

Climate Action Framework DRAFT

10/26/2026

WORKING DRAFT – NOT FINAL

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How to read actions

Each action is tagged with an icon to denote the role the City plays. The icons represent the following roles:

- **Plan** – Set direction and priorities; identify opportunities
- **Regulate** – Adopt policy and codes; permitting and enforcement
- **Invest** – Fund or build projects
- **Program** – Develop or deliver a service
- **Support** – Enable or support partners who lead the work
- **Monitor** – Track, evaluate, and report progress
- **Advocate** – Press state, federal, and regional decision-makers

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Community & Resilience Review Guide

Overview of Updates:

- The name of the section was changed from the original "Equity & the Green Economy" to "Community and Resilience" to better reflect the broader focus of this section. Rather than treating equity as a standalone set of actions, it is applied as a lens through which all actions in the CAF are considered. The new title also reflects a broader focus on helping the community prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate change, beyond just economic considerations.
- Several actions were removed because the actions have been completed, including *EQ-1.2 2. Comprehensive climate risk assessment and adaptation plan* (which was completed as part of the Comp Plan update) and *EQ-1.8 Fossil fuel storage ban* (which was adopted by Council in 2022).
- Some existing actions were modified, and additional actions were added based on community feedback emphasizing the need for stronger resilience and adaptation measures. Examples include the addition of Reducing Heat Island Effects and modification of the Community Gardens action to emphasize food security and local food systems.
- Addition of wildfire preparedness action, in response to risks identified in the Comp Plan's Climate Vulnerability Assessment.
- Actions were modified to more accurately represent the City's role. Examples include noting that the City supports the Clark County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan rather than maintaining its own; and Clark County Public Health is the lead agency in coordinating cooling centers.
- Updating actions in Strategy CR-3. Support the growth of a green technology workforce to reflect new guidance from the City's Five-Year Economic Development Strategy.
- Several actions related to surplus food recovery and developing a circular economy, including supporting repair, resource sharing, and re-use, were moved to the Solid Waste & Wastewater Section to reflect their value to reducing waste.
- Anti-displacement actions were moved to the Transportation & Land Use section and expanded upon by the Comprehensive Plan.

We have kept an emphasis on: Meaningful community engagement; planning and preparing for climate hazards; community gardens; and developing 'green' economic sectors.

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Community & Resilience

Strategy CR-1: Strengthen community capacity for movement building

Invest in meaningful community engagement, education, and participation in climate action, particularly with youth and overburdened communities, to the benefit of all Vancouver.

Action 1: Climate community advisors

Establish a regular process for frontline communities to influence climate priorities, policies, and equitable implementation of the CAF, strengthening community relationships and accountability.

Action 2: Climate outreach and education

Use City communications channels, newsletters, the Water Resources Education Center, in-person engagement activities, and other means to keep the community updated about the City's climate action initiatives and to inform and inspire residents about actions they can take in their own homes and neighborhoods.

Action 3: Empowered youth

Engage with schools and community-based organizations that serve youth to inspire and activate young leaders to make change in their communities, such as through partnerships or participation in youth-centered events, clubs, and leadership activities.

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Strategy CR-2: Prepare for increasing climate hazards

Mitigate the impact of climate hazards locally and ensure communities have the information and resources to respond to and recover from severe climate events.

Action 4: Hazard mitigation plan

Coordinate with CRESA and actively participate in the process to update CRESA's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to ensure that risks from climate-related hazards are adequately addressed.

Action 5: Reduce wildfire risk around homes and neighborhoods

Use City communication channels to help residents in the wildland-urban interface and other high-fire-risk areas protect their homes through vegetation management, fire-resistant home improvements, and the creation and maintenance of defensible space. Provide accessible, multilingual information on wildfire risks, evacuation routes, and emergency preparedness.

Action 6: Reduce heat island effect

Mitigate urban heat islands and safeguard vulnerable populations from extreme heat by increasing tree canopy, vegetation, and cooling greenspaces; depaving where possible to decrease heat absorption and expand opportunities for green stormwater surface treatments; and other strategies that reduce heat exposure and improve urban cooling.

a) Using data from the Comprehensive Plan's Climate Vulnerability Assessment, prioritize remedies for areas of the City where vulnerable populations may be particularly at risk from extreme heat.

Action 7: Community resilience

Support efforts by neighborhood associations, schools, nonprofits, public health agencies, and community-based organizations to strengthen neighborhood resilience – such as through direct funding, education, and technical assistance. Help connect residents to support services, information, and resources.

Action 8: Community safety hubs

Support the Clark County Severe Weather Task Force (CCSWTF) in connecting vulnerable residents to refuge during extreme conditions through cross-agency coordination, funding and logistics, outreach and distribution of life-saving supplies, and use of City public information channels; and coordinate the use of designated City facilities for extreme weather centering activities when needed, as well as the use of those facilities for extreme weather sheltering.

Strategy CR-3: Grow a strong, sustainable local economy

Support local food production, help businesses adopt sustainable practices, grow green job opportunities, and attract clean technology businesses to build a thriving local economy that benefits residents and the environment.

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Action 9: Green workforce development

Partner with workforce development and education organizations to expand pathways into skilled trades that support clean tech, power and energy distribution.

a) Help organize and amplify job fairs, develop marketing campaigns to better promote career opportunities, and partner with local construction and trade organizations to support apprentice and internship opportunities.

