



Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting  
July 8, 2025 - 7:00 PM  
City Hall Council Chambers

## AGENDA

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### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. The Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. will be held in person and virtually.

Virtual Participation Link:

To listen to the meeting by phone or Zoom, please see the information below:

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86095342217>

Phone one-tap:

+12532158782,,86095342217# US (Tacoma)

+12532050468,,86095342217# US

Join via audio:

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 253 205 0468 US

888 475 4499 US Toll Free

877 853 5257 US Toll Free

Webinar ID: 860 9534 2217

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86095342217>

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

This is the place on the agenda where the public is invited to speak to the Board on any issue.

- A. Comment from the audience on any proposal for action by the Commission. If the comment is related to an action subsequently listed here as a public hearing, the comment should be provided at the time of the public hearing.

The public can participate in-person or submit written comments in advance.

Participants can submit written comments via mail, fax, or email. All written comments must be received prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day before the scheduled meeting and must be 350 words or less.

Please mail written comments to:  
City of Auburn  
Attn: Tammy Gallier, Administrative Specialist  
25 W Main St  
Auburn, WA 98001

Please fax written comments to:  
Attn: Tammy Gallier, Administrative Specialist  
Fax number: 253-804-3114

Email written comments to: [tgallier@auburnwa.gov](mailto:tgallier@auburnwa.gov)

If an individual requires accommodation to allow for remote oral comment because of a difficulty attending a meeting of the governing body, the City requests notice of the need for accommodation by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the scheduled meeting. Participants can request accommodation to be able to provide a remote oral comment by contacting the Community Development Department in person, by phone (253) 931-3090 or by email ([tgallier@auburnwa.gov](mailto:tgallier@auburnwa.gov)).

## **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. June 3, 2025 Draft Minutes from Planning Commission Meeting

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. OPMA and PRA Training (Campbell)  
Annual Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act Training
- B. Climate Implementation Plan (Tatro)  
Introduction to the Climate Implementation Plan

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Auburn Planning Commission is a seven member advisory body that provides recommendations to the Auburn City Council on the preparation of and amendments to land use plans and related codes such as zoning. Planning Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

Actions taken by the Planning Commission, other than approvals or amendments to the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure, are not final decisions; they are in the form of recommendations to the City Council which must ultimately make the final decision.



**AGENDA BILL APPROVAL FORM**

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**Agenda Subject:**

June 3, 2025 Draft Minutes from Planning Commission Meeting

**Meeting Date:**

July 8, 2025

**Department:**

Community Development

**Attachments:**

6-3-2025 Planning Commission  
Minutes

**Budget Impact:**

**Administrative Recommendation:**

See attached draft minutes from June 3, 2025

**Background for Motion:**

**Background Summary:**

**Councilmember:**

**Staff:** Jason Krum



**Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting  
June 3, 2025 - 7:00 PM  
City Hall Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The City of Auburn Planning Commission Meeting was held in person and virtually.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Judi Roland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present: Chair Judi Roland, Julie Berry, Kent Sprague, William Stewart, Aaron Vanderpol, Lynn Walters, and Kirk Hiller.

Staff members present: Planning Services Manager Alexandria Teague, Director of Community Development Jason Krum, Assistant Director of Community Development Steve Sturza, Director of Human Services Kent Hay, Senior Staff Attorney Taryn Jones, and Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Wood-Pollock.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Roland led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

No one came forward to speak.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were no modifications to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. May 6, 2025 Draft Minutes from Regular Planning Commission Meeting

Vice Chair Sprague moved and Commissioner Berry seconded to approve the May 6, 2025 Special Planning Commission Meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 7-0

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Use of Microsoft Surfaces (Krum)**

Discussion regarding the continued use of surfaces.

Director Krum led a discussion with the Commission on whether the Commission was interested in continuing to use their City-issued Microsoft Surfaces. The Commission discussed the possibility of using a secure fileshare server for packet distribution, and agreed to return their Surfaces back to the City.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. Housing Types and Standards Code Update (Teague)**

Public Hearing for the public testimony and Planning Commission deliberation on the text amendment to update Title 18 Zoning to comply with new Washington State Housing Laws.

Chair Roland opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m.

No one from the public came forward to speak.

Manager Teague provided the Commission with a presentation on the Housing Types and Standards Code Update, including an overview of Shelter, Transitional, Emergency, and Permanent (STEP) Housing, and provided examples of each housing type in Auburn, their requirements, and how they are implemented. She also outlined the STEP Housing Supplemental Standards, the Land Capacity Analysis, housing capacity for each of the housing types, requirements for homeless encampments hosted by religious organizations, density bonuses for different types of developments and housing, middle housing and critical areas, residential parking requirements, and the next steps in the process.

The Commission discussed transitional housing, minimum residential parking requirements, supplemental standards for the City, development stakeholders, density bonuses, and religious institution property leases.

Chair Roland closed the Public Hearing at 8:06 p.m.

The Commission discussed parking requirements and limited land usage, residential housing conversions, assisted living facilities, and legislation changes.

Commissioner Berry moved and Vice Chair Sprague seconded to recommend to City Council the approval of the Housing Types and Standards Code Update, with the exception of changing the minimum housing parking requirement for STEP Housing from 0.53 to 0.

MOTION CARRIES. 5-2. Commissioner Hiller and Commissioner Walters voted no.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Director Krum shared an update on the future use of the former GSA site and shared that the new pickleball facility is scheduled to open in July, as well as the development of a new processing facility nearby. Assistant Director Sturza shared an update on the Auburn Ave Theater and an update on the parking garage located at A St NW and 1st St NW.

Manager Teague shared that the next Planning Commission Meeting would be held on July 8, 2025 and provided an overview of the anticipated discussion items for other meetings scheduled for later in the year.

The Commission discussed the schedule for upcoming hearings and an update on the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) usage in the City.

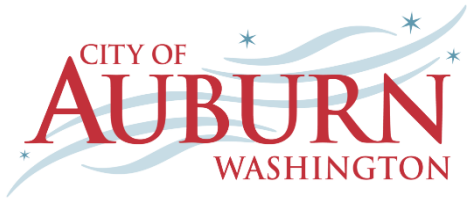
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Planning Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

APPROVED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025

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JUDI ROLAND, CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Wood-Pollock, Deputy City Clerk



**AGENDA BILL APPROVAL FORM**

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**Agenda Subject:**

OPMA and PRA Training (Campbell)  
Annual Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act Training

**Meeting Date:**

July 8, 2025

**Department:**

Community Development

**Attachments:**

None

**Budget Impact:**

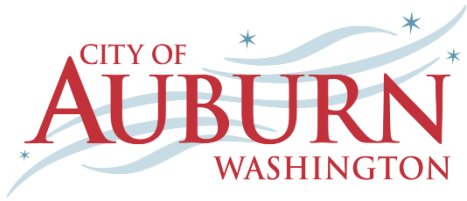
**Administrative Recommendation:**

**Background for Motion:**

**Background Summary:**

**Councilmember:**

**Staff:** Jason Krum



## AGENDA BILL APPROVAL FORM

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**Agenda Subject:**

Climate Implementation Plan (Tatro)  
Introduction to the Climate Implementation Plan

**Meeting Date:**

July 8, 2025

**Department:**

Community Development

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Climate Element  
5-Year Implementation Plan,  
Attachment B - CEIP PowerPoint  
Presentation

**Budget Impact:****Administrative Recommendation:****Background for Motion:****Background Summary:**

The Planning Commission will be provided with an overview of the draft Climate Implementation Plan, a five-year strategic document developed to implement the goals and policies established in the Climate Element of the City of Auburn's Comprehensive Plan. The Climate Element was adopted as part of the City's 2024 periodic update, in advance of the 2029 requirement established by House Bill 1181, which amended the Growth Management Act to include climate planning. The Climate Element focuses on two overarching themes: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increased climate resilience. The Implementation Plan identifies priority goals and outlines specific actions to guide the City's efforts in these focus areas over the next five years. Development of the plan has been supported through a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, funded by the Climate Commitment Act, and has been completed in collaboration with Cascadia Consulting Group.

For reference, the current adopted Comprehensive Plan Elements can be found [here](#).

**Councilmember:**

**Staff:** Jason Krum

City of Auburn

# Climate Element 5-year Implementation Plan



# Acknowledgements

FUNDED BY WASHINGTON'S

# CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT

The Auburn Climate Element Implementation Plan is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act (CCA). The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at [www.climate.wa.gov](http://www.climate.wa.gov).

## Auburn Staff

- Alyssa Tatro, *Community Development*
- Alexandra Teague, *Community Development*
- City of Auburn Public Works
- City of Auburn Parks

## Prepared for the City of Auburn by Cascadia Consulting Group

- Nicole Gutierrez, *Project Manager*
- Meg Horst, *Senior Associate*
- Sarah Farbstein, *Project Coordinator*
- Kenta Hikino, *Project Coordinator*



# Introduction

## Vision and Purpose

The City of Auburn (Auburn) is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including prolonged heat waves, severe storms, and impaired air quality from wildfire smoke, which are affecting the health and safety of the community. Committed to its core values of sustainability, environmental stewardship, and economic vibrancy, Auburn is focused on ensuring it remains a livable, safe, and resilient place to live, work, play, and visit.

In 2023, Washington State House Bill 1181 was signed into law, requiring cities and counties across the state to incorporate climate change planning goals and policies into their comprehensive plans. In response to this legislation and the urgent need to prepare for climate change, Auburn adopted a new [Climate Element](#) in 2024.

This Climate Element Implementation Plan (CEIP) serves as an educational resource and strategic roadmap. It will guide Auburn in executing a prioritized set of actions outlined in the Climate Element for the next five years (2025-2030) and indicates actions for future consideration.

## A Living Document

Auburn is dedicated to using the CEIP to guide its efforts in building resilience and sustainability, ensuring that our community remains a safe and livable place for all. At the local level, resilience and sustainability remain evolving fields influenced by various factors that shape policy and strategy development and action implementation. Emerging technologies and research, changes at the state and federal levels, and economic pressures may alter the context of this work, requiring Auburn to adjust its direction, priorities, or implementation of strategies. The City intends to use the CEIP as a living document that will evolve and adapt to the changing context to best meet the needs and aspirations of the community over the next 5-years and beyond.

## Climate Element Overview

Auburn's Climate Element addresses climate change by identifying opportunities to increase its resilience against climate impacts and through municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. To foster resilience, the Climate Element identifies Auburn's most pressing climate impacts, including rising temperatures and extreme heat, severe storms and flooding, and increased drought and wildfire potential. These priority climate hazards, compounded by Auburn's unique vulnerabilities, contribute to a relatively high or very high risk of negative impacts in the city, as assessed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Federal Emergency Management Agency, n.d.). This underscores the importance of proactive climate planning.

Foundational to climate planning, the Climate Element also examines the city's GHG emissions from municipal and community sources. Since establishing its baseline inventory in 2008, Auburn has achieved emissions reductions through initiatives focused on energy efficiency, waste diversion, and sustainable transportation. However, the Climate Element emphasizes the need for more ambitious strategies to meet future emissions reduction targets, in line with state and regional goals.

To address these challenges, the Climate Element is divided into two sub-elements: resilience and emissions mitigation. The resilience sub-element focuses on strategies to protect Auburn's natural and built environments, enhance public health, and strengthen infrastructure and services against



climate-related hazards. The emissions mitigation sub-element outlines actions to reduce municipal and communitywide GHG contributions, with an emphasis on sustainable energy practices, efficient transportation systems, and waste management. Each sub-element is organized into key themes that shape the city's climate strategies, and each theme is supported by specific goals and detailed policies and actions that guide the city's efforts. From green building and infrastructure investments to community engagement and environmental restoration, the Climate Element takes a comprehensive and actionable approach to climate resilience and sustainability.

The City understands that implementation tools, funding, and staff capacity will be key to achieving the desired outcomes. Therefore, the CEIP identifies additional actions that focus on implementation needs at the staffing and monitoring level.

## Prioritization of CEIP Actions

For each theme in the Climate Element, in addition to a newly added overarching implementation section, at least one action was prioritized for inclusion in the CEIP. To identify these priority actions and inform effective implementation, the project team engaged both the public and city staff through a multifaceted outreach approach.







Engagement included two phases: (1) building awareness of the Climate Element and (2) refining implementation strategies based on community and staff feedback. The project team distributed factsheets, conducted an implementation prioritization survey, hosted an open house, tabled at events, and provided email and social media updates. Materials were translated into multiple languages to ensure accessibility for Auburn's diverse community. Additional details on engagement methods and outcomes can be found in Appendix A: City of Auburn CEIP Engagement Summary.

City staff from multiple departments contributed feedback and key implementation considerations through feedback forms and meetings. Alongside community input, this feedback helped identify at least one priority action for each theme. Once actions were confirmed, the consultant team developed detailed implementation guidance—including timelines, next steps, responsible parties and partners, prioritization, potential barriers, funding sources, and additional resources—to support effective implementation.









## Summary of CEIP Actions

The actions below reflect a subset of prioritized efforts identified through staff and community engagement for the 5-year CEIP. Ongoing and future work related to each theme is highlighted in the corresponding sections in the body of the plan.

| Theme   | Action  |
|---|---|
|  <p>Public Health and Community Resilience</p>         | <p><b>CEIP 1. Risk and Vulnerability Assessment</b><br/>                     Conduct and periodically update a climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) that includes the built environment, community, and natural systems. Support enhanced data collection for hazard events to provide a more complete understanding of the community’s hazard characteristics, including identifying demographic groups and community members most vulnerable to climate impacts. Use assessment findings to evaluate changes to Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, enhance resilience, and integrate into Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.</p> |
|  <p>Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness</p>      | <p><b>CEIP 2. Climate Safety Resources</b><br/>                     Develop and distribute tools and resources for the community to stay safe during extreme heat and wildfire smoke events, with a focus on reaching vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by climate change.</p>   |
|  <p>Cultural Resources and Practices</p>              | <p><b>CEIP 3. Government to Government Coordination</b><br/>                     Maintain government-to-government relations with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, other local Tribes, and native organizations as relevant, to strengthen climate resiliency collaboration—including for the preservation of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties that are vulnerable to climate impacts.</p>   |
|  <p>Water Conservation and Stormwater Management</p> | <p><b>CEIP 4. Stormwater Codes and Design</b><br/>                     Review and update development codes and design standards for requirements for stormwater facility sizing and low-impact development. Adopt nature-based solutions and minimize impervious surface areas in private development and city capital improvements to be consistent with the requirements of the city’s NPDES Phase 2 Permit and to prepare for climate impacts like increased flooding.</p>   |
|  <p>Natural Habitats and Urban Green Space</p>       | <p><b>CEIP 5. Urban Forest Master Plan</b><br/>                     Adopt an Urban Forest Master Plan and implement ordinances to maintain and expand tree canopy cover, improve tree and watershed health, prioritize carbon sequestration, and build climate resilience.</p>  |
|  <p>Economic Development</p>                         | <p><b>CEIP 6. Business Energy Resilience</b><br/>                     Support local businesses’ efforts to generate and store renewable electricity on-site, which can provide back-up power during emergencies and help ensure continuity of operations.</p>   |



| Theme   | Action  |
|---|---|
|  <p>Transportation and Planned Development</p> | <p>CEIP 7. Transportation Action Coordination<br/>Identify how the Climate Commitment Program can support Transportation Element policies and actions to (1) reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector and (2) support reduction of per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) throughout the region.</p>   |
|  <p>Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency</p> | <p>CEIP 8. Electrification and Energy Program<br/>Develop an electrification and energy efficiency program to incentivize and educate community members and businesses about existing programs for emerging alternative energy technology.</p>  |
|  <p>Waste Management and Circular Economy</p>  | <p>CEIP 9. Construction and Demolition<br/>Support development, implementation, and enforcement of construction and demolition (C&amp;D) recycling and deconstruction ordinances to ensure the program enables recycling of construction and demolition debris.</p>   |
|  <p>Overarching</p>                           | <p>CEIP 10. Regional Partnerships<br/>Select a staff delegate and join regional climate collaboratives (e.g., King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, Climate Pierce County) to accelerate climate action.</p>  |
|  <p>Overarching</p>                          | <p>CEIP 11. Climate Education<br/>Enable staff investment in professional development that enhances understanding of projected changes in the region’s climate (e.g., air temperature and precipitation) and their impacts on communities, municipal services, and infrastructure.</p>  |
|  <p>Overarching</p>                          | <p>CEIP 12. Climate Action Monitoring<br/>Monitor, assess, and publicly report on community-scale GHG emissions (total and per capita) and VMT (total and per capita) at least every five years. Include emissions from all local sources associated with resident, business, and local government activities. Maintain a list of measures that demonstrate consistency with climate element requirements and housing goals and policies that contribute to the climate element; identify progress achieved every five years.</p> |



# Timeline

The Climate Element, as part of the Comprehensive Plan, outlines a 20-year planning horizon. To begin advancing its goals, this five-year implementation plan focuses on near-term actions. The proposed timeline and actions are contingent on available funding and staff capacity. This schedule is intended to be adaptive and will be further refined by responsible departments and staff as implementation progresses.

| CEIP # | Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|--------|--|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|        |  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|        |  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
| CEIP 1 | <b>Theme 1: Public Health and Community Resilience</b><br>Conduct and periodically update a climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) that includes the built environment, community, and natural systems.  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Develop the scope for a Request for Proposals for the CRVA   | ○                 | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Identify staff to oversee the CRVA   |                   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Secure funding for a CRVA  |                   |   |      |   |   | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Hire a consultant or expert with CRVA experience   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Conduct the CRVA   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
|        | Public and internal engagement   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
|        | Use CRVA to refine programs and the other actions identified in the CEIP   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   | ○    |   |
| CEIP 2 | <b>Theme 2: Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness</b><br>Develop and distribute tools and resources for the community to stay safe during extreme heat and wildfire smoke events, with a focus on reaching vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by climate change. |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Identify additional support from local agencies  | ○                 | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Audit current materials, tools, resources related to heat and wildfire smoke preparedness and assess current community awareness and gaps  |                   |   |      | ○ | ○ |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Partner with local organizations, businesses, and frontline communities to ensure materials are accessible and to support outreach   |                   |   |      |   | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Plan, set objectives, timelines, and key deliverables for outreach efforts   |                   |   |      |   | ○ |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |



| CEIP # | Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|--------|--|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|        |  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|        |  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 |      |   |
|        | Create and distribute materials related to heat and wildfire smoke preparedness and mitigation   |                   |   |      |   |   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ |   |      |   |
|        | Create and administer in-person and virtual trainings  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ |   |      |   |
|        | Track distribution metrics   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ |
| CEIP 3 | Theme 3: Cultural Resources and Practices<br>Maintain government-to-government relations with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, other local Tribes, and native organizations as relevant, to strengthen climate resiliency collaboration.  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Refine agenda items that introduce climate impacts and resilience as a topic for the G2G meetings  | ○                 | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Set a recurring agenda item related to climate action; track meeting outcomes  |                   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
|        | Optional: Identify actions or areas to collaborate (e.g., funding, engagement)   |                   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
| CEIP 4 | Theme 4: Water Conservation and Stormwater Management<br>Review and update development codes and design standards for requirements for stormwater facility sizing and low-impact development. Adopt nature-based solutions and minimize impervious surface areas in private development and city capital improvements. |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Conduct a code and standards review to identify any that do not align with the SMAP and need updating  | ○                 | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Assess the impacts of increased flood risks, using the most up-to-date data, as well as updates needed in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> SMAP to address those increased risks  |                   |   |      |   | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| CEIP 5 | Theme 5: Natural Habitats and Urban Green Space (inclusive of Theme 10)<br>Adopt an Urban Forest Master Plan and implement ordinances to maintain and expand tree canopy cover, improve tree and watershed health, prioritize carbon sequestration, and build climate resilience.                                      |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Engage key community leaders like Sustain Auburn and Auburn Urban Tree Board   | ○                 | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Apply for grant funding and/or technical support   |                   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Develop the UFMP   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ |   |   |      |   |
|        | Draft and approve regulatory components and develop programmatic components  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ |



| CEIP # | Action & Key Steps  | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|--------|---|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|        |   | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|        |   | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
| CEIP 6 | <b>Theme 6: Economic Development</b><br>Support local businesses' efforts to generate and store renewable electricity on-site, which can provide back-up power during emergencies and help ensure continuity of operations.   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Engage with local businesses  |                   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
|        | Collaborate with PSE and other actors (including business organizations e.g., Chamber of Commerce)  |                   | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
|        | Identify actions to include in next Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan   |                   |   |      |   |   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Identify and seek to address regulatory and permitting challenges (Obtain City Council approval)  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
| CEIP 7 | <b>Theme 7: Transportation and Planned Development</b><br>Identify how the Climate Commitment Program can support Transportation Element policies and actions to (1) reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector and (2) support reduction of per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) throughout the region. |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Coordinate with King County on a city GHG inventory   | ○                 | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Assess base year and monitoring year total and per capita VMT data available to Auburn  | ○                 | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Establish a running meeting and/or partnership with public works  |                   | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
| CEIP 8 | <b>Theme 8: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency</b><br>Develop an electrification and energy efficiency program to incentivize and educate community members and businesses about existing programs for emerging alternative energy technology.  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Review existing incentives, programs, and technical support opportunities   |                   |   | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Engage frontline and overburdened communities early and often to ensure materials, assistance, and programs are accessible and equitable  |                   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |
|        | Create and distribute educational materials on electrification, weatherization, and energy efficiency, including their importance, benefits, and available incentives   |                   |   |      |   |   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |



| CEIP #         | Action & Key Steps  | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|----------------|---|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|                |   | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|                |   | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
|                | Explore options for creating a city-led program or partnering with experienced organizations to expand capacity   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | Determine next steps for programmatic development   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   | ○ | ○    | ○ |   |   |      |   |
|                | Develop metrics and a system to track participation, energy savings, and equity outcomes over time  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |
| <b>CEIP 9</b>  | <b>Theme 9: Waste Management and Circular Economy</b>   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | <b>Support development, implementation, and enforcement of construction and demolition (C&amp;D) recycling and deconstruction ordinances to ensure the program enables recycling of construction and demolition debris.</b> |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | Review code language to identify areas to support the development, implementation, and enforcement of C&D recycling and deconstruction  | ○                 | ○ | ○    | ○ |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | Consider creating incentives or fee structures to promote deconstruction and recycling  |                   |   | ○    | ○ |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | Assess capacity across staff that could enforce and manage the code; hire or designate staff  |                   |   |      | ○ | ○ |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | Draft and adopt code language aligning with State RCW regulations and the Regional Code Collaboration template  |                   |   |      |   |   | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | Create and distribute educational materials to support C&D waste reduction, reuse, and recycling; leverage King County resources  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |
|                | Collaborate with King County and area cities to develop end-use markets for recyclable/recycled C&D materials   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ |
|                | Track and report diversion rates from C&D projects to monitor progress and inform adjustments   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ |
| <b>CEIP 10</b> | <b>Overarching</b>  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | <b>Select a staff delegate and join regional climate collaboratives (e.g., King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, Climate Pierce County) to accelerate climate action.</b>   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|                | Determine staff to represent the City of Auburn   | ○                 |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |



| CEIP #  | Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|---------|--|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|--|--|------|--|
|         |  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |  |  | 2030 |  |
|         |  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |  |  |      |  |
|         | Optional: Meet with K4C staff contacts and other K4C peer cities for orientation or 1:1 peer discussion  |                   | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Coordinate a presentation by King County to City Council; City Council approves resolution to execute the Interlocal Agreement (K4C)   |                   | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Join Climate Pierce County   |                   | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Optional: City Council approves resolution to sign onto Joint Climate Action Commitments (K4C)   |                   |   | ○    | ○ |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Staff begin attending monthly meetings series; consider participation in joint campaigns, shared comment letters, or town halls  |                   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    | ○ |  |  |      |  |
| CEIP 11 | <b>Overarching</b><br>Enable staff investment in professional development that enhances understanding of projected changes in the region's climate (e.g., air temperature and precipitation) and their impacts on communities, municipal services, and infrastructure. |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Conduct a staff needs assessment   | ○                 | ○ |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Partner with internal departments and external organizations   |                   |   | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Create an internal climate learning community/channel for staff to share ongoing opportunities for learning  |                   |   | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Create a catalogue of climate resources or "climate action library;" update annually   |                   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      | ○ |   |   | ○    |   |   | ○ |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Consider hosting a workshop or training series   |                   |   |      | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |   |   | ○    | ○ | ○ | ○ |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Collect feedback, measure participation, and revise learning pathways accordingly  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      | ○ |   |   |      |   |   | ○ |      |   |  |  |      |  |
| CEIP 12 | <b>Overarching</b><br>Monitor, assess, and publicly report on community-scale GHG emissions (total and per capita) and VMT (total and per capita) at least every five years.   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |
|         | Track updates from the Washington Department of Commerce   | ○                 | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |      |  |



Proposed Schedule

| CEIP # | Action & Key Steps  | 2025 |  | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |   |
|--------|---|------|--|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|
|        |   | 3    | 4  | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |   |
|        |   |      | Develop/refine reporting framework consistent with interjurisdictional approach if appropriate |      |   | ○ | ○ | ○    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |
|        | Develop annual data methodology                                   |      |  | ○    | ○ | ○ |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |
|        | Access and evaluate data  |      |  |      |   |   | ○ |      |   | ○ |   |      | ○ |   |   |      |   |   | ○ |      |   |   |
|        | Prepare public-facing progress report at least once every 5 years |      |  |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      | ○ | ○ |

DRAFT



## Roles & Responsibilities

The city’s Department of Community Development will oversee the coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the Climate Element on an ongoing basis. The CEIP’s successful implementation relies on adequate staff capacity, coordination across various city departments, strong partnerships, and consistent budget alignment throughout the Climate Element’s implementation period. Lead actors, support, and key partners will be identified for each action that was prioritized for implementation over the next 5 years.

## How to Read the Plan

This CEIP is organized around the same themes as Auburn’s adopted Climate Element, with the addition of a section that highlights essential needs for implementing climate policy across themes.

The Resilience sub-element includes the following themes:

|  |   |  |  |  |                                  |
|--|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
|  |   |  |  |  |                                  |
| Theme 1:<br>Public Health and Community Resilience | Theme 2:<br>Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness | Theme 3:<br>Cultural Resources and Practices | Theme 4:<br>Water Conservation and Stormwater Management | Theme 5:<br>Natural Habitats and Urban Green Space | Theme 6:<br>Economic Development |

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction sub-element includes:






|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  |  |   |
| Theme 7:<br>Transportation and Planned Development | Theme 8:<br>Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency | Theme 9:<br>Waste Management and Circular Economy |

Note: A separate GHG-related theme on natural habitats and urban green space (Theme 10) was not included, as it is addressed within Theme 5 in the resilience section.

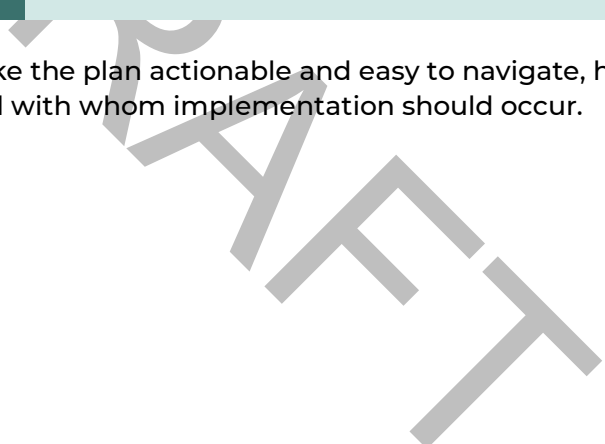
Each theme includes the following components:

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | A list of the relevant goals and policies from Auburn’s Climate Element that guide the theme  |
|  | An overview of programs, projects, or initiatives that Auburn is already undertaking or has recently completed that support progress toward these goals |



|   |   |
|---|---|
|  <p>CEIP Action</p>            | <p>A prioritized action selected for implementation over the next five years</p>  |
|  <p>Why This Matters</p>       | <p>A summary of the action’s significance, expected benefits, and context to support implementation</p>   |
|  <p>Community Support</p>      | <p>A summary of engagement outcomes</p>   |
|  <p>Implementation Details</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeline</li> <li>• Key Next Steps</li> <li>• Actors and Partners</li> <li>• Prioritization</li> <li>• Possible Barriers</li> <li>• Funding Sources</li> <li>• Resources and Examples</li> </ul> |
|  <p>Future Actions</p>         | <p>A list of additional actions not currently underway and not prioritized for the 5-year period, but still relevant for long-term planning</p>   |

This structure is intended to make the plan actionable and easy to navigate, helping city staff and partners identify how, when, and with whom implementation should occur.





## Theme 1: Public Health and Community Resilience

Policies within the Public Health and Community Resilience theme focus on identifying climate-vulnerable populations, reducing risks through targeted investments in programs and services, and prioritizing green, affordable housing to build long-term community resilience.

- Goal 1 calls for regularly updating a climate vulnerability and risk assessment to guide planning decisions. It emphasizes integrating climate risk into hazard mitigation planning, improving data on hazard events, and using tools to assess health and equity impacts (CE Action 1.1).
- Goal 2 aims to reduce the disproportionate climate impacts on frontline communities by removing systemic barriers and ensuring equitable access to emergency resources, particularly for extreme heat.
- Goal 3 prioritizes green, affordable housing that addresses projected growth, energy burden, and community health through renewable energy, efficient design, and supportive housing solutions.

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ Auburn has an existing Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan (an annex to the 2009 King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan) that could incorporate climate resilience more explicitly when updated.
- ✓ The King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (RHMP) for 2020-2025 outlines Auburn's risk to flooding, wildfire, and severe weather.
- ✓ Ecology's Overburdened Communities Highly Impacted by Air Pollution effort includes Auburn.
- ✓ The King County heat mapping project includes Auburn.

### CEIP Action 1. Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Conduct and periodically update a climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) that includes the built environment, community, and natural systems. Support enhanced data collection for hazard events to provide a more complete understanding of the community's hazard characteristics, including identifying demographic groups and community members most vulnerable to climate impacts. Use assessment findings to evaluate changes to Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, enhance resilience, and integrate into Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

#### WHY THIS MATTERS

A climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) helps a jurisdiction assess and prepare physical assets, infrastructure,

communities, and people that are most likely to suffer impacts from climate hazards. When Auburn developed its Climate Element in





2024, Auburn was not required to complete a CRVA and instead identified and prioritized resilience goals and policies using tools such as the *Mapping for a Resilient Washington* database (University of Washington Climate Impacts Group), regional climate impact studies, and staff expertise. A CRVA specific to the city could be used to further prioritize action items in the future. The CRVA can especially inform policy and programming that supports frontline communities (required by HB 1181) and make Auburn more competitive for grant funding.

As Commerce describes for completing a CRVA, “this compound process enables you to identify which assets have the highest relative vulnerability and risks related to climate change hazards and impacts — information that can help you identify and prioritize policies and development regulations” (Washington State Department of Commerce, 2023).

Existing local, state, and federal datasets and reports provide Auburn with insights into its existing climate risks and vulnerabilities, but can lack local specificity. Climate risks to King County are also relatively well documented (King County Climate Office, n.d.) and include seasonal flooding, streamflow changes, summer drought, extreme heat events,

smoke events, and wildfire. Additional resources that would inform a local CRVA include:

- FEMA’s National Risk Index, which characterizes census tracts in Auburn as having a very high and relatively high overall risk index (Federal Emergency Management Agency, n.d.)
- The Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map, which also highlights that Auburn has a high level of environmental burden (See Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found.) (Washington Department of Health, n.d.).
- Overburdened Communities Highly Impacted by Air Pollution (Washington Department of Ecology, n.d.)
- CAPA Heat Watch conducted by King County, which identifies Auburn as having an overall high heat risk and poor air quality (CAPA, n.d.)

A CRVA could also inform future planning processes such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). FEMA requires integrating climate impacts into HMPs as of April 2024; however, this requirement was recently rolled back due to executive orders from the federal administration (Frank, 2025).



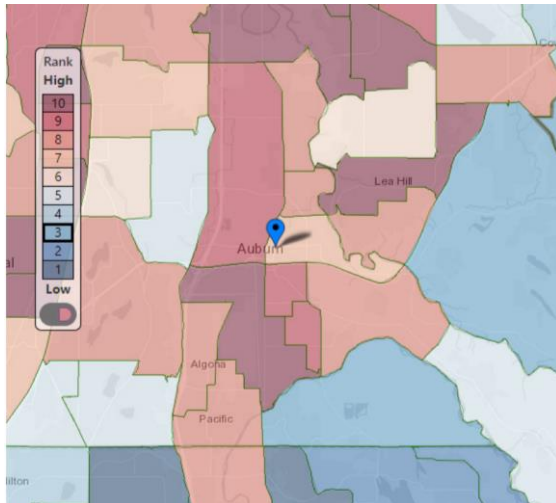


Figure 1: Socioeconomic factors showing the concentration of vulnerable populations in the area, such as those living below or at the poverty line, those without high school diplomas, and historically disadvantaged communities. There are multiple neighborhoods scoring 10, identifying disadvantaged communities. (Washington Department of Health, n.d.)

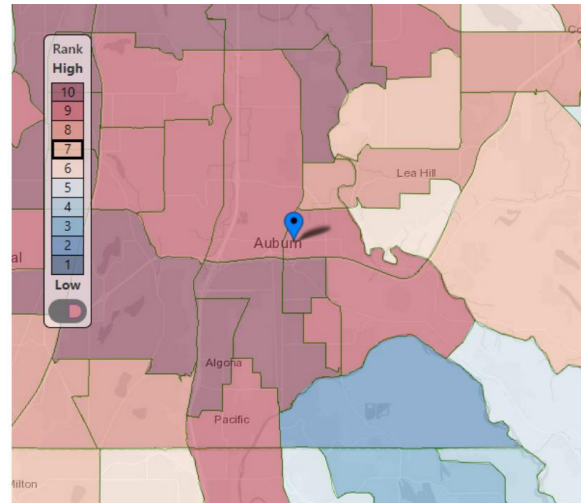


Figure 2: Environmental health disparities map, showing Auburn with an average score of 8. This demonstrates that Auburn has a disproportionate share of environmental burdens in Washington state. (Washington Department of Health, n.d.)

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the City of Auburn Community Survey, 56% of respondents said conducting a climate risk and vulnerability assessment to inform local hazard and extreme weather planning was a top or short-term priority; 42% said it was a longer term or not a priority at all. Although these results indicate a relatively split opinion, a CRVA is a foundational component for local resilience planning and other community resilience actions. These resilience actions include expanding community access to resources regarding climate resilience and prioritizing affordable, energy-efficient housing projects, which are addressed in Theme 2 and Theme 8 CEIP actions respectively. Across all engagement activities, community members also mentioned experiencing climate impacts such as poor air quality and extreme heat. The survey, in particular, noted that 75% of respondents said creating evacuation plans and outreach materials should be a top or short-term priority and over 80% agreed that developing wildfire preparedness and response plans should be a top or short-term priority. Each of these emergency preparedness actions are informed by findings from a CRVA, showcasing broad community support for priorities supported by the CRVA despite slightly more divided opinion of the CRVA itself.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Actors and Partners

- Lead: Community Development
- Support: Public Works, Parks, Arts, and Recreation, Office of Equity, Engagement and Outreach





- Partner: King County, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, local environmental and health organizations

## Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On  | Years 1-2   | Years 3-4  | Year 5   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Auburn has a current Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), though with limited attention to climate vulnerabilities.</li> <li>✓ Auburn was included in <a href="#">Overburdened Communities Highly Impacted by Air Pollution</a> (Washington Department of Ecology, n.d.).</li> <li>✓ Auburn was included in <a href="#">Heat Watch King County &amp; Seattle</a> (CAPA, n.d.).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Refine scope for a CRVA</li> <li>✓ Assemble city team</li> <li>✓ Apply for funding</li> <li>✓ Hire a consultant or expert</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Complete the CRVA</li> <li>✓ Engage with community members, staff, and city leaders</li> <li>✓ Share CRVA findings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use CRVA to refine programs and the other actions in this CE implementation plan</li> </ul> |

## Key Steps

1. Further develop the scope for a Request for Proposals (see Appendix B: Example Medium-Scale Scope for Risk and Vulnerability Assessment)
2. Assemble a team with staff representing different city departments that intersect with climate vulnerability issues to oversee the CRVA process
3. Secure funding for a CRVA (see potential funding sources below, there are many example VAs from comparable jurisdictions). VAs can range in scope; we suggest a medium-range CRVA for \$50-100,000 (see Appendix B: Example Medium-Scale Scope for Risk and Vulnerability Assessment)
4. Hire a consultant or expert with CRVA experience to complete the CRVA
5. Engage with the Auburn community, staff, and city leaders
6. Share CRVA findings (1-pagers, webpage, meetings, webinars, etc.)
7. Use the CRVA to refine programs and the other actions identified in the CEIP

## Prioritization

| Considerations       | Assessment                | Comments  |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Mandated or Required | No; supports requirements | A CRVA is optional under HB1181. Jurisdictions are required to address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change. Attention to environmental justice is required under HB118, which a CRVA can support. |





| Considerations                  | Assessment        | Comments  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Impact                          | Medium Resilience | A CRVA is an information gathering activity and will not have direct resilience benefits. It will help future actions be more targeted and effective.   |
| City role/authority to lead     | Yes               | CRVAs are often led by Community Development/Planning or Environmental/Sustainability Departments in collaboration with Emergency Management Departments.   |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | High              | There are many potential collaborators to partner with and existing tools to use. A CRVA can also assist Auburn in applying for future funding.   |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | Medium            | Some cities assess their own vulnerability and risk. Many others hire professional climate adaptation practitioners to conduct these assessments.   |
| Cost                            | Medium            | A CRVA ranges in cost, depending on scope, level of technical analysis, amount of community engagement, and more. A cost estimate for a medium scoped VA is approximately \$50,000 (based on 2025 rates). |
| Community support               | Medium            | Survey respondents were relatively split on their support of conducting a CRVA as a priority.   |
| Equity impacts                  | High              | A CRVA can include identification and assessment of vulnerable communities, which will support more tailored future actions to address inequities.  |
| Other co-benefits               | Low               | A CRVA can promote equity and justice, build community knowledge, and foster collaboration.   |

### Possible Barriers

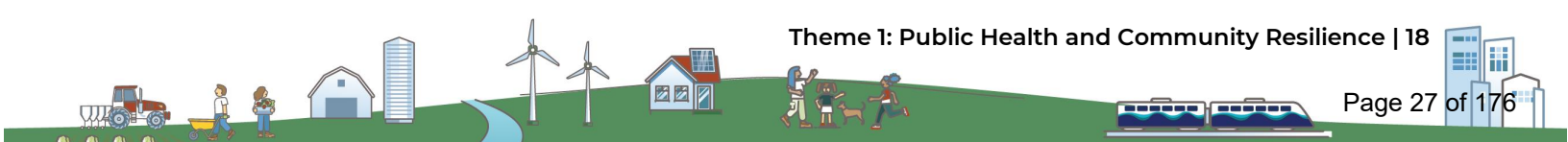
- Auburn may lack funding, internal staff expertise, and capacity to support this action.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by obtaining additional funding and hiring external technical support.*

### Funding Sources

- [Washington State Department of Commerce climate planning grants](#) are available to local governments across Washington that must include a Climate Change and Resilience element in their comprehensive plans. While funds for implementation activities are not currently available, they may become available through a budget appropriation or due to other budget savings.
- [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) provides funding resources and technical assistance.

