



Climate Planning

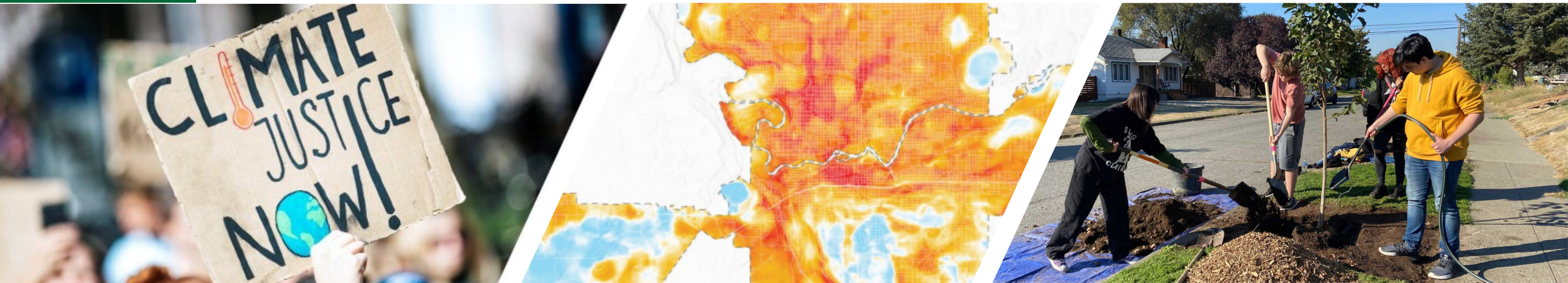
Meeting: CRSB

Date: October 9, 2025

Maren Murphy, AICP | Logan Callen

PLAN **SPOKANE**
Resilient | Connected | Livable | 2046

FUNDED BY WASHINGTON'S
**CLIMATE
COMMITMENT
ACT**



Topics

- Introductions
- Survey Update
- PlanSpokane Draft Chapters
- Draft Policy Development
 - Recap CRSB Meeting 9/18
 - Highlighted Sectors
- Multi-Criteria Prioritization Analysis Introduction
- Next Steps



The WA Department of Commerce climate planning grant is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at www.climate.wa.gov.

