

Olympia Planning Commission

August 4, 2025

Olympia City Council
PO Box 1967 Olympia
WA 98507-1967

SUBJECT: Olympia 2045 Comprehensive Climate Element

Dear Mayor Payne and Councilmembers:

The Planning Commission is pleased to recommend approval of the Climate Element of the Olympia 2045 Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission appreciates the effort and time that City of Olympia Staff have invested in engaging with the Planning Commission. The Commission had briefings on the Chapter on May 20, 2024, and June 2, 2025. The Social Justice and Equity Commission also received a briefing on December 2, 2024, and June 23, 2025. A public hearing was conducted on August 4, 2025. Commission deliberations were conducted on August 4, 2025.

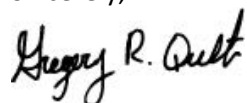
After completing deliberations, a motion to recommend approval of the chapter as proposed was adopted unanimously. The Planning Commission looks forward to seeing the implementation of the climate goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan. The topic of trees arose during both public comment and Planning Commission deliberations. The Planning Commission would like to state support for a strong and equitable distribution of tree canopy across the City of Olympia and policies encouraging sustainable development in the city to avoid destruction of forests and other greenfield. Trees provide many benefits for both mitigating and adapting to climate change – as well as many other benefits for the community and preservation of nature. We found these considerations to be captured, at least in part, in existing Policy 7.1:

Policy 7.1: Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan to establish tree canopy goals and inform the policies, programs, operations, and resources needed to implement those goals. The strategies described will strike a balance between environmental protection and sustainable urban growth.

We understand this update work is being completed in a phased manner, with each chapter being considered individually. We also understand that final adoption will not occur until the entire draft is reviewed for internal consistency as well.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the proposed chapter and provide a recommendation for moving this portion of the periodic update forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Greg Quetin
Chair