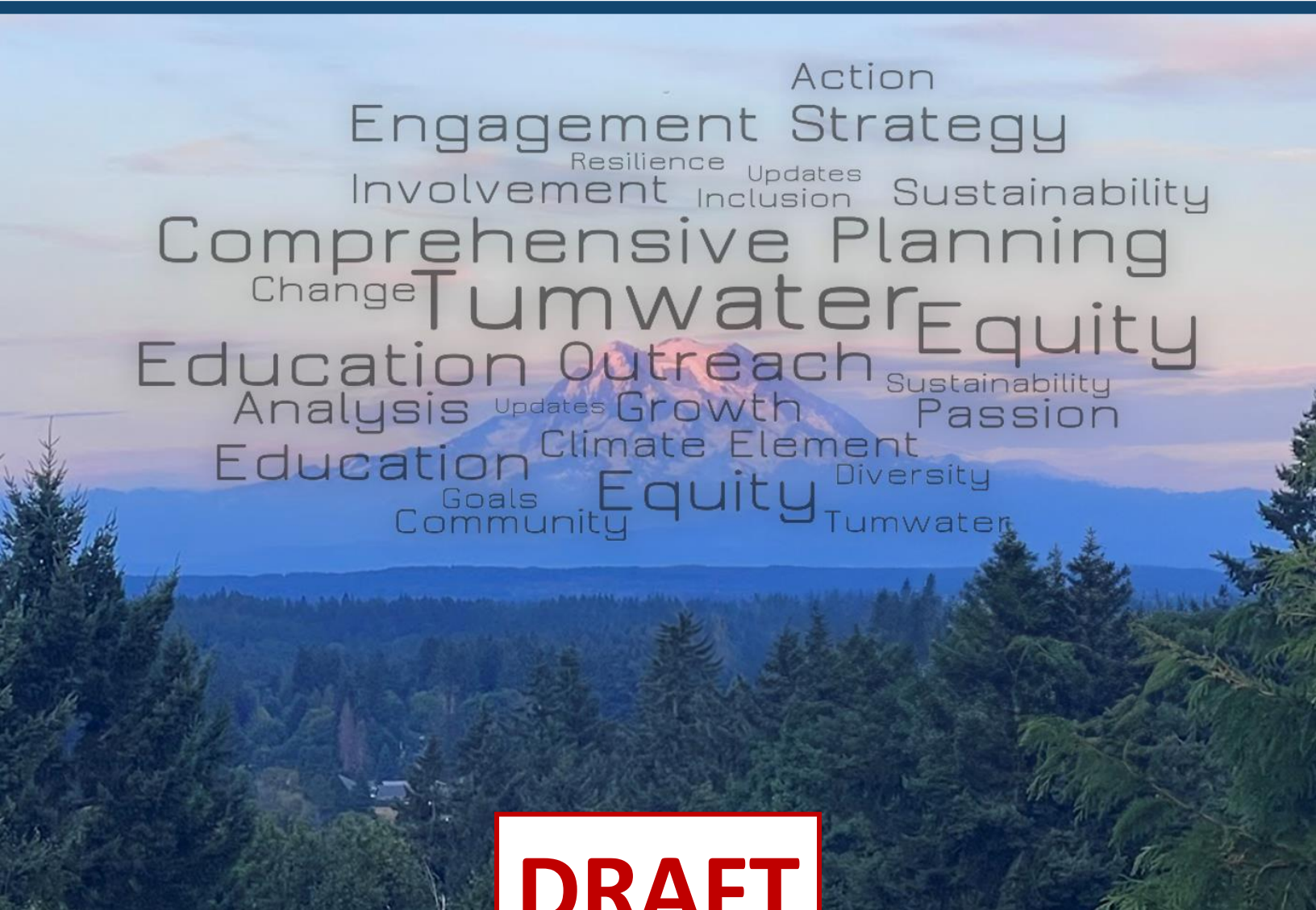


CLIMATE ELEMENT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Addendum to the Final Community
Engagement Plan for Tumwater’s 2025
Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update



