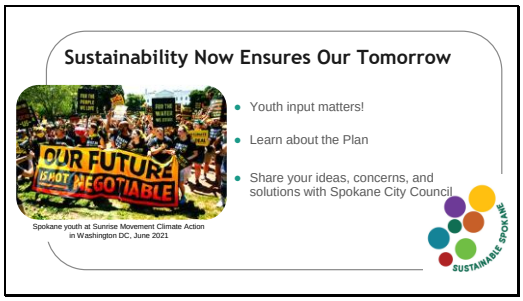
Slide 1

Slide 2



Prompt for discussion:
What does sustainability mean to you? What kind of planning might City of Spokane need to manage to meet current needs while considering the future?

Background information for instructor/facilitator:
Many Spokane citizen volunteers worked together to help build the Spokane Sustainability Action Plan alongside experts, politicians, and community groups. We need our community to tell us what they like, what they don't like, and all the reasons why so it can be improved.

Most people can agree about some basic needs for well-being: housing, food, clean water and air, healthcare, education, access to jobs, and a sense of community (belonging). This Plan should help guide city decision-making to help reach these goals for overall well-being in our community.

Major Plan Objectives:
95% Reduction by 2050

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

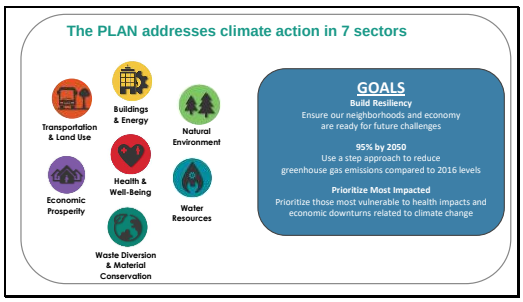
Build Resiliency

-Ensure our neighborhoods and economy are ready for future challenges

Prioritize Those Most Impacted

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

Slide 3



Slide 4

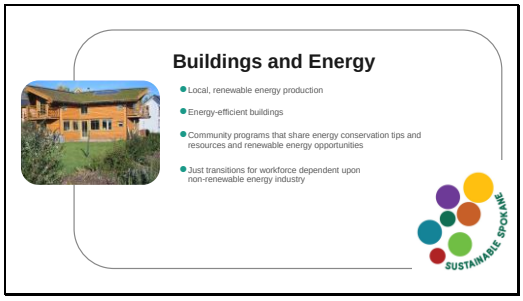
What transportation concerns do you have as young adults in Spokane? Where should the city put its effort and resources to best build a transportation system that works for everyone in the future?

Part of this Plan makes recommendations for making it easier to safely walk and bike to stores, work, school, natural spaces, and other places we need to get to in our daily lives. The city is also supporting a 6-mile line of clean energy buses that connects Spokane City College to Brown's Addition near Peaceful

Valley. The hope is that some people might choose to ride these buses over using. How will bikers and walkers feel most protected from car traffic in neighborhoods and in busier sections of the city like downtown?

We are a rapidly growing city. How might Spokane promote strategies to help provide enough affordable housing opportunities for all? The city is exploring in-fill strategies—building more housing within established neighborhoods. One reason to do this is to keep services like providing water to residents affordable (less energy is required to pump water to houses closer to established water lines and wells). Another benefit of in-fill is to keep housing within our urban growth boundary—encouraging careful planning around smart growth in Spokane as our population grows.

Slide 5



Where do we use the most electricity (answer: buildings—heating/cooling, lighting, appliances)? If you consider these areas as best opportunities for savings, what types of solutions can you imagine?

Background information for instructor/facilitator:
The cleanest energy is the energy we don't use. When we turn on lights or use wall outlets to charge a device like a cell phone or run a TV, where does our energy come from in Spokane? Just over half of our energy comes from hydroelectricity (dams—where the power of flowing water moves

turbines that generate electricity). A small amount of our energy comes from wind farms. We also burn natural gas and coal to generate a substantial amount of our energy (over 40%). State of Washington legislation outlaws burning coal by 2025. The less energy we use, the less we rely on polluting sources of energy. We can explore options like more solar and wind generated energy as well. Technology innovations (new inventions) are changing the way the future of energy looks all the time!

