

# Memo

**Date:** December 11, 2025

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

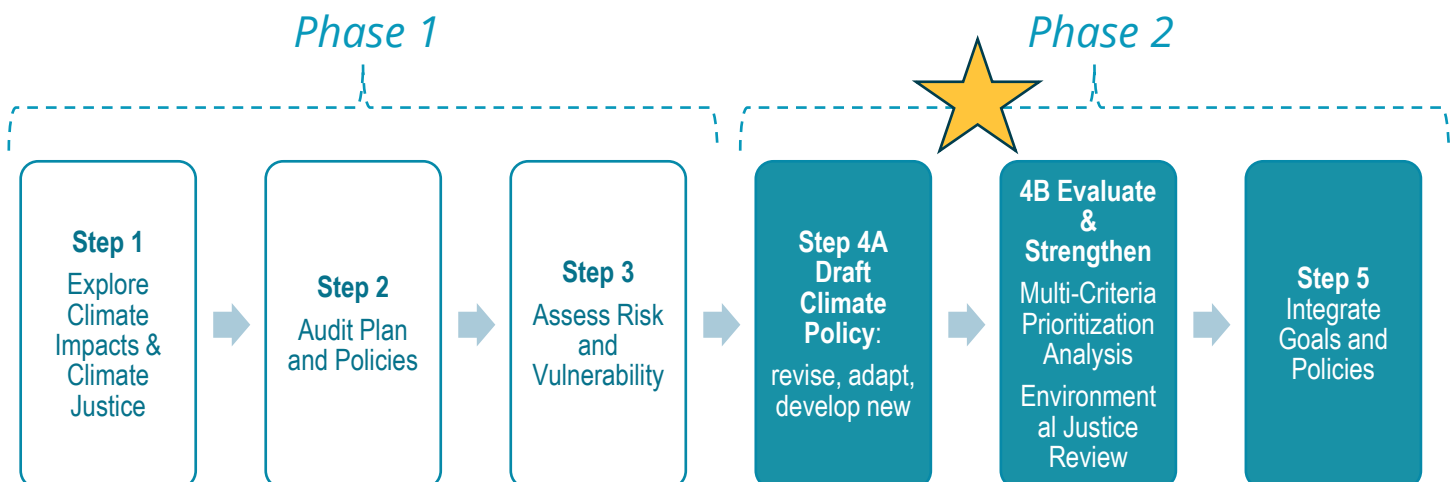
**cc:** Tirrell Black, Assistant Planning Director, Department of Planning Services;  
Logan Callen, Senior Environmental Analyst, Integrated Capital Management;  
KayCee Downey, Planner II, Department of Planning Services

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

**RE:** Climate Policy Development and Multi-Criteria Prioritization Analysis Revisions

The City of Spokane is integrating climate resilience and mitigation into its Comprehensive Plan per state Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements (HB 1181) and state Climate Planning 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:

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



As shown in Exhibit 2 below, the CRSB is mid-process in developing policy ideas. This memo is provided for the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board's (CRSB) December 11, 2025 meeting. This memo captures edits to draft policies following the November 13, 2025, CRSB meeting. It also integrates Tribal Engagement Workgroup (TEW) input from their October and November meetings, which were noted as pending in the November 13 materials.

More policy ideas are expected through the CRSB meeting on December 13. Additionally, based on a November Climate Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) meeting, and public engagement workshops and focus groups in November and December, we expect that there will be policy refinements and suggestions that can be addressed in the January 8, 2026 CRSB meeting materials.

After the January 8<sup>th</sup> CRSB meeting, the project team will draft policies for review at the joint CRSB/Plan Commission meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Given its responsibilities, Transportation 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.

Based on its mission, the CRSB will deliberate and make recommendations on climate policies to the Mayor and City Council, scheduled in mid-February. The Plan Commission has authority over the entire Comprehensive Plan and will also weigh in on the policies.

## Exhibit 2: CRSB Meeting Topics and Engagement Inputs



Draft policies are included in this memo for all 11 sectors described in climate planning guidance from the Washington Department of Commerce:

### **New Topics**

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

### **Prior Topics**

- ▶ Buildings & Energy
- ▶ Economic Development
- ▶ Ecosystems
- ▶ Emergency Management
- ▶ Health & Well-being
- ▶ Land Use / Zoning & Development
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Waste Management
- ▶ Water 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

# Agriculture & Food Systems (new topic)

Preliminary goals and policies are included in Exhibit 1 for CRSB review.

