

Climate Action and Resilience



Two people and a dog enjoy a walk at Yauger Park.

What Olympia Values:

Olympians value innovative, community-driven, and justice-centered climate solutions that (1) achieve net-zero emissions, (2) prepare for and adapt to a changing climate, and (3) promote thriving communities for current and future generations.

Our Vision for the Future:

A thriving, net-zero city that is resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Read more in the Community Values and Vision chapter.

Collaboration with the Squaxin Island Tribe

Early in the planning process, the Squaxin Island Tribe indicated to the City which chapters are of most interest to the Tribe. This chapter represents specific priorities for the Tribe, and as such we sought their consultation and collaboration on its content, as envisioned in the [Accord](#) between both governmental entities. Any future amendments to this chapter should include continued collaboration with the Tribe.

Introduction

The City of Olympia recognizes that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity are driving climate change, the consequences of which pose substantial risks to the health, well-being, and prosperity of our community and planet.

Climate change – which manifests through both extreme events and gradual shifts in environmental conditions – is already having profound impacts on the natural environment, built assets, and quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. In Olympia, we are experiencing – and will continue to experience – worsening climate-related challenges. These include rising average temperatures, more days of extreme heat, increased risk of drought and wildfire and greater exposure to wildfire smoke. We also anticipate more frequent flooding from more intense rainfall and rising sea levels. The impacts from these climate shifts threaten public health, the built and natural environment, our economy and cherished ways of life within Olympia.

As of 2023, the State's Growth Management Act requires Olympia to establish a [climate element](#) as part of the City's comprehensive plan. This element must include two sub-elements:

- **A GHG Emissions Reduction Sub-element**, which establishes goals and policies to reduce GHG emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- **A Climate Resilience Sub-element**, which establishes goals and policies to strengthen climate preparedness, adaptation, response and recovery efforts.

These two efforts go hand in hand: while reducing emissions helps slow climate change, resilience ensures our community can withstand its unavoidable impacts. Often, solutions for reducing emissions and building resilience provide co-benefits, or outcomes from a policy or program that have positive impacts in multiple areas. Together, these sub-elements aim to maximize economic, environmental and social co-benefits, while prioritizing environmental justice and mitigating health disparities experienced by vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

Olympia has been a local leader in addressing climate change for decades, publishing our first Climate Plan, *City of Olympia's Response to the Challenge of Global Climate Change*, in 1991. Over the past 30 years, the City's work to prepare for climate impacts and reduce locally generated greenhouse gas emissions has continued to grow. In 2021, the City established a Climate Program to help advance climate action and resilience in Olympia.

The strategic direction outlined in the new climate element builds upon this strong foundation and further advances the City towards achieving Olympia's vision for the future. Many of the goals and policies presented in the climate element were included in previous comprehensive plans. As a part of this update process, we identified existing goals and policies that already support the City's climate goals and modified some

measures to reflect our evolving understanding of climate trends. Other goals and policies were added to address existing gaps and new opportunities. This work was informed by the City's previous climate and related planning efforts, including the Olympia [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) (2021) and [Carbon Wedge Analysis](#) (2021), [Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan](#) (2020), [Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan](#) (2019), [Olympia Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment](#) (2025), [Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region](#) (2023) and [Olympia Annex](#) (2024), [Shoreline Master Program](#) (2021), [Transportation Master Plan](#) (2021), and other City master plans.

While the climate element establishes a 20-year strategic vision for climate action and resilience in Olympia, we recognize that the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to ongoing and future climate impacts extends well beyond this planning horizon. The steps we take today will not only address near-term challenges, but also lay the foundation for future actions that further reduce emissions and build long-term resilience.



A woman picks out vegetables at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

Reducing GHG Emissions

In 2019, the City of Olympia adopted a [Youth Climate Inheritance Resolution](#), committing to working with the youth of Olympia on the collective actions and

strategies necessary to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040. Olympia also joined the Cities Race to Zero Campaign in 2021, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive climate action and reducing emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement (2016). In April 2022, Olympia City Council formalized Olympia's Race to Zero [commitment](#), pledging to reduce community-wide GHG emissions 59% below 2019 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2040.

Although Olympia's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is relatively small, every community has a role to play in addressing climate change. Bold, local leadership reflects our commitment to an equitable global effort and serves as an inspiration for climate action throughout our region and among local governments.

Like many cities across the United States, Olympia's greenhouse gas emissions have continued to grow over time. The City's most recent [GHG inventory](#), completed in 2023 for the year 2021, shows that the primary sources of inventoried GHG emissions in Olympia are:

- Transportation (34%)
- Commercial energy use (27%)
- Residential energy use (22%)

In 2021, the Olympia community emitted an estimated 616,650 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}), which represents a decrease of approximately 22% compared to 2019. Although population growth and hotter summers contributed to an increase in energy demand during this time, overall emissions reductions were achieved by transitioning to cleaner sources of electricity and decreasing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per person. Much of the reduction in VMT during this period can be attributed to reduced travel during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this reduction in VMT has only been partially sustained, with travel patterns partially rebounding to pre-pandemic levels since 2021.

Olympia's GHG inventory follows the [U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) (USCP), a nationally accepted method for estimating GHG emissions at a community-wide scale. This method focuses on GHG emissions produced by activities occurring within Olympia's city limits, such as transportation, energy use and waste management.

The USCP does not require communities to account for emissions resulting from the production and transportation of goods and services consumed locally but produced elsewhere. These emissions are excluded, since local governments have limited ability to influence them. However, they still represent a significant contributor to global emissions. Research by [C40 Cities](#) suggests that in some cities, nearly 85% of emissions associated with goods and services consumed locally are generated elsewhere. As a result, Olympia's total carbon footprint is likely higher than what is captured in the City's GHG inventory.

Olympia’s approach to reducing GHG emissions is guided by our understanding of local emission sources, ongoing trends and the policy tools available to local governments to influence meaningful change. The following goals and policies support the City’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across sectors.

GC1 Olympia reduces community-wide GHG emissions 59% below 2019 levels by 2030 and achieves net-zero emissions by 2040.

PC1.1 Implement local policies and programs to achieve adopted emissions reduction targets. Prioritize actions that advance high-impact strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address community priorities, prioritize environmental justice and provide additional co-benefits.

PC1.2 Continue collaborating with regional partners to implement the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and coordinate greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies across Thurston County.

PC1.3 Update Olympia’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory at least every 3 years to track progress and refine emissions reduction strategies.

Additional goals and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are integrated across all chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



A cyclist waits to board an InterCity Transit bus.

Strengthening Climate Resilience

Climate resilience is “the ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities” (RCW 70A.65.010). In other words, resilience strengthens our community’s ability to withstand and recover from events made worse by climate change through proactive planning and preparedness. The development of the Resilience Sub-Element fulfills the first part of Olympia’s commitment to the [Cities Race To Resilience](#) campaign, which includes conducting a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, integrating climate adaptation and resilience across all aspects of city planning, and taking action to improve community-wide resilience.

The Resilience Sub-element serves as a roadmap for addressing climate change impacts that threaten public health, the environment, and the economy. Building resilience requires strategic intervention across all sectors of the community. These strategies include forward-thinking planning, operational preparedness, education and outreach, and physical adaptation. Developing and maintaining strong partnerships with community and regional organizations is fundamental to community-wide resilience.

To develop Olympia's Resilience Sub-element, the City evaluated how current and future climate hazards could affect the people, places, and sectors Olympians value most. In 2025, Olympia published a [Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment](#) (CRVA), which identified the specific community assets most at risk from predicted climate conditions. The CRVA considered:

- **Infrastructure Assets** – Buildings, stormwater and sewer systems, the drinking water system, the transportation network and the energy system
- **Economic and Community Assets** – local businesses, tourism, recreation, community events and community gardens
- **Environmental Assets** – freshwater ecosystems, marine ecosystems and forests
- **Health and Safety Assets** – emergency management and public health

Key findings from the CRVA highlight that Olympia's natural environment, including freshwater, marine, and forest ecosystems, and public health face the greatest threats from rising temperatures, extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and droughts. Flooding from sea level rise also poses a significant challenge to Olympia's emergency response and critical infrastructure over the next 20 years.

Guided by the CRVA, the Resilience Sub-element establishes goals and policies that directly respond to these findings. The goals and policies will help Olympia prepare for and respond to climate hazards that pose a high risk to Olympians and our community assets. While adaptation plays a critical role in minimizing the effects of climate change, not all climate-related impacts or disasters can be predicted or fully prepared for. A resilient Olympia must also be ready to act quickly and recover efficiently, as climate impacts worsen and become more frequent.

The following goals and policies provide a framework to guide the city's efforts to prepare for, adapt and respond to climate change.

GC2 Olympia plans for future climate impacts and takes action to prepare for, adapt and respond to anticipated climate hazards.

PC2.1 Implement local policies and programs to enhance climate resilience. Prioritize actions that reduce significant climate risks, address community priorities, prioritize environmental justice and provide additional co-benefits.

PC2.2 Continue collaborating with regional partners to implement the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan, Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region and other strategies to prepare for and adapt to climate impacts.

PC2.3 Monitor the latest climate science and models to assess how climate change is impacting the region.

PC2.4 Update Olympia’s Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment alongside 10-year Comprehensive Plan updates to reflect the latest understanding of climate trends and their impact on community assets. Adjust resilience strategies as needed to address evolving risks and conditions.

Additional goals and policies to plan, prepare, adapt and respond to climate hazards are integrated across all chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



Community members gather in downtown Olympia to celebrate ArtsWalk.

Advancing Environmental Justice

Climate change does not affect all Olympians equally. Some people and groups are disproportionately harmed by climate impacts. These communities, often referred to as frontline communities, are highly exposed to climate risks due to where they live and have fewer resources, safety nets, or political power to respond effectively. People with lower incomes, communities of color, Indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees often experience the consequences of climate change first and worst. Older people, children, people experiencing homelessness, outdoor workers, incarcerated individuals, renters, people with disabilities, and those with chronic illnesses are also particularly vulnerable to negative climate impacts.

Existing social, economic, and environmental challenges, such as lack of affordable housing, rising costs, and pollution, further intensify the effects of more frequent and severe climate-related events. Repeated impacts make it harder for both people and ecosystems to recover from climate disruptions. These interconnected issues can exacerbate financial stress, strain public services, and harm public and environmental health.

Strategic investments, policies, and programs can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate resilience, while helping to address existing inequities in Olympia. As we implement the climate element, we will carefully evaluate the costs, benefits and potential social and environmental impacts of each policy. We will prioritize actions that deliver environmental justice co-benefits and support frontline and historically underserved communities. This includes identifying and minimizing any unintended impacts on closely related issues, such as environmental pollution and housing affordability, to ensure balanced and effective outcomes that support the entire community.

By integrating environmental justice throughout all phases of policy development, engagement and implementation, we will ensure that climate actions effectively reach and support our most vulnerable residents. This approach fosters a resilient community where everyone can both participate in and benefit from climate action.

GC3 All community members – especially those most affected by climate change – benefit from climate action and have equitable opportunities to influence policy decisions.

PC3.1 Conduct intentional outreach with frontline communities and youth to enable equitable engagement in the development and implementation of climate action and resilience initiatives.

PC3.2 Partner with community-based organizations to engage diverse groups in developing and implementing climate solutions while addressing existing disparities. Support these organizations in building capacity for climate action.

