

# Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board – Meeting Minutes

**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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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

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[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

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**[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](http://www.measurepnw.com)  
[kara@measurepnw.com](mailto: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

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[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

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**[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

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FYI

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**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

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**[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](http://www.spokanehousing.org)

**Home is where the start is.**

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