

Memo

Date: November 13, 2025

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

cc: Tirrell Black, Assistant Planning Director, Department of Planning Services;
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From: Lisa Grueter, AICP, Principal, BERK Consulting, Inc.; Stefanie Hindmarch,
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Consulting Group

RE: Climate Policy Development – Revisions following Plan Commission and Climate
Resilience and Sustainability Board Joint Meeting on October 29, 2025

Policy Edits

This memo captures policy discussions of the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (CRSB) at the joint meeting with the Plan Commission on October 29, 2025, adding the policy direction to the CRSB's policy reviews on October 9, 2025. ([Recording online here](#))

At the regular October CRSB meeting, the Board discussed for each sector what they might change or add. The CRSB requested some specific edits as well as some general direction to share the context of other [draft chapter](#) policies that have been developed and to show how health & well-being is a part of each topic.

For each sector, this memo provides proposed revisions as well as the context of other existing or draft policies being developed in conjunction with the Plan Commission from the October 29 meeting.

Memo Part 1 – Early draft policies for the following climate sectors based on the joint meeting:

- ▶ Land Use / Zoning & Development
- ▶ Transportation

Memo Part 2 – First CRSB review of policies for the following climate sectors:

- ▶ Economic Development

Memo Part 3 – Early draft policies for the following climate sectors shared on October 16, 2025 with notes on policies that are pending Tribal Engagement Workgroup (TEW) review:¹

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

Policies are pending on the following sectors due to reviews occurring with other engagement efforts with the Tribal Engagement Workgroup (TEW) and focus group engagement:

- ▶ Agriculture and Food Systems
- ▶ Cultural and Historic Resources

Key Terms and Policy Writing Approach

A goal is an aspirational and general statement of the community's vision or desired outcome for the City.

Policies are more specific principles that guide how the community will meet goals, while still being general enough to allow for different ways to implement (e.g., both incentives and pilot programs).

Rules/Approach

- ▶ Use active verbs
- ▶ Generally single sentences (even if longer)
- ▶ Policies inform decision making
- ▶ Avoid single-action implementation items
- ▶ Avoid repeating policies
- ▶ Avoid restating state law/regulations
- ▶ Promote positive framing where appropriate

¹ The TEW met in October and is planning to meet again in mid-November on some policy topics of interest. We have some placeholders where appropriate, and will bring back the input at the CRSB's December meeting.

Part 1 – Land Use and Transportation Policies, following Joint Meeting with Plan Commission and CRSB

Land Use / Zoning and Development

Draft goals and policies are included in Exhibit 1 along with proposed changes. Responses are in parentheses.

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

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.

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 & Climate Goals and Policies

Exhibit 1: Land Use Draft Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
GHG Goal	Increase mixed use and housing diversity and supply within the city urban growth areas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support environmental justice. [Climate Policy Explorer, K, High Priority]	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; supported by CVI comments; edits respond to CRSB/PC comments to include more than just housing diversity and supply in the text.
GHG Policy 1	Accommodate diverse, affordable, and attainable housing types within the city to meet demand while avoiding sprawl in order to decrease emissions and infrastructure costs and preserve open space.	CRSB/PC feedback re: concern around expanding UGA
GHG Policy 2	Prioritize infill development, while expanding, protecting, and maintaining the City's tree canopy, through zoning regulations and permitting processes.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; Addresses CRSB/PC concern re losing tree canopy to infill
GHG Policy 3	Foster transit-oriented development and accessible neighborhoods by increasing density and supporting multimodal transportation in areas that are well-served by transit.	Addresses CRSB/PC concern re: density and traffic
Resilience Goal	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]	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; added "and development" after CRSB/PC meeting
Resilience Policy 1	Incorporate climate-hazard risk criteria into land use and infrastructure planning when siting, replacing, or relocating community assets, such as transportation, civic facilities, and parks.	Adjusted to include overburdened communities
Resilience Policy 2	Identify and implement strategies for reducing residential development pressure high-risk zones such as the wildland-urban interface and flood-prone areas.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; A.02; Addresses CRSB/PC concern regarding development in WUI. Broadened to address flood-prone areas too.
Resilience Policy 3	Embed environmental justice into land use decisions by evaluating climate and environmental burdens before major rezonings, capital investments, or new policy adoption.	Adapted to add CTAC feedback

