

# **Utilities**

**August 3, 2023 UAC Review Draft**

**AUGUST 3, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION  
NOTES ADDED IN ALL CAPS**

**Requested edits by UAC members  
added in **highlight****





Public Works utility employees enjoying a day on the job

### **What Olympia Values:**

*Olympians value a drinking water supply that is owned and controlled by the City. We want wastewater and stormwater treated effectively before it is discharged into Puget Sound. We understand and value the role that 'reuse, reduction and recycling' plays in our effort to conserve energy and materials.*

### **Our Vision for the Future:**

*Clean, plentiful water and significant reduction of waste.*

Read more in the [Community Values and Vision chapter](#)

[AUGUST 3, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: REVIEW OF THE CHAPTER'S VALUES AND VISION WILL OCCUR AFTER THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 2023 VALUES AND VISION COMMUNITY SURVEY ARE AVAILABLE.](#)

## **Introduction - Utilities Shape the Future**

Olympia's future ability to achieve long-term environmental, economic and social balance is influenced by how we deliver utility services to the community. To achieve [sustainability this](#), we'll need to shift from a short- to a long-term focus that considers how today's actions will affect future generations. The long-term view will emphasize reducing waste, preventing pollution, engaging the community, and managing our fiscal and environmental resources conservatively

City utilities include Drinking Water, Wastewater, Storm and Surface Water, and Waste ReSources (garbage, organics, and recycling). Privately-owned utilities such as natural gas and electric, cable service, and telecommunications facilities are regulated locally, especially within city-owned rights-of-way. Olympia's future will be shaped, in part, by where and when these facilities are provided.

Olympia's utilities also provide services that protect nature and conserve

resources by reducing pollution and waste, restoring habitat, and conserving water. The City is also partnering with private utilities to provide their Olympia customers with more opportunities to use renewable energy.

All of the City's ~~Most of the~~ utility programs discussed in this chapter have adopted and periodically update their own detailed master plans to guide the design and daily administration of their services. This chapter is intended to serve as a bridge between those specific plans and the broader vision of this Comprehensive Plan.

## **City-Owned Utilities Working Together**

City-owned and operated utilities provide the community with essential services and can help shape Olympia's future in meaningful ways. We take a coordinated, cost-effective approach to managing our utilities and fully consider the economic, social and environmental implications of all our actions.





Drinking water is provided by a City-owned utility.

Community engagement and involvement is an important component of City utility management. Customers and users help with environmental restoration projects and efforts to reduce pollution and waste. They also can participate in utility management and rate setting. A Utility Advisory Committee (UAC), appointed by City Council, also reviews and provides advise and direction on programs, policies and rates and evaluates operations to ensure the utilities are operated in a sustainable manner.

The four City-owned and operated utilities include:

- **Drinking Water.** This utility's mission is to provide and protect healthy drinking water for the community. This involves protecting groundwater and promoting water conservation, as well as ensuring that our drinking water meets federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
- **Wastewater.** This utility collects and conveys wastewater to treatment facilities to protect public and environmental health. It also works to reduce the number of septic systems in the City.
- **Storm and Surface Water.** The mission of this utility is to minimize flooding, improve water quality, and protect or enhance aquatic habitat.
- **Waste ReSources.** Provides collection services for residential and commercial garbage, residential recyclables, and residential and commercial organics (yard debris, food waste and soiled paper), and also encourages waste reduction through educational programs. Its mission is to lead our community toward a waste-free future.



The City collects organics for composting through its Waste ReSources utility.

Over the next 20 years, there will be a growing need for us to manage our utility resources efficiently. Our challenges will include:

- **Repairing and replacing aging systems.** Operation and maintenance needs will continue to expand, as the pipes, pumps, valves, treatment facilities, reservoirs and wells that make up our utility system age. These needs must be met while keeping rates affordable.

- **Protecting the natural environment.** Water quality deterioration and habitat loss will continue to be a concern as development and utilities expand to new areas.
- ~~**Preparing for sea level rise.** In addition to the flooding threat, the City's underground utilities in the downtown area will be jeopardized.~~
- ~~**Reacting to and mitigating against climate change.** The changing climate in the Pacific Northwest is expected to result in more frequent and intensive winter rainfall events, drier drier summers and rising sea levels. Increased rainfall and associated flooding could result in increased flows into the combined stormwater/sewer system while sea level rise could impact utility infrastructure located in our downtown. Efforts taken by the City's utilities such as reducing energy use, protecting and enhancing habitat areas, promoting water conservation and recycling, and reducing inflow and infiltration could assist the community to mitigate for the impacts of climate change.~~
- ~~**Advancing the City's social equity goals.** Into the future, city-owned utilities will need to balance the need to address ongoing utility maintenance needs with the rates necessary to replace aging infrastructure, while also addressing rates and general facility charges that help advance the City's social equity goals while with also keeping rates as low as possible.~~

~~—AUGUST 3, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: CONSIDER REWRITING THIS SENTENCE INTO TWO OR MORE.~~

- ~~**Adapting to growth and density.** City-owned utilities will need to be prepared to provide utility services to greater urban densities. Fast or slow, the rate of growth will determine how, for example, new water sources are developed and when they come on-line. Higher densities can make providing the space required for solid waste collection problematic.~~

Our utility programs will need to find partnerships and outside resources to help the City face these new challenges.

## Goals and Policies

**GU1 Utility and land use plans are coordinated so that utility services can be provided and maintained for proposed future land uses.**

**PU1.1** Require annexation of all properties for which new City wastewater or drinking water services are requested if the property is outside the City, but inside the Urban Growth Area. Or, require property owners to sign a Binding Agreement to Annex when requested by the City.

**PU1.2** Require new developments to construct drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities and provide space for solid waste collection in ways that meet the community development, environmental protection, and resource protection goals of this Plan, and that are consistent with adopted utility plans and extension policies.

**PU1.3** Evaluate land use plans and utility goals periodically to ensure growth is guided by our knowledge of current environmental constraints. This includes, including risks from climate change, and the latest available utility technology and up-to-date growth and development projections, including those that which incorporate climate migration considerations.

**PU1.4** Make necessary improvements to utility facilities that do not currently meet minimum standards. Prioritize capital improvements to existing systems based on age, condition, risk of failure, and capacity, while also balancing the fair distribution of services and benefits to the entire community.

**PU1.5** Ensure that public utility and transportation-related facilities constructed in Olympia and its Urban Growth Area meet City standards for safety, constructability, durability and maintainability. (See City of Olympia Engineering Design and Development Standards.)

