Lake Forest Park Climate Element Community Survey

Contents

Introduction

The City of Lake Forest Park is adding a Climate Element into its Comprehensive Plan in response to Washington State House Bill (HB) 1181, passed in 2023. This law requires cities and counties to integrate climate change resilience policies and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction into comprehensive plan updates.

What is climate change?
Climate change refers to long-term shifts in climate patterns, primarily caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases (GHGs) like carbon dioxide and methane. These gases are released from burning fossil fuels, such as gasoline and natural gas, that heat our buildings and power our vehicles.

What are climate resilience policies and GHG reduction policies?
Climate resilience policies will focus on preparing Lake Forest Park to adapt to rising temperatures, wildfire smoke, more intense storms, and flooding—natural hazards that are becoming more severe due to climate change.

GHG reduction policies will aim to lower emissions from activities like energy use in buildings and vehicle transportation. As outlined in the 2024 Climate Action Plan, Lake Forest Park has a goal to reduce GHG emissions 50% by 2030 (compared to a 2007 baseline) and achieve 95% by 2050.

We want your feedback!

The Climate Element will include goals and policies to reduce emissions and prepare for climate impacts. This survey aims to hear from the Lake Forest Park community and gather input on key policy areas.

We invite everyone—residents, businesses, students, and community organizations—to share their thoughts. The survey will cover your priorities and views on emission reduction and resilience strategies.

Your input is valuable. Responses are anonymous. The survey should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete, or as much time as needed, and will be open from March 3 until March 31, 2025. For more information about the Climate Element project, please visit this website [**placeholder for link**].

[Placeholder for in-language guidance to access the Spanish survey.]

Section 1: Climate Awareness & Concern

In this section, we want to understand your awareness and concerns regarding climate change hazards and impacts. A **climate hazard** is a natural hazard like droughts, floods, heatwaves, or wildfire that is likely to be worsened by climate change. A **climate impact** is the effect of climate hazards on people, built infrastructure, and the natural environment.

1. How would you best describe your awareness and understanding of climate change? (Select One)
    a. I am well-informed about climate change.
    b. I am familiar with climate change and try to stay informed.
    c. I have heard about climate change, but don't know much about it.
    d. I am not informed about climate change.
    e. I prefer not to say.

2. How do you currently access information about climate change? (select all that apply)
    a. News media (TV, newspapers, online)
    b. Social media
    c. Government websites and reports
    d. Community meetings or local organizations
    e. Educational institutions (schools, universities)
    f. Other (please specify)

3. How concerned are you with the following climate hazards in Lake Forest Park? Please indicate your level of concern for each climate hazard.

	1 Not at all concerned	2 Slightly concerned	3 Somewhat concerned	4 Moderately concerned	5 Extremely concerned
Drought					
Severe storms					
Flooding					

	1 Not at all concerned	2 Slightly concerned	3 Somewhat concerned	4 Moderately concerned	5 Extremely concerned
Heatwaves					
Wildfire					
Wildfire smoke					

4. Based on your responses to the previous question, tell us more about why you feel this way. Are there any other climate change hazards you are concerned about missing from this list?
   a. (Open response)

Section 2: Climate Experiences & Challenges

In this section, we want to understand how you experience climate change and what challenges you face in responding to climate change impacts. A **climate hazard** is a natural hazard like droughts, floods, heatwaves, or wildfire that is likely to be worsened by climate change. A **climate impact** is the effect of climate hazards on people, built infrastructure, and the natural environment.