Action 10: Climate-friendly commercial districts

Incorporate walkability, active transportation, transit access, tree canopy, and other climate-friendly improvements into investments in neighborhood commercial districts.

Action 11: Clean tech industry development

Support the recruitment and expansion of clean technology industries using tools from the City's Investment Toolbox.

a) Encourage consideration of clean technology when evaluating potential target industries for a local Innovation Center.

Action 12: Community gardens and local food access

Expand access to community gardens and explore opportunities for fruit harvesting, community food forests, edible landscaping, and culturally relevant gardens to support food security and access to fresh, local produce.

a) Continue to support local food and beverage vendors and entrepreneurs through avenues such as the Product-to-Market program and continued support of the Vancouver Farmers Market.

Action 13: Sustainable business practices

Work with regional organizations and programs that help businesses reduce their environmental impact.

a) Raise awareness of Clark County's Green Business program and other regional efforts that provide businesses with technical assistance, resources, and recognition for adopting sustainable practices.
b) Continue to host and support *Get There*, the regional transportation demand management program, to help businesses and employees reduce drive-alone trips.

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Buildings & Energy Review Guide

Overview of Updates:

- In the first CAF, several of the actions proposed new policies for the City to adopt in the Comp Plan Update. With the adoption of the Comp Plan Update in June 2026, the CAF can now focus on its role as an implementation guide and defer to the Comp Plan for policy.
- The Green Building Program was adopted in January which means several of the actions from the original CAF are ready to be updated to reflect the next phase of this work – namely, implementation, enforcement, and education for developers on the various policies and how to incorporate them into projects. The Green Building Program was adopted in January 2026 which means several of the actions from the original CAF are ready to be updated to reflect the next phase of this work – namely, implementation, enforcement, and education for developers on the various policies and how to incorporate them into projects.
- Some actions included in the original CAF pertained to issues that are governed by the State and not within the purview of the City to administer.
- Adjustments to reflect limitations in City's role on certain actions. As an example, it is not within the City's purview to lead contractor trainings, but there are ways that we may be able to support other partners in the community who do.
- Recognize emerging technologies: Energy technologies such as commercial battery storage facilities, thermal energy networks, and ground source heat pumps are more prominent in the community discussion today than they were in 2022.

We have kept an emphasis on: Energy efficiency; switching from fossil fuels to electricity/renewable energy; developing local renewable energy; expanding access to clean energy benefits to underserved communities; and protections from climate hazards.

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Buildings & Energy

Strategy BE-1: Ensure buildings are energy efficient, powered by clean energy, and climate resilient

Improve building energy efficiency, expand the use of clean energy, and prepare buildings to better withstand extreme weather and changing climate conditions.

Action 1: Green Building Program implementation

Implement and enforce the Green Building Program for new construction. Support local developers in adopting Green Building Program requirements and incentivized measures through technical assistance, opportunities to build connections to local suppliers, and educational resources.

a) Green building education: Subjects may include, but are not limited to, energy code, embodied carbon, electric equipment/appliance operation, bird-safe design, DarkSky International requirements, climate resilience features, and low-irrigation landscaping.

Action 2: Energy efficiency for municipal facilities

Invest in projects that increase energy efficiency and reduce the overall use of energy used by City facilities as a first priority for reducing the City's environmental impact.

Action 3: Clean energy for municipal facilities

Transition to 100% GHG neutral energy for municipal facilities' primary power source.

a) This may include shifting gas-powered functions to electric systems to take advantage of Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)-mandated GHG neutral composition of local electric supply; adding new, renewable energy resources to City facilities; or purchasing shares of community solar to offset City electrical use.

Action 4: Climate smart and resilient homes

Develop and advance approaches that help residents increase home energy performance, transition from fossil-fuel appliances and equipment to efficient electric versions, and build resilience to climate-related hazards through education, technical assistance, incentives, and access to trained contractors for installation.

a) Continue to support energy efficiency and weatherization efforts though existing City programs and seek funding opportunities to expand efforts.
b) Explore partnership opportunities to provide portable air filtration and air conditioning units during extreme heat and air quality events.

Action 5: Information and navigation for home improvements

Provide residents and property owners with information, guidance, and navigation support to understand climate-friendly home improvement options, identify available resources, and determine next steps to improve energy and water efficiency, reduce utility costs, and improve building performance.

Action 6: Inter-agency coordination for residential programs

Collaborate with local utilities, non-profits, state programs, and other partners with residential energy efficiency, climate resilience, and/or electrification programs to coordinate program offerings, identify and fill gaps in service, and connect interested residents with the resources for which they are eligible.

Action 7: Commercial building energy performance

Support commercial building owners in improving energy efficiency and transitioning to efficient electric systems by promoting utility programs, providing information and technical resources, and encouraging buildings to exceed the performance requirements of Washington's Clean Buildings Performance Standards.

Action 8: Clean building workforce development

Engage with local trade and workforce development organizations that provide training for heat pump installations and other building electrification technologies and explore opportunities to partner on workforce development efforts when aligned with City programs and funding.

Action 9: Regular review of Green Building Program

Periodically evaluate Green Building Program policies to determine whether adopted implementation strategies are advancing GHG mitigation and climate resiliency goals; feasibility of implementation; whether existing incentives are effective in encouraging development to higher tiers of sustainability; and, for impacts on housing production, particularly affordable housing.

