

Spokane Sustainability Action Plan



Executive Summary
2021



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

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

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

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

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

VISION & GOALS



Vision for 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 assume and expect 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

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. More analysis will be necessary during the implementation stage and over time to determine specific costs and benefits.

 Buildings & Energy	
GOAL 1. Encourage efficient, renewable energy buildings that meet WA Clean Buildings Act Energy Use Intensity (EUI) targets	
BE 1	Strategy 1. Ensure new construction is as efficient as possible and ready to utilize renewable energy
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 community-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 & transportation
GOAL 3. Engage community in energy efficiency and renewable energy	
BE 6	Partner with regional building, energy, & efficiency organizations for public education & outreach

 Transportation & Land Use	
Goal 1: Encourage land use policies that support walkable, livable, sustainable communities for all	
TL 1	Advance land use planning to minimize vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
TL 2	Encourage sustainable land use that promotes varied housing options and infill development
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
TL 9	Ensure the City's process for approving development and service extensions addresses and prevents impacts to prime agricultural lands, critical wildlife habitats, and other natural areas in and around the city

SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES



Waste Diversion & Material Conservation

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



Water Resources

GOAL 1. Protect the Spokane River and natural aquatic ecosystems (wetlands, shorelines, aquatic ecosystems biodiversity, streams, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas)

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 | Build climate resilience in natural water systems through responsible watershed planning

WR 3 | Actively manage pollution within Spokane River and SRVP Aquifer

WR 4 | Support the protection, restoration, and reintroduction of native fish species and their habitats in the Spokane River Watershed

WR 5 | Improve stormwater and wastewater management

GOAL 2. Ensure sustainable water supply

WR 6 | Work with regional partners to reduce pumping from the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer in the face of projected population growth and future climate

WR 7 | Create clear process and policies for assessing and approving land use and development that will impact future aquifer pumping volumes

GOAL 3. Educate & engage community in water resources stewardship

WR 8 | Promote opportunities to engage the community

WR 9 | Promote and fund City programs that align with the Water Conservation Master Plan

GOAL 4. Establish partnerships with regional organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input

WR 10 | Partner with regional groups to provide City input for Spokane River Watershed/SVVP Aquifer management plans and projects

WR 11 | Identify opportunities to acquire and restore critical areas, natural areas, and connect riparian corridors for protection and conservation



SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES



Economic Prosperity

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 and individuals

EP 4 Support just and sustainable State and Federal economic development policies



SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES



Natural Environment

GOAL 1. Establish partnerships with community organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input	
NE 1	Work with regional partners to align natural resource management
NE 2	Establish funding for management of City lands
GOAL 2. Build awareness and engage the community in Natural Resources stewardship	
NE 3	Support volunteer opportunities to engage citizens in environmental sustainability projects
NE 4	Promote City programs and projects that align with sustainability goals
NE 5	Establish funding for education and outreach programs that promote natural resources stewardship
GOAL 3. Increase urban tree canopy and climate-adapted plant landscapes within the built environment	
NE 6	Expand urban tree canopy to capture more carbon and moderate neighborhood microclimate
NE 7	Establish diverse, future-climate-adapted landscaping within the built environment
GOAL 4. Protect and build climate resilience in natural spaces within Spokane	
NE 8	Strengthen & support regional land conservation
NE 9	Prevent negative impacts to natural resources and build climate resilience



Health & Wellbeing

GOAL 1. Prioritize & invest in all communities to ensure equitable outcomes	
HW 1	Increase household food security regionwide
HW 2	Increase access to affordable housing and healthy outcomes
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