

Climate Element Review for the City of Tumwater's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

*Balancing Nature and Community:
Tumwater's Path to Sustainable Growth*



General Government Committee, November 8, 2023

New Growth Management Act Goal

In May 2023, the Governor signed HB 1181, which added a new climate change and resiliency goal to the Growth Management Act:

14.Climate change and resiliency. *Ensure that comprehensive plans, development regulations, and regional policies, plans, and strategies under RCW 36.70A.210 and chapter 47.80 RCW adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate; support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled; prepare for climate impact scenarios; foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards; protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and advance environmental justice.*



New Requirements

- The Climate Element needs to be completed by June 25, 2025
- The Conservation Element, Land Use Element, and Transportation Plan of the Comprehensive Plan will need to address the climate change and resiliency goal in coordination with the Climate Element



New Requirements

The legislation includes the following requirements:

- A **climate mitigation** sub-element to address actions to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled
- A **climate resilience** sub-element, which could be the adoption by reference of the updated Thurston Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Consideration of **environmental justice** to avoid worsening environmental health disparities



Climate Mitigation Sub-Element

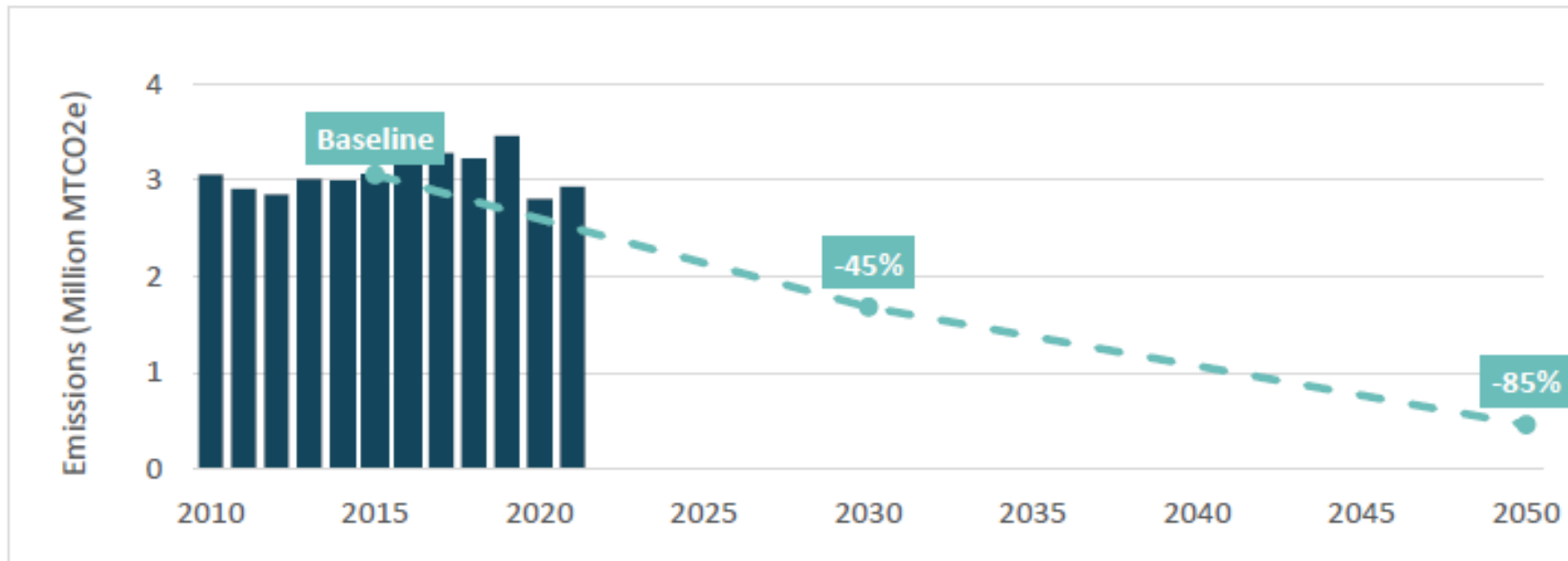
- Climate mitigation addresses greenhouse gas emission reductions that involve actions taken to reduce or eliminate the emissions of greenhouse gases to reduce the rate and extent of climate change damage
- Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and any other gas or gases designated by the state
- Increasing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are changing City's climate in ways that will impact both human and natural systems



