# Memorandum

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| **To:** | Snoqualmie Planning Commission |
| **From:** | Chris Green, Consultant Team Lead |
| **Copies:** | Mona Davis, Interim Community Development Director |
| **Date:** | March 12, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | Update on Climate Resilience Planning |
| **Project No.:** | 32703.W |

The City of Snoqualmie is developing a Climate Element for its Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Growth Management Act requirements. This element consists of two sub-elements:

- Climate Resilience Sub-Element: Addressing coordinated adaptation to climate impacts and natural hazards.
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Sub-Element: Establishing strategies for mitigating GHG emissions and reducing per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

The March 17, 2025, Planning Commission Workshop will focus on progress made so far, including engagement activities, climate hazard findings, community assets, and upcoming policy development.

## Community Engagement Update

Engagement efforts have included an online survey, CPAT meetings, community workshops, and stakeholder focus groups to gather input on climate risks, resilience strategies, and emissions reduction priorities.

### Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) Meetings

CPAT has played a key role in guiding the planning process and providing technical expertise. Commissioner Testman serves as the Chair of the CPAT and the committee's liaison to the Planning Commission.

- **Meeting #1 (October 2024):** Reviewed project scope, engagement strategy, and key planning requirements.
- **Meeting #2 (November 2024):** Assessed community assets, climate vulnerabilities, and GHG emissions inventory scope.
- **Meeting #3 (February 7, 2025):** Evaluated workshop and focus group results, and prioritized asset-hazard pairings for resilience planning.

- **Upcoming Meeting #4 (March 14, 2025):** Will focus on reviewing GHG inventory results and preliminary emissions reduction targets.

**Online Survey (Opened February 4, 2025)**

- 20 responses so far, with key questions raised about:
    - The city's readiness for flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat.
    - How urban forests, river management, and emergency preparedness efforts fit into climate resilience.
    - Preferred GHG reduction strategies, including expanded transit, EV charging, and home energy efficiency incentives.

**Online Survey (Opened February 4, 2025)**

Responses highlight flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat as key climate risks, with interest in expanding transit options, increasing tree canopy, and providing home energy efficiency incentives. Participants also raised questions about infrastructure resilience, floodplain management, and emergency preparedness.

**Community Workshop & Open House (February 27, 2025)**

Discussions centered on flooding and extreme heat impacts, with concerns about downtown flood risks, power outages, and urban heat islands. Attendees explored how tree planting, cooling centers, and emergency preparedness efforts could address these challenges. There was strong interest in community-driven resilience initiatives and ensuring climate adaptation strategies are equitably distributed across neighborhoods.

**Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups**

Several focus groups provided specialized input on climate risks and adaptation needs.

- **Youth Focus Group (February 26, 2025):** Participants from Mount Si High School discussed transportation and land use challenges, expressing interest in expanded public transit, green infrastructure, and youth engagement in climate initiatives. They raised questions about how the plan would impact development patterns and housing policies.
- **Flood & Insurance Discussion (February 27, 2025):** Conversations focused on floodplain management, FEMA funding uncertainties, and rising insurance costs. There was discussion on improving floodproofing measures, addressing sediment buildup, and ensuring long-term resilience for historic downtown structures.
- **Public Works (February 27, 2025):** Staff reviewed GHG reduction efforts, stormwater and flood management strategies, and urban forestry programs. They emphasized water resource limitations, aquifer storage solutions, and the role of tree canopy in stormwater quality and heat mitigation.

- **Fire & Emergency Services (February 28, 2025):** Fire officials highlighted growing wildfire risks, emergency response challenges, and the need for updated fire codes. They discussed evacuation planning, resource gaps, and training needs for new fire threats, such as EV battery and solar panel fires.

## Initial Climate Hazard and GHG Emission Findings

The top climate hazards identified include flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat, requiring targeted adaptation strategies:

- **Flooding:** Infrastructure vulnerabilities, river level impacts, and flood risks to historic buildings.
- **Wildfire:** Growing risks from drier summers and increased urban-wildland interface development.
- **Extreme Heat:** Rising temperatures increasing public health risks, straining energy infrastructure, and worsening urban heat islands.

The most recent Snoqualmie-specific figures to date, from 2019, indicate that the largest emissions sources are commercial electricity use, residential energy consumption, and on-road transportation. An updated version of the inventory, based on figures using the required base year of 2022, are expected later this month.

## Upcoming Tasks & Next Steps

Key milestones leading to the adoption of the Climate Element include:

- **Upcoming CPAT Meetings**
    - **March 14 – CPAT Meeting #4:** Review GHG emissions inventory results and begin setting preliminary emissions reduction targets.
    - **April 11 – CPAT Meeting #5:** Discuss and refine climate resilience and emissions reduction policies.
    - **May 9 – CPAT Meeting #6:** Review the draft Climate Element and recommendations for Comprehensive Plan integration.
- **Upcoming Planning Commission Workshops**
    - **March 17 – Workshop #1**: Discussion of priority climate hazards and GHG emissions inventory findings.
    - **April 14 – Workshop #2:** Presentation of draft goals, policies, and proposed measures for resilience and emissions reduction.
    - **May 5 – Workshop #3:** Review of the draft Climate Element before finalization.
- **Additional Community Outreach and Engagement**
    - **Community Meeting #2 (May 5):** Open house for public feedback on the draft Climate Element.

- **Planning for Additional Outreach:** Further opportunities for engagement, including additional online surveys, targeted stakeholder meetings, and public information sessions, are under consideration to ensure broad community input before final adoption.

**Steps Toward Preparation of the Climate Element**

- **Setting GHG Reduction Targets:** Aligning with state and regional climate commitments while addressing Snoqualmie-specific emissions sources.
- **Prioritizing Climate Hazards & Impacts:** Developing clear criteria for prioritizing risks and identifying critical infrastructure and community vulnerabilities.
- **Finalizing Goals & Policies for Resilience & GHG Reduction:** Establishing specific, measurable, and implementable strategies for inclusion in the Climate Element.
- **Comprehensive Plan Integration:** Ensuring alignment with land use, transportation, housing, and infrastructure planning.

## Conclusion

Planning for the Climate Element process is advancing with strong community engagement and technical input. The March 17 workshop will be a key opportunity to discuss climate hazards and GHG emissions, helping to shape final policy recommendations. The Planning Commission's insights will be critical in developing a strong, actionable plan for Snoqualmie's climate future.