June 2024



DRAFT



Tumwater 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

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



CLIMATE ELEMENT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY Community Engagement Plan Addendum

June 2024

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A. Overview

This **Climate Element Engagement Strategy** is issued as an official addendum to the City of Tumwater’s **Final Community Engagement Plan** for the **Tumwater 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update**. This Engagement Strategy dictates the City’s planned approach to facilitating equitable, data-driven, and comprehensive public engagement process, whereby the Tumwater community is enabled to shape the creation, adoption, and implementation of Tumwater’s **Climate Element**. The Climate Element is an amendment to Tumwater’s 2025 Comprehensive Plan, communicating the City’s approach to mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and bolstering community-wide resilience to climate hazards, and will both prioritize environmental justice and maximize economic, environmental, and social co-benefits.

1. Tumwater’s Comprehensive Plan Update 2025 and New Requirement

Every ten years, the State of Washington requires Tumwater to conduct a periodic update of its Comprehensive Plan and related development regulations to comply with the requirements of the State’s **Growth Management Act (GMA)**. The Comprehensive Plan lays out the City’s vision for decisions and investments related to housing and land use, local job creation, transportation and mobility, utilities, parks, and other public assets over a 20-year period. The Plan serves as a roadmap for future growth and services in the City, and affects neighborhoods, businesses, transportation, public facilities and services, and the environment.

In May 2023, the Governor signed House Bill (HB) 1181, which added climate change and resiliency as the fourteenth planning goal of the GMA and required the preparation of a Climate Element requirement to the GMA. The goal states:

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.

The Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and Senate Bill (SB) 5187 have made \$30 million available statewide for grants to support these efforts. The City of Tumwater obtained a grant to fund its new Climate Element.

2. What is a Climate Element?

Incorporating a Climate Element into Tumwater’s Comprehensive Plan is not only a state requirement, but more importantly it signifies Tumwater’s commitment to sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change and safeguarding communities, economies, and ecosystems. The development of the Element requires collaboration across various sectors and disciplines, including urban planning, environmental science, public policy, health, and community advocacy. It provides a framework for integrating the economic, environmental, and social factors of climate change into the other related elements of the comprehensive plan.

The Climate Element consists of two sub-elements:

- **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Sub-element**,¹ which will address baseline conditions (i.e., offer an inventory of community-wide GHG emissions) and planned policies and strategies to reduce GHG emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita across Tumwater; and
- **Climate Resilience² Sub-element**, which will address baseline conditions and planned policies and strategies related to Tumwater’s sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity to climate hazards, which will include science-based goals and policies that address local community hazards. The analysis will include consideration of how natural areas can foster resiliency and protect vital habitat for species migration.

As the City’s population continues to grow and needs for housing and infrastructure increase, it is critical to plan for smart development to meet these needs while minimizing hazard risks and GHG emissions.

3. Equity, Environmental Justice, and Frontline Communities

The Engagement Strategy must support environmental justice by establishing equity goals and desired outcomes. Tumwater believes the integration of equity principles into this process is important for success, so that disadvantaged communities which are already disproportionately burdened by climate change, aren’t adversely impacted further by new plans and policies.

4. About the Climate Element Engagement Strategy

This Climate Element Engagement Strategy builds upon Tumwater’s existing Community Engagement Plan (finalized on July 12, 2023), outlining a process for community members to be

¹ Greenhouse gases, [as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#), are “gases that trap heat in the atmosphere.”

² Climate resilience, [as defined by the State of Washington](#), is “the ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities.”

involved in guiding policy decisions that will shape Tumwater’s climate future. It specifically provides the community and stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to participate in the Comprehensive Plan periodic update throughout the process with a focus on climate action and adaptation and the intersection of those topics with other Comprehensive Plan elements. The Engagement Strategy identifies tactics, strategies, and platforms to inform and consult the community and stakeholders throughout the periodic update. As outlined in the Final Community Engagement Plan, the Tumwater community will continue to be notified of Comprehensive Plan Update meetings and open houses via the periodic update webpage, social media, the Tumwater On-Tap e- newsletter, and City’s interested party contact list.

