

Chapter 14: CLIMATE ELEMENT

New Proposed Climate Element Policies	
Chapter 14 Climate Element <p><i>Rationale for addition of climate element and all the goals and policies within it: passage of HB1181 in 2023 (codified in RCW 36.70A) mandates a climate element be added into Clark County’s comprehensive plan in alignment with specific resilience, greenhouse gas reduction, environmental justice and best available science requirements and Climate Element guidance provided by the Department of Commerce.</i></p>	
14.1 Countywide Planning Policies <p><i>Note about countywide planning policies: the following countywide planning policies were recommended by the Technical Coordinating Committee, a work group of staff from the cities, county, and Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Countywide planning policies ultimately need approval of all the city councils in Clark County and county council. The following countywide planning policies align with HB1181 requirements and support coordination between jurisdictions.</i></p>	
14.1.1	<p>The county and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield, Vancouver, and Washougal shall cooperate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita, and improve environmental justice through development of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement in each local government’s respective comprehensive plan, and its related development regulations that identify the actions the jurisdiction will take during the planning cycle that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result in reductions in overall greenhouse gas emissions generated by transportation and land use within the jurisdiction but without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state or region; • Result in reductions in per capita vehicle miles traveled within the jurisdiction but without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state or region; and • Prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities in order to maximize the cobenefits of reduced air pollution and environmental justice. <p>Greenhouse gas reduction subelements shall be consistent with Chapter 36.70A, Department of Commerce guidelines, and supported by scientifically credible projections and scenarios. [GHG]</p>
14.1.2	<p>Greenhouse gas reduction subelements shall be developed with an overall target of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in alignment with the statewide greenhouse gas emissions reductions set forth in RCW 70A.45.020(1) and in accordance with all applicable laws. Individual jurisdictions may choose to set greenhouse gas reduction targets more ambitious than the statewide goals. Jurisdictions shall use a consistent methodology for measuring greenhouse gas emissions reduction progress over time using each jurisdiction’s individual 2022 (or</p>

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	2023 inventory for the City of Vancouver) greenhouse gas emissions inventory for baseline greenhouse gas emissions values and establishment of the scientifically credible inventory protocol to use moving forward to track progress. [GHG]
14.1.3	Each jurisdiction with a greenhouse gas reduction subelement shall collaborate with the Regional Transportation Council to develop regional scale vehicle miles traveled per capita reduction targets and methodology for monitoring vehicle miles traveled per capita over time. Each jurisdiction's greenhouse gas reduction subelement shall include vehicle miles traveled per capita reduction goal(s) and policies in alignment with regional vehicle miles traveled per capita reduction planning initiatives. [GHG]
14.1.4	Each jurisdiction with a greenhouse gas reduction subelement should set 5-year incremental greenhouse gas reduction and vehicle miles traveled per capita reduction objectives or targets. [GHG]
14.1.5	Each jurisdiction with a greenhouse gas reduction subelement will provide progress reports to the Department of Commerce every five years according to the Department of Commerce progress report guidelines adopted under RCW 36.70A.130. [GHG]
14.1.6	Each jurisdiction with a greenhouse gas reduction subelement should coordinate with the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) on reducing air pollution. [GHG]
14.1.7	<p>The county and each municipality shall cooperate to equitably enhance resiliency to, and avoid or substantially reduce the adverse impacts of, climate change in human communities and ecological systems through goals, policies, and programs consistent with the best available science and scientifically credible climate projections and impact scenarios that moderate or avoid harm, enhance the resiliency of natural and human systems, and enhance beneficial opportunities through development of a resiliency subelement in each local government's respective comprehensive plan, consistent with Chapter 36.70A.</p> <p>Specific goals, policies, and programs of the resiliency subelement must include, but are not limited to, those designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, protect, and enhance natural areas and green infrastructure to foster resiliency to climate impacts, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe passage and species migration; • Identify, protect, and enhance community resiliency to climate change impacts, including social, economic, and built environment factors, that support adaptation to climate impacts consistent with environmental justice; and • Address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change, including landslides, flooding, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire, and other effects of changes to temperature and precipitation patterns. <p>Each jurisdiction's resiliency subelement must 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. [RES]</p>

