

# Spokane Sustainability Action Plan



2021







# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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Cover photo by Hilary Nickerson

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Cities & Organizations

This Sustainability Action Plan was developed using multiple models for guidance, including the following:

- ❖ City of Flagstaff – Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, 2018
- ❖ City of Reno – Sustainability & Climate Action Plan 2019 - 2025
- ❖ ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, USA, 2018 Template
- ❖ City of Portland – Operationalizing Equity Checklist

## The Plan Authors

Members of the City’s Sustainability Action Subcommittee (SAS) researched and wrote this report. This document provides a comprehensive set of strategies and actions the SAS recommends the City adopts to ensure a more resilient future for the people living and working in Spokane. The SAS report also provides a recommended framework for Plan implementation and prioritization as well as descriptions of our development process and public engagement.

City Council created the SAS in early 2019 to provide recommendations on updating the 2009 Sustainability Action Plan. In preparation for this update, we researched solutions the City and its residents can take to both mitigate our contribution to climate change and to help make our community be more resilient in the face of future challenges.

We respectfully ask the City to consider adopting the recommendations outlined in this report as an update to the Spokane Sustainability Action Plan.

## Previous Environmental Champions

This Plan is made possible today because of the courage and vision from City leaders and community members doing this work over previous decades. Thank you for leading Spokane toward the path of environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

Mayor Mary Verner (2007-2011)

Mayor’s Task Force on Sustainability (2008-2009)

Council President Ben Stuckart (2011-2019)

Senior Executive Assistant to the Council President Adam McDaniel (2013-2019)

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 How to Get Involved

## Spokane's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP)

This plan updates and expands upon Spokane's 2009 Sustainability Action Plan. It identifies specific strategies and actions that will help meet our 100% renewable energy goals as adopted by the City in 2018, and to meet regulation set by the State of Washington to address greenhouse gas emissions.

While climate change is a global issue, it requires action at every level, including local action. We believe that Spokane has much to gain by embracing the opportunities presented by this challenge.

With this in mind, we are taking an approach to sustainability planning that balances the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with our commitment to create good jobs, a healthy environment and an equitable community.

For example, in partnership with Avista Utilities, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council, and Urbanova, we have won a \$2.5 million grant to install electric vehicle charging stations throughout Spokane County as part of a regionwide transportation electrification (TE) plan. The implementation of this regional TE plan will reduce emissions, cut transportation costs, create jobs, and bring more opportunities to historically underserved areas of our city.

While this Sustainability and Climate Action Plan helps our community become environmentally responsible, it will also help us become more resilient by preparing our community for impacts caused by changing weather patterns. It will help us incentivize the development of a local clean energy economy and secure the economic benefits of becoming a resilient city. With smart mitigation efforts, we'll be able to protect the economic and social benefits of our local tourism industry, beloved public events like Bloomsday, regional farming, the Spokane River, and our aquifer.

We hope that this plan will contribute to what Spokane has been — a hub of prosperous innovation, collaboration, and creativity — built through the efforts of community members with the vision and courage to shape their own future.





# INTRODUCTION

Spokane's Sustainability Action Plan answers the City's call to address environmental and climate related requirements at both the local and State levels. Since 2009 when Spokane's first Sustainability Action Plan was adopted, the city, local leaders, organizations, and residents have worked hard to meet environmental and climate-related requirements at both the local and state levels.

In 2018, the City worked with local energy experts to adopt a goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2030, establishing Spokane as a leader in climate action.

In 2019, the State of Washington enacted legislation that requires Spokane to make meaningful changes to its energy use:

- **Clean Energy Transformation Act (2019)** – requires 100% renewable electricity use by 2045
- **Greenhouse Gas reduction targets (2019)** – 30-year targets requiring a step approach

This updated Sustainability Action Plan provides a guide to achieve these new requirements, mitigate risks from climate change, and invest in strengthening our communities. Our objective is to ensure the equitable prosperity of Spokane residents and the protection of our natural resources for generations to come.

## Plan Objectives

### 95% Reduction by 2050

Use a step approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2016 levels

### Build Resiliency

Ensure our neighborhoods and economy are ready for future challenges

### Prioritize Most Impacted

Prioritize those most exposed to health impacts and economic downturns related to climate change

## How will we know if our actions & strategies are effective?

*We'll be able to measure our progress through reduced greenhouse gas emissions. We'll also measure benefits in these four key areas:*

- Improved Environment
- Economic Opportunity
- Increased Equity
- Increased Health & Well Being

## Areas of Action

To achieve our goals, we are acting across these seven areas



Buildings & Energy



Transportation & Land Use



Waste Diversion & Material Conservation



Water Resources



Economic Prosperity



Natural Environment



Health & Wellbeing

# THE SAS PROCESS

## Development of this Plan

This plan was drafted by the Sustainability Action Subcommittee with input and engagement from dozens of local, regional, and national experts. Over a period of two years, members of the SAS researched sustainability and climate policy as well as planning frameworks used by local governments throughout the US to develop this plan. Prior to adoption, this plan will undergo an additional six months of public engagement which allows time to incorporate public feedback.



Tour of the Next Level Treatment under construction at the Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility in Sept 2019. Photo Credit: Hannahlee Allers

## The Sustainability Action Subcommittee (SAS) Process

When City Council began forming the SAS in 2019, Council President Breean Beggs (then Council Member Breean Beggs) envisioned this group as “the brainchild of Spokane’s very own Project Drawdown.” According to Breean, “this means identifying the areas of city and community operations that have the highest potential to experience increased sustainability over the next five years and the action steps it would take to achieve those improvements. Areas that are at the top of my mind based on my current understanding are: water conservation (well under way), increased renewable energy generation in and around the city, energy conservation in the built environment, reduction of waste (including, reduction of packaging, recycling, composting and reuse), transportation transformation to electrical vehicles and mode shift to transit, cycling and walking.”

As the team began to take shape, CM Beggs purposely left the directive on how to achieve the above stated goals up to the volunteer citizens that make up the SAS. He wanted the subcommittee to pursue ideas that members felt passionate about. We refer to his vision as the *democratization of policy making*, where policy ideas are vetted by a broad range of local stakeholders and "bubble up" into practice rather than being mandated from a single elected official or governing body.

## Membership & Workgroups

Members of the SAS have expertise or experience in the fields of energy, biofuel, planning, natural resource management, ecology, forestry, transportation, health, equity, sustainable business practices, and the built environment. Work was divided into the following workgroups:

- Built Environment
- Energy
- Health & Equity
- Natural Resources
- Planning & Land Use
- Sustainability & Climate Action Planning
- Transportation
- Waste/Recycling



SAS monthly meeting at the Saranac Building in 2019. Photo Credit: Kathlyn Kinney



## SAS Guiding Principles

The following principles were adopted by the SAS to help guide the development of this Plan.

1. We seek to provide future generations with a quality of life equal to or better than the quality of life we now are experiencing.
2. We seek to bring people and stakeholders together to co-create solutions and move our community towards resilience in the face of climate change
3. We believe climate strategies must address historic inequalities and environmental injustices. We will work to undo environmentally racist actions and systems.
4. We believe that equitable inclusion is imperative in sustainability planning, therefore we will engage the community often and through diverse formats of communication.
5. We believe that all people in Spokane should benefit from environmental programs and policies, not just a wealthy few.
6. In a time of uncertainty, we seek to help prepare our community for the challenges to come. We seek to protect the right of all members of our community, human and other than human, to a healthy environment.
7. We believe that every action we take must be evaluated for its impact on the climate.
8. We believe urgent action is required!



## Democratizing Policy-Making

We are proud to have co-created this Plan with many active and engaged community members. The strategies outlined in this Plan are the culmination of hundreds of conversations, hours of research, and thousands of voices from our community.

This Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) was developed over two years guided by:

- More than fifty volunteer citizens of the Sustainability Action Subcommittee
- Nine workgroups addressing all aspects of environmental sustainability as well as social and economic impacts
- Dozens of additional local, state, and national subject matter experts provided guidance
- Over 1,440 community members responded to our climate survey in 2020



## Six Months of Community Engagement

The SAS conducted a six-month public engagement around the first draft of this plan from April through September of 2021. During this engagement period, the SAS:

- Conducted over 30 workshops and community events
- Had over 1,600 interactions with residents through surveys, meetings & workshops, and emails
- Appeared in dozens of print, television, and radio stories
- Distributed 83,000 utility inserts

## An Ongoing Process

This Plan is the next step in our ongoing efforts to keep Spokane healthy and vibrant. By adopting this document via resolution, the City of Spokane creates a foundation for acting toward the goals and vision outlined by the community, City staff, and elected leaders.

As technology advances, priorities shift, and goals are accomplished, the actions and strategies within this Plan will evolve to make room for the next iteration of Spokane’s Sustainability Action Plan.



Spokane in Motion bicycle infrastructure charrette, May 2019. Photo credit: Kara Odegard



# WHY WE NEED A PLAN

## Why We Need a Plan

In 2018, the Climate Impact Research Consortium (CIRC) facilitated a climate adaptation project here in Spokane. CIRC is comprised of an interdisciplinary team of scientists from Universities in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho and funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). CIRC scientists paired with local stakeholders to conduct research and write a [report](#) around five key areas: Temperature, Precipitation, Stream Flow, Snowpack, and Wildfires. Our research indicates that without bold action toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Spokane can expect to see the following impacts throughout this century:



### Warmer Year-Round Temperatures

- Increases in temperatures in all seasons
- More intense temperature increases during summer months
- Longer, drier summers



### Decreased Snowpack

- Changes in type and timing of precipitation (more rain in the spring and fall, less rain in the summer)
- Less snow in the mountains resulting in changes in river flow that will impact native fish and wildlife as well as recreation on the river
- Shorter winter sport season in the mountains



### Increased Risk of Wildfire

- Wetter springs mean more underbrush growth for fire fuel
- Hotter, drier summers mean more intense and destructive wildfires
- Increase wildfire frequency and intensity equals loss of habitat and increase smoke



### Economic & Recreational Costs

- Economic impacts -- Hoopfest and Pig Out in the Park combined bring an estimated \$54M to Spokane every year - increase heat and smoke during the summer months will impact these events
- Loss of recreation due to early season low flows on the Spokane River
- Warmer winters means shorter ski seasons



### Disproportionate Impacts

Increase risk of respiratory and heat-related illness will impact people who are:

- Disproportionately exposed: children, outdoor workers, under-sheltered
- Disproportionately impacted: low-income, people with underlying health issues (asthma, heart disease, respiratory illness), elderly

## x<sup>w</sup> mene? Redband Trout

Native Redband Trout: A prized and iconic fish species native to the Spokane River. Projected lower river flows will likely increase water temperatures, favoring non-native predatory fish and result in reduced habitat quality. Degraded habitat and increased predation will further undermine this already struggling population.



# WHY WE NEED A PLAN

## Climate Change is Already Here

As longtime residents of Spokane County attest, hazardous air quality days used to be rare in our area. When they did happen in the past it was due to blowing dust or agricultural field burning. Although forest fires have always been a feature of western ecosystems, climate change is causing larger, longer fires that result in days and even weeks of air so hazardous it is dangerous to breathe. As indicated in the graphs below, the trend toward an increasing number of hazardous air days is increasing over time.

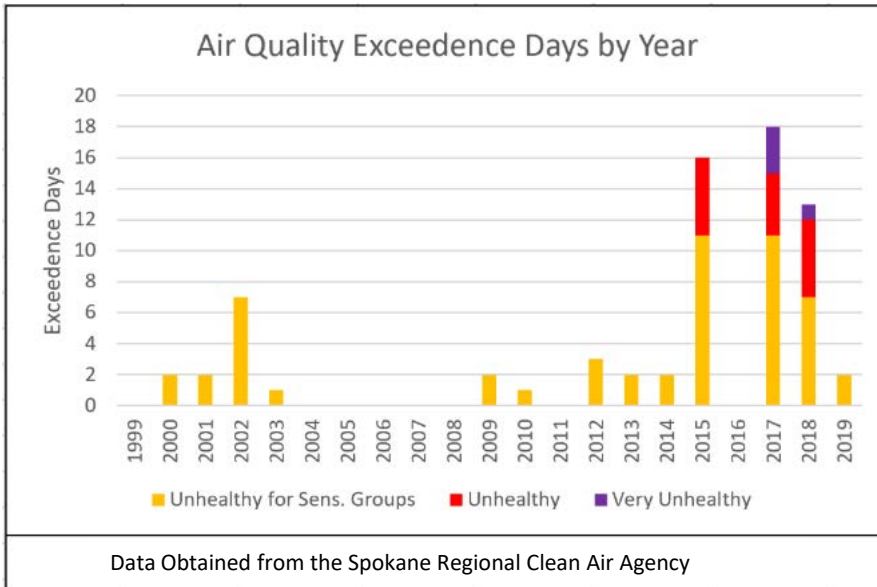


Figure 1: number of days where AQI is greater than 100 in Spokane over the most recent 20 year period

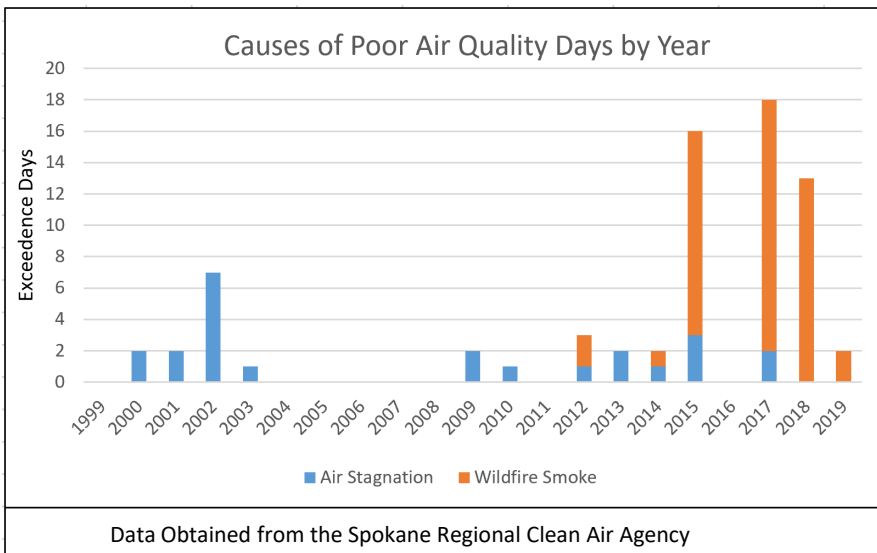


Figure 2: Causes of poor air quality in Spokane over the most recent 20 year period

According to the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA), on September 13th, 2020 residents in Spokane County experienced the most hazardous air quality since 1999, the year in which the SRCAA began reporting. The air quality index (AQI) for that day reached 479 out of 500 due to regional wildfire smoke.



# SPOKANE'S CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (aka climate pollution) in Spokane are mostly caused by burning fossil fuels for transportation and temperature control in buildings. Other sources include the incineration of solid waste and treatment of wastewater.

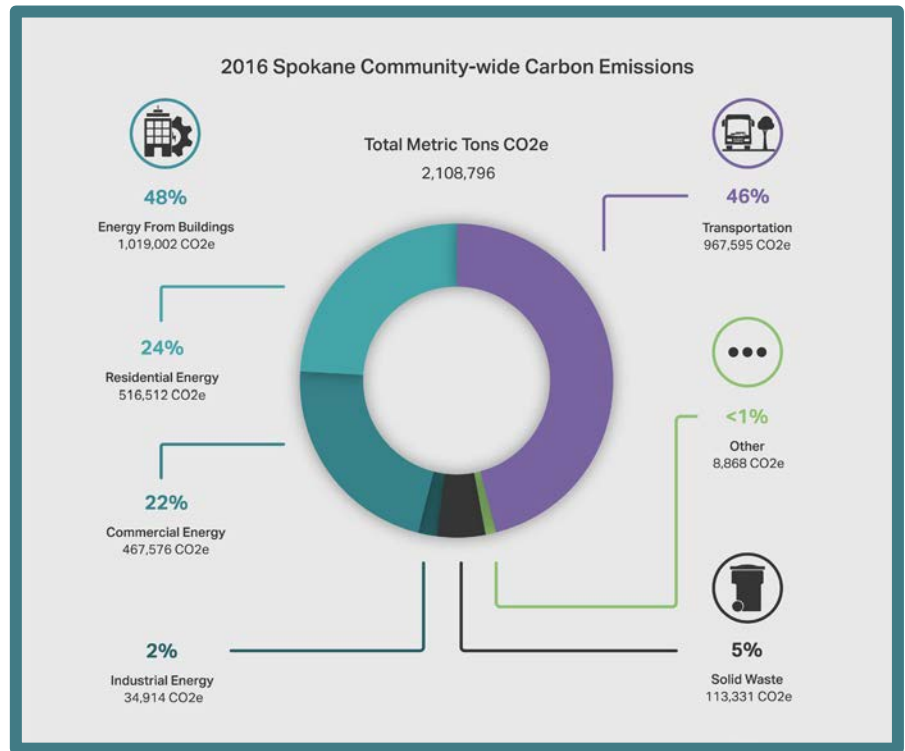
Steps to reduce climate pollution are being taken at the international, national, state, and local levels. In the Paris Agreement 194 countries committed to reducing their climate pollution. As part of that agreement, the United States committed to reduce its climate pollution 50-52% by 2030 compared with 2005 levels. In 2019 the State of Washington committed to the following GHG reduction schedule:

- by 2020 - reduce to 1990 levels
- by 2030 - 45% below 1990 levels
- by 2040 - 70% below 1990 levels
- by 2050 - 95% below 1990 levels and achieve net zero emissions

Spokane is participating in this worldwide effort. The City's first greenhouse gas inventory covered 1990-2005. In 2016, Spokane's community-wide emissions were 2,108,796 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e). In 2017 the city set its first GHG reduction goal.

In 2018, the Spokane City Council committed to "100% renewable energy for the city of Spokane's community electricity supply by no later than 2030." (Ordinance C35668)

In 2021 Spokane City Council passed an ordinance requiring 95% reduction of climate pollution and net neutral emissions by 2050, aligning local goals with our State goals (SMC 15.05.020).



Transportation emissions include all forms: but the largest percent of the transportation emissions come from personal vehicles.

Transportation Type	Percent of Total
Passenger Vehicles and Motorcycles	44%
Light Duty Trucks	18%
Railroad	11%
Heavy Duty Vehicles	10%
Regional Airports (Spokane & Geiger Field)	16%
Public Transportation (STA)	1%
Other	1%
Total	100%

# ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING PLANS & LAWS

## Relationship to Other City Plans

The SAS considered other City plans during the development of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP).<sup>1</sup> These plans either inform or could be informed by the SAP. Some of these documents already emphasize climate and sustainability solutions outlined in this Plan, while others will need to be updated to integrate sustainability and climate action.

