

Memo

Date: January 8, 2026

To: Maren Murphy, AICP, Principal Planner, City of Spokane

cc: Tirrell Black, Assistant Planning Director, Department of Planning Services;
Logan Callen, Senior Environmental Analyst, Integrated Capital Management;
KayCee Downey, Planner II, Department of Planning Services

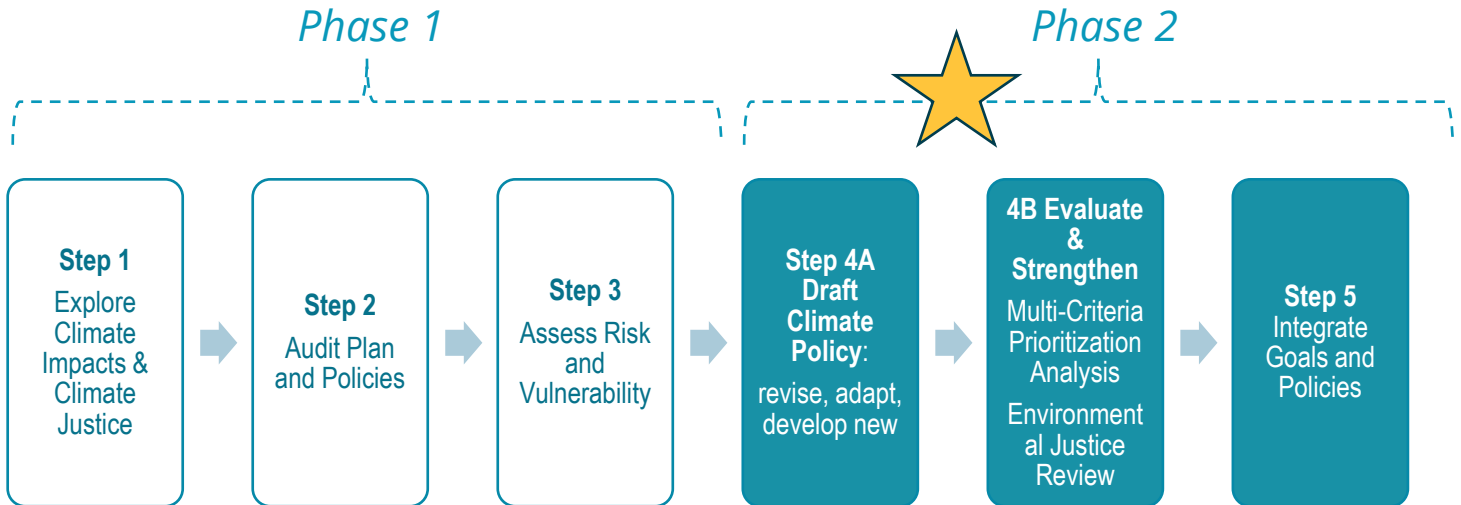
From: Lisa Grueter, AICP, Principal, Stefanie Hindmarch, Senior Associate; Maddie Siebert, Senior Associate, Cascadia Consulting Group

RE: Climate Policy Development and Integration of Fall 2025 Engagement

Introduction

The City of Spokane is integrating climate resilience and mitigation into its Comprehensive Plan per state requirements and rules (HB [1181](#), Climate element [rules](#), and Climate [guidance](#)). The key phases and steps that are part of the City's grant agreements with the Washington State Department of Commerce are illustrated below:

This memo is provided for the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board's (CRSB) January 8, 2026 meeting. The CRSB is sharing ideas and vetting climate policies per step 4A of the Commerce climate grant steps shown in [Exhibit 1](#). After the January 8th CRSB meeting, the project team will prepare a final draft policy package for discussion at the joint CRSB/Plan Commission meeting on January 28th. The project team will use CRSB input on Multi-Criteria Prioritization Analysis criteria and weighting to evaluate and suggest ways to strengthen policies as part of Step 4B.

Exhibit 1: Commerce Grant Climate Planning Phases (HB 1181)

As shown in **Exhibit 2** below, the CRSB policy development process integrates input from a large number of engagement efforts including:

- ▶ **Community Workshops:** the City hosted four workshops across the city including District 1 (11/12), District 2 (11/5), District 3 (11/18), Citywide (11/19). A summary is available here: [Future Growth and Guiding Policies Engagement Summary - PlanSpokane](#).
- ▶ **Focus Groups:** The City invited community-based organizations and individuals to participate in four focus groups, including Youth (11/13), Climate Justice (11/19), Food Security (12/2), and Under-Resourced Communities (12/3). Summaries are under preparation and high-level results are reflected in this memo.
- ▶ **Tribal Engagement Workgroup (TEW):** At their December meeting (12/15) the TEW reviewed Agriculture & Food Systems policy ideas as well as results of prior discussions on Cultural & Historic Resources, Emergency Management, and Health & Well-being. Over time, each CRSB memo has included references to results of TEW meetings. A Phase 2 summary will be prepared later in 2026 as the October 2025-January 2026 meeting series concludes.
- ▶ **Transportation Commission:** This commission is working on Transportation Element policies in tandem with the Plan Commission. The CRSB's input to date is being shared with the Transportation Commission / Plan Commission. For context, this memo contains draft vehicle miles travelled (VMT) policies applicable to Land Use/Zoning and Transportation sectors overlapping the CRSB's efforts in developing climate mitigation and resilience policies.
- ▶ **Climate Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC),** an interdepartmental staff group that brings expertise in community health, emergency management, housing and land use, municipal policy, parks and recreation, transportation, utilities, and more (11/20). The CTAC agendas and meeting summaries will be coalesced later in 2026 after the CTAC review concludes in early 2026.

Exhibit 2: CRSB Meeting Topics and Engagement Inputs



The remainder of this memo is structured to share cross-cutting comments as well as input on the sector-specific topics:

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Common Engagement Themes</i>	4
<i>Agriculture & Food Systems</i>	5
<i>Buildings & Energy</i>	8
<i>Cultural & Historic Resources</i>	11
<i>Economic Development</i>	14
<i>Ecosystems</i>	16
<i>Emergency Management</i>	20
<i>Health & Well-being</i>	24
<i>Land Use / Zoning & Development</i>	27
<i>Transportation</i>	32
<i>Waste Management</i>	38
<i>Water Resources</i>	41
<i>Next Steps</i>	44

Common Engagement Themes

As the policy review and evaluation progresses the following cross-cutting comments can be reflected.

Community Workshops

- ▶ Address financial barriers.
- ▶ Education programs to support local resiliency.

CTAC

- ▶ During evaluation or holistic review, consider if topics that already have a policy/program are reflected in a Comprehensive Plan policy.

Agriculture & Food Systems

Policy Audit Findings

While current policies related to food systems are limited in the adopted Spokane Comprehensive Plan, they are generally high quality in relation to climate resiliency and emissions reduction. The policy audit recommended adding a policy specifically about the resilience of the food system, as well as more specificity generally and clarification of the City's role in urban agriculture.

Draft Plan Chapters

Draft [Community Health](#) Chapter and [Natural Environment](#) policies. Many of the draft policies are proposed for update as shown in [Draft Agriculture & Food Systems Goals and Policies](#) below.

Policy: NE-8.3, Urban Agriculture

Allow urban agriculture within more typical urban uses where appropriate, ensuring impacts to more intense urban uses are minimized, to allow for evolving best practices in local food production and security.

Policy: CH-9.5 Prevention of Food Waste

Support the reduction of edible food waste by encouraging the donation of foods through food waste pickup programs and community education.









Relationship to Health & Well-being

Access to food is critical for health and well-being. Urban agriculture in community and private gardens can have health benefits from exercise, socializing, and connection with nature. Food and culture are also deeply tied, and cultural wellbeing is an important part of individual and community wellbeing.

Engagement Notes

The August 2025 community survey results showed agriculture and food systems were ranked as most at risk from extreme weather and climate impacts in Spokane. In mid-November, the City held a Food Security focus group about gaps in the food system, and in early December held a workshop with under-resourced communities.