Climate Mitigation Sub-Element

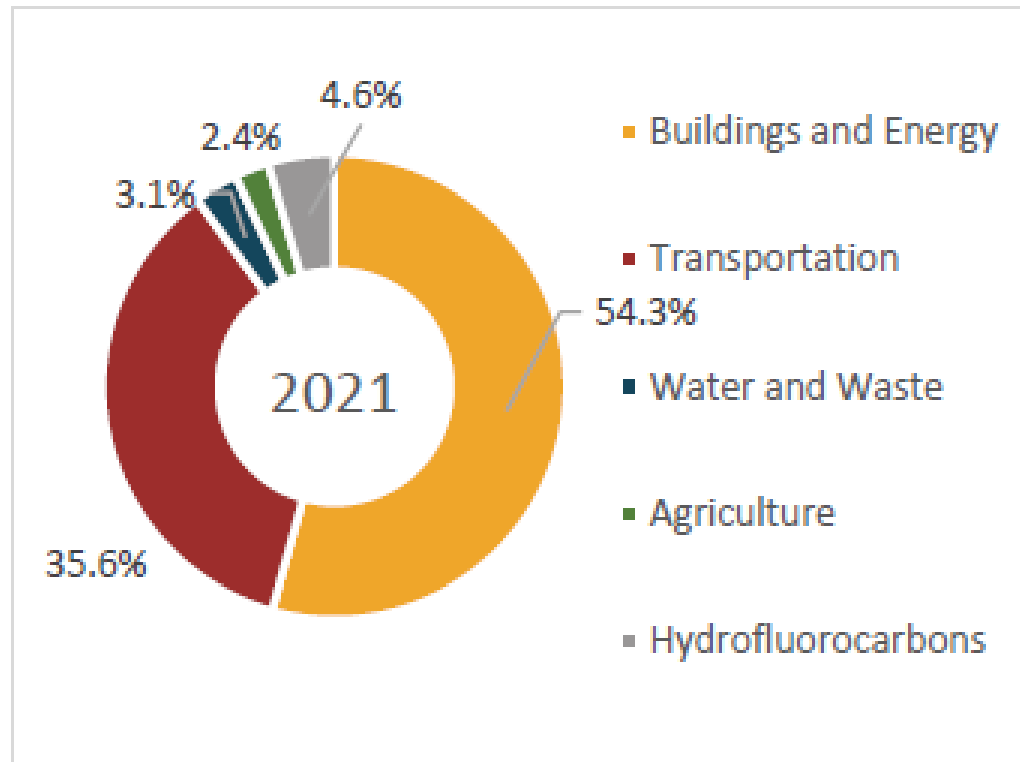
To ensure that the City significantly reduces local contributions to climate change, the City adopted the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in 2021 as part of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan:

- 45% reduction below 2015 levels by 2030; and
- 85% below 2015 levels by 2050



Climate Mitigation Sub-Element

The 2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for Thurston County shows the breakdown of emissions by sector



Climate Mitigation Sub-Element

The City adopted the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan in 2021, the actions of which will be updated and incorporated into the climate mitigation sub-element of the Climate Element