## 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 policies related to food systems are shared below:

**Goal:** CH-9, Food Access and Security

*Ensure that all residents have affordable and convenient access to nutritious and safe foods.*

**Policy:** CH-9.1, Urban Agriculture and Local Food Production

*Recognize urban agriculture and local food production as a strategic asset for community and economic development, local resiliency, and public health.*

**Policy:** CH-9.2, Local Food Access

*Promote the development of farmers' or public markets, food production services, and other small-scale collaborative initiatives to provide all residents with a diverse choice of locally sourced food products, prioritizing access in overburdened communities.*

**Policy:** CH-9.3, Community Gardens

*Partner with local organizations to establish and maintain community gardens on city property, as appropriate, to increase access to local food for all residents, including within overburdened communities.*

**Policy:** CH-9.4, Eliminating Food Deserts

*Incentivize and enable uses that provide fresh food to neighborhoods by amending zoning and code requirements to ensure food access for parts of the city where affordable, healthy food is not currently available.*

**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 1 (Resilience)	<b>Goal:</b> CH-9, Food Access and Security <a href="#">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.</a>	Amended Draft Goal CH-9  Similar intent to Climate Policy Explorer, N.01	Reflects Food Systems focus group input
Policy 2 (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	
Policy 3 (Resilience)	Incentivize rooftop gardens, community composting, and food forest projects <a href="#">within new development</a> to strengthen local food security <a href="#">and access to nature.</a> ★↑	CRSB Idea	Modifications reflect food systems focus group input.
Policy 4 (Resilience and GHG)	<del>Promote the development of</del> <a href="#">Support</a> farmers' or public markets, <a href="#">fruit and vegetable stands</a> , food production services, <a href="#">small-scale farms</a> , and other	Based on Draft PlanSpokane 2046	Reflects CTAC feedback and food systems focus group input.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
	<p><a href="#">avenues for local food production</a> and access <del>small-scale collaborative initiatives such as with simpler permitting processes or financial incentives, to provide all residents with a diverse choice of locally sourced food products, prioritizing access in overburdened communities as a means of local food security and diversity in business opportunities.</del> ❖*</p>	Chapter, CH 9.2 with Amendments	Could be moved to Economic Development.
Policy 5 (Resilience)	<p><del>Partner with local organizations to establish and maintain community gardens on city property, as appropriate, to increase access to local food for all residents, including within overburdened communities.</del></p> <p><a href="#">Establish and maintain publicly accessible community gardens on city property, as appropriate, 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.</a> ❖↑🟡</p>	<p>Modification of Draft PlanSpokane 2046 Chapter, CH 9.3</p> <p>TEW Review</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.</p>
Policy 6 (Resilience)	<p>Incentivize and enable uses, <a href="#">including by amending zoning and code requirements</a>, that provide <a href="#">healthy fresh affordable, and locally produced</a> food <del>to the neighborhood by amending zoning and code requirements for in</del> parts of the city <del>where affordable, healthy food is not currently available with limited food access.</del> ❖ * ↑</p>	Draft PlanSpokane 2046 Chapter, CH-9.3, with modifications	Reflects CTAC feedback and food systems focus group input.
Policy 7 (Resilience)	<p>Recognize urban agriculture as a strategic asset for community and economic development, <a href="#">food security</a>, local resiliency, and public health. ❖</p>	Draft PlanSpokane 2046 Chapter, Goal CH 9.1	Minor adaptation
Policy 8 (Resilience)	<p>Support programs and partnerships that offer community members educational resources related to healthy cooking and community gardening, mental and physical health, and other skills related to community health and resiliency. ↑</p>	Proposed	Addresses community education
Policy 9	<p>Partner with food banks, farmers' markets, and other community assets to provide resources,</p>	Proposed	Addresses resident involvement

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
(Resilience and GHG)	services, and city information to support resident access. 		

