Chapter 4: ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT

	Comprehensive Plan 2015-2035 as Adopted	Proposed Amendments
Cha	pter 4 Environmental Element	
Goa	ls and Policies	
Cou	ntywide Planning Policies	
4.1	Policies	
4.1.1	Urban growth areas shall be established consistent with the protection of the environment and the enhancement of the county's high quality of life, including air and water quality and the availability of water. The establishment of urban growth areas shall also be done in a manner consistent with the preservation of land, sites and structures that have historical or archeological significance.	 4.1.1 Urban growth areas shall be established consistent with the protection of the environment and the enhancement of the county's high quality of life, including air and water quality and the availability of water. The establishment of urban growth areas shall also be done in a manner consistent with the preservation of land, sites and structures that have historical or archeological significance. [GHG, RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support greenhouse gas reduction and climate resilience.
4.1.2	The county and each municipality shall cooperate to ensure the preservation and protection of natural resources, critical areas, open space and recreational lands within and near the urban area through adequate and compatible policies and regulations. These policies and regulations shall provide for the long-term viability of terrestrial habitat functions and natural watershed processes identified by scientifically-based assessment.	 4.1.2 The county and each municipality shall cooperate to ensure the preservation and protection of natural resources, critical areas, open space and recreational lands within and near the urban area through adequate and compatible policies and regulations. These policies and regulations shall provide for the long-term viability of terrestrial habitat functions and natural watershed processes identified by scientifically-based assessment. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
Cou	nty 20-Year Planning Policies	support chinate resilience.
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Goal:	Protect and conserve environmentally critical areas.	Goal: Protect and conserve environmentally critical areas. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.2	Policies	

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4.2.1 Identify the variety and diversity of natural en incorporate conservation of such areas into a decisions.	
4.2.2 Encourage habitat protection that will provid sustainable population of fish and wildlife.	4.2.2 Encourage habitat protection that will provide a diverse and sustainable population of fish and wildlife. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
 4.2.3 Protect groundwater and surface water as a drinking water, commerce, recreation and fo minimizing the amount of impervious area cr developments; promoting the use of non-toxic pesticides an minimizing potential application of sludge or material in or near sensitive areas such as aq or surface water bodies as required by state providing stormwater management service a Capital Facilities and Utilities Element (Chapt Plan; and using biological engineering methods to cont erosion. 	 providing stormwater management service as specified in the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element (Chapter 6) of the 20 Year Plan; and using biological engineering methods to control stream bank erosion. Implementing a comprehensive and forward-looking stormwater management program to reduce stormwater run-off and erosion, promote stormwater infiltration, and reduce sources of non-point pollution under a variety of climate scenarios. (See additional Stormwater policies in Chapter 6.)

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		<u>Utilizing climate resilient, nature-based techniques for streambank and</u> <u>watershed restoration on county land. Strategically acquiring lands for</u> <u>conservation and restoration. [RES]</u> Rationale: Text edits are Climate Project Community Advisory Group (CAG) recommendation G16-P3.
4.2.4 • •	Reduce risk to life and property from hazards associated with development in geologically hazardous and floodplain areas by: prohibiting or discouraging development in areas of steep slopes or other areas with high potential for geological hazards; limiting the removal of vegetation during development in order to reduce storm runoff and erosion; requiring geotechnical studies to determine construction methods and technologies necessary to further public safety in geologically hazardous areas including landslide areas and steep slopes. Development design and construction technology used shall be appropriate to the soil limitations of the particular site; and, prohibiting development in the floodway. In the flood fringe, development impacts shall be mitigated through the use of appropriate construction designs, methods and timing. Floodplain functions will be protected to the extent possible.	 4.2.4 Reduce risk to life and property from hazards associated with development in geologically hazardous and floodplain areas by: prohibiting or discouraging development in areas of steep slopes or other areas with high potential for geological hazards; limiting the removal of vegetation during development in order to reduce storm runoff and erosion; requiring geotechnical studies to determine construction methods and technologies necessary to further public safety in geologically hazardous areas including landslide areas and steep slopes. Development design and construction technology used shall be appropriate to the soil limitations of the particular site; and, prohibiting development in the floodway. In the flood fringe, development impacts shall be mitigated through the use of appropriate construction designs, methods and timing. Floodplain functions will be protected to the extent possible. [RES]
4.2.5	Limit clearing of vegetation from stream banks and restore the integrity of stream banks where degraded by development.	 4.2.5 Limit clearing of vegetation from stream banks and restore the integrity of stream banks where degraded by development. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.2.6	Encourage the use of northwest native plants in landscaping, particularly adjacent to critical areas and discourage the use of invasive non-natives (e.g., English ivy).	 4.2.6 Encourage the use of northwest native plants in landscaping, particularly adjacent to critical areas and discourage the use of invasive non-natives (e.g., English ivy). [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Existing policy identified to support climate resilience and was CAG recommendation G13-P3.
4.2.7	Coordinate with other jurisdictions and agencies to protect environmentally critical lands, particularly ecosystems and watershed processes that span jurisdictional boundaries.	4.2.7 Coordinate with other jurisdictions and agencies to protect environmentally critical lands, particularly ecosystems and watershed processes that span jurisdictional boundaries. <u>Focus on maintaining</u> <u>habitat connectivity by protecting priority wildlife areas, open spaces,</u>