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
Resilience Policy 4	Protect, restore, and maintain urban agricultural lands, urban forests, critical areas, 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; addresses engagement/CRSB/PC priority around tree canopy, conservation easements

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

Transportation

Draft goals and policies are included in Exhibit 2 along with proposed changes. Responses are in parentheses.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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, 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.

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 and supports healthier communities.

Draft Goals and Policies

Exhibit 2: Transportation Draft Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
GHG Goal	<u>Support connected, equitable transportation options, including public transit, active transportation, and zero-emission vehicles;</u> vehicle miles traveled to achieve goals related to vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas reduction.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; CRSB High Priority; adjusted to make less vague re CRSB/PC feedback
GHG Policy 1	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.	Note that a VMT analysis and draft Transportation Element are underway; this is likely to evolve.
GHG Policy 2	Support public transit expansion and use through coordinated of land use and transportation planning that prioritizes service for lower-income and overburdened neighborhoods.	Note that a VMT analysis and draft Transportation Element are underway; this is likely to evolve.
GHG Policy 3	Develop zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and incentives, with particular support for lower-income residents.	
Resilience Goal	Ensure that the local transportation system — including infrastructure, routes, and travel modes — is <u>resilient to climate hazards and remains safe and accessible during and after</u> able to withstand and recover quickly from the impacts of extreme weather events and other hazards.	Edits to incorporate community safety based on CRSB/PC feedback
Resilience Policy 1	Install updated stormwater controls on roadways when capital improvements are implemented and where development is less likely to contribute stormwater improvements.	Addresses CRSB feedback to consider stormwater impacts but remain broad for different technologies, etc.
Resilience Policy 2	Design and site new and expanded roads, railroads, and water-crossing structures to minimize environmental impacts, protect public access, and incorporate climate-resilient features such as fish-friendly culverts and bridges.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; incorporated/merged with W.03

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
Resilience Policy 3	Improve street connectivity and walkability, including sidewalks and street crossings, to serve as potential evacuation routes. (W.02)	Climate Policy Explorer. As described in the Explorer tool, this policy is aimed at creating a connected, multimodal transportation network to enhance community resilience to wildfires and other hazards that may necessitate evacuations. This policy has climate resilience and mitigation co-benefits: Such pedestrian infrastructure can enhance accessibility and encourage emission-free, active transportation during non-emergencies.
Resilience Policy 4	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.

Part 2 – First review, Economic Development policies

Economic Development

Draft goals and policies are included in Exhibit 3.

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 (see Idea 3, below)
- ▶ Adding a policy related to land use planning for more services in neighborhoods to serve teleworking employees and home businesses (see Land Use section for concepts related to mixed uses)
- ▶ Adding language about resource conservation (see Idea 2, below and Policy: EP-3.7).

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.

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 Goals and Policies

Exhibit 3: Economic Development Draft Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text
1	(Goal) Ensure that the local economy is resilient to climate disruptions and fosters business opportunities associated with climate mitigation and adaptation. ♦
2	Promote local industrial 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. ★
3	Work with schools, universities, and local organizations to support jobs and industries that enhance local resilience and sustainability , such as sustainable construction, alternative energy, and urban forestry with a focus on building partnerships to train and hire from overburdened communities. ♦★
4	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 . ♦♦

Idea	Draft Text
5	Incentivize brownfield redevelopment projects that incorporate resilient and sustainable features through City investments and technical assistance, particularly in overburdened communities. ♦

♦ **Spokane Analysis** ↑ **Engagement Theme** ❖ **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

Part 3 – Draft Policies Discussed in October 2025

Water Resources

Draft goals and policies are included in Exhibit 4 along with proposed changes. Responses are in parentheses.

