



# CLIMATE ACTION ELEMENT





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## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

The purpose of the Climate Action Element (CAE) is to provide strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and respond to the impacts of climate change in our community, as outlined in the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAE provides an actionable framework to guide the long-term implementation of mitigation and resilience actions. The CAE also identifies needs and opportunities for ongoing community engagement, education, and dialogue around climate action.

The CAE includes the following sections:

- Guiding Plans and Policies
- Existing Conditions
- Goals, Objectives, and Policies
- Implementation

## GUIDING PLANS AND POLICIES

### Growth Management Act

The Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) was amended in 2023 under Washington House Bill 1181, requiring cities and counties to integrate climate mitigation and resilience policies into comprehensive plan updates. These required policy changes will address climate emissions and impacts, while considering co-benefits and integration with other planning documents such as housing, transportation, and land use. The bill introduces specific legislation to support reduction in per capita vehicle miles traveled, foster resiliency, enhance environmental justice, and include the participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities in climate planning. This is a legislative priority of King County and several cities have already begun the process of integrating climate policies into comprehensive plans. The Washington Department of Commerce encourages cities 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 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase community resilience. Kenmore's CAE is consistent with the Commerce model element guidance, Kenmore's adopted 2022 Climate Action Plan, and integrates with other elements of the comprehensive plan.

### VISION 2050

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is the region's metropolitan planning organization. PSRC is comprised of cities, towns, counties, ports, tribes, transit agencies, and major employers; and sets regional growth policies for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap Counties. The CAE is consistent with the VISION 2050 priorities.

VISION 2050 identifies several key goals and actions related to climate change in the region:

- 1 • **Goal:** The region substantially reduces emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to  
2 climate change in accordance with the goals of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (50%  
3 below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050) and prepares for climate  
4 change impacts.
- 5 • **CC-Action-1:** PSRC will work with local governments and other key agencies and  
6 stakeholders to advance the development and implementation of the region's  
7 Greenhouse Gas Strategy to equitably achieve meaningful reductions of emissions  
8 toward achievement of the region's greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- 9 • **CC-Action-2:** PSRC will engage in regional resilience planning and climate preparedness,  
10 including development of a regional inventory of climate hazards, assistance to member  
11 organizations, and continued research and coordination with partners such as the Puget  
12 Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative and tribes. Climate resilience actions will  
13 focus on equitable outcomes, particularly for vulnerable communities, at greater risk and  
14 with fewer resources.
- 15 • **CC-Action-3:** Cities and counties will incorporate emissions reduction policies and  
16 actions that contribute meaningfully toward regional greenhouse gas emission goals,  
17 along with equitable climate resiliency measures, in their comprehensive planning.  
18 Strategies include land uses that reduce vehicle miles traveled and promote transit,  
19 biking, and walking consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy, developing and  
20 implementing climate friendly building codes, investments in multimodal transportation  
21 choices, and steps to encourage a transition to cleaner transportation and energy  
22 systems.
- 23 • **CC-Action-4:** Cities and counties will update land use plans for climate adaptation and  
24 resilience. Critical areas will be updated based on climate impacts from sea level rise,  
25 flooding, wildfire hazards, urban heat, and other hazards. The comprehensive plans will  
26 identify mitigation measures addressing these hazards including multimodal emergency  
27 and evacuation routes and prioritizing mitigation of climate impacts on highly impacted  
28 communities and vulnerable populations.

### 29 **Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs)**

30 The King County Growth Management Planning Council has adopted a shared target to reduce  
31 countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions. These targets are in line with VISION 2050.  
32 Using a 2007 baseline, this adopted target seeks to lower emissions 50% by 2030 and 80% by  
33 2050. Members of the King County-Cities Climate Collaborative (K4C) commit to striving toward  
34 these goals.

35 The King County Regional Growth Strategy identifies several climate impacts affecting King  
36 County and the importance of strengthening policies related to emissions reduction. The  
37 Regional Growth Strategy envisions environmental protection and restoration efforts that  
38 incorporate climate action, mitigation, and resilience into local comprehensive plans. This  
39 includes countywide coordination of sustainable land use patterns, multimodal transportation  
40 systems, and improved energy infrastructure. The plan calls for development patterns that

minimize emissions and promote resiliency through energy efficiency, electrification, restoration of natural resources, and infrastructure planning for climate impacts.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory**

The City of Kenmore completed a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory (see Figure 1) to aid the City in setting community-wide emissions reduction targets, measure progress over time, and inform which actions will have the greatest GHG emissions reduction benefits. Kenmore's communitywide GHG emissions from 2019 totaled 170,255 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) from the following sources:

- **Buildings & Energy.** Electricity and natural gas used to power and heat the City account for 60% of total emissions. Eliminating emissions from local buildings and energy requires policies that address energy use in new buildings, transition existing buildings to more efficient, clean and salmon friendly energy, and improve the City's electric grid reliability and capacity.
- **Transportation & Land Use.** On-road vehicles (cars and trucks) and off-road vehicles (boats, lawn mowers, construction equipment, etc.) account for 31% of total emissions. Addressing emissions from transportation and land use in Kenmore requires strengthening existing policies aimed at increasing transit use, reducing vehicle miles travelled (VMT), maximizing green space in urban areas, and protecting natural sequestration areas. Mitigation policies in the CAE also aim to improve electric vehicle infrastructure and encourage mixed-use, dense, and transit-oriented development.
- **Refrigerants & Solid Waste.** Refrigerants commonly used in air conditioning/refrigeration and solid waste disposal account for 9% of total emissions. Policies within this sector will support sustainable waste management and increase the City and residents' capacity to recycle and compost responsibly and effectively.

The goals, objectives, and policies included in the CAE will focus on mitigating climate change impacts through the reduction of GHG emissions within these sectors. In addition, the many economic and health benefits of emissions reduction actions are not shared equitably in Kenmore, especially among overburdened communities. Therefore, mitigation policies not only reduce GHG emissions but also provide co-benefits to promote climate equity and support vulnerable communities. Benefits of mitigation policies include improving air quality, promoting housing equity, and minimizing public health risks.