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	Encourage consistency regarding methods of critical area definition, mapping, mitigation strategies and policy treatment.	and interconnecting corridors. Encourage consistency regarding methods of critical area definition, mapping, mitigation strategies and policy treatment. [RES]
		Rationale: New language is recommended from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff. And, edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.2.8	Facilitate public education and outreach programs explaining the variety of critical area and habitat resources that exist in Clark County and the benefits and opportunities for conservation, protection and hazard mitigation.	 4.2.8 Facilitate public education and outreach programs explaining the variety of critical areas and habitat resources that exist in Clark County and the benefits and opportunities for conservation, protection and hazard mitigation. Rationale: Grammar correction. And, edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
		 4.2.9 <u>Allow or promote flexible density and lot configurations to protect</u> <u>critical areas. [RES]</u> <i>Rationale:</i> New policy is recommended by WDFW. And, edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
		Goal: Identify, protect, preserve, and rewild: environmentally critical areas; riparian areas, wetlands, prairies, and forests; and urban and rural open space. [RES] Rationale: CAG recommended goal G13.
		4.3 Policies
		 4.3.1 Improve ecosystem health and function. Ensure no net loss of ecosystem composition, structure, and functions in alignment with Growth Management Act requirements for wetland and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (see Shoreline Master Program for shoreline management area-specific policies) and strive for net ecological gain to enhance climate resilience. Ensure habitat connectivity and protect areas that provide for safe passage of migratory species in alignment with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife guidance.

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	<u>Strategically protect and ecologically enhance county lands. [RES]</u>
	Rationale: CAG recommended policy G13.
	4.3.2 Community-wide restoration efforts and restoration projects on county- owned properties must be developed and implemented such that species composition, species conservation, and ecosystem processes are sustainable. Advocacy for statewide programmatic support will be needed to successfully achieve this on ecosystem scales. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience. CAG recommendation G13-P2. Note, split G13-P2 into two policies, this is the first half.
	 <u>4.3.3 Restoration efforts should include native bee habitat protection and expansion, and the county should consider pursuing a bee-friendly county designation. [RES]</u> Rationale: CAG recommended policy G13-P2. Note, split G13-P2 into two policies, this is the second half.
Goal: Protect and recover endangered species within Clark County.	Goal: Protect and recover endangered and threatened species within Clark County. [RES] Rationale: New language is recommended from Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) staff. Also, edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.3 Policies	4.3 4.4 Policies Rationale: Renumbering entire section below.
4.3.1 In cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), establish appropriate avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures that functionally replace or improve affected species habitat.	 4.34.1 In cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), other natural resource agencies, and Tribes, establish appropriate avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures that functionally replace or improve affected species habitat. [RES] Rationale: New language is recommended from LCFRB. Also, edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.3.2 Solicit review assistance from the (WDFW) for development proposals directly affecting state or federal sensitive, threatened or endangered species.	4. <mark>34</mark> .2 Solicit review assistance from the <mark>{</mark> WDFW <mark>}, other natural resource</mark> , agencies, and Tribes for development proposals directly affecting state or federal sensitive, threatened, or endangered species. [RES]

