

Chapter X

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CLIMATE ELEMENT

Introduction

Purpose and Background

Clallam County (County) is developing a Climate Element as a part of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update, while aligning efforts with an update of the County's 2019 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Climate Element (CE) meets new Washington House Bill 1181 requirements for cities and counties to integrate climate mitigation and/or resilience policies into their periodic comprehensive plan updates. Clallam County is required to satisfy a climate resilience sub-element for its 2025 Comprehensive Plan. This effort is aligned with the update to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP), which provides a framework for Clallam County to reduce vulnerability to natural and human-caused hazards, including climate change.

GMA Requirements

Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires quickly growing Washington cities and counties to develop comprehensive plan elements that respond to challenges associated with population growth. Amended in 2023 by House Bill 1181, the GMA now requires integrating climate policies into comprehensive plan updates.

The goal of HB 1181 is to ensure that comprehensive plans:

- adapt to and mitigate climate change;
 - reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT);
- prepare for climate impact scenarios;
- foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards;
- protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and advance environmental justice.

Commerce led a multiyear project to develop model element guidance, which provides steps and pathways to integrate both a climate resilience and mitigation sub-element into a comprehensive plan, either as a set of integrated policies or standalone element. Jurisdictions are encouraged to assess their climate impacts and risks, seek input from key stakeholders and communities, and pursue pathways that modify existing or create new policies to address GHG emissions and increase community resilience.



For Clallam County, these required policy changes must address the Resilience Sub-Element requirements to consider climate impacts and increase resilience across local sectors. Clallam County is not required to address requirements in the GHG Emissions Reduction Sub-Element at this time. The County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan update will incorporate a Climate Element aligned with Commerce guidance, existing County climate policies, and policies to foster sustainable and equitable planning in the face of climate change.

Resilience Sub-Element Overview

Following the steps and pathways outlined by Commerce's Climate Element Guidance, Clallam County has exceeded the minimum requirements of HB 1181 by incorporating at least one climate resilience goal and supportive policy for each climate-exacerbated hazard relevant to the jurisdiction. The Resilience Sub-element must include measures to mitigate natural hazards exacerbated by climate change and adapt to unavoidable impacts.

Specifically, policies must:

- **Requirement 1:** Address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change, including sea level rise, landslides, flooding, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire, and other effects of changes to temperature and precipitation patterns;
- **Requirement 2:** Identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to foster climate resilience, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe species migration; and,
- **Requirement 3:** Identify, protect, and enhance community resilience to climate impacts, including social, economic, and built-environment factors, which support adaptation to climate impacts consistent with environmental justice.

Commerce also encourages the county to address all 11 priority sectors through its climate resilience sub-element goals and policies. This helps to ensure that resilience measures enhance co-benefits such as local food security and green job creation, while also addressing significant areas that may not be covered in the city's hazard mitigation plan.

Priority sectors include:

- Ecosystems
- Transportation
- Water Resources
- Buildings & Energy
- Agriculture & Food Systems
- Waste Management
- Zoning & Development
- Emergency Management
- Economic Development
- Cross-cutting
- Human Health
- Cultural Resources & Practices



Climate Planning Context

This Element has been developed in accordance with state Growth Management (GMA) goals and is coordinated and integrated with other Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Clallam County has an extensive history in investing in planning efforts around climate action and resilience, including development of the Clallam Climate Action Plan in 2022, NODC Climate Change Preparedness Plan in 2015, and local planning efforts such as the 2019 Port Angeles Climate Resilience Plan and 2018 Jamestown S'Klallam Climate Adaptation Plan. The Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan builds off prior efforts by adopting climate change goals and policies for the county while also complying with new GMA requirements.

This Element builds on past planning efforts by strengthening existing goals and policies, where needed, and addressing identified gaps with new goals and policies. The Element also seeks to include an impactful mix of policies customized to Clallam County's unique geographic and community context.

This Element uses the best available science and guidance to understand and address Clallam County's key climate risks and opportunities. Because climate change is a cross-sectoral topic, this chapter is intended to integrate with and complement goals and policies in other related Comprehensive Plan Elements, such as Housing, Transportation, Resource Lands, and Environment and Open Space.

