

2009 Comprehensive Plan Amendments	
#8: Sustainable Development and Climate Change	
EXHIBIT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction and Vision 2. Definitions – Carbon Footprint 3. Land Use Element Existing Conditions 4.3 Carbon Footprint 4. Land Use Element Goal 2 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Initiatives 5. Land Use Element Objective L-7 Sustainable Development 6. Land Use Element Objective L-8 Climate Change

SUMMARY

Background: The Comprehensive Plan amendments of 1998 established a definition of Sustainable Development and incorporated policies calling for balanced sustainable growth in the Capital Facilities and Economic Vitality elements. In 2004, the City adopted policies regarding Sustainable Development in the Land Use element and in 2008 Climate Change policies were added.

In Fall of 2008 the Mayor appointed a Sustainability Sounding Board of community leaders charged with defining what sustainability means in Issaquah, crafting a vision, and developing a set of indicators to measure progress towards achieving that vision. The Sounding Board's recommendations, called "Measuring What Matters in Issaquah" were presented to the Mayor in March 2009. The 13 Keystone indicators recommended by the Sounding Board covered 8 key sustainability themes, including aspects of the natural environment, social equity, economic vitality and climate change as links to a community's sustainability.

Purpose: The 2009 work plan for the City's Resource Conservation Office and Planning Department included direction to develop a policy for Climate Change to adopt "policies for land use, utilities and public services, and transportation" (urban forestry was requested to be added later). Completion of the City's carbon inventory done with software developed by ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) was completed in early 2009 but, funding to complete the data analysis and develop the City's Carbon Footprint was not available.

As the carbon inventory data analysis is set aside for later review, this amendment is moving forward to strengthen Sustainable Development and Climate Change policies in the Comprehensive Plan. These amendments provide the framework for the Sounding Board key indicators to have base lines and established targets that will eventually be adopted into the Comprehensive Plan. Once targets are established, these indicators will be monitored to show the community's progress toward becoming sustainable. This framework also provides initial guidance to restructure the sustainability discussion in the Comprehensive Plan to ensure all three aspects of Sustainability are addressed in the Plan; environment, social equity, and economic vitality

2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: This year Planning and the Resource Conservation Office focused on several topics related to Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

- Identified the Keystone Indicators for Sustainable Development (many of these indicators relate to Climate Change as well). This work began in the fall of 2008 with the Sounding Board over a series of meetings and assistance from the consultant, Cascadia Consulting Group.
- Collaborated with King County on a variety of programs and policies relating to climate and sustainability.

- Researched climate change strategies of other jurisdictions for insight on options for Issaquah's Climate Change Action Plan.

These efforts accounted for a substantial amount of the time available for Climate Change issues. Further work to develop a policy for Climate Change to adopt "policies for land use, utilities and public services, and transportation" as part of a Climate Action Plan and Policy Development for the year 2009 has been delayed for the following reasons:

- Removal of funding for the City's Resource Conservation Office's 2009 work program for phase 2 of ICLEI completion of the Carbon Footprint study. Once completed, this information will be a major contribution toward the next steps to create Issaquah's Climate Action Plan.
- Delay of King County's SEPA Policy work until after the fall 2009 election results are final.
- Shifting of funds to bring the Sustainability Sounding Board on line to identify and recommend the list of indicators to use to measure community sustainability. This information will be a stepping stone in the creation of Issaquah's Climate Action Plan.

2009 Recommendations:

1. 2009 Comprehensive Plan Amendments:

- Within the Land Use Element, adopt the King County target of: "80% less greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050 by using a baseline year of 2007".
- Establish this goal in 2009, and use it as the framework for the creation of the Strategic Climate Action Plan to be developed in 2010-2011.
- Since Issaquah has not had the resources to identify a local target, using the King County target is an interim step.

2. 2010 - 2011 Work Plan:

- Research programs to meet the goal of reduced greenhouse gas emissions, such as
 - Kirkland model: Require certification for all new development
 - Research strategies to require applicants to evaluate and quantify the greenhouse gas emission of their new development through energy code, concurrency models and other methods; and provide an assessment of potential measures to reduce emissions in new development projects by 15% of that evaluation level.¹ Cost to applicants and City need to be researched, and collaboration between City and development community is needed to achieve most efficient and effective strategies.
 - Research strategies for the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all facets of its operations, including construction, maintenance and management of City-owned facilities and infrastructure.
 - Other possible models for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide funding to continue the carbon inventory of the City and related analysis.
- Provide funding to develop mitigation measures targeting specific sources of carbon emissions.
- Continue collaboration with King County, our region and the State on their Climate Change strategies and programs.
- Fund work toward a Climate Action Plan.

PPC Direction: Please review the Summary, 2009 Recommendations and 2009 Comprehensive Plan Amendment and be ready to discuss.