Action 10: Increased funding for clean, resilient buildings

Advocate for state and federal financial incentives and grant programs to support renewable energy and climate resiliency features for residential and commercial buildings, particularly for small businesses and households with limited resources.

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Strategy BE-2: Support a clean, reliable, and resilient energy system

Support a clean, reliable, and resilient energy system by expanding renewable energy, increasing energy storage, and managing electricity use to keep power dependable, affordable, and available when needed.

Action 11: Energy Storage

Expand opportunities for residential and commercial-scale energy storage to mitigate peak load and provide backup power in emergencies through education for homeowners, building owners, and developers; clear development review/permitting processes; improved incentives, as available; and access to information.

a) For municipal facilities, consider renewable energy systems paired with battery systems in situations where additional resilience is warranted (such as solar plus storage systems).

Action 12: Peak demand/ load management

For municipal projects, reduce peak energy demand through energy efficiency, demand management, energy storage, smart metering, and flexible energy use, where doing so does not affect essential services, utility operations, public safety, or emergency operations. For municipal solar projects and projects that the City may support (such as community solar programs), evaluate how these systems might help mitigate peak demand and support load management.

a) Through City communication channels, support local utilities in sharing information and educational messaging with the public about opportunities to reduce peak electricity demand.

Action 13: Community clean energy access

Partner with Clark Public Utilities and other community partners to expand low-income solar initiatives and other programs that make clean energy and its benefits more accessible to residents who face barriers to participation, including through community solar and plug-in solar projects.

Action 14: Natural gas carbon intensity

Support regional efforts to decrease the carbon intensity of natural gas and utilize renewable natural gas where possible.

Action 15: Expand local clean energy resources

Partner with local utilities and other organizations to identify and develop opportunities for new clean energy, including renewable energy generation thermal energy systems.

a) Encourage adoption of geothermal heat pump systems and thermal energy networks to provide efficient, low-carbon heating and cooling through education, promotion of existing City systems, and supporting local partners who are exploring new projects.

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Transportation & Land Use Review Guide

Overview of Updates:

- The strategies and actions of this section in the original, 2022 CAF were written to influence policy of two major upcoming City planning efforts: The Transportation System Plan and the Comprehensive Plan Update. With the completion and adoption of both of these plans, the focus of this section has shifted from policy guidance to clear implementation direction.
- Reflecting community concerns and guidance from the City's Equitable Development Strategy, a new strategy and several supporting actions were added to address the risk of displacement of long-time residents as a result of new investment in their neighborhoods. Displacement prevention supports climate action by allowing households to remain in well-connected neighborhoods, supporting compact development patterns, and enabling more residents to benefit from investments in multimodal transportation and community facilities.
- Some transportation actions were adjusted to better reflect the City's role relative to its community partners; as an example, the City's primary role in supporting transit is to ensure safe, accessible routes to transit stops and stations and to ensure transit-supportive development patterns.
- Added specific actions reflecting the roles identified for the City to support the development of EV charging infrastructure based on recent planning efforts.
- Increased actionable items to support the rapid adoption of lower-carbon fuels to support carbon reductions in hard-to-electrify sectors.
- Adjusted actions to better reflect the City's role in supporting the decarbonization of (non-municipal) heavy- and medium-duty vehicles.
- Added new transportation actions to reflect community feedback through the CAF update process and ideas from the Comp Plan, including Climate Corridors, shared mobility, a curb management program, and green transportation for major events and festivals.
- Removed an action about car battery recycling since this is beyond the City's purview to manage.

We have kept an emphasis on: Walkable neighborhoods; concentrating amenities near residences and transit; safe, accessible, comfortable, and connected infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians; electric vehicle infrastructure; transportation demand management and trip reduction; and support for the Safe Routes to Schools programs.

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Transportation & Land Use

Strategy TLU-1: Implement the 2045 Growth Concept to increase compact, complete neighborhoods

Fulfill the vision of the City's Comprehensive Plan to accommodate future growth while maximizing the benefits of proximity to public transit, jobs, commercial services, and community amenities, while minimizing environmental impacts and infrastructure costs.

Action 1: Subarea planning

In developing subarea plans, integrate climate mitigation, climate resilience, and equitable development objectives to maximize the benefits of public investments.

a) Analyze climate vulnerability, natural systems, tree canopy, housing affordability, displacement risk, transportation access, and access to opportunity as part of existing conditions analyses.
b) Develop feasible, neighborhood-specific infrastructure and programmatic investment strategies that encourage compact, mixed-use, transit-supportive, and climate resilient development – including guidance for active transportation, building performance, electric vehicle charging, parks and open space, and green infrastructure.
c) Incorporate parking management strategies into subarea plans, including demand-responsive on-street pricing, shared parking arrangements, and redevelopment incentives for large, underutilized surface parking lots.
d) Evaluate planning alternatives based on their ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve resilience to climate hazards, support equitable development, and make efficient use of existing and planned infrastructure.

Action 2: Annexation planning

Incorporate greenhouse gas emission reduction and resilience goals into the annexation planning process. Evaluate existing land use patterns, infrastructure readiness, and the potential to advance the City's 2045 Growth Concept as part of each annexation feasibility assessment — alongside fiscal and service delivery considerations.