**PU1.6** Annually update the utility portions of the Capital Facilities Plan  to reevaluate infrastructure priorities.

**GU2 Reliable utility service is provided at the lowest reasonable cost, consistent with the City's aims of environmental stewardship, social equity, economic development and the protection of public health.**

**PU2.1** Ensure that new development projects pay for their own utility infrastructure based on their expected needs for the next 20 years. This while also includes balancing the City's social equity and affordable housing goals; and Also requires development projects ~~them~~ to contribute to their portion of existing infrastructure. Routinely review new-development charges (such as general facility charges) when updating utility master plans, or do so more frequently as needed.

AUGUST 3, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: THE UAC EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE INCREASE IN THE UTILITY TAX WHICH IS APPLIED TO UTILITY RATES, PAID BY UTILITY CUSTOMERS AND USED TO FINANCE THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND. THROUGH THE CHAPTER UPDATE PROCESS, STAFF AND THE UAC WILL WORK ON POTENTIAL LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS THE CONCERN THAT INCREASING UTILITY TAXES IMPACTS THE AFFORDABILITY OF RATES AND THE UTILITIES' ABILITY TO RAISE THE REVENUE REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH UTILITY GOALS.

**PU2.2** Ensure that utility fees, such as rates and general facility charges, are structured to reasonably reflect the actual cost of providing services to each customer rate-service class. Fees must also encourage customers to conserve water and reduce their demand on our wastewater treatment system.

**PU2.3** Provide special rates for low-income senior and low-income, disabled utility customers and consider expanding the Helping Neighbors Charitable Fund Program to further the City's social equity goals.

AUGUST 3, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: BY CALLING OUT A PARTICULAR PROGRAM, IT MAY LIMIT THE UTILITIES' ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH AN EXPANSION OF THE UTILITIES' FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THROUGH THE CHAPTER UPDATE PROCESS, STAFF AND THE UAC WILL REVISE THIS POLICY LANGUAGE.

**PU2.4** Ensure that adequate funds are generated by the City's utilities to maintain utility services and capital improvement programs.

**PU2.5** Use fiscally responsible management practices in order to maintain favorable bond ratings for the City's utilities.

**PU2.6** Provide service to existing and new customers consistent with the legal obligation of City utilities to provide service.

**PU2.7** Use pricing and incentives to encourage utility customers to reduce waste, recycle, conserve water, and help protect our surface water quality.

**PU2.8** Use debt financing responsibly to support needed capital facility investments and "smooth" rate impacts.

**PU2.9** Use Developer Reimbursement Agreements that include "latecomer fees" and similar tools to enable property owners to recover some of the initial costs of extending infrastructure to serve their developments, when others connect to such extensions at a later date.

**PU2.10** -Consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of utility

repairs, replacements and upgrades while balancing the fair distribution of services and benefits to the entire community.

PU2.11. Pursue grant funding (e.g. state, federal) opportunities to enhance utility services.

**GU3 Utilities are developed and managed efficiently and effectively.**

**PU3.1** Coordinate public utility functions (such as operations and maintenance, public education and outreach, and Capital Facilities planning) for drinking water, wastewater, storm and surface water, and waste resources.

**PU3.2** Regularly review and where needed revise the [Olympia Municipal Code](#)  and Engineering Development and Design Standards to give detailed guidance on how utility services should be delivered and paid for in accordance with the principles established in this Comprehensive Plan.

**PU3.3** Update all utility master plans regularly and in accordance with state law. When updating utility master plans ensure the City's climate and social equity goals are considered.

**PU3.4** Coordinate long-term planning and scheduling of utility capital improvements with neighboring jurisdictions and other local agencies, such as LOTT.

**PU3.5** Work with neighboring jurisdictions to provide regionally coordinated utility systems for urban services that benefit from a regional approach.

**PU3.6** Locate public and private utilities in public rights-of-way and/or easements on private property in a manner to facilitate safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, and to minimize conflicts. Provide guidance within the Engineering Design and Development Standards that shows how and where public and private utilities should be located, including opportunities for co-location.

**PU3.7** Evaluate programs for effectiveness and efficiency on a regular basis.

**PU3.8** Contribute a portion of utility revenue each year to provide outreach and engagement programs that are inclusive, accessible and representative of the entire community and result in the fair distribution of services and benefits educational programs for schools, neighborhoods and community organizations to help meet utility goals.

**PU3.9** Ensure consistent maintenance, asset management, and emergency management practices for all utilities.

**GU4 Use Olympia’s water resources efficiently to meet the needs of the community, reduce demand on facilities, and protect the natural environment.**

**PU4.1** Encourage and allow re-use techniques, including: rainwater collection, greywater systems, and the use of Class A reclaimed water as alternatives to use of potable water. in order to This can enhance stream flows or recharge aquifers, while also protecting water quality and be consistent with local and State regulations.

**PU4.2** Develop specific targets for reducing potable water use.

**PU4.3** Raise community awareness about why and how to conserve water.

**PU4.4** Reduce water system leakage as much as possible, at a minimum below the Washington State limit of 10 percent of total water production on a three-year rolling average.

**PU4.5** Model best practices in our City operations and the [Olympia Municipal Code](#).

**PU4.6** Advance the use of reclaimed water as defined in Council-adopted policies and as outlined in the Drinking Water Utility’s Water System Plan.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 UAC Review Draft – Staff Proposal (Used as the base)

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION NOTES ADDED IN ALL CAPS

## Drinking Water on Tap

Olympians recognize that the water they use comes from groundwater supplies that need to remain plentiful and unpolluted by our “above-ground” activities. The City’s Drinking Water Utility aims not only to preserve the supply of this resource, but to keep it clean – both for us and for the plants, fish and wildlife that also depend on it.



A young Olympian drinks from a ~~new~~ water fountain at Percival Landing.

Every day, the City of Olympia delivers ~~affordable~~, high-quality drinking water to nearly ~~556~~2,000 people through about ~~492~~1,000 connections. This water consistently meets 100% of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for safe drinking water, and it is pumped to our homes at a fraction of the cost some will pay for ~~unregulated~~-bottled water.

The City also provides transmission and distribution of Class A Reclaimed water to customers in a limited area of downtown Olympia and provides the community with a free untreated source of water in downtown Olympia known as Olympia’s Artesian Well.

Olympia’s Drinking Water Utility operates under a permit granted by the Washington State Department of Health’s Office of Drinking Water. Information about the City’s Drinking Water Utility can be found in Olympia’s Water System Plan <sup>®</sup>.

In the next 20 years, the Utility will face these challenges and issues:

- **Changing water quality regulations.** The Utility must be ready to respond to any changes in water quality regulations and treatment requirements imposed by state and federal agencies.
- **Keeping pace with development.** ~~Fast or slow,~~ The rate of growth will determine how new water sources are developed and when they come on line.
- **Protecting groundwater from contamination.** Risks to groundwater will increase as the population increases, and will require the City to regularly evaluate, monitor, and take action to control sources of pollution. The City’s Drainage Design and Erosion Control Manual – a requirement of the Clean Water Act – and Critical Areas Ordinance help to protect groundwater from contamination.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: SHOULD A REFERENCE TO ADDRESSING SEA LEVEL RISE BE ADDED AS A CHALLENGE AS IT MAY IMPACT DRINKING WATER SOURCES?