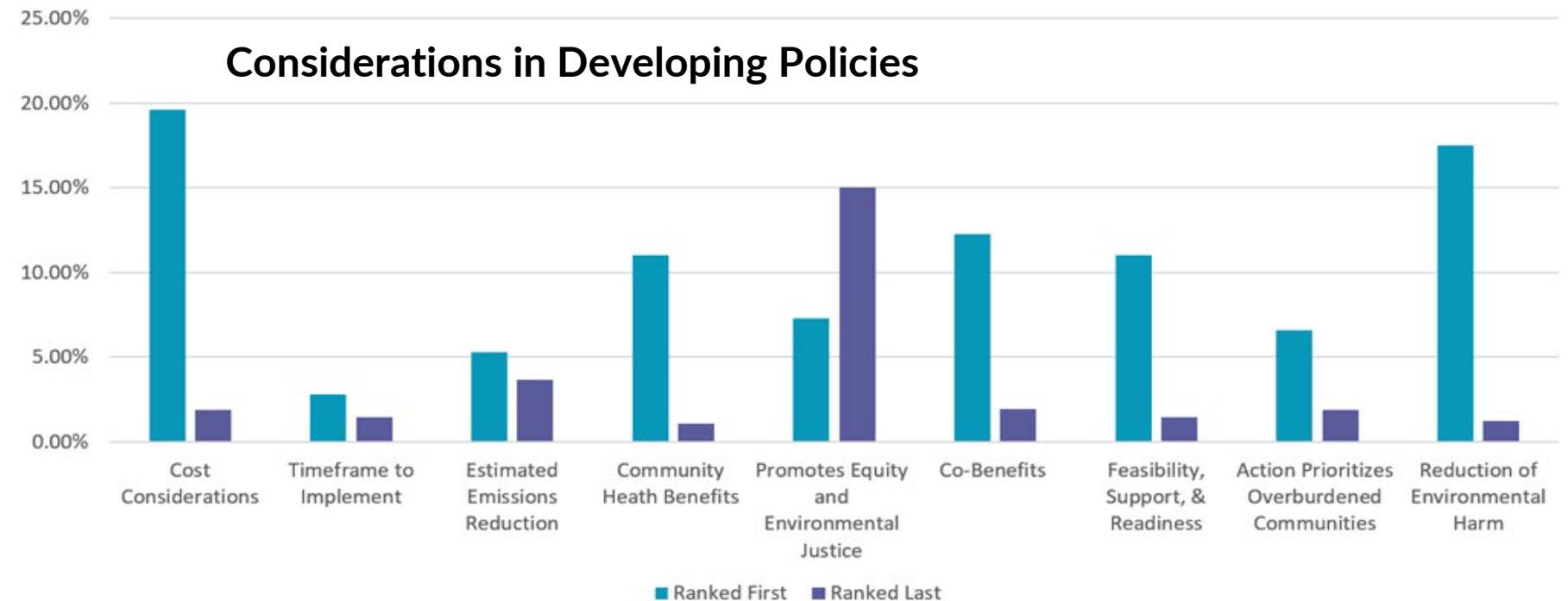
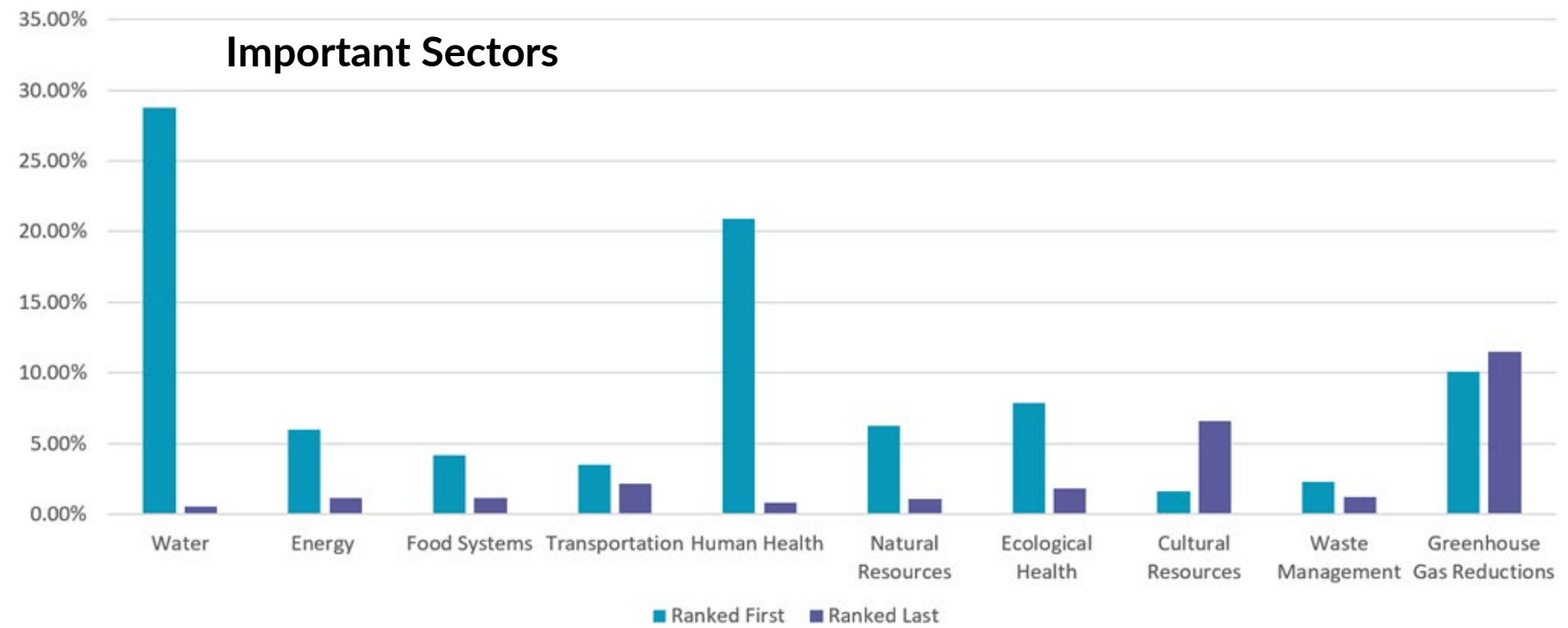
Introductions