### Resources and Examples

- There are many federal, state, and other datasets and tools, including those from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Emergency Management





THEME 1

Administration, UW's Climate Mapping for a Resilient Washington, and Washington Tracking Network.

- Appendix B: Example Medium-Scale Scope for Risk and Vulnerability Assessment has a preliminary scope for a CRVA for Auburn. Additional guidance in completing a vulnerability assessment is available from the following sources:
  - [The Washington State Department of Commerce Climate Element Planning Guidance](#) contains information on accessing vulnerability and risk (Washington State Department of Commerce, 2023).
  - [The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) has resources on accessing vulnerability and risk (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration).
- There are existing climate risk and vulnerability assessment examples from comparable jurisdictions:
  - Issaquah prepared a [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#) and [Climate Change Vulnerability & Resilience StoryMap](#) (City of Issaquah, 2024).
  - Burien released a [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#), [Climate Vulnerability Index](#), and [Climate Vulnerability Index StoryMap](#) (City of Burien, 2023).

## Future Action

Future actions for consideration within the Public Health and Community Resilience theme include:

- Survey frontline communities to co-identify systemic and physical barriers to services that increase climate resilience. Build relationships with frontline community-based organizations to remove and address barriers.



THEME 2



## Theme 2: Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness

Policies within the Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness theme focus on offering equitable access to resources (e.g., resilience hubs), developing strategies to aid community members' ability to respond to climate impacts (e.g., extreme heat, wildfire smoke events), and ensuring infrastructure is resilient in the face of climate change.

- Goal 4 emphasizes equitably protecting public health and safety by identifying and planning for risks associated with climate change. It also includes creating updated evacuation plans for climate impacts (CE Action 4.1).
- Goal 5 focuses on protecting the community from extreme heat impacts and wildfire smoke. This means creating plans to mitigate the impacts of climate hazards, education and outreach, and leveraging partnerships (CE Actions 5.1-5.6).
- Goal 6 ensures that infrastructure (critical and noncritical) and utilities are resilient to climate change impacts (e.g., precipitation events and stormwater flooding) (CE Actions 6.1-6.2).
- Goal 7 centers on providing all residents with an equitable opportunity to learn about climate impacts, influence policy decisions, and take action to enhance community resilience through community engagement efforts.

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ For CE Action 4.1, Auburn has identified evacuation routes in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), which was completed in 2019. The evacuation map is on the City Emergency Preparedness webpage. Auburn offers Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The City also had AmeriCorps Disaster Educator(s) conduct disaster related public education throughout the city.
- ✓ Auburn was included in King County's 2021 heat mapping project, which quantifies the harmful impact that hotter summers are having on the region. In 2024, King County developed an Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy (King County, 2024), which provides strategic direction for local and countywide work on heat mitigation.

### CEIP Action 2. Climate Safety Resources

Develop and distribute tools and resources for the community to stay safe during extreme heat and wildfire smoke events, with a focus on reaching vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by climate change.





THEME 2



## WHY THIS MATTERS

Auburn, like much of the Pacific Northwest, is experiencing rising temperatures due to climate change. Over the past century, the region’s average annual temperature has increased by 1.5°F, contributing to declining snowpack, more frequent droughts, and extreme heat events (City of Auburn, 2024). As shown in Error! Reference source not found., King County’s heat mapping project identified Auburn as an area that experiences hotter temperatures relative to other parts of the county due to increased development and distance from bodies of water such as Puget Sound (King County Executive, 2021).

### Evening Study Results

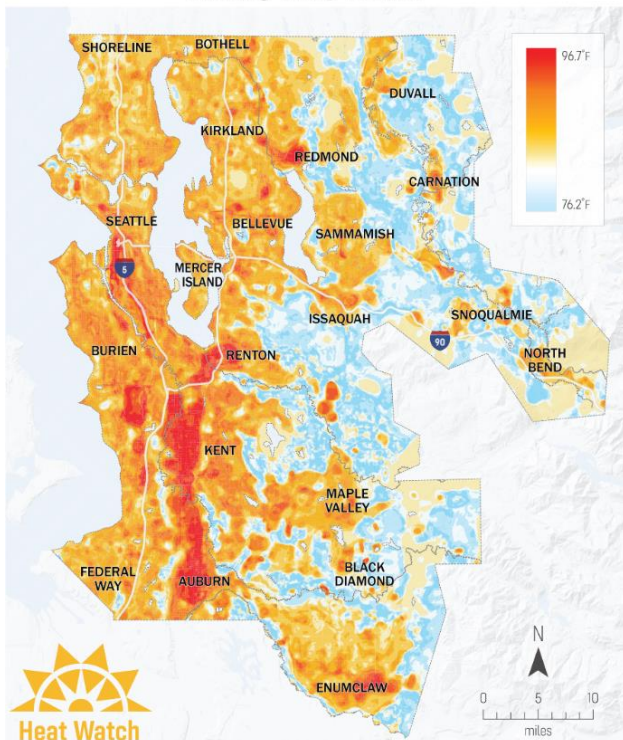


Figure 3. King County Heat Island Map. Areas in red and orange on the heat map indicate areas with hotter surface temperatures relative to areas in blue. The hotter areas are referred to as “heat islands.”

This phenomenon, known as the urban heat island effect, intensifies heat stress and disproportionately affects communities already facing health and economic disparities. Higher temperatures can increase heat-related illnesses, worsen air quality, and exacerbate respiratory conditions. Research from the University of Washington linked higher temperatures to increased emergency medical calls, hospitalizations, and deaths in King County (King County Executive, 2021).

These risks are compounded by existing inequities in housing, healthcare access, and overall health outcomes, which means it is crucial to provide targeted resources and support to frontline communities. Vulnerable populations—including older adults, outdoor workers, pregnant individuals, and people with chronic medical conditions—face heightened health risks as extreme heat becomes more common (City of Auburn, 2024).

In addition to heat, Auburn faces increasing risks from wildfire smoke. While wildfires may occur outside of the city, the resulting smoke contributes to poor air quality, limiting outdoor activity and worsening respiratory health (City of Auburn, 2024).

Compounding the growing threat of wildfire smoke, the Washington Department of Ecology identified South King County, including Auburn, as an overburdened community highly impacted by air pollution (Washington Department of Ecology, n.d.). Areas near major transportation corridors, such as along State Route 167, experience even greater exposure (Washington Department of Ecology, n.d.).

Wildfire smoke has been found to be more toxic than other sources of particulate matter, causing immediate health effects such as





breathing difficulties, sinus irritation, headaches, and fatigue (King County, n.d.). Exposure to wildfire smoke can also worsen chronic conditions like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and heart disease, while contributing to stress and mental health challenges (King County, n.d.).

Furthermore, emerging research shows that extreme heat and wildfire smoke together create even more severe health risks than either hazard alone. Heat increases how deeply wildfire smoke is inhaled into the lungs, intensifying its effects on respiratory and cardiovascular health. This combination has been linked to increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations, particularly among children, older adults, and those with preexisting conditions (Zhong, 2024). Communities already facing economic and health disparities are at higher risk of exposure and often have fewer resources to protect themselves from both hazards.

Error! Reference source not found. illustrates Auburn’s Social Vulnerability Index, which considers factors such as household composition and disability, housing type and transportation, race, ethnicity, and language, and socioeconomic determinants like income (Washington Department of Health, n.d.). Several census tracts score very high, highlighting disadvantaged communities that may face greater barriers to preparing for and responding to extreme heat and wildfire smoke. Language barriers can further limit access to emergency information and resources. Over 38% of Auburn households speak a language other than English at home (U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023), highlighting the need for culturally and linguistically accessible

communication.

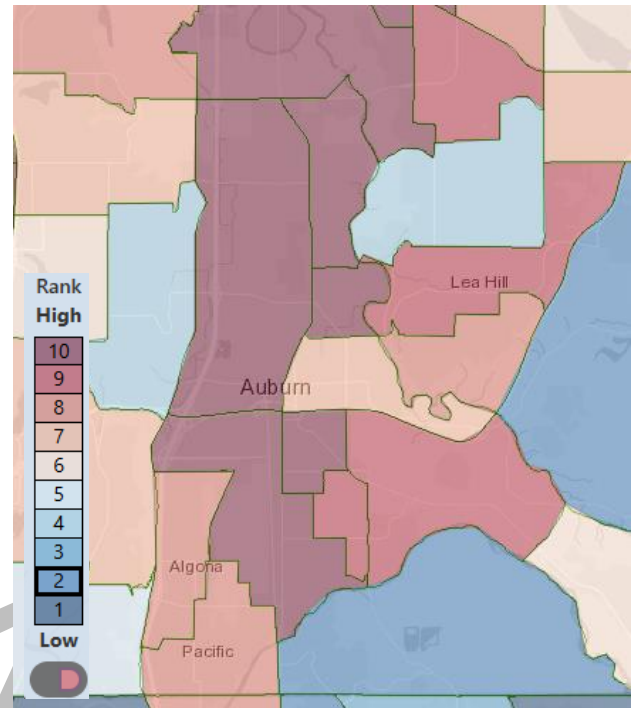


Figure 4. Social Vulnerability Index via the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map. The Social Vulnerability Index includes household composition and disability, housing type and transportation, race, ethnicity, and language, and socioeconomic determinants, such as income. Several census tracts score very high, highlighting disadvantaged communities.

Understanding how heat and smoke can affect health and what steps can be taken to reduce health impacts is critical to building individual and community resilience. Community-level education and resources for extreme heat and wildfire smoke mitigation are currently lacking in Auburn. While other hazard mitigation efforts exist, heat and smoke have not been comprehensively addressed, even though they are among the top concerns for residents.





## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the City of Auburn Community Survey, 62% of respondents said creating educational resources and culturally relevant outreach to inform the community about both immediate and longer-term climate change risks was a top or short-term priority. Additionally, 70% of respondents said expanding community access to resources that increase and support climate resilience, such as cooling centers and safety information for extreme heat events was a top or short-term priority. The survey and engagement events both emphasized the community’s desire for simple, frequent, and relatable communication as well as expanded outreach in schools, local groups, and online. There is a big opportunity to for Auburn to provide accessible, culturally relevant resources and outreach to ensure that all Auburn residents, especially those most vulnerable, can stay safe and healthy as climate impacts intensify.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Actors and Partners

- Lead: Community Development
- Support: Office of Emergency Management, Communications, Office of Equity, Engagement, and Outreach
- Partner: Valley Regional Fire Authority, Seattle & King County Public Health, King County Department of Community and Health Services, social service providers, community-based organizations (Sound Generations Elder Education Institute), Puget Sound Energy, media (including multilingual media)

### Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On  | Years 1-2   | Years 3-4  | Year 5  |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ King County Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Establish lead staff roles, coordinate across departments</li> <li>✓ Engage local agencies to assess community awareness and gaps in heat and wildfire smoke preparedness</li> <li>✓ Set clear outreach objectives, timelines, and build partnerships with trusted organizations and businesses to distribute resources effectively</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Create and distribute inclusive, multilingual materials related to heat and wildfire smoke preparedness and mitigation</li> <li>✓ Create and administer in-person and virtual trainings to help educate communities on heat and wildfire smoke safety and preparedness</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Track distribution metrics</li> <li>✓ Adjust engagement strategies based on community needs and efficacy.</li> </ul> |

### Key Steps

1. Identify additional support from local agencies (e.g., health departments, fire districts)





2. Audit current materials, tools, resources related to heat and wildfire smoke preparedness and assess current community awareness and gaps
3. Identify and build relationships with trusted community organizations, local businesses, and frontline communities to ensure materials are accessible and to support outreach
4. Set clear objectives, timelines, and key deliverables for outreach efforts; incorporate feedback from past community engagement efforts
5. Create and distribute inclusive, multilingual materials related to heat and wildfire smoke preparedness and mitigation; ensure materials use plain language and visuals for accessibility; make resources available digitally and in print, leveraging social media and local news
6. Create and administer in-person and virtual trainings to help educate communities on heat and wildfire smoke safety and preparedness
7. Track distribution metrics (e.g., number of materials shared, social media reach); adjust engagement strategies based on community needs and effectiveness

### Prioritization

| Considerations                  | Assessment                | Comments   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mandated or Required            | No; supports requirements | Under HB1181, jurisdictions are required to address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change, including heat and smoke, and prioritize actions that benefit overburdened communities that will disproportionately suffer from compounding environmental impacts and will be most impacted by natural hazards due to climate change. |
| Impact                          | Medium Resilience         | Understanding how heat and wildfire smoke can affect health and what steps can be taken to reduce related health impacts is critical to building individual and community resilience to heat and wildfire smoke.   |
| City role/authority to lead     | Yes                       | There is some overlap in role/authority with King County Public Health and Emergency Management.   |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | High                      | Smoke and heat resiliency efforts are already being conducted by King County. The City can leverage King County resources.   |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | Medium                    | City staff can leverage existing resources and synergize with existing outreach.   |
| Cost                            | Low                       | There are low costs to coordinate outreach and education.  |
| Community support               | High                      | There is strong support among survey respondents and staff for developing community resources to address heat and smoke impacts.   |
| Equity impacts                  | High                      | Heat and wildfire smoke disproportionately affect overburdened communities. Language and other barriers can limit the reach of safety information.   |
| Other co-benefits               | Medium                    | This action promotes equity and justice, improves public health and well-being, and builds community knowledge.  |





THEME 2



## Possible Barriers

- Auburn may lack funding, internal staff expertise, and capacity to support this action.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by obtaining additional funding and hiring external technical support.*
- Reaching overburdened and frontline communities can be difficult due to historical injustices, distrust, and language barriers.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by distributing materials in multiple languages and building relationships with trusted community-based organizations.*

## Funding Sources

- [The National Integrated Heat Health Information System](#) highlights federal funding opportunities on their website.
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants](#) provides grant funding for communities looking to protect against losses from disasters, and in advance of disasters and include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program.
- [FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grants](#) are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards.
- [USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grants \(CWDG\)](#) help communities plan for and reduce wildfire risk and implement the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Funds can be used to develop and revise Community Wildfire Protection Plans and implement projects described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that are less than ten years old.

## Resources and Examples

- [Seattle and King County Public Health's Extreme Heat Response Plan](#) describes the anticipated actions the department may take before and during an extreme heat event to protect community health and limit health disparities.
- The [King County Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy](#) provides strategic direction for countywide work on heat mitigation. Pages 85-88 outline actions to increase heat safety awareness.
- The [King County Heat and Health Data Explorer Tool](#) presents temperature variations within urban King County and helps to identify who and what is located in in these hottest areas, using census block geography.
- The King County '[Public Health wildfire smoke response](#)' webpage contains several resources regarding wildfire smoke response, including Seattle & King County Public Health's [Wildfire Smoke Response Plan](#) and [Wildfire smoke health impacts mitigation strategy](#), guidance for response partners, and additional resources.
- The King County '[Hot weather preparedness](#)' webpage provides tips for how to stay cool on hot days.
- The King County '[Wildfire smoke preparedness](#)' webpage outlines wildfire smoke safety tips including DIY filter videos, mask tips, and health guidance for childcare providers.





THEME 2



- The South Coast Air Quality Management District '[Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips](#)' webpage shares health and safety advice for before, during, and after a wildfire or wildfire smoke event.
- The CDC '[Safety Guidelines: Wildfires and Wildfire Smoke](#)' webpage details safety recommendations for wildfires and wildfire smoke.

## Future Action

Future actions for consideration within the Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness theme include:

- Develop community-serving facilities that provide support and essential resources and tools before, during, and after a hazard event (resilience hubs)
- Develop community wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery plans as part of local hazard mitigation plans<sup>1</sup>
- Develop and implement a wildfire smoke resilience strategy in partnership with local residents, emergency management officials, regional clean air agency officials, and other stakeholders
- Develop an urban heat resilience strategy that includes land use, urban design, green spaces, and waste heat reduction actions
- Create outreach materials to help residents plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer

<sup>1</sup> In 2025, King County's Office of Emergency Management began developing a [Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#). There may be opportunities for the City of Auburn to partner with King County or leverage this plan.



THEME 3



## Theme 3: Cultural Resources and Practices

Policies within the Cultural Resources and Practices theme involve assessing climate vulnerability of Auburn's historic resources and maintaining government-to-government relations with Tribes to preserve cultural resources that are vulnerable to climate impacts.

- Goal 8 seeks to protect and preserve cultural resources and practices to build resilient communities and ecosystems in the face of climate change by promoting native plants and maintaining government-to-government relationships with Tribes.

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ The City has an existing relationship with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe that can be strengthened and support the goal and policies found under Theme 3. There is a standing Government to Government meeting between the Tribe Council members, Tribal staff, Auburn's Mayor, City Directors, Assistant Directors, and some City Council members. They currently meet about twice per year.
- ✓ Auburn has a [Shoreline Master Program](#) (2020) with a Historical/Cultural Element (2.7) and related goals.

## CEIP Action 3. Government to Government Coordination

Maintain government-to-government relations with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, other local Tribes, and native organizations as relevant, to strengthen climate resiliency collaboration—including for the preservation of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties that are vulnerable to climate impacts.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Many jurisdictions across Washington collaborate with Tribal governments and communities in their climate planning for various reasons:

- Climate change often impacts tribal and native communities first and worst. To implement HB1181 requirements that consider social equity, Auburn can prioritize consultation with tribal partners and native community members.
- Climate impacts like flooding and wildfire do not stick to political boundaries. To be as resilient to potential climate impacts as

possible, Auburn can coordinate with other entities including Tribes and other municipal governments.

- The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is a leader in climate action and resilience planning.

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Descendants of the Native People of the Duwamish and Upper Puyallup Watersheds, has reservation land near and in Auburn (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, n.d.). The Duwamish peoples were displaced from their historical homelands along the Duwamish, White, Black, Green, and Cedar Rivers, Lake



Washington, and Elliot Bay by settlers and via federal policies and treaties. In 1857, a small portion of land on a prairie directly east and south of current Auburn was set aside as the Muckleshoot Reservation. Currently around

4,000 people live on the reservation. The Tribe even has Fee and Trust Parcels in the City of Auburn, as shown in Figure 5.

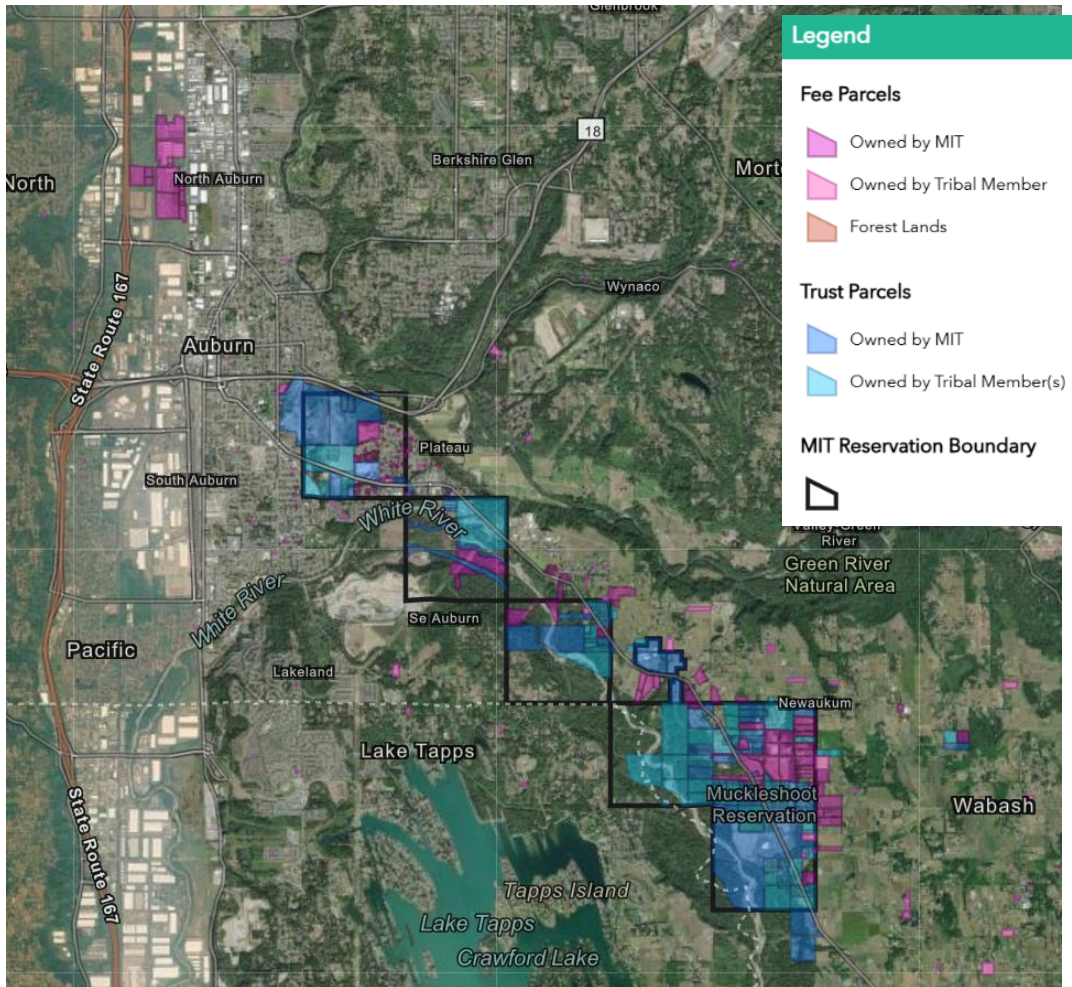


Figure 5: Lands of the Muckleshoot Tribe. (Muckleshoot Tribe, n.d.)

Climate change is already affecting Tribes and Native communities in the Puget Sound region. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and an increase in extreme events threaten traditional food systems and make it more difficult for Tribes to produce, harvest, and access traditional food sources like salmon and berries. (United States Department of Agriculture Climate Hubs, n.d.). For example, wildfires and

warmer temperatures are changing where huckleberries can grow and when berries ripen, which affects wildlife, pollinators, and people who depend on them for food (USDA Northwest Climate Hub, n.d.).

Western Red Cedar, an important species to the Muckleshoot and other native communities for building use and ceremony, has been facing rapid decline in recent years





due to drought, urban development, and logging (City of Seattle, 2024).

It is not clear what the specific climate risks are to Tribal assets and members, since this is not publicly documented in a climate risk and vulnerability assessment, something that could be completed with CEIP Action 1.

While on the frontlines of climate impacts, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe are also leading several climate initiatives, including:

- The Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project, which has acquired over 93,000 acres of land to continue their traditional food gathering, harvesting, and planting. Traditional foods are harvested and

prepared in lunches for Muckleshoot elders (Native Knowledge, n.d.). Figure 6 demonstrates Traditional Food Principles identified by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

- The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe hosted the sixth climate summit of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians in 2024. About 500 people representing 120 tribal nations shared climate change solutions (Breda, 2024).
- The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is actively engaged in watershed management to maintain streamflow and water quality and lessen the impacts of development (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, 2020)

**FOOD SYSTEM RESOURCES at MUCKLESHOOT**

**Traditional & Acculturated**  
 Harvesting & Harvesting Ceremonies  
 Managed, sponsored and provided by the Muckleshoot Reservation and Wildlife Programs, whose mission is to care in the preservation of game resources within the Point Elliott and Muckleshoot Creek Treaty reserved areas and within traditional hunting areas for current and future generations of Muckleshoot tribal members. Hunting tags are available to eligible tribal members. Organized hunts can last on the order of eight game seasons, occur at sites in most years approved by the Wildlife Commission. Most requests for tribal members are available upon approval by the Wildlife Commission and per the Commission's local guidelines. More requests for tribal members are available upon approval by the Wildlife Commission and per the Commission's local guidelines.  
 Contact: (360) 462-1100 Phone: 253-619-3111 Location: Muckleshoot Community Center

**Muckleshoot Fisheries Division**  
 Includes: Water (Sea, Salt, and Lake) & Wild River Activity  
 Current Fish/Shellfish Options  
 Information regarding what fisheries are open to fishing specific days, times and gear and area restrictions.  
 Contact: Fisheries Manager Phone: 360-462-1100

**Fiber Registration & Wood Registration**  
 Registration of tribal members who wish to fish and annual validation of their previously registered gear. Annual validation is a fee-based process that must be completed before a member's membership card. At least 18 days prior, with an outstanding fiber validation greater or \$100 (to cover the most expensive gear) must provide proof of ownership.  
 Contact: Fisheries Manager Phone: 253-619-3111

**Shellfish**  
 Information regarding fishing opportunities (open during in Shell Bay and clam digging on Indian Island), shellfish restrictions, fishing management and monitoring for bacteria (E. coli) in available. Tribal members who wish to harvest shellfish must be registered, licensed, and validated on active tribal property on Indian Island. See information.  
 Contact: Fisheries Manager Phone: 253-619-3111

**Fishing Licenses**  
 The State of Washington requires a valid fishing license for all fishing activities. Licenses are available for residents and non-residents. Licenses are available for residents and non-residents. Licenses are available for residents and non-residents.  
 Contact: Fisheries Manager Phone: 253-619-3111

**Fish Dates**  
 Fisheries operate two dates per year to which all community members are invited. These are the first Salmon Run typically in the second half of June, and the End-of-Summer Run typically in the second half of August. Both runs are open to all tribal members. Both runs are open to all tribal members. Both runs are open to all tribal members.  
 Contact: Fisheries Manager Phone: 253-619-3111

**Traditional Spinger Drive**  
 Each year a traditional Spinger Drive is held. This is an event for tribal members and visitors.  
 Contact: Fisheries Manager Phone: 253-619-3111

**Communal and Subsistence Fish**  
 Fisheries provide for communal/Spinger drives as well as support to tribal members subject to availability. Information regarding subsistence is available to tribal members upon request.  
 Contact: Fisheries Manager Phone: 253-619-3111

**Wild and Organic Foods are Better for Health**  
 Wild foods are dense in nutrients and lower in calories, and guarantee that we are getting all the nutrients our bodies need. Processed and refined "foods" (like high-fructose corn syrup) tend to provide empty calories and may only offer part of a food. This contributes to weight gain as our body, in its natural wisdom, craves all the missing parts of processed and refined foods. Intensive agricultural practices deplete mineral content in both the soil and the plants that grow from it. When we eat wild and organic foods, we are supporting a healthier body and a healthier environment.

**Cook and Eat with Good Intention**  
 The way we eat is just as important as what we eat. Eating is a reminder that we are human. Cooking is a time to honor the foods we eat, and to pay respect to the life that has been given to nourish our bodies. The food we consume ties us to our place and our purpose in that place. Good intention becomes a part of what we prepare, serve and consume. It is important to thank the plants and animals that give their life for us to sustain yours.

**Food is at the Center of Culture**  
 People traditionally harvested, processed, prepared and shared meals together. This unity is an integral part of cultural identity, but during colonization, many foods and cultural and family traditions around food were suppressed. Eating helps feed the desire for wholeness within us, and it is amplified when the entire family participates in a meal together. Eating collectively can also be a time when traditions are passed from one generation to the next. Individuals are nourished and enriched, not only by their traditional foods but by sharing with the ones they love.

**Honor the Food Web & the Food Chain**  
 Living in harmony with nature is a Native teaching. It is to know everything is connected. It is to understand that the ramifications of polluting our soil and our water can be seen in the health of plants, animals, and ultimately ourselves. We have a responsibility to maintain the health of our food systems as our ancestors did, so that we pass down a world that will support generations to come.

**Eat Local Foods**  
 Plants breathe, require and require water. After they are cut off from their food source they begin to die, which means they are losing nutrients and flavor. So, eating fresh food is really important. Think of how you feel after traveling (exhausted, dehydrated, drained, low energy). Food gets tired from travel as well. Eating local is also good for the environment as it reduces the amount of fossil fuels used to get the food to us, and helps support our local economy.

**Traditional Foods are Whole Foods**  
 Traditional foods are "real foods" that have grown in nature—not industrialized foods that have been refined or contain additives, dyes or chemicals. A whole food is alive, and consists of one ingredient: itself. If you read the ingredients list on a pre-packaged food and do not understand the words, or if you cannot picture an ingredient growing in nature, it most likely is not food at all. Think of going to the grocery store with your Great-Grandmother. What would she recognize as food?

**Eat with the Seasons**  
 A traditional food diet is diverse and is based on the seasons. The power of being in the moment and harvesting what is available ensures that a variety of foods will always be on the menu. Seasonal foods prepare people for seasonal changes as well. For example, eating rooties in spring helps your body to cleanse and detoxify after eating heavy winter foods.

**Eat a Variety of Foods**  
 Our ancestors ate more complex foods and so received a greater variety of vitamins and minerals in their diet. Eating many types of foods also helped preserve the diversity of the environment, upholding the entire ecosystem by avoiding over-harvesting of any one resource. We know that diverse ecosystems are healthy ones. Now that people are eating very few foods, due to widely produced crops like corn, wheat and soy, we are losing both our environmental diversity and diversity within our own bodies.

**TREATY OF MEDICINE CREEK, 1854**  
**ARTICLE 3.** The right of taking fish, at all usual and accustomed grounds and stations, is further secured to said Indians in common with all citizens of the Territory, and of creating temporary levees for the purpose of curing, together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries, and pasturing their horses on open and unenclosed lands. Provided, however, That they shall not take shellfish from any beds staked or reserved by citizens, and that they shall allow all nations an interest for breaking horses, and shall buy and sell on equal terms.

**THE TREATY TODAY**  
 Part of tribal sovereignty is a community's ability to harvest and enjoy foods that are culturally and nutritionally important. Food sovereignty means "the inherent right of a community to choose its own food system." The treaties of Point Elliott and Medicine Creek illustrate our Ancestors' desire to ensure that future generations have access to traditional foods. Harvesting, fishing and hunting our traditional foods is more than just a treaty right, it is also our responsibility as Indian People.

**Muckleshoot Community Gardens**  
 In 2016, the tribal government initiated a program to provide gardening opportunities for tribal members. A Community Garden Program was established. A tribal area was first used to grow and harvest to provide a nutrient base for the garden. Tribal members can sign up to the spring garden in the 23 garden available. Plot size is 10' x 10' or 20' x 20' dimensions. Water is provided to the site. Tribal members are responsible for tools and planting materials. The garden has been established with native and plant species, succulents, vegetables and strawberries. Contact: Director of Planning Phone: 253-619-3111

**Muckleshoot Utility District**  
 Provides water treatment and safe distribution of plentiful drinking water to all Muckleshoot Utility District members located within the reservation boundaries, south of 34th Street, Auburn, WA.  
 Contact: Public Works Department Phone: 253-619-3638 Location: 39620 17th Lane SE, Auburn, WA 98002

**Muckleshoot Seafood Products**  
 MFP mission is to provide all the necessary services to support fisheries within our state and customary fishing grounds as designated by the tribe rights. The mission, providing training, sales and care to ensure that the tribe's catch generates the greatest quality and value to the tribe's well-being and health of its members. In addition, MFP is committed to providing a variety of product services to the Muckleshoot community and other programs providing product services to tribal members.  
 Contact: Muckleshoot Seafood Products Phone: 253-619-3111

**Tribal College Berry Garden**  
 In 2011, the tribal government and the First Five Planning Foundation in partnership with the tribe and the college campus, the program is centered around increasing knowledge of traditional food systems as well as facilitating access to fresh, seasonal food for tribal members.  
 Contact: Tribal College Administrator Phone: 253-619-3111 Location: 2801 Auburn-Dundee Rd SE, Auburn, WA 98002 muckleshoottribalcollege.org

**Tribal School Fruit Orchard & Organic Garden**  
 In 2011, the Muckleshoot Tribal School and Northwest Indian College partnered with the tribe and the college campus to create a fruit orchard and organic garden. They also developed a program to increase tribal members' knowledge of traditional food systems as well as facilitating access to fresh, seasonal food for tribal members.  
 Contact: Tribal School Superintendent Phone: 253-619-3111

**Muckleshoot Senior Center Farm-to-Table Program**  
 In 2011, the Muckleshoot Senior Center is partnering with King County on a pilot project that allows healthy foods available to senior citizens to be grown locally. This is a very exciting opportunity to support local food systems and to provide a variety of fresh, seasonal food products available to tribal members.  
 Contact: Muckleshoot Senior Center Phone: 253-619-3111

**Auburn & Enumahchee Farmers Market**  
 We are lucky to have two farmers markets nearby. At these markets many fresh foods are offered. Each local grower producer supports the quality and flavor that you will find in the local food systems. Supporting farmers markets is a great way to support your local food producers and economy. More information about farmers markets is available at: [www.auburnfarmersmarket.com](http://www.auburnfarmersmarket.com) and [www.enumahcheefarmersmarket.com](http://www.enumahcheefarmersmarket.com)

**Recovery House Medicinal Garden**  
 In the spirit of recovery of the Muckleshoot Recovery House, a medicinal garden was planted in 2016. The garden project is just budding, but hopes to support the demand for medicinal plants in our community.

Figure 6: Figure demonstrating Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty/Puget Sound Traditional Food Principles. (Community Alliance for Global Justice, n.d.)



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the City of Auburn Community Survey, 50% of respondents said protecting and preserving cultural resources and practices was a top or short-term priority. Through other forms of community engagement such as tabling and the open house, participants shared a desire for the city to expand inclusive community engagement and collaboration, which partly entails working with Tribes through government-to-government coordination.

Although nearly a third of respondents (32%) indicated that this was not a priority in the near term, it was a goal of the CEIP to include at least one action per theme. City staff prioritized maintaining government-to-government (G2G) relations as a short-term action.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Actors and Partners

- Lead: Community Development
- Partner: Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
  - Note: This action mainly focuses on government-to-government relations primarily with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe due to their proximity to and within Auburn. Other Tribes in the region include the Puyallup. Other possible actors and partners in the area that represent native or tribal perspectives and interests (and may function more as community partners, not government partners) include:
    - [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians](#)
    - Windz of Change Alliance, an urban inter-tribal organization working to strengthen Indigenous Peoples, Sacred Places, Spaces, and Presence through cultural arts, education, and eco-cultural systems environmental stewardship.

### Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On  | Years 1-2  | Years 3-4  | Year 5   |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Existing Government to Government relations</li> <li>✓ Auburn’s Shoreline Master Program with Cultural Resource Goals (about protecting buildings, sites and areas having historic, cultural, educational or scientific value)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Introduce climate into G2G meetings as an agenda item</li> <li>✓ Identify whether any assets of shared value to the Tribe and Auburn are at risk from climate hazards and consider collaborating on a Vulnerability Assessment</li> <li>✓ Identify other collaboration opportunities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continue G2G climate discussions and advance any identified priorities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continue G2G climate discussions and advance any identified priorities</li> </ul> |





## Key Steps

1. Introduce climate impacts and resilience as a topic for the G2G meetings
  - a. Clarify what triggers a more formal consultation (e.g. development) versus more informal conversation
  - b. Identify appropriate levels of engagement around climate issues, including:
    - i. Formal government heads/leaders
    - ii. Staff to staff
    - iii. Broader engagement with Tribal members
2. Identify whether assets of shared value to the Tribe and Auburn are at risk from climate hazards, and discuss strategies to address those risks and enhance resilience collaboratively (this could be done with CEIP Action 1)
3. Optional steps
  - a. Cooperate on funding opportunities, e.g. for heat and wildfire-smoke related education and outreach
  - b. Collaborate on community engagement efforts

## Prioritization

| Considerations                  | Assessment                | Comments   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mandated or Required            | No; supports requirements | While it is not mandated that jurisdictions collaborate with Tribes on climate planning, it is legally required for jurisdictions to respect Tribal legal sovereignty. Tribes may choose whether to or not to formally participate in local processes for comprehensive planning. If Tribes decline to participate, jurisdictions should still share updates and invite tribal input throughout the planning process (Washington State Department of Commerce, n.d.). Washington Executive Order 21-02 requires consultation with affected Tribes, as appropriate, and with the Department of Archeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP), for state-funded construction or acquisition projects. |
| Impact                          | Medium Resilience         | Since climate impacts are not limited to political boundaries, resilience is stronger when Auburn coordinates with other entities.   |
| City role/authority to lead     | Partnership               | Cities are not considered legal sovereigns by all Tribes, so engagement with other actors (e.g. the State of Washington) may be necessary.   |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | Medium                    | This action builds on existing relationships and meetings. There are not a lot of resources supporting G2G climate efforts.  |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | High                      | This action builds on existing relationships and meetings and requires additional meeting time and agenda points.  |





| Considerations    | Assessment | Comments   |
|-------------------|------------|--|
| Cost              | Low        | This action can begin with existing G2G meetings but may eventually require additional staff time and capacity.  |
| Community support | Medium     | Survey respondents were mixed in identifying this as a priority action. Staff support protecting cultural and natural resources.                               |
| Equity impacts    | High       | As described here, Tribes and native community members are often on the frontlines of climate change. This action helps offset those disproportionate impacts. |
| Other co-benefits | Medium     | This action strengthens G2G relations through trust-building, protects cultural resources, and promotes equity and justice.                                    |

### Possible Barriers

- Building trust between Tribal governments and cities can require significant time and effort. Currently, government-to-government meetings with Community Development occur two to four times per year, which may limit trust-building or opportunities to address climate concerns.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by recognizing that trust-building takes time, exploring options to meet more frequently, and having clear discussions about what is needed to support collaboration.*
- Tribal governments often expect that appropriate city leadership participates in meetings, such as Tribal Council leaders, the City Mayor, or City Manager.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by ensuring commitment from relevant leadership and clarifying early and often which representatives are expected to participate.*
- There is limited support for cross-jurisdictional collaboration, including limited funding and few established communication channels. In many cases, funding for climate projects is confined to specific political boundaries, which hinders collaboration across jurisdictions.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by looking to examples from other regions that have successfully established cross-jurisdictional partnerships and identifying opportunities to replicate those models.*

### Funding Sources

- There is limited external funding sources for the City specific to G2G meetings and consultation.
- Funding may be available for specific efforts, including:
  - [USDA Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations](#) outlines nutrition related grant opportunities.
  - [USDA Regional Food System Partnerships](#) provides grants for regional food systems partnerships, eligible to local and tribal governments.
  - [First Nations Tribal Funding Opportunities](#) includes funding opportunities for tribes and Native organizations with donors representing a variety of causes and issues.



## RESILIENCE ACTIONS

## GHG REDUCTION ACTIONS

## OVERARCHING



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- [Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Community Resilience Annual Awards Program](#) provides competitive funding to federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations to address current and future impacts on Tribal Treaty and Trust resources, economies, regenerative agriculture and food sovereignty, conservation practices, infrastructure, and human health and safety.