Figure 1 shows the 4 main step for the process as laid out in the Washington State Department of Commerce’s [Climate Element Planning Guidance](#) (updated December 2023).

Figure 1. Tumwater Climate Element Engagement Strategy Overview



This document provides a detailed overview of the Climate Element Engagement Strategy Process and is laid out as follows:

- Goals for Climate Element Engagement Strategy;
- Climate Policy Advisory Team;
- Community-wide Engagement for Draft Climate Element; and
- Feedback integration into Final Climate Element and Comprehensive Plan Update

This process overview is followed by the City’s planned approach to develop the Climate Element with an intentional focus on holistic and equitable community engagement. The Engagement Strategy will highlight the approaches identified by the City to inform, consult, and involve the community in the development of GHG reduction and climate resilience goals and policies. This includes details on the specific platforms and media to be used to engage community members as well as the siting and schedules by which the City intends to execute this Engagement Strategy. This approach is intended to ensure that the engagement process is equitable and puts the frontline communities that experience climate change ‘first and worst’ at the front and center of the Climate Element.

B. Climate Element Engagement Strategy

1. Goals for Climate Element Engagement Strategy

The Climate Element Engagement Strategy will supplement the City's existing engagement plan for its Comprehensive Plan Update. The Engagement Strategy is intended to provide as much opportunity to the Tumwater community to engage in the development of GHG reduction and climate resilience goals and policies as possible, while at the same time offering flexibility to Tumwater residents to provide input into other aspects of the Comprehensive Plan Update as events and opportunities arise. Laid out here are vision and goals that are both specific to the climate planning process, as well as complementary to the City's existing Community Engagement Plan.

The key goals of the Final Community Engagement Plan for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update extend to this Climate Element Engagement Strategy, which are to:

- 1) Provide information to enhance community understanding of issues.
- 2) Seek early and continuous involvement from people who care about the Comprehensive Plan and the community.
- 3) Offer opportunities for the community to provide feedback to staff and appointed and elected officials.
- 4) Develop an accessible, equitable, and engaging Plan.
- 5) Make community-driven planning the priority for the Plan.
- 6) Highlight projects implemented since the last Comprehensive Plan periodic update.
- 7) Use a flexible, phased approach.
- 8) Integrate and consolidate goals from all Elements of this Plan.
- 9) Develop a Plan that is in an easy to read and understandable format.
- 10) Rely on multiple communications strategies, tactics, and platforms to share information.

As it specifically pertains to the Climate Element, the goals of this Engagement Strategy are to:

- 1) Understand why and how residents think services and processes need to change and develop to increase GHG reduction and climate resilience.
- 2) Engage the broader community, ensuring sufficient representation from diverse groups through in-person, virtual, and/or hybrid outreach and both digital and printed resources.

- 3) Meet people where they are and ensure that all engagement efforts are accessible and equitable. This means not excluding anyone with certain health, physical, or working conditions, and it requires that needs around language, mobility, or family care are thoughtfully addressed.
- 4) Keep the energy positive and focus on success stories, while also stressing the need for action and potential risks.
- 5) Support clear and consistent messaging to current and potential stakeholders that communicates the importance of the Climate Element.
- 6) Be responsive to community insights and allow for shared influence between communities and the organizations that serve them.
- 7) Focus on reducing inequalities and fostering greater community ownership of the Climate Element which will lead to equitable outcomes to benefit frontline communities.
- 8) Seek how best to intentionally allocate resources to overcome the cumulative impacts of institutional racism on historically underserved and under-represented people.
- 9) Articulate Tumwater’s role as a climate leader, aligning with County and State priorities and harnessing local experience and expertise.
- 10) Position Tumwater City staff and residents to make better-informed decisions, driving smarter investments so that the City develops safely in a healthier environment, even with growing climate impacts.

Centering Equity and Environmental Justice

The City of Tumwater recognizes that climate change is inherently an issue of inequity and social and environmental justice. Communities across Washington State and the United States have suffered from the inequitable distribution of benefits and burdens that are especially relevant to the issue of climate change. Climate impacts tend to be felt ‘first and worst’ by certain communities, especially low-income communities, and communities of color, who remain without the same access to institutions and services that would otherwise protect them from the impacts of climate change. These communities are unfairly seated at the front lines of climate change, and consequently must be prioritized in the climate planning process.

