

Snoqualmie Climate Element

DRAFT Resilience Goals and Policies

wildfire, flooding,

Policy ID	Policies	This Might Look Like...
GOAL 1	Enhance emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to mitigate risks and impacts associated with extreme weather and other hazards worsened by climate change.	
1.1	Analyze how the municipal water system maintains adequate pressure during a major wildfire event and how it will look under current and projected drought conditions.	Hire a consultant to perform specialized modeling (e.g., for the water system).
1.2	Support the development of community wildfire protection plans.	Lead or participate in collaborative wildfire protection and/or smoke planning projects. This may overlap to some degree with the Jurisdictional Annex to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
1.3	Develop and implement notification alerts within the community to reduce risk exposure to wildfire smoke and particulate matter.	Provide an opt-in mass notification system, such as Alertus.
1.4	Partner with residents, emergency management officials, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, and other stakeholders to develop and implement a wildfire smoke resilience strategy.	Dedicate funding to plan/strategy implementation actions.
1.5	Develop and distribute educational materials that empower individuals to be prepared for potential disasters.	Tailor and adopt the Model Recovery Ordinance.
1.6	Adopt a pre-event disaster recovery ordinance to facilitate recovery through planned outcomes and governance	
GOAL 2	Ensure that public and private development, redevelopment, infrastructure, and facilities projects are resilient to climate change.	
2.1	Establish or maintain development regulations that incorporate best practices for reducing the risk of wildfire, extreme heat, flooding, and other climate-exacerbated hazards.	Adopt and/or maintain regulations for the following: floodplain management, Firewise practices or WUI management, green buildings, solar- or other alternative energy-readiness requirements, drought-tolerant landscaping, etc.
2.2	Reduce residential development pressure in the wildland-urban interface.	Improve transportation mode choice and connectivity to expand emergency response/evacuation options.
2.3	Acquire properties or easements on properties that are vulnerable to climate-exacerbated hazards and are or will become unsuitable for development.	Consider redundancy in the provision of infrastructure and services.
2.4	Ensure that the local transportation system (infrastructure, routes, and travel modes) is able to withstand and recover quickly from the impacts of extreme weather events and other hazards exacerbated by climate change.	Reduce density in the wildland-urban interface and increase density in more urban areas to accommodate growth allocations while reducing risk.
2.5	Improve street connectivity and multimodal transportation options, including sidewalks and street crossings, to serve as potential evacuation routes.	Purchase properties at extreme or significant risk of wildfire or flooding related property damage.
2.6	Ensure that all community members have equitable access to green space within a half-mile.	Invest in more nonmotorized networks, prioritizing missing connections.
2.7	Develop and implement an urban heat resilience strategy that includes land use, urban design, urban greening, and waste heat reduction actions.	Coordinate with transit agencies to expand service, and facilitate the expansion as needed with infrastructure improvements.

Plan for stormwater management that relies on low-impact development techniques and elevates the functionality of ecosystem services.

Move to Goal 7

Plan for heat refuges that include urban forest and structures, such as covered play areas.

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without increasing pest insect populations, such as mosquitos.