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		Rationale: New language is recommended from LCFRB. Also, edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.3.3	County operations shall be conducted to meet the requirements outlined in any species recovery program.	4. <mark>34</mark> .3 County operations shall be conducted to meet the requirements outlined in any species recovery program. [RES]
		Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
Goal:	Protect, conserve and recover salmonids within Clark County.	Goal: Protect, conserve and recover salmonids and all native aquatic species within Clark County. [RES]
		Rationale: New text is CAG recommendation G15.
4.4	Policies	4.45 Policies Rationale: Renumbering.
4.4.1	Restore and maintain properly functioning ecosystem conditions for salmonids in all county waters. Implement recovery plans adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.	 4.45.1 Restore and maintain properly functioning ecosystem conditions for salmonids in all county waters. Implement recovery plans adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. Support implementation of the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan, including the regional habitat strategy. [RES] Rationale: New language is recommended from WDFW. Also, edit to support
		integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.4.2	Salmon protections in both urban and rural areas shall be applied using recovery strategies based on best available science and adaptive management principles.	4.45.2 Salmon protections in both urban and rural areas shall be applied using recovery strategies based on best available science and adaptive management principles. [RES]
		Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.4.3	Use incentives and public/private partnerships in land use activities to encourage salmon-friendly development and habitat restoration efforts.	4.45.3 Use incentives and public/private partnerships in land use activities to encourage salmon-friendly development and habitat restoration efforts. [RES]
		Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.4.4	Restore streams and fish passageways in urban sub-basins and other appropriate watershed basins.	4.45.4 Restore streams and fish passageways in urban sub-basins and other appropriate watershed basins. [RES]

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	Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
	 4.5.5 Coordinate with WSDOT and WDFW to plan and prioritize culvert replacements to ensure fish passage barrier removal. Utilize the best available local and regional data to inform this work, such as the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership initiative to centralize and prioritize fish passage barriers for the lower Columbia River. [RES] Rationale: New policy is recommended by WDFW. Also, edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
	4.5.6 Restore the structure and function of streams, floodplains, and wetlands to increase habitat climate resilience for coldwater fish.
	For county-led projects, seek consultation from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, regional Tribal governments, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Prioritize restoration projects in collaboration with partner agencies and community organizations and in alignment with the Clark County Shoreline Restoration Plan and recovery plans adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. [RES]
	Rationale: CAG recommended policy G15-P1.
Goal: Require sewer service within urban growth areas and discourage septic use.	Goal: Require sewer service within urban growth areas and discourage septicuse within urban growth areasRationale: Edit to clarify area of septic discouragement.
4.5 Policies	4.56 Policies Rationale: Renumbering.
4.5.1 All new development in the urban area should be served by a connection to a public sewer system.	 4.56.1 All new development in the urban area should be served by a connection to a public sewer system. Rationale: Renumbering.
4.5.2 Septic systems in urban areas are to be phased out.	4. <mark>56</mark> .2 Septic systems in urban areas are to be phased out. Rationale: Renumbering.

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4.5.3	In rural areas, wastewater treatment shall be provided by individual on-site treatment systems or approved alternative sewage treatment technologies.	 4.56.3 In rural areas, wastewater treatment shall be provided by individual on-site treatment systems or approved alternative sewage treatment technologies. Rationale: Renumbering.
4.5.4	Existing sewer systems in rural centers shall not be expanded beyond rural center boundaries.	 4.56.4 Existing sewer systems in rural centers shall not be expanded beyond rural center boundaries. Rationale: Renumbering.
4.5.5	Sewer lines shall not be extended except to correct existing health hazards and provided that other means for treatment, such as state approved alternative technologies, have been assessed and determined not to be feasible due to environmental constraints.	 4.56.5 Sewer lines shall not be extended except to correct existing health hazards and provided that other means for treatment, such as state approved alternative technologies, have been assessed and determined not to be feasible due to environmental constraints. Rationale: Renumbering.
	Protect the waters of the county through a stormwater agement program that minimizes impacts from stormwater off.	Goal: Protect the waters of the county through a stormwater management program that minimizes impacts from stormwater run-off. [RES] Rationale: Existing goal and CAG recommendation G17.
4.6	Policies	4.67 Policies Rationale: Renumbering.
4.6.1	Minimize impacts to waters of the county through an effective stormwater management program that includes stormwater basin planning and promotion of on-site infiltration to effectively address stormwater in developed and urbanizing areas.	 4.67.1 Minimize impacts to waters of the county through an effective stormwater management program that includes stormwater basin planning and promotion of on-site infiltration and low impact development to effectively address stormwater in developed and urbanizing urban and rural areas. [RES] Rationale: CAG policy recommendation G17-P2.
4.6.2	Maintain stormwater standards substantially equivalent to those in the Washington DOE Stormwater Management Manual and continue to monitor and update the stormwater control ordinance and related policies and standards to reduce on-site run-off that implement and enhance stormwater management.	 4.67.2 Maintain stormwater standards substantially equivalent to those in the Washington DOE Stormwater Management Manual and continue to monitor and update the stormwater control ordinance and related policies and standards to reduce on-site run-off that implement and enhance stormwater management. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.6.3	Continue to monitor and update the stormwater control ordinance and related policies and standards to reduce on-site run-off that implement and enhance stormwater management.	4.67.3 Continue to monitor and update the stormwater control ordinance and related policies and standards to reduce on-site run-off that implement and enhance stormwater management. [RES]