¹ King County's *draft* program proposes to require that a new development has 15% reduction of emissions based on their energy code and concurrency models.

Exhibit 1: Introduction and Vision

Purpose of Amendments: This amendment addresses incorporating Sustainable Development and Climate Change Policies into all elements of the Comprehensive Plan by adding a depiction of Sustainable Issaquah to the Vision.

Creating a Sustainable Issaquah

As growth and development have expanded in the Pacific Northwest, Issaquah has emerged as leader in innovative Sustainable Development practices. A sustainable community creates a system that supports the proper functioning of the natural environment and recognizes the interconnected need for social and economic vitality. Sustainable Development policies provide the quantifiable measures needed to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and enhance urban livability through the environment, economic vitality and social equity.

From Issaquah's renowned Salmon Days and the City's efforts to restore viable salmon habitat, to the development of a Sustainable Building Program, Issaquah has demonstrated leadership in Sustainable Development and should continue in the pursuit of these goals.

Exhibit 2: Definitions "C" Carbon Footprint

Purpose of Amendments: This amendment adds the definition of Carbon Footprint to provide the full meaning of the term as it is used in the new sections created by this amendment. The source of this definition is the United Kingdom Carbon Trust, 2008.

[http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/solutions/CarbonFootprinting/what is a carbon footprint.htm](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/solutions/CarbonFootprinting/what%20is%20a%20carbon%20footprint.htm)

Carbon Footprint: A **carbon footprint** is the total set of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, event or product. A carbon inventory is the first step towards establishing the full Carbon Footprint analysis.

Exhibit 3: Land Use Element – Existing Conditions Category 4.3 Carbon Footprint

Purpose of Amendments: This amendment expands the Existing Conditions section of the Land Use Element to explain the current progress defining the City’s Existing Carbon inventory estimates. It also provides discussion of Carbon Footprint as one of the Existing Conditions for the City.

Land Use Element ~ Existing Conditions

4.3 Carbon Footprint.

A Carbon Footprint assesses the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions created by activities within the City limits. A preliminary inventory of Issaquah’s carbon emissions was completed in February 2009 in partnership with ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability). The preliminary inventory will be analyzed for accuracy as the City continues to develop a Climate Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions. The inventory is the first step needed to set a base line measurement of carbon emissions. Setting a carbon reduction goal, developing an action plan and beginning carbon reduction measures are the next steps. As these steps are taken, the Comprehensive Plan’s strong sustainable development and climate change policies provide the framework for the related sustainability indicators, targets and monitoring needed to reduce carbon emissions.

Exhibit 4: Land Use Element – Land Use Goal L-2 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Initiatives

Purpose of Amendments: This amendment creates a new goal for the Land Use Element to specifically address Sustainable Development and Climate Change initiatives. The existing Policies adopted in previous years are retained and included as part of the new goal.

9. Goals, Objectives and Policies

<p><u>Sustainability Vision</u></p>	<p><u>In Issaquah we are striving to achieve the highest possible quality of life for today’s citizens and for future generations. Quality of life means livability – a livable community enjoyed by all where natural resources and the environment are protected, the economy is healthy and vibrant, and citizens are supported, active, and contributing. We recognize that Issaquah is not an island: in order to grow and live sustainably, we must connect to and cooperate with our neighbors. The way we live our lives is a cornerstone of a sustainable Issaquah...</u></p> <p><i>Measuring What Matters in Issaquah (Sustainability Sounding Board, recommendations March 20, 2009)</i></p>
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9.1 LAND USE GOAL L-1: Establish a pattern of development that maintains and enhances the quality of life within the community and sets the framework for a sustainable community by addressing environmental, economic and social issues by:

- 9.1.1 Protecting Issaquah's natural environment and scenic beauty;
- 9.1.2 Creating a diversity of high quality places to live, work, shop and recreate;
- 9.1.3 Providing for active public participation;

9.1.4 Requiring provision of the City's level of service for public services and public facilities and concurrent transportation facilities as a requirement of development approval within the City's Urban Growth Area;

9.1.5 Requiring multi-modal transportation as a key to a successful land use pattern which concentrates development, emphasizes pedestrian orientation, supports transit service, reduces the consumption of fuel and land, and reduces emissions which contribute to climate change; and

9.1.6 Annexing areas within the City's Urban Growth Area to ensure compatibility with City standards and development regulations while providing for provision of the City's level of service for public services, public facilities and concurrent transportation facilities;

LAND USE GOAL L-2: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE

CHANGE INITIATIVES: Develop a Climate Action Plan in collaboration with local and regional partners that provides direction for Issaquah's reduction of City-wide greenhouse gas emissions while supporting sustainable community development principles. The Climate Action Plan should:

~~9.1.7~~ 1 Incorporating Sustainable Community Development as an integral part of all City and Community functions to ensure Issaquah's ability to meet future needs; and

~~9.1.8~~ 2 Actively addressing climate change by requiring reductions in greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in all land uses and providing incentives for innovative climate solutions which advance the City towards a carbon neutral community, as keys to sustainable community development;

3 Include local data and evaluation from the City's carbon footprint studies; and

4 Include strategies and implementation measures for reducing emissions, including but not limited to the adoption of best available practices for land use, transportation, utilities and public services, green building, urban tree canopy retention and other areas of sustainable development.