PC3.3 Provide guidance and resources, such as technical support, rebates and other incentives, to reduce barriers to climate action for all community members. Prioritize strategic investments to support frontline communities and address existing disparities in Olympia.

PC3.4 Evaluate costs, benefits and potential impacts of all new climate policies and programs. Address unintended impacts of policies and programs for all Olympians.

Building Institutional Capacity for Climate Action

Olympia must continue building institutional capacity across all City departments to effectively address climate change and ensure long-term resilience. A well-equipped city workforce, with the necessary staffing, resources, and expertise, is critical to implementing climate policies, responding to emerging challenges, and fostering community-wide engagement. By investing in training, professional development, and cross-departmental collaboration, the City can strengthen its ability to integrate climate action across all sectors. Securing sustainable funding and refining strategies through data-driven evaluation will further enhance Olympia's ability to meet climate goals, adapt to changing conditions, and support equitable climate action for all residents.

GC4 Olympia has the staffing, resources, and funding to effectively implement climate action and resilience measures.

PC4.1 Fully staff City positions across all departments to support climate-related actions and hazard response.

PC4.2 Develop a comprehensive funding strategy to support the implementation of climate policies and programs.

PC4.3 Develop City-wide staff capacity through training and professional development to enhance expertise in climate resilience, emissions reduction and equitable community engagement.

PC4.4 Integrate climate resilience and emissions reduction efforts across all City departments to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive approach to climate action. Coordinate implementation with regional partners to the greatest extent possible.

PC4.5 Monitor the effectiveness of climate programs and policies, using data-driven evaluation to refine strategies and improve outcomes over time.

An Integrated Approach

Olympia's climate element is not a standalone chapter, but an integrated strategy woven throughout the entire Comprehensive Plan. Recognizing that climate change affects all aspects of our community, and that our community's contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions are influenced by all sectors and systems, climate goals and policies have been embedded across multiple chapters. This method ensures a collaborative, cross-sectoral approach. Because these challenges are interconnected, the solutions must also be comprehensive.

- The Climate Chapter outlines Olympia’s comprehensive approach to climate action, combining emissions reduction, resilience planning, environmental justice, and institutional capacity-building. It establishes overarching emissions reduction and resilience goals and a framework for addressing climate action that applies to all goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Land Use and Urban Design Chapter focuses on integrating climate considerations into how Olympia grows. It includes goals and policies to support compact development that makes it easier to get around without a car and green infrastructure that improves resilience and livability. This chapter also addresses the actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment and adapt buildings to protect public health and well-being from climate hazards such as extreme heat and wildfire smoke.
- The Housing Chapter integrates climate action with housing affordability by ensuring that housing is affordable for all income levels, resilient to climate hazards, energy-efficient, and located near public services.
- The Transportation Chapter focuses on reducing vehicle miles traveled, by making it easier to walk, roll, bike and take transit. This chapter also supports the transition to electric vehicles and e-bikes, with an emphasis on providing equitable access to EV charging.
- The Parks, Arts & Recreation Chapter prepares Olympia’s parks and recreational facilities to withstand climate impacts, such as flooding, extreme heat and drought. This chapter also describes the role of parks and public spaces in building community resilience and providing climate co-benefits such as cooling and stormwater management.
- The Utilities Chapter describes how Olympia’s public utilities are adapting to address climate risks and how the City will partner with Puget Sound Energy to meet rising electricity demand. This chapter also addresses the importance of reducing waste and increasing capacity to divert compostable and recyclable materials from landfills.
- The Economy Chapter promotes a climate-smart economy by preparing a workforce for green jobs and supporting businesses in adapting to climate impacts. It also encourages circular economy practices and helps small businesses build resilience to extreme weather and other hazards.

- The Public Safety Chapter focuses on how the City is preparing for and responding to public health challenges, such as extreme heat, wildfire and smoke.
- The Capital Facilities chapter ensures that public infrastructure investments consider long-term climate impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and integrate climate projections into design and construction.

A description of how each chapter contributes to the climate element is included below. For a complete list of climate goals and policies that have been integrated across all chapters of the Comprehensive Plan, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Natural Environment

Strengthening the Environment's Ability to Withstand Climate Change

Freshwater, marine, and forest ecosystems will be strained in the coming 20 years as temperatures increase, droughts become more frequent, rainfall events become more intense and sea levels rise. Drought and extreme heat could disrupt pollinator cycles, trigger pest outbreaks in forests and agriculture, and cause algal blooms in aquatic ecosystems. Regional trends in ocean acidification and sea level rise will continue to threaten our marine ecosystems. Restoration projects and land management strategies will require more resources to support ecosystems in enduring more extreme weather conditions.

In sum, climate change will stress critical areas, disrupt ecosystem composition, functions and services, and threaten overall species biodiversity. Strengthening the resilience of our natural environment to these climate hazards protects vital and cherished ecosystems, while making our communities more livable in the face of a changing climate.

Climate goals and policies within the Natural Environment chapter focus on protecting important species, critical areas and intact sensitive habitats, while also enhancing ecosystem structure, function and processes to support climate adaptation. Prioritization of nature-based solutions such as living shorelines and expanding tree canopy, further support environmental restoration and climate resilience. These strategies involve changing how we plan, design, invest, and maintain both the built and natural environment to reduce the impact of future climate conditions and support carbon storage.

Supporting goals and policies from the natural environment chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Cultivating a Connection to Nature

Olympians hold a strong connection to our natural environment and value all that it brings to our lives. As climate change puts local ecosystems at risk, we recognize the inherent value our community places on the environment and the mental and physical health benefits provided by a connection to nature. Through environmental education programs, public art installations, and collaborations with the Squaxin Island Tribe, we will work to cultivate a sense of connection to and promote stewardship of the natural world.

Supporting goals and policies from the natural environment chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



A group of youth view marine life along the Olympia waterfront.

Land Use and Urban Design

Planning for Density and Future Climate Conditions

Like many communities, Olympia must address cost-of-living, housing supply, and future climate risks over the next 20 years. Decisions about how and where we develop and redevelop directly impact GHG emissions, our ability to adapt to climate change and address other community priorities. At times, some of these goals may appear to be at odds. For example, maintaining tree canopy cover might seem to conflict with efforts to expand solar energy access or increase housing density. However, these solutions do not need to be applied universally across Olympia to be effective.

Through smart urban design and development, we can pursue solutions that address multiple community priorities at the same time. By creating denser, walkable neighborhoods, people can more easily access their daily needs without a vehicle. This reduces transportation emissions and improves community health and the local economy. By directing development to urban corridors and supporting residential infill development, we can provide ample housing while reducing urban sprawl. This helps protect critical areas, preserve agricultural and forest lands in rural areas of Thurston County and reduce exposure to climate hazards along the wildland urban interface and in geologically hazardous areas. As we develop, we can incorporate green infrastructure, such as trees, green spaces and rain gardens, throughout our community to improve air quality, cool our neighborhoods and support mental health for current and future Olympians.

Supporting goals and policies from the land use and urban design chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Adapting the Built Environment to Reduce GHG Emissions and Protect Public Health

Energy use in residential and commercial buildings is one of the largest sources of GHG emissions in Olympia, accounting for 49% of community-wide emissions. Local analyses show that we can meet our emissions reduction targets by improving the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings, electrifying heating and cooling to phase out fossil fuels, and supporting the transition to 100% renewable electricity. While the Washington State Building Code already supports high standards for energy efficiency and air filtration in new buildings, additional work is needed to retrofit existing buildings.

In addition to the energy used to heat, power and cool buildings, millions of tons of carbon emissions are also released during the lifecycle of common construction materials like concrete, steel and insulation. These materials account for [11% of global GHG emissions](#). Finding ways to reuse existing buildings, reduce the use of high-embodied carbon materials, and promote low-carbon materials for new development can further reduce GHG emissions associated with new construction.

Building upgrades also play a vital role in protecting public health and enhancing community resilience. Older homes and buildings in Olympia often lack the infrastructure needed to protect the health and well-being of our community from increasing heat waves, wildfire smoke and flooding. By retrofitting existing buildings and ensuring new construction incorporates features such as air filtration, cooling and flood protection, we can better prepare for current and future climate hazards. These improvements are particularly important for vulnerable populations, helping ensure that all community members have safe shelter during extreme weather and other climate-exacerbated hazards.

Supporting goals and policies from the land use and urban design chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



Heat pump outdoor units are installed at a home in Olympia.

Promoting Local Energy Infrastructure

While energy production and grid resilience are largely the responsibility of our energy utility, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), we can support the transition to renewable and resilient energy through smaller-scale renewable energy installations. Local solutions, such as rooftop solar, microgrids and battery storage, reduce energy costs, support grid reliability, and provide backup power during outages.

Supporting goals and policies from the land use and urban design chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Housing

Addressing Housing and Climate Challenges Together

The challenges and solutions to affordable housing and climate change are directly linked. A lack of affordable housing contributes to urban sprawl, which leads to increasing transportation-related emissions as people need to drive longer distances and depend on personal vehicles to access jobs, services and amenities. These development patterns also expose more people to climate hazards, particularly along the wildland-urban interface. At the same time, climate hazards also exacerbate the housing and affordability crisis by reducing the supply of housing and increasing costs for food, energy and other basic needs.

Addressing these shared challenges requires a similarly integrated approach. We can address both climate and housing goals by preserving existing housing stock, prioritizing infill development through new construction and redevelopment, supporting adaptive reuse, and retrofitting existing housing to improve energy efficiency and climate resilience. Maintaining naturally occurring affordable housing, or housing that is affordable without federal subsidies, helps prevent displacement of low-income residents, while avoiding the greenhouse gas emissions associated with new construction. Retrofitting existing homes to improve energy efficiency and climate resilience lowers utility costs, while also improving occupant health, safety and comfort.

Supporting goals and policies from the housing chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Providing Stability and Services during Climate Emergencies

Responding to events worsened by climate change will take both human and financial resources, stretching our existing capacity and personnel. Making sure our community social service providers are prepared for and can respond to unexpected, acute events can save lives. Many public health adaptation strategies focus on sheltering indoors to protect from extreme weather either in homes or in community centers. Emergency providers can fill an immediate gap for unsheltered individuals in the aftermath of a climate-related event. Long-term, we strive for everyone in Olympia to have a stable source of affordable and safe housing and the ability to shelter in place during extreme weather. This will protect human health and well-being during more frequent and intense extreme heat and wildfire smoke events and reduce the burden on our emergency response services.

Supporting goals and policies from the housing chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



An apartment complex providing emergency and permanent supportive housing in Olympia.

Transportation

Making it Easier to Walk, Roll, Bike, and Take Transit

The second largest contributor of GHG emissions in Olympia is the transportation sector, making up 34% of inventoried emissions. Among transportation-related emissions, passenger vehicles are the largest source, followed by heavy duty trucks and other commercial vehicles. One of the most important ways for the transportation sector to reduce GHG emissions is to significantly reduce Olympia's "vehicle miles traveled," or VMT. This refers to the number of miles people travel in Olympia in vehicles in a year. To achieve Olympia's GHG reduction targets, we must reduce annual

VMT for on-road gasoline vehicles by 20%, or 93,466,000 miles, by 2040. This is equivalent to reducing per capita VMT to 5,357 miles per year by 2040.