Countywide Planning Policies

The Growth Management Act requires interjurisdictional coordination and development of county wide policies for the protection and promotion of environmental quality. The Countywide Planning Policies (CWPPs) are a regional framework for comprehensive planning for the county, cities, and towns within Clallam County and were first adopted in 1992 and will be updated with the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update. The Climate Element aligns with the CWPPs, which broadly focus on preserving the County's unique quality of life while fostering sustainable growth. This includes protecting air and water quality, preserving historic communities, and diversifying the economy to support jobs, healthy downtowns, and affordable housing. Key elements include vibrant, livable urban areas with accessible services, a strong, diversified economy with ample job training opportunities, and a sustainable, multimodal transportation system. The county also aims to protect natural systems, maintain rural character, and ensure a responsive government that collaborates with citizens and other entities to meet community needs.

Regional Planning Efforts

Climate issues cross jurisdictional boundaries, so a regional planning approach can be effective to address climate challenges. Clallam County has a history of partnership and



regional collaboration with cities and Tribes to address climate change, with examples including:

- Clallam County's Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2024, updated simultaneously)
- Clallam County's Climate Action Plan (2023)
- Makah Hazard Mitigation Plan (2023)
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (LEKT) Climate Vulnerability Assessment (2022)
- Natural Disaster Resiliency Planning on the North Olympic Peninsula (2022)
- Building a Resilient Peninsula Through Local Conservation (2020)
- Port Angeles Climate Resilience Plan (2019)
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan (2018)
- Climate Plan for the Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation (2017)
- Sequim Resolution Adopting Policies that Improve the City's Sustainability and Resiliency (2016)
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Treaty of Olympia Tribes (2016)
- Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula (2015)
- Adapting to Climate Change at Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park (2011)

This Element includes goals and policies aimed at fostering and strengthening such collaborations and partnerships.

Existing Conditions

Climate Vulnerability and Resilience in Clallam County

Clallam County is already experiencing climate change impacts like warmer temperatures, more frequent and intense rainfall and less snow in winter, increased drought in summer, and riverine and coastal flooding. Some examples of recent extreme weather events include flooding, such as during extreme winter storms in 2018 (Hawkins, 2018) and on the Bogachiel River, cutting off the Quileute Tribe. Additional events include the heat dome of summer 2021 linked to two deaths in Clallam County (Washington Department of Health) and wildfires in 2022 on the Makah reservation, which led to evacuations (KOMO News Staff, 2022).

Without ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures across the region and globe, Clallam County is expected to experience the following impacts (North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council, 2022).



Figure 1. Projected Climate Change Impacts for the Peninsula



As part of the Climate Element planning process, the County conducted a Climate Vulnerability Assessment of different systems, sectors, and communities across Clallam County that will face the greatest risk in exposure and sensitivity to priority climate hazards. Climate change also worsens social inequities and puts the heaviest burden on the County's most vulnerable groups. Socially vulnerable communities in the County may include the elderly, Tribal members, those with chronic health conditions, people living in mobile homes, and those who are low-income and/or cost burdened. The following section provides a high-level overview of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment results across four priority sectors. For more information and detailed analysis, refer to the 2025 Climate Vulnerability Assessment in [Appendix X](#).

Community Health and Wellbeing

Climate impacts pose significant risks to health and community well-being in Clallam County, with extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and severe weather events likely to increase



heat-related illnesses, air quality issues, and infrastructure damage. Vulnerable populations, including the elderly, Tribal communities, and low-income residents, face heightened risks, underscoring the need to strengthen emergency response, public health services, and community resilience.

Table 1 Community Health and Well-being Climate Vulnerability Scoring

Sector	Climate Risk	Adaptive Capacity	Vulnerability
Public Health	Mod - High	Low - Mod	Mod - High
Emergency Management	High	Moderate	Mod - High
Community Resources	Mod - High	Moderate	Moderate

Natural Environment and Water Resources

Clallam County’s natural environment and water resources face growing threats from climate impacts, including hotter temperatures, decreased summer rainfall, reduced snowpack, melting glaciers, and more intense precipitation events. These changes pose risks to aquatic species like salmon and shellfish, increase the vulnerability of trails and open spaces to flooding and landslides, and jeopardize freshwater supplies through reduced storage, saltwater intrusion, and higher demand.