## Goals and Policies

**GU5 Adequate supplies of clean drinking water are available for current and future generations and instream flows and aquifer capacity are protected.**

PU5.1 Reserve water supply rights for at least 50 years in advance of need, so that supplies can be protected from contamination ~~and they are not committed to lower-priority uses.~~

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 DISCUSSION: WE MAY WANT TO ADD "AND RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE" TO THE STATEMENT

PU5.2 Develop and maintain multiple, geographically-dispersed sources of water supply to increase the reliability of the system.

PU5.3 Monitor water levels in aquifers and maintain numerical groundwater models.

PU5.4 Coordinate with Lacey, Tumwater, Thurston County, ~~and~~ Public Utility District #1 and tribal interests to assure adequate water supplies throughout the City’s Water Service Area, following the provisions of the Growth Management Act <sup>®</sup>, Public Water System Coordination Act, and the Municipal Water Law.

PU5.5 When practical, develop regionally consistent Critical Areas Ordinance regulations, Drainage Manual requirements, and other policies to ensure we are protecting groundwater quantity and quality across jurisdictional boundaries.

**GU6 Groundwater in the City's Drinking Water (Wellhead) Protection Areas is protected from contamination so that it does not require additional treatment.**

PU6.1 Monitor groundwater quality to detect contamination, evaluate pollution reduction efforts, and to understand risks to groundwater.

PU6.2 Implement programs to change behaviors that threaten groundwater quality, and that raise awareness about aquifers and the need for groundwater protection. Such programs should be designed to be inclusive, accessible and representative of the entire community and to provide opportunities for cross-utility messaging.

PU6.3 Prevent groundwater contamination in Drinking Water Protection Areas by developing and implementing spill prevention and response plans.

PU6.4 Maintain the City's Critical Areas Ordinance, policies, development review process and program management, to ensure we protect groundwater quality and quantity.

PU6.5 Maintain a contaminant-source inventory that identifies priority pollutants for each water source within Drinking Water (wellhead) Protection Areas, and update them regularly.

**GU7 The drinking water system is reliable and is operated and maintained so that high quality drinking water is delivered to customers.**

PU7.1 Maintain and update the [Water System Plan](#), [Engineering Design and Development Standards](#) and [Olympia Municipal Code](#) to ensure drinking water utility facilities meet the requirements of the [Growth Management Act](#), North Thurston County Coordinated Water System Plan, Washington Department of Health and Olympia Fire Code.

PU7.2 Maintain 100 percent compliance with all state and federal requirements, and continually improve our water quality management program.

PU7.3 Design Olympia's water supply system to achieve the most favorable and practical fire insurance rating, consistent with adopted service levels.

PU7.4 Continue and improve maintenance management, including preventive maintenance, repairs and replacements consistent with American Water Works Association best management practices.

PU7.5 Prepare for and respond to emergencies and maintain secure facilities in a manner commensurate to the critical nature of the infrastructure.

PU7.6 Continue to improve operations and maintenance program management, including safety, asset management and meter replacement and in a manner that is consistent with the City's social equity goals.

PU7.7 Develop and maintain adequate storage, transmission and distribution facilities.

PU7.8 Require private water purveyors that build new systems within Olympia's water service area to build to Olympia's standards so the systems can be integrated in the future.

PU7.9 Allow telecommunications companies to locate ANTENNA FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT on Drinking Water Utility owned property, including on storage tanks, only when the security of the facility as critical infrastructure is assured AND A LEASE OR OTHER APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY IS IN PLACE.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: WE NEED TO LIMIT THE TYPES OF FACILITIES THAT CAN BE LOCATED ON OUR PROPERTY. THE QUESTION OF LEGAL CONTEXT WAS ALSO RAISED.

## UTILITIES CHAPTER – SOLID WASTE ELEMENT

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October 5, 2023 UAC REVIEW Draft – Staff Proposal (Used as base)

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October 5, 2023 UAC Discussion Notes added in ALL CAPS and yellow highlight

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### Managing Waste ReSources – Garbage, Recycle, Organics Towards Zero Waste

Olympia’s Waste ReSources Utility provides municipally operated solid waste collection, disposal, and diversion services, including education and outreach. The Utility is responsible for ensuring that all of the City’s waste is properly managed.

Waste materials are generated as part of our daily life and activities through purchase, use, and discard of goods and food scraps. These discards are collected, disposed and managed to protect public and environmental health, and preservation of natural resources through recycling and composting.

Consumption of goods helps support a national economy based on extracting resources, manufacturing and distributing products; a system that encourages excessive waste and does not take into account the full environmental and social costs of this activity. The result is increasing depletion of natural resources, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and deteriorating air and water pollution - all of which are environmentally unsustainable and costly to society.

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Olympians can help solve these problems through a variety of regional and local actions that seek to reduce the amount of waste generated, and increase the amount recycled, composted, and recovered for reuse.

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In June 2006, the Olympia City Council adopted a Zero Waste Resolution, which gave rise to a new strategic and operational six-year plan - Olympia’s Waste ReSources Plan. The Plan provides a road map for the utility’s collection and waste prevention programs. The Plan is regularly updated.

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OCTOBER 5, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: SUGGEST ADDING A TIMEFRAME FOR WHEN THE PLAN IS UPDATED, EITHER A SPECIFIC AMOUNT OR RANGE, SUCH AS SEVEN YEARS, OR EVERY FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS. DD 7 YEARS OR POSSIBLE RANGE

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Waste is an expanding global problem caused by a growing population and increasing consumption. Our national economy is based on extracting resources, manufacturing

and distributing products; a system that encourages excessive waste and does not take into account the full environmental and social costs of this activity. The result is increasing depletion of natural resources, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and deteriorating air and water pollution—all of which are environmentally unsustainable and costly to society.

The amount of waste collected per person each day in Olympia coupled with an increasing population, puts pressure on our already strained regional waste management system. Olympians can help solve these problems through a variety of regional and local actions that seek to reduce the amount of waste generated, and increase the amount recycled and recovered for reuse.



Compost at home to reduce waste.



Olympia's Waste ReSources Utility is responsible for ensuring that all of the City's waste is properly managed, and is directly responsible for providing collection services for residential and commercial garbage, residential recyclables and residential organics.