- Spokane Sustainability Action Plan (2009)
- Spokane Comprehensive Plan “Shaping Spokane” (2017)
- Spokane Housing Action Plan (currently under development)
- Spokane Water Conservation Master Plan (2020)
- Spokane City Bicycle Master Plan (2017)
- Spokane Pedestrian Master Plan (2015)

## Relationship to Regional Plans & Programs

The following regional plans also have the potential to interact with the City’s sustainability and climate goals.<sup>2</sup>

- Spokane County Comprehensive Plan (updated 2019)
- Spokane County Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan (2015)
- Horizon 2040: The Spokane Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Spokane Regional Health District’s Walk Bike Bus Program
- Spokane Transit Authority Moving Forward 10 Year Plan (2016)
- WSDOT Active Transportation Plan (2021, under development)
- Avista Utilities Integrated Resource Plan (2020)
- Avista Utilities Transportation Electrification Plan (2020)
- Spokane Food Policy Council’s Food Action Plan (currently under development)

## Related City & State Code

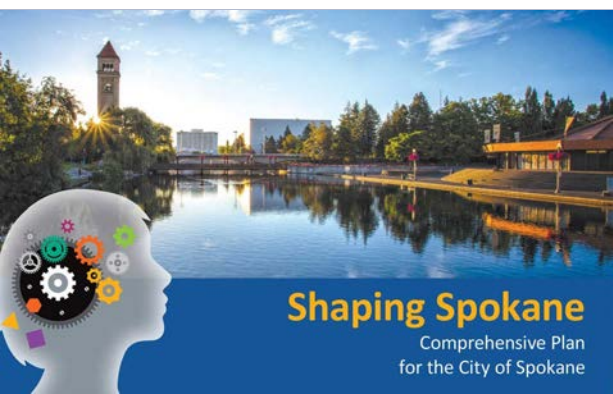
In recent years, the City of Spokane and the State of Washington have passed laws that help guide the goals and strategies outlined in this plan.<sup>3</sup>

### Spokane Municipal Code Chapter 15.05 – Climate Change

- 2014 Resolution 0070 – Supporting anadromous fish recovery throughout the Upper Columbia Watershed
- 2017 Climate Change Ordinance aligns City’s climate targets with the State targets
- 2018 100% Renewable Energy Ordinance C35668
- 2021 GHG Reduction Target – net neutral by 2050

### Washington State

- 2019 Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)
- Revised Code of Washington 70A.45.020 -- Green House Gas Emissions Reductions
- 2019 Use Food Well Washington Plan
- Revised Code of Washington 19.27A -- Washington State Energy Code



As the City’s Comprehensive Plan is the primary guiding document for citywide planning, development, and conservation, we have indicated alignment to the Comprehensive Plan at the beginning of each sector chapter.





## SAS Vision for 2050

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*As a community, Spokane ensures the well-being of all our people and the ecosystems of which we are a part. We do this by investing in our neighborhoods and caring for our natural habitats while building an equitable, regenerative, carbon-free economy that is resilient and sustainable.*

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## Sustainability Action Plan Goals

In order to achieve our vision for Spokane, we have identified the following goals:

1. Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions from 2016 baseline by:
  - 45% by 2030 to 1,159,838 metric tons
  - 70% by 2040 to 632,639 metric tons
  - 95% by 2050 to 105,440 metric tons and achieve net zero emissions
2. Build resilient neighborhoods by investing in our local communities, systems, and economy with these key areas in mind:
  - ☐ Healthy Ecosystems
  - ☐ Economic Opportunity
  - ☐ Equity
  - ☐ Health & Wellbeing
3. Prioritize people and communities most exposed to health impacts and economic downturns related to climate change

## The Importance of Collaboration and Partnership

The strategies and actions of this plan assume and expect that Spokane and its regional partners will continue our shared history of collaboration and co-creation. Together we work smarter and more efficiently while building trust and amplifying our shared goals.

## How this Plan is Organized

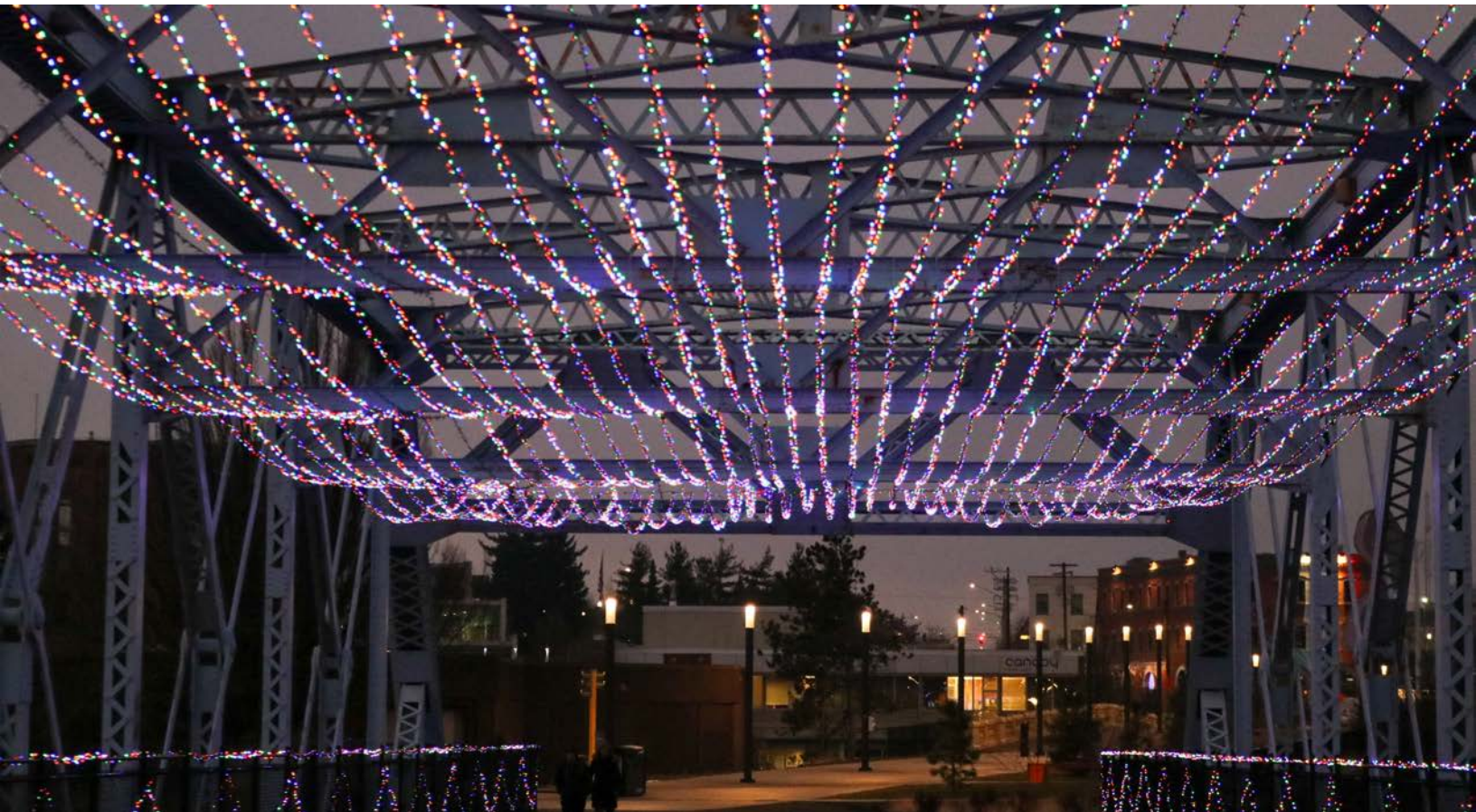
The Spokane Sustainability Action Plan presents goals, strategies, and actions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Plan is organized around these focus areas:

- Equity Considerations & Strategies
- Seven Sector Strategies
- Implementation Strategies

## How We Work

For each focus area, this document describes the City of Spokane's sustainability goals, related strategies, and actions for achieving those strategies. The strategies and actions outlined were identified priorities by the Spokane community, the City of Spokane, and the Sustainability Action Subcommittee. Each focus area is organized in the following manner:

- **Goals** set the vision for action that must be taken within each sector.
- **Strategies** outline a more specific framework for implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan goals.
- **Priority Actions** are actions within a strategy that are prioritized from a broader set of potential actions through an evaluation of projected cost, effectiveness, feasibility, and co-benefits.





# THE 7 SECTORS



## **Buildings & Energy**

refers to Spokane's desire to be a leader of carbon-efficient building science, helping builders and property owners meet the Washington State Energy Code's requirement for all new buildings to be emissions neutral by 2031, as well as to meet the large and growing need to retrofit buildings to reduce emissions



## **Transportation & Land Use**

refers to promoting livable neighborhoods for people of all backgrounds and means and seeking land use strategies for the City of Spokane that minimize the negative impact on the environment while promoting equity, affordable housing, and transportation choices



## **Waste Diversion and Material Conservation**

refers to the work that Spokane and its residents are doing to be innovative champions of materials use, reuse and conservation, and environmental stewardship



## **Water Resources**

refers to the protection and management of the Spokane River aquatic system and the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer to ensure a clean and sustainable water supply, and the management of the associated watershed land use and activities that impact water resources directly or indirectly



## **Economic Prosperity**

refers to the balance of costs and opportunities associated with adapting to and mitigating the climate crisis. Creating resiliency in our City means investing in local business and neighborhoods to help them thrive both during times of economic growth and times of economic challenges



## **Natural Environment**

refers to ensuring that clean air, clean water, and a healthy tree canopy is a community right and can prepare the community to mitigate the risks of climate change, ensure equitable access to open spaces, and provide habitat for beneficial species



## **Health & Wellbeing**

refers to the work of creating a city with local leadership that prevents potential problems by proactively investing in public health and emergency services, housing, and resiliency infrastructure

# CO-BENEFITS OF A SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



In addition to the benefits of reducing the impacts of climate change, many of the strategies and actions addressed in this SAP will enhance our lives in Spokane. For example, increasing energy efficiency in buildings will reduce the daily costs involved in heating or cooling buildings, both residential and commercial.

In 2016 Spokane Transit (STA) expected to save at least \$120,449 a year as a result of energy-efficient improvements made to its bus maintenance facilities.<sup>4</sup>

## Improved Environment Means Higher Quality of Life for All

Spokane is known for its high quality of life.<sup>5</sup> Many sustainability and climate actions recommended in this Plan will help to maintain and even improve our quality of life that may otherwise be threatened if we take no action at all. From higher-paying green jobs, and lower energy costs, to greater opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities, the SAP will help ensure that Spokane will continue to be recognized for its high quality of life. We can do better than “near perfect, near nature,” and become a community that is “near perfect, in tune with nature.”

## Economic Opportunity Creates Resilience

Spokane can improve its resilience to climate change by adopting green business practices and creating living wage jobs. Capitalizing on climate solutions, rather than continuing business as usual will better position us for the economic opportunities of the future. Greater Spokane Incorporated has been recognized for its work with local businesses and community organizations to increase energy efficiency and promote conservation.<sup>6</sup> To foster economic resilience for our region’s unique small businesses, Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance launched an online Live Local marketplace in 2020. Actions like these create a stronger local economy.

## Human Health & Wellbeing

The health of residents is affected by the lifestyle choices available to us and the impacts of the pollution generated by burning fossil fuels. Spokane has a strong network of recreational cycling trails, and we need additional investment to develop safe and well-maintained commuter bike routes. The Downtown and East Central neighborhoods are particularly affected by air pollution from vehicles on the freeway. Investing in bicycle infrastructure not only increases health outcomes for the cyclist, but it also reducing air pollution for all.

## Increased Equity Improves Livelihoods

The poorest zip code in the northwest is 99201, downtown Spokane and West Central, where the median income is \$26,685.<sup>7</sup> As we work to improve environmental outcomes and create a clean fuel economy, we will create new job opportunities and better living conditions for people who were left behind in the fossil-fuel era.

Look for these co-benefits highlighted at the beginning of each chapter!



Improved Environment



Economic Opportunity



Health & Wellbeing



Increased Equity

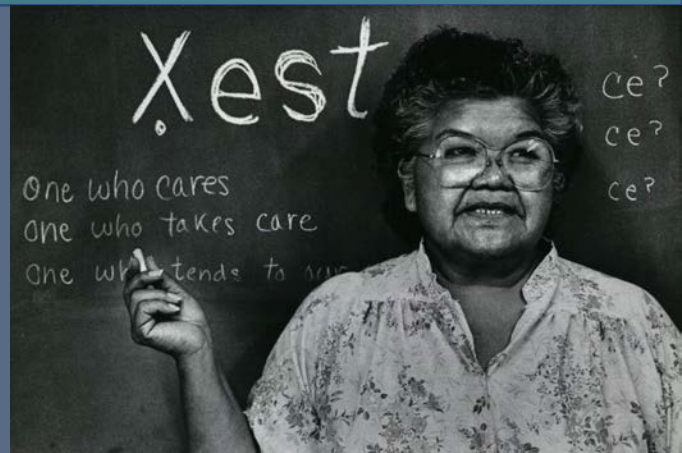


# THE SPOKANE PEOPLE

Pauline Flett, a Spokane Tribe elder who played an instrumental role in preserving the tribe's Salish dialect, teaches a course in 1983.

For more information on Pauline's work, watch this [video](#).<sup>8</sup>

Photo Credit: Spokesman Review



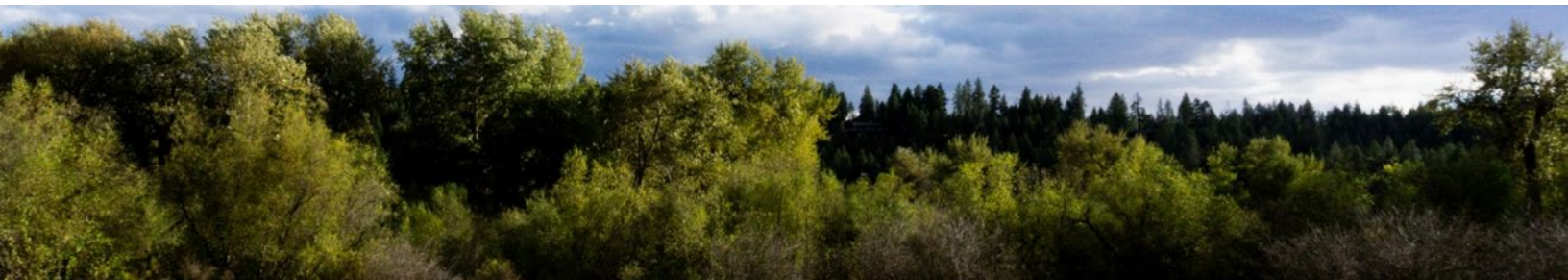
## Acknowledgment of Tribal Lands

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded land of the Spokane people. And that these lands were once the major trading center for the Spokanes as they shared this place and welcomed other area tribes through their relations, history, trade, and ceremony. We also want to acknowledge that the land holds the spirit of the place, through its knowledge, culture, and the original peoples Since Time Immemorial. As we take a moment to consider the impacts of colonization may we also acknowledge the strengths and resiliency of the Spokanes and their relatives. As we work together making decisions that benefit all, may we do so as one heart, one mind, and one spirit. We are grateful to be on the shared lands of the Spokane people and ask for the support of their ancestors and all relations. We ask that you recognize these injustices that forever changed the lives of the Spokane people and all their relatives. We agree to work together to stop all acts of continued injustices towards Native Americans and all our relatives. It is time for reconciliation. We must act upon the truths and take actions that will create restorative justice for all people.

## xest is a Salish word meaning: One who cares, one who takes care

The first language used in our region was a dialect of Salish, a family of languages spoken by indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest. This language is rich in words and expressions that convey appreciation and care for the gifts of the natural world. A few local Salish words are adopted into this plan to transmit the reverence the Spokane Tribe has always shown to preserving our water, land, and other natural resources. The word xest means, good, in the sense of one who cares, one who takes care. The Spokane Tribe has an ancient legacy of being ones who care for this beautiful spot of earth that we call home.

We honor the memory and work of Pauline Flett, pictured above, and other elders whose tireless efforts to help preserve the Salish language and the translating of many of the traditions and stories of this ancient indigenous people has enhanced our understanding of the Spokane Tribe as good stewards of the natural world. Pauline broadened our view of this beautiful land by revealing its long history. The mission statement of the Spokane Tribe's Natural Resources Department to "Preserve, Protect Manage and Enhance the long-term sustainability of the natural resources for present and future generations" is a continuation of the Native American legacy. May each of us be xest, one who cares for our natural environment.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, after decades of research, consultation, and planning, all 193 nations of the world signed onto a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help restore a rapidly deteriorating natural world, and an unjust and unsustainable economic system.

People everywhere are being impacted by the many dire consequences of the climate crisis: rising temperatures, poor air quality, polluted water, declining ecosystems, and many other emerging problems. It is our vision that through our action, the Spokane Community will serve as a model for other cities around the globe.

Although this Spokane Sustainability Action Plan was developed using a local framework, we saw value in identifying alignment with the global project. This Plan specifically acts on the following eight SDGs.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Zero Hunger

During the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic crisis, we witnessed many in our community struggle to put food on the table. Creating a regional response to hunger means coordinating efforts to make our local food system stronger and more agile to emerging challenges.



### Clean Water *x̄sétk*<sup>w</sup>

*x̄sétk*<sup>w</sup> - means "good clean water" in Salish, the language of the Spokane Tribe who has lived here for many centuries. For the Spokane People, water is sacred. For centuries, the river and the Salmon provided for many of their needs. The Spokane are "a river people," holding regular tribal gatherings on the banks of the river near our current day City Hall. Today, we all have a responsibility to protect our "good clean water."



### Industry, Innovation, & Infrastructure

Buildings and industry contribute approximately 50% of Spokane's carbon emissions. By developing energy efficient buildings and finding innovative ways to approach economic growth and development, we can move toward lasting solutions to economic and environmental challenges, promote energy efficiency, and create new jobs.



Solar panels on the Catalyst Building Photo  
Credit: Kara Odegard

*The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.*



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Sustainable Cities & Communities

Our overall goal is an equitable, inclusive, safe, livable, vibrant, fun and prosperous city. This is a challenging task. We need to talk to citizens and look to other cities around the world for the information and ideas of how to accomplish it. Other cities will in turn observe and weigh our progress in Spokane. In this way Spokane's example can have impacts far beyond our urban boundaries. If we can do it, the world can do it.