Table 2 Natural Environment and Water Resources Climate Vulnerability Scoring

Sector	Climate Risk	Adaptive Capacity	Vulnerability
Ecosystems and Critical Areas	Mod - High	Mod - High	Moderate
Parks, Trails, and Open Space	Low	Mod - High	Low
Water Supply	Mod - High	Moderate	Moderate

Economic Development and Land Use

Clallam County’s economy, rooted in natural resource industries and tourism, faces moderate vulnerability to climate impacts due to its dependence on natural resources and limited supply chain routes. Many workers in climate-impacted jobs, for example, fisheries and forestry, face physical health risks as well as risks from economic impacts of climate change.

Table 3 Economic Development and Land Use Climate Vulnerability Scoring

Sector	Climate Risk	Adaptive Capacity	Vulnerability
Local Industries and Businesses	Mod - High	Moderate	Moderate
Land Use and Resource Lands	Low - Mod	Moderate	Moderate



Built Infrastructure

Clallam County's aging and undersized infrastructure faces significant climate risks, including flooding, sea level rise, and extreme heat, which threaten roadways, housing, stormwater systems, and energy networks. Key vulnerabilities include highways at risk of inundation, aging housing stock exposed to wildfire hazards, outdated stormwater systems, and energy infrastructure struggling to meet future demands, particularly in remote areas.

Table 4 Built Infrastructure Climate Vulnerability Scoring

Sector	Climate Risk	Adaptive Capacity	Vulnerability
Transportation	Mod - High	Moderate	Moderate
Housing	High	Low - Mod	High
Water Systems	Mod - High	Mod - High	Mod - High
Energy	High	Moderate	Mod - High

Climate Element Goals and Policies

The following section includes Climate Element goals and policies that support Washington Department of Commerce requirements, organized by key sectors and themes. Additional climate goals and policies will be integrated into relevant Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Agriculture & Food Systems

GOAL 1 SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AND REGIONAL AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN CLALLAM COUNTY THAT SEQUESTERS CARBON, PROVIDES LOCAL JOBS AND FOOD SUPPLY, AND IS RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

Policy 1.1: Preserve land for long-term agricultural use, promote a regenerative framework, and restore ecosystem function on farms, such as wetlands and ponds, to preserve carbon sinks, promote water storage, improve soil health, and provide additional ecosystem services.

Protect productive agricultural lands and prevent their conversion into residential, commercial, or industrial areas by modifying regulatory codes and limiting building to preserve agricultural lands and soil.

Policy 1.2: Seek Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) funding to support private landowners in implementing practices that increase climate resilience through tool and infrastructure improvements, upgrades, and habitat enhancement projects. Enhance



local food security by supporting farmers markets, community gardens, and urban agriculture activities, while developing infrastructure for local food distribution and emergency food supply systems to mitigate climate impacts.

Policy 1.3: Work with and support Clallam Conservation District and Washington State University Extension to improve the local agriculture sector’s resilience to extreme weather and climate impacts by providing education and technical assistance on climate adaptation for crops. Encourage farmers to adopt sustainable business practices, such as regenerative farming, water storage, and upgrading irrigation infrastructure, as well as educational programs and technical support to minimize production losses and maintain ecosystem balance. This may include encouraging activities that prevent the use of synthetic fertilizers on agricultural and forestry lands by engaging land managers on organic farming and providing technical assistance to help implement sustainable practices that reduce environmental impacts, including ocean acidification.

Policy 1.4: Facilitate increased land access for local farmers, protecting farmland and maintaining open spaces. This may include promoting existing financial assistance, carbon crediting, and incentive programs to support the economic vitality of the agriculture sector, while encouraging succession planning for new farmers entering the industry.

Buildings & Energy

GOAL 2 INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, FACILITIES, AND SERVICES BY PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.

Policy 2.1: Support resilient energy infrastructure, including generation and transmission systems, to withstand and recover from the effects of extreme weather and other natural disasters intensified by climate change. Work with Clallam PUD and other utilities to promote infrastructure safety and reliability such as through undergrounding lines in fire prone areas, relocating critical infrastructure in sea-level rise zones, establishing redundancies, and promoting small-scale energy generation systems.

Policy 2.2: Continue to encourage the deployment of emerging technologies to promote distributed energy generation, demand response, energy storage, energy efficiency, and smart grid technologies to increase grid reliability, flexibility, and capacity. To encourage deployment of emerging technologies, entities such as junior taxing districts should receive assistance in creating their own HMPs so that the County’s MJHMP can be more inclusive and responsive to local needs. Additionally, design and implement pilot projects, and encourage local governments, utilities, and public facilities to apply for smart grid, energy efficiency and resiliency, and solar and energy storage grants through the WA State Department of Commerce, Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Department of Energy, and other sources.