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		Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.6.4	Limit the clearing of vegetation in order to reduce storm water runoff and erosion.	 4.67/2.4 Limit the clearing of vegetation in order to reduce storm water runoff and erosion. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.6.5	Establish a coordinated approach with local jurisdictions to solve both surface water and groundwater issues including the development of regional storm water facilities.	 4.67.5 Establish a coordinated approach with local jurisdictions to solve both surface water and groundwater issues including the development of regional storm water facilities. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.6.6	County operations shall be conducted to meet the requirements outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.	 4.67/2.6 County operations shall be conducted to meet the requirements outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
		4.7.7Identify high priority retrofit areas to increase stormwater infiltration and manage localized flooding. [RES]Rationale:CAG policy recommendation G17-P1.
		GOAL: Manage water resources sustainably to meet the needs of the public and ecosystems under changing climate conditions. [RES] Rationale: New Goal 4.8 is CAG recommendation G16.
		4.8 Policies
		4.8.1Support projects that foster collaboration for providing water for people, fish, and farms, such as water banks, irrigation modernization, and other mechanisms to ensure sufficient water supply for all. [RES]Rationale: CAG policy recommendation G16-P1.
		4.8.2Evaluate the long-term adequacy of water delivery infrastructure to ensure that changes in hydrological patterns (e.g., increases in flooding frequency or reduction of late-summer water availability associated with climate change) can be anticipated and managed effectively and take actionable next steps based on findings. [RES]Rationale: CAG policy recommendation G16-P2.

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	4.8.3Implement water conservation methods in all county-owned buildings, landscaping, and parks and recreation areas. [RES]Rationale: CAG policy recommendation G16-P4.
Goal: Protect and enhance the shorelines of Clark County.	Goal: Protect and enhance the shorelines of Clark County. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.7 Policies	4.79 Policies Rationale: Renumbering entire section below.
 4.7.1 Clark County's Shoreline Master Program as included in Chapter 13 of this comprehensive plan and as codified in CCC Chapter 40.460 shall be implemented to protect and enhance the shorelines of Clark County. 	 4.79.1 Clark County's Shoreline Master Program as included in Chapter 13 of this comprehensive plan and as codified in CCC Chapter 40.460 shall be implemented to protect and enhance the shorelines of Clark County. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.7.2 The county and its cities shall implement the mutually-adopted shoreline goals, policies and shoreline designations through development regulations contained in their respective shoreline master programs. Such programs are designed to foster appropriate uses of and access to shorelines of the state while protecting natural resources and shoreline ecological functions. (Countywide Planning Policy)	 4.79.2 The county and its cities shall implement the mutually-adopted shoreline goals, policies and shoreline designations through development regulations contained in their respective shoreline master programs. Such programs are designed to foster appropriate uses of and access to shorelines of the state while protecting natural resources and shoreline ecological functions. [RES] (Countywide Planning Policy) Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
Goal: Manage the parks and open space of Clark County consistent with protecting water quality and critical areas and with enhancing the recovery of listed species.	Goal:Manage the parks and open space of Clark County consistent with protecting water quality and critical areas and with enhancing the recovery of listed species. [RES]Rationale:Edit to support integration with climate element. Goal identified to support climate resilience.
4.8 Policies	4.810 Policies Rationale: Renumbering entire section below.
4.8.1 County Parks will be managed to meet the compliance and recovery objectives as identified through the ESA process and the regional recovery plan.	 4.810.1 County Parks will be managed to meet the compliance and recovery objectives as identified through the ESA process and the regional recovery plan. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.