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

## Cultural & Historic Resources (new topic)

### 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 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	
Policy 1 (Resilience)	Protect and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, sacred areas, and <del>historic</del> <u>cultural</u> sites within the growing urban setting through collaboration with local Tribes, historians, organizations, and <del>citizens</del> <u>residents</u> to identify features to be protected.	Draft Plan Policy: NE-15.1, Protection of Natural Aesthetics	This policy has been included under Ecosystems but also supports Cultural Resources. It was reviewed by the TEW as well.
Policy 2 (Resilience)	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 for wildlands.   	~AB.02  CRVA, Exhibit 80, under consideration with ecosystems policies.	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 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 TEW Review	The TEW supported this policy with clarification of Tribal rights
Policy 4 (Resilience)	Protect significant historic and cultural sites prone to floods or other hazards worsened by climate change.	Adjusted Policy -- Q.04	

◆ 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 1 (Resilience and GHG)	Transform buildings and energy systems to substantially reduce their contributions to climate pollution. ♦	Climate Policy Explorer, Goal E	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 1 (Resilience and GHG)	Implement and support building and energy codes and policies that reduce energy use and fossil fuel use 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	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 2 (Resilience and GHG)	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). ↑★	CRSB Idea	No change since prior memos.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy 3 (Resilience)	Implement renewable energy sources and reduce energy use, refrigerant emissions, and potable water consumption in City buildings and operations. ↑	Climate Policy Explorer, ~E.05	No change since prior memos.

◆ 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

## 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 (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 Economic Development Goals and Policies

The next draft of Economic Development Goals and Policies will incorporate feedback from the CTAC and public engagement. Anticipated revisions include:

- ▶ Additional policies relating to partnerships with businesses, increasing access to services in underserved areas, and driving equitable economic and workforce development
- ▶ Minor wording edits for clarity
- ▶ Consolidation of climate and other policies that have the same intent

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal 1 (Resilience and GHG)	Ensure that the local economy is resilient to climate disruptions and fosters business opportunities associated with climate mitigation and adaptation. ♦	Climate Policy Explorer, R	
Policy 1 (Resilience and GHG)	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	Climate Policy Explorer, R.03, also relates to a CRSB idea on circular economy	

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
	embodied carbon emissions, and fosters community education and participation. ★		
Policy 2 (Resilience and GHG)	Work with schools, universities, and local organizations to support <a href="#">and recruit</a> jobs and industries that enhance local resilience and <a href="#">sustainability</a> , <a href="#">regeneration</a> , such as sustainable construction, alternative energy, and urban forestry, with a focus on building partnerships to train and hire from overburdened communities. ♦★	Climate Policy Explorer, R.04, also relates to a CRSB previous idea on green jobs pipeline	CRSB requested to add “and recruit”.  CRSB requested to replace “sustainability” with “regeneration” or whichever word is more encompassing. “Regeneration” implies going beyond “sustainability” by restoring and revitalizing. This term would need to be defined in the glossary.
Policy 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	
Policy 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	

♦ 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 is shown in track changes:

**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 [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:** 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.*

## Draft Ecosystems Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal 1	Preserve and increase tree canopy cover to ensure trees can adequately sequester carbon, 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	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 1-1	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 for wildlands. ♦ ↑ ○	~AB.02 CRVA, Exhibit 80, under consideration with ecosystems policies.	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.  It was reviewed by the TEW as well as part of Cultural Resources policies.



Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal 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. ♦ ★	L High Priority	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 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. <sup>1</sup> ♦ ✖ ★	L.06 High Priority	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.

♦ 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]
- ▶ 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)*

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<sup>1</sup> 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-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.