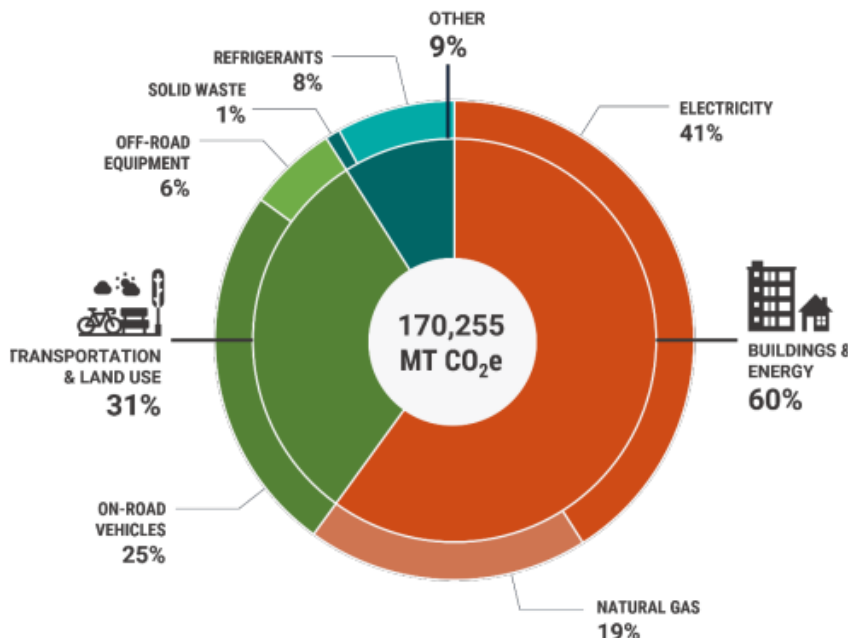


Figure 1. 2019 Kenmore GHG Emissions Inventory Chart

### Kenmore Vulnerability Assessment

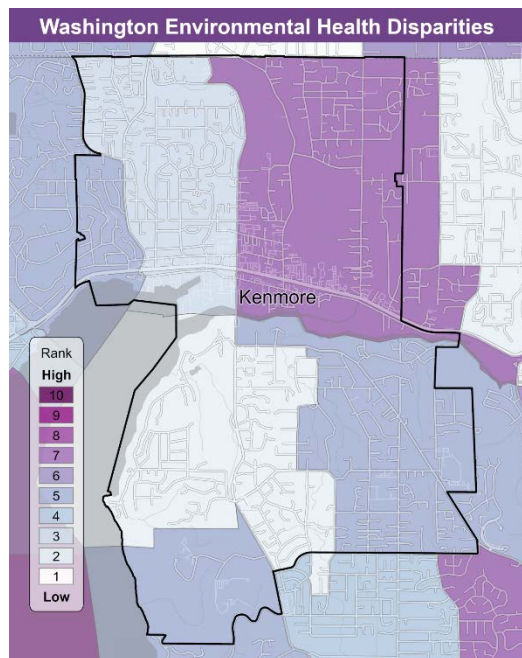
A vulnerability assessment (VA) was conducted for the City of Kenmore in 2021. A climate vulnerability assessment identifies the impacts and consequences of climate change and evaluates the level or risk presented to a community. Vulnerability refers to the degree to which people, natural resources, infrastructure, or other things Kenmore values are susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change (Cascadia Consulting Group, 2021). Key climate vulnerabilities for Kenmore include extreme heat, exacerbated flooding and landslides, and wildfire smoke. Assessing climate vulnerability can help Kenmore (1) identify current exposure and sensitivity, (2) anticipate areas of future risk and the potential to adapt to climate impacts, and (3) assess strategies to prepare and adapt to future climate conditions. To monitor and assess the city's vulnerability to future climatic conditions, a VA update should be conducted periodically with a focus on the built environment, communities, and natural systems.

In addition, climate change amplifies existing risks and disparities like chronic health conditions, social and economic circumstances, and pollution exposure, which disproportionately impacts overburdened community groups<sup>1</sup>. When comparing at-risk neighborhoods and climate exposure risks, three census tracts intersecting Kenmore have vulnerabilities to climate change that exceed the community median. These neighborhoods include residents who identify as people of color (39%), have low English language proficiency (4%), and live in rental housing units (44.2%). These overburdened communities face disproportionate risks of climate impacts

<sup>1</sup> Overburdened community means a geographic area where vulnerable populations face combined, multiple environmental harms and health impacts. Vulnerable populations includes, but is not limited to: (i) racial or ethnic minorities; (ii) low-income populations; and (iii) populations disproportionately impacted by environmental harms. (RCW 36.70A.030).

due to compounding factors such as a lack of tree canopy, high areas of impervious surfaces, and flood risks (Headwaters Economics, 2023). In 2018, the Washington State Department of Health developed the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map, an interactive mapping tool comparing communities across Washington for environmental health disparities (University of Washington Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences and Washington State Department of Health, 2022). Kenmore shows moderate levels of environmental health disparities compared to surrounding cities in King County and Washington state. Due to environmental exposures and socioeconomic vulnerabilities, East Kenmore ranks at a higher level of environmental health disparities compared to other Washington US census tracts, as shown in Figure 2 and described in Table 1 (University of Washington Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences and Washington State Department of Health, 2022).

The goals, objectives, and policies included in the CAE seek to increase climate resiliency of the built environment, natural resources, and within communities. Incorporating climate equity principles and understanding the social and racial impacts of proposed climate policies will improve the equitable distribution of benefits (e.g., improving public health and increasing access to services) and reduce disparities. It is critical to understand which areas and populations are most at risk from climate and environmental burdens, as it will inform policy focus areas and community priorities.



*Figure 2. WA Department of Health Environmental Health Disparities in Kenmore. City of Kenmore border outlined in black (University of Washington Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences and Washington State Department of Health, 2022).*

## **Future Risks**

The Puget Sound Region is already experiencing the impacts of climate change with warmer temperatures which cause heatwaves and wildfires; changing rainfall patterns with associated flooding and landslides; and less snowpack constraining the summer water supply. In recent years, our community has increasingly experienced record-breaking heatwaves, destructive flooding, and compromised air quality from wildfire smoke.