## Resources and Examples

- The UW Climate Impacts Group [‘Tribal Vulnerability Assessment Resources’](#) webpage contains resources that may be useful to tribes for evaluating their vulnerability to climate change.
- The Washington Department of Commerce’s [‘Tribal Planning’](#) webpage has information on tribal coordination. Staff in the [Office of Tribal Relations](#) may be a resource.
- The Washington Annual [Centennial Accord](#) serves as a model for annual meetings where State and Tribal leaders meet and discuss priorities.
- Pierce County Council requested the Planning and Public Works Department, through [Resolution 2023-69](#), to prepare code amendments to ensure historical and cultural resource review and protections are in place in order to raise SEPA exemptions. While Pierce County has a different context, with much of its Port being on the Puyallup reservation, there may be opportunities for Auburn to also amend its code to ensure tribal resources are protected. Pierce County’s Resolution notes that “the protection of historical and cultural resources is integral to Pierce County’s ancestral and present-day identity...the Department has embarked on a process to amend code to ensure cultural resources are protected in unincorporated Pierce County. The intent is to ensure these resources are identified at the earliest stage of the permitting process.”
- Thurston County planners meet monthly with staff from 3-4 local Tribes. The County planners provide Tribal staff with the opportunity to review early drafts of documents such as Comprehensive Plan chapters and DPEIS statements.

## Future Action

Future actions for consideration within the Cultural Resources and Practices theme include:

- Promote or work with partners to establish a native plant nursery and seed bank to support long-term restoration and carbon sequestration efforts
- Incorporate education about Native history and cultural practices into public parks and sites
- Evaluate and address climate impacts to cultural centers, outdoor festivals, historic sites, and other community assets, with a focus on preserving and enhancing cultural practices relevant to Auburn’s diverse residents



THEME 4



## Theme 4: Water Conservation and Stormwater Management

Policies within the Water Conservation and Stormwater Management theme focus on protecting and preserving water quality and quantity in the face of climate change impacts.

- Goal 9 aims to protect water resources from drought, heat, and extreme storms by promoting efficient irrigation, updating stormwater infrastructure, and revising development codes to support low-impact, nature-based solutions (CE Action 9.1).

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ Auburn has a current National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 2 permit, which details specific actions.
- ✓ Auburn has a [Stormwater Management Plan \(SMAP\)](#) for the Olson Creek Catchment Area, adopted in 2023. It also had a [Stormwater Management Program \(SWMP\) Plan](#).
- ✓ In 2024 updated the City its [Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan](#), which will help guide its stormwater approach, projects, and policies for the next ten years.
- ✓ Auburn has a 2024 Water System Plan which addresses water conservation.
- ✓ Auburn is implementing its [Supplemental Manual to the Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington](#). This includes standards and options for private landowners.
- ✓ The current city landscaping code includes high requirement for native or locally acclimated plants which can tolerate heavy rain (may need updating for changing climate conditions).
- ✓ The City has implemented swales and pervious surfaces (e.g. along 8th Street, West Valley Highway, C Mixed Use trail).

### CEIP Action 4. Stormwater Codes and Design

Review and update development codes and design standards for requirements for stormwater facility sizing and low-impact development. Adopt nature-based solutions and minimize impervious surface areas in private development and city capital improvements to be consistent with the requirements of the city's NPDES Phase 2 Permit and to prepare for climate impacts like increased flooding.

#### WHY THIS MATTERS

Auburn already experiences flooding, and this will likely worsen in the future with climate change as extreme precipitation intensifies and occurs more frequently. According to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, flooding in King and

Pierce counties occurs primarily when large, wet and warm weather systems occur in the Cascade Mountains and after snowpacks have accumulated. Flooding frequently affects the low position in the landscape and



THEME 4



thus is more likely to affect the valley floor of Auburn, especially near creeks and rivers including the Green and White rivers. Flooding is anticipated to increase alongside more intense precipitation in the future (King County Flood Control District, n.d.). River

flooding is controlled by upstream dams on both the Green (Howard Hanson Dam) and White (Mud Mountain Dam) rivers, so significant flooding is only expected to occur during very high precipitation events.



Figure 7. The swollen Green River floods Isaac Evans Park in winter 2012. (Whale, 2012)

Heavy precipitation is one factor in increased flood risk. Figure 8 shows the percentage change in total precipitation for a day with heavy precipitation for a future 30-year period, compared to 1980-2009. Much of

Auburn is expected to experience a 15% increase in the total precipitation of the 2-year storm (University of Washington Climate Impacts Group).



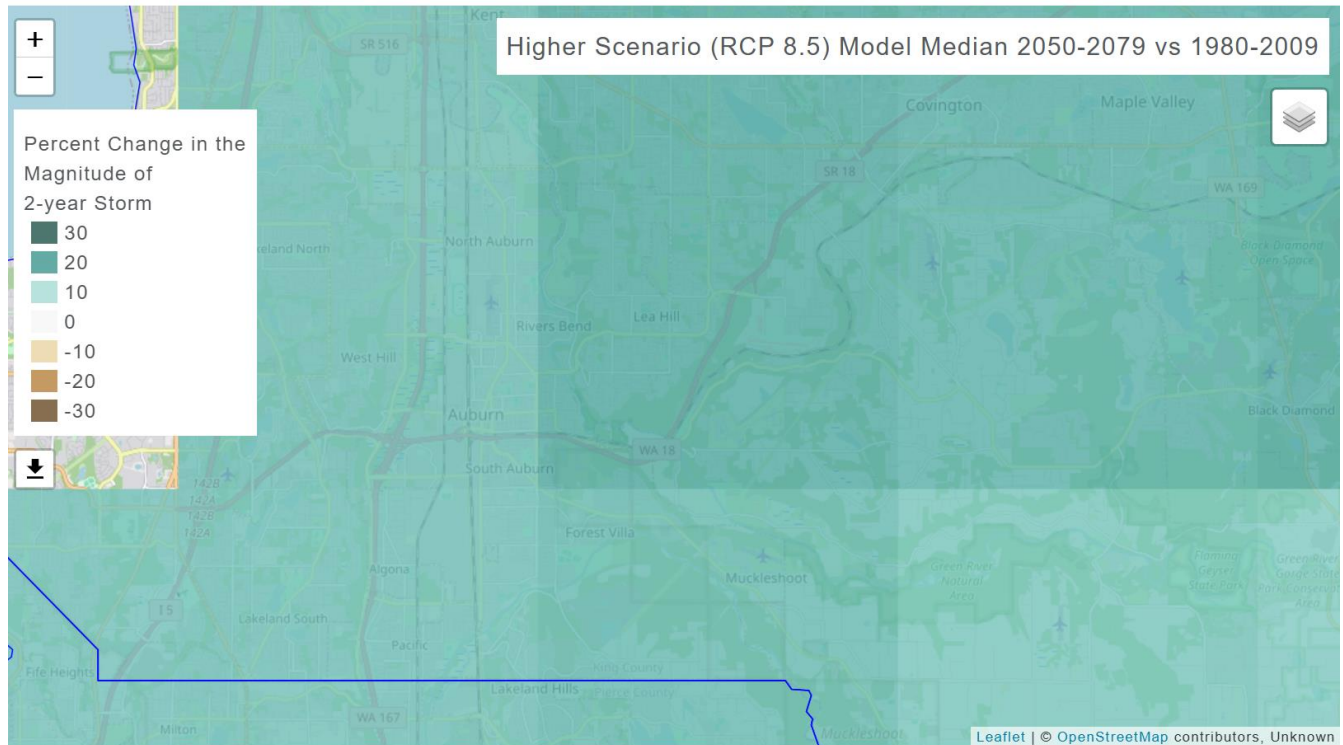


Figure 8: Map showing an increase in heavy precipitation events in Auburn in the future (University of Washington Climate Impacts Group).

The city's 2024 [Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan](#) includes some attention to climate impacts, noting that “stormwater design guidelines will need to consider the possible changes in storms that are informed by future climate scenarios... and stream flooding frequency is expected to increase.”

The plan includes a basic map of floodplains, shown in Figure 9. However, the 2024 Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan does not assess the vulnerability of existing infrastructure in or near streams or floodplains (this is something that could be addressed by CEIP Acton 1).



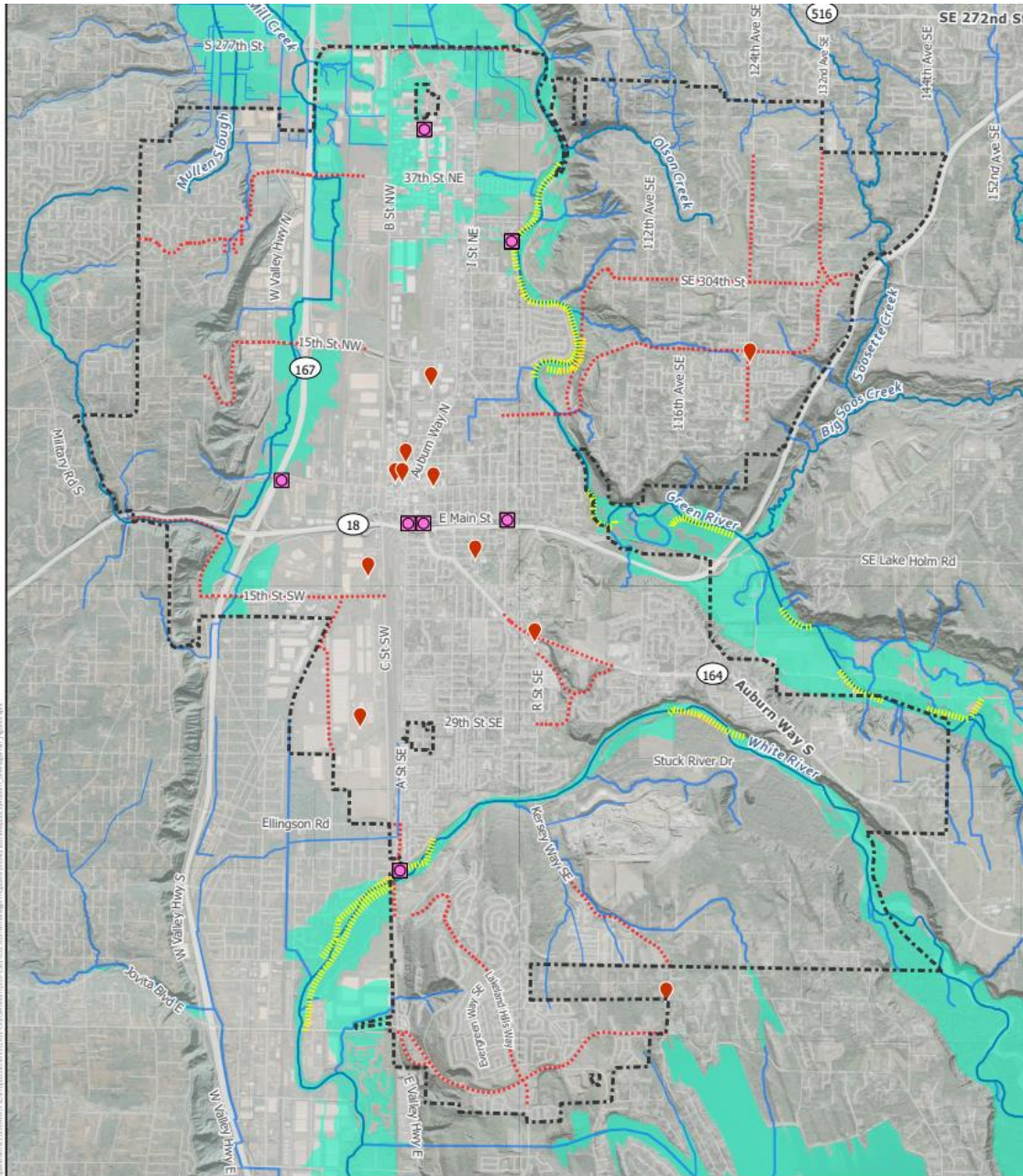
RESILIENCE ACTIONS

GHG REDUCTION ACTIONS

OVERARCHING

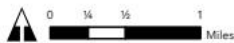


THEME 4



Date: 8/14/2024  
 Sources: City of Auburn, King County, WA Ecology, WA DNR, FEMA, USGS, ESRI  
 Disclaimer: This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

- Critical Facilities
- Pump Stations
- Watercourse
- - - - Evacuation Routes
- — — — Levees
- Auburn City Limits
- Floodplain



**Figure 5-3**  
 Key Areas for Vulnerability Assessment  
 Stormwater Drainage Utility  
 Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan



Figure 9: Map showing floodplains in Auburn and critical facilities. (City of Auburn, 2024)



## RESILIENCE ACTIONS

## GHG REDUCTION ACTIONS

## OVERARCHING



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Auburn has a current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 2 permit, a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act, which is intended to protect and restore waters for “fishable, swimmable” uses. The permit allows Auburn to discharge stormwater runoff from municipal drainage systems into the State’s water bodies (e.g., streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and aquifers) as long as municipalities implement programs to protect water quality by reducing the discharge of “non-point source” pollutants to the “maximum extent practicable” through application of permit-specified components. Auburn’s [2024 Stormwater Management Program \(SWMP\) Plan](#) identifies a range of strategies that will help protect water quality, but it does not identify a direct connection to climate change.

However, the 2024 [Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan Update](#), Section 5.4 (2024) recommends climate change mitigation approaches as follows:

#### Drainage System Performance:

- Review and revise the hydraulic performance metrics related to freeboard, headwater depth, and surcharging; evaluate the financial implications associated with enforcing strict hydraulic performance standards

- Prepare a critical drainage review (CDR) process (as identified as a work order in Section 8) to evaluate the consequences of storm events exceeding the design parameters; establish clear policies regarding safety, property protection, service continuity, and mitigation of nuisance flooding to make systems more resilient to infrequent but probable flooding; ensure that the level of protection aligns with the associated costs and risk factors
- Prioritize effective hydraulic performance and resilience measures for critical facilities during severe storm events that go beyond the intended design limits
- Perform a vulnerability analysis of critical drainage and stormwater infrastructure to identify any areas where the effects of climate change may be intolerable; prioritize these areas for capital improvement projects to minimize the adverse effects of flooding

#### River and Stream Flooding:

- The vulnerability of existing infrastructure in or near streams or floodplains has not been assessed in the 2024 Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan (and could be included if Theme 1, CEIP Action 1 is advanced).

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the City of Auburn Community Survey, the majority of respondents identified strengthening water conservation efforts to protect quality and quantity from climate change as a top priority—it was one of the top five most supported resilience policies put forth in the community survey. Although this action does not address water conservation, staff also identified stormwater management as a priority. The survey showed 35% of respondents supported addressing water infrastructure and making it more resilient to climate impacts as a top priority while 26% selected it as a short-term priority.



## IMPLEMENTATION

### Actors and Partners

- Lead: Public Works (Utilities Division/Stormwater Engineers)
- Partner: Water and Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources, King County Flood Control District, Washington State Department of Ecology

### Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On  | Years 1-2   | Years 3-4  | Year 5   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hazard Mitigation Plan and the NPDES permit</li> <li>✓ SWMP Plan</li> <li>✓ Implement SMAP and 2024 Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan Update</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conduct a code and standards review</li> <li>✓ Identify any planned major development or improvements in short-term</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conduct a climate vulnerability assessment with specific attention to flooding and stormwater (alongside CEIP Action 1)</li> <li>✓ Assess equity impacts; identify actions to address climate risks (building on Section 5.4 of the Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan Update 2024)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Update Stormwater Management Plan with more climate specific actions</li> </ul> |

### Key Steps

1. Continue implementation of the 2024 Stormwater Management Program Plan
2. Review existing codes and standards (e.g. development, stormwater management, maintenance) to identify any that do not align with the SMAP and need updating
3. Assess the impacts of increased flood risks, using the most up-to-date data, as well as updates needed in the next SMAP to address those increased risks (this can be done alongside CEIP Action 1)

### Prioritization

| Considerations                  | Assessment                | Comments   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mandated or Required            | No; supports requirements | Auburn is required to comply with its NPDES permit. However, explicit attention to climate resilience is not required.   |
| Impact                          | Medium Resilience         | Auburn has medium flood risk, and it is important to plan for resilience to increased flood risk in the future.  |
| City role/authority to lead     | Yes                       | The City is the primary decision-maker on city property, and establishes stormwater management requirements, landscaping and other codes for private landowners. |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | Yes                       | There are opportunities to leverage the <a href="#">King County Flood Hazard Management Plan</a> and <a href="#">Lower Green</a>                                 |





| Considerations               | Assessment | Comments  |
|------------------------------|------------|---|
|                              |            | <a href="#">River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan</a> , and partner with the King County Flood Control District.  |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity) | Low        | Staff report they do not have staff or resources to do more than what they are currently doing to comply with NPDES requirements that expand every 5 years as the new permit is issued. |
| Cost                         | Variable   | The SMAP identifies rough costs for some of its recommended actions.  |
| Community support            | High       | Survey respondents support upgrading stormwater infrastructure as an immediate or near-term priority.   |
| Equity impacts               | High       | Flooding disproportionately impacts some residents (e.g. low-income).   |
| Other co-benefits            | High       | This action improves salmon recovery, provides cost savings, provides ecosystem services, improves health and well-being.   |

### Possible Barriers

- While there are funds for stormwater management from Auburn’s stormwater fees, staff note there is not typically enough funding and staff resources to do all the projects noted in the SMAP or 2024 Comprehensive Storm Drainage Plan Update.
  - *The SMAP identified potential funding sources.*

### Funding Sources

- The City has already identified potential funding sources in Table 10 of its [Stormwater Management Action Plan \(SMAP\) for the Olson Creek Catchment Area](#).

### Resources and Examples

- The [Water and Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources](#), which provides guidance for stormwater design and sizing recommended, may be a resource.

## Future Action

Future actions for consideration within the Water Conservation and Stormwater Management theme include:

- Identify opportunities to retrofit developed areas that currently do not have stormwater management to improve flow control and water quality, prioritizing locations that provide the most benefit, are identified to be most vulnerable to extreme precipitation climate impacts, and are communities that have been historically under-resourced
- Utilize water conservation methods and technologies, such as the development of irrigation infrastructure and scheduling, within parks and recreation areas to foster climate resilience
- Develop a program to encourage the use of more drought-tolerant plants





THEME 5



## Theme 5: Natural Habitats and Urban Green Space

Policies within the Natural Habitats and Urban Green Space (in both the resilience and GHG emission reduction sub-elements) emphasize the protection and enhancement of natural habitats and urban green space as essential strategies for climate resilience and emissions reduction.

- Goal 10 ensures equitable access to green spaces.
- Goal 11 encourages urban forest protection and expansion through updated tree codes and a forest master plan (CE Actions 11.1-11.2).
- Goal 12 supports ecosystem resilience and habitat restoration, especially in critical and riparian areas.
- Goal 21 protects carbon sinks, including increased tree canopy and protection of wetlands, grasslands, and forests, especially in frontline communities.

### Current Efforts

- ✓ Auburn already has an [Urban Tree Canopy Assessment](#) and a Tree Board.
- ✓ Auburn has established [Tree Maintenance and Removal guidelines](#).
- ✓ The Parks Department conserves trees in city parks (and most are already heavily landscaped).

### CEIP Action 5. Urban Forest Master Plan

Adopt an Urban Forest Master Plan and implement ordinances to maintain and expand tree canopy cover, improve tree and watershed health, prioritize carbon sequestration, and build climate resilience.





THEME 5



## WHY THIS MATTERS

Trees are important to climate action implementation and can contribute to both resilience and reduction of GHG emissions. Auburn is already recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and can build on this existing strength. Auburn has an overall canopy cover of around 32%, which is short of King County Conservation District’s guidance of 40-60% tree cover in forested states like Washington (King Conservation District, 2018). Figure 10 shows how certain areas like the Central Business District, nearby industrial and manufacturing areas, as well as multi-family residential areas to the north and south—which have high percentages of people of color, low-income residents, and children—have tree canopy below 15% (King Conservation District, 2018). Auburn has numerous potential planting areas and plenty of room for future canopy expansion.

Tree canopy contributes to climate resilience, especially to extreme heat, by reducing surrounding air temperature on hot summer days. This is especially important to Auburn; King County’s 2020 heat mapping project identified Auburn as an area that retains more heat, increasing the potential for heat-related health risks in those areas (see Figure 77). Trees also have other resilience benefits including improved mental and physical health outcomes, reduced crime, and attracting other kinds of investments and new economic opportunities (Nature Conservancy, n.d.). In addition, they provide habitat for animals and birds.

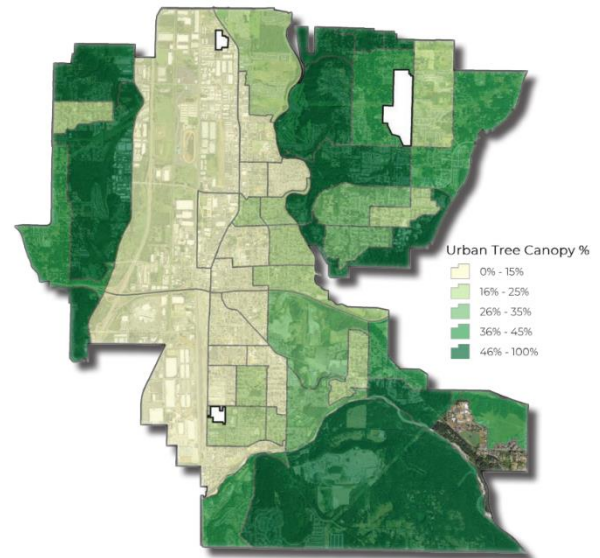


Figure 10. Map showing variable tree canopy in Auburn. From Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

Trees also reduce GHG emissions by acting as a sink for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) as they fix carbon during photosynthesis and store carbon as biomass. Tree planting is not a fast intervention, since as a tree grows, it stores more carbon in its accumulated tissue. The amount of carbon annually sequestered depends on the type, size and health of the trees.

Tree canopy protection and expansion has broad community support. It could serve to help Auburn develop more community relationships and empower community leaders as they work with the City.





THEME 5



**Afternoon Study Results**

**Evening Study Results**

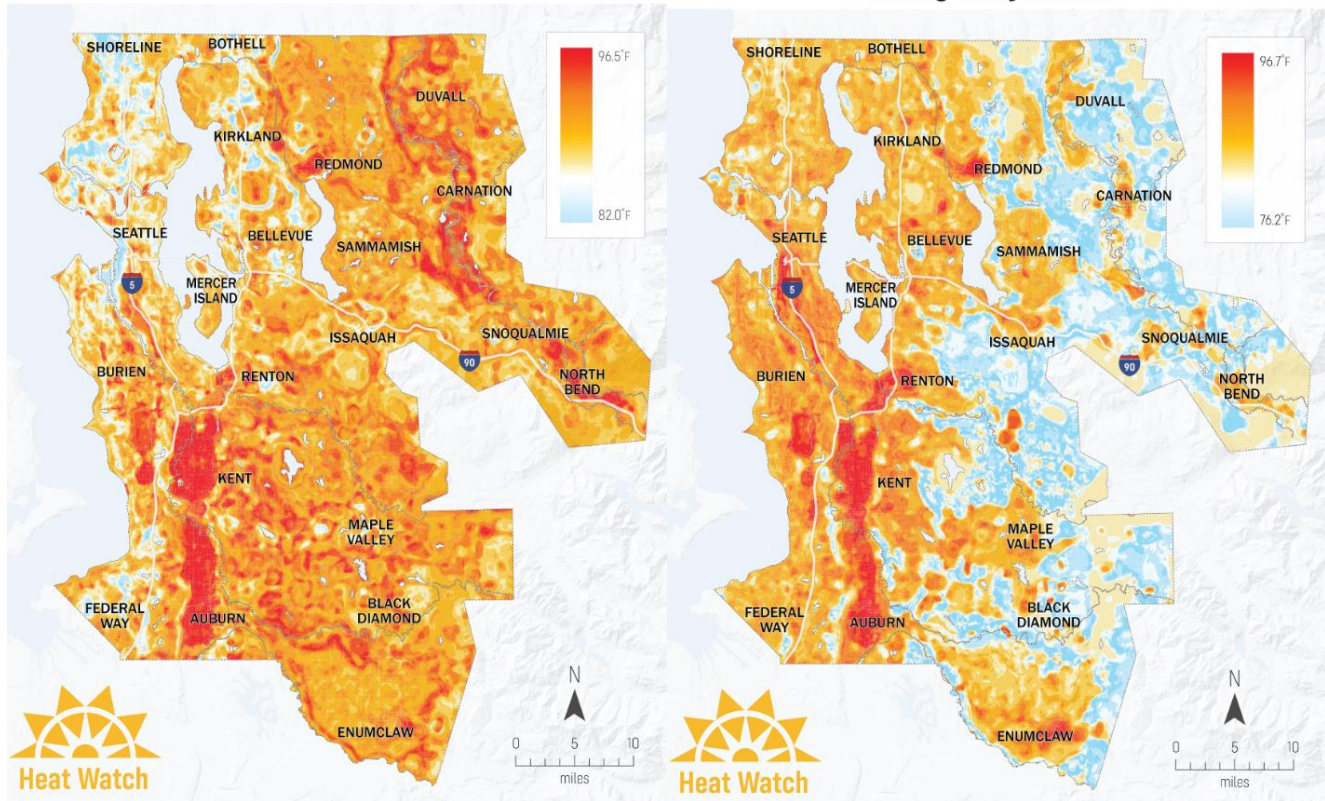


Figure 11. The results of a 2020 heat mapping project by King County and the City of Seattle that quantifies the harmful impact that hotter summers are having on the region, exacerbating inequities. (King County Executive, 2021)

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

After conducting briefings to the City of Auburn Tree Board and Parks Board, various board members emphasized their support for maintaining tree retention codes and green space preservation, all of which could be included in an Urban Forest Master Plan. This sentiment was also supported by Sustain Auburn. About half of survey respondents (44%) indicated that adopting an Urban Forest Master Plan should be a top priority. Nearly 40% of respondents also indicated that ensuring equitable access to green space and identifying opportunities to expand habitat protection were top priorities.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

**Actors and Partners**

- Lead: Public Works and Community Development
- Support: Parks, Arts, and Recreation
- Partner: King Conservation District, Auburn Urban Tree Board, Sustain Auburn, [Auburn Urban Tree Campaign](#)





## Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On   | Years 1-2   | Years 3-4   | Year 5   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Auburn already has an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and a Tree Board and established <a href="#">Tree Maintenance and Removal guidelines</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Engage key community leaders</li> <li>✓ Apply for funding and technical support</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Draft and complete the UFMP</li> <li>✓ Council vote on UFMP</li> <li>✓ Draft regulatory component (tree code) and develop programmatic components (tree program, urban forester)</li> <li>✓ Explore and decide funding mechanisms</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Council vote on implementing ordinances and actions(e.g. regulatory and programmatic)</li> <li>✓ Implement funding mechanisms</li> <li>✓ Initiate programmatic components (e.g. hire urban forester)</li> </ul> |

## Key Steps

1. Engage key community leaders like Sustain Auburn and Auburn Urban Tree Board, in identifying key issues and in providing input at key phases
2. Apply for grant funding and/or technical support through King Conservation District and other funders
3. Develop the Urban Forest Master Plan using comparable jurisdiction plans as inspiration
4. Draft regulatory component (tree code) and develop programmatic components (tree program, urban forester)

## Prioritization

| Considerations              | Assessment                          | Comments  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Mandated or Required        | No; supports requirements           | Under RCW 76.15.005, this action is encouraged and supported but not required. Under RCW 36.70A.040, the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan is required to address tree canopy. Tree planting supports GHG reduction goals, which are required for 5-year reporting to Commerce on Climate Element implementation. Specific actions to enhance community resilience are required by HB 1181. |
| Impact                      | High Resilience; Low GHG reductions | Trees reduce urban heat island impacts and have multiple resilience benefits. Trees sequester carbon which reduces GHG emissions, though it has lower impact and slower than other GHG emission reduction actions.  |
| City role/authority to lead | Yes                                 | Auburn has authority to establish clear guidance and implementing regulations and programs on urban forestry.   |





| Considerations                  | Assessment | Comments   |
|---------------------------------|------------|--|
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | High       | There are many potential collaborators and existing tools.   |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | Low        | Staff indicate they do not have capacity, so action will require additional or external capacity.  |
| Cost                            | Medium     | There is a wide range of potential costs, depending on the scale of the Urban Forest Master Plan and the scope of implementation actions. As one example, the City of Mountlake Terrace offered a budget of \$120,000 in its <a href="#">RFP for an UFMP</a> . The City of Lakewood has committed \$340,000 for a multi-year effort to implement actions identified in an existing UFMP. |
| Community support               | High       | This action is supported by Sustain Auburn and the Tree Board. About half of survey respondents indicated that adopting an Urban Forest Master Plan should be a top priority. Respondents also indicated that ensuring equitable access to green space and identifying opportunities to expand habitat protection were top priorities.   |
| Equity impacts                  | High       | Targeting low-canopy areas would benefit BIPOC communities, low-income residents, and renters (see Canopy Planner tool).   |
| Other co-benefits               | High       | This action sequesters carbon, promotes equity and justice, provides ecosystem services, improves health and well-being, and improves air quality.   |

### Possible Barriers

- Auburn currently lacks internal staff technical expertise, and the cost of funding staff time or technical support can be a barrier.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by securing external funding and technical assistance while building internal capacity over time.*
- Existing Engineering Design Standards do not currently support or facilitate tree planting in some areas.
  - *This barrier can be addressed through collaboration and dialogue among city staff and technical experts to revise standards as needed.*
- Auburn has limited capacity to enforce development code requirements related to tree canopy or the retention of existing trees.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by exploring ways to enhance staff capacity and commitment as part of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).*
- Tree maintenance and sidewalk repair costs can present a financial burden to property owners and the City, and trees that damage sidewalks or streets create potential liability concerns.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by assessing funding options for tree maintenance during the development of the UFMP and providing tree planting guidelines that prioritize species with minimal impacts to sidewalks and streets.*





THEME 5

## Additional Considerations

Auburn allows trees to be planted in the public right-of-way (ROW) consistent with the Engineering Design Standards. Expansion of the tree canopy should primarily consider private properties, as well as the public ROW where appropriate.

Implementing this action requires coordination across jurisdictions and with private landowners. Commerce recommends:

- Using scrutiny and review over tree removal in certain areas by prioritizing retention of healthy trees and tree canopy in codes
- Balancing tradeoffs between the retention of existing healthy trees, the planting of new trees, and the efficient and strategic use of limited developable land
- Using an equity framework to prioritize low-canopy and low-income neighborhoods
- Ensuring urban forest master plans facilitate ecologically appropriate management across different ownership types and jurisdictional boundaries

## Funding Sources

- Auburn could allocate storm and surface water utility fees to this effort (City of Tacoma, 2019)
- Many cities, including Lakewood, have established Tree Funds that are funded through penalties and fees related to tree maintenance. Auburn could allocate a percentage of General Fund revenues to UFP activities, like the 1% that the City currently allocates to Human Services.
- [King Conservation District](#) offers grants for projects in partnership with its member cities, focusing on the direct improvement of natural resource conditions, education and outreach, pilot and demonstration projects, and projects that build capacity through the Member Jurisdiction Grant Program.
- [The DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program \(UCF\)](#) offers grants to cities and towns, counties, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions to improve the health of community forests and develop local urban forestry programs.
- [The FundHubWA portal](#) includes funding sources for individuals, businesses, nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments related to climate and clean energy opportunities.
- [Seeking Federal Funding: A Guide for Local Governments](#) is a resource that offers a collection of insights, lessons learned, best practices, and common challenges and pitfalls faced by local applicants in seeking federal funding. It is intended to support local governments with their process of conceiving, partnering, and applying for such funding (Urban Sustainability Directors Network, 2024).

## Resources and Examples

- In 2018, Auburn conducted an [Urban Tree Canopy Assessment](#) (Plan-It Geo, LLC, 2018).
- King County Conservation District created a [Tree Canopy Planner tool](#) maps the extent of current tree canopy cover and possible areas for new tree planting (King Conservation District, 2018).



THEME 5

- There are examples of other Washington jurisdictions urban forest plans, programs, and codes:
  - A May 2023 [report from the UW Evans School of Public Policy & Governance](#) to the Lakewood City Council provided guidance for establishing an urban forestry program over a 5 year period (Ziah, J. et al., 2024), and on adoption by the Council, obligated [\\$340,000 of ARPA funds](#) to help fund the report's recommendations for a certified arborist, tree assessment, and public outreach efforts through 2026 (City of Lakewood, 2023).
  - Tacoma's [Urban Forestry Management Plan](#) was adopted in 2019, which outlines authority over tree-related activities and provides technical support, is budgeted annually, and is funded primarily through the City's Surface Water Utility Fees and the General Fund. (City of Tacoma, 2019).
- The [Urban Forestry Best Management Practices for Public Works Managers](#) describes the staffing recommended for operating an efficient and effective urban forestry planting and maintenance program within a public works department (American Public Works Association).
- The '[Community Engagement Strategies for Urban Forestry Projects](#)' document is designed to help identify equitable outreach and collaboration strategies for urban forestry projects (University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2024).
- Redmond's [Climate Resilience and Sustainability in Vegetation Management Plan](#) goes beyond tree canopy and urban forestry and also address roadside meadows, pollinator gardens, and electrified equipment.
- A recent [RFP from the City of Mountlake Terrace for a 2024 Urban Forest Management Plan & Street Tree Inventory](#) outlines the scope of work and budget for building an Urban Forest Management Plan.

## Future Action

Future actions for consideration within the Natural Habitats and Urban Green Space theme include:

- Develop and distribute resources to increase access to parks, green space, and recreational services for all residents consistent with the Land Use Element
- Develop codes to require open space set-asides for new development when appropriate
- Identify and pursue opportunities to enhance habitat protection and connectivity through conservation designations, open space corridors, and strategic buffers; implement actions from restoration and salmon recovery plans that enhance floodplains, wetlands, and riparian areas to support watershed health, reduce flood risk, and build climate resilience



THEME 6



## Theme 6: Economic Development

Policies within the Economic Development theme focus on creating equitable access to green job training and workforce development, especially for frontline communities.

Goal 13 seeks to build a diverse green workforce that supports sustainable practices and a low-carbon economy, ensures emergency plans include climate-related economic recovery, and supports local renewable energy and circular economy initiatives (CE Action 13.1).

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ Goal #2 Attractive New Businesses, and Policy ED-7 of the Auburn Comprehensive Plan includes “emphasize efforts and prioritize opportunities that attract businesses that are positively contributing to a more sustainable and climate-friendly operation.”
- ✓ Puget Sound Energy offered energy assessments to businesses and some low-cost services in Auburn in summer 2024. Additionally, they offer programs and incentives for businesses to improve their energy efficiency.

### CEIP Action 6. Business Energy Resilience

Support local businesses’ efforts to generate and store renewable electricity on-site, which can provide back-up power during emergencies and help ensure continuity of operations.

#### WHY THIS MATTERS

Auburn will gain multiple benefits if local businesses generate and store renewable electricity on-site, including access to back-up power during emergencies and balancing the electrical grid with storage to prevent strain from intermittent, renewable energy sources. Businesses with their own renewable energy sources and energy storage may also be less impacted by rising energy costs and anticipated rises in energy black-outs and brown-outs. Additionally, they will be able to stay open during extreme weather and climate events that impact the electrical grid, avoiding economic losses and better serving

local residents. Depending on the structure and administration of the program, storage system owners may participate in utility-led initiatives that can be mutually beneficial for the community and business owners. For example, demand management programs allow business owners to receive bill credits based on the energy discharged or absorbed by their system, which also supports balancing the electrical grid by adding energy storage. Figure 12, shown below, illustrates how a solar and battery storage system interacts with the electricity grid.



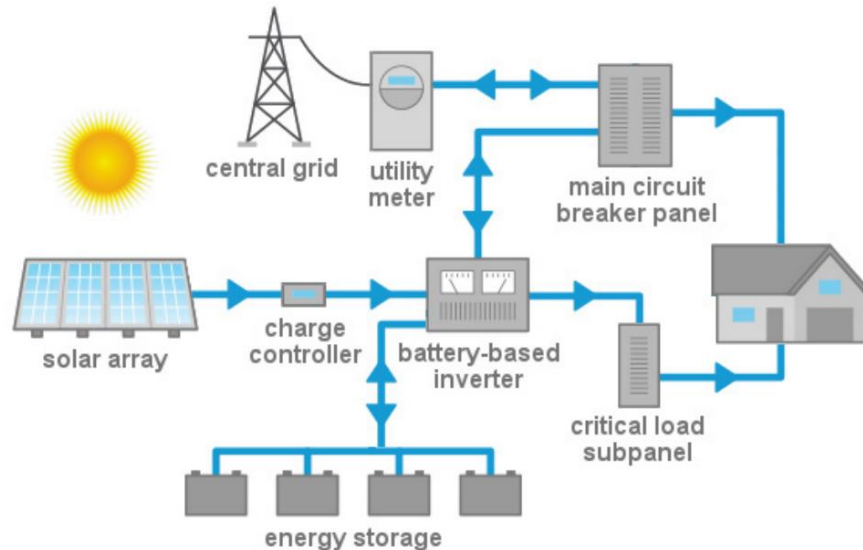


Figure 12. Direct Current (DC) Solar + Storage System (Note: Alternating Current (AC) is also feasible, not pictured) (Clean Energy Group, 2015). Note: this action focuses mainly on solar+storage, but wind+storage is also an emerging technology.

As the Metropolitan Area Planning Council notes, “integrating storage into a solar project offers a wide range of benefits, including energy resilience, demand management, and cost reductions. Though co-location increases the cost and complexity of a solar project, when taken from the outset, it can effectively lower costs by facilitating the sharing of hardware components and reduce expenses related to site preparation, labor, and/or interconnection and permitting processes” (Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), 2024).

There are also risks associated with the continued use of natural gas in buildings and diesel generators for emergencies, including increased indoor and outdoor air pollution. Auburn’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) notes that “many homes and businesses are served with natural gas as an energy source. Gas service could be interrupted by supply chain disruptions. Broken gas lines to buildings

could also cause gas to build up in the structure creating an explosion hazard” (p. 159). This action fills a gap in the CEMP, which does not contain specific goals or strategies related to explosion hazards, while also addressing the concern that natural gas degrades indoor and outdoor air quality.

Some businesses may currently rely on diesel generators for access to energy during emergencies, which also raises significant concerns, including increased air pollution and noise levels, as well as high energy costs (Sadeghian, O. et al., 2021). Additionally, generators can fail for a variety of reasons, including malfunctioning switches, overheating, lack of adequate fuel supplies, and improper sizing for loads (Clean Energy Group, 2015). They must be well-maintained if they are to be relied on for more than a few hours, and are often insufficient options for longer-term needs (National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2020). With on-site renewable electricity generation, businesses (and Auburn) will continue to have access to





power, while diesel for a generator may run out and be harder to acquire during an emergency.