5. Which types of climate hazards have you experienced in Lake Forest Park? (Select all that apply)

   a. Drought
   b. Severe storms
   c. Flooding
   d. Heatwaves
   e. Wildfire
   f. Wildfire Smoke
   g. None
   h. Other (please specify)

6. How have these climate hazards impacted you or your household? (Select all that apply)

   a. Property damage or loss
   b. Health issues (heat-related illness, respiratory problems, etc.)
   c. Disruption to utilities (water, electricity, etc.)
   d. Economic impacts (job loss, increased costs)
   e. None
   f. Other (please specify)

7. Do you feel you have access to the necessary resources and information to protect yourself from climate hazards?
   a. Yes, fully
   b. Yes, somewhat
   c. No
   d. Not sure

8. What types of support or resources would help you prepare for and respond to climate hazards? (Select all that apply)
    a. Financial assistance
    b. Emergency preparedness training
    c. Community support networks
    d. Access to real-time information and alerts
    e. Improved city policies and procedures
    f. Other (please specify)

Section 3: Climate Impacts by Focus Area

In this section, we want to understand your concerns regarding climate impacts in specific focus areas. A **climate hazard** is a natural hazard like droughts, floods, heatwaves, or wildfire that is likely to be worsened by climate change. A **climate impact** is the effect of climate hazards on people, built infrastructure, and the natural environment.

9. Please indicate your level of concern for each topic area, in terms of climate change impacts, in the next 10-20 years.

Focus area	1 Not at all concerned	2 Slightly concerned	3 Somewhat concerned	4 Moderately concerned	5 Extremely concerned
Public health and community well-being Including social services, community resources, and emergency management.					
Natural environment Including ecosystems, parks, trails, and open space					
Development and land use Including local industries and businesses; buildings, and natural areas.					
Built infrastructure Including transportation,					

Focus area	1 Not at all concerned	2 Slightly concerned	3 Somewhat concerned	4 Moderately concerned	5 Extremely concerned
housing, energy, and water.					

10. Select the impacts you are most concerned about regarding **public health and community well-being** in Lake Forest Park, caused by potential climate hazards (Select up to 3)
    a. Health problems (e.g., heat, poor air quality, mental health issues) will increase
    b. People will lose their homes/be displaced by climate hazards
    c. Access to emergency services will be harder during extreme weather
    d. Healthcare and social services will be overwhelmed
    e. Local businesses and jobs will suffer
    f. None of the above
    g. Other (please describe)
11. Select the climate impacts you are most concerned about regarding the **natural environment** in Lake Forest Park, caused by potential climate hazards (Select up to 3).
    a. Water quality in streams, lakes, and rivers may decline, or access to these waters may become more difficult.
    b. Natural habitats or wildlife will be lost or threatened
    c. Soil fertility will decrease or erosion will increase
    d. Wildlife migration patterns will change, and invasive species will spread more
    e. Fish populations/aquatic ecosystems will decline
    f. None of the above
    g. Other (please describe)
12. Select the climate impacts you are most concerned about regarding **development and land use** in Lake Forest Park, caused by potential climate hazards (Select up to 3).
    a. Landslides/erosion will increase on developed land
    b. Flooding will become more common in residential/commercial areas
    c. Vegetation or tree canopy will be lost on developed properties
    d. Property values will go down/insurance costs will rise
    e. Access to parks or recreational spaces will be reduced
    f. None of the above
    g. Other (please describe)
13. Select the impacts you are most concerned about regarding **built infrastructure** in Lake Forest Park, caused by potential climate hazards (Select up to 3)
    a. Stormwater infrastructure will fail due to extreme heat or flooding
    b. Roads and public transit will be disrupted
    c. Power outages and disruptions to electrical grids will occur
    d. Drinking water and sewage systems will be damaged due to extreme weather
    e. Communication networks (e.g., cell service, internet) will become less reliable
    f. None of the above
    g. Other (please describe)

Section 4: Priorities for Climate Action

In this section, we want to understand what types of policies you would like to see to reduce Lake Forest Park's impact on climate change and increase resilience to climate impacts. While these are possible policy areas, the items listed below are not exhaustive and the final Climate Element may include areas beyond those mentioned here.