The CRSB discussed:

- ▶ Idea 2 regarding water use, and clarifying is it city or everyone? (Change made.)
- ▶ Idea 4 regarding water conservation (Change made.)
 - "Seeks" feels weak, and could replace with strategy "that can reasonably be expected to"
 - Clarifying what is meant by true capacity of city's water supply.
- ▶ Adding something on waste in river. (See Draft Natural Environment Chapter, Goal NE-3)
- ▶ Adding something on collaboration/coordination (e.g. watershed planning, since jurisdictional boundaries are arbitrary). (See Draft Natural Environment Chapter, policies NE 1.4 and 3.1)
- ▶ Adding a policy around tiered rates of water. (Included in "bike rack" for future action.)
- ▶ Focusing on engagement and education. People think the City has abundant water, but we don't (gap in how public feel about water and usage). (Change made.)
- ▶ Add something on water quality – PFAS, groundwater etc. (See NE-1.7.)

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. (See Water Resources Idea 1 and Ecosystems Idea 4.)
- ▶ Regarding watershed planning, consider addressing climate trends and need to revisit water allocation and monitoring over time. (See Draft Plan Chapter policies NE 1.4 and NE 3.1.)
- ▶ Ensuring there are regular studies of aquifer related issues. (See Draft Plan Chapter Policy NE-1.4.)
- ▶ Encouraging permeable pavement rather than reducing the rate of impervious pavement. (See Idea 2, covered broadly.)
- ▶ Address new stormwater design standards considering extreme precipitation events (sizing) and vegetation (extreme precipitation and drought). (See Idea 2, covered broadly.)

Draft Plan Chapters

Relevant policies in the [Draft Natural Environment Chapter](#) include:

Policy: NE-1.2, Stormwater Techniques and Innovation

Encourage the use of innovative stormwater techniques, including solutions like rain gardens, Wastewater Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tanks, 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 – see in Idea 4

Goal: NE-3, Surface Waters

Provide for clean rivers 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.

Revised Draft Goals and Policies**Exhibit 4: Water Resources Draft Goals and Policies**

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
1	Goal: Protect and preserve water quality and quantity from drought, extreme heat, and other hazards exacerbated by climate change. Limit impervious areas to allow for groundwater recharge. [Y High Priority, CRVA Exhibit 80] ♦ ✕ ★	Links protection of water resources to climate hazards. Refers to drought and extreme heat per policy audit. Edit keeps to one sentence. Moves reference to recharge into Idea 2.
2	Policy: Manage water resources <u>for all users</u> sustainably in the face of climate change through smart irrigation, stormwater management, preventative maintenance, water conservation, <u>infiltration and groundwater recharge, plant</u> selection, landscape management, and other methods as feasible under water rights regulations. [~Y.04 High Priority] ♦ ↑ ✕ ★	Responses to CRSB discussion. Clarifies management is for all uses, e.g. city or residential.
3	Policy: Develop a policy to allow municipal reclaimed water systems and allow onsite non-potable water systems to reduce water demand in private-sector commercial and residential buildings. [~Y.05] ♦ ✕	
4	Policy: Develop and implement a water conservation strategy that <u>can reasonably be expected</u> seeks to decrease household, commercial, industrial, and agricultural use citywide, commensurate with the true <u>available</u> capacity of the City's water supply, including incentives for drought-tolerant (★), native plantings and the use of innovated <u>innovative</u> incentive (✕), <u>communication, and education</u> programs. [Draft PlanSpokane Chapter, NE-2.1, Water Conservation] ♦	Responses to CRSB discussion.

♦ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ♦ 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 \(anticipate this is addressed in coordination with Water System Plan\)](#)

Ecosystems

Draft goals and policies are included in Exhibit 5 along with proposed changes. Responses are in parentheses.

The CRSB discussed the need to:

- ▶ Add tree preservation concept, and connecting to 30% canopy goal (Changes made; see also Policies NE 2.2 and 2.3)
- ▶ Add more on habitat network connectivity (see Idea 2 and Policy NE-6.3)
- ▶ Address pollinator gardens (see Idea 3 and SH-9.2; Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan which specifically promotes pollinator gardens)
- ▶ Clarify comanaging with Tribes (see Idea 2)
- ▶ Clarify water residence time (See Idea 4)

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:

Policy: NE-2.2, Landscaping Requirements and Incentives

Expand the use of 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.

