

2023 APA WA Annual Conference

Climate Change Planning

Responding to the GMA's New Requirements

Commerce Climate & Ecosystems Section

10/13/2023



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Overview: Climate impacts in WA and new planning law**
- **Focus: Resilience sub-element**
- **Focus: Mitigation sub-element**
- **Wrap-up: Grants and other planning resources**

Presenters:

Sarah Fox, Climate & Ecosystems Group Manager

Michael Burnham, Resilience Lead

Gary Idleburg, Mitigation Lead

We strengthen communities



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



INFRASTRUCTURE AND BROADBAND



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING AND TECH ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES



CRIME VICTIMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What is climate change?



- Human activities produce emissions that trap heat in the atmosphere
- Caused about 2° F of global warming since 1880

Climate Impacts in Washington

- Changes in water supply (snow, rain, streamflow, drought)
- Sea level rise
- Wildfire
- Extreme heat



Climate Element

Climate planning is a new goal of the Growth Management Act

Adds two sub-elements:

- **Resilience** mandatory for all fully planning jurisdictions.
- **Mitigation** (GHG Emissions Reduction) mandatory for 11 counties and their cities over 6,000 pop.
 - Focus of Fall COM [workshops](#)

Applicable counties and their cities	2025	2026	2029
○ Benton		X	
○ Clark	X		
○ Franklin		X	
○ King			X
○ Kitsap			X
○ Pierce			X
○ Skagit	X		
○ Snohomish			X
○ Spokane		X	
○ Thurston	X		
○ Whatcom	X		



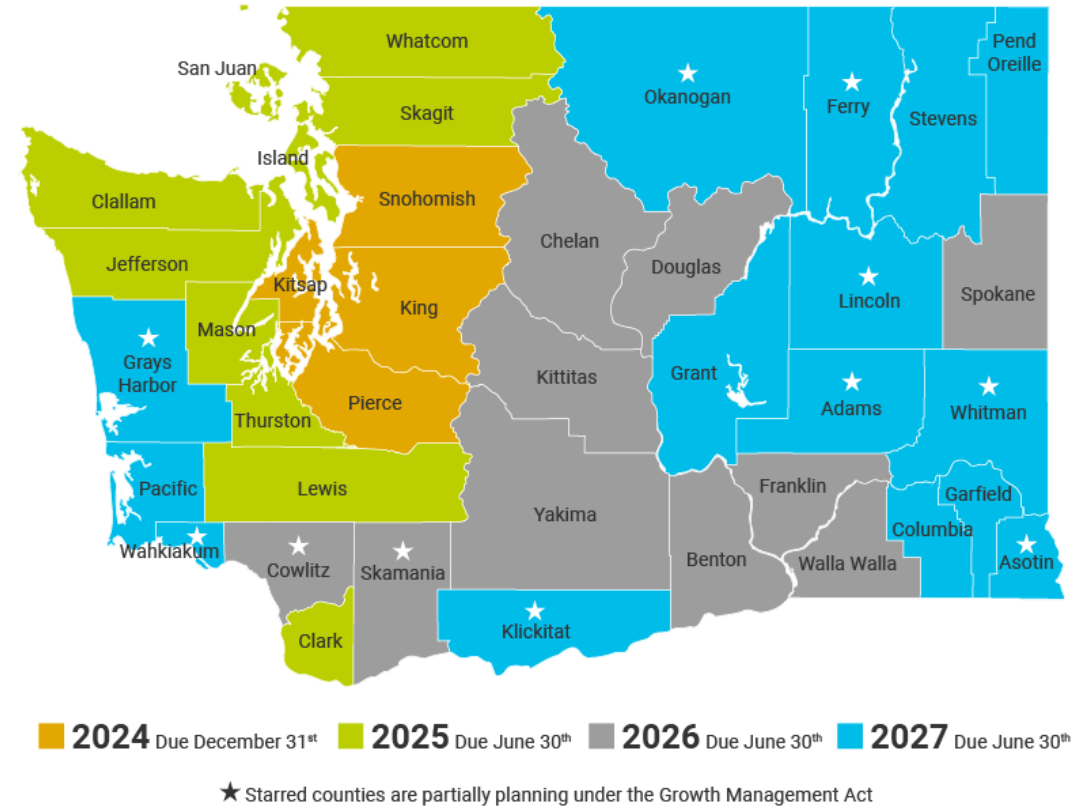
Environmental justice (EJ)

- Climate Element must:
 - Prioritize EJ
- Land Use Element must avoid worsening environmental health disparities.
- Transportation Element must create multimodal levels to achieve EJ goals
- Grants for community-based organizations to advance participation of overburdened communities in planning process