Draft Agriculture & Food Systems Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal AF-1	<p>Goal: CH-9, Food Access and Security</p> <p>Support and expand local food security and a resilient food-related economy to ensure that all residents have affordable and convenient access to nutritious, safe, and locally produced foods.  </p>	<p>Amended Draft Goal CH-9.</p> <p>Similar intent to Climate Policy Explorer, N.01</p>	<p>Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB.</p> <p>Reflects Food Systems focus group input.</p>
Policy AF-1 (Resilience and GHG)	Support the use of alternative and emerging agricultural tools and practices that support regional resiliency to climate change while reducing fuel use and GHG emissions, such as hydroponics and regenerative farming.	Supportive of ideas in Climate Policy Explorer, Z.05 and B.02.	Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB.
Policy AF-2 (Resilience)	<p>Incentivize rooftop and ground-level gardens, community composting, and food forest projects within new and existing development to strengthen local food security and access to nature, prioritizing access for renters, residents without private yards, and overburdened communities.  </p>	CRSB Idea	<p>Added language from CRSB feedback on 12/11/25 – ground-level gardens and existing development.</p> <p>Key topic from food systems focus group and community workshop feedback on open space.</p> <p>See also Waste Policies regarding composting.</p>
Policy AF-3 (Resilience and GHG)	Support farmers' or public markets, fruit and vegetable stands, food production services, small-scale farms, and other avenues for local food production and access such as with simpler permitting processes or financial incentives, as a means of local food security and diversity in business opportunities.    	<p>Based on Draft PlanSpokane 2046 Chapter, CH 9.2 with Amendments</p> <p>Could be moved to Economic Development.</p>	<p>Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB.</p> <p>Reflects CTAC and TEW feedback and food systems focus group input. Both TEW and food focus groups discuss improving permitting.</p>

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy AF-4 (Resilience)	<p>Establish and maintain publicly accessible community gardens on city property, as appropriate <u>and fruit-bearing street trees</u>, in partnership with local organizations to support traditional Indigenous food gardens and culturally specific growing practices as well as to increase access to local and culturally diverse food for all residents.</p> <p>❖↑○</p>	<p>Modification of Draft PlanSpokane 2046 Chapter, CH 9.3</p> <p>TEW Review</p>	<p>Edits in response to CRSB feedback (not just City-owned property) and CTAC feedback (fruit-bearing street trees).</p> <p>This policy was reviewed as part of Cultural Resources policies with the TEW and it also serves as a Food System policy.</p> <p>Based on feedback from the TEW and community engagement with food systems focus group and climate justice focus group.</p> <p>See also Ecosystems policies regarding shading and cooling.</p>
Policy AF-5 (Resilience)	<p>Incentivize and enable uses, including by amending zoning and code requirements, that provide healthy, affordable, and locally produced food in parts of the city with <u>limited</u> food access. ❖✖↑</p>	<p>Draft PlanSpokane 2046 Chapter, CH-9.4, with modifications</p>	<p>Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB.</p> <p>Reflects CTAC feedback and food systems focus group input.</p>
Policy AF-6 (Resilience)	<p>Recognize urban agriculture as a strategic asset for community and economic development, food security, <u>local</u> resiliency, and public health. ❖</p>	<p>Draft PlanSpokane 2046 Chapter, Goal CH 9.1 with minor adaptation</p>	<p>Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB.</p>

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy AF-7 (Resilience)	Support culturally relevant programs and partnerships that offer community members educational resources for healthy cooking, community gardening, mental and physical health, and other skills related to community health and resiliency.↑	Proposed Could be located in Community Health Chapter	Edits in response to CRSB feedback and simplifying language. Addresses community education. Key topic from food systems focus group.
Policy AF-8 (Resilience and GHG)	Partner with food banks, farmers' markets, and other community assets organizations to provide resources, services, and city information to improve food access.↑	Proposed Could be located under Local Governance Chapter	Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB. Edits to clarify policy. Addresses resident involvement. Key topic from food systems focus group.

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ◆ Draft Chapter * CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

Buildings & Energy

Policy Audit Findings

The Policy Audit found that the Spokane Comprehensive Plan addresses energy conservation for utilities and housing, cost/benefits for capital facilities, and undergrounding utilities. There are limited Comprehensive Plan goals and policies around buildings and energy, but there are goals, policies, or strategies in other plans that could bolster the Comprehensive Plan policies.

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in [draft chapters](#) include:

Policy: DP-2.13, Incentives Towards Reuse, Renovation, and Preservation

Provide a range of financial and regulatory incentives to encourage the reuse, renovation, and preservation of historic structures while disincentivizing demolition.

Policy: DP-2.14, Reuse of Historic Materials and Features

Require the deconstruction and reuse of historic materials and features when historic buildings are demolished, preserving those materials and features for reuse in other historic renovations and reuse projects in the City and region.

Policy: DP-2.15, Community Resiliency

Conserve, reuse, and retrofit older buildings to reduce carbon emissions, conserve resources, reduce waste, and improve local resiliency of the built environment throughout the community.

Goal: NE-17, Energy Conservation

Promote the conservation of energy in the location and design of residential, service, and workplaces.

Policy: NE-17.1, Innovative Development Techniques

Encourage innovative residential development techniques that produce low energy consumption per housing unit, including development of middle housing types, solar-enhancing site orientation, earth sheltering, and the use of renewable energy sources.

Relationship to Health & Well-being

Providing new and retrofitting existing buildings to be energy efficient and “green” can improve comfort, indoor air quality, and reduce costs for vulnerable and overburdened communities.

Draft Buildings & Energy Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal BE-1 (Resilience and GHG)	Transform <u>Develop new, and retrofit existing</u> buildings and energy systems to substantially reduce their contributions to climate pollution <u>greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resiliency.</u> ♦	Climate Policy Explorer, Goal E	Edits from CTAC.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy BE-1 (Resilience and GHG)	Implement and support building and energy codes and policies that reduce energy use and , <u>and air quality impacts</u> among existing and new buildings in a manner that equitably considers energy transition cost and benefits for overburdened communities. ♦✕	Climate Policy Explorer, E.01 & E.03	Added “and air quality impacts” in response to workshop feedback on wood burning. Focus group key topic (holding polluters accountable and considering overburdened communities).
Policy BE-2 (Resilience and GHG)	Partner with energy providers and other partners to offer incentives or rebates for landlords <u>property owners</u> 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) . ↑★	CRSB Idea	Edits reflect CTAC feedback.
Policy BE-3 (Resilience)	Implement <u>Preserve and expand</u> renewable energy sources and reduce energy use, <u>air quality impacts</u> , refrigerant emissions, and potable water consumption in City buildings and operations. ↑	Climate Policy Explorer, ~E.05	Added air quality impacts in response to comment about gas-powered landscaping equipment. Added “preserve and expand” in response to CTAC feedback.
Policy BE-4 (GHG)	<u>Regularly monitor progress and update interim targets for the City's net zero greenhouse gas emissions goal as set in municipal code.</u>	CRSB and staff	New policy added in response to CRSB feedback.
Policy BE-5 (Resilience and GHG)	<u>Support the development of green roofs in the downtown business corridor to reduce energy use and improve cooling.</u>	CTAC	New policy added in response to CTAC feedback.
Policy BE-6	<u>Support small-scale renewable energy production and storage through code updates and incentives.</u>	CTAC	New policy added in response to CTAC feedback

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ✦ Draft Chapter ✕ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

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.

Bike rack/ future actions

- ▶ Adaptive reuse of buildings (DP-2.15 includes this topic) ✕ ✦
- ▶ Neighborhood-scale microgrids & battery storage ◆
- ▶ Energy grid resilience policies
- ▶ Embodied carbon reduction policies

Cultural & Historic Resources

Policy Audit Findings

Few Spokane Comprehensive Plan policies address cultural resources from a resilience or equity perspective. It is a gap area that could be addressed in the policy development phase.