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

Preserve 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, 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: SH-9.2, Community Gardens

Enable the establishment and maintenance of community gardens on city property, as appropriate, to be maintained and operated by partnerships with local organizations.

Policy: DP-1.17, 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.

Revised Draft Goals and Policies

Exhibit 5: Ecosystem Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
1	Goal: Preserve and i increase tree canopy cover to boost ensure trees can adequately sequester carbon sequestration, equitably meet and maintain tree canopy cover goal of 30% , reduce heat islands, improve stormwater infiltration, and improve air quality, prioritizing overburdened communities. [~AB High Priority] ♦ ★	Respond to CRSB discussion.
2	Policy: To support connectivity and non-motorized travel between housing, schools, and businesses across the city, e Establish and maintain a green belt of parks that supports connectivity and non-motorized travel between destinations across the city, working with Tribal partners to develop traditional ecological management strategies co-managed with Tribes appropriately in for wildlands. [~AB.02] ² ♦ ↑	Original phrasing from CRVA (page 225). Proposed clarification is similar to approach in Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan Opportunities For Improvement – Land Objective 5.
3	Goal: 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. [L High Priority] ♦ ★	Respond to CRSB discussion.
4	Policy: 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] ♦ ✖ ★	Respond to CRSB and clarify language. Natural landscaping similar to Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan Opportunities For Improvement: Water Objective 2. Improve City-Wide Water Management Practices.

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

² This policy has been shared with the TEW in October. We anticipate reviewing in November and will share any feedback.

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.

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] ♦ ↑
- ▶ 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 idea 5 as well)* ✕

Health & Well-being

Draft goals and policies are included in Exhibit 6 along with proposed changes. Responses are in parentheses.

CRSB feedback included:

- ▶ Clarify waste heat, e.g. things that add heat like idling vehicles, air conditioning, other (Change made; see Idea 1)
- ▶ Address health not only in terms of negative impacts but also in terms of positive features too, e.g. access to parks (Change made to add Idea 4; also see Policy PR-2.2)
- ▶ Address extremes of weather (Change made; see Idea 1.)
- ▶ Heat is a priority but also look at cold, make sure we have resources for that (Change made.)
- ▶ Address prevention, treatment of substance use (e.g. alcohol). Consider climate and mental health connection, such as eco anxiety and coping. (Change made regarding eco-anxiety and coping.)
- ▶ Thinking about how to make overarching theme of health and wellbeing (Reference to health and well-being made in context of each policy topic as well as adjustments to several policies to more directly address community health, environmental justice, equity, and Tribal and youth engagement results.)
- ▶ Concern about relying on Labor & Industries rules for outdoor workers. (See addition to "givens")

Several health-related policies are under review with the TEW and will be refined and shared with the CRSB in December.

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: SH-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.

** This policy could address feedback from the Youth Focus Group during phase 1.*

Policy: SH-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

Review and determine public benefits in comparison to the environmental impacts of new and existing public or private facilities that negatively impact the region's air quality and health of its citizens.

Policy: NE-4.4, Vegetation that Improves Air Quality

Plant, preserve, and encourage the use of vegetation known to benefit local air quality, concerning 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.