In June 2006, the Olympia City Council adopted a Zero Waste Resolution, which established a vision for the City and a new direction for the Waste ReSources Utility. This resolution gave rise to a new strategic and operational six year plan—[Olympia's Waste ReSources Plan](#), which focuses on a Zero Waste approach. In fact, [Olympia's Waste ReSources Plan](#) anticipates a future in which "waste" is viewed as an

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~~inefficient use of resources. The Plan is regularly updated.~~

In the next 20 years, the utility will face the following challenges and opportunities:

- **Reduce sources of waste.** The whole life cycle of a product must be considered as we find ways to reduce waste in both "upstream" production and distribution processes and "downstream" consumer choices and waste management practices.
- **Respond to an ever-evolving waste stream.** Continue adapting to changes in packaging, markets, materials, and product recyclability, and compostability.
- **Optimize the current collection system.** Continue to increase the portion of waste that is recycled or composted, while maintaining material quality, and efficient operations.
- **OCTOBER 5, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: CONSIDER REWRITING THE BULLET POINT TO INCLUDE OPTIMIZING DIVERSION AS WELL AS THE COLLECTION SYSTEM. OPTIMIZING CURRENT COLLECTION AND DIVERSION.**
- **Adapting to greater population density.** Continue to provide efficient and effective collection services to a greater number of higher density single-family, multi-family and mixed-use type properties.
- **Maximize commercial recycling.** Continue to evaluate the potential for City-provided commercial recycling services.

## Goals and Policies

**GU12 Solid waste is managed as a resource to provide environmental, economic, and social benefits.**

**PU12.1** Reduce waste and encourage recycling through the City's purchasing, recycling and disposal policies.

**PU12.2** Follow the solid waste management hierarchy established in federal and state legislation, which sets waste reduction as the highest priority management option, followed by reuse, recycling/composting, and responsible disposal.

**PU12.3** Expand, when practical and feasible, the City's recycling, composting and waste reduction programs to maximize the diversion of material from disposal into remanufacture and reuse.

**PU12.4** Support the goals and policies of the Thurston County Solid Waste Management Plan.

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OCTOBER 5, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: MAKE SURE THERE IS A HYPERLINEK TO THE PLAN.ADD LINK

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PU12.5 Support state legislation that is designed to improve/increase recycling and composting, and reduce natural resource consumption.

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OCTOBER 5, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: NEED TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION, AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) AND/OR HARMFUL CHEMICALS

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PU12.6 Maintain and update the Waste ReSources Management Plan, Engineering Design and Development Standards, and Olympia Municipal Code to ensure sanitary conditions are realized, solid waste collection operations are safe and efficient, and waste prevention and diversion are optimized.

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**GU13 Solid waste is managed in a responsible and cost-effective manner.**

PU13.1 Encourage and promote waste reduction and recycling, including exploring new methods.

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PU13.2 Manage waste as locally as possible to reduce transfer and disposal costs.

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PU13.3 Explore new methods of reducing, reusing, recycling and disposing of solid wastes.

PU13.4 Use technology to create and maintain efficient and effective routing and collection programs.

PU13.5 Develop specific targets for waste reduction in Olympia in utility master plans.

**GU14 MINIMIZE -Environmental impacts caused by solid waste management are minimized.**

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OCTOBER 5, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: WORK ON THIS NEED TO WRITE FOR CLARITY. SUCH AS; BEGINNING WITH MINIMIZE OR FINISH WITH MINIMIZED. -ONE

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PU14.1 Handle and dispose of solid waste in ways that minimize land, air and water pollution and protect public health.

PU14.2 Continue to work toward reducing the utility's carbon footprint as technology becomes available and is financially viable.

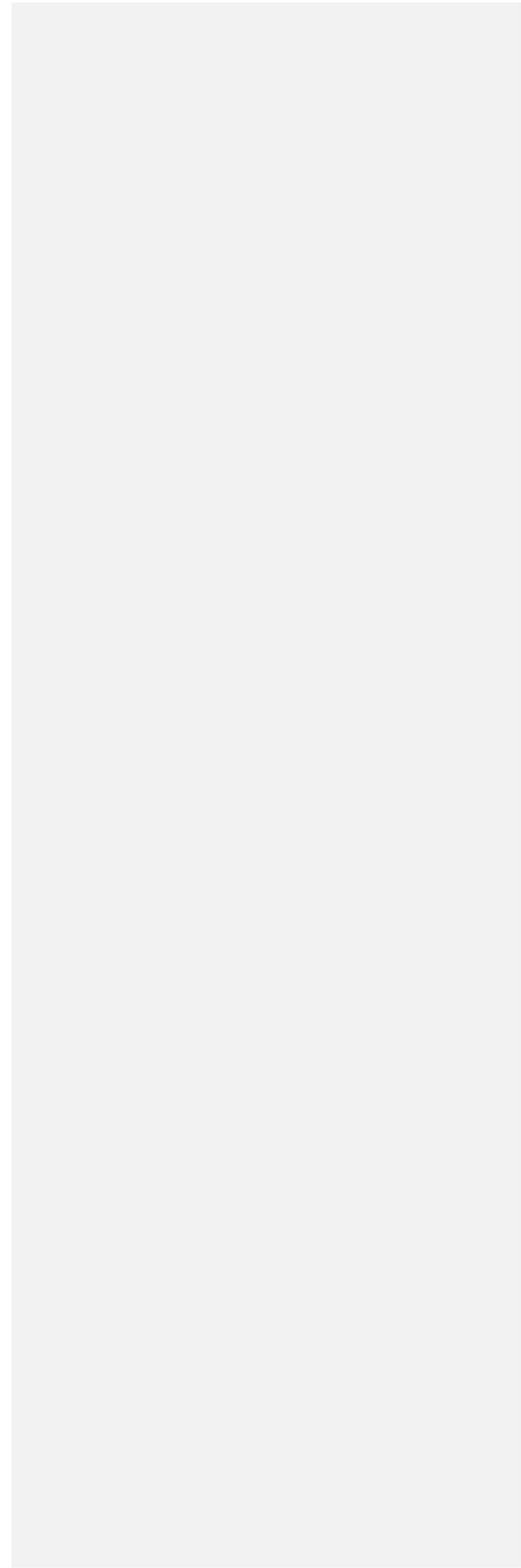
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**PU14.23** Work cooperatively with Thurston County to ensure that the operations of the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center (WARC) are in compliance with state and federal regulations, and are responsibly managed.