Some policies in Ecosystems provide cross-sector support for protecting critical areas and enhancing cultural resources.

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in [draft chapters](#) include:

Goal: DP-2, Historic Preservation

Preserve and protect Spokane's historic districts, sites, structures, and features by recognizing Spokane's diverse cultures and communities and their contributions to the City.

Policy: DP-2.6, Reflecting Spokane's Diverse History

Encourage awareness, recognition, and preservation of the many diverse cultures and communities that are important and integral aspects of Spokane's past through listing properties and districts important to underrepresented communities and groups on the Spokane Register of Historic Places.

Policy: DP-2.7, Equitable Communities

Harness the economic and cultural benefits of preservation to intentionally respond to historic and current inequities to ensure historic preservation resources benefit the entire community and avoid exclusionary impacts.

Policy: DP-2.9, Preservation Through Tribal Coordination

Collaborate with local Tribal governments to identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources through the development of planning and permitting processes, as well as development regulations.

Policy: DP-2.13, Incentives Towards Reuse, Renovation, and Preservation

Provide a range of financial and regulatory incentives to encourage the reuse, renovation, and preservation of historic structures while disincentivizing demolition.

Relationship to Health & Well-being

Cultural and historic resources address needs to protect buildings that are historic but also have ongoing uses for living and working, important for daily needs. They also recognize the interrelationship of natural systems and need to provide traditional foods as well as provide for greenspace, important for health and well-being.

Draft Cultural & Historic Resources Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal CUL-1	Ensure that cultural resources and practices — including significant historic sites and culturally important traditional foods and natural resources — are resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and other natural hazards worsened by climate change.	Goal Q	Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB. Also reviewed by TEW.
Policy CUL-1 (Resilience)	Protect and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, sacred areas, and cultural sites within the growing urban setting through collaboration with local Tribes, historians, organizations, and residents to identify features to be protected.	Draft Plan Policy: NE-15.1, Protection of Natural Aesthetics	Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB. This policy has been included under Ecosystems but also supports Cultural Resources. It was reviewed by the TEW as well.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy CUL-2 (Resilience)	Establish and maintain a greenway of parks that supports connectivity and non-motorized travel between destinations across the city, working with Tribal partners to develop traditional ecological management strategies for wildlands. ◆↑○	~AB.02 CRVA, Exhibit 80, under consideration with ecosystems policies. This policy has been included under Ecosystems but also supports Cultural Resources.	Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB. It was also reviewed by the TEW. Also, proposed to Transportation Commission as a policy that could increase multimodal capacity and reduce VMT; add clarity on the definition of greenway to refer to a network of low-stress transportation routes. ¹
Policy CUL-3 (Resilience)	Protect, enhance, and restore ecosystems in order to support Tribal rights and conserve culturally important consumptive and non-consumptive resources including foods, medicinal plants, and materials that could be adversely impacted by climate change. ○	Climate Policy Explorer, Q.01	Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB. The TEW supported this policy with clarification of Tribal rights.
Policy CUL-4 (Resilience)	Protect significant historic and cultural sites prone to floods or other hazards worsened by climate change.	Adjusted Policy -- Q.04	Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB.

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ○ TEW Input ✦ Draft Chapter ✱ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

¹ Greenway definitions can refer to shared use paths that provide for non-motorized connections, recreation, and environmental conservation. See: [Greenway \(landscape\) - Wikipedia](#), [Greenway Planning, Criteria, and Strategies for Implementation - American Trails](#), and [Neighborhood Greenways - Transportation | seattle.gov](#).

Economic Development

Policy Audit Findings

The Policy Audit suggested amendments to existing policies to address or emphasize resilience, equity, or emissions reduction. Some of that has occurred with the Draft Plan Chapter. Specific policy suggestions included:

- ▶ Adding a policy about green jobs, while considering the City's role as a partner in workforce development rather than an initiator.
- ▶ Adding a policy related to land use planning for more services in neighborhoods to serve teleworking employees and home businesses.
- ▶ Adding language about resource conservation.

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in the [Draft Economic Prosperity Chapter](#) include:

Policy: EP-2.2, Reuse and Revitalization Opportunities

Provide targeted redevelopment incentives and other support for historic, abandoned, or underutilized sites in parts of the city where infrastructure and service capacity already exist.

Policy: EP-3.3, Co-Locating Related Businesses

Incentivize and approve related and supportive economic sectors or industries to locate near each other, creating productivity advantages from their mutual proximity and relationships.

Policy: EP-3.7, Sustainable Economic Strategies

Develop and implement programs assisting and supporting businesses that minimize physical, social, and environmental impacts, including any businesses that specialize in environmental protection and remediation.

Policy: NE-9.3, Local Business Support

Support and provide incentives for businesses that employ local residents, use local materials, and sell their products and/or services locally to preserve existing businesses and reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) and Greenhouse Gasses (GHG).

Relationship to Health & Well-being

Economic opportunities that are resilient to climate impacts provide dependable incomes for households to thrive. Businesses that minimize environmental impacts lessen communities' exposure to poor air quality and other hazards.

Draft Economic Development Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal ECON-1 (Resilience and GHG)	Ensure that the local economy is resilient to <u>prepared for</u> climate disruptions and fosters business opportunities associated with climate mitigation and adaptation. ♦	Climate Policy Explorer, R	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Edits reflect CTAC input.
Policy ECON-1 (Resilience and GHG)	Promote local industrial <u>economic</u> development through regulations and collaboration in order to support a circular economy that increases demand for reused and recycled materials, reduces demand for new raw materials and their embodied carbon emissions, and fosters community education and participation. ★	Climate Policy Explorer, R.03, also relates to a CRSB idea on circular economy	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Edits reflect CTAC input.
Policy ECON-2 (Resilience and GHG)	Work with schools, universities, and local organizations to support and recruit jobs and industries that enhance local resilience and regeneration, such as sustainable construction, alternative energy, and urban forestry, with a focus on building partnerships to train and hire from overburdened communities. Encourage, with colleges and other agencies, the development of an environmentally focused jobs pipeline that benefits frontline communities. ♦★	Climate Policy Explorer, R.04, also relates to a CRSB previous idea on green jobs pipeline	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Language adjusted based on CRSB, CTAC, and engagement feedback.
Policy ECON-3 (GHG)	Support, incentivize, and promote purchasing from businesses that primarily employ local people, use local materials, and produce and sell their products and/or services locally to preserve existing businesses and reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled and Greenhouse Gases. ♦♦★	~Climate Policy Explorer, R.04, also relates to a CRSB previous idea on green jobs pipeline	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy ECON-4 (Resilience and GHG)	Incentivize brownfield redevelopment projects that incorporate resilient and sustainable features through City investments and technical assistance, particularly in overburdened communities. ♦✖	Staff input	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy ECON-5 (Resilience and GHG)	Support the modernization and competitiveness of commercial buildings in underserved areas. *	CTAC	Addition per CTAC input.

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ✦ Draft Chapter ✕ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

In the works / givens

- ▶ Ensuring the Emergency Management Plan responds to economic recovery after a climate disaster
- ▶ Supporting local business efforts to bolster climate preparedness

Ecosystems

Policy Audit Findings

The Policy Audit Findings concluded that the topic is generally strong in the current plans but there are opportunities to address climate hazards and equity especially more explicitly, especially regarding green infrastructure.

Draft Plan Chapters

The Draft Plan [Chapters](#) includes these relevant policies – some input from CRSB or other engagement input is shown in track changes:

Policy: NE-2.2, Landscaping Requirements and Incentives

Expand the use of [residential and commercial](#) incentives like SpokaneScape and other programs that encourage use of drought-tolerant plants and the placement of native trees and vegetation, including incentives like water bill credits and discounts. (Responds to November 2025 workshop input)

Policy: NE-2.3, Native Tree and Plant Protection and Preservation

Preserve [and restore](#) existing native vegetation in parks and other public lands, incorporating the placement of new native, drought-tolerant species when constructing new facilities.