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14.1.8	The county and municipalities shall improve environmental justice in each jurisdiction's climate element consistent with the environmental justice definition and policy requirements in Chapter 36.70A, including meaningful involvement with overburdened communities to identify policies that will benefit them. [GHG, RES]
14.1.9	The county and municipalities shall work together in the development of each jurisdiction's climate element and implementation of climate elements. [GHG, RES]
14.1.10	The county and municipalities shall consult with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe in the development of each jurisdiction's climate element and implementation of climate elements. [GHG, RES]
<u>County 20-year Planning Policies</u> <p>Note about 20-year county planning policies: the following county 20-year planning policies were recommended by the Climate Project Community Advisory Group (CAG). The CAG was made up of 20 County Manager appointed members representing a wide range of interests. The group used a consensus-based process to develop their recommendations. Draft policies were reviewed by the Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) who helped the county apply an equity lens to draft climate policies and incorporate feedback heard through public engagement. The EJC was made up of 15 community-based organizations who helped the county conduct community engagement focused on reaching community members vulnerable to climate impacts. The EJC and county staff, combined, heard feedback from approximately 2,000 people that helped inform the following proposed policies. Draft policies were reviewed by the Partner Agency Team, a technical review committee made up of staff from multiple county departments and outside agencies (such as cities, state agency staff, ports, fire districts, schools, etc.). Project staff and consultants reviewed proposed policies for consistency with HB1181 requirements and Department of Commerce Climate Element guidance.</p>	
Health and Well-being	
Goal:	In accordance with all applicable laws, facilitate a just transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions and equitably enhance community and ecological resilience to climate impacts. [GHG, RES]
14.2	Policies
14.2.1	Implement Climate Element policies in alignment with following guiding principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate who is most impacted by the issue or decision (positively or negatively), what the data tells us (consider qualitative and quantitative data), and what ways the recommended action could be modified to enhance positive impacts or reduce negative impacts. Prioritize engagement with communities vulnerable and at risk from climate impacts.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design engagement to align with the unique characteristics of vulnerable populations that are at higher risk from climate impacts. • Directly limit harm, address past harm where possible, and be effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or improving resilience. • Collaborate with communities and community organizations and consult with Tribes (and seek funding necessary to support collaboration). Community organizations include, but are not limited to: local non-governmental organizations and businesses, service providers, faith based institutions, and partner government agencies. • Design projects to help communities meet their day-to-day needs and build resilience in the face of climate impacts. Climate actions should avoid creating harm to vulnerable populations by, for example, compounding day-to-day financial burdens or making climate impacts worse. • Remove barriers to participation and to benefits. Make climate projects, programs, and their associated benefits, easily accessible. Barriers to participation include physical and non-physical barriers. Examples include: access and safety challenges for people with certain physical health conditions or developmental disabilities, language barriers, financial assistance program requirements, availability of food, childcare, and transportation, and meeting time or location convenience. • Provide culturally inclusive outreach and educational information in multiple languages and formats with accurate translations. • Design educational opportunities for multiple audiences and ages and seek opportunities to integrate county efforts with community initiatives (i.e. cultural arts, youth, community organization, or school programs). • Help create a healthier environment and community. [GHG, RES]
<p>14.2.2 Evaluate Comprehensive Growth Management Plan amendments, and associated plans, policies, and development regulations with the primary criteria of the climate element requirements in RCW 36.70A.070(9), where proposed actions are evaluated for whether or not they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions generated by transportation and land use within unincorporated Clark County without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state; b) result in reductions in per capita vehicle miles traveled within unincorporated Clark County without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state; c) enhance resiliency to climate change impacts in human communities and ecological systems; and d) benefit overburdened communities by maximizing the cobenefits of: reduced air pollution, environmental justice, and reduced disparities from compounding environmental impacts. [GHG, RES]