GOAL 3	Ensure the protection and recovery of ecosystems, including streams, riparian zones, wetlands, and floodplains, to provide healthy habitats and watersheds in a changing climate.	
3.1	Implement actions identified in restoration and salmon recovery plans to improve the climate resilience of streams and watersheds and to protect and restore watershed-scale processes.	Proactively restore public lands by removing invasive species and replanting with drought-tolerant and pest-resistant native or naturalized species.
3.2	Improve ecosystem health and climate resilience of aquatic and riparian habitats by reducing the threat of aquatic invasive species (e.g., fish, plants, invertebrates), protecting and restoring riparian vegetation and wetlands, and restoring the structure and function of streams and floodplains.	Require or incentivize redevelopment to reconnect stream, wetland, riparian, and/or floodplain habitat, where present. Require or incentivize redevelopment to restore habitats.
3.3	Increase aquatic habitat resilience to low summer flows by increasing water residence time, storing water on the landscape, conserving water, protecting groundwater, keeping waters cool, and protecting water quality.	Prohibit new development from fragmenting streams, wetlands, riparian corridors, and/or floodplains. (NOTE: This is largely addressed in the CAO) Require stormwater plans to increase water residence time (time spent on the ground/in the stream).
3.4	Inventory climate refugia and habitat connectivity needs for species under stress from climate change, and identify opportunities to expand habitat protection and improve habitat quality and connectivity to foster climate resilience.	Retrofit existing public spaces to retain water through landscape features and/or multiuse built features (flood storage in parking lots, for example).
3.5	Review and update the Critical Areas Ordinance to address climate change, including: Ensuring setbacks for geologically hazardous (steep slopes and landslide hazard areas) are adequate so that improvements are not required to protect structures during their expected life. Managing frequently flooded areas in the context of shifting streamflow patterns and extreme precipitation events. Consider climate stressors when determining allowed activities and uses within wetlands and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCAs), and ensure regulations maintain habitat integrity and function. Incorporate post-wildfire debris flow and flooding hazard information into critical area delineations. Ensure no net loss of ecosystem composition, structure, and functions, especially in Priority Habitats and Critical Areas, and strive for net ecological gain to enhance climate resilience.	Use staff or consultant resources to perform a desktop and/or field inventory of habitat conditions for stressed species. Use the inventory to identify additional areas for regulatory intervention. Require Public Works projects to incorporate climate change considerations and fish passage improvements into water crossing (bridge and culvert) designs. Develop a preferred vegetation species list or other resource.
3.6	Incorporate hydrologic climate impacts into the design of water-crossing structures (i.e., climate-smart culverts and bridges) for fish passage and habitat quality.	
3.7	Prioritize the selection native or naturalized drought- and pest-resistant trees, shrubs, and grasses in public and private development projects and restoration efforts to support climate resilience.	

3.8: Manage stormwater to proactively treat persistent pollutants such as PFAS and 6PPDQ before they discharge into riparian areas, wetlands, and water bodies.

adaptive climate management.

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and the Green
Snoqualmie Partnership's
Forest Management Plan

GOAL 4	Protect and enhance the climate resilience of urban forests by implementing climate smart forest management.	
4.1	Reduce loss of private forestland through forest stewardship education, and identify opportunities to expand incentives for forest landowners to retain forestland and increase climate resilience of forests and streams.	Encourage participation in Washington's small forest landowner assistance cost-share and stewardship programs.
4.2	Periodically review and update the Snoqualmie Urban Forest Strategic Plan to maintain and expand tree canopy cover, improve tree and watershed health, prioritize carbon sequestration, consider the impacts of climate change, and build climate resilience.	Update the Snoqualmie Urban Forest Strategic Plan, potentially also convening a steering or advisory committee.
4.3	Manage tree canopy and forests to decrease climate exacerbated risks from severe wildfires, protect residents, and improve ecosystem health and habitat.	Adopt City policies related to the use of Firewise or WUI standards in managing public urban forestry resources.
4.4	Prioritize urban forestry planning resources and funding for frontline communities that are hurt first and worst by climate change.	Adopt City policies that prioritize the selection of drought-tolerant and pest-resistant native or naturalized species for trees in public places.
4.5	Develop a program to analyze and address the climate impacts and risks of pests and disease on urban trees.	Develop a preferred vegetation species list or other resource.
4.6	Take early action to eliminate or control non-native invasive insect species that take advantage of climate change, especially where invasives threaten native species or ecosystem function.	Educate City staff on the spread of invasive species, pests, and diseases in urban forest resources, including hiring a professional to provide a report on vulnerability and risk in Snoqualmie.
4.7	Use an integrated approach to prevent the spread and establishment of invasive plant species and enhance the climate resilience of native plant communities.	Lead or participate in regional efforts to mitigate invasive insect species.
4.8	Create and support natural resource management plans that address existing stressors, consider climate change impacts, emphasize taking a precautionary approach to reduce risk of environmental harm, and guide adaptive management.	Develop a natural resource management plan that includes specific recommendations and/or implementation actions that will support a resilient urban forest.

urban

in alignment with the Green Snoqualmie Partnership's Forest Management Plan.

Already in FMP/City practices

Provide resources for private property owners interested in lowering the risk of wildfire damage on their properties, such as Firewise guidelines.

