



## City of Lake Forest Park Climate Action Plan Memo

**To** Lake Forest Park Climate Action Committee  
Mark Hofman, Community Development Director

**From:** Cristina Haworth, AICP, and Chelsea Lee, SCJ Alliance

**Date:** February 29, 2024

**Project:** Lake Forest Park Comprehensive Plan Update

**Subject** Climate Action Plan—Integrating into the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

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### Introduction

The City of Lake Forest Park (City) is updating its Comprehensive Plan and will integrate planning for climate change into this effort. Jurisdictions in King County (as well as Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap Counties) are not required to adopt a climate element until 2029, and the original scope of work for updating the Comprehensive Plan included adapting the Climate Action Plan into a Climate Element that would be expanded at a future date. The City was recently awarded a \$500,000 grant to complete the full Climate Element early; the grant funds climate planning following state guidance to adopt a resilience sub-element and a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction sub-element within a new Climate Element, and to incorporate climate-related policies within other elements of the Comprehensive Plan update.

To ensure that efforts are not duplicated, there are two concurrent paths that the City will take, with both the Comprehensive Plan update and the Climate Action Plan.

- ◆ Adapt the Climate Action Plan policies as appropriate into existing elements of the Comprehensive Plan (land use, transportation, capital facilities, and utilities). This will be completed by December 31, 2024, with the rest of the Comprehensive Plan update.
- ◆ Develop a separate Climate Element that will exist independently within the Comprehensive Plan, to be adopted by amendment when it is complete. This will be completed by June 30, 2025, and will be adopted as an amendment to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

### Adapting the Climate Action Plan

The Lake Forest Park Climate Action Committee developed a draft Climate Action Plan that identifies visions, goals, community priorities, strategies, and actions within five focus areas: transportation and mobility; built environment/land use; natural environment, ecosystems, and sequestration; consumption and solid waste; and community resilience and preparedness. This memo lists the goals and strategies within the Climate Action

Plan, suggests where they could be incorporated into existing elements of the Comprehensive Plan, and identifies any gaps that need to be filled while developing the full Climate Element.

## Climate Action Plan Policy Analysis

Goal or Strategy	Climate Action Plan	Comprehensive Plan Element
<b>Reduce Emissions.</b> Reduce GHG emissions by 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2050 (compared to a 2019 baseline). To do this, we must prioritize initiatives that make the biggest difference in reducing and/or limiting GHG emissions produced by the LFP municipal government, residences, and business in order to exceed <a href="#">K4C targets</a> (King County-Cities Climate Collaboration 2021).	Vision and Goals, Goal 1	Land Use, Transportation, Capital Facilities, Utilities  Where this goes will probably depend on which types of GHG emission sources are identified to make the “biggest difference” for reductions.
<b>Enhance Ecosystem Health and Carbon Sequestration.</b> Improve the health and resilience of local ecosystems to maximize their abilities to remove carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) from the atmosphere, provide habitat, regulate the water cycle, and buffer the impacts of climate change.	Vision and Goals, Goal 2	Environmental Quality & Shorelines
<b>Increase Community Resilience and Preparedness.</b> Protect the community from the worsening impacts of climate change through resilient infrastructure, emergency preparedness, and community participation.	Vision and Goals, Goal 3	Capital Facilities, Utilities, Community Services & Public Safety  To some extent, this is already represented in the Community Services & Public Safety element (Policy CS-7.3 Promote community education to address safety concerns and reduce the impact of disasters)
<b>TR Goal:</b> Reduce GHG emissions from transportation by transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs), expanding shared transportation options, and promoting improvement of cycling and pedestrian networks.	Focus Area 1: Transportation and Mobility (TR)	Land Use, Transportation
Strategy #1: Accelerate electric vehicle (EV) adoption.	Focus Area 1: Transportation and Mobility (TR)	Transportation
Strategy #2: Reduce community-wide driving.	Focus Area 1: Transportation and Mobility (TR)	Land Use, Transportation, Capital Facilities



Strategy #3: Improve “last mile access.”	Focus Area 1: Transportation and Mobility (TR)	Land Use, Transportation, Capital Facilities
<b>BE Goal:</b> Reduce GHG emissions from buildings by reducing energy usage, electrifying buildings, and transitioning to clean and reliable renewable energy sources.	Focus Area 2: Built Environment/Land Use (BE)	Environmental Quality & Shorelines: Goal EQ-5 Alternative Energy and its corresponding policies address similar topics  Capital Facilities, Utilities
Strategy #1: Use cleaner energy.	Focus Area 2: Built Environment/Land Use (BE)	Environmental Quality & Shorelines: Goal EQ-5 Alternative Energy and its corresponding policies address similar topics  Capital Facilities, Utilities
Strategy #2: Build strategically for less energy and clean energy.	Focus Area 2: Built Environment/Land Use (BE)	Land Use, Environmental Quality & Shorelines
<b>NE Goal:</b> Foster climate resilient natural landscape by restoring natural systems, protecting vital habitats and ecosystems, and conserving water resources.	Focus Area 3: Natural Environment, Ecosystems, and Sequestration (NE)	Land Use, Environmental Quality & Shorelines
Strategy #1: Maintain healthy urban forest.	Focus Area 3: Natural Environment, Ecosystems, and Sequestration (NE)	Environmental Quality & Shorelines: Goal EQ-9 Forest Canopy and its corresponding policies address similar topics
Strategy #2: Increase carbon sequestration.	Focus Area 3: Natural Environment, Ecosystems, and Sequestration (NE)	Defer to Climate Element
Strategy #3: Maintain healthy waterways.	Focus Area 3: Natural Environment, Ecosystems, and Sequestration (NE)	Environmental Quality & Shorelines, Capital Facilities