New roles for Commerce

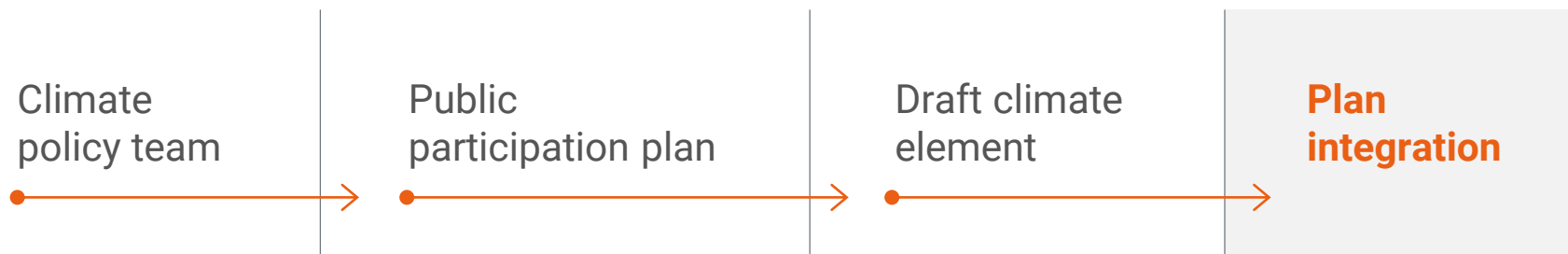
City/County may submit Climate Mitigation sub-element for approval

- Applicable to cities/counties required to include sub-element
- Effective date would be **when approved** by Commerce
- Appeals to the Growth Management Hearings Board would be limited to non-compliance with guidance.
- GHG reduction element not subject to administrative or judicial appeal



Climate planning guidance

- Climate element planning guidance is available [online](#)
- Due on 12/31: Intermediate guidance based on HB 1181



Resilience Sub-Element



Resilience sub-element

Climate Resilience:

“The ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities.”

— RCW 70A.65.010

Resilience sub-element



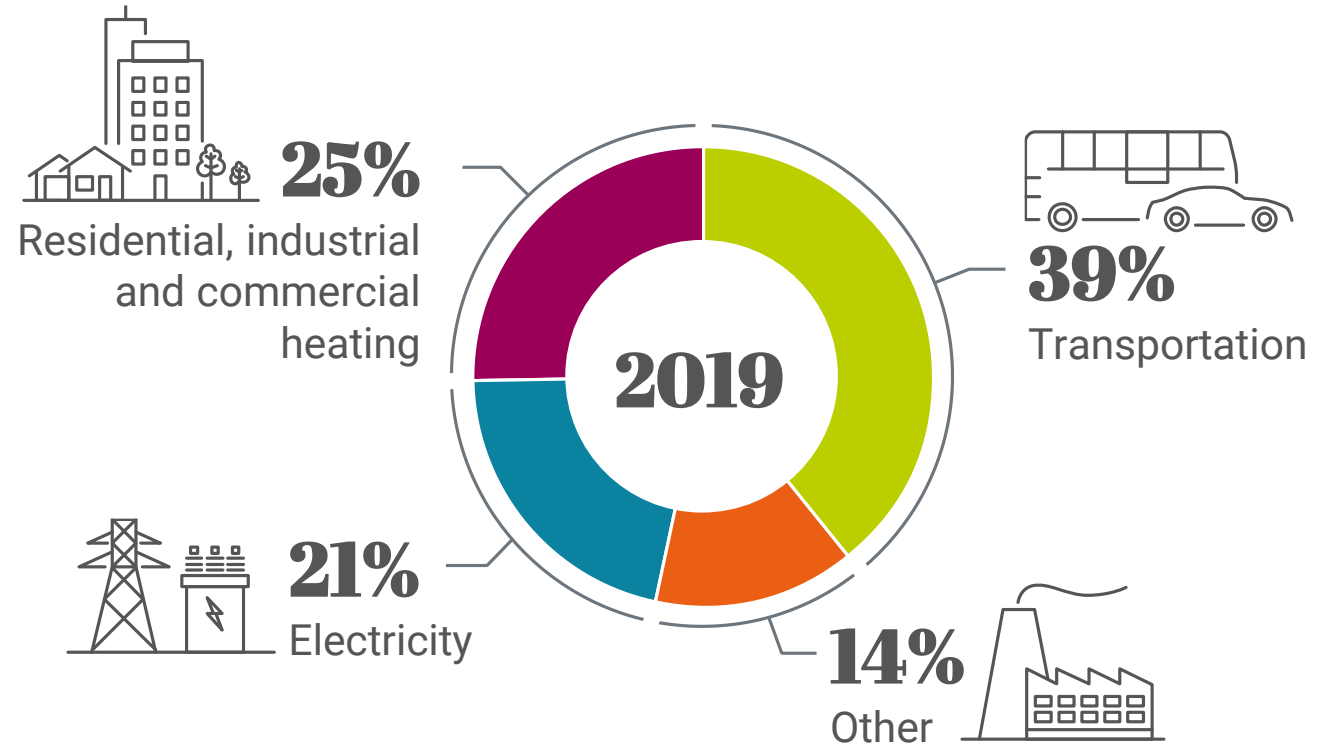
Greenhouse gas emissions reduction sub-element



Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction sub-element

Definition - GHG emissions mitigation

Actions taken to reduce or eliminate the greenhouse gases (present and future) in order to reduce the rate and extent of climate change damage.



Washington greenhouse gases

Department of Ecology-Statewide Emission Inventory 2019

GHG emissions reduction sub-element

How to achieve GHG emission reductions?

Evaluations, inventories and goals & policies

Pathway 1

Select GHG reduction measures

Develop GHG reduction goals and policies based directly on measures in Section 5

Pathway 2

GHG emission estimates

Develop GHG reduction goals and policies using Ecology framework and sample measures in Section 5

Pathway 3

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) study/evaluation

Develop specific VMT/GHG reduction goals and policies. Only transportation emission sources are evaluated.

Pathway 4

Emission inventories

Develop GHG reduction goals and policies based on emission inventory modeling results.

Integrate goals and policies into a comprehensive plan

Planning Resources



Menu of Measures

- 200 model measures (goals & policies)
- Available via online [dashboard](#)
- Searchable by multiple attributes
 - Co-benefits
 - Hazards
 - Comp Plan element nexus
 - EJ potential

Measure/Policy/Action	Supplemental Description (B)	Entry #	Pairing Policy
▶ Climate Sector Waste Management			
▶ Climate Sector Water Resources			
▼ Climate Sector Zoning & Development			
Foster higher-intensity land uses in mixed-use urban villages and transit corridors.	Develop overlay or master plans for urban villages and transit corridors - "nodes and corridors" planning. Also, make any necessary code changes (zoning, design standards, parking, etc.) and develop incentives.	32	32-1.0
Ensure public transit stops and stations are located at or near (e.g., within 600 ft.) shopping centers and malls.	Goals and policies in transportation and land use elements should be consistent and complimentary. Successful implementation of this measure should be coordinated with subarea or corridor planning.	236	32-1.1

Resource Guide

- Resource Guide includes:
 - 100+ resources
 - Mitigation and Resilience
 - Rating system for the most useful resources for new planners

The screenshot displays a grid of resource cards. Each card contains a title, a brief description, a date and time, a URL, and a star rating. The cards are arranged in three columns and four rows. The first column contains four cards, the second column contains three cards, and the third column contains two cards. The cards are: 1. 'This project supports the O...' (03/22/23 9:56 AM, 5 stars). 2. 'Centering Equity in Climate Resilience Planning and Ac...' (03/22/23 3:20 PM, 5 stars). 3. 'Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool' (02/15/22, 03/22/23 4:12 PM, 5 stars). 4. 'Climate Change Adaptation Library for the Western Un...' (0 stars). 5. 'Transportation webpage' (03/22/23 4:12 PM, 5 stars). 6. 'Global Protocol for Community-scale GHG Inv...' (06/01/21, 03/20/23 9:04 AM, 5 stars). 7. 'Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets' (03/28/23 3:59 PM, 5 stars). 8. 'Developed by APA practitio...' (01/01/21, 03/22/23 4:12 PM, 5 stars). 9. 'Article: "Seven Indigenous climate activists you shoul...' (11/24/21, 03/28/23 3:50 PM, 5 stars). 10. 'Building America Solutions...' (07/01/22, 03/28/23 5:37 PM, 5 stars).

Planning Grants

- Awarding ~\$30M in grants each biennium
- Fully planning cities and counties are eligible
- Priority for 2025 and 2026 update jurisdictions
- Additional funding available through 2029, with an annual application period
- Grant applications due Oct. 31, 5:00pm
- Apply [online](#)

Thank you!

Sarah Fox

CLIMATE & ECOSYSTEMS GROUP MANAGER

Sarah.fox@commerce.wa.gov

360.725.3114

Gary Idleburg

MITIGATION LEAD

Gary.Idleburg@commerce.wa.gov

Michael Burnham

RESILIENCE LEAD

Michael.Burnham@commerce.wa.gov



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

www.commerce.wa.gov



More information:

Visit **Commerce's Climate webpage**.

Subscribe for updates!