Achieving these VMT reduction targets will require significant investment and transformation of Olympia's transportation system. This includes improving infrastructure to make walking, rolling, biking and public transit safe and inviting. By providing shaded sidewalks, separated bike lanes, and comfortable places to rest along the way we can encourage people to walk, roll, and bike more often. Encouraging and supporting regional transportation partners to provide reliable, frequent public transit service will make public transportation more efficient and accessible for Olympians and those who come here to work, shop, access services, or have fun.

As we reshape our city to expand pedestrian-, bicycle- and transit-supportive infrastructure, we must also shorten the distances people travel by building more housing near destinations and key services along frequent transit routes. We can do this best by continuing and accelerating our long-standing support for the region's approach of increasing density along urban corridors (see transportation chapter for more information).

Supporting goals and policies from the transportation chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



A cyclist uses bike infrastructure to move around Olympia.

Enabling the Transition to Electric Mobility

Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is the most effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation. However, it will take many decades to achieve the land use and transportation infrastructure changes that will make walking or rolling, biking, or taking transit the best choice for most trips in Olympia. In the meantime, electric vehicles (EVs) and other types of electric micromobility, such as e-bikes, play an important role in reducing transportation-related GHG emissions.

State [requirements](#) for all new light-duty vehicles to be zero-emission vehicles by 2035 will support an increase in EV ownership in Olympia. Ensuring 100% of gasoline vehicles and 75% of diesel vehicles are electric or fueled by zero-emission fuels by 2040 will help Olympia achieve our GHG reduction targets.

Adequate charging infrastructure is needed to support the transition to electric vehicles. Concern about the lack of available and sufficient EV charging stations is a commonly cited barrier to EV adoption. This is particularly true for renters, who often face additional challenges in accessing EV charging at home. Ensuring equitable access to low-cost charging stations for all community members, regardless of where they live or work, is a critical step to support the transition to electric vehicles.

Supporting goals and policies from the transportation chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



A woman and two children charge an electric vehicle in front of Olympia City Hall.

Preparing our Streets for Extreme Weather

Climate hazards, including extreme heat, extreme precipitation and sea level rise, will impact our transportation network over the next 20 years. Rising temperatures and extreme heat may cause street surfacing to crack or buckle. Rising sea levels may flood critical transportation routes, delaying emergency services and disrupting key transportation infrastructure, like the 4th and 5th Avenue Bridges. Heavy rain could flood intersections and increase runoff, polluting local water bodies.

Adapting the transportation network through climate-smart design, maintenance, and planning can help prevent these impacts. A well-connected street grid enables fast emergency response during localized climate-related events while promoting walking or rolling, biking and transit. The City will continue working with regional and state partners to monitor at-risk transportation assets and will make repairs and improvements when needed. These strategies will help reduce economic and community disruptions from both short-term and long-term climate events, ensuring that Olympians can safely and easily get to where they live, work, shop and play.

Supporting goals and policies from the transportation chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Parks, Arts & Recreation

Ensuring Parks are Resilient to Climate Impacts and Advance Climate Action

Over the next 20 years, Olympia's parks will face increasing climate pressures, including extreme heat, drought and increasing risk of landslides from extreme precipitation. These conditions will affect the health of our urban forests and may temporarily close park amenities, limiting people's ability to enjoy outdoor activities. Rising temperatures may increase the use of parks, while wildfire smoke and extreme heat episodes may impact the accessibility and enjoyment of parks, trails and public spaces.

To address these challenges, we will need to change how we design and manage Olympia's parks and recreation activities. We will make sure future investments support timely recovery of our park infrastructure and environment to potential climate disruptions. At the same time, we will identify opportunities for our parks to contribute to broader community-wide resilience and climate action. This includes building new trail networks to make it easier to get around without a car, as well as designing public spaces that are ready for climate challenges, mitigate hazards, and provide multiple benefits such as stormwater treatment and shade.

Supporting goals and policies from the parks, arts and recreation chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



A group of volunteers help with forest management in Squaxin Park.

Fostering Community Connection and Belonging

Building community and creating a sense of togetherness are critical but often overlooked components of climate resilience. Fostering community and belonging helps to combat climate anxiety and feelings of helplessness, while also strengthening our collective capacity to respond to climate challenges. Resilient communities know their neighbors, care about their well-being, and are better prepared to face climate challenges together.

Olympia's parks, arts and recreation programs play an important role in achieving these goals. Parks provide spaces for people to gather, play and celebrate. Public art, cultural events and recreation programs strengthen shared connections, while multimodal trails encourage walking, rolling, and biking, making it easier to get around while spending meaningful time outdoors. Nature parks provide opportunities to experience the outdoors and contribute to the protection of urban forests.

Supporting goals and policies from the parks, arts and recreation chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Utilities

Supporting the Transition to a Zero-Waste City

In many communities, a large portion of greenhouse gas emissions come from the consumption of goods and services, rather than direct activities occurring within the community. While these emissions are challenging to measure on a community scale, national trends suggest that they are often larger than the sector-based emissions typically measured by cities. Addressing these emissions is an important part of local climate action, including here in Olympia.

We can work towards reducing these consumption-based emissions by transitioning toward a circular economy, which minimizes material use, redesigns materials and products to be less resource intensive, and recaptures “waste” as a resource to manufacture new materials and products. While local governments have limited influence over global supply chains and individual consumer behavior, there are still steps we can take to advance this goal. This includes implementing programs and policies to reduce waste generation for businesses and individuals, while increasing capacity for waste diversion through material reuse, recycling and composting programs.

Supporting goals and policies from the utilities chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Monitoring and Protecting Water Resources

As rainfall events become more intense, existing impervious surfaces can lead to water runoff, which reduces groundwater recharge and transports pollutants to streams and water bodies. These impacts threaten water quality and aquatic ecosystems. While our drinking water supplies already have significant resilience built in, hotter and drier summers mean we must actively monitor potential impacts to drinking water systems and aquatic ecosystems to ensure they are protected.

The City will focus on integrating nature-based, green infrastructure solutions to manage stormwater; encourage water conservation, reclamation and reuse; and prevent excess water from entering stormwater and wastewater systems.

Supporting goals and policies from the utilities chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Reducing Flooding from Extreme Rainfall and Sea Level Rise

Heavy rainfall and rising sea levels pose a substantial challenge for Olympia. Extreme rainfall events could overwhelm the combined stormwater and sewer system, leading to flooding, localized backups and discharge of untreated wastewater into Budd Inlet. Over the next 20 years, rising sea levels will increase the frequency of tidal flooding events, threaten critical infrastructure located downtown and require City resources to respond to the events. The steps we take today will help the City mitigate current flood risks, while preparing for the higher levels of sea level rise anticipated by 2100.

We will need to invest significant financial and staff resources to address these impacts. The City will identify emerging challenges, improve our response and upgrade vulnerable infrastructure to prepare for future climate conditions. We will stay updated on new scientific findings to improve how we design and manage stormwater, sewer and drinking water systems. The City will also continue to be an active member of the Olympia Sea Level Rise Collaborative, working to reduce the risk and mitigate impacts of flooding due to sea level rise in downtown Olympia.

Supporting goals and policies from the utilities chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



City Public Works employees respond to tidal flooding in downtown Olympia.

Securing the Energy Grid

Meeting Olympia's climate goals depends on the production of 100% renewable electricity by 2045 and strategic electrification of homes, businesses and vehicles. Accommodating the resulting increase in electricity demand will require significant investments in new and upgraded electric infrastructure. While energy efficiency, conservation, and demand response technologies can help manage consumption, they will not eliminate the need for expanded transmission and distribution systems, local energy generation, and energy storage.

While our energy utility, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), is responsible for meeting growing energy needs, the City still has a role to play in supporting this transition. This includes facilitating the timely siting of critical infrastructure, streamlining local permitting and approvals for electric infrastructure projects and supporting local energy generation to enable community-wide electrification.

At the same time, more frequent extreme heat events and increasing wildfire risks could threaten our energy supply in several ways. On hot days, increased demand could overload the power grid, causing blackouts that disrupt homes, businesses and essential services. During extreme heat and drought events, utility operators may need

to shut off power lines to reduce wildfire risk. These power outages and shutoffs can have serious effects on health and daily life.

We will work closely with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to strengthen our energy infrastructure and add backup systems to keep essential services running. Burying utility lines underground wherever feasible and beneficial will help make our energy systems less vulnerable to extreme weather events. Supporting the development and installation of distributed energy grids will provide additional energy redundancy for critical infrastructure systems and protect the health of vulnerable populations.

Supporting goals and policies from the utilities chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Economy

Developing a Climate-Smart Economy and Workforce

The shift to a low-carbon economy is underway, spurring the adoption of climate-friendly business practices and growth of the workforce to support climate action. Fueled by public and private investment, along with strong state and local climate goals, we anticipate the need for hundreds of skilled workers, such as solar installers and electric vehicle technicians, and new industries to help us transition to a net-zero community and zero-waste economy. Olympia's youth value businesses and professions that align with climate action and resilience. By supporting local sectors that bring these values to life, we can build a sustainable economy that future generations will be proud to call their own.

The City will partner with local workforce development organizations and schools at all levels to ensure that Olympia and our youth are prepared for the next generation of "green jobs". We will also work with local and regional partners to encourage the establishment of local circular economy hubs, which enable the collection, processing, and distribution of reused and recycled materials.

Supporting goals and policies from the economy chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



Community members participate in the annual Procession of the Species event.

Supporting Businesses in Preparing for Climate Impacts

Climate change presents growing challenges for local businesses, including disruptions from extreme weather, supply chain uncertainties and rising costs. Brick-and-mortar businesses may experience reduced foot traffic during extreme heat and smoke events, while outdoor events could see a decline in visitors and tourists. Industries that rely on outdoor workers, like the construction sector, or difficult indoor conditions, like restaurant kitchens, may need to adapt to accommodate hotter summers. More frequent flooding due to sea level rise will also impact downtown Olympia, the economic and cultural heart of our city and region.

Managing these climate impacts may be particularly challenging for small, locally owned businesses that may have fewer resources to bounce back after disruptions. As extreme heat, heavy rainfall and flooding from sea level rise become more common over the next 20 years, it's important for businesses and community events to plan and prepare for potential impacts. We will build and maintain a strong and diverse economy that is resilient to climate hazards and provide planning support to ensure that local businesses are prepared for and can recover from climate impacts.

Supporting goals and policies from the economy chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

Public Safety

Protecting Public Health through Emergency Preparedness and Response

Extreme weather, such as heat waves, wildfire smoke and heavy precipitation, pose serious health risks, particularly for children, older adults, pregnant people, outdoor workers and people experiencing homelessness. Extreme heat can cause heat stroke and exacerbate mental health conditions, while heat and wildfire smoke can worsen pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. During extreme events, both heat and smoke can make it unsafe to be outside or indoors without cooling or modern air filtration for long periods of time. Increased emergency calls and hospitalizations during these events can strain our healthcare and emergency systems, reducing their capacity for fast emergency response.

Mitigating the public health impacts of extreme weather requires a comprehensive approach that adapts our built environment so individuals can safely shelter indoors (see Land Use and Urban Design chapter) and ensures our community is prepared for and can effectively respond to acute events.

Protecting public health and well-being is at the heart of the City's mission. Working in partnership with Thurston County, local agencies and community-based organizations, we will develop the resources and plans to protect community well-being from extreme weather. This includes supporting existing community centers and social service providers who deliver vital services and assist vulnerable communities during climate emergencies.