Policy: NE-6.3, Habitat Network

Identify, purchase, preserve, [restore](#), and maintain existing and potential links between wildlife habitats, seeking to form a network of wildlife habitats while partnering with regional and state agencies and programs.

Policy: NE-6.4, Fish and Wildlife Protection

Continue to identify and protect those fish and wildlife and their habitats which are identified as a priority by citizens and scientific experts.

Policy: NE-6.5, Protection of Adjacent Wildlife Habitats

Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions and agencies to designate, protect, and acquire wildlife habitats that abut or straddle the city limits or the urban growth area boundary.

Policy: NE-15.1, Protection of Natural Aesthetics

Protect and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, sacred areas, and historic sites within the growing urban setting through collaboration with local Tribes, historians, organizations, and citizens to identify features to be protected.

Policy: DP-1.18, Urban Trees and Landscaping in All Development

Maintain, improve, and increase the number of street trees and planted areas in the urban environment by requiring that new development incorporate natural elements where appropriate, while providing incentives towards increased landscaping and trees.

Relationship to Health & Well-being




Ecosystem health supports clean air and water, essential for human health.

The Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment identified an adaptive capacity measure to address a “one health” approach to habitat management:

Consider a “One Health” approach to habitat management. The concept of One Health is to optimize the health of people, animals, and the environment. Collaboration between environmental experts and human health experts is central to this approach and the City could create opportunities for that collaboration internally and with external partners.

Draft Ecosystems Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal ECOS-1	Preserve and increase tree canopy cover to ensure trees can adequately sequester carbon, equitably meet and maintain tree canopy cover goal of 30% as defined in municipal code , reduce heat islands, improve stormwater infiltration, and improve air quality, prioritizing overburdened communities. ♦ ★	~AB High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Also, a key topic from the CTAC. The specific reference to 30% is proposed to be changed to a code reference. The municipal code has the specific target.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy ECOS-1-1	Establish programs and pursue funding to support long-term tree health through tree maintenance and protection while ensuring that households with fewer resources are not burdened by canopy expansion efforts.	CTAC and Climate Justice Focus Group	Key topic from CTAC and Climate Justice Focus Group.
Policy ECOS-1-2	Raise awareness of the City's tree planting and urban canopy programs and incentivize participation on private property, especially in areas with high heat risk.	Youth Focus Group	Key topic from Youth Focus Group and CRSB.
Policy ECOS-1-3	Establish and maintain a greenway of parks that supports connectivity and non-motorized travel between destinations across the city, working with Tribal partners to develop traditional ecological management strategies for wildlands.   	~AB.02 CRVA, Exhibit 80, under consideration with cultural resources policies.	Reviewed in 12/11/25 by CRSB. It was also reviewed by the TEW. Also, proposed to Transportation Commission as a policy that could increase multimodal capacity and reduce VMT; add clarity on the definition of greenway to refer to a network of low-stress transportation routes. ²
Policy ECOS-1-4	Support educational and volunteer opportunities for environmental stewardship on City-owned property.	Climate Justice Focus Group	
Policy ECOS-1-5	Equitably expand the City's programming and park maintenance and preservation activities to increase amenities that address comfort such as shade and drinking fountains and improve safety, education, and community resources at parks.	Youth Focus Group	

² Greenway definitions can refer to shared use paths that provide for non-motorized connections, recreation, and environmental conservation. See: [Greenway \(landscape\) - Wikipedia](#), [Greenway Planning, Criteria, and Strategies for Implementation - American Trails](#), and [Neighborhood Greenways - Transportation | seattle.gov](#).

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal ECOS-2	Ensure the protection and restoration of streams, riparian zones, pollinator habitat, estuaries, wetlands, and floodplains to achieve healthy watersheds that are resilient to climate change and support equitable access to clean water . ♦ ★	L High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Added “and support..” based on feedback from CTAC.
Policy ECOS-2-1	Increase aquatic habitat resilience to low summer flows by increasing water residence time in streams to address water quality, storing water on the landscape, implementing natural landscaping to slow and filter stormwater, conserving water, protecting groundwater, keeping waters cool, and protecting water quality. ³ ♦ ✕ ★	L.06 High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

♦ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ♦ Draft Chapter ✕ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

In the works / givens

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

Bike rack/ future actions

- ▶ Maximize tree canopy [or solar canopy] coverage in surface parking lots. [~AB.04] (*See Buildings & Energy policies.*)
- ▶ Increase community understanding of complex sources of changes in low stream flow and snowpack, including measurements and reporting. (*Could be a specific action that falls under Health and Well-being.*)

³ Climate Policy Explorer explanation: Actions to restore aquatic habitat include creating deep-water habitat features, increasing off-channel habitat and protecting refugia in channels fed by wetlands, protecting wetland-fed streams, restoring wetlands and upland vegetation, promoting water efficiency and reuse, and managing stormwater.

Emergency Management

Policy Audit Findings

Most City policies addressing natural hazards are in the Natural Environment Element, Shoreline Master Program, and Spokane Parks Master Plan. The City could bolster policies on climate hazards (e.g., wildfire, flooding) and emergency management.

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in [draft chapters](#) include:

Policy: NE-7.2, Unstable Slope Protection

Map and designate areas of unstable slopes as unsuitable for development, including standards and regulations that prohibit development in these areas.

Goal: NE-17, Flood Hazards Management

Protect life and property from flooding and erosion by directing development away from flood hazard areas.

Policy: NE-17.2, 100-Year Flood Plain Reassessment

Coordinate with federal and state agencies in the reassessment of the 100-year flood plain and adopt standards and mitigation that provides for adequate protection in areas where flooding is more likely.

Policy: NE-17.4, Land Acquisition & Home Relocation Program

Consider and analyze a program for the purchasing and/or relocation of homes in the 100-year floodplain, establishing those areas long-term for natural area conservation and potential movement corridors.

Policy: NE-17.5, Discourage Development in the 100-Year Flood Plain

Discourage development and redevelopment within the 100-year floodplain.















Policy: NE-17.6, Public Awareness and Education














Develop a public awareness and education program for residents living within flood plains, highlighting the risks involved and ways they might mitigate some of their risk.

Relationship to Health & Well-being

Emergency preparedness is directed towards most vulnerable communities. Incentives would be prioritized for lower-income households/organizations.

