



**City of Kirkland**  
**Planning and Building**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Planning Commission

**From:** W. David Barnes, LEED-AP, Senior Planner  
Allison Zike, AICP, Deputy Planning & Building Director  
Adam Weinstein, AICP, Planning & Building Director

**Date:** February 1, 2024

**Subject:** **2044 Comprehensive Plan - Sustainability, Climate and Environment Element Policy Briefing, File No. CAM22-00023**

### Recommendation

Receive a briefing and hold a study session to discuss draft revisions to the Sustainability, Climate and Environment (SCE) Element goals and policies (see Attachment 1). Provide staff with direction to continue preparing the draft 2044 Comprehensive Plan SCE Element.

### Questions for Planning Commission

The Planning Commission (PC) should focus on the below questions for discussion while reviewing the memorandum and attachments:

1. Do Commissioners have any questions or feedback about any specific draft revisions to SCE goals or policies?
2. Are there any policy themes or concepts that you believe need to be incorporated into the draft policies?
3. Is there any additional information that the PC would find helpful for staff to include in a future briefing on the SCE Element?

### Background

#### Kirkland 2044 Comprehensive Plan (K2044) Update Process Overview

The City of Kirkland is in the process of conducting a State-mandated update of the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan (Plan) with a target adoption date of Fall 2024 (the State deadline for City Council adoption is December 31, 2024). The Comprehensive Plan is the primary citywide guide for how we, as a community, manage growth over the next 20 years (with a horizon year 2044), and is the policy basis that guides all related decisions. The Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies for how the City addresses land use, transportation, housing, sustainability and climate change, parks and open space, human services, and the public facilities and services necessary to support growth.

The Planning Commission (PC) has specifically discussed the SCE Element at the meetings listed below:

- October 25, 2023 meeting<sup>1</sup>: Element update and preliminary policy discussion; and
- May 11, 2023 meeting<sup>2</sup>: Element introduction and background discussion.

### Community Outreach and Engagement Activities

Beginning in late 2022, staff conducted a substantial number of public outreach and community engagement activities to implement the K2044 Community Engagement Plan<sup>3</sup>. In addition to the general K2044 activities above, staff has conducted outreach and engagement activities specific to the SCE and Parks Elements which were described in the May 11, 2023 Planning Commission meeting packet.

Additional information about the update process, including community input summaries specific to the SCE Element, can be found on the City's K2044 Comprehensive Plan update webpage<sup>4</sup>.

## **SCE Element Review**

### Overview

The SCE Element guides and provides policy support for the City's functional plans, initiatives and programs. The policies and goals are designed to protect and enhance the natural environment, and to ensure that the built environment is designed to be sustainable. Climate emissions (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions), mitigation, adaptation and resilience are key considerations in drafting policies to reduce carbon emissions. As Kirkland continues to grow and develop, the SCE Element can help Kirkland become more sustainable over time.

Sustainability is defined in the existing Element as "meeting our present needs while ensuring future generations have the ability to meet theirs". This concept is woven throughout the SCE Element and it serves as a connecting theme among the sub-elements, similar to equity. Equity prioritizes underrepresented community members in Kirkland and aims to bring an equity lens to everything we do so that we bring along, engage and activate the entire community in the process.

### SCE Element Study Issues

There are seven study issues and/or policy concepts that staff has explored through the update to the SCE Element. The list below of SCE study issues was confirmed by the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://kirklandwa.primegov.com/meeting/document/106.pdf?name=Planning%20Staff%20Report>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/planning-commission/k2044-sce-and-parks-briefing\\_pc-packet\\_web\\_reduced.pdf](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/planning-commission/k2044-sce-and-parks-briefing_pc-packet_web_reduced.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/community-engagement-plan-k2044-kirkland-comprehensive-plan-finalwappendixabc12152022.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Planning-and-Building/Planning-Projects/Kirkland-2044-Comprehensive-Plan-Update>

PC and Council at a joint meeting in July 2023. The draft revised SCE goals and policies (see Attachment 1) discussed further in the subsection below incorporate amendments that address many of the issues in the following list, while amendments to address others are still under consideration or being addressed in other Plan elements.

1. Analyze impacts on the electrical grid of policies moving the entire community towards electrification and elimination of the use of fossil fuels in homes, businesses and vehicles including public transit (electric buses).

*Staff Response: City staff has engaged Puget Sound Energy (PSE) staff regarding issues related to grid integrity, electrification, and reducing energy use including fossil fuels, and has made connections to internal staff to utilize more PSE programs that promote solar energy production and increasing electric vehicle charging infrastructure. PSE will make a presentation to City Council in March 2024 to address grid integrity and answer technical questions about loads and capacity, and provide their opinion on what cities can be doing now as fossil fuels are beginning to be phased out, along with other issues.*

2. Encourage more intense water conservation measures that reduce the impact on our potable water supply and promote the transition to black, grey and reclaimed water supplies for non–drinking water uses.