- City of Spokane
 - Maren Murphy, Planning
 - Colin Quinn-Hurst, Planning
- Consultant Team
 - Lisa Grueter, BERK
 - Bethany Hoy, BERK
 - Maddie Seibert, Cascadia
- + City of Spokane
 - Tirrell Black, Planning
 - KayCee Downey, Planning
 - Logan Callen, ICM
- + Consulting Partners
 - KAI: Tribal Engagement
 - Fehr & Peers:
Transportation Policy

Survey Update

Community Climate Policy Survey

- July 21, 2025, through August 31, 2025
- **1,419 survey responses**
- Full Report:
<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/planspokane/climate-planning/community-climate-survey-results-and-analysis-sept-2025.pdf>



Survey: Key themes for future action

Lead by example

- **Establish** pilot programs and implement resiliency policies at City of Spokane-owned and community-focused facilities and properties.

Water Conservation and Waste Management

- **Highlight** the need for river and aquifer protection, as well as waste management and reduction.

Community Collaboration and Engagement

- **Community** collaboration, engagement, and engagement can support local resiliency.

Urban Green Spaces

- **Prioritize** expansion and access to green spaces and the natural environment within city limits.

Active Transportation

- **Improve** the existing transportation system and expand access to active transportation options.

Disaster Preparedness

- **Prepare** the community for disasters and respond to extreme weather events.

Equal Access

- **Ensure** all benefits, incentives, and improvements created through climate and resiliency policies are accessible to all City of Spokane community members.

Sustainable Development

- **Ensure** growth, future development, and City of Spokane policies are sustainable and resilient.

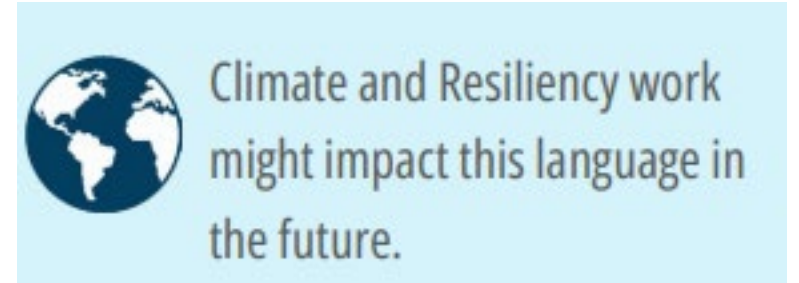
PlanSpokane

Plan Commission Review

Chapter Review

Evaluation of existing Comprehensive Plan has been ongoing

- [Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee](#) has discussed three "Non-Technical" Chapter Groups:
 - Community Chapters
 - Environment Chapters
 - How We Grow Chapters
- Draft Chapters amend and update existing goals and policies
 - Some existing, amended, or new policies relate to climate adaptation or mitigation, with amendments based on community feedback during PlanSpokane 2046 efforts
 - *Through climate policy development – there is room to add to or modify appropriate goals and policies of both the Non-Technical and Technical Draft Chapters.*



Developing Climate Policies

Recap CRSB Meeting 9/18

- **Key areas of interest**

- Water Resources
- Ecosystems
- Health and Well-being
 - overarching frame for other policies

- **Other notable areas**

- Transportation
- Zoning & Development
 - Ties in with Ecosystems and Buildings and Energy
- Waste Reduction