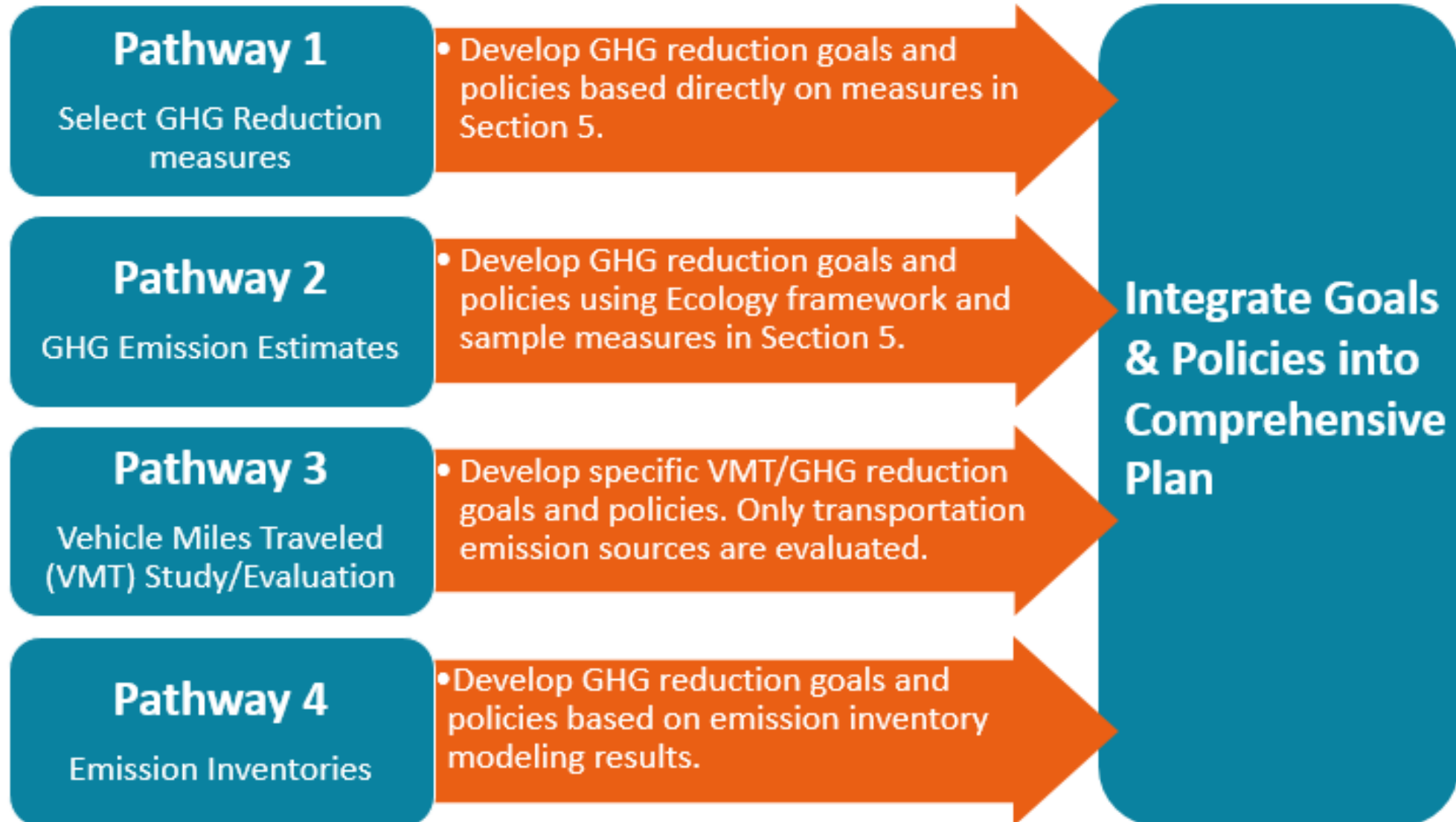
Climate Mitigation Sub-Element

There are four pathways to meet the new state requirement for a climate mitigation sub-element

Staff are exploring which pathways or parts of individual pathways taken together will be the best approach for the City to meet the state requirements