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14.2.3	The following environmental justice related goal and policies in the Chapter 1 – Land Use Element help support this goal and are also considered Climate Element policies: 1.6, 1.6.1, 1.6.2, 1.6.3, 1.6.4, 1.6.5. [GHG, RES]
Goal:	Ensure the most vulnerable county residents do not bear disproportionate impacts from climate change by protecting community health and well-being from the impacts of climate-exacerbated hazards and prioritizing focus on overburdened communities. [RES]
14.3	Policies
14.3.1	Implement policies under this goal in collaboration with community-based organizations and in consultation with Tribes to engage with vulnerable communities to design and implement approaches that meet overburdened community needs, including but not limited to: linguistically and culturally appropriate information; safe options for undocumented residents; approaches for recent immigrants or refugees; approaches for people who rent housing or do not have housing; approaches for people with physical or developmental disabilities, physical or mental health conditions that put them at higher risk to climate impacts; ensuring information is available in key languages and through appropriate formats and platforms, etc. [RES]
14.3.2	Evaluate and implement habitat reduction and population control for arthropod disease vectors (e.g., mosquitos and ticks) and zoonotic disease reservoirs (e.g., rodents) using integrated pest-management methods. Incentivize property managers to address pests and mold in housing, and to manage indoor and outdoor pests without the use of toxic chemicals that harm human or environmental health. [RES]
14.3.3	Promote ways to protect the health and wellbeing of outdoor workers exposed to extreme heat and other climate-exacerbated hazards including, but not limited to: compliance with Washington State (Labor & Industries) legislation health and wellbeing protections related to severe weather and providing training on ways to protect the health and wellbeing of outdoor workers and indoor workers who lack access to cooling in extreme heat. [RES]
14.3.4	Improve access to resiliency and mitigation information by implementing a hazard mitigation communication program (i.e., retro-fit information, fire-wise strategies, etc.), in collaboration with partner agencies and schools, to support public outreach and education as well as other climate action items. Incorporate teaching how and where to sign-up for advisory alerts related to hazards such as poor air quality/smoke, heat, etc. [RES]
14.3.5	Develop a comprehensive data- and community-based assessment framework to identify the needs of people who are most vulnerable to climate change-exacerbated hazards (e.g., people who are houseless, elderly, undocumented, socially isolated, have

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	health conditions or disabilities that put them at higher risk to climate impacts, or live in high-risk areas) and take action to improve the adaptive capacity and resilience of at-risk communities. [RES]
14.3.6	<p>Develop resilience hubs — community-serving facilities that are designed to support and connect residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution while enhancing quality of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience hubs (or hubs) can be regularly open locations and/or emergency centers during and after an extreme weather event or emergency. • Collaborate with community organizations to develop hubs. • Prioritize establishing hubs in underserved and overburdened areas. • Establish a task force to help the county plan the resilience hub network, such as identifying locations and critical hub needs. • Address the distinct hub needs in urban and rural areas. • Consider the location of hubs outside of hazard-prone areas and easily accessible to the community. • Create spaces that feel safe, are linguistically and culturally inclusive, and serve a full spectrum of ages, from youth to elders. • Hubs could serve many purposes to build community resilience and design should be thoughtfully considered. For instance, hubs could serve as places to organize community connection, skill-building, reciprocity and mutual aid type initiatives in addition to connecting with government-supported resources. [RES]
Goal:	Establish and maintain on-going consultation with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, regional Tribal governments, and culturally-specific groups on climate resilience efforts. [RES]
14.4	Policies
14.4.1	Consult with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, regional Tribal governments, and culturally-specific groups on projects to identify important sites and resources in the county that are threatened by impacts of climate change. The county shall recognize and respect that Tribes may not wish to share the location of certain sites and resources. [RES]
14.4.2	Consult with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, regional Tribal governments, and culturally-specific groups on projects to develop culturally appropriate climate adaptation, community education, and emergency response strategies. [RES]
14.4.3	Ensure that cultural resources and practices — are resilient to the impacts of climate change including significant historic sites, culturally important traditional foods such as salmon, and natural resources. Resources and sites include those meaningful to the original inhabitants of Clark County. [RES]