All Policy Topics will be addressed- Resilience & GHG

Agriculture & Food Systems

Buildings & Energy

Cultural Resources

Economic Development

Emergency Management

Health & Well-being

Ecosystems

Transportation

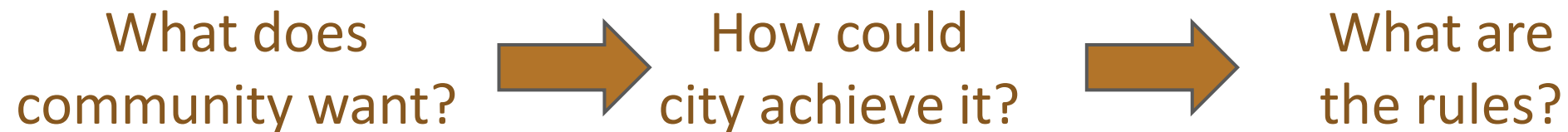
Waste Management

Water Resources

Zoning & Development

Definitions

- A goal is an aspirational and general statement of the community's vision or desired outcome for the City.
- Policies are more specific principles that guide how the community will meet goals, while still being general enough to allow for different ways to implement (e.g., both incentives and pilot programs). *(updated)*



Additional Policy Preparation Guidance

- Use active verbs
- Single sentences (even if longer)
- Policies inform decision making
- Avoid single-action implementation items
- Avoid repeating policies
- Avoid restating state law/regulations

Policy Development Steps

Existing Policies in Comprehensive Plan

Understand what policies already have a climate nexus across all chapters

Pull out strong policies and ideas for new policies.



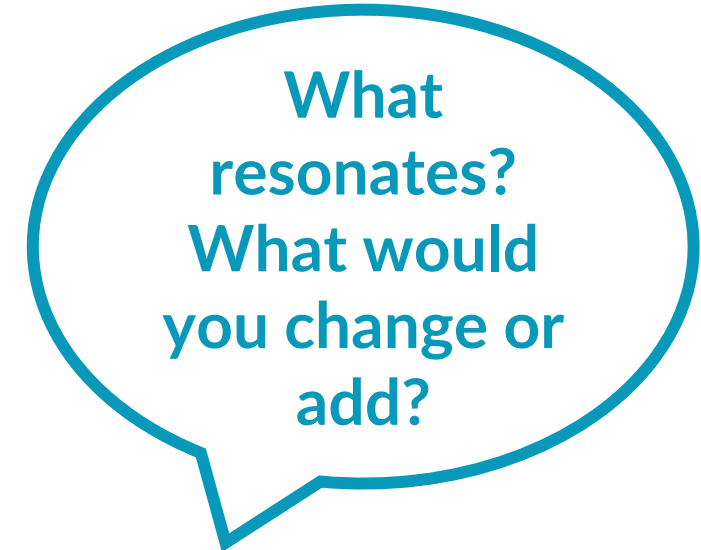
Incorporate gaps in the sectors and generate ideas to fill them.



Consolidate redundancies.

Goal & Policy Discussion

- Water Resources
- Ecosystems
- Health & Well-being
- Emergency Management
- Buildings & Energy
- Waste Management



Water Resources

Idea	Draft Text
1	Goal: Protect and preserve water quality and quantity from drought, extreme heat, and other hazards exacerbated by climate change. Limit impervious areas to allow for groundwater recharge. [Y High Priority] ♦ ✕ ★
2	Policy: Manage water resources sustainably in the face of climate change through smart irrigation, stormwater management, preventative maintenance, water conservation, plant selection, landscape management, and other methods as feasible under water rights regulations. [~Y.04 High Priority] ♦ ↑ ✕ ★
3	Policy: Develop a policy to allow municipal reclaimed water systems and allow onsite non-potable water systems to reduce water demand in private-sector commercial and residential buildings. [~Y.05] ♦ ✕
4	Policy: Develop and implement a water conservation strategy that seeks to decrease household, commercial, industrial, and agricultural use citywide, commensurate with the true capacity of the City’s water supply, including incentives for drought-tolerant (★), native plantings and the use of innovated incentive (✕) programs. [Draft PlanSpokane Chapter] ♦