## Responsible Consumption & Production

By changing the ways we produce and consume goods and resources, we can divert materials from incineration and maximize their use to reduce impacts to our environment. Responsible consumption and production means reduce, reuse, and recycle materials in that order.



## Climate Action

Something as simple as planting trees, which has been a special project of Spokane for the last century, can help remove pollution in Spokane and around the world. This is a ready example of how people create solutions in their own communities that benefit the entire world. Many other projects, such as increasing the walking and biking paths, outlined in this Plan align with this Climate Action goal.



## Life Below Water *nx<sup>w</sup>yx<sup>w</sup>yetk<sup>w</sup>*

We enjoy beautiful fresh water sources such as lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and ponds in Spokane. Each of these *nx<sup>w</sup>yx<sup>w</sup>yetk<sup>w</sup>* (life in the water/life from the water - water lifeways) must be protected if they are to survive for future generations. Spokane's well-established system of monitoring waterways and limiting what goes in them is an example of good stewardship that can protect our fish and serve as an example to many places in the world.



## Life On Land

How land is used is a key to a clean environment. Spokane's own Riverfront Park is the perfect showplace of this idea. It replaced carbon-puffing trains with spirit-enhancing trees, the ideal of a "green economy." We can promote business while enhancing the environment. For example, the City's Urban Forestry program improves life in the city, while it contributes to a clean environment for insects, birds, animals, and humans alike.


## PATH FORWARD FOR SPOKANE


The City of Spokane is committed to enhancing a 50-year legacy of action and leadership, ensuring a sustainable, equitable and secure future for all citizens. We can accomplish this by reducing greenhouse gas emission, promoting high standards for water, air and natural resources, and by following and creating best practices as determined locally, nationally and globally to help promote a sustainable ecosystem. We are intent on ensuring a just and resilient economy and a healthy community full of happy, engaged citizens.

# SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES

## Plan Summary

Each strategy identified in this plan was evaluated against four primary factors: greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, social benefits, upfront costs, and long-term economic benefits. More analysis will be necessary during the implementation stage and over time to determine specific costs and benefits.

 <b>Buildings &amp; Energy</b>	
GOAL 1. Encourage efficient, renewable energy buildings that meet WA Clean Buildings Act Energy Use Intensity (EUI) targets	
BE 1	Strategy 1. Ensure new construction is as efficient as possible and ready to utilize renewable energy
BE 2	Upgrade existing buildings for high efficiency and renewable energy sources; increase energy efficiency at publicly-funded facilities
GOAL 2. Promote local production and sourcing of renewable energy	
BE 3	Invest in community-scale and distributed energy generation and storage
BE 4	Harness energy from waste resources
BE 5	Neutralize carbon emissions from fossil gas and other fossil fuels used in buildings & transportation
GOAL 3. Engage community in energy efficiency and renewable energy	
BE 6	Partner with regional building, energy, & efficiency organizations for public education & outreach

 <b>Transportation &amp; Land Use</b>	
Goal 1: Encourage land use policies that support walkable, livable, sustainable communities for all	
TL 1	Advance land use planning to minimize vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
TL 2	Encourage sustainable land use that promotes varied housing options and infill development
GOAL 2. Reduce motor vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and promote active transportation modes	
TL 3	Increase transit ridership
TL 4	Increase adoption of walking, cycling, and micromobility
TL 5	Improve transportation safety
TL 6	Support existing & new programs to reduce VMT
GOAL 3. Advance alternative and low carbon fuel in regional transportation	
TL 7	Increase adoption rate of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) including electric bicycles
GOAL 4. Integrate Sustainability Action Plan goals, strategies, and actions into City planning	
TL 8	Update comprehensive plan to incorporate climate action and updated sustainability goals
TL 9	Ensure the City's process for approving development and service extensions addresses and prevents impacts to prime agricultural lands, critical wildlife habitats, and other natural areas in and around the city



# SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES



## Waste Diversion & Material Conservation

GOAL 1. Invest in waste diversion programs to substantially reduce volume of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

WD 1 | Maximize composting of inedible food, yard waste, and other organic waste

WD 2 | Minimize food waste generated by residents and businesses

GOAL 2. Boost regional economic opportunity by promoting circular waste programs

WD 3 | Promote, support, and incentivize a circular economy

WD 4 | Support state-wide and regional waste management solutions



## Water Resources

GOAL 1. Protect the Spokane River and natural aquatic ecosystems (wetlands, shorelines, aquatic ecosystems biodiversity, streams, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas)

WR 1 | Protect water quality, fish, wildlife, ecosystem function, and no-impact recreational opportunities in the Spokane River through responsible, long-term watershed planning and management

WR 2 | Build climate resilience in natural water systems through responsible watershed planning

WR 3 | Actively manage pollution within Spokane River and SRVP Aquifer

WR 4 | Support the protection, restoration, and reintroduction of native fish species and their habitats in the Spokane River Watershed

WR 5 | Improve stormwater and wastewater management

GOAL 2. Ensure sustainable water supply

WR 6 | Work with regional partners to reduce pumping from the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer in the face of projected population growth and future climate

WR 7 | Create clear process and policies for assessing and approving land use and development that will impact future aquifer pumping volumes

GOAL 3. Educate & engage community in water resources stewardship

WR 8 | Promote opportunities to engage the community

WR 9 | Promote and fund City programs that align with the Water Conservation Master Plan

GOAL 4. Establish partnerships with regional organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input

WR 10 | Partner with regional groups to provide City input for Spokane River Watershed/SVVP Aquifer management plans and projects

WR 11 | Identify opportunities to acquire and restore critical areas, natural areas, and connect riparian corridors for protection and conservation



# SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES



## Economic Prosperity

GOAL 1. Invest and promote a just, regenerative, and resilient local economy

EP 1 Engage with regional and neighborhood business associations to create coordinated economic resiliency

EP 2 Expand access to sustainable business practices & resources

GOAL 2. Ensure local workforce has access to affordable healthcare, transportation, housing, and education

EP 3 Adopt and implement regional policies and initiatives that support workers and individuals

EP 4 Support just and sustainable State and Federal economic development policies





# SUMMARY OF SECTOR STRATEGIES



## Natural Environment

GOAL 1. Establish partnerships with community organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input

NE 1 | Work with regional partners to align natural resource management

NE 2 | Establish funding for management of City lands

GOAL 2. Build awareness and engage the community in Natural Resources stewardship

NE 3 | Support volunteer opportunities to engage citizens in environmental sustainability projects

NE 4 | Promote City programs and projects that align with sustainability goals

NE 5 | Establish funding for education and outreach programs that promote natural resources stewardship

GOAL 3. Increase urban tree canopy and climate-adapted plant landscapes within the built environment

NE 6 | Expand urban tree canopy to capture more carbon and moderate neighborhood microclimate

NE 7 | Establish diverse, future-climate-adapted landscaping within the built environment

GOAL 4. Protect and build climate resilience in natural spaces within Spokane

NE 8 | Strengthen & support regional land conservation

NE 9 | Prevent negative impacts to natural resources and build climate resilience



## Health & Wellbeing

GOAL 1. Prioritize & invest in all communities to ensure equitable outcomes

HW 1 | Increase household food security regionwide

HW 2 | Increase access to affordable housing and healthy outcomes

GOAL 2. Implement climate adaption strategies into emergency and disaster response

HW 3 | Include climate impacts in disaster and emergency management response

GOAL 3. Create community engagement around sustainability & climate action

HW 4 | Increase community awareness of climate change risks and impacts

## Implementation & Monitoring

While some of the actions within this plan are well underway, over the coming months, the City of Spokane will engage with community members, businesses, institutions, and other stakeholders through the Sustainability Action Subcommittee (SAS) to make any preparations or take additional actions needed to begin plan implementation.

These actions include:

- Creating detailed implementation plans for each sector outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan. These will be known as Sector Implementation Plans
- Establishing a multi-criteria qualitative assessment process for determining implementation priorities
- Identifying and establishing regional partnerships around the goals and strategies
- Creating citizen advisory groups for programs that require considerable community engagement
- Making necessary changes to local policies or existing programs, including staffing and budget



Establishing a monitoring process enables the City to track the impacts of the actions included in the plan and compare estimated impacts to what is achieved in terms of energy savings, renewable energy production, GHG emissions reduction, conservation, and community resiliency. Assessing the implementation status of the actions will allow us to determine whether the action is performing well and to identify corrective measures. This process is also an opportunity to understand barriers to implementation and identify best practices or new opportunities in moving forward.



# EQUITABLE IMPLEMENTATION



Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the East Central Community Center, 2018 Photo Credit: City of Spokane

## Equity vs. Equality

Equity does not mean everyone gets an equal share, but that benefits are broadly shared. Equity focuses on outcomes, ensuring that the benefits are distributed in a way that addresses existing barriers, disparities, or disparate needs. It is critical to consider Spokane communities facing structural inequities. This includes communities facing barriers based on race, ethnicity, income, gender or sexuality, language, and physical accessibility, as well as other marginalized groups.

## Health & Equity

Social inequities across our community play a significant role in the health outcomes of our citizens. Because of this, the effects of climate change are expected to more significantly impact our most vulnerable residents. Also referred to as social determinants of health, these disparities are influenced by education, income, race, access to healthcare, and even by the neighborhoods in which we live. For more information on health equity and climate change, visit the World Health Organization's website<sup>9</sup> or the Washington State Department of Health's website.<sup>10</sup>

## Disproportionally Exposed vs. Disproportionally Susceptible

The indicators of harmful heat and air quality associated with climate change pose health risks to all Spokane County residents. However, these risks are unlikely to be distributed uniformly across all demographic groups. It is thus necessary to identify populations who may be either **disproportionately exposed** to these indicators or **disproportionately susceptible** to adverse health consequences of exposure. Groups commonly vulnerable to higher exposure include individuals who are low income, homeless or work outdoors, as well as school-age children and communities of color. Groups who may be disproportionately susceptible to the adverse health consequences of exposure include individuals who are elderly or disabled, individuals with pre-existing cardiovascular or respiratory disease risk factors, and individuals without access to health insurance. An evaluation of vulnerable populations in Spokane is necessary to develop mitigation and resilience strategies most effectively and equitably.

Historically, the working class, Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQ, and under-resourced communities have been excluded from decision-making processes. Additionally, the benefits or burdens of policies, programs, and investments have not always been fair or shared equitably across all people. Equity can be accomplished through understanding historical discrimination and addressing the unjust systems.

Not everyone will experience the impacts of climate change the same way. Inequities that already exist in Spokane, for example in housing and healthcare, will be heightened by climate impacts.

# EQUITY CHECKLIST

## Operationalizing Equity

To help ensure equitable outcomes in our planning, the Sustainability Action Subcommittee used this equity checklist, originally developed by the City of Flagstaff. This framework draws on the City of Portland's Climate Action Plan. It provides a foundation for SAP's equity process. As the Sustainability Action Subcommittee developed the strategies and actions in this plan, they used the following checklist to ensure benefits could be shared equitably across our community without creating unintended negative consequences to any geographic area or group of people. An additional equity analysis will be conducted prior to implementation in order to ensure the City is prioritizing action to communities most in need.

## Impact Analysis

- Disproportionate outcomes: Does the proposed action generate direct or indirect burdens (including costs) to historically underserved communities? If yes, what opportunities exist to mitigate these impacts?
- Shared benefit: Are the benefits dispersed not only equally, but equitably? Does the proposed action reduce disparities as indicated on the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map?<sup>11</sup>
- Accessibility: Are the benefits of the proposed action broadly accessible to all residents and businesses throughout Spokane, with consideration of small businesses and those owned by marginalized groups?
- Capacity: Does the proposed action help build community capacity through funding and expanded knowledge base, or other resources?
- Accountability: Does the proposed action have appropriate accountability mechanisms to ensure that the communities mentioned above, as well as any other vulnerable communities, will:
  1. Not be disproportionately harmed
  2. Share in the benefits equitably

## Empowering Community

- Relationship building: Does the proposed action help foster the building of effective, long-term relationships and trust between diverse communities and local governments?
- Engagement: Does the proposed action engage and empower the above communities in a meaningful, authentic, and culturally appropriate manner? Are community stakeholders involved and engaged in implementation?
- Alignment and partnership: Does the proposed action align with and support existing priorities of the communities listed above, creating an opportunity to leverage resources and build collaborative partnerships?
- Economic opportunity and staff diversity: Does the proposed action support the above groups through workforce development, contracting opportunities, and increased diversity of City staff and volunteers?



If we don't figure out a way to create equity, real equity, of opportunity and access, to good schools, housing, health care, and decent paying jobs, we're not going to survive as a productive and healthy society.

--Tim Wise, author

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*Environmental justice is the movement to ensure that no community suffers disproportionate environmental burdens or goes without enjoying fair environmental benefits.*

-- Van Jones, author

## Environmental Justice Program

Members of the Sustainability Action Subcommittee Equity Workgroup, City staff, and community-based organizations have outlined a plan for an environmental justice project in Spokane. Initial funding for this project is provided by a National League of Cities, Resilient Communities grant award. The goal of our project is to make social and racial justice a central priority in our City’s environmental work. We aim to establish an environmental justice advisory group and to partner with communities disproportionately impacted by climate change to inform the implementation of our Sustainability Action Plan. Recommendations recently published by the Washington State Environmental Justice Task Force<sup>12</sup> will provide a framework to guide Spokane’s work.



Summer Art Program at the Corbin Art Center  
Photo Credit: Spokane Parks & Recreation

## Overarching Goal:

Increase resiliency in underserved and highly impacted communities in Spokane by reducing environmental health disparities exacerbated by climate change.

### Environmental Justice Strategy: Identify, engage with, and prioritize support for at-risk populations (Environmental Justice Program)

#### Priority Actions

EJ 1.1	Establish an Environmental Justice & Equity Workgroup by leveraging partnerships with Community Based Organizations supporting traditionally underserved communities
▶ EJ 1.2	Identify the communities that are disproportionately at risk of climate impacts
▶ EJ 1.3	Identify and prioritize the most urgent issues impacting the at-risk communities
EJ 1.4	Create an environmental justice (EJ) work plan for meaningful and continued engagement around the issues identified above
EJ 1.5	Implement EJ work plan
EJ 1.6	Adopt equity framework when creating detailed implementation plans to support this Plan

▶ Action in-progress

▶ Action complete



# SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE

This Plan contemplates great economic change to our community - change that is destined to occur whether we plan wisely for it or not. Such transformations in the past have caused great economic and geographic dislocation for workers. It is our goal to bring all our citizens into the future on secure economic footing.

Photo Credit: J. Craig Sweat Photography



## Sustainable Workforce

Spokane will achieve our target of becoming a low-emission, sustainable city in thirty years by investing in energy efficiency, clean energy, infrastructure improvements, materials conservation, and nature-based solutions. These ambitious initiatives will require a skilled workforce and innovative leadership ready to position Spokane businesses to take advantage of the economic opportunities this transition brings to our region. These opportunities have the potential to boost our local economy, but gains will require investments and planning will need to be made to ensure no one gets left behind. Transforming and mobilizing Spokane's workforce will require some investments and preparation in the areas of workforce development, labor protections, and place-based solutions developed by those industries and people most impacted.

In order to ensure our region is prepared to make this transition, the following actions have been identified as important next steps.

Sustainable Workforce Strategy: Invest in next generation of sustainable workforce with an emphasis on safety and security	
Priority Actions	
▶ SW 1.1	Establish a workforce development technical advisory group for the purpose of identifying opportunities to preserve existing skilled workforce while meeting emerging needs in clean energy, circular economy, and conservation sectors
SW 1.2	Expand local and national apprenticeship programs to meet growing demands for a skilled workforce
SW 1.3	Recruit and train next generation energy workers with an emphasis on promoting programs that advance equity and diversity
SW 1.4	Invest in local & regional projects and jobs
SW 1.5	Ensure that any equity framework for decision-making as it relates to this Plan includes an analysis of workers in potentially vulnerable sectors
SW 1.6	Partner with regional colleges, universities, businesses, nonprofits, unions, tribes, and tribal agencies to promote renewable energy projects, micro-grids, and workforce training
SW 1.7	Require workplace safety protection and labor protections for energy industry workers

▶ Action in-progress

▶ Action complete

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Accomplishing the goals outlined in this plan, it will require ongoing effort by City leadership, City staff and community members. City Council will be responsible for overseeing the implementation and progress of this plan, and an annual report on implementation progress will be completed by the SAS in conjunction with City staff and community partners.

The following strategies outline a framework for implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan goals, strategies, and actions.