Action 3: Redevelopment of underutilized properties

Evaluate additional regulatory incentives that encourage redevelopment of underutilized properties and brownfields to encourage efficient land use.

Action 4: Regional coordination

Actively engage in Clark County and regional planning processes to minimize urban growth area (UGA) expansions, support increased employment density and efficient land use within the Vancouver UGA, and advance regional strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Action 5: Guidance for climate-supportive development

Provide guidance to the development community on implementing new zoning regulations and climate-supportive site design practices, such as information on new middle housing regulations, incentives, and housing programs.

Action 6: Monitor progress toward complete neighborhoods

Regularly assess and report on Growth Concept implementation, including housing production and affordability, employment, development trends, transportation mode share, and infrastructure investments to evaluate whether land use changes are improving access to essential services and creating more complete neighborhoods. Based on this assessment, identify potential barriers and adjustments needed to achieve intended climate, housing, transportation, and equitable development outcomes.

Action 7: Ensure supportive policy environment

Support regional and state policies, legislation, and funding programs that reinforce compact urban growth, increase housing production, invest in transit and infrastructure for designated growth areas and annexations, and encourage brownfield redevelopment.

Strategy TLU-2: Invest in climate-resilient neighborhoods while keeping communities in place

Ensure climate investments are coordinated with strategies that reduce displacement risks and expand access to opportunities to foster resilient, well-connected neighborhoods throughout the city.

Action 8: Equitable climate investments

Pair climate-friendly investments with measures to preserve and expand affordable housing to prevent displacement.

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a) Prioritize investments in tree canopy, green infrastructure, parks, and public spaces in neighborhoods with the greatest climate vulnerabilities and service gaps.
b) Expand resources to support affordable and workforce housing development, including strategic land acquisitions in areas targeted for climate investment.

Action 9: Keep communities in place

Maintain and strengthen City programs that preserve housing affordability, enhance tenant protections, and assist households at risk of displacement, in accordance with the Housing Action Plan and Equitable Development Strategy.

Action 10: Neighborhood indicators

Monitor and report on neighborhood-level indicators related to climate vulnerability, displacement, tree canopy and natural infrastructure, essential services, and other resilience factors to inform future policies, planning and investments, particularly for areas defined as high-risk on the Displacement Risk Assessment Map.

a) Regularly update and refer to the Displacement Risk Assessment Map. Monitor trends in high-risk areas to inform decision-making.

Strategy TLU-3: Shift driving trips to clean modes of transportation

Make it easier and more appealing for people to get around by walking, biking, taking transit, and using small mobility options.

Action 11: Modal networks

Prioritize implementation of pedestrian, transit, bike, and small mobility networks to create safe, connected infrastructure for non-drive alone modes.

Action 12: Shared mobility options

Draft City policies and code to support shared mobility companies that may choose to operate in Vancouver. Incorporate mobility hubs into City plans.

Action 13: Climate corridors

Plan and implement climate-resilient transportation corridors that promote comfortable non-drive alone travel by incorporating street trees, natural stormwater treatments, linear parks, and other climate-adaptive features into transportation projects and City-owned rights-of-way as described in the Transportation System Plan.

Action 14: Improved pedestrian infrastructure

Expand safe, accessible, and connected infrastructure for people walking and using mobility devices, consistent with the Transportation System Plan, Complete Streets program, and other relevant City plans.

Action 15: Improved bicycling infrastructure

Expand safe, comfortable, and connected bicycling infrastructure as part of the citywide bicycle and small mobility network, consistent with the Transportation System Plan and other relevant City plans.

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Action 16: Transit-supportive transportation infrastructure

Plan and invest in transportation infrastructure that supports reliable, frequent, accessible, and convenient transit service.

a) Improve pedestrian and small mobility access to transit stops, including intercity bus and rail.
b) Prioritize roadway infrastructure that improves transit travel time reliability.

Action 17: Driving trip reduction for local schools

Support Safe Routes to Schools programming, education, and infrastructure for K-12 to reduce school-based driving trips. Focus messaging on safety and normalizing walking and biking opportunities.

Action 18: Transportation demand management requirements and programs

Expand transportation demand management programs to more households and employers citywide to shift driving trips to walking, biking, transit, or other active modes.

Action 19: Curb management program

Research and develop a curb management program to manage curb space efficiently, balancing competing needs for parking, loading, transit, micromobility, and other uses to support safe, multimodal streets.

Action 20: Clean transportation for major events

Promote multimodal access and programming for major events such as festivals, concerts, and sporting events to address congestion, parking demand, and promote mode shift.

Strategy TLU-4: Transition to cleaner vehicles and fuels

Reduce transportation emissions by supporting the transition to electric vehicles and seeking zero or lower-carbon fuel alternatives for hard-to-electrify vehicles.

Action 21: Municipal fleet transition

Develop a plan to transition the City fleet to zero-emission vehicles and develop municipal charging infrastructure to support the transition over time.

a) Where zero-emission options are not immediately feasible, seek to use lower-carbon fuels such as renewable diesel (R99), compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, or others where applicable and available.

Action 22: Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Support the development of publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure by clearly communicating permitting and development requirements, assisting businesses and property owners through the permitting process, and encouraging new charging infrastructure that aligns with Comprehensive Plan priorities for highest and best use development.