## Draft Emergency Management Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Former Policy 1	<del>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 developed with Tribes, Native organizations, and community-based organizations.</del> ◆ ↑ ✖	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01	Replaced by goal and policies below to break down topics – identify evacuation routes, tailor plans for community and Tribes, address outreach materials, engage community members, and transportation modes.
Goal 1 (Resilience)	<u>Identify, update, and maintain emergency evacuation routes, locations, and strategies.</u> ↑ ✖	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 TEW Review	New, replaces/breaks down <i>former</i> policy 1  The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies
Policy 1-1 (Resilience)	<u>Work with community-based organizations to identify evacuation routes for wildfire, flood, and other extreme events, focusing on community-level plans tailored to the meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents.</u> ◆ ↑ ✖	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 TEW Review	New, replaces/breaks down <i>former</i> policy 1  The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies.  Could consider identifying that community-level is meant to get at smaller geographies than citywide or even neighborhood.
Policy 1-2 (Resilience)	<u>Work with Tribes and Native organizations to identify evacuation routes and tailored emergency management strategies addressing wildfire,</u>	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01 TEW Review	New, replaces/breaks down <i>former</i> policy 1  The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
	<u>flood, and other extreme events.</u> ◆ ↑ ✖ ○		
Policy 1-3 (Resilience)	<u>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.</u> ◆ ↑ ✖ ○	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01  TEW Review	New, replaces/breaks down <i>former</i> policy 1  The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies
Policy 1-4 (Resilience)	<u>Provide resources and engagement opportunities to help community members plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer.</u> ◆ ↑ ✖ ○	Climate Policy Explorer, ~M.01  TEW Review	New, replaces/breaks down <i>former</i> policy 1  The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies
Policy 1-5 (Resilience)	<u>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.</u> ◆ ↑ ✖ ○	Climate Policy Explorer, ~W.02  TEW Review	New, replaces/breaks down <i>former</i> policy 1  The TEW was in general agreement with the emergency evacuation goals and policies
Goal 2 (Resilience) <i>Former Goal 0</i>	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	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 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	Climate Policy Explorer, M.02 High Priority	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
	economy, and foster short- and long-term recovery.		
Policy 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	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 2-3 (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, <del>and promoting Native-led resilience hubs, food systems, and youth programs.</del>	Climate Policy Explorer, ~S.07	Base language shared with CRSB in a follow up memo dated October 16, 2025  The TEW identified Policy 2-4 below as a preferred policy focusing on Tribal and Indigenous people, and not conflating with overburdened communities in Policy 2-3.
Policy 2-4 (Resilience)	<u>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.</u> ●	Climate Policy Explorer, ~S.07  TEW Review	The TEW identified Policy 2-4 below as a preferred policy focusing on Tribal and Indigenous people, and not conflating with overburdened communities in Policy 2-3.
Policy 2-5 (Resilience)	Provide support <del>and incentives</del> for <u>infrastructure or services that allow</u> 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	Supports Recommendation 4.2: Improve accessibility of residential air filtration infrastructure in the Spokane Wildfire Smoke Resilience	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.  CRSB suggested revisions to focus on incentives for infrastructure that would support residents staying home.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
	portable air cleaners, utility bill assistance, or community and Tribal partner collaborations <a href="#">and education opportunities</a> .*	Plan: Spokane Wildfire Smoke Resilience Plan v1.0.pdf.	

◆ 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:** 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.

## Draft Health & Well-being Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal 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	
Policy 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	
Policy 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	
Policy 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	
Policy 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	TEW Review	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
	prioritizing funding for Native-led centers that host multi-generational knowledge sharing, recreation, and health and wellness services. ●		
Policy 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: SH-1.2, Commitment to Youth	
Policy 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	

◆ 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.*

## 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

Base language is from the 11/13 meeting memo that the CRSB reviewed; tracked changes reflect edits since the 11/13 meeting.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal 1 (GHG)	Increase mixed use and housing diversity and supply <del>within the city</del> to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support environmental justice.	Climate Policy Explorer, K, High Priority	Removed “within the city” to make policy more flexible (could include urban growth areas).
Policy 1 (GHG)	<u>Plan for and</u> accommodate diverse, affordable, and attainable housing types <del>within the city</del> to meet demand while avoiding sprawl in order to decrease emissions and infrastructure costs and preserve open space.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~K, High Priority	Updated to “plan for and accommodate” to make stronger based on CRSB feedback that “accommodate” is weak language.
Policy 2 (GHG)	Prioritize infill development, while <u>retaining</u> <del>expanding, protecting, and maintaining</del> the City’s tree canopy, through zoning regulations and permitting processes.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority	CRSB suggested expanding the commitment to tree canopy here. This policy is primarily about infill development (and recognizing the tension between infill development and tree retention); we suggest language to de-emphasize tree canopy here. Tree canopy is more broadly supported in other policies.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy 3 (GHG)	Foster transit-oriented development and accessible neighborhoods by increasing density and supporting multimodal transportation in areas that are well-served by transit.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~C	<p>This policy is similar to existing (old) policy LU4.6. There may be overlap with current draft Land Use policy.</p> <p>Transportation GHG policy 2 (below) is intended to help fill transit gaps: <i>"Support public transit expansion and use through coordinated of land use and transportation planning that prioritizes service for lower-income and overburdened neighborhoods."</i></p>
Goal 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;	CTAC supported this goal and policies
Policy 1 (Resilience)	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.		No CRSB or CTAC feedback
Policy 2 (Resilience)	<a href="#">Apply resilience-focused development standards</a> <del>Identify and implement strategies for reducing residential development pressure</del> in high-risk zones, including the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and flood-prone areas.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; A.02	Suggested edits based on CTAC feedback to clarify goal of policy is not to reduce density and density is beneficial for fighting wildfire.
Policy 3 (Resilience)	Embed environmental justice into land use decisions by evaluating climate and environmental burdens before major <a href="#">land use plan changes</a> <del>rezonings</del> , capital investments, or new policy adoption.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~V.07	CRSB suggested removing the word "major." We have kept it for now but are open to additional discussion.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy 4 (Resilience)	Protect, restore, and maintain urban agricultural lands, urban forests, critical areas, <a href="#">shorelines</a> , 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;	Related to draft plan policies NE6.3 and NE6.5 (see pg. 16 of this memo).