Kenmore has a critical role to play in addressing the climate change impacts already at our doorstep and preparing for those on the horizon. The following table outlines the current climate impacts on Kenmore and the future risks facing our community.

*Table 1. Future Climate Risks in Kenmore.*

Factor	Future Risk
<b>Heat</b>	Kenmore is expected to experience a 244% increase in extremely hot days by 2030 (Headwaters Economics, 2023). In addition, the average high temperature in Kenmore is anticipated to increase by 7.4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100, leading to several negative outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased demand for energy services and correlating energy system stress</li> <li>Risk of power outages for older, less energy efficient homes</li> <li>Increased risk for heat-related illnesses, particularly for elderly people and those with underlying medical conditions</li> <li>Increased risk of disease from ticks and mosquitoes</li> </ul>
<b>Heavy Rains, Flooding, and Landslides</b>	Kenmore is at risk of flooding and landslides from heavy storms affecting areas throughout Kenmore (Cascadia Consulting Group, 2021). Impacts of heavy precipitation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to homes, businesses, and critical transportation routes from flooding and landslides</li> <li>Potential expansion of landslide prone area to include key municipal facilities and infrastructure as the city develops.</li> <li>Increased flooding could close parks and open spaces, leading to decreased health and wellbeing.</li> <li>Flooding could increase infectious disease risk, particularly for those experiencing homelessness.</li> <li>Increased waterway pollution from stormwater runoff</li> </ul>
<b>Wildfire and Air Quality</b>	Kenmore is not currently at risk for wildfires, but residents continue to be at risk for more regional wildfire-related air quality and respiratory health impacts. The city also faces environmental health risks from PM2.5 emissions, toxic releases from facilities, and proximity to heavy traffic roadways (University of Washington Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences and Washington State Department of Health, 2022). Reduced air quality and regional wildfire smoke poses respiratory health risks, particularly for those with underlying medical conditions.

**GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**

**GOAL 1. INCREASE THE CITY'S CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT CLIMATE ACTION PRIORITIES TO MEET 2050 REGIONAL GOALS.**

**OBJECTIVE 1.1 Implement a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and prioritize high-impact actions.**

Policy CA-1.1.1 Implement a Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP shall establish specific targets and schedules consistent with the policies of this Element. The CAP shall develop actions resulting in projects and programs that are consistent with the policies of this Element. Update the CAP every three to five years, or sooner, as directed by City Council. The City Council will be provided an update, annually, regarding the status of the implementation of the CAP.

Policy CA-1.1.2 Prioritize implementation of climate actions with higher greenhouse gas reduction potential to ensure Kenmore is meeting VISION 2050 and King County emissions goals by 2050 at the latest.

**OBJECTIVE 1.2 Leverage Kenmore's resources and partnerships to build capacity to implement climate resilience and mitigation efforts.**

Policy CA-1.2.1 Consider what resources are needed, such as partnerships (e.g., K4C), regular implementation progress reports, and City budgeting, to implement the Climate Action Element.

Policy CA-1.2.2 Partner with King County to monitor, assess, and publicly report on community-scale greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions from all local sources associated with resident, business, and local government activities.

Policy CA-1.2.3 Partner with organizations such as the Puget Sound Regional Council, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, local jurisdictions, overburdened communities, the state, academic institutions, community leaders, and public, private, and not-for-profit groups to promote programs and policies that achieve GHG emission reduction targets.

Policy CA-1.2.4 Update the City of Kenmore's Climate Vulnerability Assessment every three to five years, with a focus on the built environment, communities, and natural systems. Use assessment findings to evaluate changes to Comprehensive Plan goals and policies and enhance resilience.

Policy CA-1.2.5 Support enhanced data collection for hazard events to provide a fuller understanding of the community's hazard characteristics—including identifying demographic groups/community members most vulnerable to climate impacts. Promote equitable collaboration and inclusive engagement strategies with overburdened communities during the climate vulnerability research process.



**OBJECTIVE 1.3      Ensure sufficient City resources are available to support implementation of the CAP and CAE actions and policies.**

Policy CA-1.3.1      The City should designate Climate Action staff to implement and monitor actions consistent with the Kenmore CAP and CAE.

Policy CA-1.3.2      The City should budget funds each biennium budget cycle to implement climate programs.

**Section 1: EMISSIONS MITIGATION**

***GOAL 2.      PRIORITIZE RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE CITY LAND USE PLANNING TO ELIMINATE GHG EMISSIONS FROM BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.***

**OBJECTIVE 2.1      Incorporate environmental justice criteria and priorities into zoning, land use planning, permitting policies, and development of new projects to identify and address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on overburdened communities such as communities of color and lower-income communities.**

Policy CA-2.1.1      Develop and implement an environmental justice audit process to conduct prior to creating new zoning designations or rezoning.

Policy CA-2.1.2      Work toward an equitable distribution of growth that reduces the potential for displacement and increases infrastructure and ecosystem resilience by combining zoning restrictions in vulnerable areas with development incentives to build in areas with less climate risk. Consider climate impacts such as extreme heat, flooding, wildfire smoke, and drought when designating zoning locations to accommodate growth.

Policy CA-2.1.3      Identify and expand community-centered anti-displacement strategies and climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate housing insecurities exacerbated by climate-driven gentrification.

Policy CA-2.1.4      Promote equitable access for overburdened communities and those that will be disproportionately impacted by climate change, by working with utility providers to ensure affordable energy prices through utility tax rebates for low-income residents.

Policy CA-2.1.5      Promote “missing middle” housing through city policies and codes to allow for broader housing types in identified single family zones, reduce climate-related displacement, and increase access to City transit systems.

**OBJECTIVE 2.2      Prioritize dense, mixed use, transit-oriented development, and affordable housing in Downtown and other areas consistent with the Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Elements.**

Policy CA-2.2.1 Consistent with Kenmore’s growth strategies, promote density near high frequency transit, infill and redevelopment in nodes, and middle housing development in neighborhoods; supported by right-size parking, transportation demand management strategies, multi-modal access, park amenities, and green space.