As Auburn’s Comprehensive Plan says, “economic development is a crucial aspect of the Auburn’s overall well-being and quality of life” (City of Auburn). The city’s vision for economic development states “the economic

landscape is welcoming to large and small businesses as well as an array of different industry sectors. Economic growth is carried out in a climate-friendly manner that effectively weathers economic volatility. A pathway to success exists for all residents and business owners regardless of their background or socioeconomic status” (EDE-1).

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the Auburn Community Survey, 34% of respondents said supporting local businesses’ on-site renewable electricity generation and storage should be a top priority and another 27% indicated that it should be a short-term priority. Community members also stressed the importance of partnering with local businesses to further climate action generally. Through free responses in the survey, they additionally highlighted financial constraints as a barrier to action, suggesting that city-led actions are cost-efficient, and more accessible to residents. Additionally, they emphasized that they desire energy resilience actions that are transparent about funding sources and project outcomes.

### IMPLEMENTATION

#### Actors and Partners

- Lead: Economic Development
- Support: Community Development
- Partner: Downtown Auburn Cooperative, Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce, Puget Sound Energy, [Solar for Business from Solar for Washington](#)

#### Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On   | Years 1-2  | Years 3-4   | Year 5   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Attention to climate and environmentally friendly businesses in Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">PSE</a> energy assessments offered to businesses in Auburn in summer 2024</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Gather input from local businesses</li> <li>✓ Collaborate with PSE and other actors to promote renewable energy and storage through 1:1 outreach, events, etc.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Spotlight local businesses that have adopted renewable energy via City communications</li> <li>✓ Identify actions to include in next Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan</li> <li>✓ Identify and address regulatory and permitting challenges</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Update CEMP with more specific actions</li> <li>✓ Obtain City Council approval, as relevant, for code and permitting changes</li> </ul> |





## Key Steps

1. Gather input from local businesses (e.g., via a survey or listening session) on what would motivate and enable them to adopt renewable energy and storage
2. Collaborate with PSE and other actors (including business organizations like the Chamber of Commerce) to promote renewable energy and storage to Auburn businesses through 1:1 outreach, events, etc.
3. Identify actions to include in next Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, such as exploring the feasibility of multi-customer, multi-building microgrids that can island from the electric distribution system
4. Identify and address regulatory and permitting challenges
5. Update CEMP with more specific actions during the next amendment or update period
6. Obtain City Council approval, as relevant, for code and permitting changes

## Prioritization

| Considerations                  | Assessment                | Comments  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Mandated or Required            | No; supports requirements | Commercial buildings of certain sizes must comply with the Clean Buildings Performance Standards. (CBPS)  |
| Impact                          | High Resilience           | Storage can provide backup power during outages for households and critical/community facilities, reducing disruption of critical services and equipment (e.g., emergency/medical services, telecommunications, etc.).  |
| City role/authority to lead     | Yes, partial              | Auburn Economic Development manages a variety of business development programs. Community Development maintains a roster of local businesses. City leads Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.   |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | High                      | Puget Sound Energy offers many programs already, so there is good opportunity to leverage.  |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | Low                       | There are only two staff dedicated to Economic Development. Future follow-up will confirm staff capacity.   |
| Cost                            | Low                       | There are low costs to coordinate outreach and education.   |
| Community support               | Medium                    | Survey respondents were mixed in identifying this as a priority action. Generally, the community stressed that partnering with local businesses to further climate action is essential and costs as a potential barrier to participation should be addressed. |
| Equity impacts                  | Medium                    | The level of impact depends on program design and participation. Many Auburn businesses are small businesses and are owned by BIPOC community members, including immigrants. Programs that  |





| Considerations    | Assessment | Comments   |
|-------------------|------------|--|
|                   |            | support these business owners will have positive equity impacts.   |
| Other co-benefits | Medium     | This action promotes economic development, reduces emissions, provides cost savings, and improves health and well-being. |

### Possible Barriers

- Many programs supporting businesses have limited funds. For example, the [Washington State University Renewable Energy Incentive Program](#) is fully subscribed and no longer taking new applicants.
  - *There is no easy solution to this barrier.*
- Supply chain disruptions have become increasingly common, and vulnerabilities exist for clean energy and battery storage (International Energy Agency, 2023). These vulnerabilities may also become heightened with tariffs (Martucci, 2025).
  - *There is no easy solution to this barrier, though in general, the costs for solar have been declining in recent years.*
- There may be challenges in connecting on-site system to the grid.
  - *Interconnection and utility collaboration are key to successful implementation as connecting on-site systems to the grid requires an agreement with the local utility, and this process may require technical studies.*

### Funding Sources

- [Washington State Department of Commerce’s Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities program](#) funds solar and battery back-up power so community buildings can provide essential services when the power goes out. Grants support installation as well as planning work for solar plus storage systems at community buildings, including schools, community centers, libraries, and other buildings owned by local, state, tribal governments and non-profits in Washington.
- [Ncp Solar’s guide on renewable energy small business grants](#) provides an overview of the types of renewable energy small business grants available, how to apply, case studies, and frequently asked questions.
- [King County C-PACER Financing Program](#) is an alternative loan program that allows owners of eligible commercial properties to seek long-term financing from a private capital provider for qualified improvements related to energy and building resiliency.
- [New Roots Fund](#) provides microloans to refugee, immigrant, and low-income entrepreneurs (less focused on renewable energy and storage, but may be good overlap).

### Resources and Examples

- The [Municipal Solar and Storage Resource Guide](#) from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council is intended to help municipal staff, energy managers, program managers, and other community leaders navigate the complex landscape of solar and storage planning.



## RESILIENCE ACTIONS



THEME 6

## GHG REDUCTION ACTIONS



## OVERARCHING



- Clean Energy Group's '[Solar + Storage 101: An Introductory Guide to Resilient Power Systems](#)' provides a basic technical background and understanding of solar and storage systems, and includes case studies.
- The Clean Energy Group '[Distributed Energy Storage, Efficiency and Demand Response](#)' webpage provides webinars, publications, and blog articles on energy storage.
- The National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) '[Renewable Energy Generation and Storage Models](#)' webpage describes the NREL models and projects for renewable energy generators, storage, and renewable power plants.
- The [LADWP's Feed-in-Tariff](#) (FiT) program allows building owners to receive a guaranteed, fixed revenue stream for up to 20 years by installing solar on their roof or parking lot and selling the power generated back to the grid at a guaranteed price per kilowatt-hour produced.

## Future Action

Future actions for consideration within the Economic Development theme include:

- Develop a green jobs strategy in partnership with community groups, community resources such as Green River College, frontline communities, and businesses that:
  - supports sustainable practices, green skills development, and the low carbon transition of the city's impacted industries,
  - develop pathways for youth and impacted workers to transition into green jobs, and
  - ensures opportunities (e.g., local hiring requirements) for these jobs
- Ensure that the 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





## Theme 7: Transportation and Planned Development

Policies within the Transportation and Planned Development theme focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the transportation sector, expanding low-carbon transportation, and planning for transportation-oriented urban growth.

- Goal 14 emphasizes increasing multi-modal transportation options, such as walking and biking, to improve transit access while preventing displacement in transit-oriented areas. It also encourages higher density near transit hubs through zoning policies (CE Action 14.1).
- Goal 15 aims to expand Electric vehicle (EV) adoption by improving charging infrastructure in partnership with utilities and developers, enforcing Washington State Building Code requirements for EV-ready buildings, and supporting regional policies for electric delivery and ride-sharing vehicles.
- Goal 16 promotes dense, mixed-use development near transit corridors to reduce emissions and encourages “missing middle” housing policies to support affordability and accessibility for current and future residents (CE Action 16.1).

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ CE Actions 14.1 and 16.1 are included in the Land Use Element of the 2024 periodic Comprehensive Plan update.
- ✓ The Transportation Element includes policies and actions that support reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing VMT (see more below).
- ✓ Missing middle housing is included in the code update, with reduced parking ratios near major transit stops.
- ✓ Growth centers near transit are not yet fully developed but will be in the future, supporting clustered development in transit-focused areas of the city.
- ✓ The city will also be adopting Washington's parking reform bill, SB 5184, that caps parking mandates for residential and commercial developments.

### CEIP Action 7. Transportation Action Coordination

Identify how the Climate Commitment Program can support Transportation Element policies and actions to (1) reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector and (2) support reduction of per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) throughout the region.





## WHY THIS MATTERS

The transportation sector accounts for a large portion of Auburn’s GHG emissions originating within the city (33% of community emissions), representing an opportunity to reduce emissions and help Auburn meet its GHG emission reduction goals. There are a variety of strategies and actions that jurisdictions can implement to reduce VMT and GHG emissions, such as land-use decisions that promote transportation-oriented development with higher housing densities, parking reform, multimodal transportation, and user fees (See Table 1). Importantly, implementing VMT and GHG emission reduction policies in the transportation sector offers co-benefits for the community, such as increased public

safety, community health and livability benefits, and environmental benefits such as a reduction in pollutants. The goal of reducing per capita VMT is also linked to land use reforms that support housing affordability priorities at the state level (WSDOT, June 2023).

The Climate Element requires action that:

- Reduces overall greenhouse gas emissions generated by transportation and land use
- Reduces per capita vehicle miles traveled

Table 1. VMT Management Strategies and Potential Average Impact\*

| Strategy                         | Potential VMT impact |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Land use                         | ●●●●●●●●●●○○○○○○○○   |
| Constrained highway spending     | ●○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○  |
| Transit enhancements             | ●●○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○   |
| Bike and pedestrian enhancements | ●○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○  |
| Commuter benefits                | ●●○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○   |
| Parking policy                   | ●●●○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○  |
| Road pricing                     | ●●●●○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ |
| Broadband and remote access      | ●○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○  |

Note: \*each dot represents a 5% reduction in VMT. Source: Washington State Department of Transportation. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Targets – Final Report. 2023.



RESILIENCE ACTIONS

GHG REDUCTION ACTIONS

OVERARCHING



THEME 7

The Department of Ecology (WA Department of Ecology Air Quality Program, 2025) and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, 2023) have both identified Auburn as an overburdened community that is highly impacted by air pollution. This means Auburn, along with other South Seattle communities, met statewide criteria for environmental health disparities and EJScreen’s demographic index<sup>2</sup>, with areas also showing elevated PM2.5 levels or cumulative air pollution. While the community is meeting the national ambient air quality standards for criteria air pollution, it does experience high levels of criteria air pollution when compared to the rest of Washington State (WA Department of Ecology, 2023).

The increased rate of congestion due to heavy traffic from passenger vehicles can contribute to concentrated vehicle-related pollution and emissions. The move away from passenger vehicle use in urban areas will reduce associated pollution and emissions. It is also important to recognize that other sources of transportation emissions, such as freight, trains, and airplanes, contribute to air pollution and GHG emissions and may be addressed through future actions. While investing in these multi-modal systems, it is also important to maintain affordability of services and surrounding housing to ensure equitable access and protect low-income communities from being priced out of their neighborhoods.



<sup>2</sup> EJScreen is an EPA environmental justice mapping and screening tool with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic socioeconomic indicators. Please note that EJScreen resources have been removed from their associated websites as of February 5, 2025.





Table 2, below, outlines key actions identified in the Transportation Element that will support the reduction in GHG emissions and per capita VMT.

Table 2. Transportation Element Actions

| CE Requirement | Transportation Action   |
|----------------|---|
|                | <p>Goal 1 Planning Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and fund capital projects and programs that address existing and emerging system needs to meet Multimodal Level of Service standards and to support safety goals.</li> </ul>   |
| Best practice  | <p>Goal 2 Equity Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a process during project/program planning to review demographic information and identify potential impacts to historically underrepresented and under-served communities and identify potential mitigation measures.</li> <li>Develop and implement equity tools to assist in transportation system planning, construction, and operations.</li> <li>For the communities adjacent to the project locations, or served by the projects and programs, research how to best engage with them, and develop outreach and information tools.</li> </ul>  |
|                | <p>Goal 4 Environmental Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and implement guidance from the Department of Commerce pertaining to measures that cities may implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These guidelines will prioritize measures that benefit overburdened communities that have experienced disproportionate harm due to air pollution and be consistent with environmental justice assessment pursuant to RCW 70A.02.060.</li> </ul>  |
|                | <p>Goal 5 Multimodal Accessible Network Actions (General):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for and develop a balanced transportation system, which provides safer access and connectivity to transportation facilities for users of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, transit users and operators, and truck operators.</li> <li>Plan for, design, and construct all transportation projects, whether City led or development driven, to provide appropriate accommodation for bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, except in situations where the establishment of such facilities would be contrary to public health and safety or the cost would be excessively disproportionate to the need.</li> </ul> |
|                | <p>Goal 5 Multimodal Accessible Network Actions (Active Transportation):</p>  |






| CE Requirement | Transportation Action   |
|----------------|---|
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City will schedule, plan, and co-sponsor events that support recreational walking and bicycling. These events should emphasize their recreational and health values and introduce people to the transportation capabilities of bicycling and walking.</li> <li>Develop programs and publications, and work with local employers to encourage citywide bicycle commuting.</li> <li>Work with the Community Development Department to establish guidelines and building code requirements to require convenient and secure bicycle storage facilities in all large public and private developments.</li> <li>The City will develop, and periodically update, a Bicycle Route Map that defines the bicycle network in Auburn and classifies bicycle routes throughout the City as either Regional, Priority, or Auxiliary. The network of classified bicycle routes will focus on connectivity from non-classified routes in neighborhoods and commercial areas to auxiliary, priority, and regional routes.</li> <li>Develop and maintain an official Auburn Bicycling Guide Map.</li> <li>Evaluate transportation projects and identify opportunities to include sidewalk and bicycle facilities based on the identified priority locations.</li> <li>Seek ways to provide pedestrian amenities such as streetlights, trees (within the downtown and on local residential streets), signage, and public art along appropriate pedestrian travel routes.</li> <li>Encourage the formation of Local Improvement Districts to develop pedestrian pathways and other active transportation amenities throughout the City. Partner with the local school districts to improve Safe Walking Routes to School.</li> <li>Actively seek to acquire land along corridors for planned bike routes as identified in the Bicycle Route Map and for pedestrian facilities needing more property to meet LOS standards.</li> </ul> |
|                | <p>Goal 5 Multimodal Accessible Network Actions (Transit):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate intersections and identify opportunities to improve speed and reliability of transit service.</li> <li>Partner with transit agencies to support transit service in the City.</li> <li>Work proactively with Sound Transit, KC Metro, and Pierce Transit to ensure the adequate supply of transit parking capacity in Auburn.</li> <li>Expand the areas included in the Restricted Parking Zones and other parking restrictions as needed to mitigate impacts from transit parking.</li> </ul>  |
|                | <p>Goal 7 Multimodal Concurrency Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City will seek grant, loan, and partnership funding for system capacity and mode shift projects that would help reduce traffic impact fee rates required to maintain concurrency.</li> </ul>   |
|                | <p>Goal 8 Demand and System Management Actions:</p>   |





| CE Requirement  | Transportation Action  |
|---|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with transit agencies to enhance CTR programs for CTR employers in Auburn.</li> <li>• Improve the CTR Program for City employees</li> </ul> <p>Goal 11 Parking Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take an active approach to managing on- and off-street parking in commercial and high-density residential areas to minimize land dedicated to parking and ensure right-of-way balancing parking with other community needs.</li> <li>• Explore the feasibility of parking management programs, shared parking strategies, and/ or subsidized ORCA cards programming as new low-income housing units are being developed; addressing the transportation needs as development occurs.</li> <li>• Encourage new development to incorporate appropriate design features such as: Preferential parking for carpools and vanpools; Special loading and unloading facilities for carpools and vanpools; Transit passenger facilities, including comfortable bus stops and waiting areas that may be integrated in the building design; and secure and covered bicycle parking, showers, lockers, and related facilities to support bicycle commuters. Where applicable, encourage convenient short-term bicycle parking for customers or other visitors.</li> <li>• Develop guidance for the creation of parking facilities for bicycles, scooters, and other active transportation vehicles that help promote mode shift away from motorized vehicles.</li> </ul> |

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the Auburn Community Survey, 32% of respondents marked the prioritization of expanding accessible multi-modal and low-carbon transportation options as a top priority, with a further 24% identifying it as a short-term priority. Similarly, 29% of respondents viewed the prioritization of dense, mixed-use development with affordable housing in Auburn’s downtown as a top priority and another 26% selected it as a short-term priority. The action to update city code to expand electric vehicle infrastructure saw slightly less positive support, with only 24% selecting it as a top priority and another 23% selecting it as a short-term priority.

Table 2. Transportation Element Actions identifies various actions that touch on all these potential actions.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Actors and Partners

- Lead: Community Development and Public Works
- Partner: King County, WSDOT





## Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On   | Years 1-2   | Years 3-4  | Year 5  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the Climate Element Implementation Plan (CEIP)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify shared metrics to track identified in the Transportation Element Actions (see Table 2)</li> <li>Schedule quarterly or bi-annual meetings to support coordination</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend regular coordination meetings focused on tracking progress towards transportation actions related to per capita VMT reduction and GHG emission reduction outcomes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review progress and consider if the City should consider adapting their implementation strategy if action progress is not underway or limited</li> </ul> |

## Key Steps

1. Coordinate with King County to procure 2022 GHG emissions inventory
2. Review base year and monitoring year total and per capita VMT data available to Auburn consistent with state or regional approach. Potentially reaching out to WSDOT staff
3. Establish a running meeting and/or partnership with Public Works to develop a process to evaluate actions related to GHG emission reduction and per capita VMT reduction

## Prioritization

| Considerations                  | Assessment         | Comments   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Mandated or Required            | Yes                | HB 1181 requires implementing actions that reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled and overall GHG emissions in Auburn.                     |
| Impact                          | High GHG Reduction | The transportation sector accounts for a large portion of Auburn’s GHG emissions.  |
| City role/authority to lead     | Yes                | Community Development should coordinate with Public Works to implement.  |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | High               | This action seeks to leverage synergies between the actions being implemented through the Transportation Element.                            |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | High               | Actions are already being implemented via the Transportation Element. This action requires some staff capacity for meeting and coordinating. |
| Cost                            | Mixed              | There are low costs to coordinate. The costs to execute the work are medium-high.  |
| Community support               | High               | Expanding accessible multi-modal and low-carbon transportation options was identified as a top priority.                                     |
| Equity impacts                  | High               | The Transportation Element action include explicit equity goals (see Table 2. Transportation Element Actions).                               |





|                   |      |   |
|-------------------|------|---|
| Other co-benefits | High | This action enhances resilience, improves air quality, improves public health and wellbeing, promotes economic development, promotes equity and justice, protects water quality, and provides cost savings. |
|-------------------|------|---|

### Possible Barriers

- While there are funds identified and dedicated to transportation work identified in the Transportation Element, staff note there is not enough funding in hand to do all the projects.
  - *Additional funding may be secured through funding and grant programs.*
- The transportation policy landscape is rapidly evolving, and conflicting state or federal legislation can create uncertainty or hinder implementation.
  - *Regularly track legislative updates and coordinate with regional partners to ensure consistent and adaptive implementation.*
- Auburn’s historic identity is tied to railroads, auto row, and Boeing, which influences local values and economic priorities.
  - *Acknowledge Auburn’s transportation history while engaging stakeholders and the public to promote the benefits of reducing VMT and expanding travel options.*
- Auburn relies on state and regional data for greenhouse gas emissions and VMT.
  - *There is no easy solution to this barrier.*

### Funding Sources

Auburn’s 2024 Comprehensive Transportation Plan includes financial information and funding sources regarding its transportation systems, inclusive of the actions identified in

Table 2. Transportation Element Actions. Please refer to Chapter 6 of the 2024 Comprehensive Transportation Plan for more information.

Funding sources most applicable to GHG emission reduction and per capita VMT reduction actions (City of Auburn, 2024) are outlined below.

- [Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality](#) (CMAQ) is a federally funded program administered through PSRC. CMAQ funds projects and programs in air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas, which reduce transportation related emissions.
- [Transportation Alternatives Program](#) (TAP) funds projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the inter-modal transportation system. The program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, including the restoration of historic transportation facilities, the construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, landscaping and scenic beautification, and the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff.
- [Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Grant](#) is a state funded program that funds active transportation safety improvements.
- [Transportation Improvement Board](#) (TIB) administers annual grant programs that fund roadway and active transportation projects that improve safety, mobility, capacity, and promote economic development.



## RESILIENCE ACTIONS



## GHG REDUCTION ACTIONS



## OVERARCHING



## THEME 7

- [Regional Mobility Grant Program](#) is a state managed program to improve connectivity between counties and regional population centers and reduce transportation delay. There are four project types: vehicle and equipment purchases, capital construction, operations, and transportation demand management.
- [Reconnecting Communities Pilot](#) (RCP) is a grant program that focuses on improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster development and restoration, and provide technical assistance to further these goals. This program offers 2 grant types: (1) Planning Grants to fund the study of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing facility to restore community connectivity; conduct public engagement, and other transportation planning activities; (2) Capital Construction Grants to carry out a project to remove, retrofit, mitigate, or replace an existing eligible facility with a new facility that reconnects communities.

## Resources and Examples

- [WSDOT](#) provides annual VMT data for public and city roads in Auburn.
- Auburn can consider home-based and employment based VMT by census block where consistently available (see [VMT tool](#) commissioned by WSDOT for 2019).
- The [City of Fresno](#) has linked land use decisions and transportation projects to VMT reduction targets and tracks on a project-by-project basis. It also tracks changes to its long-range plans.

## Future Action

Future actions for consideration within the Transportation and Planned Development theme include:

- Implementing electric vehicle (EV) goals and policies: the electrification of passenger and commercial vehicles, as well as public transportation, is another key strategy for reducing GHG emissions and mitigating climate change. The State of Washington passed a law that will ban the purchase of new, gas-powered vehicles within state boundaries after 2035. To prepare for this transition, Auburn should equitably invest in EV infrastructure in the city while incentivizing community members, local businesses, and developers to install chargers.



## Theme 8: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Policies within the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency theme focus on transitioning to renewable energy sources, promoting energy conservation and efficiency measures, building grid resilience, and educating homeowners about energy efficiency upgrades.

- Goal 17 emphasizes expanding renewable energy, retrofitting buildings for efficiency, strengthening energy codes, promoting electrification, and providing incentives for energy upgrades, with a focus on affordability and overburdened communities.
- Goal 18 seeks to improve grid reliability by collaborating with utilities, advocating for clean energy policies, and supporting sustainable energy infrastructure to meet future demand.

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is the electricity and natural gas provider to Auburn. Puget Sound Energy already offers rebates for ENERGY STAR clothes washers and dryers, ENERGY STAR thermostats, electric heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, weatherization upgrades (insulation, sealing), and window replacement.
- ✓ King County's Energize Heat Pump Program installs heat pumps and other clean technology in low and moderate-income homes in King County (program is currently only available to communities of Skyway, North Highline and parts of Burien, Tukwila and Renton).
- ✓ Washington State has an energy assistance program and weatherization program for low-income households.
- ✓ The federal government provides tax credits for electrical panel upgrades, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, weatherization, battery storage, and solar electric panels.
- ✓ Washington's Clean Buildings Performance Standard requires existing commercial buildings larger than 50,000 square feet to meet an energy efficiency target tailored to their building type and climate zone.
- ✓ The 2021 Washington State Energy Code strongly encourages all-electric space heating and hot water systems in newly constructed residential, commercial, and large multifamily buildings. The City of Auburn is currently enforcing the 2021 State codes.

## CEIP Action 8. Electrification and Energy Program

Develop an electrification and energy efficiency program to incentivize and educate community members and businesses about existing programs for emerging alternative energy technology.



## WHY THIS MATTERS

In Auburn, energy use from residential, commercial, and industrial buildings is the largest source of community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (City of Auburn, 2024). Natural gas alone accounts for 17% of total community emissions. To meaningfully reduce these emissions, the City can develop an electrification and energy efficiency program to incentivize and educate community members and businesses about existing programs for emerging alternative energy technology, including weatherization, electrification, and the adoption of renewable energy sources like solar.

Weatherization, such as sealing air leaks and upgrading insulation, can significantly reduce energy use, lower utility costs, ease strain on the electric grid during peak times, and improve indoor air quality (Specian, 2023). These measures also make future electrification more cost-effective by reducing the overall energy demand of a building (Specian, 2023).

Electrification involves replacing fossil fuel-powered appliances with electric alternatives, such as heat pumps for space and water heating. It is a key strategy for reducing GHG emissions from buildings. Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), signed into law in 2019 (SB 5116, 2019), commits the state to a greenhouse gas emissions-free electricity supply by 2045 (Washington State Department of Commerce, n.d.). This clean energy transition means that homes, businesses, and vehicles will operate on renewable electricity instead of fossil fuels and will significantly reduce emissions (Washington State Department of Commerce, n.d.).

Electric appliances, like modern heat pumps, are now widely available and increasingly efficient—even in colder climates (Popovich & Plumer, 2023). In addition to reducing emissions, they offer health benefits by eliminating indoor air pollutants emitted by gas appliances, which are linked to asthma, cancer, heart disease, and other health concerns (Armand, 2022). Heat pumps also provide both heating and cooling, helping households stay safe and comfortable during extreme weather events (Popovich & Plumer, 2023).

Solar energy adds another layer of climate and cost benefits. Rooftop solar reduces greenhouse gas emissions, lowers utility bills, and can provide backup power during outages when paired with battery storage (U.S. Department of Energy, n.d.). Supporting the installation of on-site solar helps residents and businesses increase energy independence and long-term resilience. For more information on efforts to support local businesses' efforts to generate and store renewable electricity on-site, see

## Theme 6: Economic Development.

While weatherization, switching to electric appliances, or installing solar can provide long-term environmental benefits and cost savings, the upfront cost can be a barrier. To install new electric appliances, some

buildings may require upgrades, such as new electric panels or ductwork (Popovich & Plumer, 2023). Targeted outreach, education, and financial incentives will be essential to making energy upgrades more accessible, particularly for lower-income households and small businesses.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community interest in these solutions reinforces the importance of expanding support for building upgrades. In the City of Auburn Community Survey, 26% of respondents said that financial incentives to upgrade to more energy-efficient systems are a top priority and another 34% indicated this is a short-term priority. This was further supported by community members' collective sentiment from survey free responses, where the consensus emphasized the importance of considering financial constraints and a desire for actions to be cost-efficient and practical. Over half of respondents (56%) indicated that cost was a barrier to taking climate action. Additionally, 26% identified building energy efficiency retrofit programs as a top priority, and 30% saw them as a short-term priority. These responses demonstrate strong support for programs that make weatherization, electrification, and renewable energy more accessible and affordable for the whole community.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Actors and Partners

- Lead: Community Development
- Support: Office of Equity, Engagement and Outreach
- Partner: Washington State Department of Commerce, Puget Sound Energy, King County Housing Authority, community-based organizations (Kicking Gas, Spark Northwest), media (including multilingual media)

### Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On   | Years 1-2  | Years 3-4  | Year 5  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Existing programs by Puget Sound Energy, King County, Washington State, and the Federal government that this action can leverage (see Resources and Examples for more information).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Leverage existing incentives</li> <li>✓ Develop multilingual educational materials</li> <li>✓ Begin engagement with overburdened communities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Explore City-led or partner-led program models</li> <li>✓ Expand outreach and technical assistance</li> <li>✓ Pilot new programs or services</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Implement tracking and metrics</li> <li>✓ Evaluate participation, energy savings, and equity outcomes</li> <li>✓ Refine approach and plan for long-term scaling</li> </ul> |

### Key Steps

1. Designate a staff lead or team to coordinate program development, oversee outreach, and provide technical assistance to residents and businesses
2. Leverage existing incentives, programs, and technical support (e.g., PSE, federal tax credits)





3. Engage frontline and overburdened early and often to ensure materials, assistance, and programs are accessible and equitable
4. Create and distribute multilingual educational materials (e.g., website content, fact sheets) on electrification, weatherization, and energy efficiency, including their importance, benefits, and available incentives
5. Explore options for creating a City-led program or partnering with experienced organizations (e.g., Spark Northwest, Kicking Gas) to expand capacity
6. Determine next steps for programmatic development
7. Develop metrics and a system to track participation, energy savings, and equity outcomes over time

### Prioritization

| Considerations                  | Assessment                | Comments  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Mandated or Required            | No; supports requirements | Under HB1181, jurisdictions are required to identify actions that will result in reductions in overall GHG emissions generated by land use within the jurisdiction.               |
| Impact                          | High Reducing GHG         | Energy use is primary source of Auburn community GHG emissions.   |
| City role/authority to lead     | Yes                       | Auburn has authority to enact electrification and energy programs.  |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | High                      | There is an opportunity to leverage existing private, state, and federal programs.  |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | Medium                    | Auburn can leverage existing resources and staff to create materials and conduct outreach.  |
| Cost                            | Mixed                     | The cost may be scaled down or up depending on whether Auburn develops its own program or explores partnerships.  |
| Community support               | High                      | There is strong support among survey respondents and staff for financial incentives to upgrade to more energy efficient systems and building energy efficiency retrofit programs. |
| Equity impacts                  | High                      | The City can tailor the program to reach low-income and disadvantaged communities.  |
| Other co-benefits               | High                      | This action provides cost savings, enhances resilience, improves health and well-being, and improves air quality.   |

### Possible Barriers

- Auburn may lack funding and staff capacity to implement this action.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by obtaining additional funding and hiring new staff or external technical support.*
- Some residents may lack buy-in for home energy upgrades, and financial limitations can prevent participation in electrification, weatherization, or energy efficiency programs.





THEME 8

- *This barrier can be addressed by offering financial incentives and providing materials that clearly explain the financial, health, and environmental benefits of these improvements.*

## Funding Sources

- The Washington State Department of Commerce offers several programs:
  - [The State Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program](#) provides grants to eligible third-party administrators to provide rebates and incentives to households and small businesses to purchase and install high-efficiency electric equipment and appliances.
  - [CDBG General Purpose grants](#) assist eligible Washington State small cities, towns, and counties in carrying out community development projects that principally benefit low-and moderate-income persons.
  - [The Energy Programs in Communities \(EPIC\)](#) unit, a part of the Energy Division and State Energy Office, designs, develops and implements initiatives that enable all communities to be a part of the clean energy transition, including providing funding.
  - [Solar for All](#) provides new and expanded solar programs for income-qualified households, disadvantaged communities and tribes.
- [Puget Sound Energy's Solar Grant program](#) provides grants for community-based organizations, government agencies and Tribal entities in PSE's electric service area to install solar at their property.
- [The FundHubWA portal](#) includes funding sources for individuals, businesses, nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments related to climate and clean energy opportunities.

## Resources and Examples

- There are many existing rebates and tax credits:
  - [The Switch Is On](#) website details current incentives, products, contractors, and home upgrade tips.
  - [Puget Sound Energy](#) offers rebates for single family properties on appliances, EV home chargers, heating and cooling, insulation, and more.
  - The Washington State Department of Commerce [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) provides energy assistance to households in Washington through a network of community action agencies and local partners.
  - The Washington State Department of Commerce [Weatherization Program](#) offers cost-effective energy efficiency and related repairs to reduce energy bills and increase home health, safety and durability. The Department of Commerce allocates federal and state funds to local agencies.
  - The King County Housing Authority [Weatherization Program](#) helps low-income homeowners and renters reduce their energy costs and improve the indoor air quality of their homes.
  - The [Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates programs](#) provide rebates for home improvements like energy efficiency and home electrification measures. The rebates are for low- and moderate-income homes and are distributed through third-party administrators.



- There are many existing programs and resources related to alternative energy technology, weatherization, and electrification:
  - [Kicking Gas](#) is a climate justice organization that works to make home electrification measures accessible and affordable to those who need them in the Puget Sound area. Their work raises public awareness around the significant climate and public health impacts of fossil fuel and wood combustion.
  - [Spark Northwest](#) is a Washington nonprofit that partners with communities to build an equitable clean energy future.
  - [King County's Energize Program](#) installs heat pumps and other clean technology in homes and small businesses in King County.
  - [Energy Smart Eastside](#) is a program of the Eastside Climate Partnership. They offer special heat pump rebates for residents of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, and Sammamish.
  - The Kenmore [Heat Pump Checklist](#) provides a checklist for homeowners on how to install a heat pump.
  - The [City of Issaquah Home Equipment and Appliance Rebate Pilot Program](#) provides support for low and moderate-income Issaquah residents to upgrade qualifying home equipment to clean, efficient electric appliances. They offer multi-lingual factsheets for a range of electric appliances.
  - [Electrify Portland!](#) is a free event for homeowners and renters ready to start transitioning their homes from gas (or old electric) to efficient renewable electric.
  - [Cooling Portland is a PCEF-funded climate resilience program](#) designed to provide efficient portable cooling / heating units to low-income Portlanders with vulnerabilities.

## Future Action

Future actions for consideration within the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency theme include:

- Explore options to expand community solar, such as the solar energy group purchasing model used to reduce costs and simplify the solar installation process
- Phase out natural gas use in existing publicly owned facilities by 2040 and retrofit publicly owned buildings with solar panels and electric heat pumps
- Amend local development code to require solar-ready construction for all building types, as appropriate
- Continue to partner with energy utilities to adopt efficient practices and explore alternative energy resources, in order to help meet long-term energy needs and reduce environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies



## Theme 9: Waste Management and Circular Economy

Policies within the Waste Management and Circular Economy theme focus on supporting a circular economy, strengthening urban agriculture and local food production, encouraging composting, enforcing sustainable construction and demolition (C&D) practices, and adopting environmentally friendly purchasing policies.

- Goal 19 emphasizes reducing greenhouse gas emissions from materials and organic waste by minimizing waste generation.
- Goal 20 centers on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from materials and organic waste by maximizing waste diversion.

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ The Auburn community identified composting programs and recycling services as a key priority for the Waste Management and Circular Economy theme in the Climate Program 2025 Survey. The City has many efforts related to recycling and composting already underway, including the following:
  - ✓ The City provides educational materials and resources on recycling, composting, and waste disposal in multiple languages through the Garbage, Recycling & Yard + Food Waste Services [webpage](#).
  - ✓ The City operates the “Kitchen Organics Bucket Promotion” program to encourage composting. Through this program, residents can pledge to “compost more and waste less” and receive a free kitchen organics (food scrap) bucket, a sample of compostable bags, and a spatula.
  - ✓ Auburn contracts with Waste Management (WM) for solid waste services. WM maintains a dedicated [Auburn webpage](#) with announcements, educational materials, and resources. Additionally, WM hosts the Recycle Right Pledge for Auburn residents. Those who complete the pledge form and maintain clean recycling practices are entered into a drawing for a free month of WM service.
  - ✓ Staff from the Solid Waste Division (SWD) provide outreach at City-sponsored events, including Kid’s Day, Farmers Markets, and the Senior Wellness Fair.
  - ✓ SWD staff deliver presentations on waste reduction, recycling, and composting upon request, such as at the Senior Center.
  - ✓ The City distributes an annual newsletter to all residents with information on proper hazardous waste disposal and safer alternative products.
  - ✓ The City supports the annual King County Residential Recycling Event in Auburn.
  - ✓ A multifamily contamination reduction project is ongoing to improve recycling practices in multifamily housing.



- ✓ The City coordinates the annual Community Yard Sale to promote the reuse of household items.
- ✓ The City funds waste reduction, recycling, composting, and hazardous waste education presentations in Auburn schools.
- ✓ The City provides outreach on the requirements of HB1799, which mandates that businesses generating a specified amount of food and yard waste per week in designated areas divert that waste to organics collection programs.

## CEIP Action 9. Construction and Demolition

Support development, implementation, and enforcement of construction and demolition (C&D) recycling and deconstruction ordinances to ensure the program enables recycling of construction and demolition debris.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Solid waste accounts for 2% of Auburn's community greenhouse gas emissions (City of Auburn, 2024). While Auburn has existing waste reduction, recycling, and composting programs, C&D recycling remains an area with opportunities for improvement. Construction and demolition (C&D) materials make up a significant portion of the waste stream, but much of this debris can be recycled or reused rather than sent to landfills (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, n.d.). Increasing C&D recycling can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting materials from landfills and lowering demand for virgin resource extraction (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, n.d.).

Additionally, supporting a C&D recycling program would reduce project costs, conserve natural resources, and create economic opportunities. Recycling C&D materials is often more cost-effective than disposal, with lower recycling fees and opportunities to donate materials at no cost

to contractors (King County, n.d.). Furthermore, the EPA's Recycling Economic Information Report found that C&D recycling created 175,000 jobs in 2012, demonstrating the potential for economic growth through sustainable material management. Similarly, deconstruction—dismantling buildings to salvage materials—maximizes material recovery, conserves valuable resources, and provides job training opportunities (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, n.d.).

By supporting the development of construction and demolition (C&D) recycling and deconstruction ordinances, Auburn can reduce landfill use, offset the environmental impacts of extracting virgin materials, and support local businesses involved in material reuse and recycling (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, n.d.). Investing in C&D recycling and deconstruction practices supports Auburn's sustainability goals while strengthening the local economy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the City of Auburn Community survey, efforts to expand commercial recycling, organics collection, and local composting programs had the highest support of all options considered in the



Waste Management and Circular Economy theme and 55% of respondents said supporting the development, implementation, and enforcement of construction and demolition recycling and deconstruction ordinances was a top or short-term priority. As previously noted, Auburn has existing waste reduction, recycling, and composting programs, while C&D recycling is an area with opportunities for advancement. Sentiment gathered during community tabling events reflected individuals’ desire for the expansion of recycling education, particularly in multifamily households.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Actors and Partners

- Lead: Community Development
- Support: Utility Department
- Partner: King County Solid Waste Division, Waste Management, local construction businesses, local C+D recycling businesses

### Timeline

| Past Action/To Build On   | Years 1-2   | Years 3-4   | Year 5   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ King County Construction &amp; Demolition Program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Review code language</li> <li>✓ Explore incentives or fee structures</li> <li>✓ Hire or designate staff for enforcement and management of code</li> <li>✓ Draft and adopt code language</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop educational materials and conduct contractor outreach using King County resources</li> <li>✓ Collaborate with King County and area cities to develop end-use markets for recyclable/recycled C&amp;D materials</li> <li>✓ Track diversion rates</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Track and report diversion rates and assess program impact</li> </ul> |

### Key Steps

1. Review code language to identify areas to support the development, implementation, and enforcement of C&D recycling and deconstruction
2. Consider creating incentives or fee structures to promote deconstruction and recycling (e.g., reduced permitting fees, deposit-refund systems)
3. Assess capacity across staff that could enforce and manage the code. Hire or designate staff to enforce and manage the code
4. Draft code language in alignment with State RCW regulations and the [Regional Code Collaboration template](#) that support the development, implementation, and enforcement of C&D recycling and deconstruction
5. Develop multi-lingual educational materials and conduct contractor outreach to support C&D waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. Create step-by-step guidance, including a checklist, fact sheets, and case studies, to help developers comply with city code requirements. Leverage the King County resources (see Resources and Examples below)





6. Collaborate with King County and area cities to develop end-use markets for recyclable/recycled C&D materials
7. Track and report diversion rates from C&D projects to monitor progress and inform adjustments

## Prioritization

| Considerations                  | Assessment               | Comments   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Mandated or Required            | No; supports requirement | Under HB1181, jurisdictions are required to identify actions that will result in reductions in overall GHG emissions generated by land use within the jurisdiction.  |
| Impact                          | Low GHG emissions        | Solid waste accounts for 2% of Auburn’s community GHG emissions.   |
| City role/authority to lead     | Yes                      | There is some overlap in role/authority with the King County Solid Waste Division.   |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | High                     | King County has many resources around C&D that the City can leverage.  |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | Medium                   | The City can leverage existing resources and staff to draft code, create resources, and conduct outreach.  |
| Cost                            | Medium                   | The cost may be scaled up or down depending on level of outreach and collaboration with other jurisdictions.   |
| Community support               | Medium                   | C&D ordinances and programs ranked third behind expanding recycling/compost services and composting programs in the community survey. Many compost and recycling efforts are already underway.   |
| Equity impacts                  | Medium                   | There are potential barriers to implementation for small businesses. C&D programs could produce equity benefits by fostering local economic development, thus reducing income inequalities. There is an opportunity in program development to promote job training for vulnerable populations. |
| Other co-benefits               | Medium                   | This action provides cost savings and promotes economic development.   |

## Possible Barriers

- Auburn may lack funding and staff capacity to implement this action.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by obtaining additional funding and hiring new staff or external technical support.*
- Some contractors may resist waste management requirements or lack awareness about proper disposal practices and recycling of used building materials.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by developing outreach materials that highlight the financial and environmental benefits of recycling, deconstruction, and proper disposal.*





## Funding Sources

- [NextCycle Washington's Circular Accelerator Program](#) offers technical assistance and funding to businesses and projects focused on expanding waste prevention, repair, reuse, recycling, and composting in Washington State.
- [King County's Re+ \(zero waste\) grants](#) offer funding opportunities for non-profits, businesses, entrepreneurs, educational institutions, and local governments to support innovative projects that further King County's commitment to zero waste of resources by 2030.
- [WA Department of Ecology Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance](#) Program provides funding to local governments for solid and hazardous waste planning and implementation, as well as enforcement of solid waste rules and regulations.