Figure 2. Key Considerations for Public Engagement



This Engagement Strategy is intended to ensure that the Climate Element planning process centers and uplifts the voices of frontline communities who are already being disproportionately affected by climate change. To achieve this, the Strategy adheres to several key principles and frameworks:

- **Targeted Universalism:** Developed by the Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, Targeted Universalism “...means setting universal goals pursued by targeted processes to achieve those goals. Within a targeted universalism framework, universal goals are established for all groups concerned. The strategies developed to achieve those goals are targeted, based upon how different groups are situated within structures, culture, and across geographies to obtain the universal goal.”
- **Reciprocity:** Avoiding ‘extractive’ and ‘transactional’ interactions with community members and organizations by providing and sharing resources and crediting others for their time, effort, and participation.
- **Appreciative Inquiry:** An approach whereby conversations are focused on inspiring collective action and establishing a common vision based on strengths, successes, and relationships. In addition, conversations are set up to ensure equal footing and to assign as much value to lived experience as is commonly assigned to technical expertise.

Furthermore, the Engagement Strategy (and the Climate Element by extension) more specifically refers to multiple types of equity, as defined by the [Urban Sustainability Directors Network](#):

- **Procedural equity:** Embedding authentic, inclusive, and accessible community engagement into policy and program development.
- **Distributional equity:** Equitably distributing benefits and burdens across all communities.
- **Structural equity:** Recognizing historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics that lead to inequality.
- **Transgenerational equity:** Accounting for impacts of policies and programs on future generations.

2. Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT)

The Washington State Department of Commerce’s [Climate Element Planning Guidance](#) (updated December 2023) recommends the establishment of a Climate Policy Advisory Team, or CPAT, a climate-focused interdisciplinary team that advises on the primary planning and public engagement efforts associated with updating housing, land use, transportation, and other comprehensive plan elements. Per the Climate Element Planning Guidance, the CPAT is “a group of citizens representing a broad cross-section of community interests that will support the City’s Climate Element development.”

The CPAT is tasked with reviewing and commenting on work products, guiding public outreach and engagement efforts, and creating opportunities for frontline community members to engage with the process and stay involved after the Climate Element’s adoption. Tumwater will work with the CPAT to ensure that the Climate Element reflects the best available science, meets the community’s needs, and positions the jurisdiction for a sustainable, resilient future.

Tumwater’s CPAT, assembled in May 2024, has 13 members from the community. The representatives were invited to represent:

- **Government:** Local, regional, and Tribal;
- **Community** groups and organizations (e.g., local businesses, non-profit and community-based organizations, charities, etc.);
- **Subject matter experts** from colleges, universities, research organizations, and consultancies; and
- **Affected populations** (e.g., Black and Indigenous communities of color, youth and elderly populations, low-income communities, workers and labor unions, disabled and/or immunocompromised individuals, monolingual non-native speakers, etc.).

3. Community-wide Engagement for Draft Climate Element

Tumwater is committed to a public engagement process that leads to a community-driven, data-driven, equity-driven, and actionable Climate Element. The community-wide engagement process will deploy various tools and strategies, including but not limited to:

- **Community-wide surveys** (digital or printed) focused on collecting general feedback on key priorities and interests;
- **Open houses and public workshops** (in-person, virtual, and hybrid) designed to bring community members into shared spaces and guide participants through interactive visioning and strategizing processes;
- **Small-group workshops or community dialogues** with trusted community leaders and targeted communities for information sharing and gathering;
- **Pop-up events** that use existing community gatherings as venues for continued engagement on the Climate Element and Comprehensive Plan Update; and
- **Passive engagement**, including informational outreach through social media, mailings, and other media to keep community members updated and engaged throughout the Climate Element planning process.

