

Environmental Element Policy Discussion



Planning Commission
Meeting
January 2, 2024



Schedule



Organized by following topics:

- Environmental Protection
- Climate Planning and Resiliency

- Water Resources, Aquifers and Critical Recharge Areas
- Snoqualmie River, Stream Corridors and Wetlands
- Geologic and Flood Hazard Areas
- Goals



January 2, 2024

January 16, 2024

Draft Environmental Policies

Environmental Protection



- Incorporate and utilize applicable best available science for purposes of designating and protecting all regulated critical areas and anadromous fisheries that need “special consideration” for their conservation and protection.
- Protect Snoqualmie's environmental critical areas, habitat, and the natural environment through land use plans, surface water management plans and programs, comprehensive park plans, development regulations and site-specific project review. **Vision 2050**
- Ensure the protection and recovery of ecosystems to provide healthy habitat and support fish, wildlife, and plant populations in a changing climate.

Draft Environmental Policies

Environmental Protection



- Coordinate with governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and Tribes to protect and enhance the environment through countywide and watershed planning, fish and wildlife resource management, and habitat protection networks across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Establish and maintain relations with Native American tribes for the preservation of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties that are vulnerable to climate impacts.
- Actively manage city forest lands to decrease climate-exacerbated risks from severe wildfires, protect residents, and improve ecosystem health and habitat and encourage others to do so.

Draft Environmental Policies

Environmental Protection



- Control the spread of noxious weeds as identified by King County Noxious Weed Control Board from public properties, particularly in more fire-prone areas like roadsides and utility corridors and if possible educate citizens about the control of noxious weeds on private property.
- Support integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment. Vision 2050
- Promote innovative and environmentally sensitive practices in site planning, design, materials selection, construction and maintenance. Vision 2050

Draft Environmental Policies

Environmental Protection



- Encourage environmental stewardship on private and public lands through partnerships and voluntary efforts that protect, restore and enhance the quality and functions of critical areas and associated buffers. Vision 2050
- Support programs that ensure all residents, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of a healthy environment, and prioritize the reduction of impacts to vulnerable populations that have been disproportionately affected by climate change. Vision 2050

Draft Environmental Policies

Climate Planning and Resiliency



- Consider opportunities to address community greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2050.
- Develop and implement a Climate Action Plan that includes greenhouse gas emission programs such as incorporating GHG assessments in SEPA review; carbon storage in the urban forest; and the impacts of climate change on the City's hydrological systems.
- Encourage lot layout and site design that allows for houses and other buildings to be oriented to optimize passive and active solar access and minimize shade on adjoining properties.

Draft Environmental Policies

Climate Planning and Resiliency



- Promote information to the public on energy-efficiency and conservation awareness programs.
- Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in municipal buildings that lead to efficiency improvements; participating in energy-efficiency and conservation awareness programs.
- Support Climate Protection Agreement, the King-County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), and other multijurisdictional efforts to address climate change, sea-level rise, ocean acidification and other impacts from changing global conditions.

Draft Environmental Policies

Climate Planning and Resiliency



- Implement Best Management Practices to reduce the amount of air-borne particulates within the community to reduce exposure to wildfire smoke and particulate matter.
- Strive to convert public-owned fleets to zero-emission vehicles (e.g., electric or renewably produced hydrogen). Partner with local organizations to identify funding sources and opportunities to electrify heavy-duty vehicles.
- In future development account for climate change impacts when planning, siting, designing, and operating capital facility, utility, and infrastructure projects.
- Promote development that is recognized under the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED), Built Green, Salmon-Safe, and the Living Building Challenge (LBC) programs.

Draft Environmental Policies

Climate Planning and Resiliency



- Reduce landfilled solid waste by promoting recyclable and compostable packaging, commercial composting, recycling of construction-related debris, and reduction of single-use plastics.
- Cooperate with state, regional and countywide actions that support resilience by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on land, water, infrastructure, and health. Vision 2050
- Protect environmental critical areas and natural resources that sequester and store carbon such as wetlands, estuaries, stream buffers and urban tree canopy. Vision 2050

Draft Environmental Policies

Climate Planning and Resiliency



- Enhance the City's urban tree canopy to support community resilience, mitigate urban heat and stormwater runoff. This can be accomplished through tree planting in public areas, such as street trees, public parks, public open spaces and public facilities. Consider programs that create incentives for residents and business to plant trees on private property, in addition to any required applicable landscaping standards. Vision 2050
- Reduce building energy consumption through green building, and promote the adaptive reuse of existing buildings recognizing the emission-reduction of retaining existing buildings. Vision 2050
- Assess potential vulnerabilities of the City's infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as flooding, storm surge, sea-level rise, and land hazards. Support efforts to increase resilience of public services, utilities and infrastructure through coordinated planning. Vision 2050

Draft Environmental Policies

Climate Planning and Resiliency



- Address rising sea water by planning the siting of hazardous industries and essential public services away from the 500-year floodplain. **Vision 2050**
- Advocate and promote to alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle, including expansion of transit, telecommuting/teleworking, car-sharing, cycling and walking, to limit or reduce vehicle trips as a strategy for reducing vehicle-related air pollution. **Vision 2050**
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled and driving alone through land use and transportation strategies that provide opportunities and access to walking, biking, and transit. Support regional and state efforts to electrify the transportation system. **Vision 2050**



Next Steps:

January 16, 2024 - Continued review of Environment Policies