Strategy 1. City of Spokane formally commits to climate action	
Priority Actions	
▶ IS 1.1	Continue to meet the requirements of the Global Covenant of Mayors
▶ IS 1.2	Formally adopt new greenhouse gas goals (GHG) goals into Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) to match the goals outlined in this plan (2021)
▶ IS 1.3	Continue to partner with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability year over year to conduct GHG inventories and measure progress toward our goals
IS 1.4	Develop a mitigation and adaptation matrix to help with internal City decision making
IS 1.5	Add Climate Action to the City’s Comprehensive Plan

Strategy 2. Develop foundation for successful Plan implementation	
Priority Actions	
IS 2.1	The Sustainability Action Subcommittee (SAS) shall collaborate with relevant City Departments and community stakeholders to create detailed Implementation Plans for each of the seven chapters of this Plan
IS 2.2	The SAS shall continue to provide guidance and support for the plan including community engagement around the goals and actions
IS 2.3	Council shall develop a review process and update schedule for the Plan including requirements for an annual report. The annual report should include an analysis of all targets, strategies, and actions ensuring they remain relevant
IS 2.4	City Council will review progress of the plan on an annual basis
IS 2.5	The City, in partnership with the SAS and community stakeholders, will host ongoing community conversations on projected climate impacts specific to Spokane
IS 2.6	Update City’s Comprehensive Plan to include environment and climate related priorities, especially as they relate to the SAP
IS 2.7	Review Spokane Municipal Code for alignment and make necessary updates to accommodate for Plan goals and strategies

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

## Strategy 3. Support sustainability & climate action within city departments

Priority Actions	
IS 3.1	During the strategic planning process, the City shall incorporate commitment to sustainability and climate action
IS 3.2	Each City Department shall identify strategies and actions where they will provide support for the plan
IS 3.3	Each Division shall identify efforts that support their department's committed strategies and actions
IS 3.4	The Mayor's proposed budget, presented during the annual budget review process, will incorporate a report on energy efficiency, water conservation, and resiliency action projects that are funded in existing work plans or will be incorporated into work plans for the upcoming fiscal year
IS 3.5	The City shall fund and assess capital and programmatic investments that are recommended to ensure the city's ability to mitigate risks associated with climate change

## Strategy 4. Elevate sustainability & climate action in City Council priorities

Priority Actions	
IS 4.1	Identify areas for Council action in support of the Plan
IS 4.2	City Council shall provide annual budget funding in support of the Plan each October
IS 4.3	Identify state and federal legislative priorities that support the goals of the Plan and enable implementation of Plan strategies and actions
IS 4.4	Prior to approving the annual budget, strategic plans, or department plans, Council will ensure that the budget or plan aligns with our commitment to the SAP

## Strategy 5. Direct Sustainability Action Subcommittee (SAS) to aid in implementation of this Plan

Priority Actions	
IS 5.1	Identify and foster community partnerships in support of the plan
IS 5.2	Create a process to identify and track external funding opportunities
IS 5.3	Each SAS workgroup shall continue to ensure the strategies and actions in their sector(s) remain relevant and update sector goals, strategies, and actions on a regular basis
IS 5.4	Continue to provide ongoing policy & budgetary recommendations toward meeting plan goals

## Strategy 6. Ensure adequate staff capacity to implement Plan

Priority Actions	
IS 6.1	All City staff shall be invited to participate in accomplishing the goals of the SAP
IS 6.2	Department and Division managers are responsible for communicating Department and Division goals and commitment to the plan to their staff members
IS 6.3	The Administration and Council shall partner on aligning City programs to amplify both the program itself and progress toward the Plan's goals
IS 6.4	City Council will ensure that City Departments have identified funding for their committed strategies and actions toward Plan goals prior to approving the annual budget



# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

## Strategy 7. Develop a city-wide climate plan integration process

### Priority Actions

IS 7.1	Conduct a community-wide GHG inventory every two years using ICLEI's Clear Path protocol; the inventory shall include an assessment of local government operations as well.
IS 7.2	Partner with the City's Emergency Management Director, Council's Manager of Sustainability Initiatives, Climate Impact Research Consortium, the SAS, and other local stakeholders to complete the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (2021)
IS 7.3	Engage with regional efforts related to resiliency in order to align Plan objectives with regional priorities and collaborate where alignment occurs
IS 7.4	Integrate projected climate impacts into data models for risk assessment
IS 7.5	Develop a disaster preparedness plan for both natural and man-made disasters

## Strategy 8. Integrate equity considerations into Plan implementation

### Priority Actions

IS 8.1	Work with Manager of Equity & Inclusion to ensure the City uses an equity review process during implementation
IS 8.2	Work with Manager of Equity & Inclusion for on-going improvement of the equity review process
IS 8.3	Partner with community organizations, Neighborhood Councils, and others to ensure engagement with BIPOC and low-income communities not only with implementation of the plan, but also as part of the ongoing improvements to the plan
IS 8.4	Engage community members from all income levels, races and ethnicities, political persuasions, and neighborhoods in Plan outreach efforts
IS 8.5	Incorporate equity indicators into monitoring and evaluation processes

## Strategy 9. Engage Spokane residents to participate in building awareness, identifying solutions, and acting on Plan goals

### Priority Actions

IS 9.1	The SAS Environmental Justice & Equity and Communication Workgroups shall continue to build partnerships in the community, identify community needs, determine barriers to participation, recommend ways to make climate action events more accessible to residents, and ensure that Plan implementation follows established equity recommendations and processes
IS 9.2	Partner with Urbanova, The ZoNE Project, APIC, NAACP, and other community-based organizations to understand environmental justice issues impacting our community
IS 9.3	Roll out customized Community Climate Solutions website (2021)
IS 9.4	Support programs and opportunities for youth to be actively involved in decision-making and climate action
IS 9.5	Maintain and promote strategies and actions for community participation as part of on-going plan revisions and implementation
IS 9.6	Partner with Spokane Arts and other creative and artistic organizations to build awareness around the goals, strategies, and actions of the SAP

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

## Strategy 10. Support community leadership on climate action

### Priority Actions

IS 10.1	Create comprehensive list of community partners for climate action using stakeholder mapping methodology
IS 10.2	Work with SAS to ensure continual engagement and action in various areas of the Plan: education & outreach, natural resources, waste & recycling, environmental justice, etc
IS 10.3	Partner with climate and conservation focused nonprofit organizations to align on mutual priority areas

## Strategy 11. Report regularly to the community on greenhouse gas emissions and climate action

### Priority Actions

IS 11.1	Continue to update and publish greenhouse gas emissions inventories for both the City of Spokane municipal organization and the Spokane community
IS 11.2	Create an online dashboard to illustrate progress on the Plan's actions. This dashboard will be updated annually, with indicators showing which actions have been completed, which are in progress, and which have not been started





## BUILDINGS & ENERGY

### Co-Benefits



Offers significant opportunities for GHG reduction and improves air and water quality.



Provides substantial energy savings to businesses and building owners. Increases property values and makes Spokane a more economically desirable place to live.



Improves health outcomes by reducing air and water borne particulates, especially for vulnerable populations.



Provides energy efficiency programs that allow people of all income levels choices to realize savings on utilities.

### SDG Alignment







It is our vision to make Spokane a center of carbon-neutral building science and energy production achieving key benchmarks ahead of state mandates. We will engage the passion of our community along with commercial expertise to drive forward a thriving local green economy. We will accomplish this low-carbon, energy efficient future through investing in a skilled workforce capable of supporting the energy needs of a thriving city while also providing family-waged, sustainable employment for our residents.



## Sector Level GHG Targets: Buildings & Energy

Emission Source	2016 Baseline 2,108,796 MT		2030 Reduction Target 45% & 948,958 MT		2040 Reduction Target 70% & 1,476,155 MT		2050 Reduction Target 95% & 2,003,356 MT	
	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent of Total	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction
Electricity	587,418	28%	83,114	80%	41,557	90%	0	100%
Gas	381,273	18%	411,163	30%	205,581	65%	24,369	95%

### Comprehensive Plan Alignment

#### Chapter 5: Capital Facilities and Utilities


- CFU 1: Adequate Public Facilities and Services
- CFU 3: Coordination
- CFU 5: Environmental Concerns
- CFU 6.2: Economic Development


#### Chapter 6: Housing

- H 1: Housing Choice & Diversity
- H 2: Housing Quality

#### Chapter 7: Economic Development

- ED 1: Cooperative Partnerships
- ED 2: Land Availability for Economic Development
- ED 6: Infrastructure
- ED 8: Quality of Life and the Environment

 Action in-progress

 Action complete

# Buildings & Energy

## GOAL 1. Encourage efficient, renewable energy buildings that meet WA Clean Buildings Act Energy Use Intensity (EUI) targets

### Strategy 1. Ensure new construction is as efficient as possible and ready to utilize renewable energy

Priority Actions	
BE 1.1	The City will take a leadership role in providing direction and facilitating building decarbonization by working with local partners to implement the State energy code
BE 1.2	Build community awareness on the benefits of choosing electrification and develop incentives for installing electric air and water heating/cooling systems, including heat pumps
BE 1.3	Require installed electric hookup options for all appliances in new construction
BE 1.4	Incentivize electrification of all new construction (residential and commercial) including incentivizing electrification and renewable energy sources through City permitting process
BE 1.5	Require all new commercial buildings to install conduit and roof support for a future solar system if the building is in an appropriate location to utilize solar
BE 1.6	Encourage and incentivize renewable, low-carbon materials, such as cross-laminated timber, in construction
BE 1.7	Encourage the re-use of existing buildings, including efficiency retrofits, rather than demolishing and starting new

### Strategy 2. Upgrade existing buildings for high efficiency and renewable energy sources; increase energy efficiency at publicly-funded facilities

Priority Actions	
BE 2.1	Evaluate all municipal buildings to determine a path to net neutral emissions by 2025 through retrofits or renewable energy installation, including off-site generation, to benefit under CETA programs
BE 2.2	Conduct an energy audit at Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility (RPWRF) and Upriver Dam and install all feasible efficiency upgrades
BE 2.3	Develop and adopt a rental policy program requiring minimum energy efficiency standards for all housing rentals including requirements to make energy efficiency data available to renters; develop grant and loan program to pay for upgrades
BE 2.4	Participate in energy efficiency and conservation programs offered by local utilities for City owned facilities
BE 2.5	Continue to provide flexible work schedules, work-from-home, and shared workspaces for City employees to demonstrate efficient use of office resources
BE 2.6	Subsidize home energy efficiency retrofits for affordable housing units

# Buildings & Energy

## GOAL 2. Promote local production and sourcing of renewable energy

### Strategy 3. Invest in community-scale and distributed energy generation and storage

Priority Actions	
BE 3.1	Introduce local incentives for solar and continue to support solar incentives at the State & Federal level
BE 3.2	Research the feasibility and provide recommendations by 2025 for onsite renewable energy policy on new residential & commercial buildings
BE 3.3	Include energy storage solutions as part of City of Spokane's Energy Initiatives
BE 3.4	Evaluate energy storage at Waste to Energy (WTE)
BE 3.5	Partner with local energy companies to create and implement a citywide plan for large-scale, community solar installations
BE 3.6	Partner with local utility companies to identify renewable energy installations most beneficial to the grid

### Strategy 4. Harness energy from waste resources

Priority Actions	
BE 4.1	Evaluate forestry slash to energy
BE 4.2	Evaluate diversion of biological waste materials to higher-value end uses, such as biofuel and soil amendments, at Waste to Energy (WTE)
BE 4.3	Plan for alternatives to biogas flaring at Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility (RPWRF)
BE 4.4	Evaluate anaerobic digestion of green waste
BE 4.5	Evaluate electricity generation from waste straw at WTE

### Strategy 5. Neutralize carbon emissions from fossil gas and other fossil fuels used in buildings & transportation

Priority Actions	
BE 5.1	Partner with Avista to increase renewable natural gas (RNG) into the gas supply
BE 5.2	Source renewable natural gas or green hydrogen for City fleet vehicles currently using compressed natural gas and expand to other heavy-duty vehicles
BE 5.3	Explore options to expand the use of compressed natural gas or green hydrogen in City owned vehicles where electricity is not a valid fuel option
BE 5.4	Partner with local businesses and compressed natural gas providers to explore expanding the use of renewable natural gas and green hydrogen in private fleet vehicles currently using compressed natural gas as a fuel source



## GOAL 3. Engage community in energy efficiency and renewable energy

### Strategy 6. Partner with regional building, energy, & efficiency organizations for public education & outreach

Priority Actions	
BE 6.1	Offer a clearinghouse for information, advertising grant and other programs to building owners and construction contractors; job opportunities to workers; etc.
BE 6.2	Research and amplify community energy efficiency programs particularly those with a focus on low-income households
BE 6.3	Partner with Spokane Public Schools and local energy experts to establish renewable energy & energy efficiency curriculum across all major academic areas
BE 6.4	Educate community members on ways to participate in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs focusing on cost savings and health benefits
BE 6.5	Fund and implement a contractor training program led by building scientists for carbon-efficient building methods, appliances, and products
BE 6.6	Create a public outreach and scheduling hub to connect contractors with prospective customers for clean building projects

Our energy and related industry working women and men battle the elements during ice-storms, fire-storms, and wind-storms to restore our electricity. They are among first-responders. They labor to keep us warm in the Winter and cool in the Summer during times of crisis and calm. This plan, and the strategies being proposed respects the training (as many as 5 years and ten-thousand hours in registered apprenticeship programs), expertise, and invaluable contributions that our energy and related industry workers make to our Spokane society every day. Energy and related industry workers should not be a casualty of climate change.

Exciting innovations in energy supply and storage are being made every day. We know that our Spokane energy and related industry workers are on the cutting edge of the renewable energy sources production and delivery systems. In times where technologies of the future may be unknown, the workforce and the industry need to continue to have the support of our communities as it pertains to the parallel movement of technologies and training of the workforce.



“The new Catalyst building aims to be one of the largest zero-carbon, zero-energy buildings in North America, as certified by the International Living Future Institute (ILFI). The adjacent Morris Center will be the heart of an innovative shared energy model called an Eco-District, where a centralized plant will power the two new buildings and additional buildings in the future.”

-- catalystspokane.com



## TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

### Co-Benefits



Offers significant opportunities for GHG reduction and improves air and water quality.



Reduces costs for residents and keeps more dollars in our local economy while creating greater energy independence.



Improves health outcomes by reducing air and water borne particulates, especially for vulnerable populations. Offers both physical and mental health benefits.



Provides more options for housing and transportation at all income levels and improves transportation safety for people of all ages and abilities can participate.

### SDG Alignment





# TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

We envision a Spokane that preserves land at the edges of the city and promotes livable neighborhoods for people of all backgrounds and means. We accomplish this by creating a set of land use strategies for the City of Spokane that minimize negative impacts on the environment while promoting equity by promoting development that:

- encourages diverse housing opportunities in all neighborhoods and for all income levels
- promotes walkable neighborhoods
- preserves and expands green spaces
- supports all modes of transportation with special consideration for sustainable modes
- reduces the financial burden of maintaining city-owned infrastructure



## Sector Level GHG Targets: Transportation & Land Use

Vehicle Type	2016 Baseline		2030 Reduction Target 45% & 948,958 MT		2040 Reduction Target 70% & 1,476,155 MT		2050 Reduction Target 95% & 2,003,356 MT	
	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent of Total	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction
Passenger, light duty truck, motorcycle	600,227	28%	300,114	50%	60,227	90%	0	100%
City Fleet (also included above)	10,070	.5%	5,035	50%	2,517	75%	0	100%

## Comprehensive Plan Alignment

### Chapter 3: Land Use

- LU 1: Citywide Land Use
- LU 3: Efficient Land Use
- LU 4: Transportation
- LU 8: Urban Growth Area
- LU 10: Joint Planning

### Chapter 4: Transportation (most sections)

### Chapter 6: Housing

- H 1: Housing Choice & Diversity
- H 2: Housing Quality

### Chapter 7: Economic Development

- ED 1: Cooperative Partnerships
- ED 2: Land Availability for Economic Development

### ED 6: Infrastructure

### ED 8: Quality of Life and the Environment

### Chapter 10: Social Health

### SH 8: Food Access & Security

### Chapter 12: Parks and Recreation

### PRS 3: Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation

▶ Action in-progress

▶ Action complete



# TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

GOAL 1. Encourage land use policies that support walkable, livable, sustainable communities for all

## Strategy 1. Advance land use planning to minimize vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

Priority Actions	
TL 1.1	Increase the supply of attainable housing in proximity to employment opportunities, activity centers and the high-frequency transit network
TL 1.2	Review and revise parking requirements for all types of development, including provisions and credit for bike parking
TL 1.3	Ensure new developments and major redevelopments maintain and enhance connectivity of the pedestrian, bicycle, and street networks
TL 1.4	Increase parking lot tree coverage requirements (alt: solar panel)
TL 1.5	Create and implement bicycle parking plan
TL 1.6	Facilitate mixed use development by allowing appropriately scaled commercial and multi-family use in residential zones to promote active transportation and provide varied housing options as identified in the 2021 Housing Action Plan
TL 1.7	Prioritize development of people-centered neighborhoods that promote safe walking, biking, and transit, i.e. 15-minute neighborhoods
TL 1.8	Identify commercial areas where it is appropriate to limit or restrict automobiles and prioritize walking, biking, and micromobility
TL 1.9	Encourage transit-oriented development (TOD) in City planning
TL 1.10	Build awareness on how density and effective land use help meet sustainability goals

## Strategy 2. Encourage sustainable land use that promotes varied housing options and infill development

Priority Actions	
TL 2.1	Revise land use and zoning regulations to allow a variety of housing types in every neighborhood
TL 2.2	Adopt accessory dwelling unit (ADU) reform to encourage more of this housing type
TL 2.3	Audit City development code to identify and eliminate constraints and conditions to promote varied housing and infill development
TL 2.4	Revise land use and zoning to allow increased density in residential zones around high-frequency transit corridors
TL 2.5	Reduce required parcel sizes in new developments to increase density in new construction. Encourage clustered development on appropriate sites.
TL 2.6	Eliminate financial incentives for low-intensity development (i.e., surface parking)

# TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

GOAL 2. Reduce motor vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and promote active transportation modes

## Strategy 3. Increase transit ridership

### Priority Actions

TL 3.1	Partner with STA on their long-term planning and sustainability goals to increase frequency, coverage, and operational hours
▶ TL 3.2	Lobby for transit funding at the State and Federal Level
TL 3.3	Support STA efforts to continue upgrading bus stops and include more amenities such as shelters
TL 3.4	Work with regional partners to expand reduced and free fare programs
▶ TL 3.5	Continue to support transit-oriented development around high frequency transit lines

## Strategy 4. Increase adoption of walking, cycling, and micromobility

### Priority Actions

TL 4.1	Ensure that the City bicycle and pedestrian plans are updated or revised to best support VMT reduction and sustainable transportation options. Support full implementation of these plans.
TL 4.2	Build out bike network according to Bike Master Plan
TL 4.3	Plan and buildout an all ages and abilities network of neighborhood greenways, shared use paths, and protected bike lanes
TL 4.4	Plan and prioritize construction of downtown protected "micromobility" lanes
TL 4.5	Develop and implement requirements for bicycle detours as part of all City street projects
TL 4.6	Make automatic pedestrian recall the default operation at controlled intersections
TL 4.7	Prioritize walking, biking, and multimodal transportation in budgeting and local, state, and federal funding requests
TL 4.8	Identify commercial areas where it is appropriate to limit or restrict automobiles and prioritize people walking, biking, and using other forms of micromobility
TL 4.9	Ensure bike lanes and sidewalks are properly maintained including snow and debris removal throughout the year and prioritizing repairs as required



# TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

## Strategy 5. Improve transportation safety

Priority Actions	
TL 5.1	Install marked or signalized crosswalks at bus stops on arterial streets where appropriate
TL 5.2	Identify funding and continue supporting Safe Routes to School programs and related campaigns
TL 5.3	Adopt Vision Zero framework to reduce fatalities and severe injuries and join national Vision Zero network
TL 5.4	Adopt protected bike lane policy for high traffic areas
TL 5.5	Operationalize objectives in City's Traffic Calming Program
TL 5.6	Prioritize Transportation Systems Management Operations (TSMO) strategies before expanding transportation infrastructure
TL 5.7	Promote awareness on Washington cycling rules to both people who bike and people who drive (i.e. Idaho stop)

## Strategy 6. Support existing & new programs to reduce VMT

Priority Actions	
TL 6.1	Work with regional partners to enhance and promote the commute trip reduction (CTR) program
TL 6.2	Work with employers to encourage telecommuting, video-conferencing, and active transportation as part of their CTR plans
TL 6.3	Apply per-ride tax to ride hailing apps, put into fund for active transportation projects
TL 6.4	Promote e-bike adoption by working with private sector, state, and federal governments to provide incentives

This is an aerial view of a two-way protected cycle track demonstration on Spokane Falls Boulevard in the fall of 2019. Pop-up demonstrations like this one are a low-cost tool for testing safer bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure before investing in larger street renovation projects.