Through proactive planning, outreach and investment, we will provide community members with the resources and lead time necessary to prepare for extreme weather and climate hazards before they occur. Our efforts will ensure that those most vulnerable can recognize signs of dangerous health impacts, know how to stay safe, and access available resources. Through a regional and coordinated approach, we will be prepared as a community to stay safe during more extreme weather events.

Supporting goals and policies from the public safety chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).



Olympia first responders walk with children along a street.

Capital Facilities Plan

Making Climate-Smart Investments in Public Infrastructure

Heavy rainfall, sea level rise, and extreme heat events can strain the engineering and design capacities of our public infrastructure. As these events become more frequent and intense, we must ensure that public infrastructure and capital facilities are designed, engineered, and constructed to withstand future conditions. Systematically accounting for climate projections across the lifespan of capital projects in the design and development phases will ensure that we are making smart investments for the future and reducing failure risks. Capital projects can also provide additional GHG emissions reduction benefits by supporting development priorities, such as urban infill and active and low carbon mobility.

Supporting goals and policies from the capital facilities plan chapter will be listed here. For more information, see the Climate Element Goals and Policies Index (Appendix A).

For More Information

- The Climate Element Implementation Plan provides additional guidance for implementing climate measures, including the implementation lead, timeframe, and examples of implementation actions. *The Implementation Plan is still under development and will be linked here when complete.*
- The [2021 GHG Emissions Inventory](#) provides a more detailed assessment of greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Olympia.
- The [2021 Emissions Reduction Analysis](#) describes sector-based targets necessary for the City of Olympia to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.
- The [Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment](#) outlines the current and future impacts of climate change on the Olympia community and prioritizes actions to reduce those impacts.
- The [Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan](#) provides comprehensive strategies for minimizing and preventing flooding downtown through at least 2100.
- The [Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan](#) serves as a road map for ongoing regional collaboration to reduce local contributions to climate change.
- The [Race to Resilience Challenge](#) is a commitment by city governments to improve resilience.

Appendix A: Climate Element Goals and Policies Index

To capture the collaborative approach that is needed to address climate action in the City of Olympia, the Climate Element goals and policies are integrated throughout the Comprehensive Plan. The draft goals and policies below include **existing** language from each of the Comprehensive Plan chapters as well as **new** language to strengthen the City’s efforts. Some of the existing language has been **modified** to better address the City’s climate goals. Where existing language has been modified, proposed changes are shown as redline edits.

Each goal and policy can be referenced using their unique ID below. These IDs do NOT correspond to existing goal and policy identifiers in the Comprehensive Plan. The previous IDs from the Climate Element drafts published on February 18, 2025 and May 20, 2025 are included for reference in gray. Based on public comment feedback, some language has been modified, and new goals and policies have been added to this draft. The new IDs will be used for this draft only.

Abbreviations List:

TCMP - Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan

SLRP – Sea Level Rise Response Plan

OMC – Olympia Municipal Code

VMT – Vehicle Miles Traveled

WWMP - Wastewater Management Plan

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Climate Chapter

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions				
N/A	38	1	GOAL: Olympia reduces community-wide GHG emissions 59% below 2019 levels by 2030 and achieves net-zero emissions by 2040.	New
N/A	38.1	1.1	POLICY: Implement local policies and programs to achieve adopted emissions reduction targets. Prioritize actions that advance high-impact strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address community priorities, prioritize environmental justice and provide additional co-benefits.	New
N/A	38.2	1.2	POLICY: Continue collaborating with regional partners to implement the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and coordinate greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies across Thurston County.	New
N/A	38.3	1.3	POLICY: Update Olympia’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory at least every three years to track progress and refine emissions reduction strategies.	New
Strengthening Climate Resilience				
N/A	39	2	GOAL: Olympia plans for future climate impacts and takes action to prepare for, adapt and respond to anticipated climate hazards.	New
N/A	39.1	2.1	POLICY: Implement local policies and programs to enhance climate resilience. Prioritize actions that reduce significant climate risks, address community priorities, prioritize environmental justice and provide additional co-benefits.	New
N/A	39.2	2.2	POLICY: Continue collaborating with regional partners to implement the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan, Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region and other strategies to prepare for and adapt to climate impacts.	New
N/A	39.3	2.3	POLICY: Monitor the latest climate science and models to assess how climate change is impacting the region.	New
N/A	39.4	2.4	POLICY: Update Olympia’s Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment alongside 10-year Comprehensive Plan updates to reflect the latest understanding of climate trends and their impact on community assets. Adjust resilience strategies as needed to address evolving risks and conditions.	New

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Advancing Environmental Justice				
N/A	40	3	GOAL: All community members – especially those most affected by climate change – benefit from climate action and have equitable opportunities to influence policy decisions.	New
N/A	40.1	3.1	POLICY: Conduct intentional outreach with frontline communities and youth to enable equitable engagement in the development and implementation of climate action and resilience initiatives.	New; TCMP
N/A	40.2	3.2	POLICY: Partner with community-based organizations to engage diverse groups in developing and implementing climate solutions while addressing existing disparities. Support these organizations in building capacity for climate action.	New; TCMP
N/A	40.3	3.3	POLICY: Provide guidance and resources, such as technical support, rebates and other incentives, to reduce barriers to climate action for all community members. Prioritize strategic investments to support frontline communities and address existing disparities in Olympia.	New
N/A	40.4	3.4	POLICY: Evaluate costs, benefits and potential impacts of all new climate policies and programs. Address unintended impacts of policies and programs for all Olympians.	New
Building Institutional Capacity for Climate Action				
N/A	41	4	GOAL: Olympia has the staffing, resources, and funding to effectively implement climate action and resilience measures.	New
N/A	41.1	4.1	POLICY: Fully staff City positions across all departments to support climate-related actions and hazard response.	New
N/A	41.2	4.2	POLICY: Develop a comprehensive funding strategy to support the implementation of climate policies and programs.	New
N/A	41.3	4.3	POLICY: Develop city-wide staff capacity through training and professional development to enhance expertise in climate resilience, emissions reduction and equitable community engagement.	New
N/A	41.4	4.4	POLICY: Integrate climate resilience and emissions reduction efforts across all City departments to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive approach to climate action. Coordinate implementation with regional partners to the greatest extent possible.	New
N/A	41.5	4.5	POLICY: Monitor the effectiveness of climate programs and policies, using data-driven evaluation to refine strategies and improve outcomes over time.	New

Natural Environment Chapter

Climate goals related to environmental health and habitat stewardship are well addressed throughout the Natural Environment chapter and accompanying Shoreline Master Program. While many goals and policies within the natural environment chapter support climate action and resilience, only high-level measures are cross-listed with the Climate Element (shown below).

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Strengthening the Environment’s Ability to Withstand Climate Change				
20	1	5	GOAL: Important ecosystem structure, function, and processes are protected by Olympia’s planning and regulatory activities.	Existing; TCMP
20.1	1.1	5.1	POLICY: Promote programs and policies that protect and restore natural systems such as wetlands, streams, riparian areas, shorelines, and stands of mature trees.	Existing; TCMP
20.2	1.2	5.2	POLICY: Increase the use of low impact development and nature-based (“green”) infrastructure methods through education, technical assistance, incentives, regulations, grants, and private-public partnerships.	Existing
20.3	1.3	5.3	POLICY: Design, build, and retrofit public projects using sustainable design and green building methods that require minimal maintenance, fit naturally into the surrounding environment, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Existing; TCMP
N/A	1.4	5.4	POLICY: Limit development in areas that are environmentally sensitive, such as steep slopes and wetlands. Direct development and redevelopment to less-sensitive areas.	Existing
N/A	N/A	5.5	POLICY: Require development to mitigate impacts and avoid future costs by incorporating timely measures, such as the clean-up of prior contamination as new development and redevelopment occurs.	Existing
21	2	6	GOAL: Prioritized land is preserved and sustainably managed.	Existing
21.1	2.1	6.1	POLICY: Evaluate, acquire and manage land by a set of priorities that considers the full spectrum of environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits. These priorities include Tribal treaty rights, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, access to nature, recreation opportunities, environmental justice, and climate resilience .	Existing - modified
21.2	2.2	6.2	POLICY: Preserve land and acquire new parcels when there are opportunities to reduce habitat fragmentation expand and connect habitat and protect the most environmentally sensitive or socially important landscapes.	Existing - modified

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
21.3	2.3	6.3	POLICY: Identify, remove, and prevent the use and spread of invasive plants and wildlife.	Existing
21.4	2.4	6.4	POLICY: Design improvements to public land using vegetation that is attractive, adapted to a changing climate, supports a variety of wildlife, and requires minimal, long-term maintenance.	Existing
21.5	2.5	6.5	POLICY: Conserve and restore wildlife and aquatic habitat in both existing habitat corridors and other ecologically important sites. Protect salmon, amphibians, pollinators, migratory birds, and other similarly prioritized species.	Existing
21.6	2.6	6.6	POLICY: Increase awareness of the importance of pollinator species and biodiversity for food security and habitat health. Promote landscaping, gardening, and habitat stewardship practices that support pollinators.	Existing - modified
22	3	7	GOAL: A healthy and diverse urban forest is protected, expanded, and valued for its contribution to the environment and community.	Existing; TCMP
N/A	N/A	7.1	POLICY: 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	Existing
22.1	3.1	7.2	POLICY: Consider climate resilience and adaptation strategies when developing planting plans, including species selection, planting locations, stock type, invasive pest susceptibility, materials sourcing and maintenance.	Existing
22.2	3.2	7.3	POLICY: Provide new trees with the necessary soil, water, space, and nutrients to grow to maturity, and plant the right size tree where there are conflicts, such as buildings, overhead utility wires or sidewalks.	Existing
22.3	3.3	7.4	POLICY: Adopt and promote vegetation management practices that decrease climate-exacerbated risks to both human and ecosystem health from severe wildfires.	New
N/A	3.4	7.5	POLICY: Protect the natural structure and growing condition of trees to minimize necessary maintenance and preserve the long-term health and safety of the urban forest.	Existing
23	4	8	GOAL: The waters and natural processes of Budd Inlet and other marine waters are protected from degrading impacts and significantly improved through upland, riparian and shoreline preservation and restoration.	Existing
N/A	N/A	8.1	POLICY: Plan for the health and recovery of Budd Inlet on a regional scale and in collaboration with the Squaxin Island Tribe and all potentially affected agencies and stakeholders.	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
23.1	4.1	8.2	POLICY: Continue to champion future phases of planning and implementation toward restoring the Deschutes Estuary and surrounding shorelines of Budd Inlet.	Existing
23.2	4.2	8.3	POLICY: Support shellfish production and eelgrass planting in Budd Inlet.	New
24	5	9	GOAL: Healthy aquatic habitat is protected and restored.	Existing
24.1	5.1	9.1	POLICY: Maintain or improve healthy stream flows and wetlands that support a diverse population of aquatic life. Manage beaver populations using least invasive strategies and only when threats exist to public health, safety, or infrastructure. <u>Increase aquatic habitat resilience to low summer flows by increasing water residence time, storing water on the landscape, conserving water, protecting groundwater, riparian restoration, and protecting water quality.</u>	Existing - modified
N/A	N/A	9.2	POLICY: Use regulations based on best available science and other means to prevent a net loss in the function and value of existing wetlands, while striving to increase and restore wetlands and streams over the long-term.	Existing
N/A	N/A	9.3	POLICY: Preserve and restore the aquatic habitat of Budd Inlet and other local marine waters, including adjacent shoreline habitats	Existing
25	6	10	GOAL: Risk to human health and damage to wildlife and habitat due to harmful toxins, pollution, or other emerging threats is tracked by appropriate agencies and significantly reduced or eliminated.	Existing
25.1	6.1	10.1	POLICY: Maintain City land and properties using non-chemical methods whenever possible; use standard <i>Integrated Pest Management</i> practices and other accepted, natural approaches to managing vegetation and pests.	Existing
Cultivating a Connection to Nature				
26	7	11	GOAL: All members of the community can experience the natural environment through meaningful volunteer experiences, active recreation, and interactive learning opportunities.	Existing
26.1	7.1	11.1	POLICY: Give all members of our community opportunities to experience, appreciate, and participate in volunteer stewardship of the natural environment. Ensure that the many benefits and opportunities provided by this work reaches all Olympia's communities equitably.	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
26.2	7.2	11.2	POLICY: Honor and incorporate Indigenous history, knowledge, stewardship practices, cultural connections to the land, and promote outcomes related to Tribal treaty rights.	Existing
26.3	7.3	11.3	POLICY: Foster a sense of place and community pride by carefully stewarding the trees, plants, and wildlife unique to Puget Sound. Preserve the Indigenous history of stewardship on these lands since time immemorial.	Existing