GOAL 3 PROMOTE BUILDING RETROFITS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION THAT IS SUSTAINABLY BUILT TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND ENHANCE RESILIENCE AGAINST EXTREME WEATHER AND OTHER RISKS EXACERBATED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

Policy 3.1: Develop or modify building standards to reduce the impacts of climate change on indoor and outdoor building features. This may include requiring low-impact development and stormwater runoff mitigation systems where appropriate, designing buildings for passive survivability in case of extended power loss, and adopting fire resilience standards such as venting and features designed to prevent ember ignition. Prioritize the preservation and weatherization of housing in overburdened communities and provide assistance for existing tenants at risk of displacement or additional cost burden from managed retreat or green gentrification.

Policy 3.2: Align with the County's Climate Action Plan to collaborate with partners to incentivize building improvements and retrofits for residential and commercial buildings in the County to improve energy efficiency, resilience, and justice. Specific activities to support energy justice may include expanding low-income energy assistance programs, promoting existing weatherization incentives and assistance, upgrading cooling infrastructure in facilities serving vulnerable populations, and implementing alternatives like increasing tree cover and adding shade structures. Prioritize incentives and assistance programs for cost burdened communities and ensure outreach is targeted towards and benefits vulnerable populations, such as those who live in multifamily and affordable housing units.

Cultural Resources & Practices

GOAL 4 STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF KNOWN AND UNKNOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES AND PRACTICES, SUCH AS HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND SACRED SITES, TRADITIONAL FOODS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO THE EFFECTS OF EXTREME WEATHER AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS EXACERBATED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

Policy 4.1: Work towards protecting ecosystem functions to uphold Tribal Treaty Rights and preserve culturally significant resources including but not limited to archaeological and sacred sites, ecosystems, traditional foods, plants, and resources at risk from climate change impacts. This may include incorporating riparian and stream habitat conservation measures into land use and infrastructure plans to protect salmonoid habitats (transportation, water, sewer, electricity) developed by the County in partnership with cities, Tribes, service providers, and state agencies.

Policy 4.2: Work with local Tribes to co-manage and protect sacred sites and cultural properties from climate-related threats, and work to safeguard these sites from floods and



other natural hazards. This may include developing a formalized consultation and data sovereignty framework, including Tribes in regional planning meetings, jointly assessing the vulnerability of cultural properties to identify sites at risk from climate-related threats, and seeking funding specifically aimed at protecting culturally significant sites. Work towards integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge and western science to identify significant resources and places, assess vulnerability to climate impacts, and co-develop plans to increase resilience.

GOAL 5 PROVIDE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AN EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT CLIMATE IMPACTS, INFLUENCE POLICY DECISIONS, AND TAKE ACTIONS TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE.

Policy 5.1: Encourage the development and implementation of culturally relevant educational programs to communicate and provide targeted, accessible engagement around immediate and future climate change threats and methods. This may include building and strengthening partnerships with local organizations and entities (such as non-profits, Tribes, and schools) to engage and empower diverse groups in implementing resilience strategies, linking local issues to broader regional issues. Equitably distribute funds for climate resilience engagement opportunities in the most affected communities, with a focus on equity and underrepresented groups.

Economic Development

GOAL 6 BUILD CAPACITY FOR CLALLAM COUNTY'S LOCAL ECONOMY TO WITHSTAND CLIMATE-RELATED DISRUPTIONS AND ENCOURAGE A SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

Policy 6.1: Review and update the County's Public Benefit Rating System and explore other ways to incentivize landowners to maintain ecosystem services, such as habitat restoration, forest management, and rainwater harvesting. This could include tax incentives, carbon credits, and financial assistance programs.

Policy 6.2: Develop a sustainable economic strategy in Clallam County through collaboration with community groups and businesses that supports training, education, and job creation in sustainability-related fields such as small-scale renewable energy generation, solar panel and green roof installation and maintenance, and sustainable agriculture and forestry. This strategy will focus on providing opportunities for economically vulnerable individuals, youth, and affected workers to transition into sustainable industries, while promoting local employment that aligns with workers' qualifications, pay, and career interests.