Revised Draft Goals and Policies

Exhibit 6: Health & Well-being Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
1	Goal: Protect community health and well-being from the impacts of climate-exacerbated hazards <u>and extreme weather</u> . —prioritizing focus on overburdened communities — and <u>ensur</u> inge that overburdened communities and the most vulnerable residents do not bear disproportionate health impacts. [Goal T] ♦ ★	Response to CRSB discussion.
2	Policy: Implement an urban heat resilience strategy that includes land use, urban design, urban greening, and waste heat reduction actions <u>(repurposing of heat generated by industrial processes, cooling systems, other)</u> . [T.08 High Priority] ♦ ↑	Response to CRSB discussion.
3	Policy: Develop and implement a notification process within the community to reduce the risk of exposure to wildfire smoke and particulate matter. [~T.05] ♦ ↑	

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
4	<u>Policy: Foster stronger community connectedness and social and economic vitality to help vulnerable and overburdened communities improve their economic prosperity and resilience to climate impacts, such as through equitable investments in libraries, parks, recreation programs, urban green space and ventilation corridors,⁴ multimodal connections, and economic development.⁵</u>	Response to CRSB discussion to address positive approaches to health and well-being.
5	<u>Policy: 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. [~Goal -- AA]</u>	Response to CRSB discussion to address mental and physical well-being.

◆ **Spokane Analysis** ↑ **Engagement Theme** ❖ **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)*

Emergency Management

Draft goals and policies are shown in Exhibit 7 along with proposed changes. Responses are in parentheses.

CRSB discussion included:

- ▶ Add Goal S from climate policy explorer (See Idea 0 below)
- ▶ Add policies to keep people safe in own homes (See new Idea 5)

⁴ See Spokane Extreme Heat Resilience Plan, 2025-2030 Recommendations 4.5 and 4.6: [Spokane-Extreme-Heat-Resilience-Plan-10.ashx](#).

⁵ This policy is under review with the TEW and will be refined and shared with the CRSB in December.

- ▶ Address development in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) (Change made; see Idea 3)
- ▶ Address wildfire smoke in emergency management, not only in Health & Well-being. (See new Idea 5)

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

Policy: NE-8.2, Unstable Slope Protection

Continue to map and designation areas of unstable slopes as unsuitable for development, including standards and code that prohibit development in these areas.

Goal: NE-18, Flood Hazards Management

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

Policy: NE-18.2, 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-18.3, 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-18.4, Discourage Development in the 100-Year Flood Plain

Discourage development and redevelopment of habitable structures that are within the 100-year floodplain.

Policy: NE-18.5, 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.

Revised Draft Goals and Policies

Exhibit 7: Emergency Management Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
0	Enhance emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to mitigate risks and impacts associated with extreme weather and other hazards worsened by climate change. [Goal S] ♦ ↑	Response to CRSB discussion.
1	Policy: Identify evacuation routes for wildfire, flood, and other extreme events, reduce transportation barriers , and provide outreach materials, accessible digitally and non-digitally in multiple languages , to help residents plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer with tailored strategies for vulnerable communities developed with Tribes, Native organizations, and community-based organizations . [~M.01] ♦ ↑ *	Helps implement Phase 1 and 2 engagement results, including Tribal Engagement Workgroup feedback towards policy development.
2	Policy: 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. [M.02 High Priority] ♦ ↑ *★	Response to CRSB discussion. Clarify that awareness should be developed at smaller scales within community.
3	Policy: Continue to p Provide residents living in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas information about fire prevention (e.g., Firewise) practices, and support application of such apply WUI practices and ventilation standards ⁶ via building code and landscaping provisions to new development . [~M.03] ♦ ↑ *	Response to CRSB discussion. Apply WUI to new development as well as support existing residents.
4	Policy: Develop resilience hubs	We have shared a policy like the Climate Policy Explorer S.07. ⁷ The policy language is under review with the TEW and will be a topic at the December meeting.

⁶ Supports Recommendation 4.3: Improve air filtration and ventilation standards for Spokane buildings in the Spokane Wildfire Smoke Resilience Plan: [Spokane Wildfire Smoke Resilience Plan v1.0.pdf](#).

⁷ S.07: 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.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
5	Policy: <u>Provide support and incentives for 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.</u> ⁸ ✱	Response to CRSB discussion. Home-based efforts as well as community resilience hubs.

◆ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ✦ 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.

Buildings & Energy

Draft goals and policies are shown in Exhibit 8 along with proposed changes. Responses are in parentheses.