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Goal: Promote holistic and resilient local food economies. [RES]	
14.5	Policies
14.5.1	Expand local food security and the food-related economy to address climate impacts by increasing access to healthy, affordable, pesticide-free foods that can be sustainably produced under projected future climate conditions. [RES]
14.5.2	Take steps to preserve existing agriculture by prioritizing the infrastructure that keeps the existing agriculture operationally sustainable, including education, research, and technology, such as cold storage facilities, development of programs that support food transportation, and showcasing education, research and technology resources. [RES]
14.5.3	Support relocation of food distribution nodes located in hazard-prone areas to protect from future damage, repetitive and severe repetitive loss. [RES]
14.5.4	Establish sustainable and climate resilient "agricultural production" areas, corridors, or neighborhood networks, to focus and coordinate food transportation, distribution, and other resources. [GHG, RES]
14.5.5	Develop a comprehensive food access and availability plan based on "agricultural production" areas and local and regional food networks for food sales and distribution, such as farmers' markets, farm stands, food hubs, food banks, and neighborhood food pantries that can be easily accessed throughout the county year-round and if there are climate disruptions to food delivery systems. [RES]
14.5.6	Promote and support public and private food-producing gardens, market farms, and urban agriculture at homes, apartments, and community spaces to improve reliability of food access during emergencies, severe weather, and throughout the year. Partner with Washington State University Extension to encourage community participation. [RES]
14.5.7	Develop and implement "The Right To Food" policies and strategies for Clark County that support community-wide access to sufficient nutritious food. This right ensures equitable access to enough high quality food in the county under a variety of climate emergency scenarios and year round. [RES]
14.5.8	Enhance food waste prevention and diversion programs throughout the food system. Prioritize increasing food security for low-income and food-insecure residents and supporting farmers. [GHG, RES]

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14.5.9	Collaborate with community partners on public education for household and business food waste reduction strategies. Education should be implemented in multiple languages, in multiple formats, and in culturally inclusive ways in collaboration with schools and community organizations. Approaches that are practical in multifamily housing complexes should be addressed. [GHG]
14.5.10	The following policies in Chapter 3 – Rural and Natural Resource Element help support this goal and are also considered Climate Element policies: 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.5, 3.3.1, 3.3.4, 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 3.5.6, and 3.5.9. [RES]
Goal: Promote holistic, regenerative, and sustainable agriculture and landscaping community-wide that provides high quality food while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resilience to changing environmental conditions. [GHG, RES]	
14.6	Policies
14.6.1	Facilitate collaboration with community partners to provide support for low- or zero-greenhouse gas emitting farming and landscaping equipment rental, repair, and access, including equipment shares. [GHG]
14.6.2	Seek funding for programmatic grants and incentives to reduce agriculture and landscaping related greenhouse gas emissions associated with fertilizer and amendments through use of natural fertilizers, improved fertilizer management, use of native species in landscaping, and manure management, such as promoting methane capture from manure. [GHG]
14.6.3	Collaborate with partner agencies to expand community-wide education on regenerative and sustainable agricultural practices, including: soil health, carbon sequestration, cover crops, agro-forestry, permaculture, crop diversity, seasonal eating, water storage, and water conservation strategies, etc. [GHG, RES]
14.6.4	Reduce barriers to agriculture throughout Clark County such as by: providing regenerative and sustainable agriculture education, increasing access to urban agriculture (including urban farms, market and community gardens), supporting farmer-friendly long-term leases and programs that facilitate land purchases for new farmers, supporting incubator spaces, promoting living wage agriculture jobs and farmer succession planning, and other efforts as coordinated through the Clark County Agricultural Advisory Commission. [GHG, RES]
14.6.5	Support conservation programs, research, technical assistance, and resources that provide direct or indirect financial assistance to farmers, whether they lease or own land, to implement best management practices that address impacts of climate change. An example of this includes, but is not limited to: helping farmers access relevant grants and small business loans. [RES]

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Goal:	Connect outdoor recreation to public health. Improve access to green spaces, parks, and recreational areas, which provide opportunities for physical activity, stress reduction, and social connection, contributing to overall health and well-being, while also mitigating urban heat island effects and enhancing resilience to extreme weather events. [RES]
14.7	Policies
14.7.1	The following policies in Chapter 7 - Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element are also considered Climate Element policies: 7.3.1, 7.3.3, 7.3.4, 7.4.1, 7.4.2, 7.4.3, and 7.5.1. [RES]
<i>Green Jobs</i>	
Goal:	Promote long-term economic development and job generating activities that will improve environmental quality and climate resilience. [GHG, RES]
14.8	Policies
14.8.1	<p>Support development of a local, diverse green workforce by facilitating opportunities for "green jobs" with a focus on job-creation within communities most impacted by climate hazards. Examples of green job fields include, but are not limited to: designing, installing and maintaining green infrastructure or renewable/clean energy infrastructure; sustainable building and landscaping; responding to severe weather events; urban and rural ecosystem management; restoration; natural resource management; stewardship; outdoor and environmental education; agriculture; and food systems.</p> <p>County green workforce development initiatives must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize job programs for communities experiencing high barriers to employment; • Be culturally and linguistically inclusive; • Be designed and implemented in collaboration with community based organizations, businesses, and public-sector agencies; • Prioritize professional growth pathways, such as worker to owner; and • Consider the full range of options for how the county can help, including but not limited to supporting or facilitating: apprenticeship programs, "second chance" programs, training and skill development programs, opportunities for reskilling, career counseling, grant programs to support new innovative green business opportunities, etc. [GHG, RES]