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Action 23: City electric vehicle charging pilot

Implement City-led Public Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot at key community facilities to increase community access to charging and build capacity to better support communitywide electric vehicle adoption.

Action 24: Alternative fuels

Increase access and adoption of cleaner fuel options through coordination with regional partners to accelerate adoption of lower-carbon fuels for GHG reductions and local air quality improvements.

a) Coordinate with regional partners in exploring a regional renewable diesel standard.
b) Align City zoning, permitting, and infrastructure policies and codes to facilitate fuel distributors' transition to cleaner, lower-carbon fuels and commercial availability of these products.
a) Incorporate lower-carbon fuel requirements or preferences into procurement for City vehicle, fuel, and service contracts where appropriate.

Action 25: Cleaner medium- and heavy-duty vehicles

Support local business, jurisdiction, and industry partners in transitioning to electrification, where feasible, and cleaner fuels for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

a) Ensure clear permitting pathways at the City and encourage applicant coordination with Clark Public Utilities for commercial vehicle charging infrastructure.
b) Coordinate with local partners (such as the Port of Vancouver, Clark Public Utilities, C-TRAN, Clark County, Vancouver and Evergreen Public Schools, businesses, and other fleet operators) around shared infrastructure and funding needs.

Action 26: Electric vehicle advocacy

Advocate for state and federal policies and funding that support the adoption of electric vehicles and expansion of public and private electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Action 27: Zero-emission transit vehicles

Advocate for CTRAN's continued transition to a 100 percent zero-emission fleet and support future efforts to explore hydrogen fuel cell technology and infrastructure.

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Natural Systems Review Guide

Overview of Updates:

- This section was significantly expanded to reflect a greater emphasis on nature-based solutions as a means of building resilience for both people and wildlife in our community.
- A new strategy and supporting actions were added to reflect input from community members and City staff emphasizing the importance of acquiring additional land for green space and optimizing the natural value of existing publicly owned properties.
- Protecting and expanding the urban tree canopy was established as a stand-alone strategy, with multiple supporting actions reflecting the broader scope of this work and the need for both public- and private-sector action. This change also reflects the updated target date of 2047 for achieving the 28% tree canopy goal adopted in the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Two actions related to code-based protections for habitat conservation and restoration were removed because these issues were addressed in the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- The emphasis on rainwater storage was shifted toward supporting natural stormwater infiltration through practices such as rain gardens, bioswales, and depaving.
- A new strategy and supporting actions were added to recognize the opportunity for City recreational facilities, community centers, and public events to model sustainable practices and educate the public about incorporating these practices into their daily lives.

We have kept an emphasis on: Expanding tree canopy; conserving water and sequestering carbon through responsible landscaping practices; and encouraging native and drought-tolerant vegetation in both City and private landscaping.

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Natural Systems

Strategy NS-1: Expand and optimize natural spaces citywide

Seek opportunities to expand and manage green spaces to maximize ecosystem health, climate resilience, carbon sequestration and storage, and community benefits through land acquisition and creative use of existing public lands.

Action 1: Comprehensive municipal natural systems planning and implementation

Strengthen collaboration across City departments and with external partners to integrate climate resilience and natural systems benefits into the planning, design, and maintenance of City-owned and managed lands.

Action 2: Repurpose underutilized lands for environmental benefits

Identify opportunities to repurpose underutilized public spaces, such as rights-of-way, areas beneath freeway viaducts, and utility corridors to support wildlife habitat, biodiversity, stormwater management, urban agriculture, shade and tree canopy, carbon sequestration, and other environmental and community benefits. Work with strategic partners to maximize benefits in Vancouver.

$ Action 3: Acquire new public lands for green space

Acquire and preserve land to expand urban green space, reduce urban heat, and strengthen resilience to extreme weather events. Using the Climate Vulnerability Assessment, prioritize underserved areas with high heat exposure and limited access to green space, as well as environmentally sensitive lands with significant ecological value.

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Strategy NS-2: Expand nature-based solutions and climate-resilient landscapes community-wide

Maximize natural features and sustainable landscape practices in public and private spaces for stormwater management, urban cooling, water conservation, biodiversity, and nature connectedness.

Action 4: Managing stormwater through green infrastructure

As part of updating the Stormwater Management Action Plan, partner with Pavement Management to incorporate surface-level stormwater treatments, such as bioswales and rain gardens, that promote natural infiltration and reduce impervious surfaces while supporting urban heat island mitigation.

Action 5: Stormwater priority plantings

Use the 2026 Tree Canopy Assessment to identify priority planting opportunities focused on stormwater benefits and shading in areas in most need.

Action 6: Sustainable municipal landscapes

Design new parks and capital projects with native, drought-tolerant vegetation to conserve water, lower maintenance costs, and support biodiversity. Identify opportunities to transition existing landscapes to low water designs with plant selections that support native and pollinator-friendly habitat goals.

Action 7: Use environmentally friendly grounds maintenance practices

Require City staff and contracted maintenance crews to use sustainable practices on City-owned properties that support carbon storage and healthy trees, soils, and natural areas.

