

The Sustainability Action Subcommittee's proposal to update
Spokane Sustainability Action Plan



**2021 DRAFT
Executive
Summary**



INTRODUCTION

Spokane's Sustainability Action Plan answers the City's call to address environmental and climate related requirements at both the local and State levels. Since 2009 when Spokane's first Sustainability Action Plan was adopted, the city, local leaders, organizations, and residents have worked hard to meet environmental and climate-related requirements at both the local and state levels.

In 2018, the City worked with local energy experts to adopt a goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2030, establishing Spokane as a leader in climate action.

In 2019, the State of Washington enacted legislation that requires Spokane to make meaningful changes to its energy use:

- **Clean Energy Transformation Act (2019)** – requires 100% renewable electricity use by 2045
- **Greenhouse Gas reduction targets (2019)** – 30-year targets requiring a step approach

This updated Sustainability Action Plan provides a guide to achieve these new requirements, mitigate risks from climate change, and invest in strengthening our communities. Our objective is to ensure the equitable prosperity of Spokane residents and the protection of our natural resources for generations to come.

Plan Objectives

95% Reduction by 2050

Use a step approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2016 levels

Build Resiliency

Ensure our neighborhoods and economy are ready for future challenges

Prioritize Most Impacted

Prioritize those most exposed to health impacts and economic downturns related to climate change

How will we know if our actions & strategies are effective?

We'll be able to measure our progress through reduced greenhouse gas emissions. We'll also measure benefits in these four key areas:

- Improved Environment
- Economic Opportunity
- Increased Equity
- Increased Health & Well Being

Areas of Action

To achieve our goals, we are acting across these seven areas



Buildings & Energy



Transportation & Land Use



Waste Diversion & Material Conservation



Water Resources



Economic Prosperity



Natural Environment



Health & Wellbeing

VISION & GOALS



Vision 2050

As a community, Spokane ensures the well-being of all our people and the ecosystems of which we are a part. We do this by investing in our neighborhoods and caring for our natural habitats while building an equitable, regenerative, carbon-free economy that is resilient and sustainable.

Sustainability Action Plan Goals

In order to achieve our vision for Spokane, we have identified the following goals:

1. Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions from 2016 baseline by:
 - 45% by 2030 to 1,159,838 metric tons
 - 70% by 2040 to 632,639 metric tons
 - 95% by 2050 to 105,440 metric tons and achieve net zero emissions
2. Build resilient neighborhoods by investing in our local communities, systems, and economy with these key areas in mind:
 - ☐ Healthy Ecosystems
 - ☐ Economic Opportunity
 - ☐ Equity
 - ☐ Health & Wellbeing
3. Prioritize people and communities most exposed to health impacts and economic downturns related to climate change

The Importance of Collaboration and Partnership

The strategies and actions of this plan are written with the assumption that Spokane and its regional partners will continue our shared history of collaboration and co-creation. Together we work smarter and more efficiently while building trust and amplifying our shared goals.

SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES































Plan Summary

The following pages summarize the strategies in each of the seven areas of action. Each strategy identified in this plan was evaluated against four primary factors: greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, social benefits, upfront costs, and long-term economic benefits. The icons accompanying each strategy help to illustrate the initial cost benefit analysis that we conducted. More analysis will be necessary during the implementation stage and over time.


















4 Co-Benefits










Legend

	GHG Reductions	Social Benefits	Investment Cost	Economic Benefit
Moderate			\$	\$
Significant	 	 	\$ \$	\$ \$
High	  	  	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$
















 Buildings & Energy		GHG Impact	Social Benefit	Investment Cost	Economic Benefit
GOAL 1. Encourage efficient, renewable energy buildings					
BE 1	Ensure new construction is as efficient as possible and fully reliant on renewable fuels	 	  	\$	\$ \$ \$
BE 2	Upgrade existing buildings for high efficiency and renewable energy sources; increase energy efficiency at publicly-funded facilities	  	  	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$
GOAL 2. Promote local production and sourcing of renewable energy					
BE 3	Invest in city-scale and distributed energy generation and storage	  	  	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$
BE 4	Harness energy from waste resources	 	  	\$ \$	\$ \$
BE 5	Neutralize carbon emissions from fossil gas and other fossil fuels used in buildings	 	 	\$ \$	\$ \$
GOAL 3. Engage community in energy efficiency and renewable energy					
BE 6	Partner with regional building, energy, & efficiency organizations for public education & outreach		 	\$	\$ \$

SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES

 Transportation & Land Use		GHG Impact	Social Benefit	Investment Cost	Economic Benefit
GOAL 1. Support mixed use and walkable communities					
TL 1	Advance land use planning to minimize vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and increase community resiliency			\$	\$ \$ \$
TL 2	Encourage land use that promotes varied housing options			\$	\$ \$ \$
GOAL 2. Reduce motor vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and promote active transportation modes					
TL 3	Increase transit ridership			\$ \$	\$ \$
TL 4	Increase adoption of walking, cycling, and micromobility			\$	\$ \$
TL 5	Improve transportation safety			\$	\$ \$
TL 6	Support existing & new programs to reduce VMT			\$	\$ \$
GOAL 3. Advance alternative and low carbon fuel in regional transportation					
TL 7	Increase adoption rate of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) including electric bicycles			\$ \$	\$ \$ \$
GOAL 4. Integrate Sustainability Action Plan goals, strategies, and actions into City planning					
TL 8	Update comprehensive plan to incorporate climate action and updated sustainability goals			\$	\$ \$




