The CRSB discussed:

- ▶ Will want to make goal more ambitious. Align with Clean Building Standard (but that's only commercial and of a certain size). Would want to pursue some version of clean building for other buildings. Add language of existing and new. (See revisions to Idea 1.)
- ▶ Policy 4 – What counts as renewable, some kinds might not be very clean. Be more specific? Is there a definition in SMC? Do we mean non-emitting? (See definition at SMC 15.05.005: <https://my.spokanecity.org/smc/?Section=15.05.005>)
- ▶ Waste management after large storms/events, they end up in environment, can we encourage more natural materials. (See embodied carbon in bike rack.)

⁸ 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](#).

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.

Revised Draft Goals and Policies

Exhibit 8: Buildings & Energy Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
1	Goal: Reduce the contributions of Transform buildings and energy systems to substantially reduce their contributions consumption to climate change pollution . [Goal E] ♦	Boost the level of specificity and/or ambition.
2	Policy: Implement and support building and energy codes and policies that reduce energy use and phase-out fossil fuel use among existing and new buildings in a manner that equitably considers energy transition cost and benefits for overburdened communities . [E.01 & E.03] ♦*	Response to CRSB discussion. Address overburdened communities – ensure prioritized for intended benefits and harms prevented.
3	Policy: Partner with energy providers and other partners to offer incentives or rebates for landlords who make energy-efficient upgrades—like insulation, weatherization, or heat pump installations—on the condition that cost savings are shared with tenants (e.g., capping rent hikes or passing on utility savings). ↑★	
4	Policy: Implement renewable energy sources and reduce energy use, refrigerant emissions, and potable water consumption in City buildings and operations. [~E.05] ↑	See definition of renewable at SMC 15.05.005

♦ **Spokane Analysis** ↑ **Engagement Theme** ❖ **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](#)

Waste Management

Draft goals and policies are shown in Exhibit 9 along with proposed changes. Responses are in parentheses.

The CRSB discussed:

- ▶ Adding something on cooperation with other jurisdictions. For example, batteries are disposed differently in city and county, which is confusing for the public. (See Idea 2 for changes)
- ▶ Making existing goal language stronger. (See Idea 1 for changes.)
- ▶ Organics management – are there some exemptions? The City is already taking some green waste and should be required for businesses. (See new Idea 4 and bike rack.)
- ▶ Food waste management is different from waste materials, should there be a focus on that? (See SH-9.5.)

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-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.

Revised Draft Goals and Policies

Exhibit 9: Waste Management Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Discussion
1	Policy: Set and achieve <u>zero waste goals</u> specific goals around waste generation and <u>continue to</u> periodically measure waste via waste characterization studies, in partnership with the City's waste collection service provider <u>Department of Ecology</u> . [-X.04] ♦	Frame this as a zero waste goal.
2	Policy: Provide equitable outreach and engagement around waste reduction (including reuse and repair), recycling, and composting among homes and businesses in partnership with <u>neighboring jurisdictions, local and regional organizations, and</u> the City's waste collection service provider <u>to ensure that messaging is clear and consistent</u> . [Goal X] ↑	Add that coordinating with other jurisdictions is essential.
3	Policy: Develop a program that will enable reuse and recycling of all construction, <u>deconstruction</u> , and demolition waste. [X.02]	
4	<u>Policy: Support and expand home and commercial composting to reduce the generation and disposal of organic waste.</u>	Emphasize composting.

♦ Spokane Analysis ↑ Engagement Theme ❖ 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.

Bike rack/ future actions

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

Next Steps

We will develop policy revisions based on CRSB input at the November meeting in advance of the CRSB's December meeting. The feedback from November community workshops, the Climate Technical Advisory Committee, as well as TEW review and suggestions will be shared as well with the CRSB in December. In December, early results of the multi-criteria prioritization tool will be a topic. The direction in the CRSB's December meeting will inform January engagement events and the joint meeting with the Plan Commission in late January 2026. The CRSB is scheduled to provide recommendations in February 2026. See Exhibit 10 below for a representation of the CRSB topics and process.

Exhibit 10: CRSB Meeting Topics and Engagement Inputs