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14.8.2	Support local businesses' efforts to bolster climate preparedness and continuity of operations. Encourage continuing education, skills upgrading, mentoring and lifelong learning programs suitable for large and small employers. Prioritize support for businesses owned by members of vulnerable populations and serving overburdened communities. [RES]
14.8.3	Promote local economic, industrial, and residential development to support a circular economy that increases demand for reused and recycled materials and reduces demand for new raw materials and their embodied carbon emissions. [GHG]
Ecological Stewardship	
Goal: Protect and plant more trees in rural and urban areas and equitably increase tree canopy cover through targeted planting and maintenance support. [GHG, RES]	
14.9	Policies
14.9.1	<p>Implementation of policies under this goal must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be designed in collaboration with community partners such as community based organizations, Tribes, and partner agencies; • Include culturally inclusive and accessible community engagement; <p>Policies under this goal should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with other efforts, such as those related to job creation, workforce development, conservation, and education initiatives; and • Include opportunities for homeowners, landowners, and renters to create habitat dispersal corridors and connectivity. [GHG, RES]
14.9.2	<p>Develop and adopt a tree plan and implementing ordinance to maximize planting and protection of trees in alignment with best practices and relevant state and federal laws.</p> <p>The tree plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish community-wide tree canopy cover targets and tree equity goals. • Include strategies to address tree loss from development and other site altering activities, extreme heat, drought, wildfire, extreme precipitation and storms, diseases, pathogens, pests, and other tree stressors. • Include sustainable strategies to build climate resilience, carbon sequestration, ecosystem and watershed health. • Prioritize benefits to overburdened communities.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with tree requirements in the county's Phase 1 Municipal Stormwater Permit and all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to: RCW 76.09 Forest Practices Act and associated rules and RCW 36.70A Growth Management Act and associated rules. [GHG, RES]
14.9.3	Expand and seek funding for tree planting, tree maintenance, invasive species management, and reforestation activities through both County-led and community-led activities. [GHG, RES]
14.9.4	Ensure new tree plantings are the "right species" in the "right places." Prioritize planting diverse and resilient vegetation that provides building shading, and reduces heat in urban heat islands and overburdened communities, and removal of invasive species. "Right species" and "right place" is not prescriptive and can be defined differently in different neighborhoods, etc. with community input. [GHG, RES]
14.9.5	Establish, enhance, and maintain policies that support diverse tree plantings, greenspaces, and gardens in new urban and rural developments. Examples of policy mechanisms could include: a conservation credit system for developers; tree, habitat, or garden "banking" systems; conservation easements or land trust approaches; cluster lot and planned unit development approaches. Policies need to address both initial development and long-term maintenance. [GHG, RES]
Goal: Increase, enhance, and protect County-owned plantings and greenspaces. [GHG, RES]	
14.10 Policies	
14.10.1	Expand youth environmental volunteer opportunities and service learning through tree planting and green space stewardship opportunities. These programs must be available in multiple languages for multiple audiences and ages and in multiple formats, culturally relevant and inclusive of the county's diverse population. [GHG, RES]
14.10.2	Enhance, expand, protect, and maintain County-owned greenspace and tree canopy, while providing opportunities for community engagement and stewardship around green space. Assess tree canopy on county-owned properties and set tree canopy targets for county-owned green spaces. Identify and plan to protect legacy forests in county owned spaces. Increase plantings that provide shade in urban heat islands and overburdened communities, help to stabilize soils, improve soil health, and sequester carbon. Plant food forests in accessible, appropriate locations. [GHG, RES]
14.10.3	In greenspace tree planting and restoration efforts, choose a diverse selection of native drought- and pest-resistant trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses to support climate resilience; and remove invasive species. Implement in collaboration with community based organizations and seek opportunities to link with other efforts, such as those related to job creation, workforce development, conservation, food security, and education initiatives. [GHG, RES]