Draft Emergency Management Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal EM-1 (Resilience)	Identify, update, and maintain emergency evacuation routes, locations, and strategies.   	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 TEW Review	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies.
Policy EM-1-1 (Resilience)	Work with community-based organizations to identify evacuation routes for wildfire, flood, and other extreme events, focusing on community-level <u>neighborhood and block-level</u> plans tailored to the meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents.   	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 Broke down concepts TEW Review	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies. Text edits based on CTAC feedback.
Policy EM-1-2 (Resilience)	Work with Tribes and Native organizations to identify evacuation routes and tailored emergency management strategies addressing wildfire, flood, and other extreme events.    	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 Broke down concepts TEW Review	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies.
Policy EM-1-3 (Resilience)	Ensure timely emergency notifications for wildfire, flooding, and other extreme events that provide outreach materials that are accessible digitally and non-digitally in multiple languages.    	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 Broke down concepts TEW Review	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies. Key topic was accessible information (not just website) in Climate Justice focus group.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy EM-1-4 (Resilience)	Provide resources and engagement opportunities and partner with community organizations to help community members plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer.    	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 Broke down concepts TEW Review	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies Additional text is based on Climate Justice focus group feedback.
Policy EM-1-5 (Resilience)	Provide for redundancy in emergency routes accessible by multiple modes including vehicular, non-motorized routes, and transit services, and reduce transportation barriers to effective evacuation under different climate hazard scenarios.    	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 Broke down concepts TEW Review	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies.
Goal EM-2 (Resilience)	Enhance emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to mitigate risks and impacts associated with extreme weather and other hazards worsened by climate change.  	Climate Policy Explorer, S	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy EM-2-1 (Resilience)	Develop a comprehensive, communitywide wildfire resilience strategy, and build awareness in most affected neighborhoods, to improve emergency response capabilities, create fire-resilient landscapes, promote fire-adapted communities, protect the economy, and foster short- and long-term recovery.	Climate Policy Explorer, M.02 High Priority	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy EM-2-2 (Resilience)	Provide residents living in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas information about fire prevention (e.g., Firewise) practices, and apply WUI practices and ventilation standards via building code and landscaping provisions to new development.   	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.03	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy EM-2-3	In emergency management planning, recognize Spokane's role as a service provider and transportation hub in the event of a major disruption at the regional level.*	CTAC	Concept from CTAC
Policy EM-2-4 (Resilience)	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 — prioritizing investments in areas with vulnerable and overburdened communities.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~S.07	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy EM-2-5 (Resilience)	Through Tribal consultation and emergency planning efforts, facilitate and identify places that serve as clean air and cooling centers, charging stations, and evacuation centers, where Tribal members and Indigenous people can interact before, during, and after emergencies.🟡	Climate Policy Explorer, ~S.07 TEW Review	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. The TEW identified this as a preferred policy focusing on Tribal and Indigenous people and not conflating with overburdened communities in Policy above.
Policy EM-2-6 (Resilience)	Provide support for infrastructure or services that allow low-income residents to remain in their residences during extreme climate events, such as extreme heat or wildfire smoke, such as through the installation of cooling devices or high-quality portable air cleaners, utility bill assistance, or community and Tribal partner collaborations and education opportunities.⬆️*★	Supports Recommendation 4.2: Improve accessibility of residential air filtration infrastructure in the Spokane Wildfire Smoke Resilience Plan: Spokane Wildfire Smoke Resilience Plan v1.0.pdf.	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. CRSB suggested revisions to focus on incentives for infrastructure that would support residents staying home. Climate Justice focus group emphasized offsetting costs of utility costs.

◆ Spokane Analysis ⬆️ Engagement Theme 🟡 TEW Input ❖ Draft Chapter * CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

In the works / givens

- ▶ Integrate Community Wildfire Protection Plan into regional hazard management plan and Comprehensive Plan
- ▶ Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan
- ▶ Spokane Wildfire Smoke Resilience Plan
- ▶ City of Spokane Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Bike rack/ future actions

- ▶ None identified.

Health & Well-being

Policy Audit Findings

Many policies were reviewed addressing community involvement, access to services including health, provision of public and human services. Amendments were suggested such as addressing priorities for persons most affected (vulnerable and overburdened communities).

Draft Plan Chapters

Draft Social Health Chapter policies are shared below, *which are modified slightly from public drafts to address community feedback.*

Policy: CH-1.2, Commitment to Youth

Allocate resources at a consistent and meaningful level for programs and events focused on Spokane's youth (18 and under) and their specific needs for social and emotional health, and cultural belonging.

Policy: CH-1.6, Community Involvement

Ensure that programs in the City of Spokane allow for and foster greater opportunities for the public to get involved and participate in services that support their neighbors' social health and build a sense of community and belonging.

Other relevant policies in other [draft chapters](#) include:

Goal: NE-4, Clean Air

Work consistently for cleaner air that nurtures the health of current residents, children and future generations.

Policy: NE-4.1, Clean Heating Sources

Encourage the use of heating sources that do not negatively affect Spokane's air quality, including through continued membership and support of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) and other similar bodies.

Policy: NE-4.2, Facility Review

Evaluate public and private facilities prior to permitting for their impacts to air quality prior to permitting, weighing the public benefits of the facility against its impact on regional air quality and the health of local residents.

Policy: NE-4.3, Vegetation that Improves Air Quality

Plant, preserve, and encourage the use of vegetation known to benefit local air quality, considering both urban trees and landscaping incorporated into facilities and development.

Policy: PR-1.2, River Corridors

Recognize, enhance, and preserve access to the Spokane River and various waterways for the recreational enjoyment and use of the public, recognizing the health and social benefits access to the waters of Spokane provides, while maintaining consistency with preservation and protection standards.

Policy: PR-2.2, Access to Open Space and Park Amenities

Provide equitable public access to linkages and connected open space and park amenities, including features such as sidewalks, trails, bicycle paths, and mass transit.

Relationship to Health & Well-being

This set of policies is meant to address reducing adverse impacts of climate hazards on health and improve access to resources and amenities for vulnerable and overburdened communities.

Draft Health & Well-being Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal HEAL-1 (Resilience)	Protect community health and well-being from the impacts of climate-exacerbated hazards and extreme weather, ensuring overburdened communities and the most vulnerable residents do not bear disproportionate health impacts.	Climate Policy Explorer, Goal T	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy HEAL-1 (Resilience)	Implement an urban heat resilience strategy that includes land use, urban design, urban greening, and waste heat reduction actions (repurposing of heat generated by industrial processes, cooling systems, other).	Climate Policy Explorer, T.08 High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy HEAL-2 (Resilience)	Develop and implement a notification process within the community to reduce the risk of exposure to wildfire smoke and particulate matter.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~T.05	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy HEAL-3 (Resilience)	Foster stronger community connectedness and social and economic vitality to help improve economic prosperity and community resilience to climate impacts, such as through equitable investments in libraries, parks, recreation programs, urban green space and ventilation corridors, multimodal connections, economic development and other, prioritizing overburdened and vulnerable communities.	See Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan, 2025-2030 Recommendations 4.5 and 4.6	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy HEAL-4 (Resilience)	Support Tribes and Native organizations in strengthening community connectedness and social and economic vitality to help communities improve their economic prosperity and resilience to climate impacts, such as by prioritizing funding for Native-led centers that host multi-generational knowledge sharing, recreation, and health and wellness services. 🟡	TEW Review	Reviewed 12/11 by CRSB. The TEW desired to have a tailored policy that focuses on Tribes and Native organizations and avoids conflating with the overburdened and vulnerable communities.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy HEAL-5 (Resilience)	Allocate resources at a consistent and meaningful level for programs and events focused on Spokane's youth (18 and under) and their specific needs for social and emotional health, and cultural belonging.	Draft Plan Policy: CH-1.2, Commitment to Youth	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy HEAL-6 (Resilience)	Promote environmental justice and support physical and mental health and well-being by providing all residents with an equitable opportunity to learn about climate impacts, influence policy decisions, and take actions to enhance community resilience.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~Goal AA	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ✦ Draft Chapter ✱ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

In the works / givens

- ▶ State labor & industries rules address outdoor workers. City could review and advocate for changes in state rules where appropriate.★
- ▶ Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan
- ▶ Spokane Wildfire Smoke Resilience Plan

Bike rack/ 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.
 - ✱ *(Broadened and included under Emergency Management)*

Land Use / Zoning & Development

Policy Audit Findings

The Policy Audit Findings concluded that the zoning and development sector is adequately addressed, but there are opportunities to explicitly incorporate climate resilience, equity, and GHG emission reduction. Furthermore, policies could be updated to address climate hazards, such as ensuring codes reflect best available science on wildfire resistant construction and

strengthening critical areas regulations by considering development restraints within the 500-year floodplain.

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in [draft chapters](#) include:

Policy: N-6.1

Protect and steward the natural environment within neighborhoods when introducing new projects to support community health, safety, and livability.

Policy N-6.2

Consider and implement connections between and among neighborhoods and designated open spaces/nature corridors when planning, designating, and maintaining such areas.

Policy N-6.3

Coordinate and partner with neighborhoods in the maintenance and operation of City property, with the intent of ensuring proper maintenance and operation of facilities for neighborhood use like greenways, paths, street features, and parks.

