that a landlord is more likely than not to be held liable under state law and then collects from the landlord and any settlement funds as first priority a

reimbursement to the relocation funds advanced (~~and any attorney fees that could be used to fund the attorney positions in the future~~)).

- 3. A program that builds increased capacity for (~~these~~) cooling, heating, and weatherization services that improve public health and safety and improve the habitability of the city's housing stock, including education and outreach.
- 4. Services provided under this section may only be provided to individuals (~~from households with incomes less than 400% of the federal poverty level~~) that meet the criteria established under SMC 08.07C.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality thereof shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance.

Section 4. Clerical Errors. Upon approval by the city attorney, the city clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including scrivener's errors or clerical mistakes; references to other local, state, or federal laws, rules, or regulations; or numbering or referencing of ordinances or their sections and subsections.

PASSED by the City Council on _____

Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

City Attorney

Mayor

Date

Effective Date

BRIEFING PAPER
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
8/13/2026

Subject:

Public Works is working with City Council on utility rate proposals for 2027 and 2028. One of those proposals includes an update to how commercial properties are charged for water consumption. PW previously presented to CRSB in December on this item and would like to bring back our recommendation.

Background:

Water Conservation is a policy goal of the City of Spokane and the state of Washington. One policy opportunity for continuing to promote lower water use includes a fresh look at the water consumption rate structure for commercial customers. In the last few years, we have adjusted the consumption rate schedule for residential customers twice; it seems appropriate to address the commercial structure.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

This work supports key objectives in the Comprehensive Plan, Water System Plan, Sustainability Action Plan, and the City's environmental stewardship commitments. Survey findings help identify priorities for efficient water use, climate resilience, and long-term resource management. Rate changes can help the City reach its goals around water conservation.

Timeline/ Further Action:

PW expects to put rate ordinances on the Council's agenda in the September/October time frame for adoption. New rates would take effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

Additionally, the Water Department will present its proposed updated Water Conservation Master Plan work at the September CRSB meeting.

BRIEFING PAPER: CRSB Recommendations to Council for 2027 Legislative Agenda
City of Spokane
Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
8/13/2026

Subject:

Hearing on legislative emphasis area 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 interest in making recommendations to the Council for possible inclusion in that agenda. In April the board had a workshop detailing climate and sustainability legislation fared in this year's legislative session. In May the board discussed potential topics for inclusion in a recommendation to City Council. In June, a draft resolution was presented to the board for feedback. The Board will consider 4 amendments to the draft resolution presented in June for consideration.

Relationship to Plans/Actions:

The CRSB may recommend policy considerations to the City Council for potential inclusion in the City's state legislative agenda.

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 for the recommendations to be properly considered.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY BOARD RECOMMENDATION

NO. 2026-003

A Resolution adopting the City of Spokane's Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (CRSB) legislative emphasis areas for the coming 2027 state legislative session.

WHEREAS, Spokane Municipal Code section 02.03.030 provides that the “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, Spokane Municipal Code section 04.41.010 provides that “the purpose of the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board is to provide advice and recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and community on the actions necessary to achieve the community’s sustainability and climate goals consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Action Plan, environmental stewardship policies of the City as adopted by the City Council, and within the requirements and parameters set forth in state law”; and

WHEREAS, the CRSB has identified a list of legislative emphasis areas for the coming session of the Washington Legislature to advance climate action identified in the attached exhibit; and

WHEREAS, the CRSB requests the Spokane City Council consider inclusion of the items identified in the attached exhibit in its 2027 legislative agenda or pursue opportunities to advocate for them during the legislative session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane City CRSB hereby adopts its CRSB 2027 State Legislative Emphasis Areas, as specified in Exhibit A to this Resolution.

ADOPTED by the City of Spokane CRSB this _____ day of __, 2026.

Brian Henning, Chair

8/5/2026

Exhibit A

City of Spokane

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board

2027 State Legislative

Emphasis Areas

Heat Pumps and Weatherization

Support state funding for the installation of heat pumps, weatherization improvements, and energy-efficiency measures that help underserved communities reduce costs and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Sidewalk Funding and Infrastructure

Support the creation of a sidewalk utility program or other sustainable funding mechanisms for sidewalk construction, maintenance and improvements to the pedestrian environment that make walking a safer, more accessible and viable alternative to vehicle trips thus supporting greenhouse gas reduction goals, community well-being and climate resilience.

Microgrids and Community Solar

Support increased access to microgrids and community solar projects through enhanced state support, reduced regulatory barriers and expanded funding opportunities.

Plug-in Solar

Support policies and incentives that expand access to plug-in solar technologies and distributed renewable energy systems.

Clean Energy Economy and Workforce Development

Support investments in clean energy industries, workforce training, and job development opportunities that strengthen the clean energy economy.

Construction Funding for Key Clean Energy Upgrades for City Buildings

Support capital funding for the City of Spokane to assist with compliance under the Washington Clean Buildings Performance Standard and to advance municipal clean energy projects, including improvements at City Hall and Northeast Community Center.

For consideration by the Climate Resilience & Sustainability Board to amend Exhibit A of proposed Resolution NO. 2026-003

Amendments shall be considered separately for inclusion in Exhibit A of the resolution.

Proposed Amendment 1 (revision to original resolution)

Funding for Key Clean Energy Upgrades for City Buildings

Support funding for the City of Spokane to advance municipal clean energy projects at City Hall and Northeast Community Center scoped through the Department of Commerce Clean Energy Technical Assistance Grant program.

Proposed Amendment 2 –

Biogenic Waste Reduction Strategies

Support legislation that advances biogenic waste reduction strategies including composting.

Proposed Amendment 3 –

Support for City of Spokane Waste to Energy Facility

Support legislation that advances the needs of the City of Spokane Waste to Energy Facility and compliance with the Climate Commitment Act.

Proposed Amendment 4 –

Funding for Participatory Budgeting Projects that Reduce Greenhouse Gases in East Central

Support funding of local projects identified through the Department of Commerce Community Participatory Budgeting grant program.