Practices may include:

- Replacing gas-powered, two-cycle landscaping equipment used in City operations with electric or other lower-emission alternatives whenever feasible;
- Using local compost, wood chips, and organic soil amendments;
- Leaving fallen leaves and other vegetation in place where appropriate to return nutrients to the soil; and
- Reducing herbicide and pesticide usage to the minimum needed to maintain healthy landscapes and reduce noxious weeds and use products that reduce impacts to wildlife.

Action 8: Promote depaving

Support local organizations in raising awareness among property owners about opportunities to remove excess pavement and replace impervious surfaces with native plant gardens, meadows, tree groves, raingardens, and other natural features. Co-host workshops, site tours, demonstration gardens, and share educational resources to demonstrate how depaving can reduce urban heat, support pollinators and other wildlife, and improve stormwater management.

a) Encourage green schoolyards by sharing information and resources to raise awareness of opportunities for local schools to transform asphalt and turf-grass campuses into nature-rich outdoor classrooms, gardens, and play spaces that provide both environmental and educational benefits.

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Action 9: Promote native and drought tolerant landscaping

Support community partners and existing programs that help private property owners replace grass lawns with native and pollinator-friendly plantings, adopt drought-tolerant landscaping practices, incorporate compost to improve soil water retention, and use efficient irrigation. Use City newsletters, classes, and community events to raise awareness of available resources and programs.

Action 10: Education on climate and nature-based solutions

Use City newsletters, classes, community events, and initiatives (such as Leave the Leaves) to build public support for nature-based grounds maintenance practices and raise awareness of opportunities for residents to adopt similar practices on their own properties.

a) Identify opportunities to incorporate hands-on climate and environmental education into youth programs and other recreational activities.

Strategy NS-3: Protect and expand the urban tree canopy

Protect, maintain, and expand Vancouver's tree canopy equitably to ensure that all residents can share in the benefits, including carbon sequestration, improved air and water quality, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, shade, reduced urban heat, and overall community health and livability.

$ Action 11: Equitable tree canopy cover

Preserve the existing urban tree canopy and expand its coverage to achieve the City's 28% Tree Canopy Goal by 2047.

a) Use the 2026 Tree Canopy Assessment and the Comprehensive Plan's Vulnerability Assessment to focus planting efforts in areas with the greatest canopy deficits and climate vulnerabilities such as urban heat island impacts.
b) Preserve existing street trees through proper care and maintenance and replanting in vacant planting locations.

$ Action 12: Grow large, long-lived trees on city lands

Maximize the carbon sequestration potential of municipal properties by adding long-lived, large-canopy tree species that may be difficult to accommodate in other urban spaces.

$ Action 13: Protection of existing tree canopy

Proactively manage anticipated canopy loss due to infestations (such as Emerald Ash Borer) and diseases. Coordinate tree removal, where necessary, with the timely replacement of trees using a diverse mix of climate-resilient species to maintain canopy cover and ecosystem health.

Action 14: Engage property owners as partners in tree canopy expansion

Continue to use programs such as the Yard Tree Giveaway, Neighborhood Tree Stewards, Heritage Tree Program, and TreeCAP to encourage, support, and recognize property owners who plant, protect, and care for trees.

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Action 15: Monitor new tree codes

Monitor the effectiveness of newly adopted tree codes in the Comprehensive Plan for their effectiveness in preserving existing trees, establishing successful new plantings, and providing room for new large-canopy trees during development projects on private property and public rights of way.

Strategy NS-4: Leverage community events and recreational facilities

Reduce the carbon footprint of City-operated facilities and use community centers, parks, and recreational events to showcase sustainable practices.

$ Action 16: Demonstrate sustainable practices at public-facing City facilities

Put energy and water conservation, waste reduction, composting, sustainable transportation, DarkSky International-compliant outdoor lighting, fire-wise materials, and climate-friendly landscaping into practice at community centers, parks, and other public facilities.

$ Action 17: Share climate education at community centers

Use recreational facilities, parks, the Arts Hub, the Water Resources Education Center, and other public facilities to raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage sustainable behaviors.

a) Install signs explaining sustainable features, such as rain gardens, native landscaping, and energy-efficient lighting.
b) Use educational displays and tabling opportunities to encourage recycling, composting, water and energy conservation, and walking, biking, and transit use.

$ Action 18: Improve energy efficiency in community centers

Participate in strategic energy management programs, such as those offered by Clark Public Utilities, to reduce energy use, identify efficiency improvements, and guide investments that lower energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions for community centers.

a) Provide community center facility staff with training and resources on energy-saving practices, including equipment scheduling, temperature settings, and lighting controls, to reduce energy use and operating costs.

$ Action 19: Reduce waste and resource consumption at facilities and programs

Expand waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting in City facilities and recreation programs. Reduce single-use materials and use reusable foodware where practical.

$ Action 20: Reduce climate and environmental impacts of public events

Work with event organizers, vendors, and local sustainability partners (such as Clark County Green Businesses) to reduce waste, promote low-carbon transportation, reuse event materials such as signs and decorations, use clean energy where feasible, and offer plant-forward food options.