Climate Mitigation – Four Pathways



Climate Resiliency Sub-Element

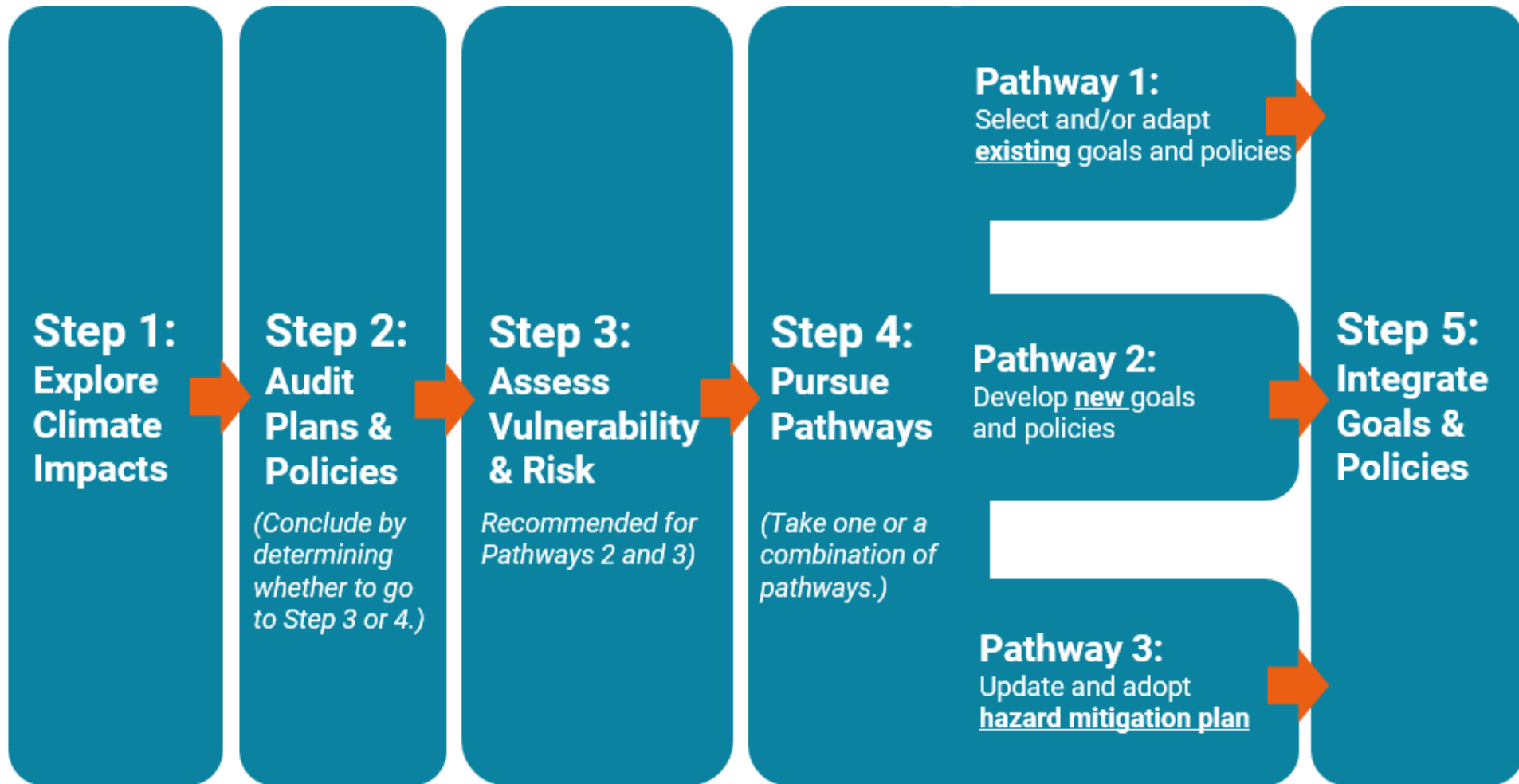
RCW 70A.65.010 defines climate resilience as:

“...the ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities. [...] For communities, increasing climate resilience means enhancing their ability to understand, prevent, adapt, and recover from climate impacts to people and infrastructure.”

The State Department of Commerce has identified a five-step process to meet the new state requirement for a climate resilience sub-element



Climate Resiliency – Five Steps



Hazard Mitigation Plan

- The Thurston Hazard Mitigation Plan with the City of Tumwater annex is being updated now
- The work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan to date has addressed Steps 1 through 3
- The Hazard Mitigation Plan will be in substantial conformance with the state guidance, so in Step 4, the City will be adopting the Plan by reference to satisfy the state climate resilience sub-element requirements



Environmental Justice

The new state legislation requires that the Climate Element must:

- Prioritize greenhouse gas reductions in overburdened communities
- Prioritize climate resilience in communities that will disproportionately suffer from compounding environmental impacts



Environmental Justice

In addition, HB 1181 requires that as part of the required Comprehensive Plan periodic update process that:

- The Land Use Element avoids worsening environmental health disparities
- The Transportation Plan ensures multimodal levels achieve environmental justice goals



Transportation and Land Use Changes

HB 1181 requires other transportation and land use changes such as:

- Requiring that the state maintain a summary of the per capita vehicle miles traveled for jurisdictions to support the required updates to the Transportation Plan and the new Climate Element
- Adds multimodal concurrency
- Must accommodate all users “safely, reliably and efficiently”



Climate Element – Next Steps – Plan Drafting

- January 23, 2024 – Planning Commission work session
- February 14, 2024 – General Government Committee
- June 12, 2024 – General Government Committee
- June 25, 2024 – Planning Commission work session



Periodic Update – Next Steps

- December 12, 2023 - Joint work session with City Council to Discuss 2024 Long Range Planning Work Program
- December 13, 2023 – General Government Committee Briefings on Economic Development Plan, and Lands for Public Purposes and Utilities Elements
- January 10, 2024 – General Government Committee Briefing on Transportation Plan



Comments and Contact information

Written comments are welcome at any time during the periodic update process and staff will address and publish all formal comments

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- The periodic update email is compplan@ci.tumwater.wa.us
- All documents related to the periodic update will be located on the [City's periodic update webpage](#)