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	4. <u>810.2</u> Link urban and rural parks and open spaces to form functional wildlife corridors, which then can be joined to outlying habitats. [RES] Rationale: New language is recommended from WDFW. Also, edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
Goal: Maintain and enhance the region's air quality.	Goal: Maintain and enhance Improve the region's air quality. [GHG, RES] Rationale: CAG recommendation G8.
4.9 Policies	4.911 Policies Rationale: Renumbering entire section below.
4.9.1 Clark County's air resource is to be managed to preserve and enhance air quality.	 4.<u>911</u>.1 Clark County's air resource is to be managed to preserve and enhance air quality. [GHG, RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support greenhouse gas reduction and climate resilience.
4.9.2 Land use planning needs to incorporate air quality impacts as an additional land use planning decision criteria.	 4.<u>911</u>.2 Land use planning needs to incorporate air quality impacts as an additional land use planning decision criteria. [GHG, RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support greenhouse gas reduction and climate resilience.
	4. <u>911</u> .3 Partner with the Southwest Clean Air Agency and Department of Ecology to monitor and improve air quality, particularly where it is worst.
	This policy could involve community organizations and schools aspartners in monitoring and/or air quality improvement projects. [GHG,RES]Rationale: CAG policy recommendation G8-P1.
Goal: Minimize property damage from geological hazards and flooding.	Goal: Minimize property damage from geological hazards and flooding. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
4.10 Policies	4.1012 Policies Rationale: Renumbering entire section below.
4.10.1 Apply reasonable land use and building restrictions in flood hazard areas to minimize the loss of life and property damage.	 4.1012.1 Apply reasonable land use and building restrictions in flood hazard areas to minimize the loss of life and property damage. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.

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4.10.2 Work with the cities to coordinate a sustainable approach to natural hazard mitigation on identified critical areas, open space and recreational lands to lessen or eliminate hazards before an emergency happens.	 4.<u>1012</u>.2 Work with the cities to coordinate a sustainable approach to natural hazard mitigation on identified critical areas, open space and recreational lands to lessen or eliminate hazards before an emergency happens. [RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support climate resilience.
Goal: Promote the advancement of energy efficiency, green building, waste reduction, composting and recycling, solar and renewable energy use and local sustainable food production.	Goal: Promote the advancement of energy efficiency, green building, waste reduction, composting and recycling, solar and renewable energy use and local sustainable food production. [GHG, RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support greenhouse gas reduction and climate resilience.
4.11 Policies	4.1113 Policies Rationale: Renumbering entire section below.
4.11.1 Clark County is committed to fostering a safe, secure future that conserves natural resources while meeting basic human needs, including clean water, air and food, along with shelter, education and employment. This commitment to a sustainable future will be a key consideration in making public policy, developing public programs, operating public facilities and delivering public services.	 4.<u>1113</u>.1 Clark County is committed to fostering a safe, secure future that conserves natural resources while meeting basic human needs, including clean water, air and food, along with shelter, education and employment. This commitment to a sustainable future will be a key consideration in making public policy, developing public programs, operating public facilities and delivering public services. [GHG, RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support greenhouse gas reduction and climate resilience.
4.11.2 Clark County shall carry out its activities in a manner that can serve as an example of environmentally sustainable practices.	 4.<u>1113</u>.2 Clark County shall carry out its activities in a manner that can serve as an example of environmentally sustainable practices. [GHG] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support greenhouse gas reduction.
4.11.3 County resources and purchasing power will be used to the extent practicable to support environmentally sustainable business practices.	 4.<u>1113</u>.3 County resources and purchasing power will be used to the extent practicable to support environmentally sustainable business practices. [GHG] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support greenhouse gas reduction.
4.11.4 County activities shall be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect best management practices.	 4.<u>1113</u>.4 County activities shall be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect best management practices. [GHG, RES] Rationale: Edit to support integration with climate element. Policy identified to support greenhouse gas reduction and climate resilience.