Policies in the [Land Use Element](#) that assist with vehicle miles travelled (VMT) reduction , particularly fostering high-intensity land uses in mixed use areas along transit, include these shared with the Transportation Commission, some with amendments:

Policy LU 1.4 Higher Intensity Residential Areas

Direct new higher intensity residential uses to areas in and around mixed-use areas designated on the Land Use Plan Map and to areas where existing development intensity is already consistent with development of this type. (Modified in memo to Transportation Commission to de-emphasize older centers/corridors reference, with retained intent for mixed-use development)

Policy LU 3.2 Centers and Corridors

Designate mixed-use areas (neighborhood scale, community or district scale, and regional scale) on the Land Use Plan Map that encourage a mix of uses and activities around which growth is focused. (Modified in memo to Transportation Commission to de-emphasize older centers/corridors reference, with retained intent for mixed-use development)

Policy LU 3.5 Mix of Uses in Centers

Achieve a proportion of uses in designated mixed-use that will stimulate pedestrian activity and create mutually reinforcing land uses. (Modified in memo to Transportation Commission to de-emphasize older centers reference, with retained intent for mixed-use development)

Policy LU 4.2 Land Uses That Support Travel Options and Active Transportation

Provide a compatible mix of housing and commercial uses in neighborhood-level, district-level, and regional-scale mixed-use areas. (Modified in memo to Transportation Commission with retained intent for compatible mixed-use development)

Policies that prioritize infill development, missing middle housing, or increase density near transit in support of VMT reduction include:

Policy H 1.3 Employer-Sponsored Housing

Provide incentives for employers to sponsor or develop affordable housing in proximity to their place of employment. (Shared in memo to Transportation Commission; existing policy that may be amended)

Policies that Implement Complimentary, Mixed Use Land Uses, in support of VMT reduction include:

Policy LU 1.6 Neighborhood Retail Use

Direct new neighborhood retail use to Neighborhood Centers designated on the Land Use Plan Map. (Shared with Transportation Commission: Existing policy; recommended for amendment – see CH 9.4 under Agriculture and Food Systems.)

Policy LU 4.1 *Coordinate land use and transportation planning citywide to result in an efficient pattern of development that supports alternative transportation modes consistent with the Transportation Chapter and makes significant progress toward reducing sprawl, traffic congestion, and air pollution.* (Shared with Transportation Commission: Existing policy; amend. Strengthen requirements for new development to establish connections to neighborhood retail and update language to replace “alternative transportation modes” with “active transportation modes.”)

Policies that Reduce/Eliminate Parking Requirements and support VMT reduction:

Policy LU 3.8 Shared Parking

Encourage shared parking facilities for business and commercial establishments that have dissimilar peak use periods.

Policy TR 18 Parking

~~Develop and administer vehicle parking policies that appropriately manage the demand for parking based upon the urban context desired.~~ Develop and administer vehicle parking policies that reduce excess parking that deters non- motorized transportation users. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission)

Relationship to Health & Well-being

Compact, mixed-use development can reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality. Preserving and expanding green spaces and tree canopy will help cool neighborhoods and

reduce heat-related illnesses. Zoning that limits development in the wildland–urban interface (WUI) can also lower wildfire risk and protect residents from smoke exposure and property loss.

Draft Land Use / Zoning & Development Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal LUZ-1-1 (GHG)	Increase mixed use and housing diversity and supply to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support environmental justice.	Climate Policy Explorer, K, High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy LUZ-1-2 (GHG)	Plan for and accommodate diverse, affordable, and attainable housing types to meet demand while avoiding sprawl in order to decrease emissions and infrastructure costs and preserve open space. ♦	Climate Policy Explorer, ~K, High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Considered a policy that supports VMT reduction and shared with Transportation Commission.
Policy LUZ-1-3 (GHG)	Prioritize infill development, while retaining <u>expanding, protecting, and maintaining</u> the City's tree canopy, through zoning regulations and permitting processes.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Shared with Transportation Commission, and similar to TR 17 in terms of infill development, and supports VMT reduction. ⁴ For discussion with the PC/CRSB: We suggest language to de-emphasize tree canopy here. This policy is primarily about infill development (and recognizing the tension between infill development and tree retention). Tree canopy is more broadly supported in other policies.

⁴ Policy TR 17 Paving Existing Unpaved Streets: Identify and prioritize resources for paving existing dirt and gravel streets and alleyways to reduce air pollution and prioritize infill and economic development.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy LUZ-1-4 (GHG)	Foster transit-oriented development and accessible neighborhoods by increasing density with anti-displacement measures and supporting multimodal transportation in areas that are well-served by transit in order to reduce VMT and GHG emissions and promote community resiliency.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~C See also Transportation GHG policies to help fill transit gaps.	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Edits reflect CTAC input. Also reflects recommendations to the Transportation Commission to tie infill development to resilience and efficiency such that VMT is reduced and emissions follow.
Policy LUZ-1-5 (GHG)	Expand existing parking maximums to new developments citywide, including commercial developments.	Climate Policy Explorer (~ Policy -- AC.01)	Recommended in VMT memo to Transportation Commission.
Goal LUZ-2 (Resilience)	Establish land use and development patterns that increase the climate resilience of Spokane's built environment, ecosystems, and communities.	Climate Policy Explorer, V, High Priority;	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. CTAC supported this goal and policies
Policy LUZ-2-1 (Resilience)	Incorporate climate-hazard risk and environmental justice and mitigation into land use and infrastructure planning when siting, replacing, or relocating community assets, such as transportation, civic facilities, and parks.		Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Reflect HB 1181 focus on environmental justice. Would also capture noise/air mitigation from transportation infrastructure and to communities that experience GHG emissions and pollution.
Policy LUZ-2-2 (Resilience)	Apply resilience-focused development standards in high-risk zones, including the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and flood-prone areas.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; A.02	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy LUZ-2-3 (Resilience)	Embed environmental justice into land use decisions by evaluating climate and environmental burdens before major land use plan changes, capital investments, or new policy adoption.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~V.07	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy LUZ-2-4 (Resilience)	Protect, restore, and <u>acquire, and</u> maintain urban agricultural lands, urban forests, critical areas, shorelines, and open spaces as interconnected natural systems that provide flood protection, heat reduction, and carbon sequestration benefits.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; adapted to include V.10;	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Small adjustment due to CTAC feedback.

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ◆ Draft Chapter ✱ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

In the works / givens

- The Land Use Element revisions are underway as part of the Draft Chapters development with the Plan Commission.

Bike rack/ future actions

- The Land Use Element relies on developing a preferred alternative following the Draft EIS comment period in early 2026.

Transportation

Policy Audit Findings

The Policy Audit Findings concluded that the transportation sector is adequately addressed, but there are opportunities to bolster climate, equity, and environmental justice. Key changes focus on emphasizing sustainable modes such as walking, bicycling, and transit over private vehicles, and integrating policies to prioritize VMT reduction and increase the adoption rate of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) through updating City code for charging infrastructure in new development and the public right-of-way.

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in [draft chapters](#) include:

~~Policy TR-1 Transportation Network For All Users~~

~~Design the transportation system to provide a complete transportation network for all users, maximizing innovation, access, choice, and options throughout the four seasons. Users include pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and persons of all abilities, as well as freight, emergency vehicles, and motor vehicle drivers. Guidelines identified in the Complete Streets Ordinance and~~

~~other adopted plans and ordinances direct that roads and pathways will be designed, operated, and maintained to accommodate and promote safe and convenient travel for all users while acknowledging that not all streets must provide the same type of travel experience. All streets must meet mandated accessibility standards. The network for each mode is outlined in the Master Bike Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, Spokane Transit's Comprehensive Plan, and the Arterial Street map.~~

TR 2.1 Design the transportation system to provide a complete transportation network for all users in line with the Complete Streets Ordinance, ensuring equitable distribution of innovation, access, choice, and options throughout the four seasons. Users include pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and persons of all abilities, as well as freight, emergency vehicles, and motor vehicle drivers. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission to increase multimodal capacity and reduce VMT – broken out into multiple policies.)

TR 2.1 Complete any necessary upgrades to ensure that all streets meet mandated accessibility standards and level of service standards outlined in the Master Bike Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, Spokane Transit's Comprehensive Plan, and the Arterial Street map. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission to increase multimodal capacity and reduce VMT – broken out into multiple policies.)