This multi-faceted approach will ensure that the Climate Element is driven as much by the community’s priorities and interests as it is by data and resource availability. The City of

Tumwater commits to a transparent, detailed, and thoroughly documented engagement process that strengthens community trust, creates shared ownership of the planning process, and establishes partnerships between and among groups that are mutual and lasting. In addition, the diversity of tools and strategies listed provides multiple, accessible opportunities for stakeholders to engage, allowing stakeholders to be selective (but also, to have sufficient participation options) about when they participate, preventing engagement fatigue and information overload.

Engagement Themes and Topics

While the Climate Element will largely be focused on the broader themes of GHG emissions reduction and climate resilience, there are several sectors, issues, and complexities that will emerge under those two broader subject categories. In alignment with State guidance and best practice, key topics and themes have been categorized to ensure that stakeholders are not overwhelmed with too much information while still having sufficient exposure and opportunity to engage with important topics.

Among the best practices reviewed to inform this Engagement Strategy, Tumwater reviewed Baynham & Stevens’ (2014) evaluation of mitigation and adaptation plans and content. Their evaluation found that most plans are stronger with respect to goals and policies, rather than tailoring a specific process for implementation. Consequently, the City draws upon their recommendations to strengthen the municipal climate planning process, including a scorecard with key messages and topics. These have been modified and adapted for Tumwater’s Climate Element. Table 1 provides these key themes and topline messages, accompanied by topics pertinent to Tumwater.

Table 1. Climate Element Themes and Topics

Themes/Topline Messages	Pertinent Topics or Priorities
Characterization/Background <i>(describes how the Climate Element was established, the need, policy context, and relevance of climate change locally/globally)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Think globally, act locally - Every fraction of a degree (of warming) matters - Set incremental targets that lead to achieving net zero emissions in 2050, consistent with Washington's statewide target. - Regulatory and legislative drivers (e.g., Climate Commitment Act, Clean Energy Transformation Act, Growth Management Act, HB 1181)
Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal group activities and priorities (e.g., City departments, elected officials, staff, etc.) - Community-wide activities, priorities, and advisory (e.g., CPAT, open houses, Comprehensive Plan Update, engagement with County and State entities, community groups, etc.)
Fact Base/Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change (e.g., human activities, local and global impacts)

Themes/Topline Messages	Pertinent Topics or Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., greenhouse gases, inventory structure and requirements, scenario projections) - Climate vulnerability, risk, adaptation, and resilience (e.g., community and asset evaluations, risk assessments, impacts on assets and marginalized communities, etc.)
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying, understanding, and addressing existing disparities and gaps across demographics, socioeconomic status, race, ethnic, and gender identity, ability, etc. - Climate hazard sensitivity and exposure for frontline communities (and community-wide)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short- and long-term emissions reduction (community-wide and municipal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation - Land Use - Climate resilience and adaptation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overarching goals - Sector- and asset-specific goals
Policies <i>(potential sectors)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance and leadership - Communication, education, and outreach - Land use, zoning, and development - Food and agriculture systems - Urban forests, watersheds, and ecosystems - Transportation and mobility - Buildings and energy - Consumption and solid waste - Water supply, wastewater, and stormwater - Health, hazard mitigation, and emergency management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on wildfire, extreme heat, flooding, etc.
Implementation <i>(highlights key issues: responsibilities, feasibility, monitoring, priorities, funding, integration with other planning; addresses strengths and challenges)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles and responsibilities (leading and supporting departments) - Interorganizational coordination (regional and community partners) and alignment (local and regional plans, regulatory drivers) - Prioritization (criteria) - Feasibility (cost estimation, labor capacity, etc.) - Monitoring and evaluation (measurable objectives or performance metrics, data management, reporting)

Engagement Phases and Schedule

The Engagement Process primarily will take place between June 2024 through June 2025, at which point the Climate Element will be finalized and submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Table 2 below outlines the phases, activities, and schedule by which the City of Tumwater will conduct its engagement process for the Climate Element. There are more details on the briefing and work sessions in the [final section of this strategy](#).