Exhibit 5: Land Use Element Objective L-7 Sustainable Development

Purpose of Amendments: This amendment retains the existing Sustainable Community Objective and includes clarification of the focus of the Objective with further implementation measures.

OBJECTIVE L-7: Implementation of Sustainable Community Development Principles:

Adopt a multiyear Strategic Work Program to implement Sustainable Community Development Principles related to land use, urban design, energy, transportation, resource conservation, air quality, stormwater management, critical area protection, utilities and public service, urban forestry and other relevant fields. Consider methods to implement relevant non-City programs that contribute to sustainable development.

Policy L-7.1 Strategic Work Program: Adopt a Strategic Work Program that identifies actions to achieve sustainable development and implement these actions through ordinances and other appropriate methods. ~~The Work Program shall be evaluated on an annual basis.~~

7.1.1 Inventory existing City programs and resources that indicate sustainable development progress. ~~Re-evaluate and update the inventory every three years or less.~~

7.1.2 Identify and address deficiencies in the City's existing sustainable development programs and policies.

7.1.3 Identify and address deficiencies of Sustainable Policies in each Comprehensive Plan Element.

7.1.4 Develop programs that promote elements of sustainability:

7.1.4.(1) Promote elements of sustainability in the natural environment such as expanding non-motorized and alternative transportation modes, sustainable building programs similar to Built Green, LEED™ Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), energy and other codes and incentives, recycling, integrated pest management, low impact stormwater measures, aquifer recharge, water conservation, habitat restoration, open space acquisition and other programs.

7.1.4.(2) Promote elements of sustainability in the economic environment such as supporting principles of Smart Growth™, providing assistance to the business community and training for the local workforce in ecosystem friendly practices and other programs.

7.1.4.(3) Promote elements of sustainability in the social environment such as encouraging affordable housing, promoting community participation in the implementation of the Strategic Work Program and other programs.

7.1.5 Monitor the performance of the sustainability indicators to show progress towards meeting their stated goals.

7.1.6 Benchmark/Indicators. Evaluate the progress of the Work Program annually and present the findings to the City Council. ~~Update the Strategic Work Program at least every five years.~~

Policy L-7.2 Development Review: (No Changes to this section)

Policy L-7.3 City Owned Land: (No Changes to this section)

Exhibit 6: Land Use Element Objective L-8 Climate Change

Purpose of Amendments: This amendment adopts the Greenhouse Gas emissions reduction target being adopted by the State, King County and other local jurisdictions.

OBJECTIVE L-8: Climate Change: The City shall identify and develop targets, strategies, regulations and policies to limit the community's impact upon climate change as through development and redevelopment requirements, improved efficiency, carbon sequestration and other climate solutions.

Policy L-8.1 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target: The City is adopting the King County greenhouse gas emissions reduction target: City-wide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions below 80% of the 2007 levels by the year 2050. When local data can be evaluated, through ICLEI or other method, local emission targets for Issaquah may replace the King County target. The City's progress on meeting the emissions target should be evaluated periodically using established greenhouse gas emissions protocols and monitoring and assessing the impacts of climate change regionally.

Policy L-8.1.2 Reduction of Climate Impact. The City shall ensure reduction of climate impacts by implementing actions, policies and regulations that require reduction and mitigation of greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in all land uses and by providing incentives for innovative climate solutions which advance the City towards a carbon neutral community.

2.1 The City should reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all facets of its operations including construction, maintenance and management of City-owned facilities and infrastructure.

2.2 The City should seek ways for applicants to evaluate and quantify the greenhouse gas emissions of their new development and provide an assessment of potential

measures to reduce emissions. Assessments shall use best available science of climate change impacts, through sources such as the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group and others, and established greenhouse gas emissions protocols. Mitigation measures for impacts to climate change may be determined through the SEPA process.

2.3 The City should identify and implement programs and policies to reduce green house gas emissions from existing buildings, infrastructure and other emission sources through retrofits and alternative transportation measures and other strategies.

Policy L-8.2.3 Carbon Footprint Development: The City should complete carbon footprint studies for the community and develop and track progress towards emissions reduction targets.

Policy L-8.3 Climate Action Plan and Policy Development: ~~In 2009-2010, following the completion of carbon footprint studies, the City shall development climate change policies and regulations for land use, utilities and public services, transportation and other Plan elements and development a climate action plan in concert with City sustainability strategies.~~ Note: This policy is restated in Goal L-2 Climate Action Plan