Policy TR 3.2

Support efficient transit operations through street and transit stop designs on transit priority streets that comply with standards and include transit-supportive elements, such as shelters, lighting, and schedule information. Assist in implementing the STA Comprehensive Plan. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission as a policy supporting VMT reduction – TE policy keep)

Policy TR 4

Evaluate TDM strategies to optimize transportation options within the context of Complete Streets. Use TDM strategies to gain efficiencies in the transportation system to reduce demand for auto travel, particularly in downtown. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission, policy supports Transportation Demand Management, helpful to reduce VMT)

TR 5 Active Transportation

~~Identify high-priority active transportation projects to carry on completion/ upgrades to the active transportation network.~~

Identify high-priority active transportation projects to carry on completion/upgrades to the priority active transportation networks. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission to increase multimodal capacity and reduce VMT – TE policy; amended)

Policy TR-5.1, Interconnected multi-modal networks

Enhance first-mile and last-mile connectivity from local walking, bicycling and rolling networks to local and regional public transit service. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission – TE policy keep)

Policy TR-5.2, Continuous transportation routes

~~Ensure continuous connectivity for multiple transportation options between neighborhoods, activity centers and areas with high concentrations of businesses and services.~~

Ensure continuous connectivity for multiple transportation options between neighborhoods, activity centers, and areas with high concentrations of businesses and services to support long-term system reliability and climate resiliency. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission to increase multimodal capacity and reduce VMT)

Policy TR-6.2, Eliminate Serious and Fatal Injuries

Achieve zero fatalities by the year 2036 in accordance with the Spokane Vision Zero Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero Resolution.

Policy TR-6.3, Transportation Options for Vulnerable Road Users

Ensure the roadway network prioritizes the safety of the most vulnerable road users traveling by foot, bicycle and other adaptive or assistive devices.

Goal TR-8

Carry out programs, plans and investments that support achieving the targeted reductions in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and associated reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Policy TR-8.3, Set and Monitor Targets for Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

~~In alignment with regional and state goals and policies, establish functional performance measures for monitoring Vehicle Miles Traveled and carry out regular monitoring to ensure progress toward established goals.~~

In alignment with regional and state goals and policies, establish short- and long-term VMT per capita reduction goals via an ordinance and carry out regular monitoring to ensure progress toward established goals. (Recommendations to Transportation Commission)

~~Policy TR-8.4, Enact programs and carry out investments to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and associated Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Seek out new programs and projects with high potential to make meaningful reductions in Vehicle Miles Traveled to achieve VMT and GHG targets.~~ (Recommendations to Transportation Commission – focus on specific strategies in other recommended policies)

Goal TR-9, Achieve Context-Sensitive Design

Adopt and strengthen policies, guidance and typologies that align infrastructure investments in the public right-of-way with land use designations [in key locations](#), development code designations, and economic development initiatives.

Goal TR-10

Undertake strategic planning and seek out innovative funding initiatives to support infrastructure investments that align with Transportation element goals while supporting corresponding increases in operations and maintenance staff, equipment and resources.

Policy TR-10.3, Funding sources

Balance increases in capacity and capital infrastructure with corresponding increases in maintenance and operational funding. Fund maintenance of what is already built. Fund systemic maintenance programs.

Policy TR 17 Paving Existing Unpaved Streets




Identify and prioritize resources for paving existing dirt and gravel streets and alleyways to reduce air pollution and prioritize infill and economic development.

Relationship to Health & Well-being

Climate hazards can damage roads, bridges, and rail infrastructure, and make walking, biking, and driving unsafe. This can disrupt travel and limit people's ability to evacuate safely during emergencies. At the same time, reducing emissions from vehicle travel improves air quality, reduces noise, and supports healthier communities. Community impacts from traffic and pollution are not evenly distributed.

Draft Transportation Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal Trans-1 (GHG)	Facilitate connected, equitable transportation options, including public transit, active transportation, and zero-emission vehicles to improve community health and achieve goals related to vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas reduction.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; CRSB High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy Trans-1-1 (GHG)	Develop a citywide connected multi-modal network that follows 'Complete Streets' principles, aligns with higher-density housing and commercial centers, and ensures equitable distribution of safe, accessible, and affordable transportation options.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; CRSB High Priority; integrates I.04 & I.14, incorporates CRSB idea of 'complete streets'	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Shared with Transportation Commission as a policy that could increase multimodal capacity and reduce VMT. For discussion with PC/CRSB. Potentially remove per recommendations to Transportation Commission: Redundant with TR 2.1
Policy Trans-1-2 (GHG)	Support public transit expansion, frequency, capacity , and reliability through coordinated land use and transportation planning that prioritizes service for transit-dependent populations and lower-income and overburdened neighborhoods. 	Climate Policy Explorer, ~I.05 Supportive of TR 3.2, but with focus on low-income and overburdened	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Added more specific language in response to CTAC feedback and youth engagement.
Policy Trans-1-3 (GHG)	Develop zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and incentives, prioritizing workplaces, lower-income residents, and renters.	Climate Policy Explorer, AD.01	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy Trans-1-4 (GHG)	Maintain bicycle and pedestrian connectivity during construction of development or projects that block the right of way. 	Recommended best practice	Recommendations to Transportation Commission to increase multimodal capacity and reduce VMT.
Policy Trans-1-5 (GHG)	Improve active transportation and other multimodal types of transportation options in concurrency programs – both in assessment and mitigation. 	Climate Policy Explorer (~Policy -- I.22)	Recommendations to Transportation Commission to improve multimodal concurrency and support VMT reduction.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy Trans-1-6 (GHG)	<u>Encourage walking and biking to reduce VMT and GHG emissions by providing safe and maintained sidewalks and trails, and low traffic stress bicycle facilities.</u> 	Youth engagement	Youth engagement suggestion: since too much broken glass, broken sidewalks, lack of green paint for bike path, lack of protected bike lanes
Goal Trans-2 (Resilience)	Ensure that the local transportation system — including infrastructure, routes, and travel modes — is resilient to climate hazards and remains safe and accessible during and after extreme weather events and other hazards.	Climate Policy Explorer, W	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy Trans-2-1 (Resilience)	Install updated stormwater controls on roadways when capital improvements are implemented and where development is less likely to contribute stormwater improvements.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~W.04	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy Trans-2-2 (Resilience)	Design and site new and expanded roads, rail infrastructure, and water-crossing structures to minimize environmental impacts, protect public access, and incorporate climate-resilient features such as fish-friendly passage.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; incorporated/merged with W.03	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy Trans-2-3 (Resilience)	Improve street connectivity and walkability, including sidewalks and street crossings, to support everyday mobility and access to potential evacuation routes.	W.02	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy Trans-2-4 (Resilience)	Promote natural tree cover and built shade and cooling infrastructure along sidewalks, transit stops, and public spaces to enhance resilience to extreme heat, prioritizing urban heat islands and locations where populations susceptible to health impacts gather. ↑	Address Plan Commission/CRSB discussion about shade and the built environment.	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Youth engagement support bus-stop cooling which is captured by the cooling infrastructure in transit stops. Also, a key topic from the CTAC.

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ◆ Draft Chapter ✕ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

In the works / givens

- ▶ Transportation Element update as part of PlanSpokane 2046 effort.
- ▶ [DivisionConnects](#) plan.

Waste Management

Policy Audit Findings

There are few Waste Management policies in the Spokane Comprehensive Plan, and other plans or strategies provide some opportunities to integrate more detailed approaches such as composting and food waste.

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in [draft chapters](#) include:

Policy: DP-2.15, Community Resiliency

Conserve, reuse, and retrofit older buildings to reduce carbon emissions, conserve resources, reduce waste, and improve local resiliency of the built environment throughout the community.

Policy: NE-3.2, Zero Pollution Industrial Parks

Develop standards and incentives for zero pollution industrial parks and uses, focusing on manufacturing that utilizes recycled and reused materials sourced from adjacent uses in the immediate vicinity.

Policy: NE-10.5, Profit from Waste

Recruit industries that can make use of and profit from Spokane's solid waste in a manner that minimizes or mitigates environmental impacts while maximizing reuse of materials.

Policy: NE-10.6, Packaging Reduction

Create and advocate legislation, education, and other means that reduce product packaging, so that waste disposal is decreased.

Policy: SH-9.5 Prevention of Food Waste

Support the reduction of edible food waste by encouraging the donation of foods through food waste pickup programs and community education.

Relationship to Health & Well-being

Proper waste management supports clean air and water, and reduction of disease vectors.

Draft Waste Management Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy WM-1 (GHG)	Set and achieve Support federal, state, regional, and City actions that align with zero waste goals and continue to periodically measure waste via waste characterization studies, in partnership with the Department of Ecology in partnership with the regional solid waste management system. ♦	Climate Policy Explorer, ~X.04	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Edits are based on CTAC input since state level action and partnership with regional system is needed.
Policy WM-2 (GHG)	Provide equitable outreach and engagement around waste reduction (including reuse and repair), recycling, and composting among homes and businesses in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions, local and regional organizations, and the City's waste collection service provider to ensure that messaging is clear and consistent. ↑	Climate Policy Explorer, Goal X	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy WM-3 (GHG)	Develop a <u>Strengthen and expand</u> programs that will enable <u>and incentivize</u> reuse and recycling of all construction, deconstruction, and demolition <u>materials and waste to the maximum extent feasible</u> .	Climate Policy Explorer, X.02, D.01	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Language edits per CTAC input. When integrating into the Comprehensive Plan suggest cross-reference to adaptive reuse and historic preservation policies.
Policy WM-4 (GHG)	Support and expand home and commercial composting to <u>increase waste reduction and diversion</u> , reduce the generation and disposal of organic waste, and to increase soil health.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~X	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Response to CRSB comment on increasing soil health.
Policy WM-5 (GHG and Resilience)	<u>Support community and neighborhood clean-up events addressing streets, street trees, trails, parks, swales, and more by providing education and resources.</u>		Youth Engagement

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ❖ Draft Chapter ✱ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

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. City staff will research WA Organics Management Law provisions regarding opting out; part of the issue is that there is no infrastructure in place to receive the compost material to date.

Bike rack/ future actions

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

Water Resources

Policy Audit Findings

The Policy Audit suggested updating and consolidating capital facilities and natural environment policies and strategies, especially regarding groundwater and considering climate hazards in stormwater management. Some of that has occurred with the Draft Plan Chapter (e.g., Natural Environment). Specific policy suggestions included:

- ▶ Adding policies regarding drought, snowpack, and stream base flow.
- ▶ Regarding watershed planning, consider addressing climate trends and need to revisit water allocation and monitoring over time.
- ▶ Ensuring there are regular studies of aquifer related issues.
- ▶ Encouraging permeable pavement rather than reducing the rate of impervious pavement.
- ▶ Address new stormwater design standards considering extreme precipitation events (sizing) and vegetation (extreme precipitation and drought).

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in [draft chapters](#) (Updated 10/22/25) include the following including CRSB, CTAC, and public input suggestions in tracks:

Policy: NE-1.2, Stormwater Techniques and Innovation

Encourage the use of evolving best practices for stormwater, including solutions like rain gardens, ~~Wastewater Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tanks~~ [regional stormwater treatment facilities](#), and other low-impact mitigation tools that protect ground and surface water from contamination and pollution.

Policy: NE-1.4, Regional Water Board and Stewardship Groups

Continue to support regional watershed groups and boards, including the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, in their efforts to conduct aquifer planning as well as allocating, monitoring, and studying responsibilities for the entire watershed.

Policy: NE-1.6, Natural Water Drainage

Identify and preserve areas that provide natural water drainage to accommodate future stormwater runoff while protecting surface and ground water.

Policy: NE-1.7, Wellhead Protection

Allow only non-polluting land uses to be developed and operated within the water recharge zones of the public water wells, as guided by development regulations and land use limitations within critical areas.

Policy: NE-2.1, Water Conservation

Develop and implement a water conservation strategy that seeks to decrease household, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses citywide to ensure that water use does not exceed City water rights. (Amended in matrix below)

Policy: NE-2.2, Landscaping Requirements and Incentives

Expand the use of [residential and commercial](#) incentives like SpokaneScape and other programs that encourage use of drought-tolerant plants and the placement of native trees and vegetation, including incentives like water bill credits and discounts. (Responds to November 2025 workshop input)

Goal: NE-3, Surface Waters

Provide for clean rivers and wetlands that support native fish and aquatic life and are healthy for recreational uses.

Policy: NE-3.1, Watershed Plan

Continue to support and develop regional watershed plans in partnership with regional and local partners, concerning all watersheds that are associated with the geographic boundaries of the city and the City's service areas.

Relationship to Health & Well-being

Clean, available water supports community health and well-being.

Draft Water Resources Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal WR-1 (Resilience)	Protect and preserve water quality and quantity from drought, extreme heat, and other hazards exacerbated by climate change. ♦ ✕ ★	Climate Policy Explorer, Y High Priority, CRVA Exhibit 80	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.
Policy WR-1 (Resilience)	Manage water resources for all users sustainably through smart irrigation, stormwater management, preventative maintenance, water conservation, infiltration and groundwater recharge, plant selection, landscape management, and other methods as feasible under water rights regulations. ♦ ↑ ✕ ★	Climate Policy Explorer, ~Y.04 High Priority	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy WR-2 (Resilience)	Develop a program to allow municipal reclaimed water systems, where feasible considering water rights , and allow onsite non-potable water systems to reduce water demand in private-sector commercial and residential buildings. ♦ ✕	Climate Policy Explorer, ~Y.05	Changes in response to CTAC review.
Policy WR-3 (Resilience)	Develop Strengthen and implement a water conservation strategy that can reasonably be expected to decrease household, commercial, industrial, and agricultural use citywide, commensurate with the true available capacity of the City's water supply, including expanded incentives for drought-tolerant, native plantings and the use of innovative incentive, communication, and education programs. ♦	Draft PlanSpokane Chapter, NE-2.1, Water Conservation.	Reviewed 11/13 and 12/11 by CRSB. Edits reflect CTAC input.
Policy WR-4 (Resilience)	Set and regularly monitor progress for short- and long-term targets for water conservation goals set in municipal code. ↑ ✕ ★		These had CTAC, CRSB, and Public Engagement support and we already have a Water Conservation Plan and some drought response code , so it supports continued action on those already established items.
Policy WR-5 (Resilience)	Develop, implement, and regularly review a comprehensive drought resilience strategy that factors in projected climate impacts and sets action levels for different drought stages in municipal code. ↑ ✕ ★	Climate Policy Explorer ~Y.11	Same as above - CTAC, CRSB, and Public Engagement support.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy WR-6 (Resilience)	Consider implementing a “One Water” concept that manages all forms of water in the city – rainwater, groundwater, surface water, drinking water, used water – in an integrated fashion to provide a resilient and effective urban water service to the city and water service area customers.*	CTAC	One Water Concept suggested by CTAC.
Policy WR-7 (Resilience)	Encourage residents and businesses to manage stormwater on their properties such as through rain gardens, drought tolerant plants, or permeable pavements, to keep stormwater out of streets or rights-of-way.*		CTAC suggestion to address stormwater management at the resident/commercial property scale and encourage grass roots actions.

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ● TEW Input ◆ Draft Chapter ✖ CTAC Input ★ CRSB Idea

In the works / givens

- ▶ Water Conservation Master Plan Update ([2020 plan](#))

Bike rack/ future actions

- ▶ Adding a policy around tiered rates of water (anticipate this is addressed in coordination with Water System Plan)

Next Steps

The CRSB will meet on January 8, 2026 to review policy ideas as well as public engagement efforts in November and December. After the January 8th CRSB meeting, the project team will prepare a final draft policy package for discussion at the joint CRSB/Plan Commission meeting on January 28th.