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# October 5, 2023 UAC Review Draft – Staff Proposal

UAC OCTOBER 5, 2023 MEETING NOTES IN ALL CAPS

## Community Values & Vision

### Utilities

What Olympia Values:

#### **Current Language:**

*Olympians value a drinking water supply that is owned and controlled by the City. We want wastewater and stormwater treated effectively before it is discharged into Puget Sound. We understand and value the role that 'reuse, reduction and recycling' plays in our effort to conserve energy and materials.*

#### **Staff Proposal – Clean Version:**

*Olympians value community decision making and control afforded through its city-owned utilities; its high quality drinking water supply which exceeds all drinking water regulatory standards; protecting Puget Sound and local waterways by preventing pollution and effectively treating stormwater and wastewater before it is discharged into Puget Sound and local waterways, and; a clean sanitary city where waste products are disposed of properly and a reduction in use occurs to conserve energy and resources.*

#### **Staff Proposal – With Track Changes:**

*Olympians value community decision making and control afforded through its city-owned utilities; ~~Olympians value a~~ its high quality drinking water supply which exceeds all drinking water regulatory standards; ~~that is owned and controlled by the City. We want wastewater and stormwater treated~~ protecting Puget Sound and local waterways by preventing pollution and effectively treating stormwater and wastewater before it is discharged into Puget Sound and local waterways, and; a clean sanitary city where waste products are disposed of properly and a reduction in use occurs to conserve energy and resources. ~~We understand and value the role that 'reuse, reduction and recycling' plays in our effort to conserve energy and materials.~~*

OCTOBER 5, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: CUSTOMER SERVICE DELIVERY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS IS MISSING FROM THE VALUE STATEMENT AS PROPOSED

Our Vision for the Future:

**Current Language:**

*Clean, plentiful water and significant reduction of waste.*

Through careful planning, improved efficiency of our drinking water use and rates that encourage conservation, Olympia will be able to meet the water needs of its future population. Our improved water treatment and reduced wastewater and storm water discharge will support abundant aquatic life in Budd Inlet and our local streams.

We will place less pressure on our local landfills, thanks to state and national packaging standards, local solid waste incentives, and the voluntary actions of our community members. A majority of Olympia households will be using urban organic compost on their landscapes. Artificial fertilizers no longer contaminate local water bodies.

**Staff Proposal – Clean Version:**

*Clean, plentiful water and significant reduction of pollution and waste.*

Through careful planning, improved efficiency of our drinking water use and voluntary conservation, Olympia will be able to meet the water needs of its future population. Improved wastewater and stormwater treatment and management will support a healthy community of native aquatic life in Budd Inlet and our local waterways.

We will place less pressure on landfills, through our recycling and composting programs and efforts to support state packaging and product life-cycle initiatives, local solid waste incentives, and the voluntary actions of our community members. Olympia households no longer use harmful products that could contaminate local water bodies.

To use community resources wisely, city-owned utility assets are maintained or replaced at the ideal time so that future ratepayers inherit reliable water, wastewater, stormwater and garbage services

**Staff Proposal – With Track Changes:**

*Clean, plentiful water and significant reduction of pollution and waste.*

Through careful planning, improved efficiency of our drinking water use and ~~rates that encourage~~ voluntary conservation, Olympia will be able to meet the water needs of its future population. ~~Our improved~~ wastewater and stormwater ~~water~~ treatment and management ~~reduced wastewater and storm water~~ ~~discharge~~ will support a healthy community of native abundant aquatic life in Budd Inlet and our local waterwaysstreams.

We will place less pressure on ~~our local~~ landfills, through our recycling and composting programs and efforts to support state packaging and product life-cycle initiatives~~thanks to state and national packaging standards~~, local solid waste incentives, and the voluntary actions of our community members. ~~A majority of Olympia households will be using urban organic compost on their landscapes. Olympia households no longer use harmful products that could~~ Artificial fertilizers no longer contaminate local water bodies.

To use community resources wisely, city-owned utility assets are maintained or replaced at the ideal time so that future ratepayers inherit reliable water, wastewater, stormwater and garbage services.

OCTOBER 5, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: CHECK THE ABOVE PARAGRAPHS FOR GRAMMAR

# Utilities

[November 2, 2023 UAC Review Draft Staff Proposed Revisions](#)

[NOVEMBER 2, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION IN ALL CAPS](#)

## Managing Wastewater Effectively

The purpose of Olympia’s Wastewater Utility is to protect public and environmental health by ensuring that wastewater is collected and conveyed to treatment and disposal facilities with minimal risk.

Olympia provides wastewater collection service to 17.5 square miles of the City and about eight square miles of Urban Growth Area in unincorporated Thurston County. However, many neighborhoods and individual lots within the City are still using septic systems. By 2035, Olympia expects public sewers will be extended to serve most of the Urban Growth Area.



Olympia crew members maintaining the sewer system to ensure proper functioning.

All wastewater collected by Olympia is conveyed to LOTT-owned transmission mains and treatment facilities for treatment and disposal. Treatment and disposal is managed by the [LOTT Clean Water Alliance](#) , which is a partnership of the

cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and Thurston County.

Wastewater Utility activities are guided by the [Wastewater Management Plan](#). The [LOTT Clean Water Alliance](#) developed and actively manages its own Plan, known as the [Wastewater Resource Management Plan](#), which it updates every year. The Plan addresses the treatment and disposal needs for all of its partners.

The Wastewater Utility coordinates a number of activities with the [LOTT Clean Water Alliance](#), including maintenance, condition assessments, and pre-treatment program efforts. These activities are all required under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, which covers both the City's wastewater collection system and LOTT-owned facilities. This shared responsibility requires continuous communication between the two entities, at both the operation and planning levels.



Installing a deep sewer [maintenance hole manhole](#) on Henderson Boulevard as part of a planned capital improvement project.

The Wastewater Utility faces the following key challenges over the next 20 years:

- **Maintaining existing infrastructure.** More than half of the City's wastewater infrastructure has passed its design life or is susceptible to corrosion. Given the need to protect public health, repair and replacement of failing sewer systems typically cannot be deferred.
- **Reducing septic systems.** Many septic systems, especially in older parts of the City, are beyond or approaching their design life. This presents the potential for failure and risk to public and environmental health. [The DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY'S DISSOLVED OXYGEN WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR](#)

Budd Inlet ~~Dissolved Oxygen TMDL~~ includes Priority Implementation Actions related to converting septic systems to sewer.

## NOVEMBER 2, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: REVISE REFERENCE TO THE TMDL

- **STEP Systems.** The use of Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) systems present ongoing challenges, including high lifecycle costs, odor control, and corrosion damage to other sewer infrastructure.
- **Fats, Oils, and Grease.** Significant utility staff time is spent on tasks associated with Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), including educating customers on proper disposal methods, responding to wastewater system blockages and coordinating with LOTT.

## Goals and Policies

**GU8** ~~The City and its growth area are served by a City-owned wastewater collection and transmission system that is designed and operated to minimize leakage, overflows, infiltration and inflows so as to minimize long term costs, provide sufficient capacity for projected demand, promote equity, and protect the natural environment.~~

**PU8.1** Extend the wastewater gravity collection system through both public and private development projects.

**PU8.2** Prohibit new community and individual septic systems within City limits, except when specifically allowed by the [Olympia Municipal Code](#) .