Solid Waste & Wastewater Review Guide

Overview of Updates:

- Created a new strategy focused on preventing waste; moved several actions from the Community & Resilience strategy (formerly Equity & Green Economy) under this strategy related to supporting resource sharing, reuse, repair, and surplus food recovery.
- Adjustments to reflect City's role in supporting community groups on actions related to circular economy, resource sharing, etc.; and, provide greater specificity about options that are available.
- Updated actions under Strategy SW-2: Expand Composting and Organics Recovery to reflect status of the WA Organics Management Law (from previous status as HB 1799 when the 2022 CAF was written). Recognize the introduction of WA Reuses platform.
- Revised several actions to better reflect the City's supporting role relative to the County (lead) with regards to recycling and compost systems.
- Removed action related to monitoring construction and demolition waste; both industry experts and City staff have reported that recycling for these materials is already driven by the strong cost incentives already present, as well as there being no clear avenue for the City to influence practices. Replaced with action focused on finding long-term markets for recycling or re-use of clean wood waste, which would support the intent of the original action in a more practical way.
- Adding new actions to indicate where the City can use its own buying power to support demand for composted and recycled materials markets.
- Updated wastewater treatment actions to reflect the more advanced state of development of the facility upgrade planning process. Current Wastewater Solids Renewal Program does not expect to eliminate all emissions from the process (although net-zero emissions will remain the City's overall goal); and, we have more clarity on the beneficial resources that could result from the process.
- Added new action to recognize emerging interest in finding and developing industrial symbiosis opportunities in our industrial districts.

We have kept an emphasis on: Diverting organic waste from landfills, increasing and improving participation in recycling; circular economy/reducing waste generation; and transforming our current wastewater treatment process from one that creates waste products to one that produces beneficial resources.

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Solid Waste & Wastewater

Strategy SW-1: Prevent waste and advance a circular economy

Focus on reducing the generation of waste, particularly food waste, and recovering surplus food where possible for distribution to people who can use it.

Action 1: Support a circular economy

Promote community-based reuse, lending, repair, and resource sharing by raising awareness of local organizations, libraries, groups, platforms, and businesses that advance these goals through City platforms, classes, and community events.

a) Encourage businesses, schools, and other organizations to explore reuse platforms like WA Reuses.

Action 2: Food waste prevention

Elevate Clark County Green Neighbors' campaigns and activities to reduce food waste and improve food recovery through City platforms, classes and programs, and promotional events such as Food Waste Prevention Week.

Action 3: Food surplus recovery

Raise awareness of the benefits of food surplus recovery and help connect residents and businesses to non-profits, food banks, and app-based food rescue programs dedicated to redirecting edible food surplus to neighbors who could make good use of it.

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Strategy SW-2: Expand composting and organics recovery

Divert food scraps, yard debris, and other compostable materials from landfill disposal and increase organics recovery.

Action 4: Organic waste ordinance

Adopt an ordinance establishing local requirements for organic waste management applicable to residents and covered businesses, consistent with the Washington Organics Management Law.

Action 5: Citywide composting and organics management

Along with other organics management actions, divert organic waste to landfill in accordance with the Washington Organics Management Law (OML).

a) In partnership with Clark County and the owner-operator of the West Vancouver Materials Recovery Center, move recycling to a new facility that is available to receive organics—thus allowing for business and county customers (especially those within the Urban Growth Area)—to have food waste added to their yard debris by 2030, in compliance with OML.
b) In partnership with Clark County, implement programs to inform and encourage new organics customers to use the service to include food waste and no contamination.

Strategy SW-3: Improve recycling and material recovery

Maximize recovery and re-use of recyclable materials.

Action 6: Preferential purchasing of recycled materials

Promote the use of recycled-content and recovered-material products through City procurement policies.

Action 7: Increase and improve community participation in recycling

Implement the City's Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP) to reduce contamination in residential and commercial recycling through targeted education, outreach, and program changes.

Action 8: Proper disposal and specialty recycling

Through City communication channels and education programs, raise awareness among residents about available programs for proper disposal of household hazardous waste and specialty materials such as e-waste, batteries, paint, and other materials.

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Action 9: Clean Wood Waste Recycling and Reuse

Continue to partner with the Columbia Resource Company and other regional jurisdictions such as Clark County and Oregon Metro to support the development of long-term markets for the recycling or reuse of clean wood waste.

Strategy SW-4: Advance wastewater emissions reductions and resource recovery

Pursue a wastewater solids renewal program that minimizes emissions from the treatment process and recovers energy and beneficial materials.

Action 10: Promote local industrial symbiosis

Actively collaborate with industrial and community partners to support the use of waste or industrial by-products as raw materials for other systems to attain mutually beneficial outcomes, recover waste heat and renewable energy, lower operational costs, and reduce overall environmental footprints.

Action 11: Reduce emissions

Minimize emissions from wastewater treatment by incorporating enhanced energy efficiency and renewable fuels into new and existing systems.

Action 12: Recover beneficial resources

Develop and invest in a solids management and resource recovery plan for wastewater facilities to recover biogas that can be converted to renewable natural gas and produce high-quality biosolids that can be used as soil amendments.

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City Governance Review Guide

Overview of Updates:

- Added specificity to actions about policy alignment and funding.
- Adjusted an effort to reflect the need for both additional staff as well as training for current staff to effectively implement CAF projects and programs.
- Added new action addressing using technology to reduce travel, per conversations with IT Department.
- Added new action regarding the integration of climate action and sustainability into City culture, per conversations with HR.
- Added new action directing the City to use its advocacy role to encourage continued and expanded State support for climate programs, funding, and legislation.
- Added new action to prioritize tribal relations with our sovereign neighbors.
- Updated old action encouraging the creation of City "Green Teams" to reflect the recent formation of such a group - the Stewardship, Education, Engagement, Development, and Sustainability (SEEDS) Employee Resource Group.