Policy 6.3: Support the efforts of local businesses and junior taxing districts (schools, hospitals, fire departments, water districts, etc.) in engaging in long-term climate planning



and supporting continuity of operations before, during, and after climate hazards or events. This may include collaborating with community partners to create emergency plans that maintain business continuity during extreme weather events and promoting existing incentives and grants for businesses to install rooftop solar panels, batteries, and other renewable energy systems to ensure backup power and operational resilience.

Policy 6.4: Assess the impacts of climate migration in Clallam County during Comprehensive Plan update periods. Integrate these findings into Comprehensive Plan updates, infrastructure plans, revenue and expense forecasting, and housing assessments.

Ecosystems

GOAL 7 PREPARE FORESTS, WETLANDS, SHORELINES, AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS TO BE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER, INVASIVE SPECIES, PESTS, DISEASES, AND OTHER IMPACTS WORSENER BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

Policy 7.1: Prepare ecosystems for climate impacts by implementing restoration actions for streams, wetlands, and watersheds, focusing on connectivity, reducing invasive species, and improving watershed processes. This includes restoring riparian vegetation, floodplains, and stream structures to protect native fish and other aquatic life.

Enhance habitat and community resilience to climate change by protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems, addressing sea-level rise, and focusing on submerged aquatic vegetation for habitat and “blue” carbon storage. Evaluate shoreline restoration and clean-up efforts, including concerns for Tribal cultural resources.

Policy 7.2: Strengthen habitat and ecosystem resilience by inventorying and avoiding development in climate refugia and critical habitats to strive for no net loss of ecosystem attributes, with a focus on achieving net ecological gains. Expand habitat protection, quality, and connectivity through designations such as conservation areas, expanded buffers, greenbelts, wildlife and open space bridges and corridors. Incorporate climate considerations in determining permissible activities within wetlands and wildlife habitats.

Policy 7.3: Adopt integrated natural resource management practices to optimize habitat integrity in the face of climate impacts. Monitor invasive species and promote native, drought- and pest-resistant plants to enhance ecosystem resilience. This includes proactive restoration efforts and encouraging landowners to participate in cost-share programs and other financial assistance opportunities.

Policy 7.4: Protect and enhance forests through climate-smart management, prioritizing vulnerable areas. This includes implementing open space requirements, creating green belts, and enhancing urban forest management to increase carbon storage and resilience.



Develop educational and incentive-based strategies to preserve private and public forests for climate resilience, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem health.

Policy 7.5: Explore forest stewardship education and payment for ecosystems services programs to support landowners in managing their lands for climate resilience and preventing conversion. Collaborate with State agencies, Tribes, conservation districts, and the Washington State University Extension Forestry Program to make resources and information available to landowners and support sustainable working forests. Explore other jurisdictions' strategies to recognize the economic benefits of and monetize environmental services maintained on landowners' properties.

Emergency Management

GOAL 8 PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNICATION, TRANSPORTATION RESPONSE, AND EDUCATION ON PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLALLAM COUNTY COMMUNITY ARE READY FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCIES. ANTICIPATE AND BE READY TO ACCOMMODATE THE RISE IN DEMAND FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND UNDERSTAND COMMUNITY NEEDS WHEN PREPARING FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

Policy 8.1: Develop and improve plans such as Evacuation Plans, Tribal Records Protection Plan, Operations Plan, and others to mitigate the impact of emergencies and hazards affected by climate change. Staff should seek funding and other grant opportunities to create comprehensive wildfire and flood resilience strategies to boost emergency response, promote fire and flood-resilient landscapes, and support fire and flood-adapted communities. Encourage participation in incentive-based emergency preparedness programs such as the Community Rating System (FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program), Firewise (National Fire Protection Association), and StormReady (National Weather Service).

Policy 8.2: Develop a comprehensive strategy to map vulnerable transportation infrastructure, designate alternative routes for critical corridors during closures, and incorporate hazard data into critical area delineation for infrastructure siting and land-use planning. Enhance data collection and maintain updates of data to better understand community hazard characteristics, including those influenced by climate change, and support informed decision-making in emergency management.

Policy 8.3: Develop resilience hubs as community-serving facilities to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and enhance quality of life while reducing



carbon emissions¹. Identify community resilience hubs for each of the County's micro-islands, seek funding to make these sites resilient, communicate the locations of these sites for public use during an emergency, and coordinate all plans to serve these hubs effectively in an emergency.

