

Environment Element – Existing Goals and Policies

*Existing adopted Goals and Policies without corresponding descriptive text.
Here is a [link](#) to the full text of the adopted Environment Element in the Comprehensive Plan.*

Goal E-1: Protect and enhance Kirkland’s natural systems and features.

Policy E-1.1:

Use a system-wide approach to effectively manage natural systems in partnership with affected State, regional, and local agencies as well as affected federally recognized tribes.

Policy E-1.2:

Manage activities affecting air, vegetation, water, and the land to maintain or improve environmental quality, to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, to prevent degradation or loss of natural features and functions, and to minimize risks to life and property.

Policy E-1.3:

Manage the natural and built environments to achieve no net loss of the functions and values of each drainage basin; and proactively enhance and restore functions, values, and features.

Policy E-1.4:

Pursue restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and require site restoration if land surface modification violates adopted policy or development does not ensue within a reasonable period of time.

Policy E-1.5:

Work toward creating a culture of stewardship by fostering programs that support sound practices, such as low impact development and sustainable building techniques.

Policy E-1.6:

Minimize human impacts on habitat areas and pursue the creation of habitat corridors where wildlife can safely migrate.

Policy E-1.7:

Develop a Citywide Sustainability Master Plan.

Policy E-1.8:

Provide information to all stakeholders concerning natural systems and associated programs and regulations.

Policy E-1.9:

Using a watershed-based approach, both locally and regionally, apply best available science in formulating regulations, incentives, and programs to maintain and improve the quality of Kirkland’s water resources.

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(TO BE REVISED WITH K2044 UPDATE)*

Policy E-1.10:

Prioritize removing fish passage barriers for public projects.

Policy E-1.11:

Support removal of fish passable barriers and daylighting of streams on private property.

Policy E-1.12:

Protect surface water functions by preserving and enhancing natural drainage systems.

Policy E-1.13:

Comprehensively manage activities that may adversely impact surface and ground water quality or quantity.

Policy E-1.14:

Respond to spills and dumping of materials that are impactful to the environment.

Policy E-1.15:

Improve management of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces by employing low impact development practices through City projects, incentive programs, and development standards.

Policy E-1.16:

Retrofit existing impervious surfaces for water quality treatment and look for opportunities to provide regional facilities.

Policy E-1.17:

Preserve the natural flood storage function of 100-year floodplains and emphasize nonstructural methods in planning for flood prevention and damage reduction.

Policy E-1.18:

Make allowances for connections between existing streams and their floodplain to increase floodplain storage.

Goal E-2: Protect, enhance and restore trees and vegetation in the natural and built environment.

Policy E-2.1:

Strive to achieve a healthy, resilient urban forest with an overall 40 percent tree canopy coverage.

Policy E-2.2:

Implement the Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan.

Policy E-2.3:

Provide a regulatory framework to protect, maintain and enhance Kirkland's urban forest, including required landscaping standards for the built environment.

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Policy E-2.4:

Balance the regulatory approach with the use of incentives, City practices and programs, and public education and outreach.

Policy E-2.5:

Collaborate with overlapping jurisdictions to align Kirkland's tree protection with the needs of utility providers, transportation agencies and others to maximize tree retention and reduce conflicts with major projects.

Goal E-3: Improve public safety by avoiding or minimizing impacts to life and property from geologically hazardous areas.

Policy E-3.1:

Require appropriate geotechnical analysis, sound engineering principles and best management practices for development in or adjacent to geologically hazardous areas.

Policy E-3.2:

Regulate land use and development to protect geologic, vegetation and hydrological functions and minimize impacts to natural features and systems.

Policy E-3.3:

Utilize best available science and data for seismic and landslide area mapping.

Policy E-3.4:

Retain vegetation where needed to stabilize slopes.

Policy E-3.5:

Promote sound soil management practices through standards, regulations and programs to limit erosion and sedimentation.

Goal E-4: Manage the built environment to reduce waste, prevent pollution, conserve resources and increase energy efficiency.

Policy E-4.1:

Expand City programs that promote sustainable building certifications and require them when appropriate.

Policy E-4.2:

Design, build and certify public building projects to LEED, Living Building Challenge or equivalent certification standards.

Policy E-4.3:

Implement energy efficiency projects for City facilities, and measure building performance through Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star or equivalent program.

Policy E-4.4:

Utilize rigorous sustainability standards and green infrastructure in all City projects.

Policy E-4.5:

Utilize life cycle cost analysis for public projects that benefit the built and natural environment.

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Policy E-4.6:

Work with regional partners such as Regional Code Collaborative (RCC) to build on the Washington State Energy Code, leading the way to “net-zero carbon” buildings through innovation in local codes, ordinances, and related partnerships.

Policy E-4.7:

Work with regional partners to pursue 100 percent use of a combination of reclaimed, harvested, grey and black water for the community’s needs.

Policy E-4.8

Work with regional partners to achieve 70 percent recycling rate by 2020 and net zero waste by 2030.

Policy E-4.9:

Promote public health and improve the natural and built environments by prohibiting the release of toxins into the air, water and soil.

Policy E-4.10

Promote preservation and adaptive reuse of existing structures.

Policy E-4.11:

Promote and recognize green businesses in Kirkland.

Policy E-4.12:

Promote and encourage Citywide sustainable product stewardship to provide stable financing for end-of-life management of consumer products, increase recycling and resource recovery, and reduce environmental and health impacts.

Goal E-5: Target carbon neutrality by 2050 to greatly reduce the impacts of climate change.

Policy E-5.1: Achieve the City’s greenhouse gas emission reductions as compared to a 2007 baseline

Policy E-5.2

Regularly update the City’s Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP) in order to respond to changing conditions.

Policy E-5.3:

Fund and implement the strategies in Kirkland’s Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP).

Policy E-5.4:

Pursue principles, pathways and policies as described in the current version of the King County Climate Change Collaborative (K4C) Joint County-City Climate Commitments and continue participation in regional collaboration in the K4C and the Regional Code Collaboration (RCC).

Policy E-5.5:

Advocate for comprehensive federal, state and regional science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Policy E-5.6:

Support the adoption of a statewide low carbon fuel standard that gradually lowers pollution from transportation fuels.

Policy E-5.7:

Pursue 100 percent renewable energy use by 2050 through regional collaboration.

Policy E-5.8:

Engage and lead community outreach efforts in partnership with other local governments, businesses and

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citizens to educate community about climate change efforts and collaborative actions.

Goal E-6: Support and encourage a local food economy.

Policy E-6.1:

Expand the local food production market by supporting urban and community farming, buying locally produced food and by participating in the Farm City Roundtable forum.

Policy E-6.2:

Promote land use regulations that ensure access to healthy food.

Policy E-6.3:

Reduce environmental impacts of food production and transportation by supporting regionally produced food.

Policy E-6.4:

Ensure food availability by planning for shortages during emergencies.