Table 2. Climate Element Engagement Schedule and Activities

Phase	Description and Activities	Timeline
1. Listening	Open House, CPAT Kickoff and Feedback requests	Summer 2024
2. Visioning	Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Meetings (TCMC) Community Advisory Workgroup (CAW) Presentation	September 2024
3. Strategizing	Briefing and work sessions with the Planning Commission on Comprehensive Plan amendments related to the Climate Element and related updates to other Plans and Elements including municipal code and related development guide amendments	Through March 2025
4. Finalizing	Briefings with the General Government Committee and work sessions with City Council on Comprehensive Plan amendments related to the Climate Element and related updates to other Plans and Elements.	Through March 2025

Key Stakeholders and Community Groups

Which communities are most vulnerable to climate impacts?

- Priority Audiences
 - Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Meetings (TCMC) Community Advisory Workgroup (CAW)
 - Organizations affected by implementation of Element actions
 - Communities most vulnerable to climate impacts
 - Other hard-to-reach populations

Stakeholders

The following page has a simplified version of the stakeholder list in Tumwater’s broader [Community Engagement Plan](#).

Internal Stakeholders

- Mayor
- Elected or Advisory Boards
 - City Council, Commissions, and Boards
- Administrative Regulatory or Advisory Bodies
 - Tumwater Departments

External Stakeholders

- Community Members
- Regulatory and Advisory Agencies or Bodies

- State and Regional governments
- Other Governments
 - Squaxin Island Tribal Nation
 - Chehalis Tribal Nation
 - Nisqually Tribal Nation
- Thurston County
- Cities of Lacey and Olympia
- Other Public Agencies
 - Tumwater and Olympia School Districts, State Agencies, Port of Olympia, LOTT
- Business / Development
 - Thurston County and Tumwater Chambers of Commerce
 - Puget Sound Energy
 - Olympia Master Builder
 - Thurston County Realtors
- Environmental / Public Interest
- Social Service Agencies
- Arts / Culture / Hospitality

Engagement Materials and Resources

A series of print and digital resources will be developed to share with stakeholders, including the following:

- **Open House** (in-person and virtual)
 - The in-person Open House will have an opening presentation followed by an opportunity for attendees to rotate around a series of tables which will have facilitators and boards to illustrate and collect feedback on Climate Element components.
- CPAT meeting materials and guidance
- Presentations to Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative (TCMC) Community Advisory Workgroup (CAW)
- Briefings and work sessions for the Tumwater Planning Commission, the General Government Committee, and City Council
- FAQ sheet
- **One-pagers:** A one-page fact sheet will be developed to explain the background, highlight the process, and invite participation
- Landing page and **website** with resources

- **Feedback platform** for reviewing and commenting on drafts
- **Register of comments** collected and how they were addressed – to be summarized in a **Memorandum on Consistency and Integration**
- **Public Engagement Results Report** with metrics for measuring success
- **Gap Analysis/Doc Review Resource Repository** [DRAFT HERE](#)

Stakeholders will be asked about any needs they have that would need to be met for them to participate prior to each engagement opportunity.

Engagement Metrics and Evaluation

In November of 2023 City staff posted a community survey related to the Comprehensive Plan. The [full survey and 975 responses](#) show that many respondents selected “prepare for climate change” as a strategy that Tumwater should pursue. However, this option was one of 9 choices, 6 of which were more popular.

The following metrics are being considered as potential measurements to record for the Public Engagement Results Report.

Participation Metrics:

- Feedback on process and Climate Element draft: Number of comments.
- Event Attendance: Number of attendees at meetings, workshops, and various community events.
- Volunteer Involvement: Number of volunteers, hours contributed.
- Stakeholder Participation: Engagement levels of stakeholders, considering overall contribution, committee involvement, and quality of work.

Engagement Quality Metrics:

- Feedback Quality: Evaluation of feedback from surveys, meetings, and other networks.
- Community Sentiment: Changes in community sentiment measured through surveys and social media monitoring.
- Diversity and Inclusion: Representation of different community groups in engagement activities.

Outcome Metrics:

- Implementation of Initiatives: Number of initiatives incorporated into the Element directly from community-based ideas.

- Online Activity: Measuring whether user interest and activity on the City’s website have increased due to heightened engagement from the project.