## Resources and Examples

- The [Construction and Demolition Recycling Association](#) promotes the recycling of recoverable C&D materials. Their website offers resources, news, and events related to recycling C&D materials.
- [King County offers many resources](#) related to C&D, including [Salvage, Recycling, and Deconstruction Codes](#), a template [Deconstruction and Salvage Assessment](#) form, a template [Waste Diversion Report](#) and a template [Exterior Structural Lead Removal Plan](#) form.
- King County offers a [C&D recycling one-pager](#) for contractors with information on where materials should go and designated facilities.
- The King County '[Designated C&D Facilities](#)' webpage outlines information about designated construction and demolition C&D facilities.
- The [Woodinville Climate Action Plan](#) presents strategies and implementation considerations for consumption and materials management, including C&D (see page 48).
- The [Redmond Environmental Sustainability Action Plan](#) details actions and implementation considerations to address construction and demolition C&D waste.

## Future Action

While Auburn has many efforts underway related to recycling and composting, future actions for consideration within the Waste Management and Circular Economy theme include:

- Support local businesses in partnering with Washington's Recycling Development Center to explore and adopt circular economic practices, such as using recycled materials and reducing waste
- Consider implementing an organics disposal bans and/or requiring services
- Enhance the language for enclosure requirements at multifamily and commercial properties so there is enough room garbage, recycling, and compost.



PROGRAM TOOLS

# Overarching

In addition to the actions and policies identified in the Climate Element, supplemental actions that strengthen the City’s accountability, effectiveness, and transparency are included below.

## CURRENT EFFORTS

- ✓ Auburn is exploring options to join the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration and Climate Pierce County to leverage partnerships throughout the region and accelerate climate action.
- ✓ The updated 2010 Auburn GHG Inventory is included in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Appendix. King County is currently conducting a 2022 GHG inventory for all municipalities, including the City of Auburn, which can be a new baseline for future updates.
- ✓ Auburn could build on city permit monitoring to address land use and housing tracking important to GHG reduction and VMT per capita reduction.
- ✓ The City can consider adding biennial budget goals related to monitoring that contributes to 5-year report.

## CEIP Action 10. Regional Partnerships

Select a staff delegate and join the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration and Climate Pierce County to accelerate climate action.

## CEIP Action 11. Climate Education

Enable staff investment in professional development that enhances understanding of projected changes in the region’s climate (e.g., air temperature and precipitation) and their impacts on communities, municipal services, and infrastructure.

## CEIP Action 12. Climate Action Monitoring

Monitor, assess, and publicly report on community-scale GHG emissions (total and per capita) and VMT (total and per capita) at least every five years. Include emissions from all local sources associated with resident, business, and local government activities. Maintain a list of measures that demonstrate consistency with climate element requirements and housing goals and policies that contribute to the climate element; identify progress achieved every five years.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

King County, including Auburn, is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, such as prolonged heat waves, severe storms, and impaired air quality from wildfire smoke, which are affecting the health and safety of the community. The City of Auburn chose to

proactively engage in climate planning now to better prepare for these challenges and protect residents, infrastructure, and local ecosystems.

Action 10: Regional Partnerships. Regional collaboration accelerates climate progress by



RESILIENCE ACTIONS

GHG REDUCTION ACTIONS

OVERARCHING



PROGRAM TOOLS

combining expertise, resources, and advocacy efforts. The King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) is one such partnership, where local governments of all sizes work together to advance bold and equitable climate action (King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, n.d.). K4C helps members expand staffing capacity and reduce costs by providing shared tools and resources, and connecting jurisdictions to technical and funding assistance that may be out of reach individually. By joining partnerships like K4C, Auburn can gain capacity, stay informed on best practices, and coordinate more effectively with neighboring communities.

**Action 11: Climate Education.** Building internal staff capacity is essential to implementing the Climate Element successfully. Supporting professional development ensures City staff have the tools and knowledge to plan for and respond to projected climate changes in air temperature, precipitation, and their related impacts on infrastructure, municipal services, and community well-being. Investment in climate-related learning for staff builds long-term expertise and strengthens Auburn’s ability to adapt to a changing environment.

**Action 12: Climate Action Monitoring.** As of June 2025, the Washington State

Department of Commerce is actively developing rules for required Climate Element progress reports (Washington State Department of Commerce). Current guidance recommends that jurisdictions update their emissions inventory every five years to evaluate progress toward GHG reduction goals and targets (Washington State Department of Commerce, 2023). Based on the current rulemaking, it is likely jurisdictions will be required to prepare a progress report every five years that includes a list of measures and progress to GHG emissions and VMT reductions. Auburn needs accurate, up-to-date emissions data to evaluate progress, identify trends, and inform policy. King County is currently conducting a 2022 GHG inventory for all municipalities, including Auburn, which will serve as a valuable baseline. There may also be opportunities to partner with the County on future inventories.

Together, Actions 10, 11, and 12 create a strong foundation for meaningful, measurable climate action in Auburn. Regional collaboration increases capacity, staff development strengthens internal expertise, and regular monitoring ensures accountability and alignment with state guidance and city goals





## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Actions 10, 11, and 12 were not included in the Auburn Community Survey.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Actors and Partners

#### CEIP Action 10

- Lead: Auburn Community Development
- Partner: [King County-Cities Climate Collaboration](#) (K4C), [Climate Pierce County](#)

#### CEIP Action 11

- Lead: Community Development
- Support: Economic Development, Human Resources
- Partner: King County Workforce Development, University of Washington Climate Impacts Group

#### CEIP Action 12

- Lead: Community Development
- Partner: Washington Department of Commerce, Washington Department of Transportation, King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, Climate Pierce County

### Timeline

| CEIP Action | Past Action/To Build On   | Years 1-2  | Years 3-4   | Year 5  |
|-------------|---|--|---|---|
| 10          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Development of the Climate Element Implementation Plan (CEIP)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Determine staff delegate and join K4C and/or Climate Pierce County</li> <li>✓ Staff begin attending monthly meetings</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue attending monthly meetings.</li> <li>✓ Consider participating in joint campaigns, shared comment letters, or town halls.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff continue attending monthly meetings.</li> <li>✓ Consider participating in joint campaigns, shared comment letters, or town halls.</li> </ul> |
| 11          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ City of Auburn 2018 GHG inventory and Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (Action 1); King County's Climate</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conduct a staff climate knowledge assessment</li> <li>✓ Share a list of key climate resources</li> <li>✓ Create an internal climate learning community</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Consider hosting a workshop or training series</li> <li>✓ Continue developing and updating list of key</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continue developing and updating list of key climate resources</li> <li>✓ Monitor and evaluate professional</li> </ul>                             |





| CEIP Action | Past Action/To Build On  | Years 1-2  | Years 3-4   | Year 5   |
|-------------|--|--|---|--|
|             | Justice Learning Series  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate partnerships with HR, Economic Development, and external partners</li> </ul>   | climate resources   | development to date  |
| 12          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Auburn 2018 GHG inventory, City of Auburn Climate Element; King County 2022 GHG inventory; Washington State Department of Transportation city-level VMT tracking</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review final Commerce rulemaking on required reporting (November 2025)</li> <li>Develop reporting framework consistent with interjurisdictional approach if appropriate</li> <li>Develop annual data methodology</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and evaluate data</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare report</li> </ul> |

**Key Steps**

**CEIP Action 10**

- Determine staff delegate to coordinate and join the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration and Climate Pierce County
- Optional: Meet with K4C staff contacts and other K4C peer cities for orientation or 1:1 peer discussion
- Coordinate presentation by King County to City Council
  - City Council approves resolution to execute the Interlocal Agreement (required)
  - City Council approves resolution to sign onto Joint Climate Action Commitments (optional, but recommended)
- Join Climate Pierce County; contact [climatepiercecounty.com](http://climatepiercecounty.com) to share interest in participating
- Staff begin attending monthly meetings series; electeds: 1-2x/year with option for deeper monthly engagement
- Consider participating in joint campaigns, shared comment letters, or town halls

**CEIP Action 11**

- Conduct a staff needs assessment; identify current knowledge gaps and what professional development formats are most accessible and effective for staff
- Partner with internal departments and external organizations; work with Human Resources, Economic Development, and regional partners (e.g., King County, UW Climate Impacts Group) to co-develop opportunities
- Put together a list of resources and include accessible readings, webinars, toolkits, and training platforms focused on climate projections and sector-specific impacts





4. Create an internal climate learning community for staff to share ongoing opportunities for learning
5. Consider hosting a workshop or training series. Focus on localized projections, case studies, and cross-departmental impacts
6. Monitor and evaluate professional development; collect feedback, measure participation, and revise learning pathways accordingly

### CEIP Action 12

1. Track updates from the Washington Department of Commerce to ensure compliance with HB 1181 requirements for GHG and VMT tracking; advocate for city priorities during the rulemaking process; review final Commerce rulemaking on required reporting (November 2025)
2. Develop a reporting framework consistent with interjurisdictional approach if appropriate
  - a. Coordinate with King County or other local jurisdictions to ensure consistency in data collection and reporting
  - b. Define emission and VMT scopes, sources, and roles across departments
3. Develop annual data methodology
4. Access and evaluate available data
  - a. Coordinate with King County to procure 2022 GHG emissions inventory; access VMT data from the Washington State Department of Transportation; Auburn is not expected to generate or calculate VMT data independently
5. Prepare public-facing progress report every 5 years

### Prioritization (All Actions)

| Considerations                  | Assessment | Comments   |
|---------------------------------|------------|--|
| Mandated or Required            | Mixed      | CEIP action 10 and 11 are voluntary. CEIP Action 12 is required under RCW 36.70a.130.  |
| Impact                          | NA         | CEIP action 10 supports collective action within the County and region. CEIP action 12 allows adaptive management of City actions to reach aims of GHG and VMT per capita reduction.   |
| City role/authority to lead     | Yes        | Auburn has authority to join regional collaborations and provide professional development for staff. Auburn has a requirement to monitor emissions.  |
| Synergy/Opportunity to leverage | High       | There are multi-agency efforts to leverage actions.  |
| Feasibility (Staff capacity)    | Medium     | For CEIP action 10, regional coordination is complex, given Auburn is in two counties. For CEIP action 12, Auburn can leverage King County’s Commerce funded GHG evaluation and updated GHG wedge analysis. VMT estimates are provided by WSDOT. |
| Cost                            | Medium     | Auburn can build reporting (action 12) into Comprehensive Plan, permit tracking, and budgeting process.  |
| Community support               | NA         | These actions were not included in the Auburn Community Survey.  |





| Considerations    | Assessment | Comments   |
|-------------------|------------|--|
| Equity impacts    | NA         | There are no direct equity impacts.  |
| Other co-benefits | High       | These actions will support the implementation of all Climate Element policies and actions. |

### Possible Barriers

- Auburn may lack funding and staff capacity to implement this action.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by obtaining additional funding and hiring new staff or external technical support.*
- Internal resistance from City council or leadership may make implementation of these actions difficult.
  - *This barrier can be addressed by communicating the importance of proactive climate planning for the safety and well-being of the Auburn community, emphasizing strong public support for climate measures, and utilizing resources such as the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Communications Toolkit to craft effective messages.*

### Funding Sources

- There is limited external funding for program tools, however, Auburn may be able to leverage funding from other implementation actions to support this work.
- [Washington State Department of Commerce climate planning grants](#) are available to local governments across Washington that must include a Climate Change and Resilience element in their comprehensive plans. While funds for implementation activities are not currently available, they may become available through a budget appropriation or due to other budget savings.
- [The FundHubWA portal](#) includes funding sources for individuals, businesses, nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments related to climate and clean energy opportunities.

### Resources and Examples

#### CEIP Action 10

- The '[King County–Cities Climate Collaboration \(K4C\)](#)' webpage offers information about K4C, how to join, and additional resources, including the [K4C 101 briefing](#) and a [K4C Communications Toolkit](#).
- The [Climate Pierce County](#) website provides information about the coalition, relevant plans, events, and calls to action.

#### CEIP Action 11

- King County hosted a [Climate Justice Learning Series](#) for staff and community centered around climate justice.
- [Columbia Climate School's Professional Learning programs](#) offer working professionals the chance to enhance and adapt skills in the areas of climate and sustainability.
- The [UW Office of Public Lectures](#) hosts speakers on a range of topics, including climate change.
- The [UW Climate Impacts Group](#) supports and advises science-based efforts to adapt to climate change across the Northwest. Their '[Learn](#)' webpage offers resources on climate change and variability, climate impacts, climate inequities and climate adaptation.





## CEIP Action 12

### Report Format

- The King County [2024 Subarea Plan Performance Measures Report](#) is an example of an indicator performance report on long-range plans.
- The Vancouver [2023 Inventory of Community and Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) is an example of GHG monitoring.
- The Seattle [Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#) is an example of a community GHG inventory.
- There are several examples of Climate Action Plan Monitoring Reports from other jurisdictions:
  - The [Tacoma 2030 Climate Action Plan 2023 Progress Report](#) captures work that took place over a year to deepen the city’s commitment to reducing our contribution to climate change and adapting to real climate concerns facing our community.
  - The [Issaquah Climate Action Plan Dashboard](#) highlights City progress on achieving the goals and completing the actions laid out in the ICAP since 2022.
  - The [Escondido 2023 Climate Action Plan Annual Monitoring Report](#) provides an overview of the City’s progress in achieving the CAP’s objectives.
  - The [West Hollywood Climate Action Dashboard](#) tracks and reports progress toward climate action goals. It includes the status of actions (on track, completed, etc.) and notes progress.

### Data

- King County is currently conducting a 2022 GHG inventory for all municipalities, including the City of Auburn. Once completed, it is recommended that the City of Auburn use this new 2022 inventory as its baseline for future updates.
- Auburn can access the VMT data from the [WSDOT website](#). See the table below for 2023 data.

| Auburn 2023 Total (All Public Roads) |               |            |            |                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|
|                                      | Centerline    | Lane       | Daily VMT  | Annual VMT     |
| King                                 | 222.18        | 472        | 846        | 308,962        |
| Pierce                               | 16.88         | 39         | 76         | 27,786         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>239.06</b> | <b>511</b> | <b>922</b> | <b>336,748</b> |

- Auburn can consider home-based and employment based VMT by census block where consistently available (see [VMT tool](#) commissioned by WSDOT for 2019).
- Auburn can track land use and housing permits using the [permit map](#).
- Auburn can track qualitative efforts on updating plans and regulations focusing on strategies found to be highly effective.
- The Washington State Department of Commerce [Climate Policy Explorer](#) allows jurisdictions to search and explore the climate Menu of Measures.
- WSDOT VMT Targets Reports are available for [2023](#) and [2024](#).
- The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association [Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions, Assessing Climate Vulnerabilities, and Advancing Health and Equity](#) provides methods to quantify GHG emission reductions from a specified



## RESILIENCE ACTIONS



## GHG REDUCTION ACTIONS



## OVERARCHING

PROGRAM  
TOOLS

list of measures, primarily focused on project-level actions. The Handbook also includes a method to assess potential benefits of different climate vulnerability reduction measures, as well as measures that can be implemented to improve health and equity.

## Future Action

- Designate Climate Element Implementation staff to implement, monitor, and report on actions consistent with the Auburn Climate Element
- Leverage partnerships to apply for grants to support Climate Element implementation
- Create an interdepartmental climate team to lead and coordinate climate action across city departments
- Conduct an environmental justice audit and incorporate assessments into the Land Use and Transportation Elements; seek to address the disproportionate environmental and health impacts exacerbated by climate change and ensure the equitable distribution of resources and benefits

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# Appendix A: City of Auburn CEIP Engagement Summary

See next page.

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# City of Auburn Climate Program Engagement Summary

## Overview

The City of Auburn (the City) developed a Climate Element (CE) in 2024, in compliance with Washington State House Bill 1181, which requires cities to integrate climate mitigation/resilience policies in their comprehensive plan updates. The City then sought to engage the Auburn community to gather meaningful input and encourage participation in the development of a Climate Element Implementation Plan that will incorporate climate strategies and measures.

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**CLIMATE  
COMMITMENT  
ACT**



The Auburn Climate Commitment Program is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act (CCA). The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work, thus reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is

available at [www.climate.wa.gov](http://www.climate.wa.gov).

## Engagement Objectives

The project team was composed of consultants from Cascadia Consulting Group (Cascadia for short) and City staff. They identified the following engagement objectives to ensure the successful development of a Climate Element Implementation Plan (implementation plan for short) that reflects community priorities for climate policy implementation:

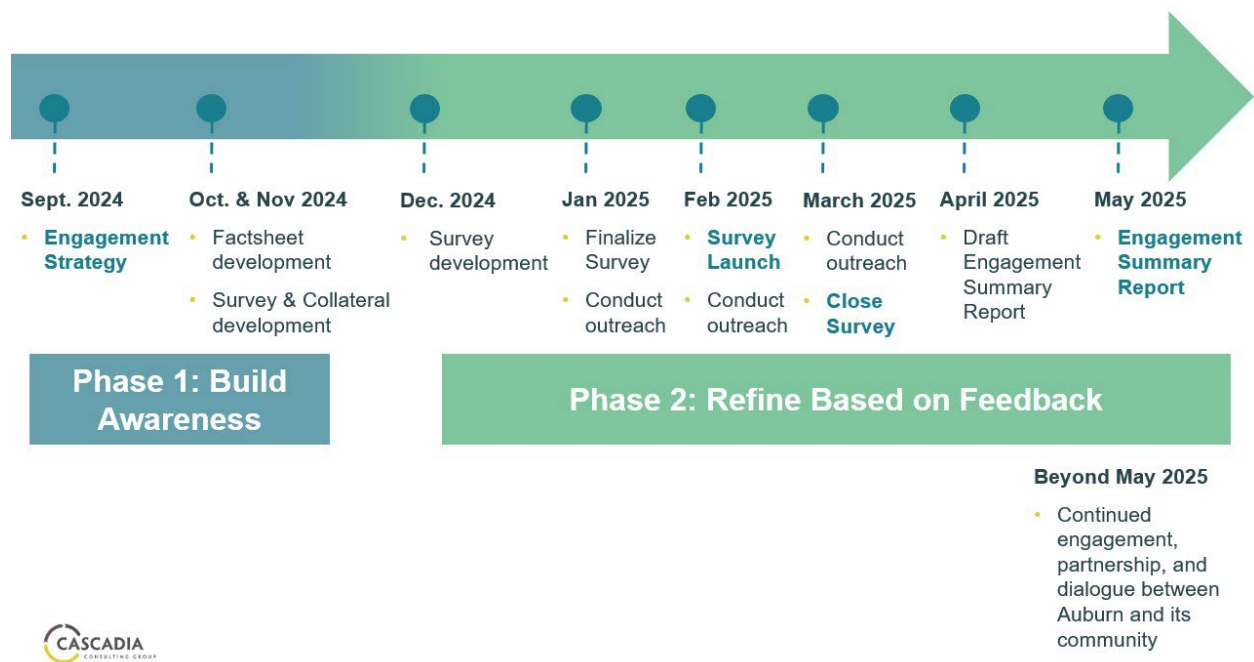
- Provide the opportunity for all who live and work in Auburn to participate in guiding the Climate Element Implementation Plan.
- Ensure a process that is open and transparent, culturally relevant, and accessible.
- Ask for input where public feedback can authentically influence plan development.



Engaging the Auburn community for development of the implementation plan was important to the City to ensure that community priorities and collective vision for a sustainable future were reflected, as well as inspire ongoing community participation.

## Engagement Timeline & Key Activities

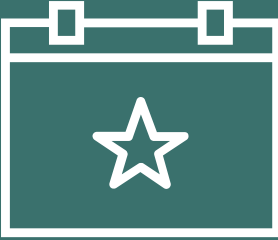


Through the development of the Engagement Plan, the project team outlined an engagement timeline that included five main activities over the course of nine months. The engagement timeline was created in coordination with the broader project timeline.



Community input was split into two main engagement phases: Build Awareness and Refine Based on Feedback. Each engagement activity asked for specific feedback and input on certain implementation plan elements.

The first engagement phase, Build Awareness, included the creation of a factsheet in five languages (English, Spanish, Tagalog, Ukrainian, and Russian) and the development of an online community survey available in both English and Spanish. During phase two, Refine Based on Feedback, we analyzed results from the Auburn community survey, verbal feedback from tabling events, and integrated them into the 5-year implementation plan.



|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|   |    |    |
| <p>Tabling</p>   | <p>Auburn Community Survey</p>  | <p>Open Houses and Board Meeting Presentations</p>  |
| <p>January and February 2025</p>   | <p>February and March 2025</p>  | <p>January and February 2025</p>  |
| <p>Tabling at various community events helped to establish connection with community members, spread the word about the community feedback survey, raise awareness of the program plan, and seek direct feedback on priorities for climate policy implementation strategies.</p> | <p>The Auburn community survey was hosted online, received 129 total responses, and gathered feedback from people regarding the City's ongoing climate program. The survey helped us gain a better understanding of priorities for climate actions and implementation strategies.</p> | <p>City staff led an open house and presented at two community organization board meetings to provide additional mediums to promote the survey and leave space for interested groups and community members to voice feedback and preferences for which implementation strategies to prioritize.</p> |

City staff pivoted from using the Engagement Tracker, a spreadsheet initially proposed as a way to document interactions during engagement events, preferring to record all notes in an open format engagement journal/Microsoft Word document.

## How to navigate this document

The following pages include summaries of feedback received throughout the engagement process.

- [Summary of Findings](#) (Page 92): Compilation of key themes heard across all engagement activities.
- [Auburn Community Survey](#) (Page 92): Overview of the survey and detailed analysis of survey responses.
- [City-Led Engagement Touchpoints](#) (Page 113): Summary of City-led engagement activities, including an open house and tabling.
- [Attachment A: Survey Open-ended Responses](#) (Page 117)



- [Attachment B: Tabling Activity Notes on Individual Comments](#) (Page 126)
- [Attachment C: Engagement Activity Posters and Factsheets](#) (Page 127)

## Summary of Findings

Across all the engagement activities, we heard the following key themes:

Theme # 1: Support for climate resilience and greenhouse gas emissions strategies

- Many community members have experienced climate impacts such as poor air quality and extreme heat and agree that the City should prioritize resilience strategies such as wildfire preparedness, evacuation planning, and water quality conservation
- The protection/preservation of trees, urban green spaces, and open spaces as well as natural spaces is another resilience strategy that was supported across all engagement activities
- There is strong collective support for GHG reduction policies surrounding the promotion and education of food waste diversion, organics and recycling programs

Theme # 2: Improve communication, inclusive engagement, and trust with the community

- Community members desire plain and simple language, frequent, and relatable communication
- Climate policies that are developed must be communicated through their implications to real-life impacts (health, bills, daily routines)
- Community members encouraged the city to strengthen outreach through HOAs, schools, tribes, local community groups, and digital platforms to advance collective impact

Theme # 3: Ensure accountability, affordability, and transparency

- Community members want adopted climate actions to have clear accountability tracking mechanisms and contingency plans in case of instability from political or funding changes
- Individuals highlight financial constraints as a barrier to action, suggesting that city-led actions are cost-efficient and accessible to all residents
- They also emphasize transparency of funding sources and project outcomes

## Auburn Community Survey



The purpose of the online survey was to gather insights from a diverse range of Auburn community members to inform the 5-year program plan through prioritization of climate resilience and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals and policies identified in the climate element. Survey objectives included the following:

- Community-driven identification of priorities for climate resilience and GHG emission reduction policy and implementation
- Understand current climate awareness and experience among Auburn community members
- Get input on a vision for a climate resilient future

The survey was promoted through a series of several in-person tabling events throughout Auburn by city staff, posted on the City's social media channels, and sent to residents through email newsletters and blogs.

The survey received 129 total responses. The survey was available online for from February 5<sup>th</sup> to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in both English and Spanish.

## Survey Key Themes

Based on the input received, the following are key themes emerged from survey feedback:

- Many shared they have experience climate impacts, most notably poor air quality from wildfire smoke and increased temperatures and heat waves.
- Respondents would like to see the prioritization for implementing resilience policy that:
  - Create natural disaster evacuation plans
  - Build community wildfire preparedness
  - Improve and expand urban forest management to minimize heat island effects
  - Strengthen water conservation efforts to protect quality and quantity
  - Adopt an urban forest master plan to build climate resilience
- Respondents would like to see the prioritization for implementing GHG emission reduction policy that:
  - Expand local residential composting programs for food waste diversion
  - Expand commercial recycling and organics collection
  - Support the development of construction recycling



- There are contradictory viewpoints on the urgency of climate change and the role of the city to take action.
- Respondents appear most likely to engage with the city through polls/surveys and newsletters.
- Actions that the city of Auburn chooses to take must be focused, practical, and cost-efficient.
- Respondents mainly struggle with financial constraints. Over half of respondents (56%) indicated that cost or resources or other competing economic demands prevented them from taking climate action.

## Detailed Survey Results

Below is a detailed summary of the responses for each of the questions, organized by each survey section.

### DEMOGRAPHICS AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION

#### Q1: How would you best describe how you interact with the Auburn community? (number of respondents (n) = 129)

Respondents were able to select all that applied. Most who participated in this survey owned residences in Auburn (73%), followed by those who work in Auburn (19.4%).

| Answer choice   | Response Percentage | Individual response counts |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|
| I own a residence in Auburn                                   | 72.1%               | 93                         |
| I rent a residence in Auburn                                  | 9.3%                | 12                         |
| I work in Auburn  | 19.4%               | 25                         |
| I go to school in Auburn                                      | 3.9%                | 5                          |
| I own a business or property in Auburn                        | 10.1%               | 13                         |
| I live, work, or go to school just outside Auburn city limits | 11.6%               | 15                         |
| I frequently visit Auburn for recreation purposes             | 14.7%               | 19                         |
| I frequently visit Auburn for shopping purposes               | 28.7%               | 37                         |
| Other (please specify)  | 6.2%                | 8                          |

**Q2: How would you prefer to participate in the City of Auburn's climate program? In other words, what would be the best way for the City to involve you in the future? Please select your top three methods. (n = 124)**

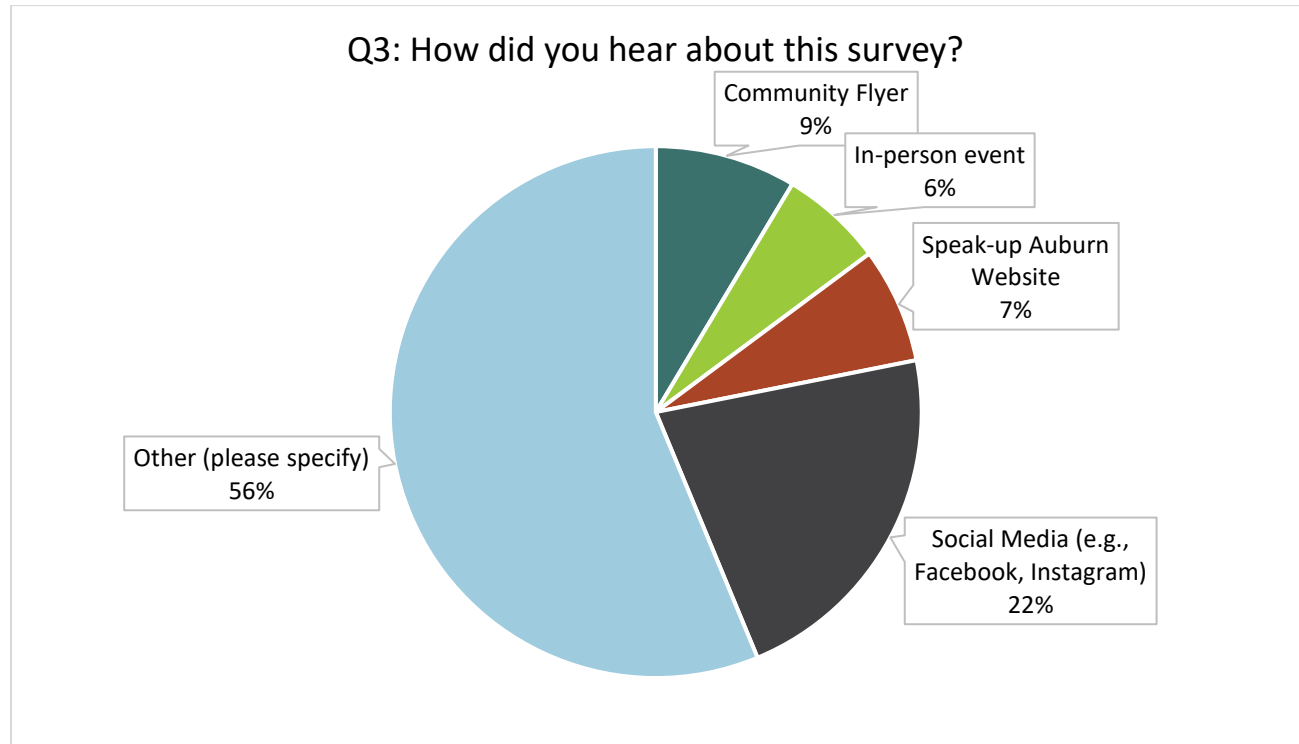
Respondents could select all that apply. The top three preferred methods of involvement selected were taking surveys/polls (77%), email newsletters (44%), and online submission of feedback and questions through online workshops, recordings, comment platforms (40%). Notably, another 31% of respondents indicated that they preferred in-person meetings and events, such as workshops, open houses, and tabling events.

| Answer choice   | Response Percentage | Individual count |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| At in person meetings and events (e.g. workshops, open houses, tabling at community events)     | 30.7%               | 38               |
| Take surveys/polls  | 76.6%               | 95               |
| Email newsletters   | 43.6%               | 54               |
| Invitations to board/committee meetings and be able to provide public comment                   | 18.6%               | 23               |
| Call or email City staff or elected officials directly  | 12.9%               | 16               |
| Submit questions and feedback online (e.g. online workshops, recordings, and comment platforms) | 39.5%               | 49               |
| Other (please specify)  | 4.0%                | 5                |

**Q3: How did you hear about this survey? (n = 128)**

Most respondents (56%) selected the “other” choice, of which 63 specified an email/newsletter from the city of Auburn or email from the mayor. The second highest response category (22%) indicated that they heard about the survey from social media.

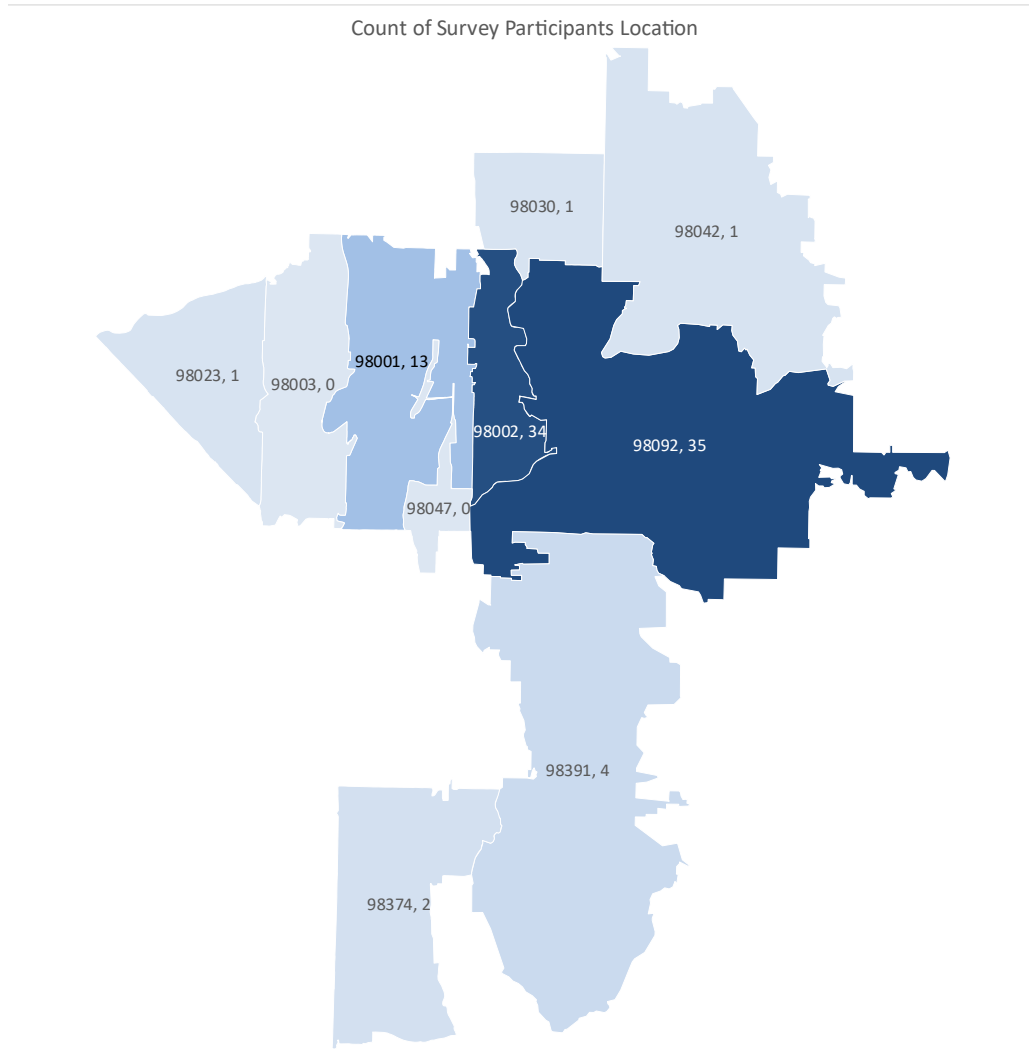




### Q21: Where do you live? (Zip Code) (n=93)

93 respondents answered this question. As shown in the figure below, the majority of zip codes represented in the survey respondents are concentrated in the 98002 and 98092 area codes of Auburn, WA, with 34 and 35 responses respectively. Auburn's 98001 area code received the next highest count, with 13 responses. Seven other zip codes were represented in the survey with four or fewer responses from Bonney Lake, Federal Way, Kent, and Puyallup. Two zip codes, one from Seattle (98126) and another from Tacoma (98403), were omitted from the map to make it easier to display.

*See figure on next page.*



**Q22: What is your gender? (n = 92)**

Of those who answered this question (92 answered), most survey respondents identified as female (41%), followed by male (39% responses).

| Answer choice                | Response Percentage | Individual Count |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Female                       | 41.3%               | 38               |
| Male                         | 39.1%               | 36               |
| Non-binary or non-conforming | 1.1%                | 1                |
| Genderqueer                  | 1.1%                | 1                |
| Prefer not to answer.        | 13.0%               | 12               |
| Other (please specify)       | 4.4%                | 4                |



### Q23: Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnicity? (n= 94)

Most survey respondents identified as white or Caucasian (64%). Other top answer choices included prefer not to answer (17%) and other (10%). Other identities of survey takers included multiracial (8.5%), Asian or Asian American (4.3%), and Black or African American (2.1%).