Policy CA-2.2.2 Enhance existing neighborhoods to provide a high degree of connectivity in the street network to accommodate walking, bicycling, transit use, sufficient public spaces, and green space.

Policy CA-2.2.3 Disincentivize single occupancy vehicle (SOV) use in urban areas by reallocating existing road space to public transport infrastructure—for example, through dedicated bus lanes.

**GOAL 3. ELIMINATE GHG EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**OBJECTIVE 3.1 Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) within the city.**

Policy CA-3.1.1 Support transportation investments that minimize, mitigate, and respond to the effects of climate change consistent with the Transportation Element goals, objectives, and policies.

Policy CA-3.1.2 Work with Metro and other transit providers to establish a local circulator transit service that provides intra-community transit service, connecting north and south Kenmore. The local circulator service would provide connections to the Downtown, major commercial and mixed-use centers in Kenmore, park-and-ride lots, and other key destinations.

Policy CA-3.1.3 Prepare a Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Ordinance to encourage CTR in accordance with State laws. Possible strategies could include ridesharing programs, carpool matching, telecommuting, and employer-sponsored vanpools.

**OBJECTIVE 3.2 Investigate opportunities to expand and implement safe multi-modal transportation options, including bicycling, walking, transit, and a passenger ferry on Lake Washington.**

Policy CA-3.2.1 Implement the Kenmore *Pedestrian Facilities Plan*, *ADA Transition Plan*, and develop the *Bicycle Priority Network*. Design accessible and safe pedestrian facilities in accordance with the *Pedestrian Priority Network*. Improve street safety and function by implementing the City’s Target Zero strategy to have no pedestrian or bicycle deaths or serious injuries as the result of a collision with a motorized vehicle, as outlined in the Transportation Element.

Policy CA-3.2.2 Address mobility inequities by making a more walkable community, designing accessible pedestrian facilities, and implementing an Americans

1		with Disabilities (ADA) Transition Plan during transportation, parks, and
2		other city infrastructure planning activities.
3	Policy CA-3.2.3	Partner with transit agencies, Metro, Sound Transit, and Community
4		Transit, to expand, maintain, and enhance multimodal transit services and
5		related facilities, including better first-last mile access to transit.
6	Policy CA-3.2.4	Work with third-party programs and businesses to increase the availability,
7		accessibility, and convenience of shared mobility options (e.g., bike share,
8		scooter share, car share) and maintain affordability of services.
9	<b>OBJECTIVE 3.3</b>	<b>Increase the percentage of Electric Vehicles (EV), electric equipment, and</b>
10		<b>other low emission transportation modes operating within the city.</b>
11	Policy CA-3.3.1	Convert public-owned fleets to zero-emission vehicles as they need to be
12		replaced (e.g., electric or renewably produced hydrogen) and as soon as
13		feasible.
14	Policy CA-3.3.2	Install public electric car charging stations in key city-owned/operated
15		parking facilities as soon as feasible.
16	Policy CA-3.3.3	Promote existing and develop new incentives to encourage purchase of
17		EVs and EV alternatives (e.g., electric golf carts and neighborhood EVs).
18		Include stronger incentives for low-income residents.
19	Policy CA-3.3.4	Collaborate with the Puget Sound Regional Council on regional efforts to
20		support EVs and associated infrastructure issues.
21	Policy CA-3.3.5	Create EV and electric equipment communication and outreach programs
22		that explain the benefits of EVs, rebates available for EV or electric
23		equipment purchasing, EV charger locations, and other helpful information.
24		Consider equitable communication and EV outreach programs to target
25		low-income communities and occupations that still use gas powered
26		equipment.
27	<b>GOAL 4.</b>	<b><i>ELIMINATE GHG EMISSIONS FROM BUILDINGS THROUGH ENERGY</i></b>
28		<b><i>EFFICIENCY AND ELECTRIFICATION.</i></b>
29	<b>OBJECTIVE 4.1</b>	<b>Incorporate incentives for sustainable design within Kenmore's building</b>
30		<b>code for the development of new buildings and retrofits.</b>
31	Policy CA-4.1.1	Promote and implement building and energy standards, which could
32		include:
33		• Energy performance optimization that goes beyond the state standard
34		by adopting optional state building and energy codes that further
35		promote GHG emission reduction and/or energy efficiency;
36		• Use of on-site renewable energy systems or procurement of renewable
37		energy from offsite sources for all or a portion of the building's annual
38		building energy use;

- Participation in demand response technologies and programs that make energy generation and distribution systems more affordable and more efficient, increase grid reliability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Utilizing advanced metering technology;
- Reducing construction and demolition waste disposed of in landfills;
- Expanding incentives for EV charging for multi-family homes, apartment buildings, major employers, and parking garages;
- Creating equitable partnerships with organizations that serve overburdened communities to ensure education and incentive programs build capacity and reduce cost burden for all residents.

**OBJECTIVE 4.2      Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning to renewable energy sources and decarbonizing buildings.**

Policy CA-4.2.1      Implement and support building and energy codes and policies that reduce energy use, reduce the embodied carbon of materials, phase out fossil fuel use, and support deployment of electric vehicles, and clean energy.

Policy CA-4.2.2      Develop community-scale programs and policies to reduce energy use, increase the use of renewable energy, and phase out the use of fossil fuels. Programs and outreach should be prioritized in overburdened communities. These could include:

- In cooperation with King County, electrical and gas utility providers, or other agencies, promote the use of weatherization programs for existing housing;
- Residential efficiency retrofits—explore and promote low interest loan options and incentive programs to finance energy efficiency upgrades for commercial and residential buildings;
- Support fossil fuel reduction and transition incentives.

Policy CA-4.2.3      Develop and implement a plan to achieve carbon neutrality for city facilities, operations, and services as soon as feasible.

Policy CA-4.2.4      Where feasible, make low impact development, green building standards, and sustainable design the preferred and commonly used approach to site development (e.g., following green building guidelines outlined in certification programs such as Built Green and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)).

- Prioritize green building funding and incentives to directly support increased capacity in impacted communities, such as multifamily, low-income housing.
- Educate City staff on building practices that have contributed to injustice, such as land-use decisions and policy incentives for renewable energy.



**GOAL 5. PROTECT AND RESTORE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO INCREASE CARBON SEQUESTRATION.**

**OBJECTIVE 5.1 Support regional efforts to protect and enhance land carbon sinks in order to mitigate GHG emissions.**

Policy CA-5.1.1 Consistent with the Land Use Element, protect natural and environmentally sensitive areas, open space, trees, vegetation, and natural terrain that serve as potential carbon sinks. Avoid the conversion of carbon-rich ecosystems and prioritize increasing tree canopy cover and open space in overburdened communities.

Policy CA-5.1.2 Develop and implement an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) which encourages the preservation and protection of trees on public and private properties consistent with the Land Use Element. Include carbon sequestration as a primary goal of the UFMP.

**GOAL 6. REDUCE CURRENT AND ELIMINATE FUTURE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND ELIMINATE GHG EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSUMPTION OF GOODS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE PRACTICES.**

**OBJECTIVE 6.1 Reduce to the greatest possible extent the amount of residential and commercial waste sent to landfills by ensuring that the community can reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost waste sustainably to lessen its carbon footprint.**

Policy CA-6.1.1 Actively engage in a regional strategy through the adopted 2019 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan to reach zero waste of resources by 2030 through a combination of education, incentives, and regulatory tools aimed at single-family, multi-family residents, businesses, and construction projects in King County.

Policy CA-6.1.2 Support extended producer responsibility (EPR) related policies and actions that require companies that make consumer products fund the residential recycling system and that ensure that packaging and paper products get recycled.

Policy CA-6.1.3 Develop targeted educational campaigns for composting and recycling material with highest GHG reduction impact (paper, metal, food waste), such as business recycling education, recycling awareness campaigns, and community ambassador training programs.

Policy CA-6.1.4 Work with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to ensure waste haulers contracted with the City offer increased recycling and composting services.

- Consider mandating recycling and composting and enforce sorting by an identified year, especially for multi-family buildings and commercial

properties where contamination is high. Ensure enforcement does not increase existing financial disparities for low-income households. Explore developing reimbursement or incentive programs to purchase waste containers and conduct educational outreach on recycling and composting for low-income households.

- Prepare for increased organic waste collection services, such as compost or anaerobic digestion centers.

Policy CA 6.1.5 Partner with King County and current waste hauler on food waste reduction efforts, such as the “Food: Too Good to Waste” program, which aims to reduce GHG emissions by educating people about how to plan and prepare meals to decrease the amount of wasted food.

Policy CA-6.1.6 Mandate composting in City facilities and partner with other jurisdictions to implement organic materials management policies outlined in the 2022 Organics Management Law, which aims to reduce organic waste disposal 75% by 2030 and increase the volume of edible food recovery 20% by 2025.

**OBJECTIVE 6.2      Develop a program that will enable recycling of all construction and demolition debris as soon as feasible.**

Policy CA-6.2.1 Develop a plan similar to King County’s Construction & Demolition waste diversion requirements. Support policies, tools, and programs to reduce construction-related emissions specific to Kenmore, including sourcing low embodied carbon materials.

Policy CA-6.2.2 Develop, implement, and enforce construction and demolition recycling and deconstruction ordinances.

**Section 2: RESILIENCY**

***GOAL 7.      FACTOR CLIMATE RISKS INTO THE PLANNING OF CITY OPERATIONS AND IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY TO CLIMATE IMPACTS.***

**OBJECTIVE 7.1      Support efforts to increase the resilience of public services, utilities, and infrastructure by preparing for climate change impacts.**

Policy CA-7.1.1 Integrate a climate impact risk assessment into the City’s Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Policy CA-7.1.2 Expand on WSDOT’s vulnerability assessment of state roads and improve mapping of landslide hazard areas to understand roads/routes in Kenmore that are vulnerable to climate hazards such as flooding and landslides.

Policy CA-7.1.3 Where appropriate, purchase properties located in hazard-prone areas, such as areas with persistent flooding, to protect critical habitat and to protect structures from future damage inflicted by climate change

impacts. Prioritize properties with exposure to repetitive losses or where purchasing may protect a critical habitat and reduce future climate impacts.

Policy CA-7.1.4 Strengthen support for undergrounding of existing utilities when they need to be fixed or replaced. Continue requiring the undergrounding of new overhead utilities and co-location of utilities to increase their resilience and reduce power loss during severe weather events consistent with the Utilities Element.

Policy CA-7.1.5 Ensure that energy infrastructure, including generation and transmission, can accommodate efficiency opportunities and withstand and recover quickly from the impacts of extreme weather and other natural hazards worsened by climate change.

Policy CA-7.1.6 Advocate and negotiate for increased electricity grid reliability through updated regulations for utilities and legislation that increases the capacity and flexibility of the electricity grid.

- Incentivize large-scale energy customers to reduce their electricity use during peak times.
- Encourage greater deployment of emerging technologies to promote distributed energy generation, demand response, energy storage, energy efficiency, and smart grid technologies.

Policy CA-7.1.7 Consistent with the Transportation Element, coordinate planning, construction, and operation of transportation facilities and programs with the State, Counties, neighboring cities, Puget Sound Regional Council, Metro, Sound Transit, and other entities to ensure critical infrastructure is in place to respond to both natural and human-caused disasters.

Policy CA-7.1.8 Ensure there are diverse multi-modal transportation options equipped to operate during extreme events, such as heat waves, snow/windstorms, and flooding events.

Policy CA-7.1.9 Ensure that development and redevelopment projects, including transportation systems and capital facilities, are resilient to the impacts of climate change during siting and design. Establish development regulations that incorporate best practices for reducing the risk of extreme heat, flooding, wildfire impacts, and other climate hazards.

Policy CA-7.1.10 Develop and implement a strategy to expedite the removal of waste (e.g., downed tree limbs and buildings blocking roads and streams) during and after a disaster incident to reduce the risks of subsequent fire, flood, injury, and disease vectors.