Protected bike lanes make cycling safer and more attractive for people of all ages and abilities.



Photo Credit: Spencer Gardner



# TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

## GOAL 3. Advance alternative and low carbon fuel in regional transportation

### Strategy 7. Increase adoption rate of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) including electric bicycles

#### Priority Actions

▶ TL 7.1	Work with regional partners to implement Avista's regional Transportation Electrification (TE) Plan
▶ TL 7.2	Plan and implement conversion of City fleet vehicles to carbon-negative, carbon neutral, and low-carbon alternatives; by at least 50% by 2030; 75% by 2040 with a goal of reducing fleet well-to-wheel emissions to zero by 2050
▶ TL 7.3	Support regional education efforts including the launch of a regional Transportation Electrification Experience Center
▶ TL 7.4	Support State & Federal Clean Fuel and ZEV legislation
TL 7.5	Encourage ride-share companies to adopt ZEV fleets
TL 7.6	Include e-bikes in subsidy and trade-in programs
TL 7.7	Encourage mode shift of freight, last mile delivery, and city fleet to bikes or electric bikes/cargo bikes or non-emitting vehicles, including autonomous vehicles (AV) where feasible
TL 7.8	Evaluate and update City code to encourage electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new development
▶ TL 7.9	Establish electric vehicle charging criteria for installing chargers in the public right of way and launch a residential curbside electric charging project to promote EV charging infrastructure in all neighborhoods

## GOAL 4. Integrate Sustainability Action Plan goals, strategies, and actions into City planning

### Strategy 8. Update comprehensive plan to incorporate climate action and updated sustainability goals

#### Priority Actions

▶ TL 8.1	Audit the Comprehensive Plan to align SAP policies to existing policies and programs and to identify gaps in order to update the Comp Plan with sustainability & climate goals
TL 8.2	Bring forward amendments to the comprehensive plan during the annual update cycle where opportunities exist to integrate sustainability into comprehensive plan goals, policies and discussions prior to the 2026 major update
TL 8.3	Ensure SAS is a stakeholder in the 2026 Comp Plan major update process
TL 8.4	Reassess centers and corridors for new opportunities to encourage more sustainable land use
TL 8.5	Review and update City code to preserve urban forest and mitigate urban heat island impacts

# TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

Strategy 9. Ensure the City’s process for approving development and service extensions addresses and prevents negative impacts to prime agricultural lands, critical wildlife habitats, and other natural areas in and around the city

## Priority Actions

▶ TL 9.1	Work with regional stakeholders to develop and maintain an inventory and GIS database of the county’s natural, critical, and endangered lands based upon their value to human and biotic communities. This data, updated yearly, will be consulted when making planning and service decisions
TL 9.2	Review land use planning and zoning policies that protect natural resources within City owned properties and revise, if necessary, to prioritize undeveloped natural areas.
TL 9.3	Work with regional partners to explore strategies and develop a plan to preserve urban farmland throughout the county
▶ TL 9.4	Review and update as necessary the City’s water retail amendment process to prevent loss of critical wildlife habitat areas, wetlands, working farms, and prime agricultural lands (same as WR 6.5)
TL 9.5	Partner with regional jurisdictions, businesses, and community-based organizations to preserve prime agricultural lands, critical wildlife habitats, working farms, and other natural areas both inside and outside city boundaries



Left: A Spokane-style directional chevron. Designed by Emeline Gardner for the 2019 Spokane in Motion bicycle “popup” event. This prototype became a permanent stencil a year later.



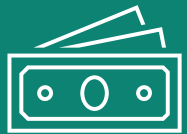


# WASTE DIVERSION & MATERIAL CONSERVATION

## Co-Benefits



Results in fewer emissions and improves air and water quality. Reduces the environmental impacts of resource exploitation.



Reduces cost of waste management to the City and ratepayers while making funds available for other purposes. Transition on circular economy creates jobs and economic opportunities.



Improves health outcomes, especially for those with respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. Increases food security.



Reduces hunger and food insecurity for low-income community members.

## SDG Alignment







# WASTE DIVERSION & MATERIAL CONSERVATION

Spokane and its residents are innovative champions of materials use, reuse and conservation, and environmental stewardship.

## Guiding Principles for Waste Diversion and Material Conservation:

- Divert waste materials toward the highest and best use
- Prioritize materials re-use and conservation to minimize climate impacts
- Consider environmental equity in waste/recycling policy
- Minimize economic costs of waste management systems for low-income residents



City employees participating in a recycling audit in 2020. These “lid lifts” help identify contamination in the recycling stream. Photo credit: Kris Major

## Sector Level GHG Targets: Waste Diversion & Material Conservation

Vehicle Type	2016 Baseline		2030 Reduction Target 45% & 948,958 MT		2040 Reduction Target 70% & 1,476,155 MT		2050 Reduction Target 95% & 2,003,356 MT	
	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent of Total	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction
WTE	100,533	5%	65,346	35%	50,267	50%	5,027	95%
Biogenic*	136,713		68,357	50%	34,178	75%	6,836	95%

\*Biogenic emissions in this table refer to the combustion of biological material in the municipal waste stream. It is outside the scope of our community GHG inventory; however, these emissions can be reduced through food rescue initiatives, composting biological material into soil amendments, or digesting into biofuels. In other words, there is a higher and better use for these materials outside of direct incineration.

### Comprehensive Plan Alignment

Chapter 5: Capital Facilities and Utilities

CFU 5.5 Waste Reduction and Recycling

Chapter 7: Economic Development

ED 8.4 Environmental Protection Business Opportunities

Chapter 9: Natural Environment

NE 5.3 Packaging Reduction

NE 5.4 Profit from Waste

Chapter 10: Social Health

SH 8: Food Access & Security

▶ Action in-progress

▶ Action complete



## Waste Trends: National and Local

The US EPA has found that the average municipal waste output per person in the US has risen from 2.7 pounds in 1960 to 4.9 pounds in 2018 – an increase of about 81%. Of that total, about 3.03 pounds of waste per person per day was sent to landfills or incinerated. In 2018, the residents of Spokane County produced 310,677 tons of waste that was burned at the WTE incinerator or landfilled. This averages about 3.3 pounds per person per day.

It is reasonable to assume that the waste production per person for the City is about the same as for the county, and that it has reached that figure following a similar trend to the rest of the nation. There are many reasons for the increase in waste output: changing patterns of consumption; the variety, quality and durability of consumer products; increased packaging; and Americans' attitudes and habits about thrift and conservation.

Managing and disposing of municipal waste is one of the great challenges that every city faces. The cost of this is a direct burden on the citizens, which is paid as part of the utility bill. Conserving materials, reducing waste, and diverting it from incineration and landfills would save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This is a complex issue inextricably tied to long-term worldwide trends in manufacturing, packaging, and materials valuation, use and management. The City cannot simply impose a solution. The roots of the problem are global, and the branches are cultural. Solving it will entail many strategies: fostering a conservation ethic among citizens; promoting laws at every level of government that do not allow manufacturers to externalize costs; and better technical engineering. The City of Spokane will engage in efforts to change people's habits and attitudes about consumption and will promote conservation of the food, materials, and products our residents use. There will still be waste, and that will be addressed in the most efficient manner, producing the least emissions and impacts possible.

Our Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Plant is one of Washington's top emitters of greenhouse gases. In 2014, the WTE plant released more than 235,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Incinerating waste to generate energy does release less greenhouse gases than burying it in a landfill. However, prioritizing reduced consumption, reuse, and recycling efforts to decrease the amount of municipal garbage is the most effective way to reduce carbon emissions, as well as all other harmful substances produced by combustion at the WTE plant.

Our goal is to reduce waste and divert materials towards the highest and best use while also holding producers accountable for the product and packing waste they create. By promoting smart solutions in our region, Spokane will become a leader in the circular economy where waste disposal is minimized, and economic opportunities are maximized. These efforts will create jobs, reduce pollution, and improve the way of life for all community members.



Spokane County Recycles artist, Ava King, North Central High School, Grade 7

*There is no good way to deal with trash except not to make it in the first place.*

*--Kris Major, Waste Reduction Education Coordinator,  
City of Spokane*

# WASTE DIVERSION & MATERIAL CONSERVATION

**GOAL 1. Invest in waste diversion programs to substantially reduce volume of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)**

## Strategy 1. Maximize composting of inedible food, yard waste, and other organic waste

Priority Actions	
WD 1.1	Work with businesses, schools, and institutions to develop systems for separation and collection of inedible food waste from other waste materials for composting
WD 1.2	Promote and facilitate the use of compostable packaging and foodservice ware
WD 1.3	Develop a residential food waste collection system to divert food waste from the Waste to Energy (WTE) plant by providing all residents with composting bins at no additional cost
WD 1.4	Use trash audits to inform residential and business sources of best practices in food waste separation

## Strategy 2. Minimize food waste generated by residents and businesses

Priority Actions	
WD 2.1	Support diversion of excess edible food from commercial & institutional kitchens and grocery outlets to community members in need through food rescue programs
WD 2.2	Educate business owners, schools, institutions and residents on the impacts of food waste and best practices to reduce it

### The New Clean Materials System

The Center for Sustainable Infrastructure is a Washington State nonprofit dedicated to helping the Pacific Northwest move toward a smarter, more sustainable materials management system. CSI provides education and advocacy that will lead us toward better environmental and economic outcomes.

Read more about their projects at [sustaininfrastructure.org](http://sustaininfrastructure.org)

## Transforming the PNW Waste & Recycling System





# WASTE DIVERSION & MATERIAL CONSERVATION

## GOAL 2. Boost regional economic opportunity by promoting circular waste programs

### Strategy 3. Promote, support, and incentivize a circular economy

#### Priority Actions

WD 3.1	Incentivize the production and usage of durable goods
▶ WD 3.2	Support policies that prioritize easily recyclable, and compostable packaging (ex. extended producer responsibility (EPR))
WD 3.3	Build on the progress of standing networks addressing waste reduction outreach to continually update residents and business owners on current waste management regulations
▶ WD 3.4	Increase enforcement of curbside recycling contamination and fund seasonal cart-tagging programs for recycling
WD 3.5	Promote markets for recycled or reused materials, such as through increased local business purchasing of recycled products and reusing of materials
WD 3.6	Transform recycling infrastructure to maximize materials separation and recovery and minimize contamination
WD 3.7	Increase access to sustainable purchasing
WD 3.8	Support and promote sharing and exchange economy among residents
▶ WD 3.9	Support a statewide Industrial Symbiosis program to create circularity in manufacturing

### Strategy 4. Support state-wide and regional waste management solutions

#### Priority Actions

WD 4.1	Build regional recycling infrastructure and markets
▶ WD 4.2	Support policies and regulations that reduce waste, especially difficult to recycle waste including extended producer responsibility policies
WD 4.3	Incubate industrial solutions to waste and recycling (eco-district)



**Circular Economy:** *A circular economy is designed intentionally to eliminate waste by keeping products and materials in use and preserving the value of resource inputs in perpetuity.*

# WASTE DIVERSION & MATERIAL CONSERVATION

## Existing Waste Diversion and Material Conservation Initiatives

There are many organizations at both the regional and state level working on reducing waste. Below are just a few of those initiatives.

### Food Waste & Food Security:

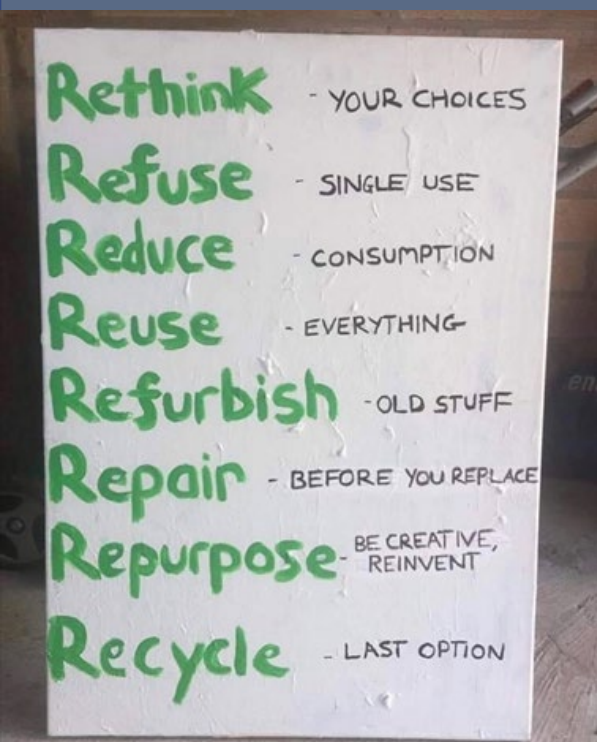
Washington Department of Ecology: Use Food Well Washington Plan  
Spokane County Food Security Coalition  
Spokane Food Policy Council  
Feed Spokane  
Spokane Food Fighters

### Packaging & bags:

Statewide plastic grocery bag ban  
Department of Ecology Plastics Study  
Proposed state extended producer responsibility bill

### Recycling & Waste Diversion:

Spokane County Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Spokane County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan  
Spokane Recycling Taskforce  
Zero Waste Washington



Left: Employees at Sea to Sky Removal, a Vancouver, BC company dedicated to reducing waste in the construction sector, created this list of “REs” to consider before throwing materials into the trash. We think it makes for good policy!

Right: A trophy designed from trash was awarded for team recognition during the 2013 Spokane River Clean Up. A creative reinvention of discarded material!



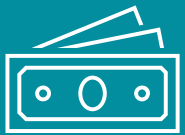


## WATER RESOURCES

### Co-Benefits



Improves watershed management and conservation to support aquatic and riparian habitat and encourage regenerative agricultural practices resulting in healthier ecosystems, cleaner water, and greater food security.



Protects SVRP Aquifer capacity while stabilizing utility costs through water conservation interventions. Ensures Spokane remains a premier destination for conventions and tourism.



Ensures Spokane River is healthy, clean, swimmable and fishable, and SVRP Aquifer remains a sustainable, potable water source.



Advances watershed education within all communities and protects fish resources as a cultural food source.

### SDG Alignment







# WATER RESOURCES

## Our River & Aquifer

The Spokane River is the central feature of Spokane's natural environment. The lifeways of Spokane's original inhabitants revolved around the river: it was their main source of sustenance and their cultural touchstone. When European settlers arrived, they chose the site along the Spokane River to access all the benefits that a major river provides. The Spokane River is a critical component of the City's heritage.

Spokane's natural environment has been greatly impacted by water, from historic floods to the more frequently occurring summer droughts. While our climate is defined by relatively low annual precipitation, our region abounds with lakes, wetlands, streams and our beautiful Spokane River.



The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer flows beneath our feet throughout a large section of our area and is an Environmental Protection Agency designated 'sole source aquifer', signifying that our drinking water is almost entirely supplied by this gift of groundwater. As more people move to this region, we must project how increased water consumption will both impact the aquifer and the Spokane River, which are physically connected and feed water to one another.

To protect our aquifer and the Spokane River, the City must creatively manage wastewater and stormwater runoff that our growing urban area creates. Direct interventions are in place to increase pollutant removal from wastewater through tertiary treatment before it is discharged into the Spokane River. Our City has also made smart investments to redirect urban stormwater to holding tanks where it is 'metered' in and combined and treated with municipal wastewater. Innovative solutions are rolling out to increase on-site stormwater treatment projects like storm gardens and bioswales. Natural and managed water resources do not exist independently of one another. We all live within a watershed, and every one of our activities directly or indirectly affects the health and quality of our shared water. The interconnections of our water, both seen and unseen, are complex.

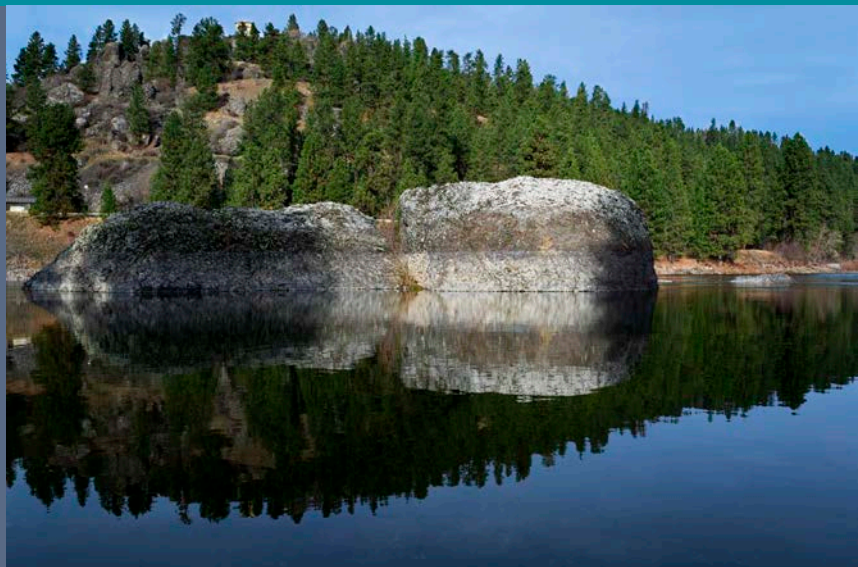
**Because the aquifer is a regional treasure with a carrying capacity, ensuring its conservation and recharge is critical. The City of Spokane is committed to working collaboratively with our regional partners to ensure it remains abundant and unpolluted for future generations.**



# WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources include natural and managed water systems that humans and other living things rely on to survive. Natural water systems encompass surface water (i.e., Spokane River and its tributaries, wetlands, lakes, and seasonal streams) and groundwater (i.e., the aquifer). City-managed water resource processes include operating Upriver Dam, pumping and delivering drinking water, as well as wastewater/stormwater treatment and discharge.

The City of Spokane envisions a healthy water future for our area. Our region abounds with plentiful lakes, streams and the beautiful Spokane River.