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14.10.4	The following Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element policy is considered a Climate Element policy that helps achieve this goal: 7.4.1. [RES]
14.10.5	Collaborate with schools, public and private community based organizations to seek funding to expand educational awareness and volunteer engagement opportunities to foster pride in and knowledge of the County system of parks and natural spaces. Develop programs that teach the value of trees and natural areas, and about greenspace creation, maintenance, and health. [GHG, RES]
Goal: Promote regenerative and sustainable forestry practices community-wide. [GHG]	
14.11	Policies
14.11.1	Expand the county forestry team and work with other local agency forestry departments, universities, and community organizations to promote and provide education on sustainable and ecosystem-based forestry practices, stewardship, and maintenance in the urban and rural unincorporated areas, including practices such as fire management, salvage logging, biodiversity conservation, invasive species and pest management, and edible forests, etc. [GHG]
14.11.2	Strongly advocate to the state legislature and Washington State Department of Natural Resources to prohibit clear-cutting on forested lands, protect legacy and old growth trees, and avoid the use of pesticides. [GHG]
14.11.3	Utilize the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Reconveyance of State Forestlands and Trust Land Transfer programs where possible. [GHG]
Goal: Improve public awareness of environmental topics including native plant varieties, benefits, and care; ecosystem functions; water quality and watershed functions; climate science; conservation; human relationships to nature, and ways to reduce an individual's personal carbon footprint. [GHG, RES]	
14.12	Policies
14.12.1	Develop education programs targeting all communities and age groups, from youth to the elderly, that build resilience by increasing understanding of environmental processes, challenges, stewardship strategies, human-nature connections such as impacts on mental health, and ways to reduce an individual's personal carbon footprint. County-sponsored education and information programs should: use multiple methods to share information, such as social media and billboards, be culturally and linguistically inclusive, and involve collaboration with community partners and schools. [GHG, RES]

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<i>Transportation and Land Use</i>	
Goal:	Reduce vehicle trips and miles viewed through an equity lens within the county through changes to land use, transportation infrastructure (transit, walking, bicycling, rolling), and commuting options/modes. [GHG]
14.13 Policies	
14.13.1	The following Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Element policies support reducing vehicle miles traveled and are also considered Climate Element policies: 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.3, 1.4.4, 1.4.9, 1.4.10, 1.4.11, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.6, 2.2.8, 5.1.4, 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.4, 5.3.5, 5.3.7, 5.3.8, 5.3.9, 5.3.10, 5.3.11, 5.3.12, 5.3.13, 5.4.2, 5.5.6, 5.6.2, 5.6.3, 5.7.1, 5.7.2, 5.7.3, 5.7.4, 5.7.5, 5.7.6, 5.7.7, and 5.10.4. [GHG, RES]
Goal:	Reduce emissions for County-owned vehicles to zero [GHG]
14.14 Policies	
14.14.1	Enforce green fleet policies to convert County-owned vehicles and equipment to electric, hybrid, or hydrogen (replace as phasing out old vehicles/equipment), and encourage carpooling for County staff on official business. Until the fleet is fully converted, the County shall replace diesel fuel stations with renewable diesel. [GHG]
14.14.2	Install publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) chargers at all county properties. [GHG]
Goal:	Encourage resilient development within the unincorporated urban growth area and away from areas that are prone to climate-related hazards such as flooding and wildfire. [RES]
14.15 Policies	
14.15.1	Incorporate climate resilience goals, policies, and regulations (as appropriate) into all Clark County planning documents (Clark County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Shoreline Master Program, Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan, etc.). [RES]
14.15.2	Plan and build new facilities, utilities, and infrastructure projects to avoid or withstand flooding, wildfires, landslides and associated climate impacts (e.g., changing floodplains). [RES]