Land Use and Urban Design Chapter

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Planning for Density and Future Climate Conditions				
18	9	12	GOAL: Land use patterns, densities and site designs are sustainable and support <u>increased urban density, reduce urban sprawl, and</u> decrease automobile reliance.	Existing – modified; TCMP
18.1	9.1	12.1	POLICY: Ensure that new development is built at urban densities or can be readily modified to achieve those densities; and require that development lacking municipal utility service be designed to cost-effectively transform when services become available.	Existing; TCMP
18.2	9.2	12.2	POLICY: Focus development in locations that will enhance the community and have capacity and efficient supporting services, and where adverse environmental impacts can be avoided or minimized.	Existing
18.3	9.3	12.3	POLICY: Direct high-density development to areas with existing development where the terrain is conducive to walking, bicycling and transit use, where sensitive drainage basins will not be impacted and impacts from climate hazards are low or cannot be mitigated.	Existing
18.4	9.4	12.4	POLICY: Require functional and efficient development by adopting and periodically updating zoning consistent with the Future Land Use Map.	Existing; TCMP
18.11	9.11	12.5	POLICY: Increase the number of 10-minute neighborhoods through zoning and code changes that support an easily accessible environment, and destinations that serve a range of basic living needs.	New; TCMP
18.5	9.5	12.6	POLICY: Provide for a compatible mix of housing and commercial uses in commercial districts and village sites that enables people to walk or roll to work and shopping, supports transit, and includes convenience businesses for residents. Integrate adjacent uses with sidewalks and bike paths leading from residential areas to commercial districts and neighborhood-oriented businesses.	Existing; TCMP
18.6	9.6	12.7	POLICY: Prioritize frequent transit service, support housing, utilize existing infrastructure, provide public improvements and concentrate new major shopping, entertainment and office uses downtown, in the medical services area of Lilly Road, near the Capital Mall, and in the urban corridors.	Existing; TCMP

18.7	9.7	12.8	POLICY: Require direct and convenient pedestrian access to commercial and public buildings from streets, bus stops and parking lots, adjoining development, and encourage sheltered seating and other uses of vacant sections of the street edge.	Existing; TCMP
18.8	9.8	12.9	POLICY: Require businesses along transit routes to accommodate transit use by including building entrances near bus stops or other features such as transit shelters or on-site bus access.	Existing; TCMP
18.9	9.9	12.10	POLICY: Encourage major commercial projects to include display windows, small shops with separate entrances, and plazas with seating and other well-landscaped gathering spaces.	Existing
18.10	9.10	12.11	POLICY: Require new and encourage existing businesses to provide secure bicycle parking.	Existing - modified; TCMP
19	10	13	GOAL: Infill development and redevelopment of underutilized areas are prioritized to prevent urban sprawl, preserve rural and resource lands in Thurston County, and reduce emissions associated with transportation and land conversion.	New
19.1	10.1	13.1	POLICY: Participate in a County-wide "transfer of development rights" program in which a density bonus and climate resilience benefits are achievable through purchase of transferred development rights from agricultural lands in the rural portion of the county.	Existing
19.2	10.2	13.2	POLICY: Maintain a stable urban growth area to reduce development pressure on natural, rural and working lands within Thurston County.	New; TCMP
N/A	N/A	13.3	POLICY: Identify and implement mechanisms such as fee reductions and expedited review to incentivize multi-family and infill housing development that meets climate-resilient and energy-efficient standards.	New
10	8	14	GOAL: Development standards and site designs reduce exposure to climate hazards and enhance climate resilience to protect public health and safety.	New
10.1	8.1	14.1	POLICY: Require new development to meet appropriate minimum standards, such as landscaping and design guidelines, stormwater and other engineering standards, and building codes, and address risks, such as geologically hazardous areas, extreme weather, and climate-exacerbated hazards ; and require existing development to be gradually improved to such standards.	Existing – modified
10.3	8.2	14.2	POLICY: Establish and update development standards that incorporate best practices for reducing the risk and impacts of wildfire and smoke, extreme heat, intense rainfall, and sea level rise.	New
10.10	8.6	14.3	POLICY: Consider and evaluate current and future wildfire risk when updating future land use maps and development standards to mitigate the risk to lives and property posed by wildfires.	New

10.6	8.4	14.4	POLICY: Encourage shoreline development and waterfront attractions that are consistent with the Sea Level Rise Response Plan.	New
10.9	8.5	14.5	POLICY: Encourage and sometimes require buildings and site designs that improve energy efficiency, support passive survivability, and provide backup power through renewable energy generation and storage. This includes street and lot orientation at the time property is subdivided or developed.	Existing - modified
10.5	8.3	14.6	POLICY: Incentivize new commercial and residential construction to include on-site rainwater harvesting facilities, exceed required low impact development standards, and incorporate green stormwater infrastructure approaches.	New
N/A	N/A	14.7	POLICY: Encourage development that incorporates best practices to mitigate urban heat islands and stormwater runoff through land use, urban design, and urban greening.	New
11.1	12.1	14.8	POLICY: In pedestrian-oriented commercial areas, require sidewalk awnings, shading features , or other weather protection on new and substantially remodeled buildings.	Existing - modified
12	11	15	GOAL: Land management and landscape practices increase the resilience of the built environment, ecosystems and communities to climate change.	New
12.1	11.1	15.1	POLICY: Collaborate with private landowners to follow best management practices, particularly for properties abutting park, forest land, and environmentally sensitive areas.	New
12.2	11.2	15.2	POLICY: Provide resources to community members living in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas to implement fire prevention (e.g., Firewise) practices and support application of such practices through incentives, outreach, and development standards.	New
12.3	11.3	15.3	POLICY: Encourage residents to install landscape design features and to keep storm drains clear to reduce risks from changes in seasonal precipitation.	New
N/A	11.4	15.4	POLICY: Promote installation of building and landscape design features that encourage water conservation in new and existing construction.	New
13	13	16	GOAL: Local Thurston County food production is encouraged and supported to increase self-sufficiency, reduce environmental impact, adapt to future climate conditions, promote health, and the humane treatment of animals, and support the local economy.	Existing - modified
13.1	13.1	16.1	POLICY: Encourage home-gardens residential landscapes to include pollinator gardens, drought-tolerant plants, food gardens, and biodiverse plants as an alternative to maintaining a lawn.	Existing - modified
13.2	13.2	16.2	POLICY: Partner with community organizations to help educate community members who are interested in urban agriculture on how to address and plan for climate impacts such as drought and extreme heat and encourage the production of climate-friendly foods.	Existing

N/A	N/A	17	GOAL: Urban green space is available to the public and located throughout the community. It incorporates natural environments into the urban setting, that are nearby, easily accessible, and viewable so that people can experience nature daily.	Existing
N/A	N/A	17.1	POLICY: Provide urban green spaces in which to spend time and experience the positive physical and mental health benefits associated with green spaces. Include such elements as trees, garden spaces, a variety of vegetation, water features, "green" walls and roofs, and seating.	Existing
N/A	N/A	17.2	POLICY: Establish a maximum distance to urban green space for everyone in the community.	Existing
N/A	N/A	17.3	POLICY: Increase the area of urban green space and tree canopy within neighborhoods, especially in areas of the City where community members do not have easily accessible urban green space and tree canopy.	Existing
Adapting the Built Environment to Reduce GHG Emissions and Protect Public Health				
14	14	18a	GOAL: All new and existing buildings are electrified by 2040. New buildings achieve minimum energy efficiency standards, and all existing buildings receive energy efficiency retrofits by 2040.	New
N/A	N/A	18b	GOAL: All community members have access to appropriate heating, cooling and air filtration to shelter during extreme cold, heat and wildfire smoke events.	
14.1	14.1	18.1	POLICY: Support state building and energy code development and implementation to improve energy efficiency and electrify new buildings.	New; TCMP
N/A	N/A	18.2	POLICY: Adopt local policies and programs to improve energy efficiency and electrify new and existing buildings to the greatest extent feasible. Provide technical support, incentives, and flexible implementation pathways to minimize impacts to renters, affordable housing providers and small businesses.	New
N/A	N/A	18.3	POLICY: Encourage retrofits for cooling and air filtration installation in existing buildings.	New
11.3	12.3	18.4	POLICY: Incentivize and support weatherization upgrades, passive survivability, cooling and air filtration systems, and energy redundancy for homes and facilities serving vulnerable populations.	New
14.2	14.2	18.5	POLICY: Partner with regional jurisdictions to develop and implement a local policy for assessment and disclosure of residential energy performance ratings at the time of sale, lease, or rent.	New; TCMP

14.3	14.3	18.6	POLICY: Evaluate and establish baseline energy efficiency standards for rental housing, while minimizing displacement and financial burden for renters.	New; TCMP
14.4	14.4	18.7	POLICY: Evaluate and establish building performance standards that exceed state minimum standards for multifamily and non-residential buildings. Provide technical support, incentives, and flexible implementation pathways to minimize impacts to renters, affordable housing providers and small businesses.	New; TCMP
14.5	14.5	18.8	POLICY: Provide technical guidance and other incentives to encourage electrification and energy efficiency retrofits in existing buildings. Prioritize retrofits in overburdened communities and include protections to avoid displacement and financial burden on renters and small businesses.	New; TCMP
14.6	14.6	18.9	POLICY: Foster partnerships with organizations serving overburdened communities to ensure building electrification outreach and incentive programs build capacity and alleviate cost burdens for all residents.	New; TCMP
14.8	14.7	18.10	POLICY: Reduce energy use and phase out natural gas use in existing city-owned facilities and public infrastructure. Require new city-owned and funded facilities to be built all-electric.	New; TCMP
15	15	19	GOAL: New construction and redevelopment prioritize materials and building practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, transportation and disposal of building materials.	New
15.1	15.1	19.1	POLICY: Encourage and incentivize the preservation and reuse of existing buildings and building materials.	New
15.2	15.2	19.2	POLICY: Evaluate and address development regulations that may pose barriers to reuse and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.	New
15.3	15.3	19.3	POLICY: Encourage efficient use of building materials. Provide guidance and resources to reduce the use of high-embodied carbon materials in new construction and building retrofits.	New
15.4	15.4	19.4	POLICY: Analyze and implement opportunities to encourage design for deconstruction and reuse of materials rather than demolition.	New
Promoting Local Energy Infrastructure				
16	16	20	GOAL: The production of local renewable energy increases communitywide.	New
16.3	16.2	20.1	POLICY: Facilitate the development of community-owned, small-scale renewable energy generation projects, such as solar and geothermal energy.	New