Just transitions: in order to transition to more renewable energy sources over time, it will be incredibly important to consider the workforce that has grown around the non-renewable energy industry. Training programs that provide equitable opportunities for people to adapt to new types of jobs will be needed to ensure a prosperous future for those people who have relied on jobs that might slowly disappear in the future. In addition, this workforce should be included in the transition planning.

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Do you know where Spokane solid waste goes? (Waste to Energy Facility) What happens to recyclable materials when the city picks them up curbside? There must be "buyers" on the other side of our curbside recycling waste—for example, most of our plastic recycling currently goes to U.S. companies [2019] that use the plastics to create other products. Many people don't realize that there must be a market for these materials in order for recycling to be efficient. When there aren't buyers for our recycling waste, it is either temporarily stockpiled in the event that market demand changes, or it eventually goes to the Waste to Energy Facility or is landfilled.

Prompt for discussion: Why are the 3 R's in this order: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle?

Background information for instructor/facilitator:
Reducing is most important—if we use only what we need in the first place, we produce less waste (example: only taking the amount of food that we can eat). By reducing we are also decreasing materials consumption ("materials": natural resources like petroleum-based plastics, mined metals, water used in production processes)
Reusing—if we can find ways to reuse things in creative ways after we have reduced, we produce less waste overall. Where can you reuse?
Recycling—after reducing and reusing, trying to find places to take some of the waste that is left to be incorporated into new products (in

Spokane we can recycle plastic jugs and tubs—no lids; metal cans; and paper products like cardboard boxes, cereal and cracker boxes, magazines, newspaper, and office paper—no shredded paper).

Can you share examples of how you apply the 3 R's in your daily life?

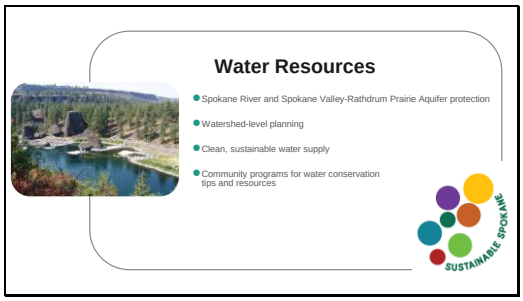
Composting: less wet, organic waste at the Waste to Energy Facility (where Spokane solid waste goes). How can the city promote more composting options in residential and commercial areas?
Food waste: comprises a large amount of wet waste generated by our community. How can we grow a local food system that minimizes food waste in the first place (excess food or close-to-expiring food to those in need)? How can we compost what is left and return carbon back to the soil through compost amendment?

In addition, a stronger local food system will mean more opportunities for local growers to produce food for our region. This also equates to less transportation necessary to bring food products into Spokane from faraway places.

Circular economy examples:
Regional:
-wheat straw pulp: using wheat farmers' waste straw to produce paper products (trees are saved, and a product is made from a potential waste product)
-cross-laminated timber: small diameter wood cleared during forest thinning practices (to decrease

wildfire risk) is pressed into a strong construction material that can replace virgin wood boards
Other:
-using tires and rubber waste in construction or as an asphalt additive
-reusing discarded devices (cell phones, tablets) or their components; goal to eliminate toxic e-waste

Slide 7



How does water play a role in your life?

Background information for instructor/facilitator:
Humans, other animals (including fish/birds), plants & trees all need clean water to survive.
The Spokane River has been the heart of our area for a long long time. There is a Salish word -- ṅtx̌ʷitkʷ. ṅ tx̌ʷitkʷ is the ṅsəl̓xčiṅ word for "river". The root of ṅtx̌ʷitkʷ is tax̌ʷ, straight. The ending –itkʷ refers to water. It would be great if we could all learn to say this word and use it to describe our water in this area.

It is so important that we are doing our best to not waste water, particularly during the summer months, so that the Spokane River continues to flow -- a flowing river helps keep communities healthy. Our downstream neighbors, including the Spokane Tribe on the Spokane Reservation, depend on upstream communities like ours to send enough flowing, clean water that supports

people, healthy fish populations, and wildlife their way.

Every community is downstream from someone else--some other community. Spokane must do our best to send water to the next community downstream as clean or cleaner than we received it. This is difficult with a growing population. Using less water during the summer months in our yards and parks will help make it so the Spokane River keeps flowing to create healthy fish habitat and provide a place that our community can recreate (tube and kayak/raft).