Although the Public Engagement Results Report will not be able to track long-term success, some indicator of future persistence of engagement include:

- Long-Term Engagement: Continuity and frequency of engagement activities over time.
- Resource Allocation: Effectiveness of resource usage for engagement activities.
- Partnership Strength: Longevity and effectiveness of partnerships formed.

Comments

Written comments are welcome at any time during the periodic update process. To be considered for the Planning Commission and City Council public hearings, formal written comments should be submitted by the deadline included in the public notices for the hearings. Staff will address and publish all formal comments.

City of Tumwater Contact:

The periodic update email compplan@ci.tumwater.wa.us will be used for project communications. All documents related to the periodic update are located on the City’s periodic update webpage: [Comprehensive Plan Updates](#).

C. Refinement and Plan Integration

The refinement period is the moment to show internal and external stakeholders that they have been heard, and that there is a real intention to incorporate their input into the City’s plans. The project team will be documenting results and integrating relevant feedback to draft and refine the Resilience and GHG sub-elements. After the draft language has been vetted by decision-makers and the community, the final version will go through transmittal, finalization, and approval.

As the project team will have drawn from engagement to prioritize strategies and measures, feedback will be assessed alongside customized criteria. The Project Team will also draw from the Menu of Measures provided by state guidance to help identify measures that meet certain implementation and impact criteria, and then ensure that they align with what stakeholders have identified as the most significant criteria to them. Ultimately, that final list of prioritized measures should meet the community ask, meet the State ask, and match the City’s anticipated ability to fund and implement. The outcome will map out a quantifiable path to meet Tumwater’s adopted

goals. There will be context to help illustrate this impact so that the City and stakeholders understand the implications of certain actions over time.

1. Related Plan and Element Alignment

Supported by public engagement activities described here, the project team will research, prepare, and adopt an ordinance that includes a Climate Element and related updates to other Plans and Elements as part of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan periodic update process.

- The 2018 **Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan** has a vision statement, 12 goals, and 9 guiding principles. It describes climate resilience actions which are prioritized for Thurston County and South Puget Sound to address 85 risks that were identified in the 2016 Risk Assessment.
- 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.
- The **Tumwater Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan** is being developed as part of Comprehensive Plan Transportation Plan update that addresses the requirements of SB 5187 and the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.
- The **Conservation Element, Land Use Element, and Transportation Plan** of the Comprehensive Plan will need to address the climate change and resiliency goals in coordination with the Climate Element.
- The existing Comprehensive Plan's **Capital Facilities Plan** and the **Utilities Element** will be reviewed and evaluated to ensure alignment.
- **Existing development regulations** will be reviewed and evaluated for needed updates to support the Climate Element.

2. Final Steps for Climate Element Adoption and Related Update to Other Plans and Elements

The adoption of the Climate Element and related updates to other Plans and Elements will require the following steps:

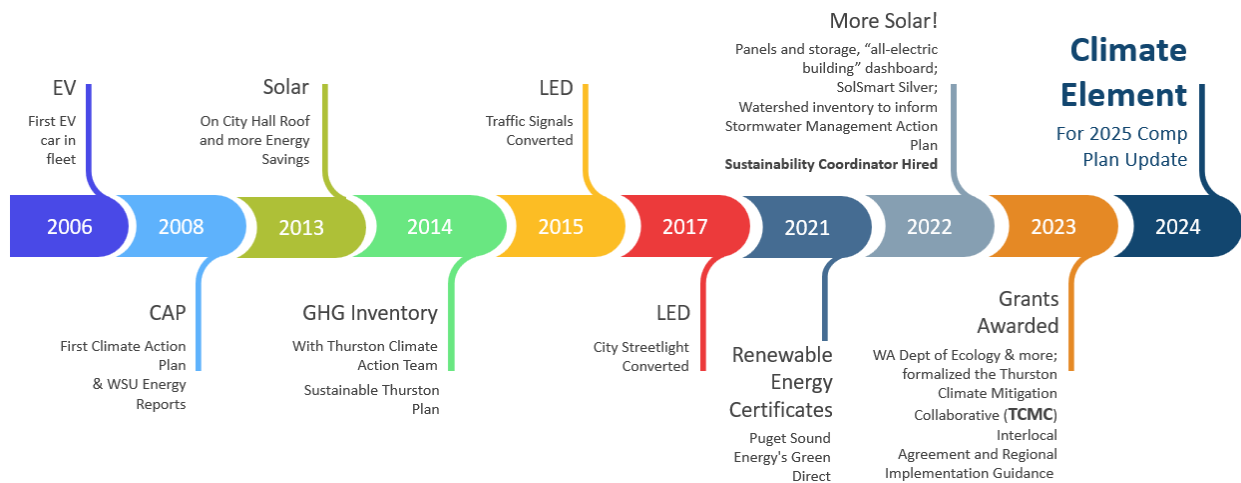
- **December 2024** - The draft 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update Ordinance, which will include the Climate Element and related updates to other Plans and Elements will be submitted to the State Department of Commerce for State agency review (RCW 36.70A.106).
- **February 2025** - Planning Commission public hearing on adoption of the Climate Element and related updates to other Plans and Elements.