11.2	12.2	20.2	POLICY: Support development of local microgrid solar and battery storage facilities, especially for critical infrastructure and community centers.	New
N/A	16.6	20.3	POLICY: Update development standards to reduce barriers to siting, permitting, and construction of small-scale renewable energy and battery storage systems within City limits.	New
16.4	16.3	20.4	POLICY: Incentivize or require solar panels, when feasible, on new buildings with large rooftops, as well as within or over parking areas.	New; TCMP
16.6	16.5	20.5	POLICY: Encourage the use and development of bidirectional energy systems to support renewable energy production and manage peak demand on the electric grid.	New
16.2	16.1	20.6	POLICY: Install solar photovoltaics on all available and feasible city-owned properties, including but not limited to, building rooftops, municipal water pump sites and parking lots.	New; TCMP

Housing Chapter

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Addressing Housing and Climate Challenges Together				
N/A	18	21	GOAL: The range of housing types and densities are consistent with the community’s changing population needs and preferences.	Existing
N/A	18.1	21.1	POLICY: Require that multifamily structures be located near a collector street with transit, or near an arterial street, or near a neighborhood center, and that they be designed for compatibility with adjacent lower density housing; and be 'stepped' to conform with topography.	Existing
N/A	18.2	21.2	POLICY: Encourage adapting non-residential buildings for housing.	Existing
N/A	18.3	21.3	POLICY: Encourage preservation of existing houses.	Existing
N/A	18.4	21.4	POLICY: Encourage new housing on transportation arterials and in areas near public transportation hubs.	Existing
N/A	18.5	21.5	POLICY: Consider energy and transportation affordability alongside other fixed housing costs in affordable housing policies and programs.	New
N/A	18.6	21.6	POLICY: Ensure future climate-exacerbated hazards and their impacts are mitigated in new and existing construction.	New
N/A	19	22	GOAL: The existing low-income housing stock is preserved.	Existing
N/A	19.1	22.1	POLICY: Continue to fund the repair and rehabilitation of single-family and multi-family housing using federal, state, and local funding sources.	Existing
N/A	20	23	GOAL: Affordable housing is available for all income levels throughout the community.	Existing
N/A	20.1	23.1	POLICY: Take steps to ensure housing will be available to all income levels based on projected community needs.	Existing
Providing Stability and Services during Climate Emergencies				
N/A	21	24	GOAL: Special needs populations, such as people with developmental disabilities, the homeless, the frail elderly, and others who have difficulty securing housing, have adequate, safe, and affordable housing.	Existing

N/A	22	25	GOAL: Our community is safe and welcoming and social services are accessible to all who need them.	Existing
N/A	22.1	25.1	POLICY: Support non-profit and faith-based charitable organizations that provide funding and/or oversight for social service funding.	Existing
N/A	22.2	25.2	POLICY: Support programs and projects that assist low-income people and those at risk of homelessness with public funding.	Existing
N/A	23	26	GOAL: There is enough emergency housing, transitional housing, permanent housing with supportive services, and independent affordable housing.	Existing
N/A	23.1	26.1	POLICY: Evaluate regulations so the City can be more flexible in locating shelters and increasing capacity.	Existing
N/A	24	27	GOAL: New low-income housing is created to meet demand.	Existing
N/A	24.1	27.1	POLICY: Support non-profit and faith-based organizations in their efforts to provide emergency homeless shelters.	Existing

Transportation Chapter

Climate goals related to VMT reduction and vehicle electrification are well addressed throughout the Transportation chapter. While many goals and policies within the Transportation chapter support climate action and resilience, only high-level VMT reduction and vehicle electrification measures are cross-listed with the Climate Element (shown below).

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Making it Easier to Walk, Roll, Bike, and Take Transit				
52	29	28	GOAL: The transportation system will support meeting the target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.	Existing; TCMP
52.1	29.1	28.1	POLICY: Reshape the transportation system so that it’s easier to walk or roll, bike, or take transit than to drive.	Existing; TCMP
53	30	29	GOAL: Vehicle miles traveled will be 25% lower than 2021 levels by 2040.	Existing
53.1	30.1	29.1	POLICY: Build and retrofit streets to support walking, rolling, biking, and taking transit.	Existing; TCMP
N/A	31	30	GOAL: A mix of strategies is used to encourage infill development in the city, which both supports and is supported by walking, rolling, biking, and transit.	Existing
N/A	31.1	30.1	POLICY: Increase allowed densities in the downtown core and along parts of the urban corridors, where walking, rolling, biking, and transit are more viable for the majority of trips people need to make.	Existing; TCMP
N/A	32	31	GOAL: Bicycling is safe and inviting, and more people bike for transportation.	Existing
N/A	N/A	31.1	POLICY: Build a network of low-stress bike routes on half-mile spacing, so no one is ever more than a quarter mile from one. Low stress bike facilities will include enhanced bike lanes on major streets, standard bike lanes and/or bike corridors on smaller streets, trails, pathways, and special treatments to help a wider range of people feel comfortable riding bicycles.	Existing
N/A	32.2	31.2	POLICY: Support education and encouragement programs to promote and improve the safety of bicycling	Existing; TCMP
N/A	32.3	31.3	POLICY: Educate the public about street safety and behaviors that ensure the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.	Existing
56	33	32	GOAL: Seek ways to reduce the urban heat island effect in street design.	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
56.1	33.1	32.1	POLICY: Include street trees in street design to shade sidewalks, protect asphalt from heat, and buffer pedestrians. Proper selection, care, and placement are critical to long-term maintenance of trees along streets, pavement, and sidewalks	Existing; TCMP
56.2	33.2	32.2	POLICY: Include vegetation in street designs to reduce heat island and stormwater impacts and to improve the visual appeal of streets.	Existing
56.3	33.3	32.3	POLICY: Where feasible, use pavement and sidewalk materials that reduce heat island and stormwater impacts.	Existing
61	34	33	GOAL: All streets are safe and inviting for pedestrians and bicyclists. Streets are designed to be human scale and encourage safe driving.	Existing
N/A	N/A	33.1	POLICY: Retrofit major streets to be human scale and include features to make walking, rolling, biking, and transit use safe and inviting.	Existing
N/A	N/A	33.2	POLICY: Study the impacts of closing some neighborhood and downtown streets to vehicle traffic. Prioritize the study relative to other projects during the next update of the Transportation Master Plan.	Existing
61.1	34.1	33.3	POLICY: Create attractive streetscapes with sidewalks, trees, planter strips, and pedestrian-scale streetlights. In denser areas, provide benches, building awnings, and attractive and functional transit stops and shelters.	Existing
N/A	35	34	GOAL: Urban corridors have high-quality transit service, allowing people to ride the bus spontaneously and easily replace car trips with trips by bus.	Existing
N/A	35.1	34.1	POLICY: Develop a system with fast, frequent, and predictable service on urban corridors. Transit service should operate at least every 15 minutes on weekdays where surrounding land uses support it.	Existing
59	36	35	GOAL: Intercity Transit's short- and long-range plans are supported.	Existing
N/A	N/A	35.1	POLICY: Consult with Intercity Transit when new developments are being reviewed so that current and future bus routes can be accessed by transit vehicles.	Existing
59.1	36.1	35.2	POLICY: Coordinate with Intercity Transit in requiring developers to provide facilities that help transit riders easily walk, roll, or bike to and from stops, such as shelters, awnings, cooling features , bike parking, walkways, benches, and lighting.	Existing - modified
N/A	N/A	35.3	POLICY: Encourage Intercity Transit to maintain a fare-free system.	Existing
N/A	N/A	35.4	POLICY: Encourage Intercity Transit to provide service to passenger rail stations or other intermodal facilities.	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
55	37	36	GOAL: Parking is provided in a way that makes its costs clearer to the driver, so people can make better informed choices about whether to drive.	Existing
55.1	37.1	36.1	POLICY: Manage the cost and supply of parking to prioritize on-street parking for customers over commuters.	Existing
55.2	37.2	36.2	POLICY: Where paid parking exists, develop policies to ensure that people pay for parking the day or hour they use it. Avoid the sale of weekly, monthly, or yearly parking permits, so that people make the decision to drive on a daily basis. This may make them more inclined to walk, roll, bike, or take transit.	Existing
55.3	37.3	36.3	POLICY: Work with the state of Washington on consistent parking strategies to help meet the commute trip and vehicle miles reduction goals of the region.	Existing
55.4	37.4	36.4	POLICY: Allocate curb space strategically. Repurpose some vehicle parking stalls for active uses that complement adjacent land uses.	Existing
55.5	37.5	36.5	POLICY: Limit parking spaces near transit-oriented development to encourage use of transit and decrease single-occupancy vehicle travel.	New

Supporting Electric Vehicle Adoption

54	25	37	GOAL: 100% of light-duty vehicles within Olympia will be electric by 2040. 75% of heavy-duty vehicles will be either electric or fueled by green hydrogen <u>use zero-emission fuels</u> by 2040.	Existing - modified; TCMP
54.1	25.1	37.1	POLICY: Support the state of Washington's law that all new light-duty passenger vehicles sold, purchased, or registered will be electric starting with the model year 2030.	Existing; TCMP
54.2	25.2	37.2	POLICY: Encourage community members to replace gas-powered vehicles with electric vehicles <u>and e-bikes by helping them access financing, rebates, grants, or other resources.</u>	Existing - modified; TCMP
54.3	25.3	37.3	POLICY: Encourage Intercity Transit's transition to <u>green-fuel zero-emission</u> buses.	Existing - modified
54.4	25.4	37.4	POLICY: Encourage the Port of Olympia to transition diesel-powered freight vehicles serving the Port to <u>green zero-emission</u> fuels.	Existing - modified
54.5	25.5	37.5	POLICY: Encourage the school district to transition diesel-powered school buses to <u>green-fuels zero-emission fuels.</u>	Existing - modified

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
54.6	25.6	37.6	POLICY: Convert City fleet to zero-emission vehicles and develop supporting infrastructure and programs.	New; TCMP
17	17	38	GOAL: Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is sufficient to support the transition to electric vehicles.	New; TCMP
17.1	17.1	38.1	POLICY: Require EV charging infrastructure and EV-ready parking wherever parking is provided for new and renovated buildings and parking lots.	New; TCMP, OMC
17.2	17.2	38.2	POLICY: Evaluate barriers to equitable access to EV charging and develop a strategy to ensure all community members can access low-cost EV charging regardless of where they live or work.	New; TCMP
17.3	17.3	38.3	POLICY: Provide public EV charging at city-owned facilities and parking lots.	New; TCMP
17.4	17.4	38.4	POLICY: Encourage and incentivize the provision of low-cost EV charging for multifamily housing.	New
Preparing our Streets for Extreme Weather				
60	26	39	GOAL: The local transportation system — including infrastructure, routes, and travel modes — can withstand and recover quickly from the impacts of extreme weather events and other hazards worsened by climate change.	New
60.1	26.1	39.1	POLICY: Use the most up-to-date hazard data to map transportation infrastructure that is vulnerable to repeated floods, sea level rise, and other physical hazards. Designate alternative travel routes for critical transportation corridors when streets must be closed. Align with regional planning efforts.	New
60.2	26.2	39.2	POLICY: Facilitate quick recovery of the whole multimodal transportation system after disruption from disasters or extreme weather events.	New
60.3	26.3	39.3	POLICY: Continue to collaborate with WSDOT on bridge monitoring, maintenance, and impacts from extreme heat and extreme weather.	New
60.4	26.4	39.4	POLICY: Factor climate impacts into management and maintenance of streets and transportation assets.	New
57	27	40	GOAL: As new streets are built and existing streets are reconstructed, add multimodal features consistent with the policies in this plan and specified in the City of Olympia Engineering Design and Development Standards.	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
57.1	27.1	40.1	POLICY: Use innovative designs to reduce or eliminate stormwater run-off.	Existing
58	28	41	GOAL: The street network is a well-connected system of small blocks, allowing short, direct trips for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, drivers, and service vehicles.	Existing
58.1	28.1	41.1	POLICY: Build new street connections so that emergency vehicles, transit, and other service vehicles have direct and efficient access.	Existing