**GOAL 8. REDUCE CURRENT AND ELIMINATE FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY.**

**OBJECTIVE 8.1 Improve and mitigate extreme heat and air quality impacts in the community that are exacerbated by climate change.**

Policy CA-8.1.1 Develop and implement an urban heat resilience plan or strategy that includes heat mitigation and management actions to prepare for and respond to chronic and acute heat risk in the community. The strategy should be informed by urban heat island mapping and may include coordinated efforts such as cooling centers, early warning systems, changes to development/land use codes, energy grid resilience, and reducing the area of impervious surfaces. Utilize the King County Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy to align with county planning efforts.

Policy CA-8.1.2 Identify communities disproportionately impacted by extreme heat events or low air quality and prioritize equitable access to emergency preparedness resources for overburdened and unsheltered communities. Develop and distribute tools and resources for the community to stay safe during extreme heat events.

Policy CA-8.1.3 Partner with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to track and monitor air quality in the City. Ensure plans align with 100% of US EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards and seek to reduce the potential health impacts of air pollution on residential populations and other sensitive users near corridors with high volumes of vehicle traffic, such as SR522.

**OBJECTIVE 8.2 Incentivize retrofits and new buildings that are built sustainably to reduce environmental impacts and remain resilient to extreme weather and other hazards worsened by climate change.**

Policy CA-8.2.1 In cooperation with King County, electrical and gas utility providers, or other agencies, promote the use of weatherization programs for existing housing, especially multifamily and affordable housing units. Prioritize incentive programs for cost burdened communities and ensure outreach is targeted towards and benefits overburdened populations.

Policy CA-8.2.2 Develop or modify design standards to integrate exterior building features (e.g., awnings, cool roofs, solar panels) that reduce the impacts of climate change.

Policy CA-8.2.3 Encourage new utility infrastructure to define alternative routes to avoid impacts to environmentally sensitive areas or areas susceptible to climate impacts (e.g., flooding and landslides) where possible.



**GOAL 9. PROMOTE PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THAT ALL KENMORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE PREPARED FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCIES.**

**OBJECTIVE 9.1 Anticipate and be ready to accommodate the rise in demand for emergency services due to climatic change impacts and understand community needs when preparing for emergency situations.**

Policy CA-9.1.1 Work with community members on emergency procedures and coordinate between facilities, such as public libraries or other community centers, to create "resilience hubs" that are prepared to meet the challenges of weather emergencies exacerbated by climate change. Ensure that the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map informs the location of where the resilience hubs are located.

Policy CA-9.1.2 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 CA-9.1.3 Place special emphasis on mitigating extreme weather events that impact communities most vulnerable to experiencing homelessness.

**GOAL 10. INCREASE OUTREACH EFFORTS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AND ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS CAN EFFECTIVELY ADAPT TO CURRENT AND FUTURE CLIMATE IMPACTS.**

**OBJECTIVE 10.1 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 CA-10.1.1 Develop messages on the impacts of climate change on health and safety, including information to help residents plan and practice actions to protect themselves from these impacts. Encourage the involvement of overburdened communities and provide outreach in multiple formats and languages.

Policy CA-10.1.2 Co-create climate communications with Kenmore's communities—especially youth organizations to ensure that the next generation has a say—on climate and health impacts and emergency resources/warnings during extreme events. To reach overburdened communities, consider offering incentives for engagement and transcreation in developing culturally relevant climate communication.

**GOAL 11. PROTECT AND PRESERVE VALUED COMMUNITY RESOURCES AT RISK TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.**

**OBJECTIVE 11.1** Ensure that cultural resources and practices, including historic sites and culturally important traditional foods and natural resources, are resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and other natural hazards worsened by climate change.

Policy CA-11.1.1 Protect culturally significant resources, land, and artifacts at risk to climate change impacts. Protect, enhance, and restore ecosystems to meet tribal treaty rights including habitat for salmonids, foods, and medicinal plants that could be adversely impacted by climate change.

Policy CA-11.1.2 Protect salmonid habitats by ensuring that land use and facility plans (transportation, water, sewer, electricity, gas) include riparian and stream habitat conservation measures developed by the County, cities, tribes, service providers, and/or state and federal agencies consistent with the Natural Environment Element.

Policy CA-11.1.3 Coordinate across city departments to ensure that Kenmore's plans consider all the issues, resources, and needs that make a community whole, including land use, civic, cultural, recreation, transit, health, human services, natural environment, and the provision of infrastructure and other services.

Policy CA-11.1.4 Encourage public and private efforts that support culturally appropriate food opportunities, including grocery stores, farmers' markets, food banks, and nutrition programs, especially to meet the nutritional needs of infants, children, elders, and other overburdened communities in their neighborhoods.

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

**OBJECTIVE 12.1** Promote and support water conservation efforts to increase the resiliency of Kenmore's water supply.

Policy CA-12.1.1 Conduct outreach and education on water conservation strategies, including using grey water for non-potable uses (e.g., irrigation) when possible. Incentivize greywater solutions for property owners, for example, free or subsidized rain barrels.

Policy CA-12.1.2 Utilize educational campaigns to encourage low-impact, drought-resistant landscape development and design using native plants, rain gardens, and stormwater drain maintenance or using drain filters. Work with landscape companies to educate and incentivize smart irrigation management and technology use.

Policy CA-12.1.3 Coordinate with the appropriate service providers to ensure water system plans include aggressive conservation and re-use measures, as well as development of new sources to support planned land uses with reliable service at minimum cost, consistent with the Utilities Element.

**OBJECTIVE 12.2 Require low-impact development to manage stormwater in new/remodeled construction projects and implement flood prevention projects.**

Policy CA-12.2.1 Effectively manage the city's municipal separate storm sewer system and private surface water systems in a manner that reduces flooding, maintains water quality and protects the natural environment in accordance with the Surface Water Element.

Policy CA-12.2.2 Require the design and construction of commercial and residential buildings and their surrounding sites to reduce water consumption, re-use wastewater, and reduce stormwater runoff. Encourage low-impact development techniques that enhance climate resilience in proposals for new development.

**OBJECTIVE 12.3 Consider alternative and sustainable irrigation sources to increase the resiliency of agricultural practices.**

Policy CA-12.3.1 Coordinate with Northshore Utility District on water conservation methods—such as the use of 'smart meters'—and to address the feasibility of using reclaimed water from the Brightwater plant for irrigation consistent with the Utilities Element.

**GOAL 13: ENSURE THAT FORESTS, WETLANDS, SHORELINES, AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS ARE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER, INVASIVE SPECIES, PESTS, DISEASES, AND OTHER IMPACTS WORSENER BY CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**OBJECTIVE 13.1 Assess and understand the climate risks for existing ecosystems.**

Policy CA-13.1.1 Use the best available climate science and adaptive management principles to identify and protect environmentally critical areas and resources including fish, trees, frequently flooded areas, unstable slopes, and associated ecosystems, in order to protect and increase the resiliency of native habitats.

Policy CA-13.1.2 Take inventory of and protect climate refugia—areas which protect and facilitate survival for species during periods of climate instability—and address habitat connectivity needs for plants and wildlife under stress from climate change.

Policy CA-13.1.3 Accommodate shifting species in revegetation, restoration, and other projects, such as through updates to development and infrastructure

standards addressing landscaping, tree canopy, critical area and shoreline buffers, stormwater facilities, etc.

**OBJECTIVE 13.2      Increase the resilience of habitats and species to climate impacts by restoring and preserving ecosystems.**

Policy CA-13.2.1    Protect, preserve, and restore local waterways, ecosystems, and habitats by partnering with residents, local and regional environmental groups, and other jurisdictions (e.g., the Kenmore community, Conservation Corps, US Army Corp of Engineers, King County, and other cities along Sammamish River and its tributaries).

Policy CA-13.2.2    Improve the resiliency of salmon and other fish species by removing or replacing old or degrading culverts and ensuring they are adequately sized to accommodate increased winter peak flows. Engage the public in restoring native salmon populations via public outreach campaigns.

Policy CA-13.2.3    Increase resiliency to flooding events by protecting, and where possible, enhancing and restoring existing flood storage, conveyance, and ecological functions and values of floodplains, wetlands, and riparian corridors.

Policy CA-13.2.4    Develop a comprehensive urban landscape strategy or framework (for both public and private projects) to develop additional natural areas and preserve the function of existing ones under changing climatic conditions. As part of the Urban Forest Management Plan, update the tree canopy assessment regularly and prioritize increasing tree canopy in areas subject to urban heat island effect.

Policy CA-13.2.5    Encourage community involvement and volunteering in stewardship activities that restore wildlife habitat, salmon populations, riparian corridors, and green spaces. Educate residents on the connection between ecosystem health and human health.

**GOAL 14.      BALANCE THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH WITH NATURAL RESOURCE FUNCTIONS.**

**OBJECTIVE 14.1      Protect the natural environment through zoning policies and regulations.**

Policy CA-14.1.1    Critical areas regulations should incorporate climate change considerations. Consider climate change in assessments of zoning and allowed uses within and adjacent to critical areas.

Policy CA-14.1.2    Protect natural and environmentally sensitive areas, open space, trees, vegetation, natural terrain, and drainage consistent with the Natural Environment Element.



Policy CA-14.1.3 Use regulations, zoning, incentives, and open space acquisition to protect floodplains, riparian corridors, high value wetlands, and unstable slopes from degradation due to climate change impacts.

Policy CA-14.1.4 Expand parks and green space in urban areas to reduce the effects of climate impacts (e.g., flooding and extreme heat) consistent with the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element. Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize overburdened communities for open space improvements and investments.

Policy CA-14.1.5 Ensure No Net Loss standards are being met and establish a Net Ecological Gain regulation for public development projects. This standard should ensure ecological functions and values that support biodiversity and resiliency ecosystems are improved over current conditions at a cumulative scale that can be incrementally implemented through site-specific actions, with any short-term loss of those functions and values being more than offset by overall ecological gains.

**OBJECTIVE 14.2      Ensure that the transportation system does not result in a loss of ecosystem function.**

Policy CA-14.2.1 Consider natural boundaries, such as critical area boundaries, to help determine transportation routes and placement of infrastructure connections and improvements.

Policy CA-14.2.2 Where feasible, determine where improvements to the current transportation infrastructure can be implemented to improve ecological functions.

- Transportation facilities crossing 100-year floodplains should not function as dikes or levees to flood waters.
- Design roadway improvements to be in accordance with the City's Surface Water Management Plan and stormwater regulations.

Policy CA-14.2.3 Consistent with the Shoreline Element, transportation and parking facilities shall be planned, located, and designed to have the least possible adverse impact on environmentally critical areas in the shoreline.

**GOAL 15:      SUPPORT A RESILIENT AND GREEN LOCAL ECONOMY.**

**OBJECTIVE 15.1      Ensure that the local economy is resilient to climate disruptions and fosters business opportunities associated with climate mitigation and resilience.**

Policy CA-15.1.1 Implement the CAP to develop a green jobs strategy in partnership with community groups and businesses that:

- Supports the low carbon transition of Kenmore's impacted industries;
- Develops pathways for youth and impacted workers to transition into green jobs;

- Provides green job training and continuing education for those facing economic vulnerability or with limited skills and work experience in this sector;
- Ensures opportunities (e.g., local hiring requirements) for these jobs.

Policy CA-15.1.2 Recognize the environment as a key economic value in the community that must be protected consistent with the Economic Development Element.

Policy CA-15.1.3 Support local businesses' efforts to reduce GHG emissions and to generate and store renewable electricity on-site, which can provide back-up power during emergencies and help ensure continuity of operations. Ensure this support reaches businesses facing economic disadvantage, such as small, women-owned, or BIPOC-owned businesses.

Policy CA-15.1.4 Promote regional eco-industrial development to support a circular economy that increases demand for recycled materials and reduces demand for new raw materials and their embodied carbon emissions.