## Sector Level GHG Targets: Water Resources

Emissions from Pumping	2016 Baseline		2030 Reduction Target 45% & 948,958 MT		2040 Reduction Target 70% & 1,476,155 MT		2050 Reduction Target 95% & 2,003,356 MT	
	Accounted for in B&E Sector	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent of Total	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e	Percent Reduction	Metric Tons CO <sub>2</sub> e
Electricity	6,846	>1%	1,369	80%	685	90%	0	100%
Gas	209	>1%	209	0%	209	0%	10	95%

## Comprehensive Plan Alignment

### Chapter 3: Land Use

- LU 1: Citywide Land Use
- LU 3: Efficient Land Use
- LU 8: Urban Growth Area
- LU 9: Annexation Boundaries

### Chapter 5: Capital Facilities and Utilities

- CFU 1: Adequate Public Facilities and Services
- CFU 3: Coordination
- CFU 5: Environmental Concerns

### Chapter 7: Economic Development

- ED 6: Infrastructure
- ED 8: Quality of Life & the Environment

### Chapter 9: Natural Environment

- NE 1: Water Quality
- NE 2: Sustainable Water Quality
- NE 3: Shorelines
- NE 4: Surface Water
- NE 6: Native Species
- NE 7: Natural Land Forms
- NE 8: Agricultural Lands
- NE 15: Natural Aesthetics
- NE 16: Quality of Life
- NE 17: Natural Environment Education
- NE 18: Energy Conservation
- NE 19: Flood Hazards Management

### Chapter 10: Social Health

- SH 8: Food Access & Security

### Chapter 14: Shorelines

- ▶ Action in-progress
- ▶ Action complete

# WATER RESOURCES

GOAL 1. Protect the Spokane River and natural aquatic ecosystems (wetlands, shorelines, aquatic ecosystems biodiversity, streams, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas)

## Strategy 1. Protect water quality, fish, wildlife, ecosystem function, and no-impact recreational opportunities in the Spokane River through responsible, long-term watershed planning and management

### Priority Actions

WR 1.1	Maintain minimum instream flow rule for the Spokane River through water conservation and drought action planning and policy
WR 1.2	Determine feasibility for banking City senior water rights and other water rights in a trust to ensure future base River flows
WR 1.3	Identify, reduce, and mitigate impacts to the Spokane River that are a direct result of regional pumping of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer
WR 1.4	Protect aquatic ecosystem biodiversity, native species, and their habitats
WR 1.5	Pursue options for adding the Spokane River Gorge to Natural Area status

## Strategy 2. Build climate resilience in natural water systems through responsible watershed planning

### Priority Actions

WR 2.1	Protect the following sensitive resources through acquisition, maintenance, and restoration strategies: wetlands, riparian areas, and spawning and rearing habitats of native fish species
WR 2.2	Prioritize preventing ecologically-damaging actions during development permitting process over post-development mitigation strategies, including restoration or habitat creation
WR 2.3	Maintain healthy buffers and assume lead role in restoring damaged riparian areas to prevent erosion and re-establish water-protecting ecological services
WR 2.4	Partner with regional agencies and organizations to develop a flood risk assessment to responsibly manage areas projected to experience increased flooding events resulting from climate change
WR 2.5	Enforce protection of wetlands, including exploring wetland restoration/creation options, updating wetland delineation maps, and enforcing wetland buffer requirements



# WATER RESOURCES

## Strategy 3. Actively manage pollution within Spokane River and SRVP Aquifer

Priority Actions	
WR 3.1	Commit to following regulations and guidelines of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to reduce pollutants entering the Spokane River
WR 3.2	Work with regional partners to implement policies and strategies that support the Spokane Tribe's pollution standards for PCBs in the Spokane River
▶ WR 3.3	Continue to support river clean-up efforts by Spokane Code Enforcement, The Spokane Riverkeeper, The Lands Council, Spokane River Forum, and other community-based organizations
▶ WR 3.4	Continue to support Department of Ecology efforts to reduce toxic pollution in the Spokane River
WR 3.5	Access Spokane County SVRP Aquifer water quality data to identify well locations where contaminant levels are rising and address potential sources of pollution

## Strategy 4. Support the protection, restoration, and reintroduction of native fish species and their habitats in the Spokane River Watershed

Priority Actions	
WR 4.1	Support the development and operation of a Lead Entity for the Spokane River Watershed to guide restoration of native Redband Trout and anadromous fish habitats through a collaborative framework that functions in concert with local socio-economic and cultural needs
WR 4.2	Support a Lead Entity Coordinator in their development of a Technical Advisory Group and Citizens Committee, inclusive of tribes, county and city governments, state agencies, conservation districts, business and industry, non-government organizations and citizens
WR 4.3	Support a Lead Entity to identify native priority fish species based on their historical distribution, population status, and value to indigenous communities and culture
WR 4.4	Support the identification of habitat limiting factors that may be impacting native fish species
WR 4.5	Support the development and implementation of a habitat restoration strategy that identifies habitat improvement projects addressing previously identified limiting factors



**City Council Resolution 2014-0070** : BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane City Council expresses support for the NPCC's program's inclusion of anadromous fish passage above Grand Coulee Dam, and other regional processes that may result in anadromous fish reintroduction into their historical habitats that lie within the City of Spokane and throughout the Upper Columbia Region

Photo Credit: Inland Northwest Land Conservancy  
Spokane Tribal Fisheries department releasing 50 Chinook Salmon into the Little Spokane River at Waikiki Springs, August 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Strategy 5. Improve stormwater and wastewater management

### Priority Actions

WR 5.1	Continue to invest in stormwater management strategies and wastewater treatment upgrades and innovations to reduce pollutants entering Spokane River and the SVRP Aquifer
WR 5.2	Prioritize low impact development (LID) practices in City projects, including reducing impervious surface expansion
WR 5.3	Develop policy that requires clear, achievable on-site stormwater management for new developments
WR 5.4	Build community awareness around our wastewater system; use artwork and signage
WR 5.5	Collaborate with regional partners to ensure permitted dischargers meet Department of Ecology clean water requirements



qeʔqs čštím łuʔ qeʔ čyaʔtín. Salish for let us care for our resources. čyaʔtín refers to the things we hold dear to us, precious resources. čštím is the act of caring for something.

# WATER RESOURCES

## GOAL 2. Ensure sustainable water supply

### Strategy 6. Work with regional partners to reduce pumping from the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer in the face of projected population growth and future climate

#### Priority Actions

WR 6.1	Fund and conduct a regional aquifer study to determine future impacts to water availability including impacts from climate change and projected growth aquifer-wide and identify opportunities for regional collaborative solutions by 2023
▶ WR 6.2	Adopt updated water conservation target by April 2022 of 25% reduction in annual pumping (based on 2015-2019 average) over the next ten years
▶ WR 6.3	Adopt drought response plan that is tied to real-time Spokane River instream flows and hydrological health by April 2022 to prioritize maintaining water capacity during critical summer season
▶ WR 6.4	Ensure the City's Water Conservation Master Plan is reviewed every five years and updated as needed
▶ WR 6.5	Prioritize water conservation strategies that address critical importance of lowering summer, outdoor water use through efficient irrigation and landscape standards
WR 6.6	Adopt tiered water rate adjustments to incentivize water conservation for high water users
▶ WR 6.7	Continue to invest in and prioritize water conservation in City Parks, golf courses, and other City-owned property
WR 6.8	Explore the possibility of reusing or recycling wastewater from Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility to irrigate municipal green spaces such as parks, golf courses, medians, fire stations, etc
▶ WR 6.9	Expand commercial water efficiency program and continue to offer water conservation support for larger water users as well as new and existing commercial water accounts
▶ WR 6.10	Expand current efforts that support education and outreach aimed at assisting residents in decreasing water use through conservation and efficiency strategies

### Strategy 7. Create clear process and policies for assessing and approving land use and development that will impact future aquifer pumping volumes

#### Priority Actions

WR 7.1	Develop an annual water supply and water quality report card (by 2023) and establish strategies for addressing results (by 2025)
WR 7.2	Examine the policy and process for new intertie agreements to ensure those actions meet defined criteria for protecting base river flows and do not encourage exporting water outside of the Spokane Basin; include conditional, legal agreements for some cases (by 2023)
▶ WR 7.3	Review City's practice of approving water retail amendment process to ensure compliance with both state law and the City's Comprehensive Plan
WR 7.4	Review and update as necessary the City's water retail amendment process to prevent loss of critical wildlife habitat areas, wetlands, working farms, and prime agricultural lands (same as TL 9.4)



# WATER RESOURCES

## GOAL 3. Educate & engage community in water resources stewardship

### Strategy 8. Promote opportunities to engage the community

Priority Actions	
WR 8.1	Support the development of a 'Water Conservation Ambassador' Program to train citizen volunteers to take City messaging around water conservation targets and drought actions to larger community
▶ WR 8.2	Continue to support programs that engage community in watershed understanding, river-aquifer relationship, and sustainability planning
▶ WR 8.3	Expand City program that recognizes individuals and businesses who contribute to protecting water resources (low water users, turf conversion, innovative design)
WR 8.4	Provide civic engagement opportunities for K-12, college, and university students, as well as established community youth programs around watershed programming and planning

### Strategy 9. Promote and fund City programs that align with the Water Conservation Master Plan

Priority Actions	
WR 9.1	Increase visibility and understanding through City website, City social media, and signage of projects that demonstrate City leading by example on water conservation
WR 9.2	Create more opportunities for community input in decision-making during all stages: before, during, and after both planning & implementation
WR 9.3	Create physical signage and online resources that educate the public on the SVRP Aquifer and our watersheds including the interaction between the river and the aquifer (City includes four watersheds: Middle Spokane, Lower Spokane, Little Spokane River, Hangman Creek)
WR 9.4	Create plaza designs with natural elements that include signs to educate the community around water conservation to support the health of our river



# WATER RESOURCES

GOAL 4. Establish partnerships with regional organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input

## Strategy 10. Partner with regional groups to provide City input for Spokane River Watershed/SVRP Aquifer management plans and projects

### Priority Actions

WR 10.1	Create a Spokane River Vision Plan with regional partners, including jurisdictions, tribes, universities, colleges, nonprofits, and businesses throughout the SVRP aquifer area
WR 10.2	Continue participation in the Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative (IWAC)
WR 10.3	Continue participation in Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
WR 10.4	Support organization and agency management plans and programs that address watershed level sustainability strategies
WR 10.5	Collaborate regionally to develop disaster response plan for shared water resources like the SVRP aquifer and Spokane River
WR 10.6	Hire an employee to act as a Tribal liaison to improve collaboration with Tribes within the Spokane River watershed

## Strategy 11. Identify opportunities to acquire and restore critical areas, natural areas, and connect riparian corridors for protection and conservation

### Priority Actions

WR 11.1	Seek partnerships with agencies and organizations to purchase and protect critical shoreline areas that will maintain existing riparian corridors and/or connect undeveloped regional land to water resources for wildlife benefit
WR 11.2	Develop partnership with Washington Department of Ecology, Spokane County Conservation District, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and non-governmental organizations to restore shorelines of the Spokane River and its tributaries
WR 11.3	Partner with regional colleges and universities to grow opportunities for data collection and analysis that inform strategic land acquisition and restoration strategies



*“Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife, are in fact plans to protect man.”*

— Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior  
from 1961 to 1969

## **Existing Watershed Initiatives**

There are many organizations at both the regional and state level working on protecting our waterways and aquifer.<sup>13</sup>

### **Watershed:**

- Greater Spokane River Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Spokane County Voluntary Stewardship Program
- WRIA 54 (Lower Spokane Watershed) Watershed Plan (2009)
- WRIA 55 (Little Spokane) and 57 (Middle Spokane) Watershed Plan (2005)
- WRIA 56 (Hangman) Watershed Plan (2005)
- WRIA 55 (Little Spokane Watershed Planning) Spokane County Watershed updates: link (Hirst decision on permit exempt wells)

### **Rivers & Streams:**

- City of Spokane Shoreline Master Plan
- Family Forest Fish Passage Program
- Spokane Regional Toxics Taskforce Comprehensive Plan to Reduce PCBs in the Spokane River
- The Great Spokane River Gorge Strategic Master Plan
- Upper Columbia United Tribes and Spokane Tribe Department of Natural Resources Anadromous Fish Recovery
- Spokane Tribe of Indians – Anadromous Fish Recovery Program

### **Spokane-Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer:**

- SVRP Aquifer Atlas
- Water Offset Projects--Managed Aquifer Recharge 2020 Field Report:
- Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaboration (IWAC) Efficient Irrigation and Landscape Design Handbook
- Cleaner Water Faster signage campaign (Centennial Trail) IWA
- Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie bi-state aquifer study





## ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

### Co-Benefits



Reduces wasted resources and pollution while creating a healthy environment where humans and nature coexist.



Positions Spokane as a leader in clean energy, material conservation, and innovation, to take advantage of the opportunities available to communities who embrace sustainable development.



Builds a workforce with access to living wages and benefits to keep loved ones healthy and thriving. Increases economic vitality of the region while ensuring our residents have access to healthy food.



Creates a just distribution of opportunities and benefits gained from taking actions toward a more prosperous and resilient economy.

### SDG Alignment





# ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

In 2020, we ushered in a year of devastating economic impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although there are some success stories, in many ways, our community was left unprepared to quickly adapt to the challenges our economy faced. As leaders throughout the Spokane region determined actions needed for their economic recovery, we soon discovered that the same strategies employed to address the pandemic also apply in preparing our community for climate change. The core priority of City leadership is to ensure the prosperity of city residents, and to do this, the City needs to invest in the basic human needs of healthcare, housing, and workforce development.

The strategies and actions outlined in this chapter are dedicated to building resiliency through economic development and preparedness. These actions will better prepare Spokane residents for future challenges of any kind, including those challenges expected to arise with a changing climate.



City Council Member, Betsy Wilkerson, at a press conference in 2020. Photo credit: City of Spokane

## Current City and Regional Initiatives<sup>14</sup>

Creating resilient communities means that residents have equitable access to housing, employment, healthcare, and education. The following projects and initiatives are currently underway in support of these goals.

- Spokane Housing Action Plan (under development)
- Washington State Universal Health Care Work Group
- Ubanova’s Neighborhood Impact and Smart & Connected Streetlight Projects
- The ZoNE’s Equitable Employment Pathways Program

## Comprehensive Plan Alignment

Chapter 3: Land Use

LU 1: Citywide Land Use

Chapter 4 Transportation

TR 1: Transportation Network for All Users

TR 9: Promote Economic Opportunity

Chapter 6: Housing

H 1: Housing Choice & Diversity

H 2: Housing Quality

Chapter 7: Economic Development (most sections)

▶ Action in-progress

▶ Action complete



# ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

## GOAL 1. Invest and promote a just, regenerative, and resilient local economy

### Strategy 1. Engage with regional and neighborhood business associations to create coordinated economic resiliency

#### Priority Actions

EP 1.1	Re-establish City department dedicated to centralizing and addressing economic development planning
EP 1.2	Work with regional businesses to fully understand current challenges for local small business and develop a plan to address those challenges
EP 1.3	Partner with regional and neighborhood business associations to develop resiliency plans for specific sectors of our economy, including retail, hospitality, skilled labor, nonprofit, and food processing & supply
EP 1.4	Continue to develop and invest in local purchasing campaigns designed to educate local consumers on how to support local businesses
EP 1.5	Evaluate and update scoring criteria that the City uses to determine infrastructure and capital investments to ensure equitable investments, especially in historically underserved and underinvested neighborhoods or districts
EP 1.6	Work with regional organizations to develop Best Practice Guidelines to help small businesses be more agile and adaptable
EP 1.7	Identify and recognize creative local strategies that have proven beneficial during challenges (co-op model, shared services, online marketplace)
EP 1.8	Work with regional partners to conduct an analysis on supply chain resiliency and develop plan to prioritize regional supply and infrastructure
EP 1.9	Partner with local universities, colleges, and private organizations to support research and development opportunities for Spokane's small and medium sized business community
EP 1.10	Develop a centralized marketing program for all City-sponsored business districts. This program should build on the Live Local marketplace developed in response to the 2020 pandemic and should be an ongoing resource for local business, rather than an ad hoc program during crises

### Strategy 2. Expand access to sustainable business practices & resources

#### Priority Actions

EP 2.1	Provide resources to small businesses helping them save money through energy efficiency and resource conservation strategies
EP 2.2	Create public, private partnerships to pilot programs for waste diversion including reducing food waste, expanding commercial composting, and developing programs to address hard to recycle materials

### Building a Stronger Local Food System

The Spokane region is located within a rich agricultural area, but very few crops and livestock grown here feed our residents. We spend over \$1.5 billion each year buying food from outside our region and less than \$5 million buying locally grown food.<sup>19</sup> If people who live in Spokane eat more locally grown food, we will create a more resilient local food system, strengthen our economy and reduce climate impacts associated with transporting food great distances. Citizens, neighborhoods, growers, food-related businesses, non-profit organizations and local governments need to work together to take the far-reaching actions that are needed to localize and strengthen Spokane's food system.



# ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

GOAL 2. Ensure local workforce has access to affordable healthcare, transportation, housing, and education

Strategy 3. Adopt and implement regional policies and initiatives that support workers and individuals

Priority Actions

▶ EP 3.1	Continue to support and implement Spokane Housing Action Plan
EP 3.2	Work with public and private partners to create citywide program for increasing access to capital for homeownership at all income levels
EP 3.3	Invest in and support public transit infrastructure that increases access to affordable and convenient transportation options
EP 3.4	Use the City's 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Initiative as a model for prioritizing investment in historically underserved communities citywide
EP 3.5	Coordinate local workforce training needs through Public Development Authorities (PDAs) to align with the needs of large regional employers and industries (ex. IT support, healthcare)
EP 3.6	Prioritize economic development and projects that commit to maintaining a sustainable workforce, including local hire provisions, paying prevailing wages, expediting permitting, and labor agreements.

Strategy 4. Support just and sustainable State and Federal economic development policies

Priority Actions

▶ EP 4.1	Support State and Federal healthcare reform that will allow workers and individuals to maintain affordable healthcare benefits and access to healthcare regardless of employment status
▶ EP 4.2	Support statewide efforts to incorporate climate action, affordable housing, and transportation within the Growth Management Act (GMA)
EP 4.3	Implement industrial symbiosis strategies in conjunction with statewide efforts and in coordination with the local PDAs

*We will move to a low-carbon world because nature will force us, or because policy will guide us. If we wait until nature forces us, the cost will be astronomical.*

-- Christiana Figueres

There are costs to addressing sustainability and climate impacts -- sometimes significant costs -- but there are huge opportunities as well. Innovation and technology are at the heart of mitigating climate change and Spokane is well positioned to take advantage of those opportunities. From an eco-district on the West Plains, to energy innovators in the University District, and a thriving local food economy, Spokane has a lot to offer and a lot to gain by committing to and investing in environmental sustainability.