- **April 2025** - General Government Committee briefing on Planning Commission recommendation.
- **May 2025** - City Council work session on Planning Commission recommendation.
- **June 2025** - City Council consideration and adoption of the Climate Element and related development regulation amendments and related updates to other Plans and Elements supporting the Climate Element. (note: there has been an extension granted to December 2025 if needed)

The project team will keep the process positive and hopeful, while also stressing the urgency and need for climate action now. To empower residents to take action towards positive solutions and to support the City’s initiatives, it is important to celebrate Tumwater’s history of commitment to climate action.

The Climate Element builds on commitments and actions made by Tumwater and Thurston County. The timeline below reflects on nearly two decades of Tumwater’s key accomplishments in sustainability, which provides a solid foundation for the Climate Element.

Figure 3. Timeline of Key Tumwater Sustainability Efforts



Appendix

1. Requirements and Recommendations for Sub Elements

Climate Resilience Sub-element

Minimum Requirements

- Address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change, including sea level rise, landslides, flooding, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire, and other effects of changes to temperature and precipitation patterns.
- Identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to foster climate resilience, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe species migration.
- Identify, protect, and enhance community resilience to climate impacts, including social, economic, and built-environment factors, which support adaptation to climate impacts consistent with environmental justice.

Overarching Recommendations

- Equitably enhance the resilience of communities and ecological systems to climate change.
- Be consistent with best available science and scientifically credible climate projections and impact scenarios
- Prioritize and benefit overburdened communities that will suffer disproportionately from environmental impacts and climate-exacerbated natural hazards.
- Address the 11 sectors required by the Department of Commerce

Figure 4. Sectors required to be addressed by the Department of Commerce



Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Sub-element

Minimum Requirements

- Result in reductions in overall greenhouse gas emissions generated by transportation and land use within the jurisdiction but without increasing emissions elsewhere in Washington;
- Result in reductions in per capita vehicle miles traveled within the jurisdiction but without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in Washington; and
- Prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities to maximize the co-benefits of reduced air pollution and environmental justice.

Overarching Recommendations

- When selecting goals and policies that reduce emissions and per capita VMT, your jurisdiction will need to report on its five-year progress implementing the measures.
- Use 2022 as the emissions baseline year and set incremental targets that lead to achieving net zero emissions in 2050, consistent with Washington's statewide target.
- Use a Commerce-provided emissions inventory to select mitigation goals and policies to satisfy the minimum requirements.

2. References

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3. Website Pages and Other Documents

2025 Comprehensive Plan Update Website:

<https://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/community-development-department/tumwater-comprehensive-plan/2025-comprehensive-plan-update>

2025 Comprehensive Plan Update Survey:

<https://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/home/showpublisheddocument/25766/638466238413470000>

MRSC Community Engagement Resources:

<https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/engagement/resources/community-engagement-resources>

Tumwater 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Document:

<https://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/home/showpublisheddocument/25183/638272767037470000>