◆ 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-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 [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.*

## 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

Base language is from the 11/13 meeting memo that the CRSB reviewed; tracked changes reflect edits since the 11/13 meeting.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal 1 (GHG)	<del>Facilitate</del> <del>Support</del> connected, equitable transportation options, including public transit, active transportation, and zero-emission vehicles to <u>improve community health and</u> achieve goals related to vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas reduction.	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; CRSB High Priority;	CRSB questioned the use of the word "support." We want to recognize the wide array of roles the City may play so have suggested a broad word here but one that suggests more ownership.
Policy 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'	
Policy 2 (GHG)	Support public transit expansion, <u>frequency, and reliability</u> , <del>and use</del> through coordinated <del>of</del> land use and transportation planning that prioritizes service for lower-income and overburdened neighborhoods.	Climate Policy Explorer, ~I.05	We will be sure to define "overburdened" in the glossary based on Growth Management Act definitions, in response to CRSB feedback.  Added more specific language in response to CTAC feedback.
Policy 3 (GHG)	Develop zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and incentives, <u>with particular support for</u>	Climate Policy Explorer, AD.01	Specified renters and workplace charging in

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
	<a href="#">prioritizing workplaces</a> , lower-income residents, <a href="#">and renters</a> .		response to CRSB and CTAC feedback.
Goal 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	N/A
Policy 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	N/A
Policy 2 (Resilience)	Design and site new and expanded roads, railroads <del>roads</del> <a href="#">infrastructure</a> , and water-crossing structures to minimize environmental impacts, protect public access, and incorporate climate-resilient features such as fish-friendly <del>culverts and bridges</del> <a href="#">passage</a> .	Climate Policy Explorer High Priority; incorporated/merged with W.03	CTAC suggested changing “railroads” to a broader term.
Policy 3 (Resilience)	Improve street connectivity and walkability, including sidewalks and street crossings, to <a href="#">support everyday mobility and</a> <del>serve as</del> <a href="#">access to</a> potential evacuation routes.	W.02	CTAC recommended expanding reasoning for improving connectivity
Policy 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.	N/A



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

## In the works / givens



## Bike rack/ future actions



# 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-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 1 (GHG)	Set and achieve zero waste goals and continue to periodically measure waste via waste characterization studies, in partnership with the Department of Ecology. ♦	Climate Policy Explorer, ~X.04	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 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	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 3 (GHG)	Develop a program that will enable reuse and recycling of all construction, deconstruction, and demolition waste.	Climate Policy Explorer, X.02	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 4 (GHG)	Support and expand home and commercial composting to reduce the generation and disposal of organic waste <a href="#">and to increase soil health</a> .	Climate Policy Explorer, ~X	Base language per 11/13/25 memo. Response to CRSB comment on increasing soil health.

♦ 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. (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 [draft chapters](#) include:

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.

## Draft Water Resources Goals and Policies

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Goal 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	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.
Policy 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	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.

Idea	Draft Text & Revisions	Original Source	Discussion
Policy 2 (Resilience)	Develop a <del>policy</del> <u>program</u> to allow municipal reclaimed water systems and allow onsite non-potable water systems to reduce water demand in private-sector commercial and residential buildings. ♦ ✕	Climate Policy Explorer, ~Y.05	Minor edit since prior memos (program instead of policy as this is a policy).
Policy 3 (Resilience)	Develop 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 incentives for drought-tolerant, native plantings and the use of innovative incentive, communication, and education programs. ♦	Draft PlanSpokane Chapter, NE-2.1, Water Conservation.	Base language per 11/13/25 memo.

♦ 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

As described on pages 1-3, the CRSB will meet on January 8, 2026, and additional refinements to early draft goals and policies would be made to reflect new CRSB policy ideas as well as public engagement efforts in November and December.