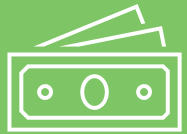


# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## Co-Benefits



Grows urban tree canopy and protects, connects, and expands natural ecosystems to strengthen healthy habitat and build climate resilience within the Spokane River Watershed



Improves livability measures, supports value added strategies that keep natural resource industry by-products (agriculture, forestry) in our local markets, and supports a visitor economy.



Increases positive social, mental, and physical health outcomes and protects agricultural land to support community food sovereignty and resilience.



Equitably increases tree-planting in underserved neighborhoods, improves equitable community access to green space and encourages Tribal involvement in plan development.

## SDG Alignment





# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## Near Nature, Near Perfect

The citizens of Spokane are caring stewards of their natural environment, protecting for future generations the beauty, amenities, and ecosystem services it provides.

Since Time Immemorial, the Spokane People have lived interconnected and interdependent of all beings including human and non-human alike. The fish from the river, the forest and prairie wildlife, and the native plants provided for all their needs. When European peoples settled the site at the Spokane Falls, they relied on the natural environment for their economy: timber, mining, agriculture and power generation.

In the 21st century, the economy has changed and relatively few citizens rely directly on the natural resources of the region for their livelihoods. Still, the quality of the natural environment bears a direct impact on the quality of life for Spokane's citizens and attracts visitors to our region.

The City of Spokane supports the goal of ensuring clean air, clean water, healthy terrestrial ecosystems, and a robust, equitably distributed tree canopy as a right of the community to best adapt to impacts of climate change. The City will prioritize protecting remaining natural areas that are connected regionally to land supporting diverse plant communities, wildlife, soils and water. The City also recognizes the critical role it plays in restoring and protecting the heart of our city, the Spokane River. These natural resources will be managed through a proactive process to ensure ecological services provide environmental resilience to climate change impacts. It will be critical to balance protection of biodiversity and natural cycles within healthy green and blue spaces along with our most precious gift, our incredible river. We will pursue smart growth strategies, including providing equitable community access to nature, and ensuring there is clean and flowing water that protects the biodiversity and integrity of our river for the benefit of our community.



**χsúleχ<sup>w</sup>**. Means good land, flat, open, fertile in Salish. The word breaks down to χest, good, -uleχ<sup>w</sup>, land or area.





# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Natural Environment refers to vital living and non-living systems that encompass water, air, soil, plants, and wildlife. These natural resources are largely interdependent and require a certain level of health and connectivity in order to support the viability of the larger ecological community. This focus area places value on the health of these systems and attempts to ensure their optimal function. Thoughtful planning and protection of open spaces and natural areas throughout our region can improve environmental quality and resilience; these healthy ecosystems in return support a vibrant, life-sustaining home now and for future generations.



## Comprehensive Plan Alignment

### Chapter 3: Land Use

- LU 1: Citywide Land Use
- LU 6: Adequate Public Lands and Facilities
- LU 8: Urban Growth Area

### Chapter 5: Capital Facilities and Utilities

- CFU 3: Coordination
- CFU 5: Environmental Concerns

### Chapter 7: Economic Development

- ED 8: Quality of Life and the Environment

### Chapter 9: Natural Environment (most sections)

### Chapter 10: Social Health

- SH 1: Funding Mechanisms to Support Social Health
- SH 8: Food Access & Security

### Chapter 12: Parks & Recreation

- PRS 1: Preservation and Conservation
- PRS 2: Parks and Open Space System

### Chapter 14 Shorelines

▶ Action in-progress    ▶ Action complete



## Benefits of Trees

We know that trees take in carbon from the air to produce energy for their growth. In doing so, they reduce greenhouse gases which are responsible for warming the climate. More analysis is needed to fully quantify the climate benefits of Spokane's tree canopy, but we have estimates of other economic benefits trees provide. In 2012, the City of Spokane conducted an economic analysis of the City's street trees, and the results are impressive!

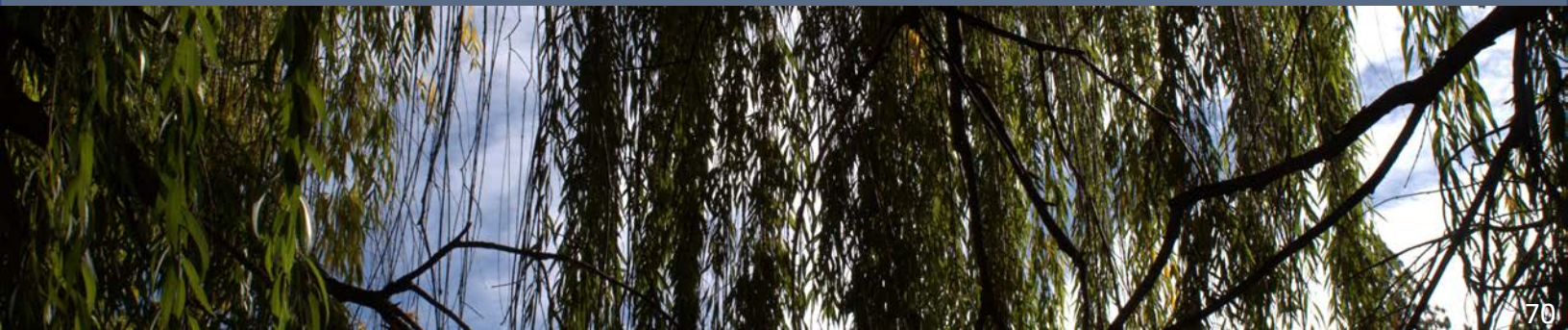
The following are figures for 76,533 street trees inventoried and analyzed for value and benefits in the City of Spokane. The information is an especially useful tool to evaluate the condition of our tree population and provide factual foundation for policy and management decisions. These 76,533 street trees provided the following benefits in 2012:<sup>15</sup>

- \$714,302 is saved annually in reduced heating and cooling costs.
- \$75,778 is saved annually in reduction of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.
- \$113,296 is saved annually in air quality improvements.
- \$290,602 is saved annually in stormwater mitigation by rain interception and storage.
- The beauty of Spokane's urban forest attracts tourists and businesses, lowers crime rates, increases marketability and property values at a value of \$2,850,251 annually.

You can calculate the benefits of trees on your property or the right-of-way by using the National Tree Benefit Calculator.<sup>16</sup>

Trees give us many benefits that are equally important but are not easily converted to dollar savings. A few examples are listed below.

- By shading soil and pavement surfaces, trees mitigate the urban heat island effect of hotter summers.
- Tree foliage filters particulate matter from the air, reducing the incidence of respiratory illnesses.
- Research has shown pavement shaded by trees lasts 10 years longer than exposed pavement, saving street maintenance costs.
- People are more likely to shop in business districts with treescaping and tend to spend more.<sup>17</sup>
- Patients with even just a view of greenery like parks, gardens, and/or trees heal faster.<sup>18</sup>
- Trees provide critical wildlife habitat for feeding, nesting and migration.
- Dense plantings of trees and shrubs can reduce traffic noise by 6-15 decibels.





# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 1. Establish partnerships with community organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input

## Strategy 1. Work with regional partners to align natural resource management

### Priority Actions

▶ NE 1.1	Work collaboratively with regional partners to support existing efforts to update the Critical Areas Report by 2022
NE 1.2	Support statewide inventory of at-risk species and ecosystems
NE 1.3	Assess regional wildfire risks and develop plans to mitigate risks in native forests in and around the City (by 2023)
NE 1.4	Support Spokane County Noxious Weed Board efforts to identify and control noxious weeds
NE 1.5	Collaborate with research community to incorporate appropriate species and management methods for future climate into City plans
NE 1.6	Work collaboratively with regional partners to support and fund an economic impacts study of our regional farms and prime agricultural soils

## Strategy 2. Establish funding for management of City lands

### Priority Actions

▶ NE 2.1	Increase City budget for Natural Resources Management and Environmental Programs
▶ NE 2.2	Partner with community organizations and agencies that will leverage City funding budget and capacity, and maximize partner funding opportunities
NE 2.3	Conduct feasibility assessment for creation of a climate justice fund that ensures investment in projects that will directly benefit underserved segments of the community
NE 2.4	Partner with organizations and agencies to promote equitable access to City natural areas and the Spokane River



hec člčil is Salish for trees, forests. It means many things standing up.



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## GOAL 2. Build awareness and engage the community in Natural Resources stewardship

### Strategy 3. Support volunteer opportunities to engage citizens in environmental sustainability projects

#### Priority Actions

NE 3.1	Support a Conservation Ambassador Program (or similar program) to train volunteers to take sustainability and climate action messaging out to the community
NE 3.2	Develop a Green Corps Program (or similar program) to generate citizen volunteers trained to implement planting, monitoring and maintenance phases of PLANT Ordinance
▶ NE 3.3	Expand on current efforts to create pollinator gardens programs to establish habitat for our local pollinators, and provide education to the public about the critical role they play in the ecosystem
NE 3.4	Create opportunities within K-12 education, colleges, and universities for students to contribute input and service work to City natural resources programs and projects
NE 3.5	Assess opportunities for citizen science work to contribute to a database that can be accessed to better understand ecosystem health and management needs within natural areas
▶ NE 3.6	Build public awareness around existing environmental sustainability programs

### Strategy 4. Promote City programs and projects that align with sustainability goals

#### Priority Actions

▶ NE 4.1	Expand incentive programs like SpokaneScape that encourage residents to replace lawn with mulch and native, drought-tolerant plant species in connection with Water Resources strategy 6
NE 4.2	Create signage for City Parks turf conversion projects, pollinator gardens and native landscaping
NE 4.3	Increase visibility and accessibility of sustainability programs on City website and establish an effective social media campaign (by 2022)
▶ NE 4.4	Partner with Department of Natural Resources to create climate-informed and fire-adapted community strategies around urban canopy, particularly near urban-wildland interface

### Strategy 5. Establish funding for education and outreach programs that promote natural resources stewardship

#### Priority Actions

NE 5.1	Partner with community organizations and agencies already implementing work that supports City natural resource management goals to build strong multi-agency grant opportunities
NE 5.2	Develop and encourage the use of curricula in local schools to build a stewardship ethic and climate science understanding in young people
NE 5.3	Expand opportunities for voluntary contributions in utility bills to collect funds for urban forestry and other City programs
NE 5.4	Partner with BIPOC-led organizations to build awareness and promote natural resource stewardship across broad populations within the city.

# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## GOAL 3. Increase urban tree canopy and climate-adapted plant landscapes within the built environment

### Strategy 6. Expand urban tree canopy to capture more carbon and moderate neighborhood microclimate

#### Priority Actions

▶ NE 6.1	Create a Master Planting Plan (by 2022) to increase City's urban canopy from the current level of 23% to 40% cover by 2030; use an equity framework to prioritize low-canopy and low-income neighborhoods
NE 6.2	Review and revise the approved street tree list (following adoption of Master Planting Plan) and update tree list regularly to provide more information on drought and heat tolerance; water requirements; and resistance and resilience to disease, pests, and storm damage
NE 6.3	Retrofit residential streets where possible to provide adequate street strips for planting
NE 6.4	Identify long-term funding and strategies for tree monitoring and maintenance phases, including supplemental watering and pruning, to increase survivability
NE 6.5	Implement policy that incentivizes private property owners, public property owners, and developers to establish additional trees and consider alternatives to removing established trees

### Strategy 7. Establish diverse, future-climate-adapted landscaping within the built environment

#### Priority Actions

▶ NE 7.1	Establish policy to require inclusion of regionally native and climate-adapted plants in future planting projects on City owned properties
▶ NE 7.2	Reduce water and chemical inputs on City-maintained land, promoting water and wildlife conservation
NE 7.3	Incentivize establishment of native, climate-adapted plant landscaping for private landowners and developers, and enlist help from landscape designers and plant nurseries to promote City strategies

*At The Lands Council, we have a vision to increase our city-wide urban tree canopy using an environmental justice and equity lens. Our canopy efforts will be focused on areas at the intersection of low-income and low canopy coverage in an effort to bridge that canopy gap and offer the ecosystem benefits that trees provide to all residents.*

--Chelsea Updegrave, Director of Development & Communications at The Lands Council



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

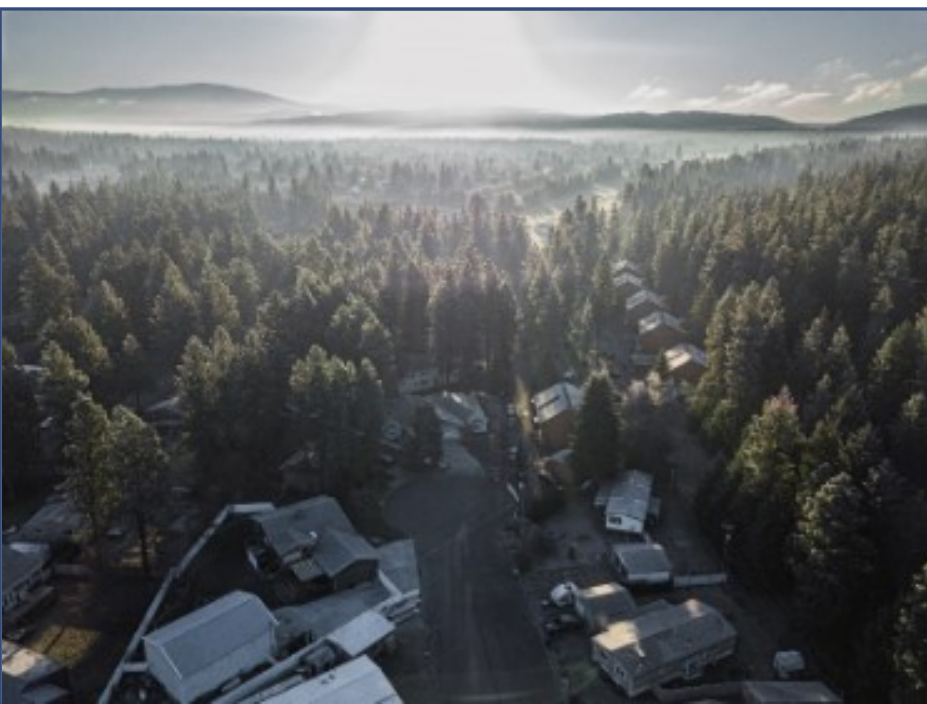
## GOAL 4. Protect and build climate resilience in natural spaces within Spokane

### Strategy 8. Strengthen & support regional land conservation

Priority Actions	
NE 8.1	Support regional conservation and restoration of natural areas and corridors
NE 8.2	Prioritize evaluating biodiversity within City Natural Areas so that at-risk species and habitats are protected through focused management actions
NE 8.3	Identify and restore damaged riparian areas and prioritize the protection of habitat along streams and rivers (by 2030)
NE 8.5	Partner with regional agencies, nonprofits, colleges, universities, and local businesses to explore ways in which Spokane can support the national 30 by 30 initiative that aims to protect 30 percent of our land and 30 percent of our ocean areas by 2030 <sup>19</sup>

### Strategy 9. Prevent negative impacts to natural resources and build climate resilience

Priority Actions	
▶ NE 9.1	Adopt land management practices that protect and improve ecosystem health (soil, plant and animal habitat) on City owned property
NE 9.2	Address and prevent potential impacts to natural resources during planning phases of land development rather than relying on mitigation as a post-development strategy
NE 9.3	Evaluate overall health of natural areas on a regular, established cycle to identify ecosystem transition and disease and pest outbreaks; develop management strategies to address risks
NE 9.4	Support regional partnerships to manage forest in order to reduce wildfire risk, including forest drought mitigation planning
NE 9.5	Review chapter 9 (Natural Environment) of the Comprehensive Plan to ensure alignment to the SAP and recommend revisions as needed



*How we treat our land, how we build upon it, how we act toward our air and water, in the long run, will tell what kind of people we really are.*

-- Laurance S. Rockefeller



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## Urban Fire Prevention

The wildland-urban interface (WUI) is where homes are built near or among lands prone to wildland fire. These areas have become more desirable for homeowners for their privacy, natural beauty, and access to recreational opportunities like our parks and trails. Developers and builders are accommodating this desire by building neighborhoods inside these areas. As a result, the Spokane Fire Department (SFD) must fight fire and protect homes and infrastructure within these wildland-urban interface areas.

To help adapt to this need, the SFD participated in a 2014 workgroup that developed a Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan that collaborates with the State Department of Natural Resources and Federal Partners. The plan encourages several critical initiatives within the SFD described below.



Photo Credit: Dean Percy

The current SFD Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) programs integrate the State of Washington's Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan with the SFD's Strategic Positioning Plan. This integration allows SFD resources to be assigned into divisional work plans and elevates the threat from WUI fires to prioritize the organization's efforts. In addition, the SFD participates and supports the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Program and provides access for DNR's Community Assistance Grants for property owners. In 2020, and as an unexpected outcome from the Pandemic, SFD joined DNR in the [Fuel Management Mapping System](#) that integrates SFD's Intterra System to better plan for and respond to wildland fire incidents throughout our protection area. Intterra allows real-time access to critical wildland fire data in the hands of responders and incident decision-makers. Also, in 2020, the SFD and Parks collaborated to create three pilot programs to reduce horizontal and vertical continuity in fuels to limit fire propagation. Traditional techniques such as pruning, thinning, mastication, and prescribed burning were very expensive or politically challenging. With the support of the City Council, the departments developed a goat grazing program. After thorough research, the deployment of goats has emerged as the most effective, nearly carbon-neutral, cost-effective, nontoxic, and nonpolluting method of thinning fuel. In the 2022 budget, the SFD will be adding a cost-neutral Wildland Fire Planning position to its budget. The purpose of the role is to manage the existing programs and to accomplish future improvements to the City's resilience and safety from the threat of WUI incidents.

- Spokane Fire Department's Chief Brian Schaeffer



Photo Credit: Dean Percy

## **Existing Natural Resource Planning and Management Initiatives<sup>20</sup>**

There are many organizations at both the regional and state level working on protecting our natural environment

### **Forests:**

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

- Washington Forest Action Plan (2020)
- 20-Year Forest Strategic Plan (2020)

### **Wildlife:**

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Landscape Planning for Washington's Wildlife

### **Plant Communities:**

- Spokane County Noxious Weed Board: Identifying and Controlling Noxious Weeds in Spokane County

### **Sensitive Species & Habitats (Critical Areas):**

- Spokane County: Protection of Critical Areas ([link](#))
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Priority Habitats and Species ([link](#))
- City of Spokane Critical Areas Report (1994) [link](#)

### **Wildfire:**

- DNR Wildland Fire Protection 10-year Strategic Plan [link](#)
- Firewise Program (Spokane County Conservation District in collaboration with Department of Natural Resources)

### **Climate Resilience:**

- Washington State Department of Natural Resources; Plan for Climate Resilience (2020)
- The Lands Council & City of Spokane Spocanopy Initiative



## HEALTH & WELLBEING

### Co-Benefits



Empowers Spokane residents with information on how they can take climate and sustainability actions within their own lives. Promotes local food systems, reduces environmental degradation, and preserves urban farmland.