We have kept an emphasis on: Adding critical funding and staff capacity to implement the CAF; phase-out of gas lawn equipment (municipal and city-wide); consistent updates of City's GHG Inventory and CAF; integrating sustainability as a core city value that is reflected through both policy and culture.

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City Governance

Strategy GOV-1: Strengthen City operations and policies to reduce emissions and improve resilience internally and community-wide

Integrate climate considerations into City planning, policies, budgeting, investments, and operations.

Action 1: Policy alignment

When developing or updating City plans and policies, assess their alignment with the City's climate goals and current CAF strategies and actions, and incorporate climate considerations and relevant actions into the plans and policies as appropriate. Likewise, coordinate future updates to the Climate Action Framework with updates to the Comprehensive Plan and department-based plans.

Action 2: Climate budgeting

Clarify and strengthen citywide budget processes and policies to address near-term climate priorities identified by City leadership and guide department workplans.

Action 3: Climate and equity impact assessment tool

Develop and adopt a standard climate and equity impact assessment tool and guidebook to inform planning, programming, and project development.

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Action 4: Cross-departmental climate working group

Establish a Climate Working Group comprised of staff from across departments to support cross-departmental collaboration on climate-related planning and implementation. Leverage the Working Group to provide ongoing staff training, including guidance on how to incorporate climate considerations into the budget process.

Action 5: Identify best use of City-owned properties

Evaluate opportunities to leverage City-owned properties, rights-of-way, and public facilities to advance greenhouse gas reduction, climate resilience, urban canopy and nature space expansion, housing production, economic development, and equity objectives.

a) Assess City-owned properties for opportunities to incorporate resilience hub functions, prioritizing sites in neighborhoods with the greatest need.
b) Assess opportunities for large-scale solar installations on City-owned rooftops, parking structures, and other appropriate sites.
c) Assess underutilized public lands such as excess right-of-way, spaces beneath freeway viaducts, and utility corridors for activation as green infrastructure, stormwater management features, community gathering space, urban agriculture, or other community and environmental purposes.

Action 6: Green procurement policy

Update the City's Green Procurement Policy to reflect current best practices for sustainable purchasing in all departments to reduce the City's indirect GHG emissions, including but not limited to construction materials, office supplies, events, and staff travel. Train staff on best practices and use of the policy.

Action 7: Phase out two-cycle landscape equipment

Advance a city-wide transition away from two-cycle landscaping equipment to lower-emission alternatives.

a) Update City procurement guidelines and contracts to restrict the use of two-cycle equipment by City contractors and prioritize lower-emission alternatives.
b) Develop an equitable approach to a city-wide phaseout of two-cycle lawn equipment. Engage affected residents, businesses, landscaping contractors, and other stakeholders to inform the phaseout approach.

Action 8: Consistent funding for climate

Identify and implement stable, long-term funding mechanisms to support City-led climate mitigation and resilience projects and programs.

Action 9: Technology to support remote services and work

Continue to expand and improve technology solutions that enable City staff and members of the public to conduct City business remotely and reduce the need for travel to City facilities. This may include remote permitting and applications, virtual meetings, remote work tools, and other digital services that provide convenient alternatives to in-person visits.

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Action 10: Reduce vehicle trips by municipal employees

Continue to promote incentives for commuting by walking, cycling, transit, and carpooling among City employees to reduce drive-alone commute trips. Allocate available funds in ways that further program goals and seek additional funding to expand the program.

Action 11: Regular updates of GHG inventory and CAF

Monitor the City's progress toward its GHG reduction goals by updating the GHG Inventory every four years. Regularly review and update the CAF and associated departmental workplans based on the latest GHG inventory, emerging trends and technologies, available funding, and other relevant factors to ensure it remains effective in achieving the City's goals.

Strategy GOV-2: Integrate climate action and sustainability into City culture

Build staff capacity and organizational practices to embed climate and sustainability across City operations.

Action 12: Build staff capacity to support climate efforts

Build and maintain the staffing, expertise, and organizational capacity needed within City departments to implement the projects and programs outlined in the CAF.

Action 13: Sustainability-focused employee resource group (ERG)

Support the development and ongoing operations of the Stewardship, Education, Engagement, Development, and Sustainability (SEEDS) ERG to foster a culture of sustainability among City employees through education, engagement, communication, and behavior change.

Action 14: Embed sustainability as a core organizational priority

Leverage HR systems and practices to emphasize climate and sustainability as core organizational priority by incorporating them into job descriptions, hiring processes, onboarding, employee development, and performance evaluation.

Strategy GOV-3: Collaborate regionally to increase opportunities for climate action and climate justice

Strengthen partnerships and advocacy to advance regional climate action and resilience.

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Action 15: Tribal relations

Build on and strengthen the City's relationships with Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Chinook Indian Nation, and Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission for respectful and effective coordination and collaboration where appropriate on tribal climate priorities.

Action 16: Advocate for state support of climate action and resilience

Advocate for state laws, building codes, financial incentives, grant programs, and other measures and funding opportunities that support climate mitigation, clean energy, natural resource conservation, and community resilience across Washington.

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