- In the works / givens
- Water Conservation Master Plan
- Parking lot / future actions
- To be discussed

- ♦ Spokane Analysis
- ↑ Engagement Theme
- ◆ Draft Chapter
- ✕ CTAC Input
- ★ CRSB Idea

Ecosystems



Idea	Draft Text
1	Goal: Increase tree canopy cover to boost carbon sequestration, reduce heat islands, improve stormwater infiltration, and improve air quality, prioritizing overburdened communities. [~AB High Priority] ♦ ★
2	Policy: To support connectivity and non-motorized travel between housing, schools, and businesses across the city, establish a green belt of parks, co-managed with Tribes appropriately in wildlands. [~AB.02] ♦ ↑
3	Goal: Ensure the protection and restoration of streams, riparian zones, estuaries, wetlands, and floodplains to achieve healthy watersheds that are resilient to climate change. [L High Priority] ♦ ★
4	Policy: Increase aquatic habitat resilience to low summer flows by increasing water residence time, storing water on the landscape, conserving water, protecting groundwater, keeping waters cool, and protecting water quality. [L.06 High Priority] ♦ ✕ ★

In the works / givens

- Critical Areas Ordinance Review.
- Shoreline Master Program Periodic Update.
- Riparian management and fuels reduction policy.

Parking lot / future actions

- Maximize tree canopy [or solar canopy] coverage in surface parking lots. [~AB.04] ♦ ↑
- Increase community understanding of complex sources of changes in low stream flow and snowpack, including measurements and reporting. ✕

♦ Spokane Analysis

↑ Engagement Theme

❖ Draft Chapter

✕ CTAC Input

★ CRSB Idea

Health & Well-being

Idea	Draft Text
1	Goal: Protect community health and well-being from the impacts of climate-exacerbated hazards — prioritizing focus on overburdened communities — and ensure that the most vulnerable residents do not bear disproportionate health impacts. [Goal T] ♦ ★
2	Policy: Implement an urban heat resilience strategy that includes land use, urban design, urban greening, and waste heat reduction actions. [T.08 High Priority] ♦ ↑
3	Policy: Develop and implement a notification process within the community to reduce the risk of exposure to wildfire smoke and particulate matter. [~T.05] ♦ ↑

In the works / givens

- State labor & industries rules address outdoor workers.
- Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan

Parking lot / future actions

- Develop a grant program to support low-income residents remain cool while staying in their residences during extreme climate events, such as extreme heat or wildfire smoke, instead of seeking external shelters, such as cooling devices, air cleaners, or utility bill support. ✕

- ♦ Spokane Analysis
- ↑ Engagement Theme
- ❖ Draft Chapter
- ✕ CTAC Input
- ★ CRSB Idea

Emergency Management



Idea	Draft Text
1	Policy: Identify evacuation routes and provide outreach materials to help residents plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer. [~M.01] ♦ ↑ ✕
2	Policy: Develop a comprehensive, communitywide wildfire resilience strategy to improve emergency response capabilities, create fire-resilient landscapes, promote fire-adapted communities, protect the economy, and foster short- and long-term recovery. [M.02 High Priority] ♦ ↑ ✕ ★
3	Policy: Continue to provide residents living in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas information about fire prevention (e.g., Firewise) practices, and support application of such practices via building code and landscaping provisions. [~M.03] ♦ ↑ ✕
4	Policy: Develop resilience hubs — community-serving facilities that are designed to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution while enhancing quality of life. ♦ ↑

In the works / givens

- Integrate Community Wildfire Protection Plan into regional hazard management plan and Comprehensive Plan

