

Memorandum

To: Snoqualmie Planning Commission

From: Chris Green, Consultant Project Manager, Otak
Cristina Haworth, Senior Planner, Otak

Copies: Mona Davis, City of Snoqualmie

Date: May 13, 2025

Subject: Review of Draft Goals and Policies for the Climate Resilience and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Sub-Elements

Project No.: 32703.W

The May 19 workshop will continue Planning Commission's review of materials for the Climate Element, focusing on draft goals and policies for two required sub-elements: Climate Resilience and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction. These sub-elements are mandated under HB 1181 and reflect the City's efforts to address both climate adaptation and mitigation as part of its 2025 Comprehensive Plan update.

Workshop Objectives

- Review and provide feedback on draft goals and policies for the Climate Resilience Sub-Element and the GHG Emissions Reduction Sub-Element.
- Discuss alignment with Snoqualmie's existing plans and planning priorities.
- Prepare for refinement of the draft Climate Element in upcoming meetings.

Background

At its May 5 meeting, the Planning Commission received a brief overview of the draft goals and policies. The Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) provided more detailed feedback on these materials during its May 9 meeting. Comments and recommendations from both groups will help shape the next draft of the full Climate Element, which is scheduled for review at workshops on June 2 and June 16.

In addition to the goals and policies, this workshop packet includes the Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report prepared by Cascadia Consulting Group and King County's K4C program. This inventory establishes a baseline for local emissions and informs the development of reduction targets and policy priorities.

Resilience Sub-Element

Snoqualmie's resilience planning is focused on four priority climate-related hazards: extreme heat, extreme precipitation and flooding, drought, and wildfire/smoke. Reduced snowpack is addressed as part

of drought-related impacts. Sea level rise is not a hazard of concern for Snoqualmie due to the city's inland location.

The draft goals and policies emphasize strengthening local capacity to prepare for and respond to climate-related hazards, with particular attention to community assets and vulnerable populations. Key themes include:

- Reducing exposure through land use and infrastructure planning.
- Increasing the resilience of the built environment and public facilities.
- Supporting equitable emergency preparedness and response systems.
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems that provide climate resilience benefits, including forested areas and riparian corridors.

These draft policies draw from guidance in the Department of Commerce's Climate Element Planning resources and have been customized to reflect Snoqualmie's specific vulnerabilities and planning context.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sub-Element

This workshop packet also includes the Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report, based on 2022 and 2023 data. The summary memo focuses on 2023 as the baseline year for emissions tracking. The inventory was prepared by Cascadia Consulting Group and King County's K4C program.

The GHG Emissions Reduction Sub-Element focuses on local actions under the City's land use and transportation planning authority. The goals and policies emphasize:

- Energy-efficient development patterns that support compact, mixed-use, and transit-accessible neighborhoods.
- Reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through coordinated land use and transportation strategies.
- Opportunities for carbon sequestration in natural systems, such as forests and wetlands.

While some large emission sources (e.g., aviation) are outside local control, the draft policies focus on areas where Snoqualmie can make meaningful progress toward reducing emissions. The goals were selected and adapted from Commerce's *Climate Policy Explorer* and tailored to the city's land use and transportation context.

Next Steps

Following this workshop:

- The goals and policies will be refined based on input from the Planning Commission and CPAT.
- The revised draft Climate Element, incorporating updated goals and policies, will be reviewed at the Commission's June 2 and June 16 workshops.

- Adoption of the final Climate Element will occur alongside the full Comprehensive Plan update

Attachments:

1. DRAFT Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report
2. DRAFT Resilience Goals and Policies
3. DRAFT Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals and Policies