Policy 8.4: Integrate climate impacts into the planning and coordination of operations for preparedness, response, and recovery activities among County departments, Tribes, first responders and partners, including public health, law enforcement, fire, school, and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. This may include updating emergency services communications equipment; enhancing training of emergency personnel and other responders; taking regular inventory of emergency facility needs (e.g., home emergency kits, cooling centers and temporary shelters); and assessing and improving the adaptive capacity of people who are most vulnerable to climate change-exacerbated hazards, such as Elders or people living in high-risk areas.

Policy 8.5: Update and approve Clallam County Debris Management Plan, integrating existing City Debris Management Plans, to quickly manage the collection, transport, sorting, and disposal of debris, such as downed tree limbs and buildings blocking roads and streams, after a disaster to reduce the risks of fire, flood, injury, and disease vectors. Provide education to jurisdictions and the community around debris management after a climate event such as windstorms or floods, especially after successive extreme weather events.

Health & Well-being

GOAL 9 PROTECT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FROM THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOCUS ON OVERBURDENED COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTY TO REDUCE DISPROPORTIONATE HEALTH IMPACTS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE.

Policy 9.1: Promote health impact assessments and other tools to address health, equity, and climate change impacts on vulnerable communities in the County such as Tribal communities, the elderly, residents who are cost-burdened, those with existing health conditions, and mobile home communities.

Policy 9.2: Review land use maps and the County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment to identify opportunities and barriers for responding to rapid population changes and rebuilding after disasters and other extreme climate impacts and prioritize anti-displacement programs in the most impacted communities when increasing densities in urban growth areas and making zoning changes.

¹ These hubs are typically well-trusted, well-utilized community facilities that serve the needs of the community more broadly than temporary emergency shelters, such as a local non-profit, library, or house of worship.



Policy 9.3: As part of an awarded grant, continue to identify communities disproportionately impacted by extreme heat or poor air quality and prioritize equitable access to emergency preparedness resources for vulnerable and unsheltered populations. Develop an urban heat and wildfire smoke resilience strategy in partnership with local residents, Tribes, emergency management officials, and regional clean air agencies. This strategy will include land use, urban design, waste heat reduction, and urban greening actions, along with tools and resources to help the community stay safe during extreme heat events, such as community alerts to reduce exposure to wildfire smoke. Consider providing personal protective equipment and supporting infrastructure updates (e.g., HVAC upgrades with MERV 13 filters) for facilities serving vulnerable populations, such as nursing homes.

Policy 9.4: Develop messaging on climate change's impacts on health and safety with guidance for residents to plan and protect themselves and involve overburdened communities using multiple formats and languages for outreach. Co-create climate communications with Clallam County communities, especially Tribes, to facilitate their input on climate impacts, health impacts, and emergency resources during extreme events, focusing on culturally relevant outreach to communicate with specific communities (i.e. storytelling, oral communication).

Transportation

GOAL 10 STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE, ROUTES, AND TRAVEL MODES, TO WITHSTAND AND RECOVER FROM EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND OTHER CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED HAZARDS.

Policy 10.1: Explore options for designing new and expanded roads and multiuse pathways to minimize impacts on shorelines, accommodate sea-level rise, preserve ecological functions, and avoid disrupting water-related uses, public access, and habitat restoration. Identify roads and bridges vulnerable to flooding and landslides and collaborate with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to improve resilience of assets outside the County's jurisdiction. Work with cities and Tribes to map infrastructure and create agreements for alternate transportation routes in parks, private lands, and Forest Service roads to ensure public safety and emergency access.

Policy 10.2: Improve street connectivity and walkability to encourage walkable communities, expand potential evacuation routes, and reduce stormwater impacts from transportation and development through watershed planning and low-impact development. Improve signage and communication around evacuation routes during extreme weather events, including education around the importance of multimodal transportation to improve the adaptive capacity of residents without personal vehicles.



Policy 10.3: Enhance the resilience of parks and recreational trails by addressing climate hazards and impacts, and advocate to expand the WSDOT climate vulnerability assessment to include non-state roads and other transportation systems. Work with other entities such as cities, Tribes, and the WA State Department of Natural Resource (DNR) to establish management plans that reduce flood, wildfire, and landslide risk along Highway 101, Highway 112, and other areas of concern.