 Waste Diversion & Material Conservation		GHG Impact	Social Benefit	Investment Cost	Economic Benefit
GOAL 1. Invest in waste diversion programs to substantially reduce volume of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)					
WD 1	Maximize composting of inedible food, yard waste, and other organic waste			\$	\$ \$
WD 2	Minimize food waste generated by residents and businesses			\$	\$ \$
GOAL 2. Boost regional economic opportunity by promoting circular waste programs					
WD 3	Promote, support, and incentivize a circular economy			\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$
WD 4	Support state-wide and regional waste management solutions			\$ \$	\$ \$ \$



































SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES

 Water Resources		GHG Impact	Social Benefit	Investment Cost	Economic Benefit
GOAL 1. Protect the Spokane River and natural aquatic systems through watershed-level planning and policy					
WR 1	Protect water quality, fish, wildlife, ecosystem function, and no-impact recreational opportunities in the Spokane River through responsible, long-term watershed planning and management			\$ \$	\$ \$ \$
WR 2	Protect and build climate resilience in streams, shorelines, aquifer, wetlands, and floodplains through responsible watershed planning			\$ \$	\$ \$ \$
GOAL 2. Ensure clean and sustainable water supply					
WR 3	Work with regional partners to align Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer management in the face of projected population growth and future climate			\$	\$ \$ \$
WR 4	Create clear process and policies for assessing and approving land use and development that will impact future aquifer pumping volumes			\$	\$ \$ \$
WR 5	Improve stormwater and wastewater management			\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$
GOAL 3. Educate & engage community in water resources stewardship					
WR 6	Support development of opportunities to engage citizens in City water management			\$ \$	\$ \$
WR 7	Promote and fund City programs that align with the Water Conservation Master Plan			\$	\$ \$ \$
GOAL 4. Establish mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input					
WR 8	Partner with regional groups to provide City input for Spokane River Watershed & SVRP Aquifer management plans and projects			\$	\$ \$
WR 9	Identify opportunities to acquire critical areas, natural areas, and connecting riparian corridors for protection and conservation			\$ \$	\$ \$ \$













SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES

 Economic Prosperity		GHG Impact	Social Benefit	Investment Cost	Economic Benefit
GOAL 1. Invest and promote a just, regenerative, and resilient local economy					
EP 1	Engage with regional and neighborhood business associations to create coordinated economic resiliency		  	\$ \$	\$ \$ \$
EP 2	Expand access to sustainable business practices & resources	 	  	\$ \$	\$ \$ \$
GOAL 2. Ensure local workforce has access to affordable healthcare, transportation, housing, and education					
EP 3	Adopt and implement regional policies and initiatives that support workers		  	\$ \$	\$ \$ \$
EP 4	Support just and sustainable State and Federal economic development policies	 	  	\$	\$ \$ \$

 Natural Environment		GHG Impact	Social Benefit	Investment Cost	Economic Benefit
GOAL 1. Protect and build climate resilience in natural ecosystems within and surrounding City of Spokane					
NE 1	Strengthen and support regional conservation		  	\$	\$ \$
NE 2	Prevent negative impacts to natural resources and build climate resilience		  	\$	\$ \$
GOAL 2. Increase urban tree canopy and climate-adapted plant landscapes within the built environment					
NE 3	Increase carbon sequestration by growing urban tree canopy	 	  	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$
NE 4	Establish diverse, 'future climate'-adapted landscaping within the built environment		  	\$	\$ \$
GOAL 3. Educate and engage citizen community in Natural Resources stewardship					
NE 5	Support development of volunteer opportunities to engage citizens in City projects		 	\$	\$ \$
NE 6	Promote City programs that align with sustainability goals		 	\$ \$	\$ \$ \$
NE 7	Establish a City funding source for education and outreach programs that promote natural resources stewardship		  	\$ \$	\$ \$ \$
GOAL 4. Establish partnerships with community organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input					
NE 8	Work with regional partners to align natural resource management		 	\$	\$ \$ \$
NE 9	Establish funding for management of City lands		 	\$ \$	\$ \$ \$

SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES

 Health & Wellbeing		GHG Impact	Social Benefit	Investment Cost	Economic Benefit
GOAL 1. Prioritize & invest in underserved communities					
HW 1	Increase household food security regionwide				
HW 2	Increase access to affordable housing and healthcare				
GOAL 2. Implement climate adaption strategies into emergency and disaster response					
HW 3	Include climate impacts in disaster and emergency management response				
GOAL 3. Create community engagement around sustainability & climate action					
HW 4	Increase community awareness of climate change risks and impacts	