



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	November 20, 2025
Originating Department	Community Development Department
Contact Person	Mark Hofman, AICP, Community Development Director
Title	Ordinance 25-1312/Adoption of a New Climate Element with Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Resilience Sub-elements into the City of Lake Forest Park 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Legislative History

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| • First Presentation | October 23, 2025, City Council Meeting |
| • Public Hearing Ord. 25-1312 | November 13, 2025, City Council Meeting |
| • Third Presentation | November 20, 2025, City Council Special Meeting |
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Attachments:

1. Ordinance No. 25-1312, adopting the new Climate Element with greenhouse gas reduction and resilience sub-elements into the City of Lake Forest Park 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.
 2. Draft Climate Element (Volume I and II) as recommended to the City Council by the Planning Commission on October 14, 2025.
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Executive Summary

The City of Lake Forest Park is required to conform to the State of Washington's Growth Management Act (Chapter 36. 70A RCW) and to "fully plan" as provided in that Act. RCW 36.70A.130 of the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires continuing review and evaluation of comprehensive plans and, for cities in King County, required review and adoption of revised (Periodic Update) comprehensive plans and development regulations compliant with the GMA by December 31, 2024. The City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park enacted Ordinance No. 1306 on December 12, 2024, adopting the City's GMA complying "2024 Comprehensive Plan Update", fully satisfying the Periodic Update requirement.

The addition of a Climate Element, with greenhouse gas reduction and resilience sub-elements, to the Comprehensive Plan is now required under (House Bill) HB 1181, as adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 2023, and the city is required to adopt such a Climate Element by December 2029. The city received grant funding to perform the required climate planning early through the WA State Department of Commerce, due to resources made available from the WA Climate Commitment Act.

The City collaboratively developed a draft Climate Element with greenhouse gas reduction and resilience sub-elements, utilizing the enabling grant funding, through a contract for planning services with Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. and initial input from a temporary task force, the Climate Policy Advisory Team

(CPAT). An extensive engagement strategy was implemented to include numerous public meetings, a public survey, workshops, and public outreach at community events. The input from these engagement efforts was utilized to prepare the Climate Element amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed ordinance amends the “2024 Comprehensive Plan Update” for the City of Lake Forest Park, as required under the WA State Growth Management Act for climate planning.

Background

The City’s temporary climate planning task force, CPAT, was specifically formed for the climate amendment effort and was comprised of members balanced from existing commissions and committees - Tree Board, Climate Action Committee, and the Planning Commission. The CPAT held public and open house meetings regarding amendments to the Comprehensive Plan on December 18, 2024, and January 21, February 12, March 11, April 15, May 14, and June 2, 2025. A draft of the climate goals and policies for amendment to the Comprehensive Plan was forwarded to the Planning Commission for review as required by City code.

The City’s Planning Commission then held regular public meetings regarding the draft climate amendments to the Comprehensive Plan on June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, and October 14, 2025. Additionally, the Planning Commission held a noticed public hearing on October 14, 2025, taking testimony from the community regarding the amendments, and made its formal recommendation for adoption to the City Council with a supportive Letter of Transmittal. The City Council held a public meeting on October 23, 2025, to receive and review the Commission’s recommended Climate Element. A noticed public hearing to receive additional public comment on the amendments was held during the November 13, 2025 meeting of the City Council.

In accordance with the requirements set forth in RCW 36.70A.106, the City provided the Washington State Department of Commerce notice of the City’s intent to adopt the proposed amendments on September 17, 2025 (Submittal ID 2025-S-9878). This required 60-day comment period at Commerce ends on November 16, 2025, and any/all comments received will be reviewed and considered by the City Council prior to adoption. The City received a comment email on October 27, 2025, from WA State Department of Commerce staff. The comment email was shared with the City Council to consider the information and accommodate and incorporate as deemed applicable. The Commerce comments included a statement that “Lake Forest Park’s Climate Element includes a high level of consistency with RCW 36.70A.070(9) and with [Commerce’s Climate Element Intermediate Planning Guidance](#), including goals and policies that: protect and enhance natural areas, community resiliency, and address natural hazards to foster resiliency to climate impacts; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled; and, draw attention to the climate impacts such as heat and drought, which are consistent with climate resilience planning guidance.

In accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), the City’s responsible SEPA official issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) on October 20, 2025, pursuant to WAC 197-11-340. No comments were received as a result of the public and agency notice of the threshold determination for a DNS. The local appeal period for the DNS determination expires on November 12, 2025.

The Climate Element, a new chapter in the Comprehensive Plan that builds on the 2024 Periodic Update effort, will strengthen the City’s approach to climate resilience and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and will help Lake Forest Park to: prepare for climate-related risks such as extreme heat, flooding, wildfire smoke, and landslides; protect important community assets such as parks, neighborhoods, businesses, and infrastructure; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency; and look for climate strategies with co-benefits for the community, such as improved air quality, lower energy costs, safer transportation options, and healthier natural spaces

The City of Lake Forest Park Comprehensive Plan Climate Element fulfills the requirements of RCW 36.70A.070(9) and RCW 36.70A.095 to plan for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and enhance

community resiliency to the adverse impacts of climate change. The Climate Element also aligns with the WA State Department of Commerce’s Climate Planning Guidance.

Fiscal & Policy Implications

Adoption of the Climate Element amendments to the Comprehensive Plan will have no direct fiscal impact. The climate amendment effort was supported by existing professional staff and considerable grant funds from the WA State Department of Commerce, due to the State’s Climate Commitment Act. The climate goal and policy amendments will inform future City decisions and budgeting into the Plan’s planning period through 2044.

Alternatives

<i>Options</i>	<i>Results</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt Ordinance 25-1312	The Climate Element and greenhouse gas reduction and resilience sub-elements (Volume I and II) will be added to the City of Lake Forest Park “2024 Comprehensive Plan Update”, amending the Comprehensive Plan, as required under the WA State Growth Management Act.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not adopt Ordinance 25-1312	The Climate Element and greenhouse gas reduction and resilience sub-elements (Volume I and II) will not be added to the City of Lake Forest Park “2024 Comprehensive Plan Update” and the City’s Comprehensive Plan will require climate amendments prior to December of 2029 as required under the WA State Growth Management Act.

Staff Recommendation

Adopt Ordinance No. 25-1312.