Decreases healthcare costs over time and increases the safety and security of Spokane residents.



Improves health outcomes for people disproportionately exposed and/or susceptible to the impacts of climate change including low-income, people of color, the elderly, children, and people with pre-existing health conditions.



Ensures benefits are enjoyed equitably across our community by prioritizing access and investment in underserved communities.

### SDG Alignment







# HEALTH & WELLBEING

The impacts of climate change will intensify issues that Spokane residents face today like financial insecurity, affordable housing, food security, and healthcare access. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed how a crisis disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities. By investing in the health and wellbeing of our residents, Spokane can ensure our city has the systems in place to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. We envision a city with local leadership that proactively invests in public health, access to healthy food, affordable housing, emergency services, and resiliency infrastructure. Empowering communities by making these investments will result in a stronger Spokane.



2020 First Responder's Parade Photo Credit: City of Spokane

## Current City and Regional Initiative<sup>21</sup>

Creating resilient communities means that residents have equitable access to housing, employment, healthcare, and education. The following projects and initiatives are currently underway in support of these goals.

- Spokane Housing Action Plan (under development)
- Washington State Universal Health Care Work Group

## Comprehensive Plan Alignment

### Chapter 3: Land Use

- LU 1: Citywide Land Use
- LU 4: Transportation
- LU 6: Adequate Public Lands and Facilities

### Chapter 5: Transportation

- TR 1: Transportation Network for All Users
- TR 20: Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordination

- ▶ Action in-progress
- ▶ Action complete

### Chapter 6 : Housing

- H 1: Housing Choice and Diversity
- H 2: Housing Quality

### Chapter 10: Social Health

- SH 1: Funding & Mechanisms to Support Social Health
- SH 2: Facilities for Special Needs Populations
- SH 4: Diversity & Equity
- SH 5: Public Benefit Uses
- SH 8: Food Access & Security



2018 District 3 health education fair. Photo credit: City of Spokane

As we move toward implementation of this plan, it is critical that our leaders and community members develop a shared understanding of what public health is and its role in community wellbeing. Public health is prevention-focused, population-wide targeting, and seeks to address the causes of social inequity leading to differentials in health. Public health is not health care.

Success from a public health perspective means decisions must be based on science, outcomes must be evaluated and course-corrected as indicated, and we must be constantly mindful of social justice and equity.

# HEALTH & WELLBEING

## GOAL 1. Prioritize & invest in all communities to ensure equitable outcomes

### Strategy 1. Increase household food security regionwide

#### Priority Actions

HW 1.1	Support the Spokane Food Policy Council (SFPC) in studying, identifying and implementing sensible and achievable codes, policies, and requirements that eliminate barriers and reduce costs for urban farms and community gardens and expand local control of food grown, processed, and sold directly to consumers
HW 1.2	Work with regional partners, including SFPC, to develop and adopt a regional food plan. This document will outline the needs of the community and a blueprint for meeting these needs.
HW 1.3	Partner with local nonprofits, advocacy groups, and other governmental organizations to create a Regional Food System Partnership. This Partnership will bring stakeholders together to maximize our local food system capacity, efficacy, and efficiency.
HW 1.4	Partner with other public entities, local business organizations, and food producers to launch a local food campaign to educate the public on the benefits of eating local

### Strategy 2. Increase access to affordable housing and healthy outcomes

#### Priority Actions

HW 2.1	Continue to invest in affordable housing, low-barrier housing, and safe, accessible, affordable public transportation
HW 2.2	Fund grants for sustainable home upgrades that benefit resident health and transition renters to improved housing
HW 2.3	Support policy that addresses low-income access to healthcare and health services, including health services for non-working individuals
HW 2.4	Collaborate with regional partners to create a robust regional response to homelessness
HW 2.5	Ensure schools and early learning facilities meet acceptable clean indoor air quality standards
HW 2.6	Support efforts to engage community leaders from underrepresented communities to determine barriers to health & healthcare access and create a 5-year plan to address those barriers
HW 2.7	Partner with local medical and nursing schools and community-based organizations to increase healthcare outreach to low-income communities and unhoused persons

## Household Food Security

According to the USDA, food insecurity occurs when “consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.” In Spokane, it is estimated that 1 in 5 children live in food insecure households. Food security for a household in Spokane is dependent on two things: the existence of a secure and robust supply network that produces food and brings it to market; and the economic ability of a household to access it. This Sustainability Action Plan addresses Spokane’s ability to ensure household food security for all residents.



Under HW Strategy 1, Spokane will strengthen our local food supply network to decrease dependency on global networks.

Actions in the TL & WR chapters help protect farmlands while action EP 1.3 will improve the viability of local businesses, including those involved in food production and processing. About 18% of Spokane residents fall below the federal poverty level.<sup>21</sup> That is why this plan recommends actions to both strengthen household income and divert edible food to those in need.

# HEALTH & WELLBEING

## GOAL 2. Implement climate adaptation strategies into emergency and disaster response

### Strategy 3. Include climate impacts in disaster and emergency management response

#### Priority Actions

▶ HW 3.1	Finalize Climate Vulnerability Assessment by 2021
▶ HW 3.2	Ensure City's disaster and emergency management plans include specific strategies to prepare for vulnerabilities identified in the Climate Vulnerability Assessment and from other relevant sources
HW 3.3	Partner with regional emergency and disaster response teams to ensure a regional approach is used to respond to any future crisis or challenge
HW 3.4	Develop regional plan to respond to impacts of increased heat and wildfire smoke on vulnerable populations, including identifying public buildings to function as cooling and clean air centers and addressing associated mental health needs

## GOAL 3. Create community engagement around sustainability & climate action

### Strategy 4. Increase community awareness of climate change risks and impacts

#### Priority Actions

▶ HW 4.1	Promote science-based climate change curriculum adoption in all k-12 classrooms
HW 4.2	Develop public outreach campaign on how residents should respond to high heat risks and wildfire smoke
▶ HW 4.3	Provide community tools and opportunities for the public to participate in sustainability and climate action
▶ HW 4.4	Partner with Community Centers and local community organizations working with vulnerable populations to find alignment and opportunities to promote shared goals of health and wellbeing for Spokane residents
HW 4.5	Create a community engagement plan for implementation and improvement of the Sustainable Action Plan goals among underserved communities



According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, climate change poses threats to human health, safety, and security, and children are at particularly high risk. The effects of climate change on child health include:

- Cumulative physical and psychological impacts of recurring weather disasters (eg., wind events, wildfires, flooding)
- Increased heat stress
- Decreased air quality
- Altered vector-borne disease patterns
- Food, water, and nutrient insecurity

Photo from Party in the Park, 2016 Credit: City of Spokane



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

## Boards & Commissions

Committees Public Infrastructure, Environment, & S... Sustainability Action Subcommittee

## Sustainability Action Subcommittee

Wondering how you can contribute? Find resources and tips for reducing your environmental impact on the Sustainability Action Subcommittee [website](#) under "Take Action." Coming early 2022, residents of Spokane will have access to the "Sustainable Spokane" portal, a program from the City of Spokane to help residents take climate action together as a community. While you're visiting the SAS website, sign up to receive our newsletter.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/sas>



### Our Community, Our Future

Thank you to everyone who completed the Climate Action Plan Survey. We'll use your input to inform more community involvement and planning for a sustainable Spokane. [Download the Survey Summary.](#)



### Vulnerability Assessment

A changing climate brings specific risks to the Spokane region in terms of increased temperatures, more intense wildfires, and changes in snowpack which affect the health of our river and our aquifer. [Learn more in this vulnerability assessment,](#) co-



### Take Action

Our team is collecting a list of Green Tips for you to implement at your work or home. [Discover ways](#) in which you can implement actions and strategies for making Spokane a greener place to live.



### SustainableSpokane.org

Over 60% of the city's emissions come from 5 basic household categories - home heating, electricity use, transportation, food and waste. The great news - we now have affordable and accessible options for all 5 that enable you to make a significant difference on climate! The platform makes it simple and easy to discover your household impact, explore solutions, and find actions that are right for you. Each action comes with resources and how-to-guides that make it easy to make a difference. Whether you rent or own your house, this program is for you. Explore the platform at [SustainableSpokane.org](https://SustainableSpokane.org)!

# Notes

## 1. Existing City Plans

- Spokane Sustainability Action Plan (2009)  
<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/publicworks/environmental/sustainability-action-plan.pdf>
- Spokane Comprehensive Plan (2017)  
<https://my.spokanecity.org/shapingspokane/comprehensive-plan/>
- Spokane Water Conservation Master Plan (2020)  
<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/publicworks/water/water-conservation-master-plan-2020-04-27.pdf>
- Spokane City Bike Master Plan <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/bicycle-master-plan/>
- Spokane Pedestrian Master Plan  
<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/projects/pedestrianplan/spokane-final-pedestrian-plan-adopted-2015-11-02.pdf>

## 2. Existing Regional Plans

- Spokane County Comprehensive Plan (updated 2019) <https://www.spokanecounty.org/4474/2019-Comprehensive-Plan-Amendments>
- Spokane County Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan (2015)  
<https://www.spokanecounty.org/4725/Spokane-County-ComprehensiveSolid-Waste->
- Horizon 2040: The Spokane Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan <https://www.srtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/H2040-Flier-Edit-and-Digital-Copy.pdf>
- Spokane Regional Health District Bike Walk Bus Program: <https://walkbikebus.org/>
- Spokane Transit Authority Moving Forward 10 Year Plan (2016): <http://stamovingforward.com/>
- WSDOT Active Transportation Plan: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/commute-choices/bike/plan>
- Avista Utilities Integrated Resource Plan (2020): <https://www.myavista.com/about-us/integrated-resource-planning>
- Avista Utilities Transportation Electrification Plan (2020): <https://www.myavista.com/energy-savings/green-options/electric-transportation>
- Spokane Food Policy Council's Food Action Plan (currently under development):  
<https://www.spokanefoodpolicy.org/>

## 3. City & State Code

- Spokane Municipal Code Chapter 15.05 – Climate Change:  
<https://my.spokanecity.org/smc/?Chapter=15.05>
- Res 2014-0070 Anadromous Fish Recovery:  
<https://publicdocs.spokanecity.org/cityclerkrecords/tempimages/5jcwafmtmltysmhs34naxjc2/3551795.pdf>

### Washington State

- 2019 Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA): <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/ceta/>
- 2019 Revised Code of Washington 70A.45.020 -- Green House Gas Emissions Reductions:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.45.020>
- 2019 Use Food Well Washington Plan: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Organic-materials/Food-waste-prevention/Food-waste-plan>
- RCW 19.27A.160 Residential and Nonresidential construction permitted under **the 2031 state energy code must achieve a 70 percent reduction in annual net energy consumption** (compared to the 2006 state energy code)
- RCW 19.27A.020 Construct increasingly efficient homes and buildings that help achieve the broader goal of building **zero fossil-fuel greenhouse gas emission homes and buildings by the year 2031**

# NOTES

4. McKinstry, 2016: <https://www.mckinstry.com/2016/09/23/spokane-transits-facility-upgrades-conserve-money-and-energy/>
  5. The Spokesman Review, 2019: <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/sep/29/shawn-vestal-there-it-is-again-the-center-of-spoka/>
  6. Seattle Business Magazine, 2009: <https://www.seattlebusinessmag.com/article/2009-green-washington-awards>
  7. The Active Times, 2018 : <https://www.theactivetimes.com/adventure/best-cities-outdoor-enthusiasts-ranked/slide-2>
  8. Pauline Flett Video: <https://vimeo.com/401997642> Produced by FactoryTown
  9. World Health Organization on health equity: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>
  10. Washington State Department of Health Website on Health Equity: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/HealthEquity>
  11. Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/WashingtonTrackingNetworkWTN/InformationbyLocation/WashingtonEnvironmentalHealthDisparitiesMap>
  12. Report to the Washington State Governor and Legislature: Environmental Justice Taskforce – Recommendations for Prioritizing EJ in Washington State Government -- [https://healthequity.wa.gov/Portals/9/Doc/Publications/Reports/EJTF%20Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://healthequity.wa.gov/Portals/9/Doc/Publications/Reports/EJTF%20Report_FINAL.pdf)
13. Existing Watershed & Aquifer Plans & Initiatives
- Greater Spokane River Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) “The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was developed by the 2014 Farm Bill. It is a partner-driven, locally led approach to enhancing conservation efforts in a targeted area. It offers new opportunities for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to promote innovation, gather new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrate the value and worth of voluntary, private land conservation.”: <https://www.sccd.org/rcpp/>
  - Spokane County Voluntary Stewardship Program: Four categories: Agriculture Stewardship, Forestry Stewardship, Livestock Stewardship, and ‘Grown Local, Sold Local’ (innovation around protecting critical areas): <https://conservationmap.sccd.org/page/start>
  - WRIA 54 (Lower Spokane Watershed) Watershed Plan (2009): [http://spokanewatersheds.org/files/documents/WRIA54Plan\\_Aug2009\\_wfigures.pdf](http://spokanewatersheds.org/files/documents/WRIA54Plan_Aug2009_wfigures.pdf) and Implementation Plan (2010): [http://spokanewatersheds.org/files/documents/WRIA54-ImplementationPlan\\_Final12-20-10.pdf](http://spokanewatersheds.org/files/documents/WRIA54-ImplementationPlan_Final12-20-10.pdf)
  - WRIA 55 (Little Spokane) and 57 (Middle Spokane) Watershed Plan (2005): <http://spokanewatersheds.org/files/documents/WRIA-55-57-Watershed-Management-Plan-Final-1-31-06.pdf>
  - WRIA 56 (Hangman) Watershed Plan (2005): <http://spokanewatersheds.org/files/documents/Hangman-Creek-Watershed-Managment-Plan.pdf>
  - WRIA 55 (Little Spokane Watershed Planning) Spokane County Watershed updates: link (Hirst decision on permit exempt wells): <https://www.spokanecounty.org/3843/WRIA-55-Watershed-Plan-Update>
  - City of Spokane Shoreline Master Plan: <https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/shoreline-master-program-periodic-update/>
  - Family Forest Fish Passage Program (Spokane County Conservation District in collaboration with WA State Department of Natural Resources) Financial and technical help around removing in-stream barriers to fish passage on private land: <https://sccd.org/departments/water-resources/family-forest-fish-passage-program-2/>
  - Spokane Regional Toxics Taskforce Comprehensive Plan to Reduce PCBs in the Spokane River: [http://srrttf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2016\\_Comp\\_Plan\\_Final\\_Approved.pdf](http://srrttf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2016_Comp_Plan_Final_Approved.pdf)
  - The Great Spokane River Gorge Strategic Master Plan: <https://spokaneriver.net/initiatives/great-gorge-plan/>
  - SVRP Aquifer Atlas: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3178/2015-Edition-SVRP-Aquifer-Atlas-PDF>



# NOTES

- Water Offset Projects--Managed Aquifer Recharge 2020 Field Report: [https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/33794/Managed-Aquifer-Recharge-MAR-Field-Investigation-Report-06\\_18\\_2020](https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/33794/Managed-Aquifer-Recharge-MAR-Field-Investigation-Report-06_18_2020)
- Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaboration (IWAC) Efficient Irrigation and Landscape Design Handbook: <https://www.spokaneaquifer.org/irrigation-landscape-design-standards/mobile/index.html>
- Cleaner Water Faster signage campaign (Centennial Trail) IWA: <https://www.spokaneaquifer.org/cleaner-water-faster-centennial-trail-signs/>
- Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie bi-state aquifer study: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2007/5044/>

## 14. Current Economic & Social Wellbeing Initiatives

- Washington State Universal Health Care Work Group: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/universal-health-care-workgroup>
- Urbanova: <https://urbanova.org/projects/>
- The ZoNE: <https://thezonespokane.org/impact#key>

## 15. Spokane Urban Forestry Tree Benefits Website: <https://my.spokanecity.org/urbanforestry/tree-benefits/>

## 16. National Tree Benefit Calculator: <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/>

## 17. Nature Within: <http://www.naturewithin.info/consumer.html>

## 18. Green Plants for Green Buildings: <https://greenplantsforgreenbuildings.org/>

## 19. National 30x30 initiative: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

## 20. Current Natural Environment related Initiatives

- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
  - Washington Forest Action Plan (2020): [https://dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp\\_2020\\_forest\\_action\\_plan.pdf?3bb1xp](https://dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_2020_forest_action_plan.pdf?3bb1xp)
  - 20-Year Forest Strategic Plan (2020): <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/ForestHealthPlan#read-the-plan>
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Landscape Planning for Washington's Wildlife: ---Managing for Biodiversity in Developing Areas (A Priority Habitats and Species Guidance Document) (2009): <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00023>
- Spokane County Noxious Weed Board: Identifying and Controlling Noxious Weeds in Spokane County: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/21339/Identifying-and-Controlling-Noxious-Weeds-in-Spokane-County-55-pg-booklet>
- Spokane County: Protection of Critical Areas: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/662/BP-44-Critical-Areas-PDF>
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Priority Habitats and Species: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/phs/maps>
- City of Spokane Critical Areas Report (1994): <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/business/resources/studies/other/critical-areas-report-1994.pdf>  
pg. 2 'Many existing City plans contain goals and policies pertaining to critical areas issues. The following City plans were reviewed and used in developing this report: Generalized Land Use Plan, Shoreline Master Program, Spokane Wetlands Protection Program, Park and Open Spaces Plan, Latah Creek Specific Plan, Lincoln Heights Specific Plan, and Indian Trail Specific Plan. In addition, Spokane County's Critical Areas section of its Comprehensive Plan was also used during the City's critical areas planning process, to help fulfill the interest in coordinating with the County on critical areas planning.
- DNR Wildland Fire Protection 10-year Strategic Plan: [https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp\\_wildfire\\_strategic\\_plan.pdf?ucjvq](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_wildfire_strategic_plan.pdf?ucjvq)
- Firewise Program (Spokane County Conservation District in collaboration with Department of Natural Resources): <https://sccd.org/programs/firewise/>
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources; Plan for Climate Resilience (2020): [https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em\\_climateresilienceplan\\_feb2020.pdf](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_climateresilienceplan_feb2020.pdf)

## 21. Spokane Regional Health District, Demographics and Social Characteristics report (2015), p. 10: <https://srhd.org/media/documents/DemographicsSpokaneCounty2017.pdf>