14. What do you consider to be the top priorities to increase resilience to climate impacts in Lake Forest Park? (Please select up to 3)
    a. **Preparing for extreme weather and disasters** (e.g., emergency response, backup power, resilience hubs)
    b. **Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems** (e.g., parks, tree canopy, wetlands, streams)
    c. **Conserving natural resources and reducing waste** (e.g., water conservation, composting, sustainable agriculture)
    d. **Promoting sustainable land use and development** (e.g., zoning to reduce flood risk, mixed-use development, equitable access to services) **Ensuring climate policies support equity and affordability** (e.g., affordable heating and cooling, access to clean energy, support for vulnerable communities)
    e. **Investing in resilient transportation and infrastructure** (e.g., stormwater systems, road and bridge upgrades)
    f. **Strengthening local food systems** (e.g., farmers' markets, food security)
    g. **Boosting economic resilience** (small business support, green jobs)
    h. **Protecting energy supply and operation of critical infrastructure** (e.g., renewable energy, microgrids)
    i. Other (please specify)

15. What do you consider to be the top priorities to reduce GHG emissions in Lake Forest Park? (Please select up to 3)
    a. **Expand access to multimodal transportation options** (e.g., shuttle, biking, walking)
    b. **Facilitate the transition to electric vehicles** (including charging infrastructure)
    c. **Improve building sustainability** (e.g., more efficient heating & cooling, weatherization, renewable energy sources)
    d. **Promote sustainable land use practices** (e.g., limit tree loss, support low-carbon and healthy forests)
    e. **Prioritize transit-oriented development** (e.g., encourage new housing near transit and services)
    f. **Transition to renewable energy** (e.g., solar)
    g. **Increase recycling, composting, sustainable consumption, and zero waste** (e.g., reuse, low-carbon materials)
    h. Other (please specify)

16. Out of the following options, what is most important to consider as the City develops policies? (Rank)
    a. **Measurable Impact:** how much a policy will contribute to reaching climate mitigation and resilience goals (e.g. gallons of water conserved, GHG emissions reduced)

b. **Feasibility:** how easy or difficult it will be to implement a policy (e.g. considering regulatory constraints or available technologies)
c. **Co-benefits:** what benefits a policy may have beyond increased resiliency and GHG reduction (e.g. economic development, access to green space, and recreational opportunities)
d. **Equity:** the amount that a policy benefits populations most disproportionately impacted by climate changes, including how costs and benefits may be distributed across the community)
e. **Cost:** the cost to the City and/or community to carry out a policy

17. Are there additional climate resilience or GHG emissions reduction policies you would like to see in Lake Forest Park?

    a. (Open response)

18. Do you know of any initiatives or organizations in Lake Forest Park working to reduce the City's impact on climate change or building resilience? If so, please describe the initiative or organization.

    a. (Open response)

19. Is there anything else you would like us to consider for the development of the Climate Element?

    a. (Open response)

Section 5: Your Connection to Lake Forest Park

In this section, tell us about your connection to Lake Forest Park.

20. Which of the following best defines your connection to Lake Forest Park? (Select all that apply)
    a. Resident (homeowner)
    b. Resident (renter)
    c. Business owner
    d. Commercial landowner
    e. Residential property owner/housing provider/landlord
    f. Employee/I work in Lake Forest Park
    g. Elected official
    h. Tribal member
    i. Tribal elder
    j. Student
    k. Other (please specify)

Section 6: Demographics (Optional)

The following demographic questions are optional. These questions will be used to understand who is participating in the survey and who we may have missed.

21. What is your age? (Please select one)
- Under 18
- 18 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- 45 – 54
- 55 – 64
- 65 – 74
- 75 and older
- I prefer not to say

22. What is your gender? (Please select one)
- Man
- Woman
- Transgender
- Non-binary
- I prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

23. What is your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply)
- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- Hispanic, Latino, or Latina
- Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White or Caucasian
- I prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

24. What is your approximate household income? (Please select one)
- Less than $7,000
- $7,000 to $14,000
- $14,000 to $28,000
- $28,000 to $56,000
- $56,000 to $75,000
- $75,000 to $100,00
- $100,000 and over
- I prefer not to say