Parks, Arts & Recreation Chapter

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Ensuring Parks are Resilient to Climate Impacts and Advance Climate Action				
30	42	42	GOAL: A lively public waterfront contributes to a vibrant Olympia.	Existing
30.2	42.1	42.1	POLICY: Incorporate the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan strategies into future design, <u>maintenance, and operations</u> of Percival Landing and West Bay Park.	Existing – modified; SLRP
32	43	43	GOAL: An urban trails system interconnects parks, schools, neighborhoods, open spaces, historical settings, neighboring jurisdictions’ trails systems, important public facilities, and employment centers via both on- and off-street trails.	Existing
32.1	43.1	43.1	POLICY: Encourage walking, bicycling and other non-vehicular access for recreation and transportation purposes by linking parks to multi-modal routes, streets and trails in coordination with the Transportation Master Plan. Where appropriate, add facilities that support people arriving by various modes, such as a bicycle repair facility or additional bicycle parking facilities	Existing; TCMP
28	44	44	GOAL: The City leverages its investments in parks, arts and recreation programs and facilities.	Existing
28.1	44.1	44.1	POLICY: Identify and plan for climate impacts, including extreme precipitation, drought, and sea level rise, to valued community assets such as parks, trails, and recreation facilities. These strategies may include relocation, replacement, or adaptive design.	New
28.2	44.2	44.2	POLICY: Consider climate-exacerbated hazards in all siting, planning, and life cycle assessments of new and redeveloped capital Park assets.	New
29.3	44.3	44.3	POLICY: Consider how acquisition and management of new and existing Parks properties can contribute to community-wide resilience and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.	New
33	45	45	GOAL: Olympia’s park system is resilient and provides climate mitigation and adaptation benefits.	Existing
33.1	45.1	45.1	POLICY: Cooling Restore and plant climate resilient vegetation and trees utilizing scientific best practices. Maintain and support Olympia’s street trees to help cool streets and neighborhoods.	Existing - modified

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
33.2	45.2	45.2	POLICY: Implement tree selection, care and maintenance best practices that account for drier and hotter future climate conditions.	New; TCMP
33.3	45.3	45.2	POLICY: Enhance protection of parks from wildfire by periodically updating wildfire protection standard operating procedures based on evolving climate conditions and best practices for proper mitigation of wildfire risk.	New
33.4	45.4	45.3	POLICY: Absorb — Conserve forested areas that provide carbon sequestration and use best practices for stormwater management. Identify opportunities for using existing and new parks and open space for stormwater management to the extent possible while providing recreational opportunities.	Existing - modified
33.5	45.5	45.4	POLICY: Protect - habitat, restore natural areas, manage shorelines, and plan for climate change impacts.	Existing - modified
33.6	45.6	45.5	POLICY: Practice water conservation measures and implement water-smart designs in park properties and operations.	New
30.1	45.7	45.6	POLICY: Encourage the acquisition of saltwater shoreline property and easements to create more public access to the waterfront while restoring and enhancing shoreline ecosystems.	Existing - modified
N/A	45.8	45.7	POLICY: Seek opportunities for installing constructed and natural cooling features in parks, such as park shelters and splash pads.	New
33.7	45.9	45.8	POLICY: Continue to support urban agriculture such as community gardens and pollinator gardens on Parks owned properties.	New
Fostering Community Connection and Belonging				
27	46	46	GOAL: Unique facilities, public art, events, and recreational programming encourage social interaction, foster inclusive and collaborative community building, and enhance the visual character and livability of Olympia.	Existing
27.1	46.1	46.1	POLICY: Continue to provide extraordinary parks and community activities that contribute to our high quality of life and attract tourism and private investment to Olympia.	Existing
29	47	47	GOAL: A vibrant park system that meets current and future community needs.	Existing
29.1	47.1	47.1	POLICY: Provide parks with gathering spaces in close proximity (within ½ mile) to all residents. The distance should be measured by following an accessible travel route suitable for walking or small mobility device	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
29.2	47.2	47.2	POLICY: Ensure that Olympia's park system includes opportunities for its residents to experience nature.	Existing
N/A	N/A	47.3	Identify and acquire future park and open space sites that will serve residents in Olympia and its urban growth area.	Existing
N/A	N/A	47.4	Develop parks or plazas near Urban Corridors.	Existing
31	48	48	GOAL: Community members gather and recreate together.	Existing
31.1	48.1	48.1	POLICY: Support contingency planning for outdoor events, programming, and recreation potentially disrupted by climate-exacerbated hazards.	New
31.2	48.2	48.2	POLICY: Encourage timely recovery, reopening, and reconstruction of damaged park assets after a natural disaster to ensure continuity of high-quality services.	New
34	49	49	GOAL: Olympia's parks and public art support environmental stewardship and awareness of climate change.	New
34.1	49.1	49.1	POLICY: Educate parks visitors and the community about environmental stewardship, conservation, and climate change impacts and solutions.	Existing; TCMP
34.2	49.2	49.2	POLICY: Inspire community members to act by leading through example in environmental stewardship, visible changes in the way we do business and how we plan for the future.	Existing

Utilities Chapter

Climate goals related to low impact development and drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater systems infrastructure upgrades are well addressed throughout the Public Utilities chapter. While many goals and policies within the utilities chapter support climate action and resilience, only high-level flood and drought mitigation measures are cross-listed with the Climate Element (shown below).

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Supporting the Transition to a Zero-Waste City				
39	50	50	GOAL: 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.	Existing
39.1	50.1	50.1	POLICY: 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, reduce their demand on our wastewater treatment system, <u>reduce waste generation, and maximize waste diversion</u> to the greatest extent feasible.	Existing – modified
40	51	51	GOAL: Solid waste is managed as a resource to provide environmental, economic, and social benefits.	Existing
40.1	51.1	51.1	POLICY: 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, <u>waste prevention and diversion are optimized, and programs and services support a circular system where all waste is diverted from landfills.</u>	Existing – modified; TCMP
40.2	51.2	51.2	POLICY: Support state legislation to establish extended producer responsibility policies and programs, increase reuse and repair of consumer goods and materials, improve/increase recycling and composting, reduce natural resource consumption, and reduce household hazardous waste and harmful chemicals.	Existing; TCMP
41	52	52	GOAL: Solid waste disposed of in landfills is 75% lower than 2021 levels by 2040.	New; TCMP
41.1	52.1	52.1	POLICY: Reduce waste associated with city operations and encourage recycling through the City’s purchasing, recycling and disposal policies.	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
41.2	52.2	52.2	POLICY: 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.	Existing
41.3	52.3	52.3	POLICY: Expand the City's recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs, to the greatest extent feasible, to ensure all community members have access to waste reduction, reuse, composting, and recycling programs and services. Prioritize programs and services that maximize community-wide waste reduction and diversion of material from disposal into remanufacture and reuse.	Existing; TCMP
42	53	53	GOAL: Olympia reduces waste associated with construction, renovation, and demolition of buildings and infrastructure.	New
42.1	53.1	53.1	POLICY: Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to minimize waste associated with all phases of building construction, including demolition.	New
42.2	53.2	53.2	POLICY: Collaborate with local businesses and public agencies to develop local facilities and programs to enable reuse and recycling of construction and demolition debris.	New
42.3	53.3	53.3	POLICY: Develop incentives and technical assistance programs to encourage reuse and recycling of construction and demolition debris.	New
Monitoring and Protecting Water Resources				
44	54	54	GOAL: Use Olympia's water resources efficiently to meet the needs of the community, reduce demand on facilities, and protect the natural environment.	Existing; TCMP
44.1	54.1	54.1	POLICY: Encourage and allow re-use techniques, including: rainwater collection, greywater systems, and the use of Class A reclaimed water as alternatives to the use of potable water. This can enhance stream flows or recharge aquifers, while also protecting water quality consistent with local and State regulations.	Existing; TCMP
44.2	54.2	54.2	POLICY: Support conservation programs and resources that provide incentives to urban farmers to implement best management practices that address impacts of climate change and invest in solutions to adapt to future climate conditions.	New
45	55	55	GOAL: Adequate supplies of clean drinking water are available for current and future generations and instream flows and aquifer capacity are protected.	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
45.1	55.1	55.1	POLICY: Maintain and implement a comprehensive drought resilience strategy that factors in projected climate impacts and sets action levels for different drought stages.	New
45.2	55.2	55.2	POLICY: Develop and maintain multiple, geographically dispersed sources of water to supply to increase the reliability and redundancy of the system.	Existing
45.3	55.3	55.3	POLICY: Continue water level monitoring of existing City-owned production and monitoring wells and expand monitoring well network as may be needed. Maintain numerical groundwater models to better define aquifer characteristics and impacts, if any, from climate change and to accurately evaluate the impacts of the City's withdrawals.	Existing
45.4	55.4	55.4	POLICY: Assess and mitigate the risk wildfire poses to drinking water utility systems.	New
Reducing Flooding from Extreme Rainfall and Sea Level Rise				
43	56	56	GOAL: Utility and land use plans are coordinated so that utility services can be provided and maintained for proposed future land uses.	Existing
43.1	56.1	56.1	POLICY: Evaluate land use plans and utility goals periodically to ensure growth is guided by our knowledge of current environmental constraints. This includes risks from climate change and the latest available utility technology and up-to date growth and development projections, including those that incorporate climate migration considerations.	Existing
43.2	56.2	56.2	POLICY: 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 to support infill development and increase climate adaptation , while also balancing the fair distribution of services and benefits to the entire community.	Existing - modified
46	57	57	GOAL: The wastewater collection system is designed and operated as to minimize long term costs, provide sufficient capacity for projected demand, promote equity, and protect the natural environment.	Existing
46.1	57.1	57.1	POLICY: Separate combined wastewater/stormwater pipes in conjunction with stormwater and road improvements or residential repairs, when economically feasible.	Existing
47	58	58	GOAL: The frequency and severity of flooding are managed and hazards are eliminated, except during major storm events.	Existing