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14.15.3	Where appropriate, support retrofitting, relocation, or acquisition from willing property owners of structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive and severe repetitive loss as a priority. Seek to leverage partnerships within the planning area in these pursuits. [RES]
14.15.4	The following policies also help support this goal: 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 4.2.4, 4.2.5, 4.2.8, 4.2.9, 4.12, 4.12.1, and 4.12.2. [RES]
<i>Buildings and Energy</i>	
Goal: Promote energy efficient buildings [GHG, RES]	
14.16	Policies
14.16.1	<p>Policies under this goal must prioritize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping low-income and overburdened households and businesses improve energy efficiency to save money and improve indoor comfort and health; • Removing barriers to access benefits by making initiatives accessible to people living in unincorporated Clark County regardless of language spoken, immigration status, disability, or whether someone rents or owns a household dwelling, building, or commercial space. (An example of removing a barrier includes providing an appliance discount instead of an approach requiring payment in full before receiving a rebate); and • Careful coordination with utility partners to support and complement existing programs and avoid duplication of efforts. [GHG, RES]
14.16.2	Collaborate with local utilities and partner agencies to promote free and low cost options for energy audits and performance standards for commercial and residential properties. [GHG]
14.16.3	Collaborate with local utilities and community based organizations to support programs that provide weatherization, energy efficiency upgrades, and heat capture for commercial and residential buildings. [GHG, RES]
14.16.4	Incentivize energy efficient building design, including passive building principles. [GHG, RES]
14.16.5	<p>Support the best available technology improvements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential and commercial heating and cooling equipment, such as heat pumps; and, • Other types of residential and commercial building equipment and appliances. [GHG, RES]

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14.16.6	Collaborate with existing service providers to pick up at a reduced cost and properly dispose of aging appliances to support replacement. [GHG]
14.16.7	Collaborate with community based organizations, utilities, and additional partners to provide free culturally and linguistically appropriate public education on energy efficiency products, how to optimize using them, and opportunities for operational cost savings. [GHG]
Goal:	Promote a just approach to increasing clean, renewable, and diverse building energy options in unincorporated Clark County to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions. [GHG, RES]
14.17	Policies
14.17.1	Implementation of policies under this goal shall: consider various scales of projects (utility-scale, community-scale, and household scale), prioritize benefits for people who rent housing or commercial space and households and businesses with limited income, avoid causing harm in overburdened communities, and involve community education and feedback. [GHG, RES]
14.17.2	Promote self-reliance and community capacity to respond to emergencies, such as with distributed energy resources and energy management systems, microgrids, and virtual power plants. [RES]
14.17.3	<p>Pursue innovations to expand and improve accessibility to a diversity of clean renewable energy options. Renewable energy resources are defined in RCW 54.04.190. Clean renewable energy includes renewable resources that have low or zero greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Examples include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with Northwest Natural and Clark Public Utilities on utility-led decarbonization plans and renewable energy programs • Remove barriers for renewable energy in site and building design • Facilitate efficient siting of renewable energy development • Facilitate the development of community-owned, small-scale renewable energy generation projects • Advance pilot projects to test emerging and heritage technologies and collect community feedback on projects to inform next steps • Facilitate learning opportunities from projects in other communities [GHG]

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14.17.4	Incentivize new construction to be "future-ready" through incorporation of design elements that support building owners and renters to easily adapt to changing energy needs, preferences, and conditions over time, such as considerations for: future electricity demand, electric vehicle charging, onsite renewable energy and battery storage, connection to thermal energy networks and other new energy options, etc. [GHG]
14.17.5	<p>Provide communitywide education about building energy choices to support informed consumer decision-making, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building energy options (for example: information on the options available), • Energy decarbonization pathways (for example: information on pathway options, opportunities, and challenges), and, • Energy efficiency (for example: information on the options, emerging technology, and available incentives). <p>Educational offerings must include: cost, resilience and greenhouse gas emissions reduction effectiveness, environmental justice, and co-benefits information related to the topic covered. [GHG]</p>
Goal: Reduce building energy emissions for County owned and operated buildings and facilities to net zero [GHG]	
14.18	Policies
14.18.1	Audit County buildings and facilities to identify and prioritize weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits that are needed or provide cost savings (as well as consolidate buildings and relinquish unused space). [GHG]
14.18.2	Develop and implement a county building greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan to reduce county building energy use to net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Align equipment upgrades with maintenance and replacement schedules. [GHG]
14.18.3	Integrate clean renewable energy sources and backup infrastructure where feasible into building energy/operations. [GHG]
14.18.4	Purchase renewable energy certificates if needed as a supplement to reduce county operations emissions to zero while prioritizing measures that directly reduce emissions. [GHG]
Goal: Promote green building and sustainable building practices [GHG]	
14.19	Policies
14.19.1	Implementation of policies under this goal shall remove barriers for green building practices, prioritize benefits for renters, low income households, and populations more vulnerable to negative health outcomes from climate change and air pollution, and shall