Policy CA-15.1.5 Encourage private reinvestment in residential and commercial areas that increases building and infrastructure resiliency and efficiency consistent with the Community Design Element.

Policy CA-15.1.6 Expand and support the food-related economy to ensure resiliency to impacts of extreme weather and other natural hazards worsened by climate change. Increase access to healthy, affordable, and climate-friendly foods.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Climate Action Element policies would require new or increased commitments of City resources to prepare new regulations, review/amend existing regulations, create educational or incentive programs, and/or coordinate with agencies, service providers, or adjacent jurisdictions. This section outlines specific implementation strategies the City can take to implement the policies described in the previous section.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- Update GHG inventory every two years;
- Update Climate Vulnerability Assessment every three to five years, with a focus on the built environment, communities, and natural systems;
- Review, and as necessary, expand the biennial budget to enable implementation of climate programs;
- Continue funding climate action staff;
- Provide annual climate action progress report to Council.

## **Plan Development and Updates:**

- The CAP implements the policy direction outlined in this element and will be updated on a five-year cycle, or sooner based on City Council's direction. The CAP implementation matrix will determine implementation emission reduction potential, increased resilience potential, timeline, costs, and department leads for a given action in addition to identifying key considerations, including but not limited to:
  - **Developing incentives** for green building design, building decarbonization, energy efficiency, EV and electric equipment purchase, water conservation, and drought resistant landscape design;
  - **Planning engagement** for a community outreach program to support and protect communities disproportionately impacted by extreme heat events and low air quality, develop and implement community stewardship activities to demonstrate connection between ecosystem and human health, and support access to culturally appropriate food opportunities by encouraging collaboration among public, non-profit, and private food purveyors;
  - **Initiating and sustaining partnerships** with local governments, tribal governments, stakeholders, and the community to ensure a transition to clean, and efficient energy use; expand transit services and EV infrastructure; ensure waste haulers contracted with the City offer recycling and composting services; protect, preserve, and restore waterways and ecosystems; co-create messages with the community on the impacts of climate change on health, safety, and emergency resources; and maintain tribal treaty rights and to protect cultural resources, practices, and historic sites from the impacts of climate change.
- Coordinate across City departments to incorporate climate considerations within appropriate Elements, including but not limited to:
  - **Utilities, Public Services, Housing Elements:** reduce water consumption, stormwater runoff, increased water reuse in design and construction of commercial, residential buildings/properties;
  - **Transportation Element:** maintain and protect environmentally critical areas, ecosystem functions;
  - **Land Use Shoreline Element:** protect environmentally critical areas and climate refugia, updates to development and infrastructure standards through best available climate science;
  - **Natural Environment Element:** reflect necessary restoration and capital projects that support enhancing climate resiliency;
  - **Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Element:** prioritize enabling access to open space in overburdened communities;
  - **Land Use, Housing, Transportation Elements:** climate-oriented growth strategies to promote dense, mixed-use, transit-oriented development, and affordable housing; equitable distribution of growth that reduces potential for displacement;
  - **Transportation, Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces, Public Services Elements:** prioritization of transportation systems to locations vulnerable to climate

impacts; continued design of accessible facilities and infrastructure (ADA Transition Plan).

- Develop and implement the following processes, plans, or strategies identified in the CAE:
  - **Environmental justice audit process** to incorporate into Land Use Element that seeks to address the disproportionate environmental and health impacts exacerbated by climate change and ensure the equitable distribution of resources and benefits. Partner with City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Task Force and engage city residents and community groups to thoroughly understand community needs.
  - **Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Plan** (ensure incorporation into Utilities Element)
  - **Urban Forest Management Plan** (ensure incorporation into Land Use Element)
  - A **green jobs strategy** to support Kenmore's local economy
    - Update Economic Development and Community Design Elements to reflect City priorities for a resilient local economy and fostering business opportunities to advance climate mitigation and resilience.
  - Implement the **Kenmore Pedestrian Facilities Plan**, develop a **Bicycle Priority Network Strategy**
- Review and update City's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to incorporate climate impact risk assessment findings and increase the resilience of public services, utilities, and infrastructure. This should include:
  - Strategies to mitigate heat risks in community and incorporate resilience to flooding events; identify transportation in event of natural or human disasters;
  - A disaster response component to HMP, including waste removal to reduce risk of fire, flood, injury, and disease; update Land Use, Utilities, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Elements as necessary.
- Obtain external funding to complement City funding and secure proper resources for climate action through:
  - State and Federal grants,
  - Formula funds,
  - Regional partnerships, and
  - Other sources.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Additional documentation which provides more detailed information regarding how Climate Action Element goals and policies were developed can be found in the following documents. City produced documents are available on the City's webpage or at City Hall.

Climate Action Plan

The City of Kenmore [Climate Action Plan](#) (adopted in 2022) includes:

- An overview of why Kenmore sought to create a climate action plan;
- An overview of the baseline analysis of greenhouse gas emissions in Kenmore;
- A set of strategies and actions for addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation approaches;
- An implementation matrix that includes potential for emissions reductions, resilience potential, cost, and timeline.

Vulnerability Assessment

The [City of Kenmore Vulnerability Assessment](#) (2021) includes:

- A summary of the risks, exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity of the Kenmore community, natural environment, and infrastructure to the effects of climate change and interacting stressors.

Climate Action Element Policy Trends, Gaps, and Opportunities Assessment Memorandum

The [Policy Trends, Gaps, and Opportunities Assessment Memorandum](#) (2023) includes:

- A description of the overarching goals for developing and adopting a CAE;
- An overview of the approach used to identify initial goals, objectives, and policies related to climate action;
- A summary of key findings from the quantitative and qualitative assessment of Kenmore's existing climate policies and goals;
- Recommendations for emissions reductions and climate resilience and adaptation goals, objectives, and policies in several identified priority sectors per identified priority sector.

Kenmore Climate Action Element Equity Assessment Memorandum

The [Kenmore CAE Equity Assessment Memorandum](#) (2023) includes:

- An equity assessment, which examined the impacts, both intended and not, on people in overburdened communities explicitly for 25 objectives from the draft Climate Action Element.

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