Policy 10.4: Continue to partner with and support Clallam Transit to identify barriers to using transit, understand climate vulnerability of transit systems, expand transit use and equity, and ensure routes are convenient, safe, and accessible. Develop strategies that promote transit equity and community safety by considering the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, encourage expansion of services at airports and coordinate with Clallam Transit to provide a viable alternative to driving rental or personal vehicles for out-of-area visitors.

Waste Management

GOAL 11 SUPPORT THE COUNTY IN REDUCING, REUSING, AND RECYCLING WASTE SUSTAINABLY WHILE PREPARING WASTE SYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.

Policy 11.1: Facilitate the recovery of local waste materials through innovative climate resiliency strategies such as food rescue for local consumption, energy production, production of soil amendments or biochar production, stormwater low-impact development, and other uses.

Water Resources

GOAL 12 PROTECT, CONSERVE, AND ENHANCE WATER RESOURCES IN CLALLAM COUNTY AND CREATE MORE CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER SYSTEMS.

Policy 12.1: Require the integration of water conservation methods and technologies in the development of irrigation infrastructure within parks, recreation areas, and farms to prepare for drought. Promote the adoption of advanced irrigation technologies and practices that minimize water use and mitigate environmental impacts.

Policy 12.2: Seek funding from the Department of Ecology to develop and implement a comprehensive drought resilience strategy that incorporates climate projections and sets action levels for different drought stages. Encourage residents to reduce water consumption through smart grid water use, repairing infrastructure, water reclamation



systems, smart irrigation technologies, and updated water rates to discourage lawn watering. Promote incentives for sustainable food cultivation.

Policy 12.3: Identify and implement strategies to prepare for and mitigate the effects of sea level rise and saltwater intrusion into aquifers, drainage, sewer, and septic systems. Explore grant opportunities to fund initiatives aimed at monitoring and preventing saltwater intrusion to promote the reliability and sustainability of water supplies.

Policy 12.4: Develop a coordinated water systems plan to evaluate the long-term adequacy of water delivery infrastructure in response to changing hydrological patterns due to climate change. Construct and maintain water storage systems (e.g., cisterns, water towers, reservoirs) to provide backup water supplies during droughts and emergencies. Promote bringing additional rural areas and failed wells into centralized public water systems.

Raise awareness about the Department of Health's (DOH) Office of Drinking Water guidance on integrating climate constraints, contingency planning, and sustainability in water treatment, and promote the management of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for infrastructure improvements.

Policy 12.5: Evaluate wastewater facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate impacts such as landslides and sea-level rise. This includes maximizing on-site natural gas co-generation from anaerobic digesters, exploring the proximity of wastewater facilities to high-risk areas, and improving wastewater access routes. Enhance septic water quality management and explore alternative wastewater treatment solutions in vulnerable areas.

Zoning & Development

GOAL 13 ESTABLISH COHESIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS THAT INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF CLALLAM COUNTY'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL AREAS, AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR AND RECOVER FROM CLIMATE IMPACTS.

Policy 13.1: Utilize the best available science and update codes as necessary to establish overlays, special zoning districts, and land-owner outreach zones to direct new development away from current and future high-risk areas and reduce risk in those areas. This may include:

- Regularly updating vulnerability assessment of climate impacts and overburdened populations, using this information to determine if and where zoning changes are necessary.
- Implementing development regulations and best practices to reduce risks from natural and climate-related hazards, including documenting climate-related risks in



property records and considering financial safeguards or bonds for projects in high-risk zones.

Establishing environmental justice standards for overburdened communities during Comprehensive Plan revisions to apply to zoning designations or rezoning to encourage decisions that center those who are highly vulnerable to climate impacts.

Policy 13.2: Adopt standards that promote cohesive and complimentary conservation design and a land-first approach to development to prioritize healthy ecological functions, while still permitting rural development in appropriate locations. Center partnership with Tribes, nonprofits, and others to help implement this policy.

Policy 13.3: Integrate risks associated with future climate conditions into the siting and design of capital facilities, parks, and community assets. Support long-term visioning for vulnerable areas through equitable community engagement, including managed retreat and relocation of the most vulnerable hazardous industries and essential services. Subject to obtaining grant funding, consider working with local communities to relocate properties and essential public services from high-risk areas (floodplains, WUI), explore regulatory options to elevate or set back new structures for flood and sea level rise mitigation, and establish a development rights program to transfer rights from these areas while encouraging denser development in suitable locations.

