



To Lake Forest Park Planning Commission; Mark Hofman, AICP
From: Cristina Haworth, AICP
Date: March 1, 2024
Project: 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update
Subject Climate Goals and Policies Discussion Guide

Introduction:

Climate Planning Required

In the 2003 legislative session, HB 1181 was adopted to add a climate goal to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and require local comprehensive plans to adopt a Climate Element into their comprehensive plans. Lake Forest Park's Climate Element must include:

- A resilience sub-element with goals and policies that improve climate preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Minimum requirements are:
 - Address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change.
 - Identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to foster climate resilience, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe species migration.
 - Identify, protect, and enhance community resilience to climate impacts, including social, economic, and built-environment factors, which support adaptation to climate impacts consistent with environmental justice.

- A greenhouse gas emissions reduction sub-element with goals and policies that reduce emissions and vehicle miles traveled, without increasing emissions elsewhere in the state. Minimum requirements are:
 - Identify actions that reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions generated by transportation and land use within the jurisdiction but without increasing emissions elsewhere in Washington.
 - Identify actions that will reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled within the jurisdiction but without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in Washington.
 - Prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities to maximize the co-benefits of reduced air pollution and environmental justice.

- Considerations that maximize economic, environmental, and social co-benefits and prioritize environmental justice to avoid worsening environmental health disparities. We note that while environmental justice has not been overtly addressed in LFP's Comprehensive Plan, the community and City leadership have a long history of supporting the advancement of environmental justice.

- Wherever possible, consider utilizing urban planning approaches that promote physical activity and reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled within the jurisdiction, but without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state. LFP is an established and largely built-out community. Major changes to land use and transportation patterns are not feasible and the opportunities to use new planning approaches to promote physical activity and reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are limited. This update will refresh the 2015 Comprehensive Plan policies to more clearly support nonmotorized transportation and opportunities for physical activity.
- The process for developing a climate element must engage a diverse range of community members, especially those who are most at risk for experiencing displacement and negative health outcomes, such as youths, the elderly, communities of color, those who are experiencing houselessness, and/or those who are living below the federal poverty level.

Approach to Climate Planning in LFP

The original scope of work for the Comprehensive Plan update did not include development of a full Climate Element, but allocated resources to adapt the Climate Action Plan to address climate change within the Comprehensive Plan's existing elements. Lake Forest Park was recently awarded a grant to fund the preparation of a Climate Element meeting state requirements and following the Department of Commerce's climate planning guidance. Because the timelines for the Comprehensive Plan update and the Climate Grant differ, we will embark on two concurrent paths to address climate planning:

- Path 1.** 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.
- Path 2.** Develop a separate Climate Element that will exist independently within the Comprehensive Plan, to be adopted by amendment when it is complete. This will begin in approximately May 2024 and be completed by June 30, 2025. The final Climate Element will be adopted as an amendment to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

This memo addresses Path 1, adapting the Climate Action Plan to fit into the Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion Questions and Guidance:

1. **Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Plan.** Review the City of Lake Forest Park Climate Action Plan Memo (dated February 29, 2024) and consider the following:
 - a. Do you agree with the proposed Element assignments for each of the goals and strategies from the Climate Action Plan?
 - b. Are there any goals or strategies that you think should be deferred to Path 2 (developing the full Climate Element) beyond those identified in the Climate Action Plan Memo?
 - c. Are there any climate planning-related topics that you think should be addressed during Path 1 that are not included in the Climate Action Plan?



2. **Environmental Justice.** Goals, policies, and implementation actions may have unintended and disproportionate impacts. For example, transitioning to electric vehicles and reducing installation of gas lines can incur disproportionate costs for residents in lower income brackets. Additionally, the emphasis on transitioning to electric vehicles for personal use (rather than as a focus for public transit options) may reinforce auto-centric priorities on development patterns, which could reproduce economic, social, and health disparities. What are your ideas for prioritizing equity and environmental/climate justice as we plan?