Notably, this deviates from the proportions of racial demographics in the U.S. Census Bureau’s community profile of Auburn, where 55% identify as white, 15% identify as Black/African American, 21% as Hispanic/Latino, and 15% as Asian.

| Answer choice                                      | Response Percentage | Individual Count |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Asian or Asian American                            | 4.3%                | 4                |
| Black or African American                          | 2.1%                | 2                |
| Hispanic or Latino                                 | 2.1%                | 2                |
| Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab American    | 0.0%                | 0                |
| Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native | 2.1%                | 2                |
| Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander          | 0.0%                | 0                |
| White or Caucasian                                 | 63.8%               | 60               |
| Multiracial  | 8.5%                | 8                |
| Prefer not to answer                               | 17.0%               | 16               |
| Other (please specify)                             | 10.6%               | 10               |

### Q24: What language do you primarily speak at home? (n=93)

English was overwhelmingly the main response of survey respondents, with 92% indicating that English is the primary language spoken at home. Some declined to answer (6.5%), and other languages including Spanish, Russian, Tagalog, Ukrainian, Vietnamese all had at least one person indicate that it is their primary language at home. One person also specified that they spoke Thai at home.

| Answer choice | Response Percentage | Individual Count |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Arabic        | 0.0%                | 0                |
| Chinese       | 0.0%                | 0                |
| Dari          | 0.0%                | 0                |
| English       | 92.5%               | 86               |
| Korean        | 0.0%                | 0                |
| Marshallese   | 0.0%                | 0                |



| Answer choice          | Response Percentage | Individual Count |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Pashto                 | 0.0%                | 0                |
| Punjabi                | 0.0%                | 0                |
| Russian                | 1.1%                | 1                |
| Spanish                | 2.2%                | 2                |
| Swahili                | 0.0%                | 0                |
| Tagalog                | 1.1%                | 1                |
| Ukrainian              | 1.1%                | 1                |
| Vietnamese             | 1.1%                | 1                |
| Prefer not to answer   | 6.5%                | 6                |
| Other (please specify) | 3.2%                | 3                |

### Q25: What is your age? (n = 95)

Most respondents (36.8%) indicated they were over the age of 65, followed by nearly a quarter (24.5%) of respondents were ages 50 to 64. Only one respondent was under the age of 21, despite nearly 22% of Auburn's population being under 19 years of age. This deviates from the demographics listed in Auburn's Community Profile, shared in the Auburn's Engagement Plan, where only 13% of Auburn's population is over the age of 65, a fifth of the population are between the ages of 45-64.

| Answer choice        | Response Percentage | Individual Count |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Under 21             | 1.1%                | 1                |
| 21 to 34             | 9.5%                | 9                |
| 35 to 49             | 15.8%               | 15               |
| 50 to 64             | 24.2%               | 23               |
| 65 or older          | 36.8%               | 35               |
| Prefer not to answer | 12.6%               | 12               |

### Q26: Do you identify as having a disability? This can include physical, mental, emotional, or sensory disabilities. (n = 94)

More than half (58.5%) of respondents did not identify as having a disability, with some (23.4%) identifying as having a disability and the rest declined to answer.

| Answer choice        | Response Percentage | Individual Count |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Yes                  | 23.4%               | 22               |
| No                   | 58.5%               | 55               |
| Prefer not to answer | 18.1%               | 17               |



## CONCERNS & EXPERIENCES WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

### Q4: Generally, how concerned are you about extreme weather and the impacts of climate change in your community? (n=128)

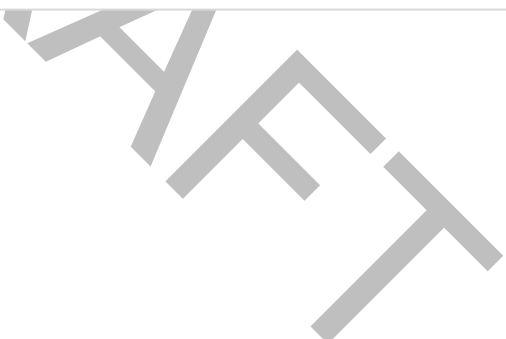
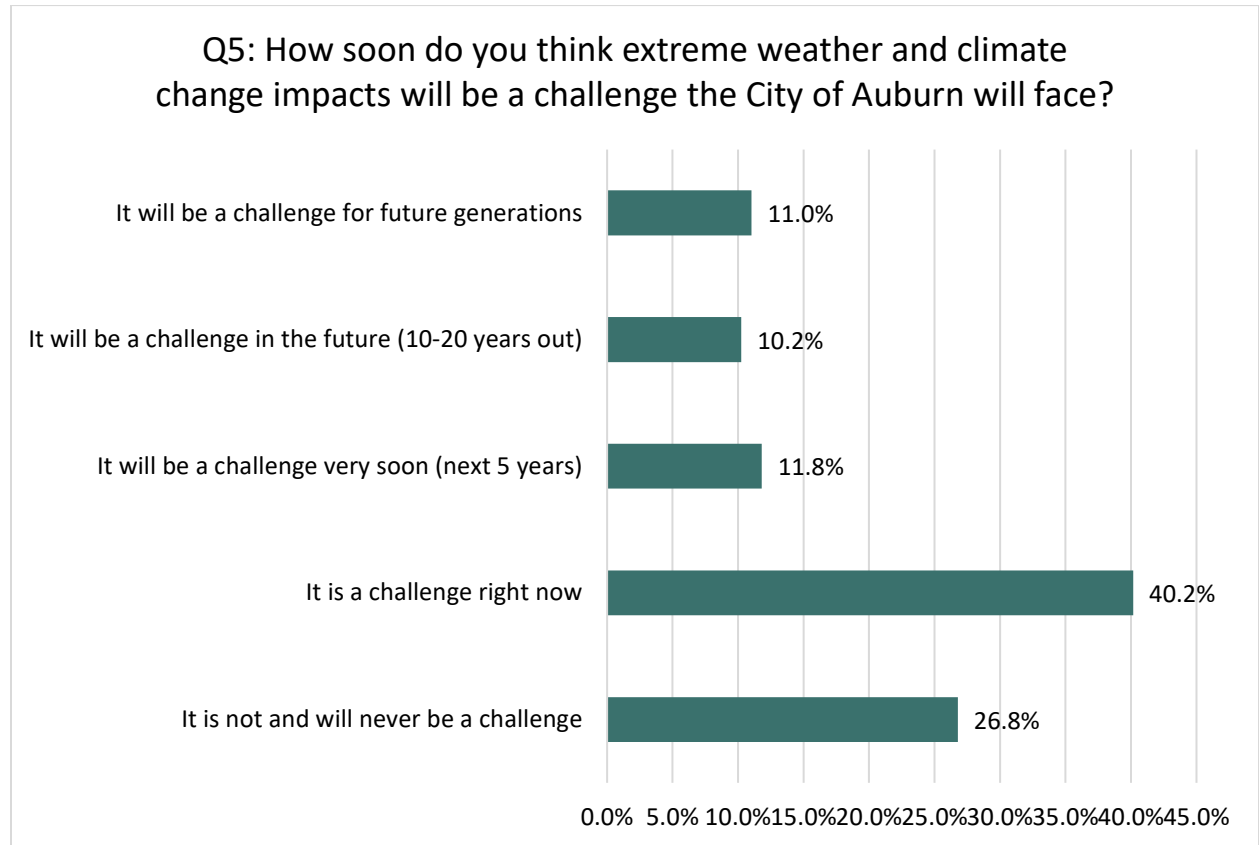
More than half of respondents (56%) indicated that they were concerned, 32% noting extremely concerned and 24% being moderately concerned. Notably, 27% of respondents noted they were not at all concerned about extreme weather and climate impacts.

| Answer choice        | Response Percentage | Individual Count |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Extremely concerned  | 32.0%               | 41               |
| Moderately concerned | 24.2%               | 31               |
| Neutral              | 8.6%                | 11               |
| Slightly concerned   | 8.6%                | 11               |
| Not at all concerned | 26.6%               | 34               |

### Q5: How soon do you think extreme weather and climate change impacts will be a challenge the City of Auburn will face? (n = 127)

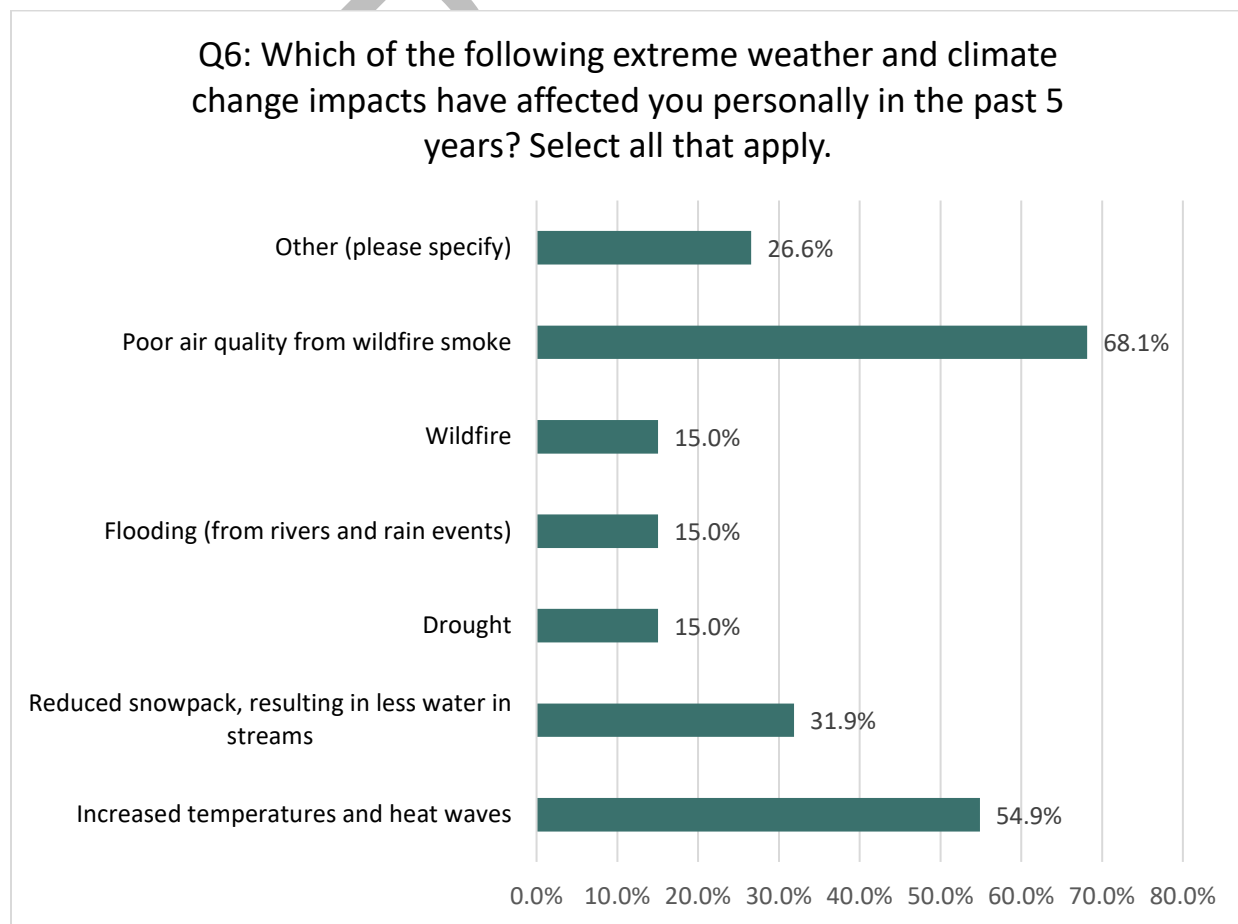
Most respondents (40.2%) indicated that climate change is a current challenge that Auburn faces. Contrarily, a little over a quarter of responses (26.8%) indicated that it not and never be a challenge. Responses were fairly distributed between the rest of the answer choices (10 to 11.8% each).





**Q6: Which of the following extreme weather and climate change impacts have affected you personally in the past 5 years? (n = 113)**

Respondents were allowed to select as many choices that applied. More than two thirds (68%) of respondents were affected by poor air quality from wildfire smoke. More than half of respondents (55%) indicated that they had been affected by increased temperatures and heat waves, with another third (32%) of respondents being affected by reduced snowpack and less water in streams. Exactly 15% of respondents were distributed amongst drought, flooding, and wildfire. Notably, around 27% of respondents selected the “other” category and most of these responses indicated sentiment that they were either not at all aware of any impact to their lives, in denial or dismissive of climate change, or critical of too much money being spent towards climate.



**Q7: Please share any details or personal experiences related to extreme weather events or climate change impacts you have experienced in Auburn.**

The following major themes appeared from the set of open responses. Please see [Attachment A: Survey Open-ended Responses](#) for all submitted open-ended responses.

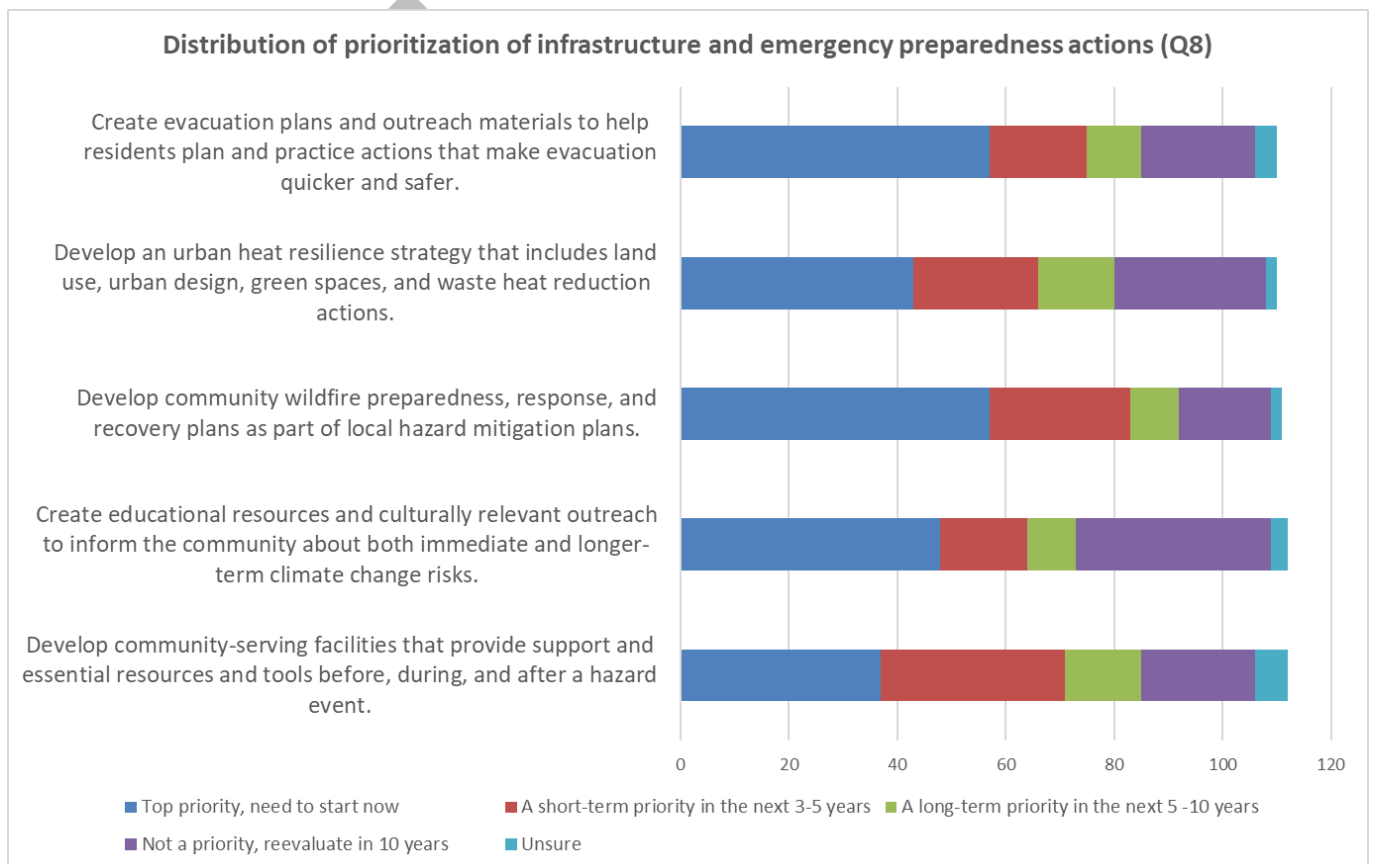
- Many shared that they are experiencing direct and growing impacts to their livelihood due to heat, smoke, and air quality.
- These climate impacts are affecting health and accessibility, disrupting lifestyles, and home modifications.
- There were expressed concerns for vulnerable populations who weren't represented in the survey responses.
- Responses also included general climate change skepticism and dismissal.
- Many expressed doubts about the reality of climate change and its relationship to human activities. Specifically, some expressed distrust in climate policy and the government's choice of spending and focused on potential economic consequences.



## PRIORITIES FOR BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

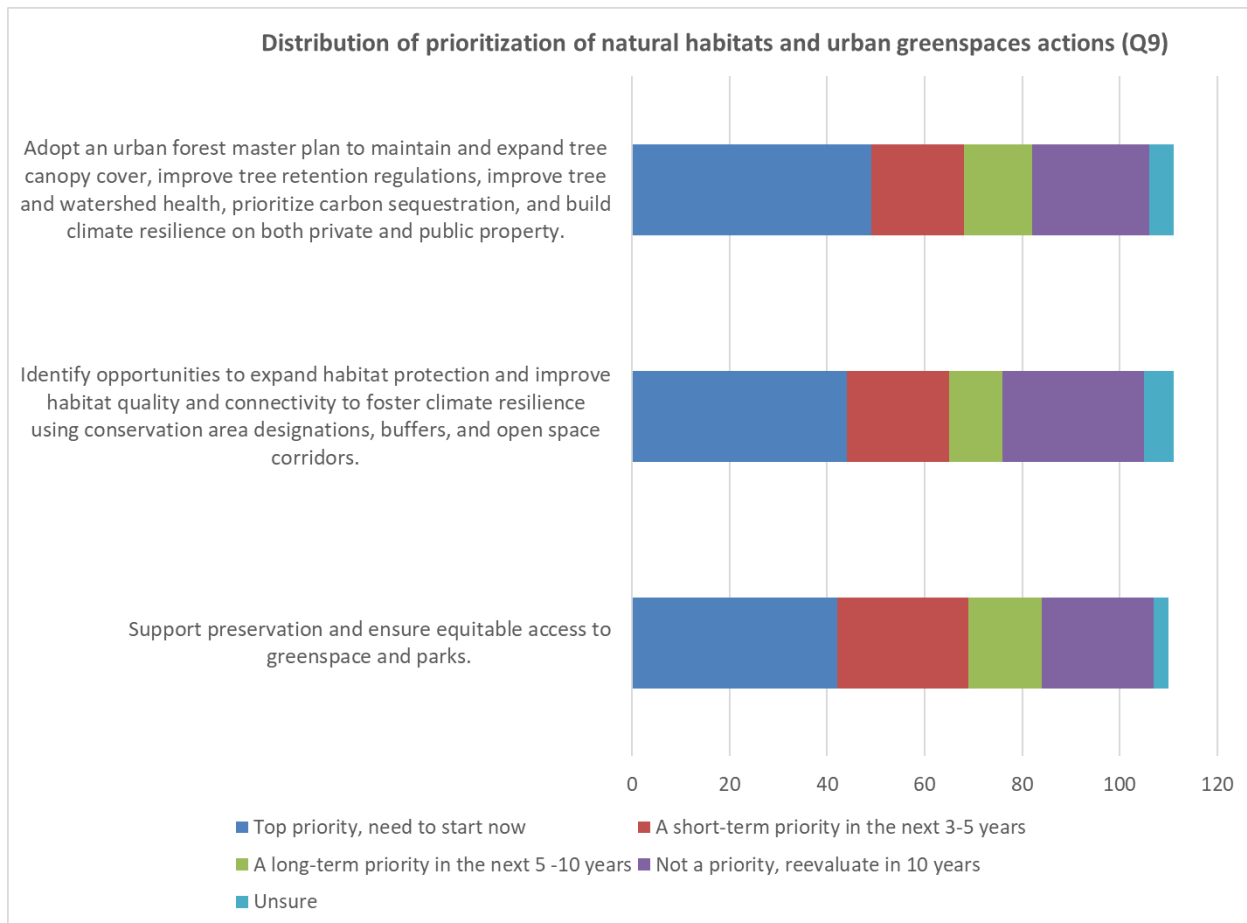
### Q8: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to infrastructure and emergency preparedness. (n = 112)

Half of respondents (51%) indicated that the action to develop community wildfire preparedness is a top priority. Respondents also felt similarly (52%) about creating evacuation plans and outreach materials for residents being a top priority. Notably, respondents were relatively divided on how to prioritize the action to create educational resources and outreach on climate change risks, with 43% indicating that it should be a top priority and 32% indicating that it should not be a priority.



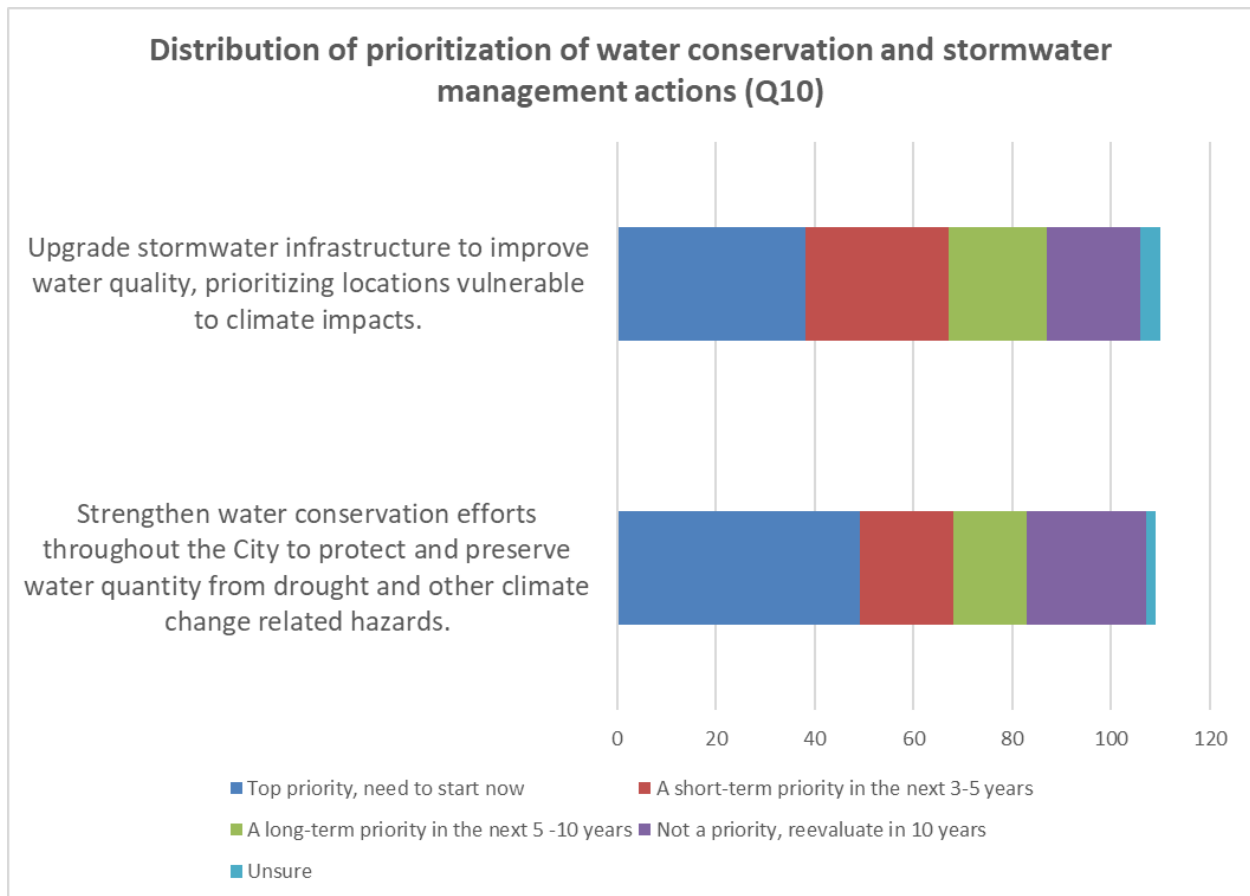
### Q9: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to natural habitats & urban greenspaces actions. (n = 111)

Most respondents (44%) indicated that adopting an urban forest master plan should be a top priority. Nearly 40% of respondents also indicated that ensuring equitable access to greenspace and identifying opportunities to expand habitat protection were top priorities, but a significant fraction (21% and 26% respectively) also indicated that these same actions should not be a priority.



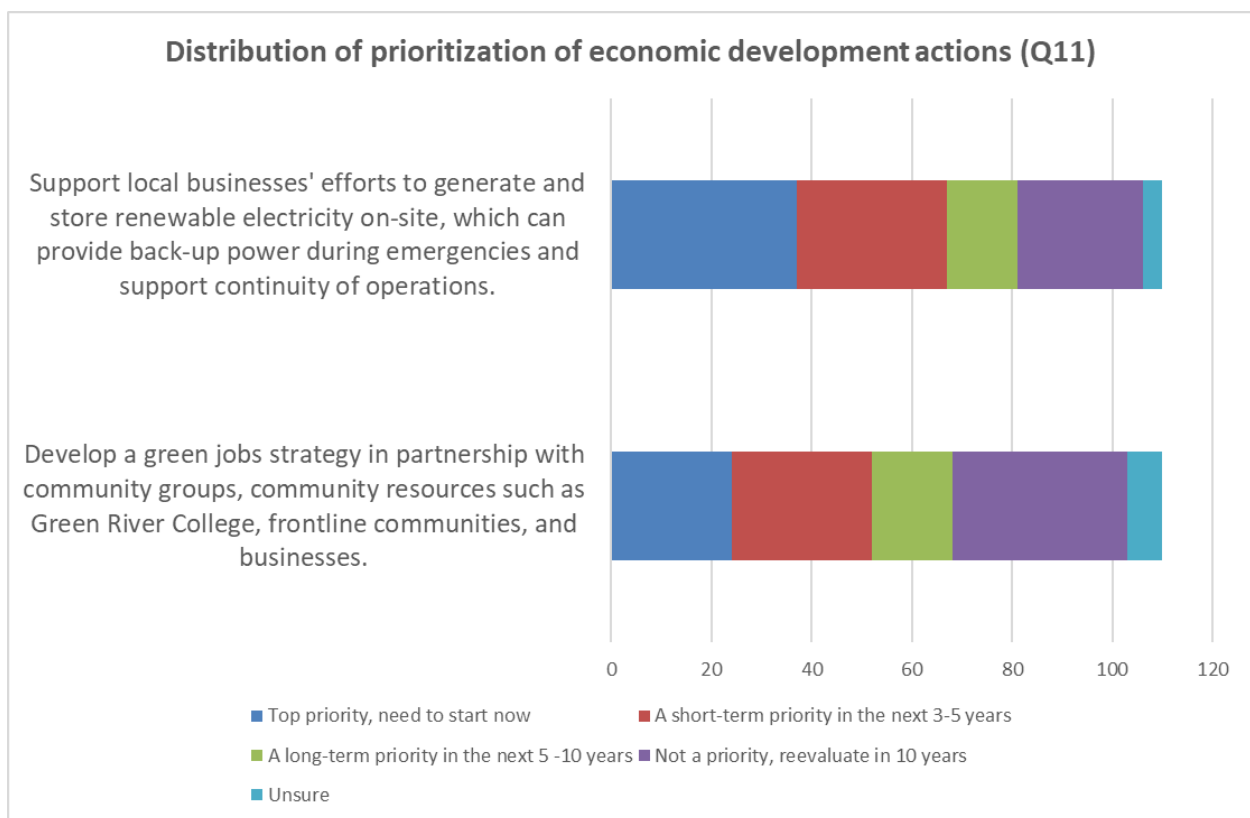
**Q10: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to water conservation & stormwater management. (n = 110)**

Most respondents (45%) identified the action of strengthening water conservation efforts to protect quality and quantity from climate change as a top priority, while 22% thought that it is not a priority within the next 10 years. The action to upgrade stormwater infrastructure saw a little less divided support from survey participants, with 35% selecting it as a top priority and another 26% selecting it as a short-term priority.



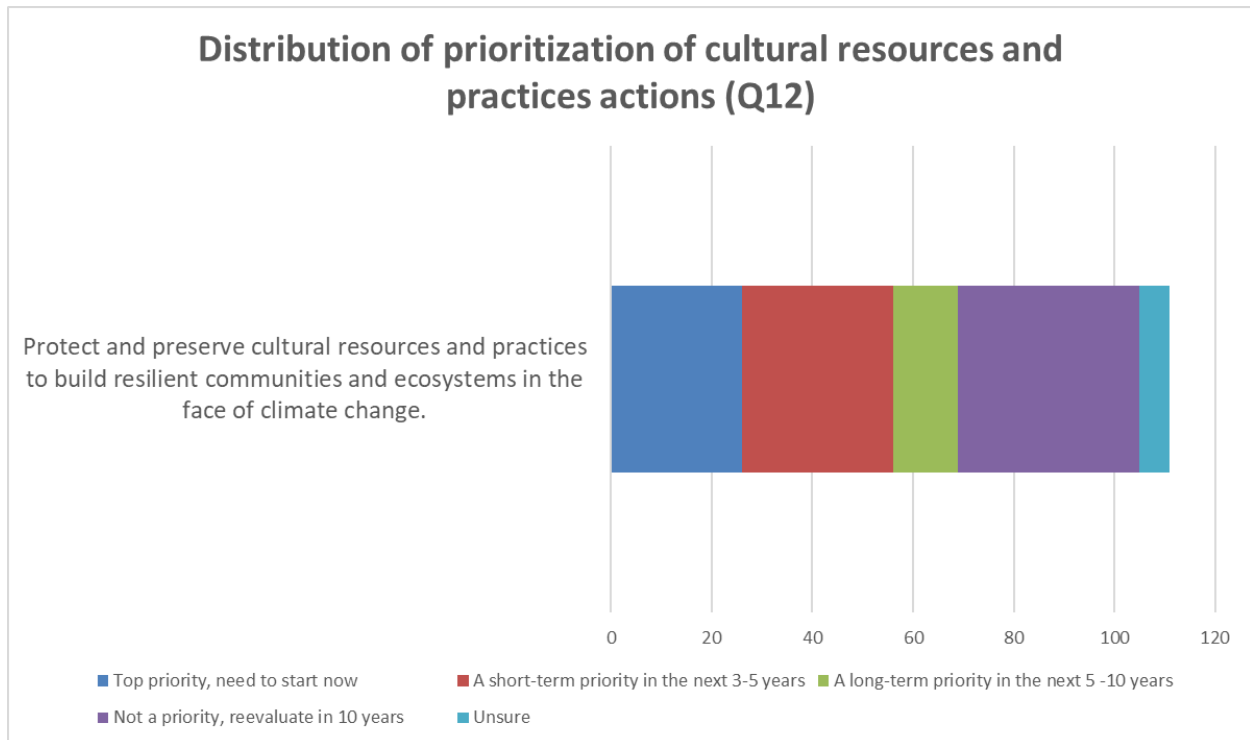
**Q11: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to economic development. (n = 111)**

The action to support local businesses' on-site renewable electricity generation and storage saw 34% of respondents indicating that it should be a top priority and another 27% indicating that it should be a short-term priority. Nearly a quarter of respondents (23%) indicated that it should not at all be a priority. A third of respondents (32%) indicated that the action to develop a green jobs strategy was not a priority within the next 10 years, though 22% saw it as a top priority and another 25% view it as a short-term 3 to 5-year priority.



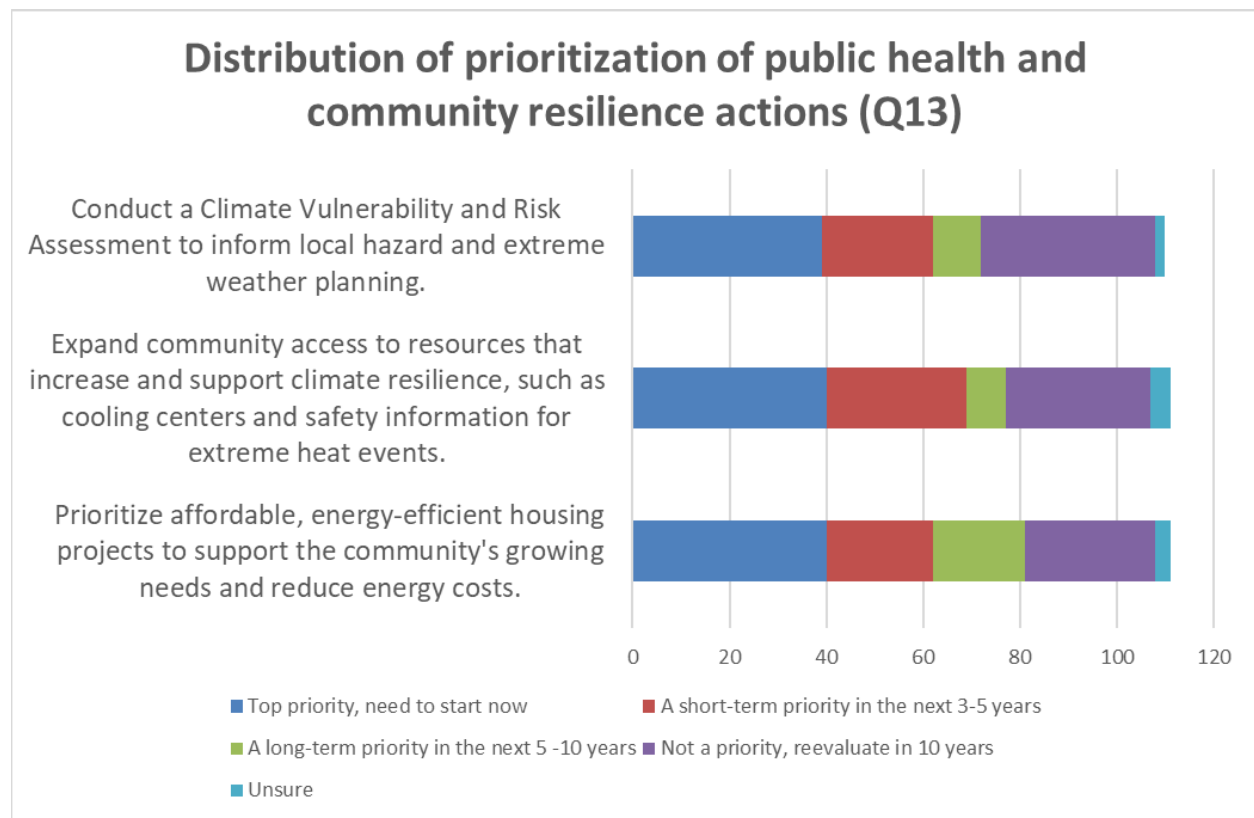
**Q12: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to cultural resources and practices. (n = 111)**

Nearly a third of respondents (32%) indicated that this action should not be a priority, though similar to the previous questions, 23% of respondents indicated that it should be a top priority with another 27% of respondents indicating it should be a short term 3–5-year priority.



**Q13: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to public health and community resilience. (n = 111)**

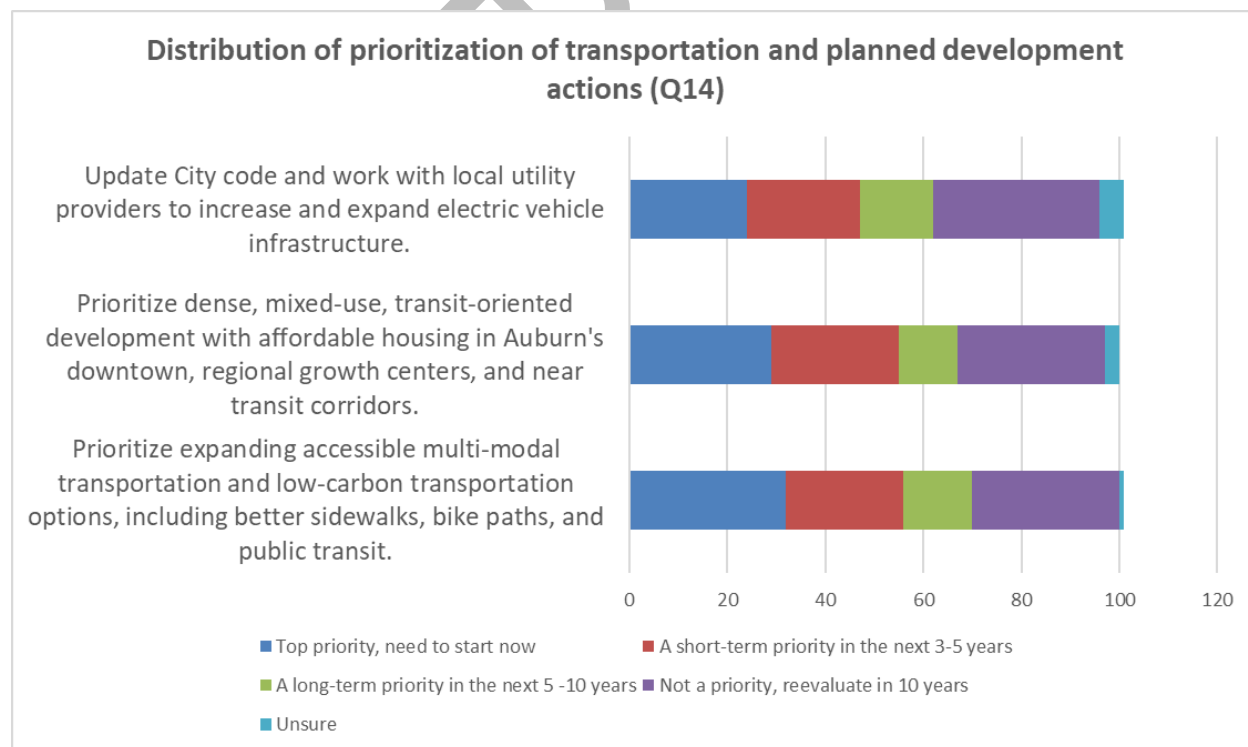
Conducting a climate vulnerability and risk assessment was an action with one of the most relatively divided results, with 35% of respondents indicating that it should be a top priority but 33% indicating that it should not be a priority in the next 10 years. However, another 21% of respondents selected it as a short-term priority, further bolstering sentiment that a vulnerability assessment can be prioritized.



## PRIORITIES FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

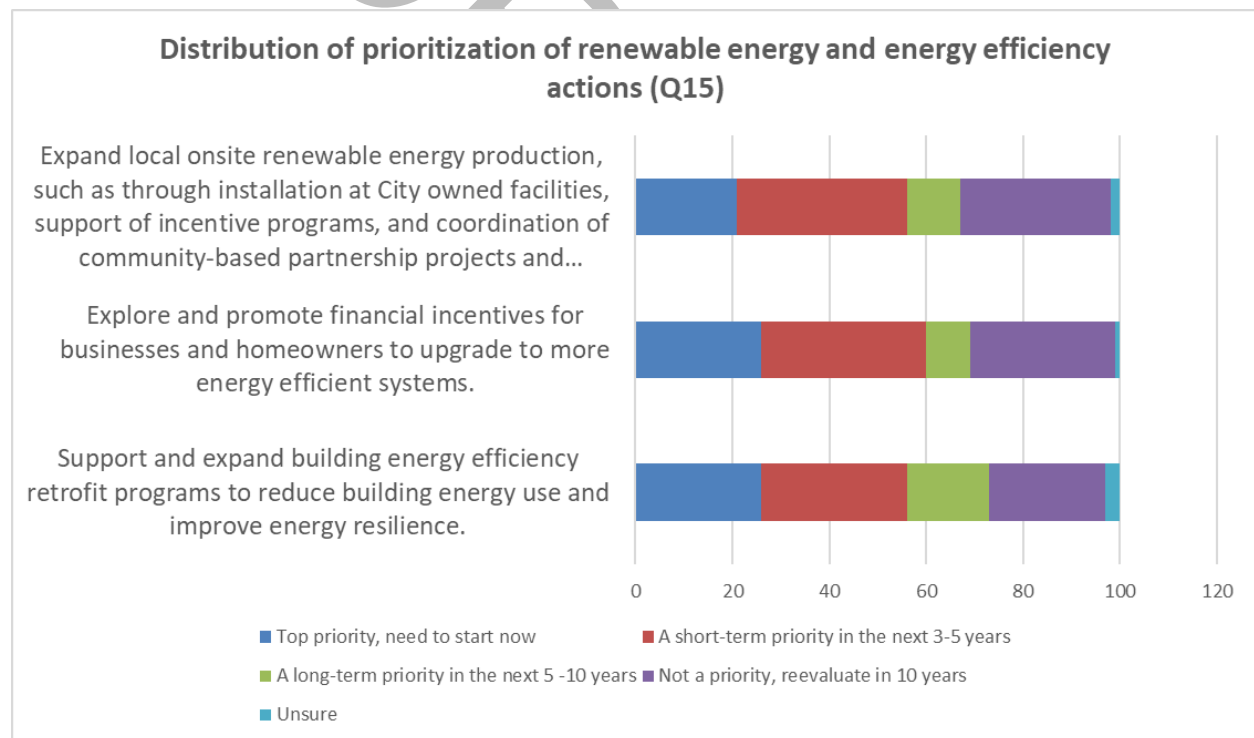
### Q14: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to transportation and planned development. (n = 101)

Support for each of these actions saw somewhat divided opinion amongst Auburn respondents, with 30 to 34% of respondents marking each of the three actions as not a top priority in the next 10 years. However, the prioritization of expanding accessible multi-modal and low-carbon transportation options was marked as a top priority by 32% of respondents, with a further 24% identifying it as a short-term priority. Similarly, 29% of respondents viewed the prioritization of dense, mixed-use development with affordable housing in Auburn’s downtown as a top priority and another 26% selecting it as a short-term priority. The action to update City code to expand electric vehicle infrastructure saw slightly less positive support, with only 24% selecting it as a top priority and another 23% selecting it as a short-term priority.