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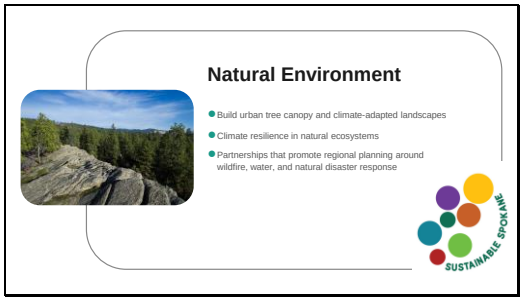

What do you love most about the natural areas within and around Spokane?

Background information for instructor/facilitator:
Trees in city neighborhoods help:
Clean the air
Clean the water that runs from our yards and streets toward the river (stormwater)
Keep summer temperatures lower by providing shade
Make people feel healthier and happier

Pollinator friendly plants (especially the plants that grow naturally in our climate and in our soil--don't need extra water or chemicals)
Why do we want to protect pollinators? They pollinate most of our food plants (apples, peaches, strawberries, cherries); they pollinate

most of our flowering plants in the landscape; they are also a very important part of the natural food chain (provide food for birds and smaller mammals)

The Spokane River used to be home to salmon that traveled up the rivers from the ocean as part of their cycle of life. We no longer have salmon because of dams (*Tribes, researchers, and biologists are exploring plans for salmon reintroduction in our region), but redband trout currently call the Spokane River home. These fish need our help; they need a flowing, cool Spokane River to survive. We need to ensure there is plenty of water in the aquifer (groundwater) during the dry, warm summer months to feed cold water into the Spokane River. We can help by conserving (or wasting less) water in our homes, yards, and parks (less watering of grass and landscapes, shorter showers, water-efficient appliances if possible).

In addition, a flowing river provides amazing recreational opportunities for our community and is an important part of our local economy.

So many interesting animals call our region home. They need healthy forests and grasslands, healthy riparian areas (mix of plants that grow along streams and rivers), and healthy sources of water in order to survive and thrive here.

There are many ways for youth to help the natural environment in our community (help plant flowers,

shrubs, and trees; help pick up litter along the Spokane River; learn about a local plant or animal; and help educate others!).

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Health benefits: being outside, hiking/walking
Healthy neighborhoods: creating safe places where people can share strong relationships with others in their community
Local foods: relying more on local products so that our food doesn't have to travel long distances to get here and retains more of its nutrients since it can be picked when ripe (how can we make it so everyone has access to healthy foods?)
Housing: having enough housing for all people (different types of housing are needed and we must have enough safe shelters for people in need or transition)
Healthcare access: providing quality healthcare so that when people are sick or injured, they can safely and quickly get the help they need and are able to afford)
Diversity is celebrated (places and ways for people to celebrate religious, cultural, social traditions; opportunities for them to feel safe sharing those traditions with the greater community)

Slide 10

What does prosperity for all in Spokane look like to you?

Prosperity might be thought of as everyone in a community experiencing well-being together. All people are able to meet their needs; feel valued by their community; and access good education, healthy food, healthcare, and jobs.

Can we agree that we want everyone in our community to prosper or experience “prosperity”?

Just transitions through job training programs and community planning will also be critical as the economy evolves over time to include new employment opportunities in “green” sectors and phases out of some industries (for example, non-renewable energy).

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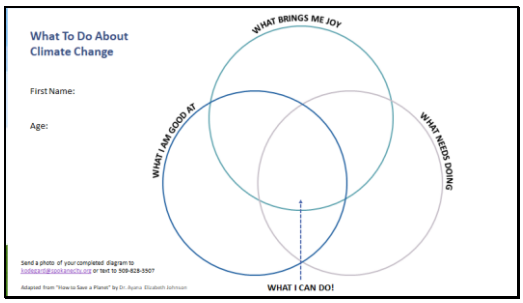

We've looked at a lot of aspects of the how Spokane might go about becoming a more sustainable city - so what does this mean for you and how you might participate. Here's an activity to help you discover just that.

Blank diagrams are available to download on the SAS website: https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/committees/public-infrastructure-environment-and-sustainability/sustainability-action-subcommittee/youth/