Parking lot / future actions

- To be discussed

♦ Spokane Analysis

↑ Engagement Theme

❖ Draft Chapter

✕ CTAC Input

★ CRSB Idea

Buildings & Energy

Idea	Draft Text
1	Goal: Reduce the contributions of buildings and energy consumption to climate change. [Goal E] ♦
2	Policy: Implement and support building and energy codes and policies that reduce energy use and phase out fossil fuel use among existing and new buildings. [E.01 & E.03] ♦✕
3	Policy: Partner with energy providers and other partners to offer incentives or rebates for landlords who make energy-efficient upgrades—like insulation, weatherization, or heat pump installations—on the condition that cost savings are shared with tenants (e.g., capping rent hikes or passing on utility savings). ↑★
4	Policy: Implement renewable energy sources and reduce energy use, refrigerant emissions, and potable water consumption in City buildings and operations. [~E.05]↑

In the works / givens

- **CETA** requires the state's electric utilities to fully transition to clean, renewable and non-emitting resources by 2045.
- **Ballot initiative I-2066**, passed last year, aimed to restrict language around phasing out natural gas. It was struck down by a state judge in March 2025 but will be reviewed by the state Supreme Court next year.

Parking lot / future actions

- Adaptive reuse of buildings ✕ ♦
- Neighborhood-scale microgrids & battery storage ♦
- Energy grid resilience policies
- Embodied carbon reduction policies

- ♦ **Spokane Analysis**
- ↑ **Engagement Theme**
- ❖ **Draft Chapter**
- ✕ **CTAC Input**
- ★ **CRSB Idea**

Waste Management

Idea	Draft Text
1	Policy: Set and achieve specific goals around waste generation and periodically measure waste via waste characterization studies, in partnership with the City's waste collection service provider. [~X.04] ◆
2	Policy: Provide equitable outreach and engagement around waste reduction (including reuse and repair), recycling, and composting among homes and businesses in partnership with the City's waste collection service provider. [Goal X] ↑
3	Policy: Develop a program that will enable reuse and recycling of all construction and demolition waste. [X.02]

In the works / givens

- Spokane County Comprehensive Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan governs regional waste management
- WA Organics Management Law (2025) requires WA cities to provide organics collection service to all single-family homes and many businesses.

Parking lot / future actions

- Support extended producer responsibility (EPR) related policies
- Collaborate with partners on food waste reduction efforts

- ◆ Spokane Analysis
- ↑ Engagement Theme
- ❖ Draft Chapter
- ✕ CTAC Input
- ★ CRSB Idea

Multi-Criteria Prioritization Analysis

Introduction

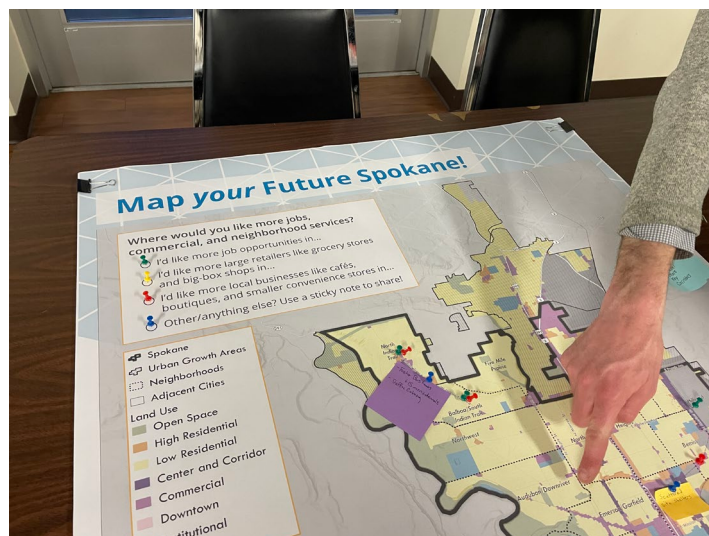


Next Steps

Fall 2025 CRSB Meetings

- **October 9 (today):**
 - Survey update
 - Policy development
 - Multi-criteria prioritization framework
- **October 29:**
 - Joint meeting with Plan Commission
 - Policy discussion – Land Use and Transportation
- **November 13:**
 - Multi-criteria prioritization framework

Additional coordination is pending with the Transportation Commission.



Nov 5
District 2

5-6:30 pm

Ferris High School

Nov 12
District 1

5-6:30 pm

Yasuhara Middle School

SAVE THE DATE!

PlanSpokane 2046 Community Workshop Series



Nov 18
District 3

5-6:30 pm

Salk Middle School

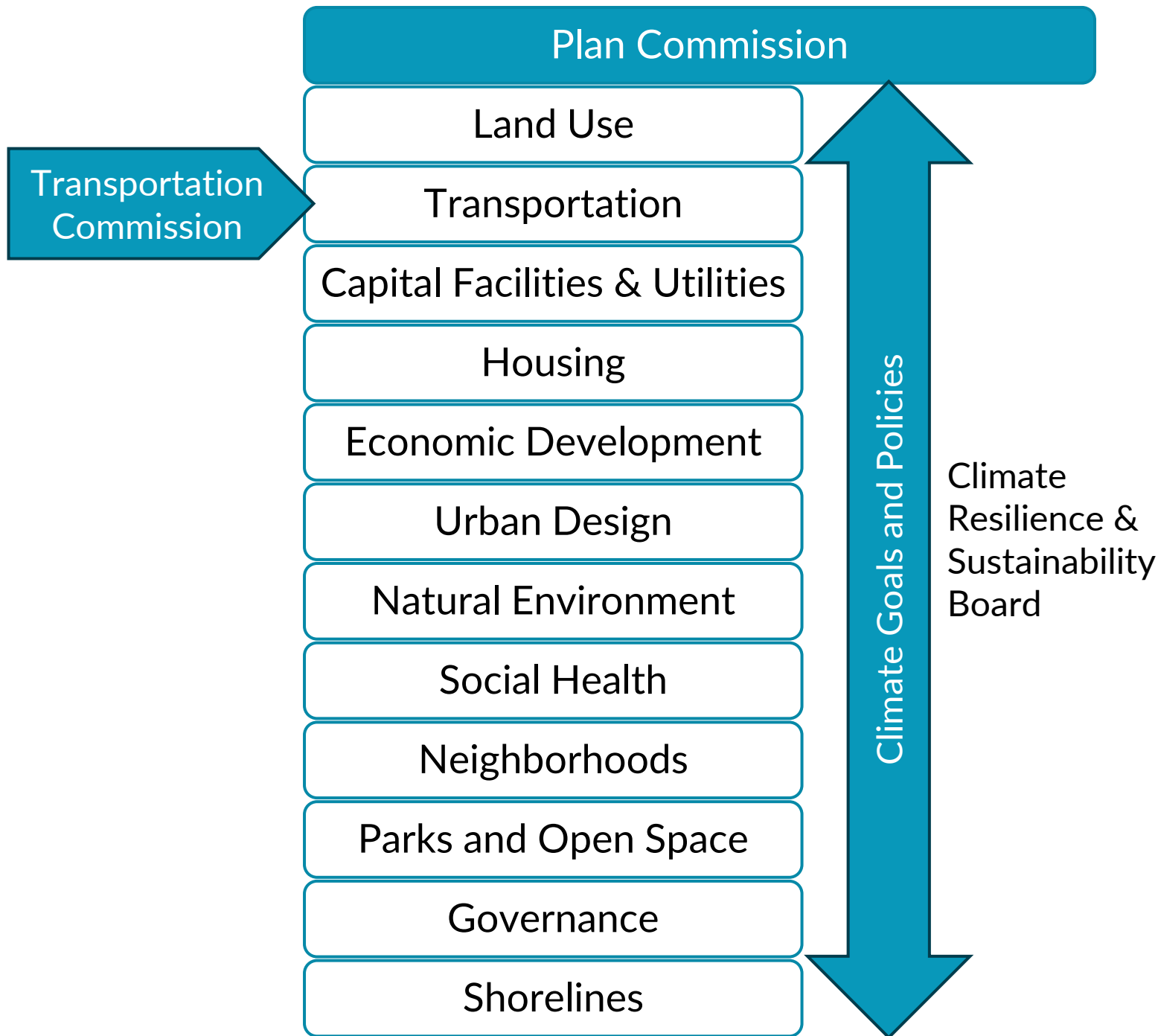
Nov 19
Citywide

12-1:30 pm

Central Library



Appendix – Background & Requirements



*Climate affects all aspects of planning and **needs an integrative approach.***

ROLES

- Plan Commission – lead Comprehensive Plan
- Transportation Commission – lead Transportation Element
- CRSB – lead Climate integration

GMA Climate Element Requirements

GHG Sub-element



- Reduction of GHG emissions generated by transportation and land use
- Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities
 - maximize the co-benefits of reduced air pollution and environmental justice

Resilience Sub-element



- Moderate or avoid harm, enhance resiliency of natural and human systems, and enhance beneficial opportunities
- Consider natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change
- Address natural areas, vital habitat
- Adapt social, economic, and built environment
 - consistent with environmental justice

Additional Guidance & Parameters

- **Amend or create** 20-40 Goals & Policies
- **Select GHG goals & policies** from Commerce policy explorer
 - GHG sectors:
 - Transportation
 - Built Environment
 - Zoning
 - Energy
 - Waste Management
 - Resilience:
 - Consider best available science and credible projections/impact scenarios that moderate or avoid harm
 - Address 11 climate sectors
- **Prepare matrix** when policies are integrated across elements

Agriculture & Food Systems
Buildings & Energy
Cultural Resources
Economic Development
Emergency Management
Health & Well-being
Ecosystems
Transportation
Waste Management
Water Resources
Zoning & Development

Environmental Justice

Definition

RCW 36.70A.030 (16) "Environmental justice" means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities and the equitable distribution of resources and benefits.

Climate Element

Resilience ↑

Identify, protect, and enhance community resiliency to climate change impacts, including social, economic, and built environment factors, that **support adaptation to climate impacts consistent with environmental justice.**

Prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities in order to maximize the **cobenefits of reduced air pollution and environmental justice.**

↓ GHG Reduction

The **Land Use Element** must give special consideration to achieving environmental justice in its goals and policies, including efforts to avoid creating or worsening environmental health disparities.

Transportation Element: ...active transportation facilities to serve as a gauge to judge performance of the system and success in helping to achieve the goals of this chapter consistent with environmental justice

Sources of Policy Ideas

- Commerce Climate Policy Explorer
- City of Spokane CRVA
 - [Executive Summary](#)
 - [Considerations for the Comprehensive Plan](#) (page 218)
- City of Spokane GHG Inventory 2022
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Website](#) with Story Map & Report
- [PlanSpokane 2046 Chapter Review Drafts](#)
 - current policies with a climate nexus



[Climate Policy Explorer](#)

Measures

Search...

High Priority

- Identify and implement strategies for reducing residential development pressure in the wildland-urban interface.
 - Policy - ID#: A.02

High Priority

- Establish and maintain a purchase and transfer of development rights program to allow transferring development rights from areas that provide conservation and climate resilience benefits and promoting denser development in suitable areas.
 - Policy - ID#: A.06

High Priority

- Identify and plan for climate impacts to valued community assets such as parks and recreation facilities, including relocation or replacement.
 - Policy - ID#: A.13

High Priority

- Consider climate change, including sea-level rise, extreme precipitation, increased winter streamflow, and other impacts, in floodplain management planning.
 - Policy - ID#: A.14

High Priority

GOAL

- Increase tree canopy cover to boost carbon sequestration, reduce heat islands, and improve air quality, prioritizing overburdened communities.

Total # of Measures that meet selected criteria:

242