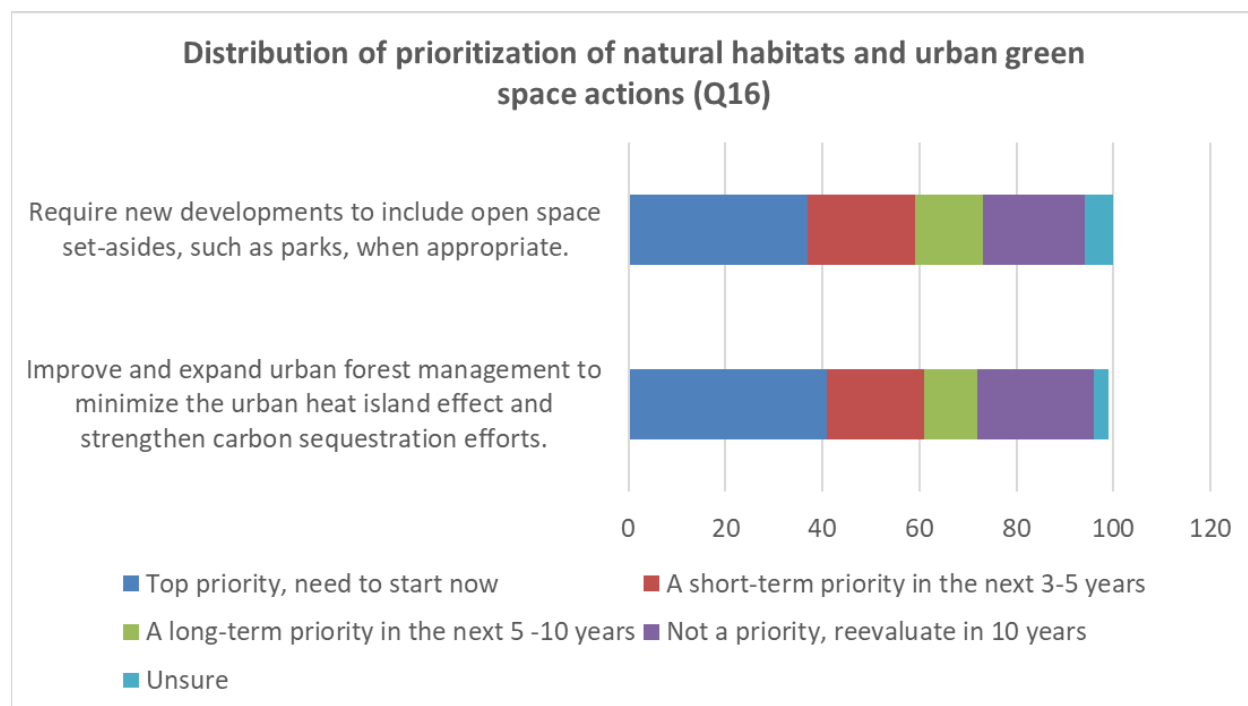
### Q15: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. (n = 100)

In a similar trend to Q14, the three renewable energy/energy efficiency actions saw slightly more divided support. A quarter of respondents (26%) identified supporting and building energy efficiency retrofit programs as a top priority, 30% saw it as a short-term priority, and 24% saw it as not a priority within 10 years. The actions to explore and promote financial incentives to upgrade energy efficiency and expand local renewable energy production and community-based partnership programs were viewed by 30 to 31% of respondents as not a priority. However, the financial incentives action was supported by 26% of respondents as a top priority and another 34% as a short-term priority. Expanding local renewable energy production was viewed slightly more ambivalently, with only 21% of respondents believing that it should be a top priority and 35% of respondents selecting it as a short-term priority.



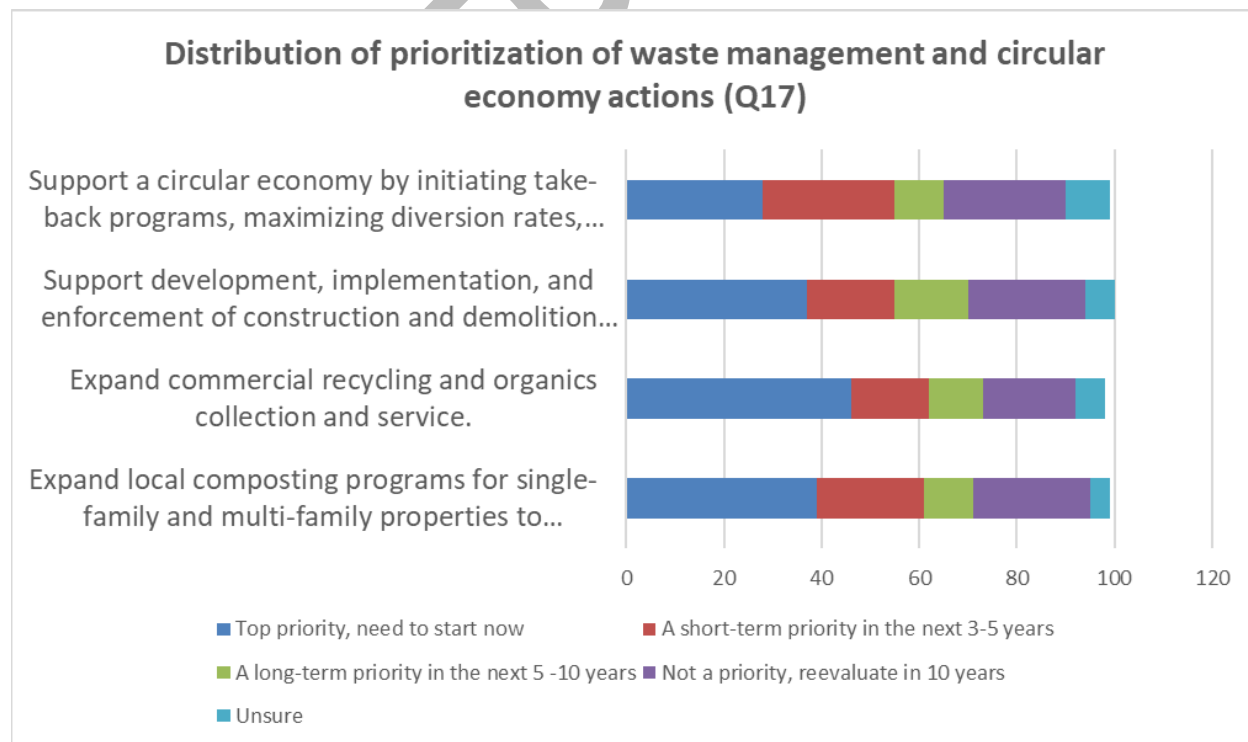
**Q16: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to natural habitats and urban greenspace. (n = 100)**

Respondents more strongly viewed the natural habitats and urban greenspace actions as top priorities, however. A significant number of respondents (41%) identified improving and expanding urban forest management to minimize heat island effects as a top priority, with 20% viewing it as a short-term priority and 24% indicating that it should not be a priority. The action to require new developments to include open space set-asides was supported by 37% of respondents as a top priority, 22% as a short-term priority, and 21% as not a priority.



**Q17: Please review and indicate how you would prioritize implementation for the following actions related to waste management and circular economy. (n = 100)**

Respondents were also more in agreement with waste management and circular economy actions. The action to expand commercial recycling and organics collection saw strong support as a top priority amongst all other actions, with nearly half of respondents (47%) agreeing that it should be a top priority. Only 16% saw it as a short-term priority and 19% as not a priority. The actions to expand local composting programs for single and multi-family properties for food waste diversion as well as supporting development and implementation of construction recycling had similar distributions of support, as 39% and 37% of respondents respectively viewed them as a top priority, 22% and 18% as a short-term priority, and 24% viewed each as not a priority. Supporting a circular economy through take-back programs saw a more evenly distributed split of support, with 28% indicating it as a top priority, 27% indicating it as a short-term priority, and 25% indicating it should not be a priority.



## ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

### Q18: Personally, what are some barriers that might prevent you from taking climate action? (n = 95)

Most respondents (56%) indicated that cost, resources, or other competing economic demands prevent them from taking climate action. Many others (33.7%) indicated that outside forces and larger-scale changes need to be made and that individual action would have limited impact.

| Answer choice  | Response Percentage | Individual Count |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Time commitment - I do not have enough time to think about climate change.   | 19.0%               | 18               |
| Lack of educational resources - There are not enough educational resources that can inform me about how to take action.  | 22.1%               | 21               |
| Cost or Resources - I have other competing economic demands in my life that are more important to me and my family.  | 55.8%               | 53               |
| Realizing benefits - I don't plan to live in my current home long enough to recover the costs of making changes to my home to reduce its carbon footprint. OR I live in an apartment and cannot make the types of changes that are needed to reduce my carbon footprint. | 26.3%               | 25               |
| Level of care and interest - I do not think there is enough of a crisis that I personally need to do anything to reduce the risks of climate change.   | 27.4%               | 26               |
| Outside forces - I feel that the changes need to be at larger scale than what I can do as an individual- nothing I do will make any difference   | 33.7%               | 32               |
| Other (please specify)   | 20.0%               | 19               |

### Q19: Please describe any challenges or barriers you and/or your household/family may face in addressing extreme weather and climate change.

The top themes that emerged from respondents' open responses were related to financial constraints and a lack of education resulting in skepticism towards climate change and government action. Please see [Attachment A: Survey Open-ended Responses](#) for full submissions.



- Many respondents cited barriers such as the high cost of energy efficiency upgrades and permitting and regulatory processes that seemed complex and daunting.
- Some residents noted that they were in lower-income situations or were older adults with fixed incomes that limited their ability to do more than basic home repairs.
- From these responses, a sentiment for greater tax credits and local incentives began to emerge.
- Many reflected viewpoints that government action was more performative than impactful, calling for more critical and efficient use of spending.
- The other portion of these types of responses voiced viewpoints that climate change and extreme weather is nothing new and that nothing could be done as a result, or reflected conspiracy theories such as “chemtrails” or viewpoints that climate change discussions were “political scare tactics” or “fearmongering”.

## Q20: Is there anything else you would like us to consider for the development of the City of Auburn's Climate Element 5-year program plan?

Open-ended responses included desires for focused, practical, and cost-efficient action, or viewpoints that Auburn has other priorities. Key themes are summarized below, and please see [Attachment A: Survey Open-ended Responses](#) for full submissions.

- Respondents' calls for these measurable and cost-effective actions wanted to avoid performative, non-measurable actions,
- There was support for specific actions, such as tree planting, effective and fiscally responsible clean energy, and infrastructure upgrades.
- Themes similar to the previous two open responses of opposition to climate action were also present amongst responses, with denial of the climate crisis, desire for Auburn to focus on other visible problems such as crime, public safety, and homelessness instead, or concern that the government would waste money due to past ineffective programs.
- Other sentiments shared were simple words of encouragement, support for the climate program, and excitement that some form of action was in motion.

## City-Led Engagement Touchpoints



With support from Cascadia, Auburn used the City’s official social media accounts and website to provide regular updates about the project and upcoming engagement activities to all interested community members and partners. Frequent communications through emails, website updates, and social media posts proved to be an effective way to promote other engagement activities like the survey and tabling events to the public (see [Survey Results: How did you hear about this survey?](#)).

Supplemented by engagement posters and factsheets made by Cascadia, City staff led a series of engagement activities between January through February 2025 to seek community input and promote the survey. City staff tabled at various community [events](#), presented at two community organization board meetings, and led one [open house](#).

## Open House

The city held one in-person open house to further engage Auburn community members. This open house served as an opportunity to educate the community on the Climate Element, gather feedback to inform the Climate Element Implementation Plan, and promote the Auburn community survey. Cascadia provided engagement materials, including factsheets and project posters. The City of Auburn led one open house event and presented at two board meetings, with specific dates listed below:

*Table 1. Open House and Briefing Date and Locations*

| Date      | Event  | Audience                           | Total Interactions |
|-----------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2/04/2025 | City of Auburn Tree Board Briefing             | City of Auburn Tree Board members  | N/A                |
| 2/04/2025 | City of Auburn Parks Board Briefing            | City of Auburn Parks Board members | N/A                |
| 2/19/2025 | Open House at City Council Chambers (4 – 6 pm) | Public                             | 6                  |

## WHAT WE HEARD

Below are key pieces of feedback that Auburn community members shared during the Tree and Parks board meetings as well as the open house at City Council Chambers. These themes reflect both verbal points shared as well as sticky notes from open house attendees for the posters. Please see [Attachment B: Tabling Activity Notes on Individual Comments](#) for notes.



Theme # 1: Ensure accountability and long-term practicality of climate policies

- Community members desire clear accountability and compliance mechanisms of climate goals and programs
- Open house attendees voiced concerns over political or funding changes destabilizing climate initiatives and highlighted the importance of contingency planning

Theme # 2: Preserve open spaces and maintain environmental protections

- Participants voiced a desire particularly to protect the Segale/old mine site
- They also want to maintain tree retention codes and encourage development that seeks to preserve green spaces in both private and public sectors

Theme # 3: Improve inclusive community engagement and communication

- Attendees suggested working with tribes, HOAs, schools, and neighborhood groups to build trust, education, and awareness of climate-related information
- The climate program must promote and connect with people who volunteer at Earth Day cleanup events
- Communication should connect high level climate actions to people's everyday lives to make policies personal and tangible (example: water quality, utility bills, missed important life events)
- Use plain, accessible, frequent, and transparent language when communicating
- Proactively combat misinformation and maintain transparency on funding sources

## Tabling

Promoting the project survey at places where Auburn residents already gather was a key strategy in the Engagement Plan. Posters displaying the Climate Element and project information, half-sheets, and the public survey feedback opportunities were all promoted at in-person events and local gathering spaces through tabling. The posters and factsheets used at tabling events to support City staff can be found in [Attachment C: Engagement Activity Posters and Factsheets](#).



Tabling at various events and locations was the main form of in-person engagement for the City of Auburn. Tabling occurred between January and February 2025. City staff identified and staffed eight events or locations for tabling. Attendance/the number of interactions was not tracked at these tabling events. Individuals engaged in conversation and stopped by the tables to learn more from city staff, as reflected in the takeaways below.

The City of Auburn led the following tabling events on specific dates:

*Table 2. Tabling Event Date and Locations*

| Date      | Event   |
|-----------|---|
| 1/29/2025 | City of Auburn Les Gove Community Center                      |
| 2/08/2025 | King County Library in Auburn during Puget Sound Energy Event |
| 2/11/2025 | Green River College Auburn Center                             |
| 2/12/2025 | King County Library   |
| 2/13/2025 | Green River College Auburn Center                             |
| 2/18/2025 | Green River College Main Campus                               |
| 2/20/2025 | Green River College Main Campus                               |
| 2/21/2025 | White River Valley Museum                                     |

## WHAT WE HEARD

Below are key pieces of feedback that Auburn community members shared at various tabling events:

### Theme # 1: Enhance green infrastructure

- Strong community interest in increasing tree canopy, developing and preserving more parks and open greenspaces, and protecting natural spaces such as wetlands and streams
- Incorporate green space into new housing projects and keep trees in private developments
- Address cost barriers to solar energy and other renewable energy expansion

### Theme # 2: Improve waste reduction and recycling

- Some individuals voiced a desire for better recycling education, particularly in multifamily households
- Suggestions to provide clearer information on recycling rules

### Theme # 3: Expand community climate awareness and collaboration

- Calls from the community for more public information sharing on climate emergency preparedness and hazards



- Many called out potential partnerships between businesses and programs such as EnviroStars, Climate Alliance of the South Sound, neighboring cities, and local Tribes

## Next Steps

Throughout the project, community feedback compiled in this summary report has incrementally been and will continue to be integrated into the draft Climate Element Implementation Plan. The feedback collected through each engagement activity can continue to inform talking points in the implementation plan, future plans, continued engagement, partnership, and dialogue between Auburn and its community.

DRAFT



# Attachments

## Attachment A: Survey Open-ended Responses

The following are verbatim submissions to the open-ended questions included in the survey. These responses do not necessarily reflect any official position held by the city.

### Q7: Please share any details or personal experiences related to extreme weather events or climate change impacts you have experienced in Auburn.

Answers similar to “none” or “not sure” omitted.

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| I have been above the arctic circle. That region used to be temperate. Well before Halliburton, General Motors or mankind. It is pretty arrogant, and ignorant, to think man can change the climate.   |
| Mostly lengthy heat "waves" with higher temperatures than I have ever experienced in my 61 years<br>Firstly, there is no such thing as 'climate change'. What exists is properly termed as "Meteorological (Meteorologic) Transition". Draining oil and water from subterranean sources establishes duress on the planet in that its ability to dispel energy (heat) is lessened. Think what will occur should your automobile engine be without oil & water! Meteorological Transition is a solely man-made dilemma. The deforestation of the Earth surface, concomitant with adversities of oil/water welling worldwide, and illogical use of construction & repair materials bring about dire unfathomable - perhaps irresolvable - consequences in finality. |
| Just feels like there are more weather extremes  |
| Vegetable/fruit gardening has been a challenge over the past 20 or so years. Early warm weather, heavy spring rains and late season freezes ruin crops.  |
| wildfire smoke and ash in the air  |
| Poor air quality/new chronic congestion/increased allergic reactions/trouble breathing   |
| Deteriorating air quality due to wildfires.  |
| Too many trees have been cut down--and lots of concrete and warehouses   |
| Unhealthy conditions for breathing wildfire smoke. Inability to be outside because of excessive heat and unhealthy air quality. Inability to exercise outdoors due to heat and smoke.  |
| The Auburn Black Diamond Road constantly closed due to soil erosion and trees coming down.   |
| Every year we have at a few weeks of poor, smokey air quality that keeps us indoors with our windows closed.   |
| Also, more and more we're getting weather so hot that we run our air conditioning, something we didn't do for years living in the same house.  |
| Green River flooding of Isaac Evans Park   |
| We have had many days of being unable to leave the house due to the poor air quality from wildfires  |
| Unable to recreate due to smoke. (Advised against outdoor activities.)   |
| 1) The climate is always changing. Once upon a time Auburn was under several feet of ice. Connected to extreme weather, all areas have an extreme weather event. They are a minor blip. My   |



family has lived in this general area since 1940. We have an odd hot summer, or heavy snow event, and wind event.

Heat and drought in the summer have killed my established plants and bushes.

Climate is always change and humans have minimal impact. This is all a political scare tactic to impose tax revenue. 1

Wildfire smoke has caused work to be cancelled (outside activity). Electric bill increase when temperatures require A/C for comfort in summer

I remember fluctuations over the last 70 years of times of a few years of more snow and colder temperatures, then times of much hotter spells of weather. Then more in the middle. I also remember many years of flooding of the Green River that pretty much happened every year.

For the most is the out control of plastic that is in the surrounding areas and along the rivers. This could contribute to any fires in a heat wave. I am referring to the trash you can find esaly in inhabitant land or behind a bush. It has been already difficult go true a lot with the housing issue, Auburn seems to have people living in the woods.

Community leaders in Auburn, Washington, should take a balanced and pragmatic approach to climate change while addressing the city's broader challenges, such as economic development, housing, and infrastructure. Auburn, like many mid-sized cities, faces pressures from population growth, affordability concerns, and the need for sustainable job creation. Rather than prioritizing expensive, symbolic climate policies, leaders should focus on practical, cost-effective solutions that improve resilience while keeping the local economy strong. Investments in infrastructure upgrades, efficient public transportation, and energy-efficient buildings can help reduce emissions without burdening taxpayers or businesses. Auburn's economy is closely tied to manufacturing, logistics, and retail, meaning leaders should prioritize policies that protect and grow jobs while considering environmental impacts. Instead of heavy-handed regulations that could drive businesses away, they should support smart incentives for businesses to adopt cleaner technologies. Encouraging research into innovative, market-driven solutions—like more efficient freight systems or sustainable manufacturing practices—would allow Auburn to reduce its environmental footprint while maintaining economic vitality. Another key focus should be on community preparedness and adaptation. Climate models suggest the Pacific Northwest will experience more intense rain events and occasional heatwaves, but Auburn is not at risk of the catastrophic weather events seen in other parts of the country. Leaders should invest in better stormwater management, urban tree planting for cooling effects, and emergency preparedness plans that address extreme weather without exaggerating the threat. These targeted measures would improve Auburn's climate resilience without wasting resources on unrealistic carbon reduction goals that have little local impact. Finally, leaders should ensure that climate policies do not overshadow urgent social issues, such as homelessness, crime, and public health. Auburn must prioritize helping vulnerable populations find housing and jobs rather than funneling resources into expensive green initiatives with questionable returns. If sustainability efforts are tied to broader economic and social improvements—such as making housing more energy-efficient while keeping it affordable—then the community can benefit from environmental progress without unnecessary trade-offs. In short, Auburn's leadership should embrace a commonsense, cost-effective approach to climate change—one that prioritizes resilience, innovation, and economic well-being over alarmist, one-size-fits-all policies. By focusing on local needs and leveraging technology and private-sector solutions, the city can prepare for future environmental shifts without sacrificing growth or quality of life. Here are some key takeaways from UN-backed studies, particularly the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, that suggest adaptation and innovation are more practical than extreme measures: 1. Climate-Related Deaths Have Declined Sharply According to data cited in IPCC reports and research compiled by Our World in Data, deaths from climate-related disasters (heatwaves, floods, storms, droughts, and wildfires) have declined by over 90% in the last century. Source: IPCC



AR6 Synthesis Report (2023) and Our World in Data (Rosling, 2021) Why it matters: This shows that human resilience and adaptation (better infrastructure, early warning systems, improved agriculture) have dramatically reduced climate risks, contradicting apocalyptic claims of rising deaths. 2. Economic Growth Outpaces Climate Costs The IPCC AR6 (2023) report notes that while climate change has economic costs, global GDP is still projected to grow substantially under most climate scenarios. The estimated global GDP reduction from climate change by 2100 is projected to be between 2-4%, even in worst-case scenarios (IPCC, 2021). Meanwhile, global GDP is expected to triple or quadruple over the same period. Why it matters: This suggests that while climate change will have costs, they are manageable within overall economic growth, especially if investments in adaptation and innovation continue. 3. Extreme Weather Events Are Not Increasing in Frequency (Only Impact is Growing Due to More Development in Risk Areas) Hurricanes and Tropical Cyclones: The IPCC AR6 (2023) acknowledges no significant increase in global hurricane frequency—only changes in intensity for some regions. Floods and Droughts: Data from UN reports show that flooding damage has increased not because floods are becoming more frequent, but because more people and assets are in flood-prone areas. Source: IPCC AR6 (2023), WMO (World Meteorological Organization) Report (2021) Why it matters: Climate models predicting runaway disaster frequency have not been supported by observational data, reinforcing the idea that adaptation (e.g., better infrastructure, land-use planning) is more effective than extreme emissions cuts. 4. The "Net-Zero" Approach Is Costly and Has Limited Impact According to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 would require annual global spending of \$4-6 trillion per year—an enormous financial burden. The IPCC acknowledges that even if all Paris Agreement goals are met, it would only reduce global temperatures by about 0.17°C by 2100. Source: IPCC AR6 (2023), UNEP Emissions Gap Report (2021) Why it matters: This suggests that drastic carbon-cutting policies would cost trillions while yielding minimal climate benefits, making innovation and adaptation a more pragmatic strategy. 5. Renewable Energy Alone Is Not a Viable Short-Term Solution IPCC reports acknowledge that solar and wind energy are intermittent and require massive infrastructure investments to ensure reliability. The IEA (International Energy Agency) states that fossil fuels will still supply over 50% of global energy demand in 2050, even under optimistic renewable scenarios. Source: IPCC AR6 (2023), IEA World Energy Outlook (2022) Why it matters: This reinforces the need for a diversified energy strategy, rather than rushing into unreliable renewables at the expense of economic stability. Conclusion: A More Measured Approach is Warranted The UN's own reports do not support alarmist narratives that claim we are on the brink of catastrophe. Instead, the data suggests that human adaptation, economic growth, and technological progress are already mitigating many climate risks. Investing in resilience, innovation, and smarter policies is a more practical and cost-effective approach than radical decarbonization efforts that impose high costs with minimal benefits.

Extremes on heat and cold; I worry about seniors and low income being able to live and work in that

Too hot a few days of the year for this Sr. Citizen. Watched a few yrs back as a fire started coming down the Sumner hills.

Had to add Air Condition to my home, had to add drainage around home to absorb water flows from rain,

Power keeps going out due to what seems minimal weather conditions

price increases for food and goods and services!!

Cold homes, more homeless and sparse food resources

Better response to extreme winter weather would be much appreciated. Buy plow vehicles in the summer if they're cheaper?

Hotter summers with less rain. Bad air quality because of wild fires, making it unsafe to go outside. I have family in Winthrop and southern CA that have been severely impacted.



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| I have lived in Washington my whole life and Auburn since 1980. The weather is the same, it has cycles. We are over crowded with people though.   |
| Poor air quality from wildfire smoke has directly impacted asthmatic household members..  |
| Several members of my family have impaired breathing, and the air and water quality has been declining for years.   |
| The 2021 heat dome is a great example - temps reached 115 degrees, making it unsafe to be outside, unsafe to be anywhere without A/C, putting massive strain on the power grid, destroying crops, and 100 heat-related deaths across WA (according to DOH). I'd love to provide more personal info, but honestly I think the people who are able to respond to this survey, largely, are less affected by these things than the folks who are most at risk from climate change.   |
| Stop wasting tax money on this.   |
| Multiple severe windstorms that cause multi-day power outages.  |
| we know that natural gas emits far less emissions than fossil fuels, and that previous state statutes have required cities to consider natural gas vehicles. The opportunity to use natural gas was preserved by voters last November. So, why don't we start there: all new city passenger vehicles (police, human services, permitting, inspections, Parks and Recreation, etc.) to be LNG, as well as conversions where economically and functionally reasonable to do so. Seems like everybody wants to change the world, but nobody wants to change themselves. Maybe the best thing we could do as a city is look in the mirror.  |
| I moved to Auburn three years ago and I am still astonished at how often I hear "it's normally much nicer this time of year," or, "it normally doesn't pour down rain for so long like this," or, "normally no one needs air conditioning." I just wonder when people will realize that how it is now IS normal and it won't go back to the way it was. One of my first summers was miserable because I didn't have air conditioning and I couldn't open the windows because of wildfire smoke. I was told that it didn't actually rain that often just drizzled, but I've experienced so many atmospheric rivers that pour down rain for days. If it's like this now, what will it be like in 5 years? 20? |
| 110 degrees with no air conditioning was unsafe.  |
| Unable to walk to the bus stop due to ice. Not enough trees in downtown to provide shade walking or waiting for bus.  |
| Water rationing and horrible air quality for humans and animals over extended periods of time. Major negative impact on quality of life.  |
| I have not been impacted by climate change, but have been by government. I am more impacted by agencies who think diverting electricity for electric cars is more important than power for my house. We have a terrible power grid and now they want to take away my natural gas. Climate change is a natural occurrence and humans aren't the cause or the fix.  |
| The roads get flooded and make driving hard, my yard also floods frequently   |
| I have breathing issues and I'm concerned about air quality with all the fires over the last several years.   |
| I am an American who has lived throughout the US. Weather is something to adapt to, not humanly modified or affected by us. Give me better leaders who help people not force non common sense solutions. So be it!  |
| Lawn burn like no other times before  |

**Q19: Please describe any challenges or barriers you and/or your household/family may face in addressing extreme weather and climate change.**

Answers similar to "not sure" or "none" omitted.



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| Chicken Little types crying "the sky is falling". Total crap. When I was a little kid the CLs were all pushing the new Ice Age.   |
| Political adversity brings about the principle barriers. That, together with the (topical) abysmal ignorance of elected officials, create real and unforeseen challenges in addressing meteorological transition.   |
| We have updated our forever home over the past 20years to be energy efficient while adapting to climate changes. Generator and home batteries for the power outages that used to be days but now just hours. We would like to add solar but the costs and permitting process is ridiculously overburdening.   |
| Physically handicapped 75 year old in assisted living. Also have 2 SF. rentals rented to family members. No spare funds to devote to anything but necessary repairs.  |
| Better insulation in the house  |
| Cost  |
| Finding cooling centers and keeping house cool during summer  |
| High property taxes   |
| There is no real proof of a climate, heat crisis. It is ignorance of the truth of holy God, believing the lies of the left and satan.   |
| As stated before, my family has lived in the area since the 1940s. We have had windstorms in the past such. The 1962 windstorm killed many and cause 1.8 billion (adjusted for inflation). The 1993 windstorm left many without power for weeks. The 2006 storm also left many without power. We have had days at or below 0F in in 1950, 1955, 1957, 1964, 1968, 1975, 1983, and 1989. It is something that we address when an extreme weather event occurs. Blaming "climate change" is silly. The Puget Sound was cut and shaped by glaciers. What were the human impacts that melted the glaciers that formed the Sound and the Cascades? |
| It is difficult to afford ANY repairs to the home, let alone costs for things related to addressing climate change. Most of us are trying to get through each day   |
| Cost of improving energy efficiency in our home.  |
| 80-year-old health issues.  |
| We are limited on the use of public transportation because of accessibility issues and time constraints for available schedules.  |
| Transportation gridlock, evacuation efforts to and from, effect in surrounding neighborhoods and region as a whole.   |
| The natural resources as rivers are more contaminated with trash debris, in the summer time many families head to enjoy.  |
| stop spraying us with "chemtrails," is a good start for our state and let the natural jet stream of weather flow instead of modifying it.   |
| Lack of water, increased fires resulting in loss of life & property. Delay in business or lack of businesses related to fires/lack of water. All the obvious.   |
| Cost. If rebates or incentives were better, I would make upgrades to my home.   |
| I do not have air conditioning. My heat source is not that great.   |
| Lack of leadership and resources in Government to implement any practical solutions to these problems. Examples are the LA fires and Carolina Hurricane recovery. Either implementing preventive measures or immediate problem solving solutions  |
| The Federal government rolling back environmental protections and firing federal employees in watchdog positions.   |
| financial and timely options  |
| Thermostat prices.  |
| Lack of good public transit.  |



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| This isn't something Auburn needs to spend money on.   |
| Dont feel we have extreme weather. Just mismanagement of our natural resources   |
| Too many funds wasted on climate issues. Don't   |
| The biggest impacts need to happen at the state and local level - e.g. if we want to reduce VMT (we should), giving an e-bike credit is great! But if you expect people to replace car trips with biking or walking, you need to make those modes safe. Protected bike lanes, etc. A citizen can choose to ride a bike, but they can't choose how the city protects them when they do. |
| I am very sensitive to heat, and much of my family is breathing impaired. My wife has developed extreme allergies in outdoor spaces from the last few years.   |
| We are currently under extreme economic constraints and it's difficult to dedicate more of our resources to mitigation efforts.  |
| There has been complete lack of focus on upgrading of our power distribution network. Focus on clean energy and electric vehicles is nothing but talk if residents face multiple power outages every year.   |
| I'm frustrated that my home is only electric. If homes were build with a diversified heat source, that would be beneficial. (Eg. fire stove, electric, plus gas furnace)   |
| There's a whole lot of "political correctness" in the structure of these questions, which sound like trends surfing and pandering, not hard science and hard-nosed financial analysis of ROI. That's disappointing.  |
| I live in a heat island in central Auburn.   |
| Expense, I would love to reuse some water for my garden but systems are pricey   |
| Physical mobility challenges   |
| I don't believe man caused it nor can man fix it.  |
| Not enough money   |
| I am not a believer  |
| We are fortunate to be able to personally adjust to extreme weather, and have not been impacted by major weather events.   |
| Cost of permits and lack of police and DA's ability to respond to my needs.  |
| Cost   |

**Q20: Is there anything else you would like us to consider for the development of the City of Auburn's Climate Element 5-year program plan?**

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| I'd like consideration given: at 88 years of age, I'm not sure I can expect to face a Five-Years Program Plan (The FYYP).   |
| Let's look at Root Cause and how best to plan for mitigating the risk of climate change impacts.  |
| Keep it simple. Don't go rocketing off in all directions. What is the minimum that MUST be done? SHOULD be done? Would be nice to do? That's the hierarchy to follow. |
| Plant more trees  |
| Abolish fireworks   |



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| <p>Don't do it, it's not necessary and there isn't a crises or need for a 5 year plan. It would be a waste of time and valuable city taxpayer funds. The city of Auburn has too much crime and many failing businesses. Do something about that.</p>   |
| <p>Focus on eliminating crime in Auburn and not this pseudo-science. Crime is real. This BS is not.</p>  |
| <p>I love that Auburn cares, let's do it!</p>  |
| <p>As we look for solutions that will work for families, our community and the region, we need to make sure that the changes implemented are solidly based on best practices and sustainable financially. Economics must be taken into consideration and the impact on a lower income community. And incentives should be considered for those who might find this more difficult to accomplish than it is for others.</p>   |
| <p>Quit wasting money. The State and County are broke and broken.</p>  |
| <p>STOP STOP wasting money and resources on this. Find ways to make our lives better and safer here in Auburn. Lower crime. Lower property tax. Keep the homeless from messing up the area.</p>  |
| <p>I believe climate change is real and important. The level of understanding this survey supposes is a bit aspirational. ... in addition to the survey being rather long. A number of the questions in this survey should be addressed by professionals, not lay people.</p>  |
| <p>Every home we have seen bought in the last 5 years has cut down the trees, especially in the front yards. Then the rent the home out. So the owners are reducing the tree cover and natural shade in housing areas, without living there to even feel the effects. Would love for the City to see what it can do to help preserve trees in neighborhoods</p>  |
| <p>Please pay attention to what actual scientists are saying and the data they're reporting, not just sensational headlines. 1. Climate-Related Deaths Have Declined Sharply Data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that deaths from climate-related disasters have significantly decreased over the past century. This decline is attributed to improved infrastructure, early warning systems, and better disaster response. Source: IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Synthesis Report, 2023 <a href="https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-2023_en">https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-2023_en</a> 2. Economic Growth Outpaces Climate Costs The IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report (2023) projects that while climate change will have economic impacts, global GDP is still expected to grow substantially throughout the 21st century. The estimated reduction in global GDP by 2100 due to climate change is relatively modest compared to overall projected economic growth. Source: IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report, 2023 <a href="https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-2023_en">https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-2023_en</a> 3. Extreme Weather Events and Their Impacts The IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report (2023) notes that while certain extreme weather events have increased in intensity, there is no significant global trend in the frequency of hurricanes and tropical cyclones. Increased damages from events like floods are often due to more assets being located in vulnerable areas, rather than an increase in the events themselves. Source: IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report, 2023 <a href="https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-2023_en">https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-2023_en</a> 4. Costs and Impact of "Net-Zero" Policies The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report 2021 highlights that achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 would require significant global investment. However, even with full implementation of current pledges, the projected reduction in global temperature rise by 2100 is limited, suggesting that the costs may outweigh the benefits. Source: UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2021 <a href="https://www.unep.org/events/publication-launch/emissions-gap-report-2021">https://www.unep.org/events/publication-launch/emissions-gap-report-2021</a> 5. Renewable Energy and Energy Demand The IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report (2023) acknowledges that while renewable energy sources like solar and wind are essential components of a sustainable energy future, they</p> |



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| <p>currently face challenges related to intermittency and infrastructure requirements. Fossil fuels are projected to continue supplying a significant portion of global energy demand in the coming decades. Source: IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report, 2023 <a href="https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-2023_en">https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/publication/ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-2023_en</a> These reports suggest that while addressing climate change is important, strategies should be balanced, economically viable, and consider the broader context of human development and resilience.</p>                   |
| <p>Keep, the education on place until you see good results.</p>   |
| <p>Coordinated efforts with Natural Disaster planning and programs.</p>   |
| <p>Not necessarily from your organization, but I constantly hear from various gov't depts, companies, etc. that we're 'talking about it.' Do something. Stop talking.</p>   |
| <p>I live in an urban separator area on 1-acre lots. There are a lot of deer in our area, but they are trapped by city all around them. I wish urban planners had done better by creating east/west paths so that animals could travel without having to cross as many roads. I wish you would require, like Redmond, a certain percentage of trees to remain when developers put in houses. I wish you would require a certain asthetic on those developments, requiring not just short bushes, but trees, in the landscaping. I realize that we have to cram houses together to accommodate all of the people, but can we please do it with some style so I'm not embarrassed to live here?</p> |
| <p>There needs to be a significant emphasis put on the ROI of any program. Auburn families cannot continue to absorb costs for new programs. If the ROI is sufficient the City needs to address other programs that are not affective to shift any funds appropriations. Again, stop the "chemtrails," cloud seeding or whatever you want to call it.</p>   |
| <p>Mt Rainier volcanic activity and the "big one" earthquake. Also, sudden and violent loss of the "grid"<br/>Plant more trees.</p>   |
| <p>Clean renewable energy from simple programs such as green houses, wind turbines, water streams and more eclectic foot traffic resources</p>  |
| <p>How can I help?</p>  |
| <p>I saw no mention of residential solar energy collection. I think this is a potentially good energy source. Am I wrong about that?</p>  |
| <p>I live near the Muckleshoot casino &amp; firework stands. A strong plan to keep the stands from a fire accident or explosion, that could put all the surrounding homes at danger.</p>  |
| <p>Making the Sounder train 24/7, both ways.</p>  |
| <p>Our climate is running in normal weather cycles. Common sense is all that is needed, not throwing our stolen tax dollars at it.</p>  |
| <p>This doesn't need to be complicated - the 2 key climate change factors that city policy can impact are VMT and affordability. Do everything you can to get people out of their cars, and remove the barriers to building dense housing options in optimal locations. If that's ALL you did, the city would be the envy of the region in 10 years. No more suburban sprawl, no more single-lot drive-thrus, etc.</p>  |
| <p>City does not need to be involved.</p>   |
| <p>Clean up all the garbage and graffiti that makes Auburn look like third world country. Eliminate homeless camps and drugs.</p>   |
| <p>This isn't something Auburn needs to spend money on.</p>   |