~~**PU8.3** Limit and ultimately phase out community septic systems in the Urban Growth Area.~~

**PU8.34** Encourage septic system owners to connect to the City wastewater system by offering incentives, cost-recovery mechanisms, pipe extensions and other tools.

**PU8.4** Prioritize future septic to sewer conversion projects in coordination with Thurston County in support of the Priority Implementation Actions in the *Budd Inlet DISSOLVED OXYGEN WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN* ~~Dissolved Oxygen TMDL.~~

[PU8.5](#) Limit and ultimately phase-out the use of individual STEP systems for development.

[PU8.65](#) Prohibit new individual STEP systems, except when specifically allowed by the Olympia Municipal Code ~~☒~~ [Permit new STEP systems only for individual lots in neighborhoods currently served by STEP systems.](#)

[PU8.76](#) Require the conversion of septic systems to the City-owned wastewater collection system upon septic system failure or building use change, whenever feasible.

[PU8.87](#) Separate combined wastewater/stormwater pipes in conjunction with stormwater and road improvements or residential repairs, when economically feasible.

[PU8.98](#) Evaluate the [capacity and](#) structural integrity of aging wastewater facilities and ~~repair and maintain~~ [maintain, repair, or replace](#) as needed.

[PU8.9](#)

~~**GU9 The Utility will facilitate the implementation and use of new technology and management systems.**~~

~~[PU9.1](#) Allow conditional use of alternative systems, such as composting toilets and greywater systems when potential benefits are clear and there is not risk to public or environmental health.~~

## **Utilities**

**August 3, 2023 UAC Review Draft –  
revisions reviewed in August in red**

**AUGUST 3, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION  
NOTES ADDED IN ALL CAPS**

**Requested edits by UAC members  
added in highlight**

**November 2, 2023 Staff proposed  
revisions to general financial  
policies – revisions in blue outline**

**Proposed new introductory text:**

**Olympia’s utilities are responsible for  
funding all of their related costs through  
user fees; they do not depend on tax  
revenues, or General Fund resources.  
Additionally, Olympia’s utilities are subject  
to a municipal utility tax which serves as a  
source of operating revenue for the City.**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION IN RED SHADOW – THE PROPOSED INTRODUCTORY TEXT SHOULD BE REVISED TO REFLECT THAT THE MUNICIPAL UTILITY TAX IS PASSED ON TO THE RATE PAYERS “PASSED THROUGH TO THE RATE PAYERS”**

## **Goals and Policies**

**GU1 Utility and land use plans are coordinated so that utility services can be provided and maintained for proposed future land uses.**

**PU1.1** Require annexation of all properties for which new City wastewater or drinking water services are requested if the property is outside the City, but inside the Urban Growth Area. Or, require property owners to sign a Binding Agreement to Annex when requested by the City.

**PU1.2** Require new developments to construct drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities and provide space for solid waste collection in ways that meet the community development, environmental protection, and resource protection goals of this Plan, and that are consistent with adopted utility plans and extension policies.

**PU1.3** Evaluate land use plans and utility goals periodically to ensure growth is guided by our knowledge of current environmental constraints. This includes, including risks from climate change, and the latest available utility technology and up-to-date growth and development projections, including those that which incorporate climate migration considerations.

**PU1.4** Make necessary improvements to utility facilities that do not currently meet minimum standards. Prioritize capital improvements to existing systems based on age, condition, risk of failure, and capacity, while also balancing the fair distribution of services and benefits to the entire community.

**PU1.5** Ensure that public utility and transportation-related facilities constructed in Olympia and its Urban Growth Area meet City standards for safety, constructability, durability and maintainability. (See City of Olympia Engineering Design and Development Standards.)

**PU1.6** Annually update the utility portions of the Capital Facilities Plan to

reevaluate infrastructure priorities.

**GU2 Reliable utility service is provided at the lowest reasonable cost, consistent with the City's aims of environmental stewardship, social equity, economic development and the protection of public health.**

**PU2.1** Ensure that new development projects pay for their own utility infrastructure based on their expected needs for the next 20 years. This while also includes balancing the City's social equity and affordable housing goals; and Also requires development projects ~~them~~ to contribute to their portion of existing infrastructure. Routinely review new-development charges (such as general facility charges) when updating utility master plans, or do so more frequently as needed.

AUGUST 3, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: THE UAC EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE INCREASE IN THE UTILITY TAX WHICH IS APPLIED TO UTILITY RATES, PAID BY UTILITY CUSTOMERS AND USED TO FINANCE THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND. THROUGH THE CHAPTER UPDATE PROCESS, STAFF AND THE UAC WILL WORK ON POTENTIAL LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS THE CONCERN THAT INCREASING UTILITY TAXES IMPACTS THE AFFORDABILITY OF RATES AND THE UTILITIES' ABILITY TO RAISE THE REVENUE REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH UTILITY GOALS.

**PU2.2** Ensure that utility fees, such as rates and general facility charges, are structured to reasonably reflect the actual cost of providing services to each customer rate-service class. Fees must also encourage customers to conserve water and reduce their demand on our wastewater treatment system.

**PU2.3** Provide special rates for low-income senior and low-income, disabled utility customers and consider expanding the Helping Neighbors Charitable Fund Program to further the City's social equity goals.

AUGUST 3, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: BY CALLING OUT A PARTICULAR PROGRAM, IT MAY LIMIT THE UTILITIES' ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH AN EXPANSION OF THE UTILITIES' FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THROUGH THE CHAPTER UPDATE PROCESS, STAFF AND THE UAC WILL REVISE THIS POLICY LANGUAGE.

November 2, 2023 Proposed Change:  
Provide special rates for low-income senior and low-income disabled utility customers and consider expanding established or

creating new special rate programs overtime to further the City's social equity goals.

**NOVEMBER 2, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION:  
REVISED LANGUAGE LOOKS GOOD AS  
PROPOSED.**

**PU2.4** Ensure that adequate funds are generated by the City's utilities to maintain utility services and capital improvement programs.

**PU2.5** Use fiscally responsible management practices in order to maintain favorable bond ratings for the City's utilities.

**PU2.6** Provide service to existing and new customers consistent with the legal obligation of City utilities to provide service.

**PU2.7** Use pricing and incentives to encourage utility customers to reduce waste, recycle, conserve water, and help protect our surface water quality.

**PU2.8** Use debt financing responsibly to support needed capital facility investments and "smooth" rate impacts.

**PU2.9** Use Developer Reimbursement Agreements that include "latecomer fees" and similar tools to enable property owners to recover some of the initial costs of extending infrastructure to serve their developments, when others connect to such extensions at a later date.