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Streamline and
consolidate with Goal 7.

GOAL 5	Ensure that cultural resources and practices – including significant historic sites and culturally important traditional foods and natural resources – are resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and other natural hazards worsened by climate change.	
5.1	Protect, enhance, and restore ecosystems in order to meet tribal treaty rights and conserve culturally important consumptive and non-consumptive resources including foods, medicinal plants, and materials that could be adversely impacted by climate change.	Identify culturally significant foods, medicinal plants, and materials and their typical range and/or habitat features, and develop a plan to ensure protection and enhancement of these areas for use by Tribes.
5.2	Work with partners to establish and sustain a native plant nursery and seed bank to support long-term restoration and carbon sequestration efforts.	Hire a consultant and/or work with Tribes to identify culturally significant and historic sites at risk from climate impacts, and develop specific strategies to protect those sites.
5.3	Establish and maintain government-to-government relations with Native American tribes for the preservation of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties that are vulnerable to climate impacts.	Lead or partner with Tribes to convert unused or underutilized public property into a native plant nursery. Coordinate with Tribes and local schools to steward the plants.
5.4	Protect significant historic sites prone to floods or other hazards worsened by climate change.	Partner with the local library to retain a seed bank and/or seed library that Tribes and community members can contribute to and learn from.
GOAL 6	Ensure that the local economy is resilient to climate disruptions and fosters business opportunities associated with climate mitigation and adaptation.	
6.1	Support local businesses in planning for climate preparedness and continuity of operations.	Provide resources, such as training programs and education, for local business owners interested in planning for climate preparedness.
GOAL 7	Advance environmental justice and community wellbeing by prioritizing equitable climate policies, inclusive decision-making, and access to healthy, resilient environments for all residents.	
7.1	Create and implement culturally contextualized outreach and education initiatives and materials that will inform the community about near-term and longer-term climate change threats and build resilience.	Develop focused outreach materials for vulnerable and sensitive populations (such as children, older adults, Native Americans, people with medical conditions that can be exacerbated by smoke or particulate matter, people with disability, etc.), people with property at risk from climate change, and others, and proactively distribute them.
7.2	Build and support partnerships with community-based organizations with the capacity and relationships to convene diverse coalitions of residents and to educate and empower them to implement climate resilience actions.	Provide personal protective equipment and filter fans for at-risk individuals.
7.3	Support wildfire smoke mitigation and incentivize infrastructure updates for facilities that serve high-risk populations.	Fund HVAC updates and/or MERV 13 filters for air intake for facilities such as healthcare clinics, senior housing, and childcare facilities.

Retain Goal 6 as standalone.
Expand policies to address
disaster preparedness.

Present information about
business opportunities related
to climate mitigation and
adaptation.

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GOAL 8	Build organizational capacity and integrate climate resilience across City systems and decision-making processes.	
8.1	Train city staff in skills related to climate change and environmental justice to improve implementation, equity, and resilience, such as evacuation planning and wildfire resilience and regulatory tools	Pay for training and upskilling for administrative, emergency services, planning, and customer-facing staff to more fully understand climate change science, likely impacts, resilience strategies, and emergency management/response.
8.2	Support enhanced data collection for hazard events of all magnitudes to provide a fuller understanding of the community's hazard characteristics — including those affected by climate change.	Proactively collect data after hazard events and regularly analyze the event and the community's performance. Participate in cooperative regional efforts, if available.
8.3	Factor climate impacts into the planning of operations and coordination of preparedness, response, and recovery activities among first-responders and partners, including public health, law enforcement, fire, school, and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel.	Review and update strategic plans for emergency response, hazard mitigation, and emergency management agencies to incorporate climate change considerations.
8.4	Consider future climate conditions during siting and design of capital facilities, including changes to temperature and rainfall, to help ensure they function as intended over their planned life cycle.	Perform a climate change analysis in the development of any new capital facilities to consider flood and wildfire risk and the potential impact of extreme heat or precipitation.
8.5	Identify and plan for climate impacts to valued community assets such as parks and recreation facilities, including relocation or replacement.	
8.6	Ensure that Snoqualmie's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan responds to the impacts of climate change and identifies roles and responsibilities to support a sustainable economic recovery after a disaster.	