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| <p>Prioritize education of “no littering”. Also our recycling in our state is a joke. I make my due diligence to recycle correctly but then I see my neighbor’s recycling bin filled with garbage. What’s the point of me doing it correctly? There should be recycling auditing, similar to how they do it in Germany. Also have this be taught in early education.</p>  |
| <p>Please prioritize upgrading of Auburn’s west hill power distribution network as well as considering a waste water/storm water system on West Hill (majority of houses still on septic). This area was one of the city’s most recent but still has 1950’s infrastructures infrastructure and we do pay stormwater and sewer fees to the city each month but don’t have any infrastructure in return?</p>  |
| <p>Don't be a "me too" lemming. Find three things that will make a gigantic, effective, discernible and measurable difference, evaluated under a "full-cost" analysis, and then do those things. For example, Walmart significantly reduce the number of laundry detergent containers entering the ecosystem by requiring all of its vendors to double the strength of laundry detergent, so that households would only have to use half as much detergent for a load of clothes, thereby potentially cutting the number of laundry detergent containers by 50%. State government has demonstrated it has accomplished exactly nothing for climate change (but has funded lots of political pork) at enormous expense, and then Ecology refused (in violation of state statute) to release the damning data for two years, until the governor left office and the state was sued by the Washington Policy Center. That litigation continues. Similarly, the state spent a ton of money on culvert replacements that opened up maximum upstream areas... except that the stream areas that were opened-up had little-to-no fish value/populations. They were just a way to "cook the books" to make it look like something meaningful was happening, while the streams with fish populations blocked by expensive projects (and which would produce the most benefit) were not addressed, leaving a huge gap between what was accomplished, and what the federal courts have required. So the message is really simple, and straightforward: Do something that makes a big difference, that can be measured, and proved objectively, and accomplished expeditiously in a cost-effective manner with demonstrable ROI. And leave all the feel-good political correctness babble in Seattle. This is Auburn. Keep it real, with measurable results, and cost-effective</p> |
| <p>The forthcoming results of the Heat and Health study.</p>  |
| <p>Don't spend tax dollars on it</p>  |
| <p>Thank you for all your efforts for this important cause!! Keep up the good work</p>  |
| <p>The time is now. Clock is ticking.</p>   |
| <p>Reduce the amount of grass that needs to be maintained, plant more native and environmentally friendly plants and trees.</p>   |
| <p>Every city has to be involved. Just not one or two and then the next five don’t participate. People need to see physical change and everyone is doing their part. It will take decades. Population explosion will make it difficult.</p>   |
| <p>Nature controls climate, not people.</p>   |
| <p>I would like to see homelessness and crime prioritized over climate change.</p>  |
| <p>More pain for those who endanger the climate loving citizens.</p>  |



## Attachment B: Tabling Activity Notes on Individual Comments

- More recycling options and education needed for households and multifamily developments. Ex: Styro Recycle Center in Kent. Perhaps encouraging this type of use/business in Auburn city limits.
- Connect with business regarding recycling programs and locations
- More trees throughout city (two individuals shared this)
- School district to electrify fleet/buses
- Increase information sharing programs and build more awareness of the potential impacts/hazards and how to prepare personally (family, home, etc.)
- Connect business with EnviroStars
- Build and strengthen community partnerships
- More trash cans around the city to prevent littering
- Consider cost barriers to solar/renewable energy
- More urban green space
- Information sharing about recycling rules and opportunities
- Get rid of plastic
- Plant more trees
- Partner with the Tribe
- Protect streams, rivers, and wetlands
- Tree retention on private developments
- Create more parks
- Incorporate parks into new housing projects
- Integrated parks and open space throughout the city and region
- Plant and keep more trees x2
- Manage stormwater
- Preserve open space
- Work with neighboring cities
- Join/look into Climate Alliance of the South Sound
- More trees throughout city (two individuals shared this)
- School district to electrify fleet/buses
- Increase information sharing programs and build more awareness of the potential impacts/hazards and how to prepare personally (family, home, etc.)
- Connect business with EnviroStars
- Build and strengthen community partnerships



# Attachment C: Engagement Activity Posters and Factsheets

Engagement Activity Climate Resiliency Policy Sticky Dot Poster:

**Prioritizing Climate Resiliency Policies**

CITY OF AUBURN

**What climate resiliency actions do you want to see in the City of Auburn?**

*Place a sticker by what strategies you want to see prioritized to improve resiliency to climate change impacts.*

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <div style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness</b> </div> <div style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>M</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Develop <b>community-serving facilities</b> that provide support and essential resources and tools before, during, and after a hazard event.</p> <p><b>L</b> <b>M</b> <b>M</b></p> <p>Create <b>educational resources and culturally relevant outreach to inform the community about both immediate and longer-term climate change risks.</b> These initiatives will help the community understand how to prepare for and build resiliency to these environmental challenges.</p> <p><b>H</b> <b>M</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Develop <b>community wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery plans</b> as part of local hazard mitigation plans.</p> <p><b>H</b> <b>M</b></p> <p>Develop an <b>urban heat resilience strategy</b> that includes land use, urban design, green spaces, and waste heat reduction actions.</p> <p><b>L</b> <b>M</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Create <b>evacuation plans and outreach materials</b> to help residents plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer.</p> </div> | <div style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Natural Habitats and Urban Green Space</b> </div> <div style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>L</b> <b>H</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Support preservation and ensure equitable access to <b>greenspace and parks.</b></p> <p><b>M</b> <b>H</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Identify opportunities to <b>expand habitat protection and improve habitat quality</b> and connectivity to foster climate resilience using conservation area designations, buffers, and open space corridors.</p> <p><b>H</b> <b>H</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Adopt an <b>urban forest master plan</b> to maintain and expand tree canopy cover, improve tree retention regulations, improve tree and watershed health, prioritize carbon sequestration, and build climate resilience.</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Economic Development</b> </div> <div style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>H</b> <b>M</b></p> <p>Develop a <b>green jobs strategy</b> in partnership with community groups, community resources such as Green River College, frontline communities, and businesses.</p> <p><b>M</b> <b>M</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Support local businesses' <b>efforts to generate and store renewable electricity on-site</b>, which can provide back-up power during emergencies and support continuity of operations.</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Cultural Resources and Practices</b> </div> <div style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>M</b> <b>L</b></p> <p>Protect and preserve <b>cultural resources and practices to build resilient communities and ecosystems</b> in the face of climate change.</p> </div> | <div style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Public Health and Community Resilience</b> </div> <div style="padding: 5px;"> <p><b>L</b> <b>H</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Conduct a <b>Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment</b> to inform local hazard and extreme weather planning.</p> <p><b>M</b> <b>M</b> <b>M</b> <b>H</b></p> <p>Expand <b>community access to resources that increase and support climate resilience</b>, such as cooling centers and safety information for extreme heat events.</p> <p><b>H</b> <b>L</b></p> <p>Prioritize <b>affordable, energy-efficient housing projects</b> to support the community's growing needs and reduce energy costs.</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>What else should we consider? Write your ideas or comments on a sticky note and leave them here.</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; height: 150px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> |
|---|--|--|

**Climate Resiliency:** The capacity of a community, economy, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a climate-related disruption.

Engagement Activity Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy Sticky Dot Poster:



Prioritizing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policies

CITY OF AUBURN

What greenhouse gas and waste reduction actions do you want to see in the City of Auburn?

Place a sticker by what strategies you want to see prioritized to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <div style="background-color: #2c4e60; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.9em; margin-bottom: 5px;">  Waste Management and Circular Economy                 </div> <div style="padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Expand <b>local composting programs</b> for single-family and multi-family properties to increase food waste diversion.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">H</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Expand <b>commercial recycling and organics collection and service.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">H</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Support development, implementation, and enforcement of <b>construction and demolition recycling and deconstruction ordinances.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">L</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Support a <b>circular economy</b> by initiating take-back programs, maximizing diversion rates, and ensuring efficient collection routes.</p> </div> | <div style="background-color: #2c4e60; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.9em; margin-bottom: 5px;">  Transportation and Planned Development                 </div> <div style="padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">H</span> <span style="background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">H</span> <span style="background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">H</span> <span style="background-color: green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">L</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Prioritize <b>expanding accessible multi-modal transportation and low-carbon transportation options</b>, including better sidewalks, bike paths, and public transit.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Prioritize <b>dense, mixed use, transit-oriented development with affordable housing</b> in Auburn and the downtown regional growth center.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">L</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Update City code and work with local utility providers to <b>increase and expand electric vehicle infrastructure.</b></p> </div> | <div style="background-color: #2c4e60; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.9em; margin-bottom: 5px;">  Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency                 </div> <div style="padding: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">H</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Support and expand <b>building energy efficiency retrofit programs</b> to reduce building energy use and improve energy resilience.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Explore and promote <b>financial incentives for businesses and homeowners</b> to upgrade to more energy efficient systems.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="background-color: green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">L</span> <span style="background-color: yellow; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Expand local <b>onsite renewable energy production</b>, such as through installation at municipal facilities, support of incentive programs, and coordination of community-based partnership projects and programs.</p> </div> |
|---|---|---|

What else should we consider? Write your ideas or comments on a sticky note and leave them here.

*Open House Poster Public Sticky Note Comments:*

- “Define a specific vision of climate goals we can work towards”
- “What outreach programs via HOA’S could be leveraged?”
- “Put Alyssa’s contact info in the Climate Element brochure”
- “Communicate to general public how these polices are relevant to their personal daily lives. Examples: “Will my water be clean?”, “Will I miss my son’s football game because of climate change?”, “How does this affect my water/electricity bill?””
- “Communication strategies to resist misinformation regarding the city’s plans, polices, and actions:
- Be quick to clarify
- Focus on transparency on where the funds go
- Show receipts!!”
- “Frequent and robust communication strategies for successful outreach and community awareness about climate resiliency polices and plans
- Tailor your messaging depending on the severity of issues you want to address
- The more severe = more aggressive messaging and publicity
- “Security and safety to infrastructures targeted by bad-faith actors”
- “Accessible Language, use simple words so general public understand concepts”

*Open House Individual Talking Points and Notes:*

- Affordability concerns with potential neighborhood improvements
- Contingency plans for climate related work and programs due to political fluctuations. Ex: what is funding is lost or unavailable to complete actions/programs/plans



- Citizens near Segale/old mine site are concerned with losing open space and they desire a portion of the future PUD to be set aside for a wilderness park or to be donated to King County Conservation District
- Stronger tree retention codes
- Consider the “teeth” of climate policies and programs. How can compliance be enforced? How can we ensure these goals are being worked towards and fulfilled
- Connect with HOAs and community organizations regularly about climate projects and initiatives
- Use Nextdoor, neighborhood engagement mobile application, to share information and gather feedback
- Connect with school district and students throughout Auburn
- Connect with Lions Club, Rotary Club, Business Cooperative, and other community groups to share information and gather feedback
- More of an aggressive approach is needed for online engagement. CD should actively work with Multimedia Department to continuously share information related to planning work and initiatives, specifically about climate change. Messaging should be relatable, clarify information, and address the potential direct impact on citizens
- Consider safety for staff/community organization members in case of community opposition during outreach efforts in the face of political discourse



City of Auburn Climate Program Factsheets (front and back):

# Climate Commitment Program

CITY OF AUBURN

**Did you know?**  
*Auburn is Planning for a Resilient and Sustainable Future!*

The City of Auburn is committed to addressing climate change and its widespread impacts on the community. In 2024, Auburn developed a Climate Element which provides a long-term vision and policies focused on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for current and future impacts of climate change. Now, we need your input to shape the implementation strategies and prioritize resources for the next five years!

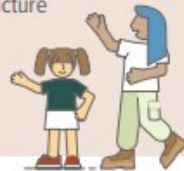
## What is the Climate Element and How Will it Make a Difference?

The Climate Element identifies many goals and policies to address climate change and increase climate resiliency. It also provides all residents with an equitable opportunity to learn about climate impacts, influence policy decisions, and enhance resiliency through community engagement.

Our Climate Element is organized by two overarching principles:

### INCREASE RESILIENCE

The plan will address natural hazards like flooding, wildfire smoke, and heat, while also protecting infrastructure and natural areas to help local systems adapt. It aims to strengthen Auburn's communities to be more prepared for climate impacts and promote environmental justice outcomes.



### REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The plan will reduce emissions from transportation, land use, and buildings, support more walkable and bikeable communities, and focus on making sure the benefits—like cleaner air—reach overburdened communities.



## Climate Change in Auburn

Auburn has already experienced the impacts of climate change.



Increased rainfall and extreme weather are causing more frequent flooding and heatwave events, creating greater public health risks and impacting the city's most vulnerable residents.



Reduced snowpack in the Cascade Mountains has resulted in a drier regional landscape and threatens local hydropower, water quality, and fish stocks.



More frequent and severe droughts put our local water supply at risk, while wildfires across the region are worsening, leading to poorer air quality.



*The City's Climate Commitment Program is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at [www.climate.wa.gov](http://www.climate.wa.gov).*

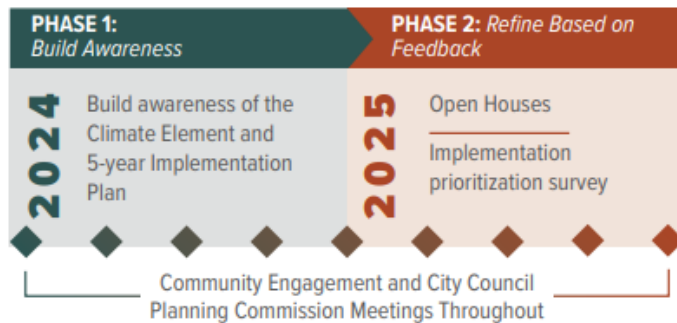


### Why Take Action?

Be a part of climate action that will support the Auburn community to...

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Increase resiliency to climate impacts like extreme heat, drought, and wildfire smoke while protecting water quality | Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality     |
| Protect and conserve natural and cultural resources and practices  | Minimize disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities |
| Achieve long-term cost savings from climate impacts and resource needs   | Preserve access to green and open spaces                    |
| Support a sustainable local economy  | <b>Create a healthy, livable Auburn!</b>                    |

### Our Planning Process



### Get Connected!

This planning effort will directly lead to projects and resources spent in the Auburn community. You can help determine which projects we prioritize and where we focus our resources.



#### SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE

or visit us at [speakupauburn.org](http://speakupauburn.org) to ask questions, learn about updates, join our email lists, and access resources

#### COMPLETE OUR ONLINE SURVEY

coming in January 2025 to weigh in on local concerns and priorities

#### CONNECT WITH THIS PROJECT

by visiting our table at upcoming community events (see the website for where we'll be next)

### BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION AS WE CREATE CLIMATE POLICY AND PLAN FOR ACTION!



# Appendix B: Example Medium-Scale Scope for Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

## City of Auburn

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

#### Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

The City of Auburn (City) Dept. of Community Development is soliciting proposals from qualified consulting firms to provide project management services for X. The estimated implementation is anticipated over a X-month timeframe.

One electronic copy (PDF) of the Proposal Package shall be emailed to [ateague@auburnwa.gov](mailto:ateague@auburnwa.gov) on or before 4:00 pm, [DATE] with a subject line "Proposal – Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment". Questions regarding this solicitation should be directed to Alexandria Teague, Planning Services Manager, by email only at [ateague@auburnwa.gov](mailto:ateague@auburnwa.gov).

For specific instructions on information to include in the Proposal and the evaluation/selection process, refer to the sections below entitled Proposal Elements and Selection Process & Evaluation Criteria. Additional information related to this RFP is posted on the City's website at <http://www.auburnwa.gov/bids>.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Auburn seeks proposals from qualified and experienced consultants to provide a detailed Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) to inform the City's climate adaptation and resilience planning efforts.

The consultant shall prepare a CRVA that identifies projected climate hazards and their impacts, as well as gaps in City resilience information and planning. The CRVA should summarize County and City-level vulnerability data, plans, and policies related to the top climate hazards for the City of Auburn, including, but not limited to, extreme heat, wildfire, wildfire smoke, extreme precipitation, and flooding. The CRVA should assess the climate vulnerabilities of the built environment, communities, and natural systems. The CRVA shall summarize findings and recommendations for integrated resilience planning in Auburn.

#### Scope of Work

The consultant will develop a comprehensive Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) to support the City of Auburn's climate resilience planning. The firm will collaborate with City staff to ensure successful delivery of the CRVA. Responsibilities will include:

- Identify, gather, and review existing documents, datasets, plans, policies, and studies relevant to Auburn's climate risks and vulnerabilities.
- Utilize the best available regional and local climate projections to identify and describe future climate hazards relevant to Auburn, including but not limited to, extreme heat, wildfire, wildfire smoke, extreme precipitation, and flooding. Apply multiple emissions scenarios to evaluate a range of potential impacts. Analyze historic climate trends and recent extreme events to contextualize future projections.



- Assess environmental exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and overall vulnerability of critical sectors and systems, including the built environment, communities, and natural systems.
- Summarize existing County and City-level vulnerability data, plans, and policies related to Auburn's top climate hazards. Identify and document gaps in existing vulnerability and resilience data, planning efforts, and adaptive capacity.
- Prepare a comprehensive summary of findings with actionable recommendations to inform the City's climate resilience planning. Provide insights into strategies to improve the City's preparedness, reduce climate risks, and build long-term resilience.

### Proposal Submission Requirements

Interested consulting firms must submit one electronic copy (PDF) of their proposal to [ateague@auburnwa.gov](mailto:ateague@auburnwa.gov) by the specified date and time. The subject line should read: "Proposal – Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment." Late submissions will not be accepted.

### Proposal Elements

Each proposal is limited to a maximum of 5 numbered letter sized pages of content (including cover and cover letter, if provided) (minimum font size 10 Arial) and should address each criteria listed below. Proposals must include the following information:

- Project understanding and Scope of Services. A description of the proposed services to be performed, including by any subcontractors.
- Project schedule.
- Project budget.
- The project team with detailed resumes including education, overall work experience, and descriptions of relevant recent experience performing similar services.
- Descriptions of comparable project experiences for public agencies.

### Selection Process & Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee based on the criteria outlined above. Each submittal will be evaluated and given a score based upon the quality of response to each of the following topic areas. Maximum total number of points achievable is 100.

- Project understanding and Scope of Services (35 points maximum)
- Expertise & qualifications (30 points maximum)
- Related experience in similar projects for public agencies (25 points maximum)
- Responsiveness and clarity of submittal (10 points maximum)

The City will interview up to three top-rated firms, providing an opportunity for presentations. The selection schedule is as follows (subject to change):

- Issue RFP: [DATE]
- Proposal Deadline: [DATE]
- Preliminary Selection of Firms: [DATE]
- Notify Firms Chosen for Interviews: [DATE]
- Interviews with Selected Firms: [DATE]
- Final Selection: [DATE]
- Execute Contract: [DATE]

### Terms and Conditions

The City of Auburn reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals and to waive irregularities and informalities in the submittal and evaluation process. This solicitation for Consultant Services does not obligate the City of Auburn to pay any costs incurred by respondents in the preparation and submission of a Proposal. This solicitation does not obligate the City of Auburn to accept or contract for any expressed or implied services. Furthermore, the City of Auburn reserves the right to award the contract to the next most qualified Consultant if the selected Consultant does not execute a contract within thirty 30 days after the award of the proposal.

The City of Auburn in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), commits to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, in all of its programs and activities. This material can be made available in an alternate format by calling 253-931-3010.

The City of Auburn, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.



PLANNING COMMISSION

# CLIMATE ELEMENT 5-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PRESENTED BY

ALYSSA TATRO, SENIOR PLANNER AND  
CASCADIA CONSULTING GROUP  
JULY 8, 2025

Department of Community Development  
Planning • Building • Development Engineering • Permit Center  
Economic Development • Code Enforcement

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AUBURN  
VALUES

S E R V I C E  
E N V I R O N M E N T  
E C O N O M Y  
C H A R A C T E R  
S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y  
W E L L N E S S  
C E L E B R A T I O N

---

# BACKGROUND

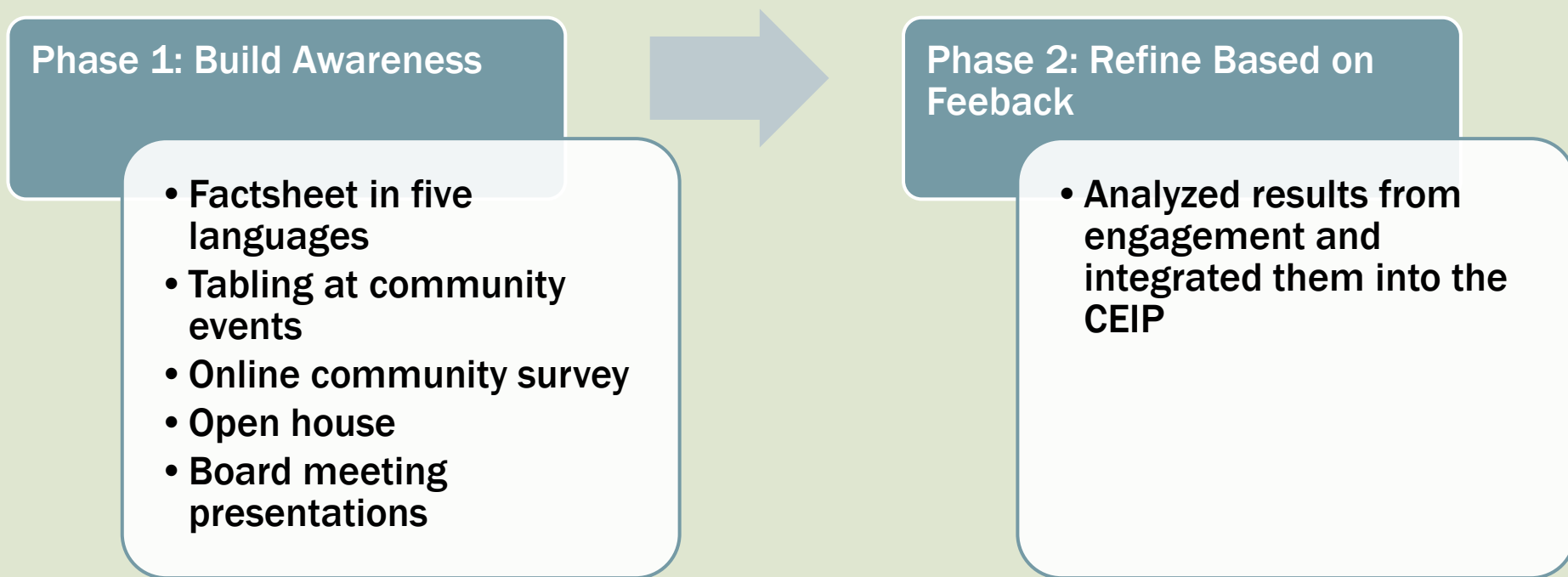
- The City adopted the Climate Element as part of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update
- This Climate Element Implementation Plan (CEIP) will serve as an educational resource and strategic roadmap, guiding Auburn in executing a prioritized set of actions outlined in the Climate Element for the next five years (2025-2030) and beyond.

# ACTION PRIORITIZATION

- For each theme in the Climate Element, in addition to a newly added overarching implementation section, at least one action was prioritized for inclusion in the CEIP (*Action 5 addresses themes 5 and 10*)
- To identify these priority actions and inform effective implementation, the project team engaged both the public and City staff.

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- The project team conducted engagement to ensure that community priorities were reflected in the CEIP, and to inspire ongoing community participation.
- Engagement was conducted in 2 phases



# ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

- **Finding #1: The community supports climate resilience and greenhouse gas emissions strategies**
  - Community priorities include wildfire preparedness, evacuation planning, water quality conservation, protection/preservation of trees and green spaces
- **Finding #2: The community desires improved City communication, inclusive engagement, and trust**
  - Opportunities to strengthen outreach through HOAs, schools, tribes, local community groups, and digital platforms to advance collective impact
- **Finding #3: The community wants to accountability, affordability, and transparency**
  - Have clear tracking mechanisms for implementation
  - Financial constraints as a barrier to individual action, support for City-led action

# CITY STAFF ENGAGEMENT

- City staff from multiple departments contributed feedback and key implementation considerations through feedback forms and meetings.
- City departments engaged:
  - Planning Services
  - Building Services & Permitting
  - Public Works
  - Economic Development
  - Parks
  - Finance

# CEIP ACTIONS

# OVERVIEW OF ACTIONS

## 6 Resilience Actions



Public Health and Community Resilience



Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness



Cultural Resources and Practices



Water Conservation and Stormwater Management



Natural Habitats and Urban Green Space



Economic Development

## 3 GHG Reduction Actions



Transportation and Planned Development



Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



Waste Management and Circular Economy

## 3 Overarching Actions



Program Tools



Program Tools



Program Tools

# THEME 1: PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

**CEIP Action 1. Conduct and periodically update a climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) that includes the built environment, community, and natural systems. Support enhanced data collection for hazard events to provide a more complete understanding of the community's hazard characteristics, including identifying demographic groups and community members most vulnerable to climate impacts. Use assessment findings to evaluate changes to Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, enhance resilience, and integrate into Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

## ■ Requirements

- Supports requirements. A VA is optional under HB1181. Jurisdiction are required to address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change. Attention to environmental justice is required under HB118, which a VA can support.

## ■ City Lead

- Auburn Department of Community Development

## ■ Funding

- Washington State Climate Commitment Act
- Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships

# CEIP ACTION 1. VULNERABILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT

| Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |   |   |        |   |        |   |           |   |           |   |        |   |           |   |      |   |        |   |      |  |
|--|-------------------|---|---|---|--------|---|--------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|--------|---|-----------|---|------|---|--------|---|------|--|
|  | 2025              |   |   |   | 2026   |   |        |   | 2027      |   |           |   | 2028   |   |           |   | 2029 |   |        |   | 2030 |  |
|  | 3                 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3      | 4 | 1      | 2 | 3         | 4 | 1         | 2 | 3      | 4 | 1         | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1      | 2 |      |  |
| Develop the scope for a Request for Proposals for the VA               | Active            |   |   |   |        |   |        |   | Completed |   |           |   |        |   |           |   |      |   |        |   |      |  |
| Identify staff to oversee the VA                                       | Completed         |   |   |   | Active |   |        |   | Completed |   |           |   |        |   |           |   |      |   |        |   |      |  |
| Secure funding for a VA  | Completed         |   |   |   |        |   | Active |   |           |   | Completed |   |        |   |           |   |      |   |        |   |      |  |
| Hire a consultant or expert with VA experience                         | Completed         |   |   |   |        |   |        |   |           |   | Active    |   |        |   | Completed |   |      |   |        |   |      |  |
| Conduct the VA   | Completed         |   |   |   |        |   |        |   |           |   |           |   | Active |   |           |   |      |   |        |   |      |  |
| Public and internal engagement   | Completed         |   |   |   |        |   |        |   |           |   |           |   | Active |   |           |   |      |   |        |   |      |  |
| Use VA to refine programs and the other actions identified in the CEIP | Completed         |   |   |   |        |   |        |   |           |   |           |   |        |   |           |   |      |   | Active |   |      |  |

# THEME 2: INFRASTRUCTURE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**CEIP Action 2. Develop and distribute tools and resources for the community to stay safe during extreme heat and wildfire smoke events, with a focus on reaching vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by climate change.**

## ■ Requirements

- Supports requirements. Jurisdictions are required to address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change, including heat and smoke and prioritize actions that benefit overburdened communities that will disproportionately suffer from compounding environmental impacts and will be most impacted by natural hazards due to climate change.

## ■ City Lead

- Auburn Department of Community Development

## ■ Funding

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

# CEIP ACTION 2. CLIMATE SAFETY RESOURCES

| Action & Key Steps  | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|---|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|   | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|   | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
| Identify additional support form local agencies   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Audit current materials, tools, and resources related to heat and wildfire smoke preparedness and access current community awareness and gaps |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Partner with local organizations, businesses, and frontline communities to ensure materials are accessible and to support outreach            |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Plan: set objectives, timelines, and key deliverables for outreach efforts  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Create and distribute materials related to heat and wildfire smoke preparedness and mitigation  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Create and administer in-person and virtual trainings   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Track distribution metrics  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |

# THEME 3: CULTURAL RESOURCES AND PRACTICES

**CEIP Action 3. Maintain government-to-government relations with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, other local Tribes, and native organizations as relevant, to strengthen climate resiliency collaboration—including for the preservation of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties that are vulnerable to climate impacts.**

## ■ Requirements

- Supports requirements. While it is not mandated that jurisdictions collaborate with Tribes on climate planning, it is legally required for jurisdictions to respect Tribal legal sovereignty.

## ■ City Lead

- Community Development

## ■ Funding

- Limited external/grant funding sources for the City specific to G2G meetings and consultation
- Funding may be available for specific efforts, from the USDA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, private foundations

# CEIP ACTION 3. GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT COORDINATION

| Action & Key Steps  | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|---|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|   | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|   | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
| Refine agenda items that introduce climate impacts and resilience as a topic for G2G meetings |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Set a recurring meeting agenda item related to climate action; track meeting outcomes         |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Optional: Identify actions or areas to collaborate (e.g. funding, engagement)                 |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |

# THEME 4: WATER CONSERVATION AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

**CEIP Action 4. Review and update development codes and design standards for requirements for stormwater facility sizing and low-impact development. Adopt nature-based solutions and minimize impervious surface areas in private development and city capital improvements to be consistent with the requirements of the city's NPDES Phase 2 Permit and to prepare for climate impacts like increased flooding.**

## ■ Requirements

- Supports requirements. Auburn is required to comply with its NPDES permit; however, explicit attention to climate resilience is not required.

## ■ City Lead

- Public Works Department

## ■ Funding

- The City has identified potential funding sources in Table 10 of its Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) for the Olson Creek Catchment Area.

# CEIP ACTION 4. STORMWATER CODES AND DESIGN

| Action & Key Steps  | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|-------------------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|   | 2025              |   | 2026 |   | 2027 |   | 2028 |   | 2029 |   | 2030 |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|   | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Conduct a code and standards review to identify any that do not align with the SMAP and need updating   |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Assess the impacts of increased flood risks – using the most up-to-date data- as well as updates needed in the next SMAP to address those increased risks |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |

# THEME 5: NATURAL HABITATS AND URBAN GREEN SPACE

**CEIP Action 5. Adopt an Urban Forest Master Plan and implement ordinances to maintain and expand tree canopy cover, improve tree and watershed health, prioritize carbon sequestration, and build climate resilience.**

## ■ Requirements

- Supports requirements. Encouraged by Washington state RCW 76.15, Urban Forest Management. The Parks Element of Comprehensive Plan needs to address tree canopy. GHG Reduction goals (which tree planting supports) are required for 5-year reporting to Commerce on Climate Element implementation. Specific actions to enhance community resilience are required by HB 1181.

## ■ City Lead

- Public Works and Community Development

## ■ Funding

- Can allocate some Storm and Surface Water Utility Fees
- Could established a Tree Fund that is funded through penalties and fees related to tree maintenance throughout the city. Could consider allocating a percentage of General Fund revenues to UFP activities, like the 1% that the city currently allocates to Human Services.
- Grants from King Conservation District, WA DNR

# CEIP ACTION 5. URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

| Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |
|--|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|--|--|
|  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |  |  |
|  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |  |  |
| Engage key community leaders like Sustain Auburn and Auburn Urban Tree Board | █                 |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |
| Apply for grant funding and/or technical support                             |                   |   | █    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |
| Develop the UFMP   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   | █    |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |  |  |
| Draft and approve regulatory components and develop programmatic components  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   | █ |   |      |   |  |  |

# THEME 6: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**CEIP Action 6. Support local businesses' efforts to generate and store renewable electricity on-site, which can provide back-up power during emergencies and help ensure continuity of operations.**

## ■ Requirements

- No direct requirements. Commercial buildings of certain sizes must comply with the Clean Buildings Performance Standards.

## ■ City Lead

- Economic Development

## ■ Funding

- Washington State Department of Commerce's Solar plus Storage for Resilient Communities Program.
- King County C-PACER financing is an alternative loan program that allows owners of eligible commercial properties to seek long-term financing from a private capital provider for qualified improvements related to energy and building resiliency.
- New Roots Fund provides microloans to refugee, immigrant, and low-income entrepreneurs

# CEIP ACTION 6. BUSINESS ENERGY RESILIENCE

| Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|--|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
| Engage with local businesses   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Collaborate with PSE and other actors (including business organizations e.g., Chamber of Commerce) |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Identify actions to include in next Comprehensive Emergency Management                             |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Identify and seek to address regulatory and permitting challenges (Obtain City Council approval)   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |

# THEME 7: TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

**CEIP Action 7. Identify how the Climate Commitment Program can support Transportation Element policies and actions to (1) reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector and (2) support reduction of per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) throughout the region.**

## ■ Requirements

- Required. Implementing actions that reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled and overall GHG emissions reductions are a requirement for Auburn under HB 1181.

## ■ City Lead

- Community Development and Public Works

## ■ Funding

- The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); federally funded programs administered through PSRC
- WSDOT's Pedestrian & Bicycle Program, Regional Mobility Grant Program
- Transportation Improvement Board's annual grants that fund roadway and active transportation projects
- U.S. Dept of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program

# CEIP ACTION 7. TRANSPORTATION ACTION COORDINATION

| Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|--|-------------------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   | 2027 |   | 2028 |   | 2029 |   | 2030 |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Coordinate with King County on city GHG inventory                                      |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Assess base year and monitoring year total and per capita VMT data available to Auburn |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Establish a running meeting and/or partnership with public works                       |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |

# THEME 8: RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

**CEIP Action 8. Develop an electrification and energy efficiency program to incentivize and educate community members and businesses about existing programs for emerging alternative energy technology.**

## ■ Requirements

- Supports requirements. Required under HB 1181 to identify actions that will result in reductions in overall GHG emissions generated by land use within the jurisdiction.

## ■ City Lead

- Community Development

## ■ Funding

- PSE's Solar Grant program
- WA Department of Commerce's State Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (HEAR) program, Building Efficiency and Clean Operations Network (BEACON) Fellowship Project, CDBG General Purpose Grants, Energy Programs in Communities (EPIC) grants

# CEIP ACTION 8. ELECTRIFICATION AND ENERGY PROGRAM

| Action & Key Steps  | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|---|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|   | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|   | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
| Review existing incentives, programs, and technical support opportunities   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Engage frontline and overburdened early and often to ensure materials, assistance, and programs are accessible and equitable  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Create and distribute educational materials on electrification, weatherization, and energy efficiency, including their importance, benefits, and available incentives |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Explore options for creating a City-led program or partnering with experienced organizations to expand capacity   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Determine next steps for programmatic development   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Develop metrics and a system to track participation, energy savings, and equity outcomes over time  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |

# THEME 9: WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**CEIP Action 9. Support development, implementation, and enforcement of construction and demolition (C&D) recycling and deconstruction ordinances to ensure the program enables recycling of construction and demolition debris.**

## ■ Requirements

- Supports requirements. Required under HB 1181 to identify actions that will result in reductions in overall GHG emissions generated by land use within the jurisdiction.

## ■ City Lead

- Community Development

## ■ Funding

- NextCycle Washington Circular Accelerator Program
- King County Re+ (zero waste) grants
- WA Department of Ecology Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance

# CEIP ACTION 9. CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

| Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|--|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
| Review code language   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Consider creating incentives or fee structures to promote deconstruction and recycling   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Assess capacity across staff that could enforce and manage the code; hire or designate staff                                     |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Draft and adopt code language aligning with State RCW regulations and the Regional Code Collaboration template                   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Create and distribute educational materials to support C&D waste reduction, reuse, and recycling; leverage King County resources |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Collaborate with King County and area cities to develop end-use markets for recyclable/recycled C&D materials                    |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Track and report diversion rates from C&D projects to monitor progress and inform adjustments                                    |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |

# OVERARCHING ACTIONS

**CEIP Action 10.** Select a staff delegate and join regional climate collaboratives (e.g., King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, Climate Pierce County) to accelerate climate action.

**CEIP Action 11.** Enable staff investment in professional development that enhances understanding of projected changes in the region's climate (e.g., air temperature and precipitation) and their impacts on communities, municipal services, and infrastructure.

**CEIP Action 12.** Monitor, assess, and publicly report on community-scale GHG emissions (total and per capita) and VMT (total and per capita) at least every five years. Include emissions from all local sources associated with resident, business, and local government activities. Maintain a list of measures that demonstrate consistency with climate element requirements and housing goals and policies that contribute to the climate element; identify progress achieved every five years.

## ■ Requirements

- CEIP Action 10 and 11 are voluntary. Action 12 is required.

## ■ City Lead

- Community Development

## ■ Funding

- Can leverage funding from other implementation actions for reporting.

# CEIP ACTION 10. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

| Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
|--|-------------------|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|
|  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   |   |   | 2027 |   |   |   | 2028 |   |   |   | 2029 |   |   |   | 2030 |   |
|  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1    | 2 |
| Determine staff to represent the City of Auburn  |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Optional: Meet with K4C staff contacts and other K4C peer cities for orientation or 1:1 peer discussion                              |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Coordinate a presentation by King County to City Council; City Council approves resolution to execute the Interlocal Agreement (K4C) |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Join Climate Pierce County   |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Optional: City Council approves resolution to sign onto Joint Climate Action Commitments (K4C)                                       |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |
| Staff begin attending monthly meetings series; consider participation in joint campaigns, shared comment letters, or town halls.     |                   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |

# CEIP ACTION 11. CLIMATE EDUCATION

| Action & Key Steps  | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2025              |   | 2026 |   | 2027 |   | 2028 |   | 2029 |   | 2030 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Conduct a staff needs assessment  | █                 |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Partner with internal departments and external organizations  |                   |   | █    |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Create an internal climate learning community/channel for staff to share ongoing opportunities for learning |                   |   | █    |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Create a catalogue of climate resources or “climate action library”; update annually                        |                   |   | █    | █ | █    |   |      | █ |      |   | █    |   |   |   |   |   |   | █ |   |   |
| Consider hosting a workshop or training series  |                   |   |      |   | █    | █ | █    |   |      |   | █    | █ | █ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Collect feedback, measure participation, and revise learning pathways accordingly                           |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      | █ |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | █ |   |

# CEIP ACTION 12. CLIMATE ACTION MONITORING

| Action & Key Steps   | Proposed Schedule |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|--|-------------------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|  | 2025              |   | 2026 |   | 2027 |   | 2028 |   | 2029 |   | 2030 |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3                 | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3    | 4 | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Track updates from the Washington Department of Commerce                                       |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Develop/refine reporting framework consistent with interjurisdictional approach if appropriate |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Develop annual data methodology  |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Access and evaluate data   |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Prepare public-facing progress report at least once every 5 years                              |                   |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |