

Public Comments for Climate Element

Climate Element Draft 2/18/2025

This table includes the raw comments received between February 18, 2025 to March 19, 2025. This period corresponds to when the online Engage Olympia survey was open. The comments were collected through direct email to City staff, Q&A session at the Timberland Regional Library, the Billy Frank Jr. Community Event as well as a suggestion box at the Timberland Regional Library. There are 73 comments included in this document.

The comments were received through conversation and with an engagement activity, where participants would randomly select a goal or policy and respond or write their thoughts about the policy on the back of the paper.

Event	Date	Affiliation	Sub-Element	Comprehensive Plan Chapter	Policy ID (2/18 DRAFT)	Comment
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Land Use and Urban Design	10	I think efforts towards building density will improve public transportation availability, walkability, and non-driving modes of transportation such as biking and scootering. If redevelopment requires energy-saving and sustainably sourced materials, then I think the City can go a long way towards it environmental goals (which is great for all of us!)
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Land Use and Urban Design	12	Yes to collaboration as long as it helps assure compliance with goals of the plan. The public, including property owners, need to be brought on board to make the plan a success
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Land Use and Urban Design	12.3	A great idea for residents and community members. Perhaps having neighbor discussions IN THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS on how to do it and how to cooperate in putting the rain gardens in. Also talks on landscaping for fire prep
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	16	Recognize passive geothermal availability
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	16	Network energy distribution to take advantage of local production - bidirectional / multidirectional
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	19	housing is more dense - what does this do for home ownership? Apartment complexes don't allow for ownership and diverts this ability
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Natural Environment	22.2	Make it a priority
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Natural Environment	24	All things being related, a healthy aquatic habitat helps provide for healthy shores and beds, for health in sources of food for the creatures that rely on them, a safe environment for people and so on. I think, culturally, it also points towards one communities' values towards the environment

Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Natural Environment	24.1	I love the bay and the seabirds. If the habitat of the bay is degraded, it would be a loss for Olympia residents
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Natural Environment	24.1	Keeping waters cool i.e. riparian restoration and tree planting
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Parks, Arts & Recreation	28.1	Have more extended input from community members on park creation - where, how, what - especially for changes to existing parks
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Parks, Arts & Recreation	30.2	need to incorporate adaptation to sea level rise in the near future with existing building, not with future design.
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Parks, Arts & Recreation	31.1	more trees!
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Public Safety	35	Address geographic distribution of fire protection staffing for mutual aid partnerships
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience, Mitigation	General		It faces the undeniable already existing effects of a changing climate. I would love to see all this implemented more quickly. In fact, I think it needs to be approached with the urgency it requires. We don't have 20 years, and in some cases, we don't even have 10 years. I think it needs to be approached as an emergency and take priority.
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Natural Environment		More trees and requirements for tree planting everywhere possible (not just where trees were taken out)
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Public Safety	36.3	the state has just put a lot of work into this - hopefully the city of Olympia can adopt their recommendations
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Public Safety	37, 38	be sure the city is working together with the county EMS (I'm assuming they would but just to be sure!). I.e. Thurston county public health dept and medical reserve corps (MRC), CERT and other. Work with them in all planning stages as well
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Mitigation	General		Need faster turnaround - 2040 is too late!

Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Mitigation	Public Utilities	42	we need solutions to plastics!! Decrease of production and increase reuse and recycle
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Public Utilities	48.1	The health of Puget Sound's water has a direct impact on the environment, health of people, and the ability for certain industries with food sources to continue. Personally, I'd love to one day be able to swim in Budd Bay
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Public Utilities	49	show service areas of local and adjacent providers
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Public Utilities	49	show current power sources - scale markers by annual deliveries; public, private, unharnessed
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Resilience	Public Utilities	49	show vulnerabilities to natural disasters fire, volcano, sea level rise, flooding
Library Public Comment	2/25/2025	General Public	Mitigation	Transportation	55	I take the bus - no on street parking on my street but I don't need it or look for any
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Resilience, Mitigation	General		we strongly believe that housing affordability must be integrated throughout all chapters of the comprehensive plan
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Resilience, Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	10	This new goal must consider the potential impacts on housing affordability.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Resilience	Land Use and Urban Design	12	This new goal must consider the potential impacts on housing affordability.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	14	The creation of incentives is essential to achieving this goal.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	14.3	This proposal risks pricing landlords out of business, leading to a reduction in available housing options. The rising costs could force landlords to sell, exacerbating the housing crisis.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	14.4	This is already mandated by the State, and further local requirements would be redundant.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	14.5	We seek clarification on what "prioritizing" retrofits would entail.

Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	14.7	Could you please clarify what is meant by “communitywide capacity”?
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	14.8	Eliminating natural gas from buildings is costly. In addition to the financial impact, the potential increase in electrical service and power distribution costs must be considered.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	15.2	We recommend identifying ways to reduce costs associated with change-of-use requirements.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	15.3	This is a critical area where housing affordability must be explicitly addressed.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	15.4	Deconstruction and material reuse is an expensive process, and there are limited recycling options within the County. Additionally, reclaimed materials may not meet current building codes. Older lumber was not graded, and any reuse would require regrading or approval from structural engineers, adding significant time and costs.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	16.2	This goal should include cost-benefit analyses to assess feasibility. The term “feasible buildings” should be clearly defined.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	16.4	Rather than requiring solar panels, we recommend focusing on effective incentives to encourage their use. Additionally, the phrase “when feasible” requires clear definition
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	19.2	Urban Growth Areas should expand as necessary based on population growth and available land. Maintaining a fixed Urban Growth Area will not facilitate affordable housing development.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Resilience	Natural Environment	21.1	Who will be responsible for evaluating and managing the land under this goal?
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Resilience	Natural Environment	21.2	How will this goal be funded, and who will make the decisions regarding its implementation?

Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Resilience	Natural Environment	22	While we recognize the importance of protecting our natural resources, we must also prioritize land for housing to meet the needs of our growing population. Housing should take precedence in this urban area.
Direct Email	3/18/2025	OMB	Mitigation	Public Utilities	42	How will this goal impact housing affordability? A cost-benefit analysis should be conducted for this goal, similar to our previous comments on Goal 15.4.
Direct Email	3/19/2025	Kristina Gryboski	Resilience, Mitigation	General, Natural Environment		a monitoring and evaluation process should be explicitly incorporated into the Element policies and actions. to track the effectiveness of implementation, results, and identification of new issues that were not anticipated that will be needed for ongoing preparedness, responsiveness and resilience. progress. A framework for tracking progress should reflect that the Natural Environment itself is affected by Climate Change, as well as impacting the outcomes of the other Chapters. The Element is lacking a 'systems' approach that is fundamental to holistically planning for human needs as part of ecosystems that are at the heart of Climate Change.
Direct Email	3/19/2025	Kristina Gryboski	Resilience	Land Use and Urban Design	10	Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) should be required for new developments in Urban or rural settings.
Direct Email	3/19/2025	Kristina Gryboski	Resilience	Land Use and Urban Design, Natural Environment		salmon habitat and schneider creek with west bay yards development. unenforced development regulations, approved variances as well as unapproved (illegal) yet unenforced infractions, and other challenges that continue to lead to both the extent and quality of habitat to degrade.
Library Public Comment	3/19/2025	General Public	Resilience, Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design		It is a moral and policy failing if we are not prioritizing how building reuse can be adapted to ensure housing for all. Empty buildings need to be deconstructed and/or remodeled with the housing crisis in mind first and foremost. Places for shelter and wrap around services!

Library Public Comment	3/19/2025	General Public				Work with tribes to develop and host field trips and activities. Give grants to tribal members to create and lead field trips and activities.
Direct Email	3/19/2025	TCAT	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •LED lighting. Install LED lighting in public-sector buildings and infrastructure (e.g., street lights, traffic signals). •Cool roofs. Create an incentive program for the installation of reflective roofs on commercial buildings to reduce building energy consumption and the urban heat island effect.
Direct Email	3/19/2025	TCAT	Mitigation	Transportation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Congestion mitigation. Develop congestion mitigation programs to increase transportation efficiency, reduce delay, and reduce emissions such as signalization coordination improvements along with application of speed harmonization techniques (ex. reevaluate speed limits, roundabouts vs signalized intersection, street connectivity). Added benefits are decrease idling time (pollution) and improve fuel efficiency (cost savings to driver). •vehicle efficiency outreach. Develop educational campaigns about benefits (reduced GHG emission, increase fuel efficiency, safety) of properly inflated tires, including signage at gas stations and local businesses and partnering with schools. •teleworking/flex work. Government agencies increase opportunities for employee teleworking options and staggering work days to reduce employees driving during peak traffic times.

Direct Email	3/19/2025	TCAT	Mitigation	Transportation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •EV education. Partner with environmental and other agencies to increase consumer awareness about EV options and incentives for use and purchase. •EV mass purchase discounts. Create a group purchase program for residents to get deep discounts on EVs, other fuel efficient and alternative fuel vehicles. •EV purchase incentives. Partner with car sale and lease dealerships to provide incentives for purchase of electric vehicles by Thurston County residents. Pilot with those neighborhoods, individuals with greatest VMT potential.
Direct Email	3/19/2025	TCAT	Mitigation	Transportation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •increase transit. Increase local public transit routes/frequency with a focus on expanding transit service before and after traditional business hours and on weekends. •rider education/benefits. Maintain and expand a regional online page that lists all the mode shift education efforts and employer benefits opportunities (Thurston Here-To-There). Include a comments section for suggestions to further transit education and ridership. •promote transit benefits. Work with employers and transit agencies to develop ways to incentivize employee ridership (ex. rebates for employees who give up use of employer parking facilities).
Direct Email	3/19/2025	TCAT	Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •municipal energy efficiency. Conduct efficiency improvements to municipal water and sewage treatment systems. Prioritize components that consume the most energy and have high GHG emissions.
Direct Email	3/19/2025	TCAT	Mitigation			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •nitrous oxide capture. Research and implement nitrous oxide mitigation strategies and strategies to avoid or reduce nitrous oxide emissions. Present findings and cost vs benefits analysis to policy makers to determine what changes should be made.

Direct Email	3/19/2025	TCAT	Mitigation	Economy		•supply chain. Provide free technical assistance to local businesses in reducing the carbon intensity of their supply chains.
Direct Email	3/19/2025	TCAT	Mitigation	Natural Environment		nutrient management. Provide education and incentives (e.g., grants, loans, technical assistance) reduce nitrous oxide emissions when managing fertilizer.
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience	Public Safety	35	Happy to hear and see the desire to address fire control in the changing fire risks
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience, Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	10	oriented houses and buildings for passive solar
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience, Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	10	do not bulldoze and clear cut to put in houses / buildings. Leave as many trees and native plants as possible. We need the trees to, especially the big ones, to sequester GHGs
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience, Mitigation	Transportation	61	make our communities pedestrian communities by locating businesses like grocery stores, family restaurants and little shops in the community so we can walk, not drive, (for our health!), to meet our needs.
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design		Industrialization need to be kept in the area. Want to ensure self-sufficiency and not offshoring jobs
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience	Parks, Arts and Recreation	34	This is a good goal. However, I don't go to the park enough to see if this is posted
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience	Public Utilities	48	I hope you're already doing this! Encourage leaning into the aquatic habitat - let nature do the work for you!
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Mitigation	Economy	6.1	Transparency in the supply change! Solar panels, human rights, full carbon footprint
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Mitigation	Transportation	32.1	Good idea - I support this!
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience	Parks, Arts and Recreation	27	Providing robust parks, rec, and cultural services requires stable and predictable funding sources. While there is a levy for parks in place, perhaps a metro parks district could be considered.

Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience	Natural Environment	9.3	We need to keep or plant more trees. Besides their aesthetic value they help store water and most important clean the air. Forested areas with trails help keep us in tune with nature as well
Billy Frank Jr. Event	3/19/2025		Resilience, Mitigation	Land Use and Urban Design	18	sounds good