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	support local workforce professional development in the green building field, particularly for communities experiencing barriers to employment. [GHG]
14.19.2	Collaborate with communities and agencies to adopt a county green building policy that incorporates learnings from the City of Vancouver and other existing examples. [GHG]
14.19.3	Incentivize green building programs, including, but not limited to: certifications for new construction, operational affordability standards, green building practices and adaptive reuse of existing buildings. [GHG]
14.19.4	Facilitate sustainable building education opportunities for communities and professionals in the county in collaboration with partner organizations. Examples of sustainable building education topics include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate adaptive and resilient design; • Net-zero building examples; and, • Regenerative building approaches. [GHG, RES]
<i>Waste Management</i>	
Goal:	Promote accessible waste reduction, composting, and recycling community-wide to reduce solid waste greenhouse gas emissions and support a more resilient and resourceful community. [GHG, RES]
14.20 Policies	
14.20.1	Accessible waste management includes, but is not limited to: communicating about initiatives in multiple languages, in multiple formats, and in culturally relevant ways in collaboration with schools and community organizations. Approaches that are practical in multifamily housing complexes shall also be addressed. [GHG]
14.20.2	Improve access to composting of yard debris and food waste throughout urban and rural Clark County through curbside, drop-off, and at home options. [GHG]
14.20.3	Incentivize commercial and household composting and waste reduction. [GHG]

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14.20.4	Provide outreach, education, and technical assistance to households and businesses, and advocacy to the state on improving access to and participation with recycling and composting to encourage behavior change, including County-led programs and community-based programs. [GHG]
14.20.5	Repurpose organic waste for compost, energy, or other practical purposes (such as an input for renewable natural gas or providing compost to farmers). This policy must be implemented through approaches that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and do not worsen air quality. [GHG, RES]
14.20.6	Where possible, enhance capacity or programs for removing and composting of solid waste and large vegetative debris in the aftermath of a storm or other severe weather event. [RES]
Goal: Reduce waste emissions associated with County purchases. [GHG]	
14.21 Policies	
14.21.1	Review, revise if needed, and implement the county's environmentally responsible purchasing policy and guidelines, including prioritization guidelines for purchasing low carbon construction materials, sustainable packaging, and local goods. [GHG]
Goal: Encourage using less and support a local maintenance, repair, reuse and resale economy for household and business items [GHG]	
14.22 Policies	
14.22.1	Policies under this goal related to education and community programs should be designed to be accessible to any county resident or business, regardless of language, income, or culture. County provided education should be available in multiple languages, in multiple formats, and in culturally inclusive ways in collaboration with schools and community organizations. [GHG]
14.22.2	Sustain existing goods reuse and repair programs, and sponsor events and programs led by the County, businesses and community that improve the demand for reused and recycled goods and materials. [GHG]
14.22.3	Provide accessible public education on household and business maintenance, repair and reuse strategies, as well as the benefits of purchasing used goods. [GHG]
14.22.4	Develop a local pollution surcharge -- for large producers of air pollutants, wastewater, and solid waste that cannot be reused or recycled -- which may be used to fund complementary environmental resilience projects in overburdened communities. [GHG, RES]

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County Governance	
Goal: Effectively implement Climate Element policies. [GHG, RES]	
14.23	Policies
14.23.1	Develop and maintain county government staff members' capacity, technical expertise, and skills related to climate change and environmental justice so as to improve countywide policy implementation, equity, and resilience. [GHG, RES]
14.23.2	Establish a clear and coordinated approach for organizing implementation of Climate Element policies across county departments, including a designated department for leading implementation coordination and designated staff across departments to lead implementation of specific policies. [GHG, RES]
14.23.3	Develop Climate Element priority policies and greenhouse gas emissions inventory updates in alignment with the mandatory 5-year Department of Commerce Climate Element monitoring and reporting schedule. For each 5-year cycle, identify implementation successes and barriers to progress to help inform priorities for the next 5-years. [GHG, RES]
Goal: Improve resilience of county operations to hazards exacerbated by climate change. [RES]	
14.24	Policies
14.24.1	Strengthen and build redundancy into infrastructure, prioritizing areas that may be socially or physically isolated from supportive services. [RES]
14.24.2	Consider climate impacts when planning county response operations including public works road clearing strategies during and after severe weather events, and Sheriff's Office operations during severe weather. [RES]