**PU2.10** Consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of utility repairs, replacements and upgrades while balancing the fair distribution of services and benefits to the entire community.

**PU2.11.** Pursue grant funding (e.g. state, federal) opportunities to enhance utility services.

**November 2, 2023 Staff proposed new financial policies:**

PU2.12. Changes to the municipal utility tax will be evaluated against City-owned utilities' ability to deliver service, the City's operating budget needs, and social and equity goals.

**NOVEMBER 2, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: INCREASES TO THE MUNICIPAL UTILITY TAX CAN ALSO RESULT IN DEFERRED CAPITAL BUDGETS – BALANCING THE SHORT TERM NEEDS WITH LONG TERM NEEDS (IE THE NEED TO ADDRESS AGING INFRASTRUCTURE) SHOULD BE ADDED – IT IS A CHOICE THAT NEEDS TO BE MADE EVERY YEAR – RECOGNIZING CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE POLICY STATEMENT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED “IN THE FACE OF EVER CHANGING EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE”. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE UAC PROVIDE SPECIFIC COMMENT ON THE MUT IN THEIR UTILITIES CHAPTER COMP PLAN LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.**

PU2.13. City-owned utilities will use long-range financial planning, policies and transparent processes to guide rate, capital project and operational decisions.

**GU3 Utilities are developed and managed efficiently and**

**effectively.**

**PU3.1** Coordinate public utility functions (such as operations and maintenance, public education and outreach, and Capital Facilities planning) for drinking water, wastewater, storm and surface water, and waste resources.

**PU3.2** Regularly **review and where needed** revise the [Olympia Municipal Code](#) and Engineering Development and Design Standards to give detailed guidance on how utility services should be delivered and paid for in accordance with the principles established in this Comprehensive Plan.

**PU3.3** Update all utility master plans regularly and in accordance with state law. When updating utility master plans ensure the City's climate and social equity goals are considered.

**PU3.4** Coordinate long-term planning and scheduling of utility capital improvements with neighboring jurisdictions and other local agencies, such as LOTT.

**PU3.5** Work with neighboring jurisdictions to provide regionally coordinated utility systems for urban services that benefit from a regional approach.

**PU3.6** Locate public and private utilities in public rights-of-way and/or easements on private property in a manner to facilitate safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, and to minimize conflicts. Provide guidance within the Engineering Design and Development Standards that shows how and where public and private utilities should be located, including opportunities for co-location.

**PU3.7** Evaluate programs for effectiveness and efficiency on a regular basis.

**PU3.8** Contribute a portion of utility revenue each year to provide outreach and engagement programs that are inclusive, accessible and representative of the entire community and result in the fair distribution of services and benefits ~~educational programs for schools, neighborhoods and community organizations~~ to help meet utility goals.

**PU3.9** Ensure consistent maintenance, asset management, and emergency management practices for all utilities.

**GU4 Use Olympia's water resources efficiently to meet the needs of the community, reduce demand on facilities, and protect the natural environment.**

**PU4.1** Encourage and allow re-use techniques, including: rainwater collection, greywater systems, and the use of Class A reclaimed water as alternatives to use of potable water, in order to This can enhance stream flows or recharge aquifers, while also protecting water quality and be consistent with local and State regulations.

**PU4.2** Develop specific targets for reducing potable water use.

**PU4.3** Raise community awareness about why and how to conserve water.

**PU4.4** Reduce water system leakage as much as possible, at a minimum below the Washington State limit of 10 percent of total water production on a three-year rolling average.

**PU4.5** Model best practices in our City operations and the [Olympia Municipal Code](#) .

**PU4.6** Advance the use of reclaimed water as defined in Council-adopted policies and as outlined in the Drinking Water Utility's Water System Plan.

## December 7, 2023 UAC Review Draft Staff Proposed Revisions

### DECEMBER 7 UAC REVIEW COMMENTS IN ALL CAPS

## **Rainfall, Runoff, and Surface Water**

The mission of the Storm and Surface Water Utility is to provide services that minimize flooding, maintain or improve water quality, and protect or enhance aquatic habitat. ~~The g~~Goals and policies that protect water quality and aquatic habitat ~~on from a City-wide scale~~ are located in the [Natural Environment](#) chapter. This Utility ~~leverages opportunities to protect~~ ~~works on reconciling conflicts between protecting~~ our 'built' landscape from flooding ~~while enhancing and conservation of our~~ water quality and aquatic habitat.



Porous pavement, bioretention and constructed wetlands demonstrate stormwater options for low impact development at Yauger Park.

The Storm and Surface Water Utility maintains more than ~~166~~<sup>130</sup> miles of underground pipe, more than 7,600 storm drains, and ~~985~~ stormwater ponds that filter stormwater runoff from roads and rooftops before it reaches our streams and Budd Inlet. The "surface water" for which Olympia's Storm and Surface Water Utility shares responsibility includes nine streams within the City, four lakes, four large wetlands, and about six miles of marine shoreline.

The Stormwater Utility is guided by the [Storm and Surface Water Plan](#) <sup>☞</sup> which outlines its challenges, goals, implementation tools and financial implications. Increasingly, this Utility is affected by state and federal regulatory requirements such as the [Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit](#) <sup>☞</sup>.

DECEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: CONSIDER ADDING A SENTENCE TO THE INTRODUCTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE STORMWATER UTILITY ASSISTS WITH ADDRESSING SEA LEVEL RISE/ ADDRESSING SEA LEVEL RISE IS IMPORTANT TO THE STORMWATER UTILITY – AND THAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE CLIMATE CHAPTER.



Kayakers in Budd Inlet as seen from Percival Landing.

Olympia's growth and urbanization continues to have placed increasing demands on our natural systems. Major challenges facing the Storm and Surface Water Utility in upcoming years include:

- **Managing the impact of increasing stormwater runoff.** The cumulative impacts of additional paving, ~~and~~ development and non-point pollution sources will increase pollutants in streams and Puget Sound, decrease infiltration to groundwater, and reduce ~~forest~~ habitat. Impacts from increased rainfall intensity as a result of climate change will exasperate the difficulty of managing stormwater.
- **Preparing for sea level rise.** We will need to continue to support the a coordinated effort to protect our downtown from the flooding that resulted from the completion of the 2019 Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan including responding to tidal flooding events. ~~could result from a sea rise scenario of 50 inches by 2100.~~
- **Keeping up with new technology.** As innovative approaches to treating and controlling stormwater rapidly evolve, the Storm and Surface Water Utility must evaluate the effectiveness and long-term implications of new technologies, while also managing risks associated with potential failures.
- **All water has value.** A City-wide approach (including the development community) will be required for the integrated management of all water systems, including stormwater. Taking such an approach will have positive implications for Olympia's long-term sustainability.
- **Increasing regulatory requirements.** To discharge stormwater into

"waters of the United States" the City must obtain and meet requirements of its current a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Discharge Permit (Permit). Permit requirements are continually being expanded with each Permit reissuance. This has resulted in significantly less discretionary staff time and budget available for other aspects of the Utility's work. Meeting growing permit requirements is a shared City-wide responsibility that requires substantial Utility staff time to coordinate with a limited amount of resources.

DECEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO EXPLAIN MORE ABOUT WHY ADDITIONAL STAFF TIME IS DEVOTED TO THE NPDES PERMIT

## Goals and Policies

**GU10 The frequency and severity of flooding are managed reduced and hazards are eliminated, except during major storm events.**

**PU10.1** Improve stormwater systems in areas that are vulnerable to flooding.

**PU10.2** Emphasize the importance of emergency preparedness.

**PU10.3** Evaluate the structural integrity of aging stormwater pipes and repair as needed.

**PU10.4** Inspect and maintain private and public stormwater systems. ~~to identify required maintenance and repairs.~~

**PU10.5** Inventory ~~and inspect~~ City-owned culverts, ditches, and catch basins and perform maintenance if needed.

**PU10.6** Provide technical assistance to private stormwater system owners and ensure they maintain their private stormwater systems~~that private pipe and pond systems are maintained.~~

PU10.7 Prioritize underserved and overburdened communities when developing solutions to flooding.

DECEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: 1. SEE ABOUT ADDING A SEA LEVEL RISE RELATED POLICY TO GU10; 2. CONSIDER MERGING PU10.4 AND PU10.5 INTO ONE POLICY INCLUDING A REFERENCE TO MAINTENANCE STANDARDS COMING FROM THE PERMIT; 3. CONSIDER REWORKING PU10.7 TO

PRIORITIZING SOLUTIONS FOR FLOODING THAT SERVES OVERBURDEN NEIGHBORHOODS.

~~**GU11 The City uses best available information to implement a sea level rise management plan that will protect Olympia's downtown.**~~

~~**PU11.1** Evaluate different scenarios for sea level rise, including varying magnitudes and time horizons, and develop a progression of adaptation and response actions for each scenario.~~

~~**PU11.2** Develop plans, cost estimates and financing options for addressing sea level rise that include regulatory, engineering and environmentally sensitive solutions.~~

~~**PU11.3** Maintain public control of downtown shorelines that may eventually be needed to help manage flood water.~~

~~**PU11.4** Incorporate sea level rise planning into the design of public and private infrastructure where needed.~~

~~**PU11.5** Use the best available science and the experiences of other communities in formulating plans for sea level rise.~~

~~**PU11.6** Partner with government entities and other key stakeholders, such as, the federal government, State of Washington, LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Port of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe, downtown property owners, businesses and residents, environmental groups, and other interested parties.~~

~~**PU11.7** Engage the community in a discussion of various sea level rise scenarios, how the City will respond to lessen the impact, and what the costs would be.~~

~~**PU11.8** Require development to incorporate measures, such as higher finished floor elevations, that will reduce risks and avoid future costs associated with rising sea levels; and to encourage acknowledgment of such risks by state and federal agencies.~~

**GU11 The Utility considers the interrelationship and complexity of its three missions to manage flooding, improve water quality and protect and enhance aquatic habitat in its decisions and involves other City departments in this effort.**

**PU11.1** Develop a priority ranking system for capital projects that balances the Utility's three missions: flooding, water quality and habitat. Equity will be part of the ranking criteria.

**PU11.2** Plan and implement programs and actions that can effectively achieve equitable stormwater management, urban forestry, open space and water quality objectives.

**PU11.3** Complete and maintain watershed or basin plans for all areas of the City to guide management and prioritization. Address water quality, habitat, stormwater runoff, flooding issues, and service equity.

**PU11.4** Consider a program of retrofitting existing streetscapes with water quality and quantity stormwater system improvements to minimize pollution from roadway runoff to natural drainage systems and the waters of Puget Sound.

**PU11.5** Effectively manage the City's existing municipal separate storm sewer system in a manner that manages flooding, improves water quality and protects the natural environment.

**PU11.6** Implement a Capital Improvement Program that maintains and improves the municipal separate storm sewer system in a manner that enhances and protects the City's natural environment, mitigates flooding problems, improves water quality, promotes a reliable and safe transportation network and provides the community a safe and healthy place for living, working and recreating.

**PU11.7** Foster City partnerships with public, private, and non-profit agencies and groups and encourage them to help identify and evaluate new low impact development and green infrastructure approaches. Note: Pulled from the current Natural Environment chapter.

**DECEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: CONSIDER ADDING IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS TO PU11.7 SINCE THERE ARE STAKEHOLDERS THAT WANT TO ASSIST.**

**PU11.8** Increase the use of low impact and green infrastructure methods through education, technical assistance, incentives, regulations, and grants. Note: Pulled from the current Natural Environment chapter.

**PU11.9** Prioritize Utility land purchases when there are opportunities to make connections between healthy systems; for example, land parcels in a stream corridor; those that facilitate future water quality retrofits or protect existing aquatic ecological function. Note: Pulled from the current Natural Environment

chapter with modifications as highlighted.

**PU11.10** Improve programs and management strategies designed to prevent and reduce contamination of roadway runoff and other sources of stormwater.

Note: Pulled from the current Natural Environment chapter.

**PU11.11** Investigate the role Community-Based Public-Private Partnerships could play to incentivize investments in stormwater solutions that ensure community co-benefits including, but not limited to, water quality and habitat improvements.

**PU11.12** Investigate the feasibility of developing an in-lieu mitigation program that involves the restoration, establishment, enhancement and/or preservation of aquatic resources and results in stormwater management.

**GU12 City departments work collaboratively to maintain and document compliance with the Municipal Stormwater Permit.**

**PU12.1** The Utility effectively communicates and coordinates the complex City-wide responsibilities of the Municipal Stormwater Permit to other City departments.

**PU 12.2** The Utility reviews development plans to ensure compliance with the Municipal Stormwater Permit.

**PU 12.3.** The Utility manages the compilation of essential City-wide documentation required for Municipal Stormwater Permit report submissions.

DECEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS ARE MADE AWARE OF THIS GOAL STATEMENT AND THAT OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS HAVE A ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT. CONSIDER CALLING OUT THIS GOAL AND OTHER DEPARTMENT'S ROLE IN THE PERMIT IN THE UAC'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.

DECEMBER 7, 2023 UAC DISCUSSION: COORDINATING WITH OTHER JURISIDCTIONS VIA WATERSHED ACTIVITIES, DUE TO STREAMS RUNNING THROUGH MULTI-JURISIDCTIONS ETC SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN EITHER THE SSW POLICIES OR THE GENERAL POLICIES