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
47.1	58.1	58.1	POLICY: Prioritize City upgrades and retrofits to improve stormwater systems in areas that are vulnerable to overland flooding and sea level rise.	Existing - modified
47.2	58.2	58.2	POLICY: Emphasize the importance of emergency preparedness.	Existing
47.3	58.3	58.3	POLICY: Support knowledge sharing with private stormwater system owners about ways to upgrade or retrofit systems for increased precipitation intensity expected under future climate conditions.	New
47.4	58.4	58.4	POLICY: Prioritize solutions to flooding that serve overburdened neighborhoods.	Existing
N/A	58.5	58.5	POLICY: Prioritize solutions that reduce flooding from sea level rise to the transportation system, especially for transportation corridors used in emergency management.	New
47.5	58.6	58.6	POLICY: Reduce the volume of sewer overflows annually.	New; WWMP
47.6	58.7	58.7	POLICY: Evaluate and assess approaches to appropriately size stormwater facilities for increased precipitation intensity expected under future climate conditions.	New
47.7	58.8	58.8	POLICY: Adapt wastewater infrastructure to accommodate anticipated precipitation trends.	New; WWMP
48	59	59	GOAL: 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.	Existing
48.1	59.1	59.1	POLICY: Where feasible, retrofit 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.	Existing
48.2	59.2	59.2	POLICY: 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, adapts to future climate conditions , promotes a reliable and safe transportation network and provides the community a safe and healthy place for living, working and recreating.	Existing - modified
51	60	60	GOAL: The stormwater and wastewater systems are resilient to the impacts of sea level rise and increased precipitation intensity.	New; SLRP
51.1	60.1	60.1	POLICY: Continue to implement sea level rise adaptation measures, such as flood gates and stormwater pumps, to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding to infrastructure systems and operations.	New; SLRP
51.2	60.2	60.2	POLICY: Continue to support and partner with the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative members to implement the long-term	New; SLRP

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
			adaptation strategies identified in the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan.	
51.3	60.3	60.3	POLICY: Establish new partnerships to design, plan, and adapt Olympia's infrastructure systems to prepare for sea level rise.	New; SLRP
51.4	60.4	60.4	POLICY: Continue to implement flow reduction programs through partnership with LOTT Clean Water Alliance and Cities of Lacey and Tumwater for single family, multi family, and industry and commercial customers who receive LOTT services.	New; SLRP
Securing the Energy Grid				
49	61	61	GOAL: Cooperation and coordination exists among jurisdictions and private utility providers.	Existing
49	61.1	61.1	POLICY: Olympia and Thurston County will coordinate with each other and the cities of Lacey and Tumwater on emergency management related to utility services by following the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region.	Existing
49.1	61.2	61.2	POLICY: Collaborate with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to ensure continuity of operations and service provision during climate-exacerbated emergencies, including extreme heat and wildfire events.	New
49.2	61.3	61.3	POLICY: Support the transition of utility energy fuel mixes to renewable sources.	New
16.1	N/A	61.4	POLICY: Effectively meet rapidly increasing electrical demand as the City and the region work to achieve a clean energy transition by adopting codes that support the timely siting of existing and new technologies.	New
N/A	N/A	61.5	POLICY: Expedite the local permitting and approval process of electric infrastructure projects in order to maintain grid capacity and reliability.	New
N/A	62	62	GOAL: Private utilities are located underground whenever possible and beneficial to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to create a more reliable utility system.	Existing - modified
50	62.1	62.1	POLICY: Coordinate the undergrounding of both new and existing private utility lines consistent with policies PU 3.1 and PU 3.2 (<i>refers to Public Utilities Chapter policies outside of the Climate Element</i>).	Existing

Economy Chapter

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Developing a Climate-Smart Economy and Workforce				
4	63	63	GOAL: Olympia supports development of the workforce necessary for implementing community-wide climate action and adopting climate-friendly business practices.	New
4.1	63.1	63.1	POLICY: Support local workforce development partners and trade schools to develop technical job training programs that support climate action within Olympia. Prioritize opportunities for frontline communities, youth, college students, and unemployed people.	New
4.2	63.2	63.2	POLICY: Promote local industrial and workforce development to support a zero-waste economy that increases demand for reused and recycled materials and reduces demand for new raw materials.	New
Supporting Businesses in Preparing for Climate Impacts				
5	64	64	GOAL: Olympia has a thriving and diversified economy with pathways to prosperity available to everyone.	Existing
5.1	64.1	64.1	POLICY: Support initiatives that help diversify the local economy to supplement our stable public sector base and reduce reliance on goods and services from outside the community.	Existing
6	65	65	GOAL: Businesses and entrepreneurs thrive in Olympia and contribute to Olympia’s economic diversity.	Existing
6.1	65.1	65.1	POLICY: Celebrate Olympia businesses for their support of community goals such as sustainability, climate action and equity. Support, recruit and celebrate Olympia businesses pursuing climate resiliency, greenhouse gas reductions, and environmental justice.	Existing – modified
7	66	66	GOAL: Olympia collaborates with partners to maximize economic opportunity.	Existing
7.1	66.1	66.1	POLICY: Collaborate with regional economic development partners and business leaders to prepare for future economic disruptions and emergencies, including climate-exacerbated hazards, and implement effective disaster recovery.	Existing - modified
7.2	66.2	66.2	POLICY: Collaborate with regional economic development partners and business leaders to support a circular economy that increases demand for reused and recycled materials, reduces solid waste generation, and reduces demand for extraction of new raw materials.	New

8	67	67	GOAL: Downtown is a popular destination that contributes to Olympia's economic vibrancy.	Existing
8.1	67.1	67.1	POLICY: Encourage and partner with adjacent property owners and private businesses along the waterfront to contribute to sea level rise adaptation.	New; SLRP
9	68	68	GOAL: Olympia is well prepared to withstand future economic disruptions and emergencies, including extreme weather and climate hazards.	Existing
9.1	68.1	68.1	POLICY: Provide resources, technical assistance and guidance for developing contingency plans for community events disrupted by climate-exacerbated hazards.	New
9.2	68.2	68.2	POLICY: Develop public-private partnerships to ensure adequate indoor facilities are available for outdoor events impacted by extreme heat or wildfire smoke to continue.	New
9.3	68.3	68.3	POLICY: Ensure the local economy is resilient to climate disruptions and fosters business opportunities associated with climate mitigation and adaptation <u>local businesses have access to resources to recover from climate disruptions in a timely manner. Support local businesses in assessing climate risks within their business operations.</u>	Existing - modified

Public Safety Chapter

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Protecting Public Health through Emergency Preparedness and Response				
35	69	69	GOAL: The community has a high level of fire protection, emergency medical services equal to or exceeding the industry standard and community expectations.	Existing
35.1	69.1	69.1	POLICY: Ensure equipment and other assets are adequate in capacity to serve the safety needs of our evolving community and changing climate .	Existing – modified
35.2	69.2	69.2	POLICY: Continue training and financial support for mutual aid partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure proper resources to fight wildfires regionally, while maintaining local levels of service.	New
36	70	70	GOAL: The community proactively prepares for major disasters and is in position to quickly and successfully respond and recover to a wide range of emergency scenarios.	Existing
36.1	70.1	70.1	POLICY: Coordinate the City’s preparation, mitigation, response and recovery to disasters through an all-hazard Emergency Management program that includes planning for major catastrophic events.	Existing
N/A	N/A	70.2	POLICY: Prioritize policies, programs, and initiatives that mitigate risks from the highest priority hazards identified in the Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region and Olympia Annex to the plan.	New
36.2	70.2	70.3	POLICY: Maintain role as a participating agency for post-disaster and pandemic recovery through the coordination of disaster cost recovery, and the facilitation of our community’s short- and long-term recovery goals.	Existing
36.3	70.3	70.4	POLICY: Coordinate with regional partners to develop and implement extreme heat and wildfire smoke preparedness and response strategies. Prioritize actions and resources towards populations most vulnerable to extreme heat, wildfire and smoke events.	New
36.4	70.4	70.5	POLICY: Support existing and recruit new community centers and social service providers to act as resource hubs (also known as resilience hubs) during emergencies and climate-exacerbated hazards. Ensure these facilities have redundant infrastructure systems and are prepared with necessary resources to protect public health.	New
37	71	71	GOAL: The community proactively provides emergency preparedness education and training to help prepare our community for catastrophic emergencies and respond to climate change.	New
37.1	71.1	71.1	POLICY: Educate community members on how to sustain their households without outside assistance for a minimum of 72 hours	Existing

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			during an emergency event or power outage, and that some events, such as a severe earthquake, may require them to sustain themselves for five to ten days or more.	
37.2	71.2	71.2	POLICY: Work with County partners to expand notification alerts to reduce exposure to climate-exacerbated hazards, including wildfire smoke, tidal flooding, and extreme heat. Encourage the community to sign up for notification alerts through education and outreach.	New
37.3	71.3	71.3	POLICY: Prioritize emergency preparedness education, outreach, and resources for the highest-priority hazards and towards communities most vulnerable to climate-exacerbated hazards and emergencies.	New
N/A	71.4	71.4	POLICY: Provide resources and alerts in the most common languages spoken in Thurston County to reach people with limited English proficiency.	New
38	72	72	GOAL: The City maintains a well-trained, resilient, safe and sustainable Emergency Management organization.	Existing
38.1	72.1	72.1	POLICY: Factor climate-exacerbated hazards into the planning and coordination of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery among first responders and partners. Anticipate and modify staffing and resource needs before projected hazard events for effective and timely response.	New
38.2	72.2	72.2	POLICY: Maintain capacity and staff time for emergency management, planning and preparedness across the City.	New
N/A	72.3	72.3	POLICY: Train emergency management professionals and adjacent service providers on trauma informed care and mental health support for preparedness, response and recovery in extreme weather emergency events and crises.	New

Capital Facilities Chapter

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
Making Climate-Smart Capital Investments				
1	73	73	GOAL: The Capital Facilities Plan provides the public facilities needed to promote orderly compact urban growth, protect investments, maximize use of existing facilities, encourage economic development and redevelopment, promote private investment, increase public well-being and safety, protect and improve the natural environment and implement the Comprehensive Plan.	Existing
1.1	73.1	73.1	POLICY: Evaluate and prioritize proposed capital improvement projects using the following long-term financial strategy principles and guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider climate projections in life cycle assessments, planning, and design capacities for all capital projects.	Existing - Modified
1.2	73.2	73.2	POLICY: Give priority consideration to projects that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase climate resiliency, and implement adaptation strategies.	Existing – Modified; TCMP
2	74	74	GOAL: As urbanization occurs, the capital facilities needed to direct and serve future development and redevelopment are provided for Olympia and its Urban Growth Area.	Existing
2.1	74.1	74.1	POLICY: Plan and coordinate the location of public facilities and utilities to accommodate growth in advance of need, and in accordance with the following standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proactively seek opportunities to combine capital facilities projects that are identified in facilities master plans or other City plans, such as sewer and water main extensions, transportation connections/improvements, and projects to address sea level rise.Prioritize capital facilities projects that provide multiple benefits for the public. Rework any capital projects that may result in maladaptation or interfere with environmentally sensitive areas, contribute to hazards, or would exacerbate current climate vulnerabilities.	Existing - Modified
2.2	74.2	74.2	POLICY: When planning for public facilities, consider expected future economic activity, goals for responding to the impacts of climate change, and the need for housing affordable at all income levels as projected in the Comprehensive Plan.	Existing - Modified

ID			Goal or Policy Language	New or Existing Measure?
2/18 Draft	5/20 Draft	7/24 Draft		
3	75	75	GOAL: Public facilities constructed in Olympia and its Growth Area meet appropriate safety, construction, durability, sustainability, accessibility, and equity standards.	Existing
3.1	75.1	75.1	POLICY: Ensure that the Engineering Development and Design Standards are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, including its goals for adapting to and mitigating climate change , and projected need for housing affordable at all income levels.	Existing - Modified