<b>CW Goal:</b> Reduce community waste and the GHG emissions associated with the consumption and disposal of goods and materials.	Focus Area 4: Consumption and Solid Waste (CW)	Environmental Quality & Shorelines, Utilities
Strategy #1: Implement circular economy.	Focus Area 4: Consumption and Solid Waste (CW)	Defer to Climate Element
Strategy #2: Prevent waste.	Focus Area 4: Consumption and Solid Waste (CW)	Environmental Quality & Shorelines, Utilities
Strategy #3: Reduce input to landfills.	Focus Area 4: Consumption and Solid Waste (CW)	Environmental Quality & Shorelines, Utilities
<b>CR Goal:</b> Ensure that all Lake Forest Park residents are prepared for current and future climate impacts.	Focus Area 5: Community Resilience and Preparedness (CR)	Defer to Climate Element
Strategy #1: Prepare for climate emergencies.	Focus Area 5: Community Resilience and Preparedness (CR)	Defer to Climate Element
Strategy #2: Increase adaptive capacity and resilience.	Focus Area 5: Community Resilience and Preparedness (CR)	Land Use, Community Services & Public Safety

## Climate Element

### Washington’s Climate Planning Requirements

Because the Climate Action Plan was prepared prior to adoption of Washington’s climate planning laws, it does not directly respond to new climate planning requirements. The Department of Commerce’s guidance on climate planning describes the following requirements with which new Climate Elements must comply:<sup>1</sup>

- Climate Elements must be designed to result in reductions in overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and must enhance resilience to avoid the adverse impacts of climate change, which must include

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<sup>1</sup> <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/fpg3h0lbwln2ctqjg7jg802h54ie19jx>

efforts to reduce localized GHGs and avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities. The Climate Element includes two sub-elements:

- A GHG emissions reduction sub-element that requires actions to reduce overall emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT). GHG emissions reduction should (1) result in reductions in overall greenhouse gas emissions generated by transportation and land use within the jurisdiction but without increasing emissions elsewhere in Washington; (2) result in reductions in per capita VMT but without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in Washington; and (3) prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities in order to maximize the co-benefits of reduced air pollution and environmental justice.
- A resilience sub-element that (1) addresses natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change, including sea level rise, flooding, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire, and other effects of changes to temperature and precipitation patterns; (2) identifies, protects, and enhances natural areas to foster climate resilience, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe species migration; and (3) identifies, protects, and enhances community resilience to climate impacts, including social, economic, and built-environment factors which support adaptation to climate impacts consistent with environmental justice.
- Work should equitably enhance the resilience of communities and ecological systems to climate change, be consistent with best available science and scientifically credible climate projections and impact scenarios; and, prioritize and benefit overburdened communities that will suffer disproportionately from environmental impacts and climate-exacerbated natural hazards.

There will be a full policy audit as part of the Climate Element's initial phases and gaps, deficiencies, inconsistencies, and other issues will be more fully addressed in that process; this information is provided as a preview of what to expect in the coming months.

### **Preliminary Policy Review**

- There are some redundancies with the goals and strategies proposed in the Climate Action Plan compared to existing elements in the current Comprehensive Plan. Those will need to be reviewed to ensure consistency without too much overlap.
- Some of the strategies in the Climate Action Plan fit into different elements within the current Comprehensive Plan than their corresponding goal; the focus areas within the Climate Action Plan may need to be revised for the Climate Element.
- Additional data collection, review, analysis, and policy development must be completed to fully address greenhouse gas emissions reductions requirements related to transportation and land use.
- Further review, analysis, and policy development must be completed to fully address resilience requirements, especially focused on the hazards listed in the Department of Commerce's guidance.
- Environmental justice will need to be fully considered in every step of developing the Climate Element. The environmental justice aspect of the Climate Action Plan may need additional considerations (e.g., transitioning to electric vehicles and reducing installation of gas lines can incur disproportionate costs for residents in lower income brackets).
- Department of Commerce's *Menu of Measures* should be reviewed. Selected climate measures should then be adapted to local conditions and priorities to achieve climate planning goals.