*Staff response: Revised Goal E-4 to include water reduction and strengthened Policies E-4.4 and E-4.7 to help reinforce Goal E-4.*

3. Update policies related to installing charging stations for electric vehicles and e-bicycles at public facilities, parks, public rights-of-way (adjacent to sidewalks), along major transportation corridors, and near freeway entrances/exits.

*Staff Response: The adopted 2023-2025 Planning Work Program (PWP) (and the draft 2024-2026 PWP recommended by the PC on January 18, 2024) includes an item to update our electric vehicle regulations and there are three new supportive draft policies that have been created:*

- *NEW Policy E-X: Promote energy efficiency, conservation methods, sustainable energy sources, electrifying the transportation system, and limiting vehicle miles traveled to reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and consumption of fossil fuels to support state, regional, and local climate change goals.*
- *NEW Policy E-#: Work with regional partners to leverage funding to help Kirkland electrify its homes, business, institutions and all means of transportation to counteract climate impacts and unintended outcomes.*
- *NEW Policy E-#: Provide support and financial assistance for priority populations so they are able to make and maintain the transition to clean energy and full electrification of homes, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to ensure climate resilience.*

4. Update climate policies that promote mitigating impacts related to climate change (for example: higher temperatures, more extreme-heat days and wildfire smoke days) – required by current King County Countywide Planning Policy and supports Washington State legislation.

*Staff Response: There are numerous policies included in the draft policies that address this study issue and support the draft Goal E-5: Target net-zero emissions and decarbonization for the entire community by 2050 to greatly reduce the impacts of climate change.*

5. Update climate policies that make the community more resilient to climate change (for example, this could include more dense tree plantings and promoting the planting of species that can adapt and survive higher temperatures, more cooling centers for vulnerable populations, including providing food, water, and shelter) – required by current King County Countywide Planning Policy and supports Washington State legislation.

*Staff Response: A new draft Goal E-X has been added: Promote, enhance and implement plans and actions that are responsive to climate change impacts to ensure equitable community resilience. In addition, multiple draft policies have been added to support this goal and a new draft sub-section has been created to address climate resilience.*

6. Incorporate many of the sustainability and environment requirements from the NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street Station Area Plan (Comprehensive Plan Chapter XV.G<sup>5</sup>) in the rest of the city (such as minimum threshold for high performance buildings, development standards such as the green factor, environment policies).

*Staff Response: High performing buildings requirements feature prominently in the NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street Station Area Plan and there are several policies that address this issue such as E-4.1, E-4.2, E-4.3 and E-4.4.*

7. Preserve and enhance the tree canopy and other open spaces to reduce carbon emissions.

*Staff Response: Draft Goal E-2 addresses this, along with several other policies such as policy E-2.1 and E-2.3.*

## **Draft Revised SCE Goals and Policies**

Staff is requesting PC feedback on initial draft revisions to the SCE goals and policies. Attachment 1 includes a table with all existing SCE goals, policies, figures, and tables and provides a side-by-side comparison of the existing text with proposed text amendments to-date. As discussed in subsections above, the draft revisions incorporate text amendments that are generally guided by one or more of the following:

- Compliance with required State, regional, or countywide policies;
- Recommendations from the 2022 Equity Review of the Kirkland 2035 Comprehensive Plan;<sup>6</sup>
- Linking SCE and functional plans (e.g., Sustainability Strategic Plan; Transportation Strategic Plan; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan);

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandCP15G/KirklandCP15G.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/equity-review-report-kirkland-comprehensive-plan-econorthwest-final20221108.pdf>

- Addressing Kirkland 2044 study issues as directed by the PC and Council; and/or
- Aligning SCE with the draft Kirkland 2044 Vision and Guiding Principles<sup>6</sup> and in-progress draft revisions in other Plan elements.

The table in Attachment 1 includes staff notes to further explain the reasoning behind certain text amendments, as well as notes indicating if the amendment is proposed to achieve compliance with a specific policy from an outside agency.

### SCE Element Update: Key Terms

Several new policies contain new terminology in relation to the built environment, climate action and climate resilience. Embodied carbon is a new term because most emission reduction efforts have historically focused on operational carbon such as the carbon in energy consumed to power a building using electricity and gas to heat space and water.

*Embodied carbon* refers to the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of building materials. The Carbon Leadership Forum<sup>7</sup> is one local organization that has been taking the lead on identifying the materials (primarily cement and concrete, steel, aluminum, plastics and glass) and the methods of designing, constructing and commissioning new construction to reduce the global warming potential of construction.

The term *Net-Zero Emissions* is used in one major goal and in multiple policies. Net zero emissions (also known as ‘carbon neutrality’) refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gases *emitted* into the atmosphere and those *removed* from it.

*Resilience* is discussed in relation to how resilient our community is to the impact of climate change such as heat and smoke events. Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Many of the new policies use this term and the Department of Commerce’s guidance on complying with Washington State House Bill 1181 is referenced in the goal and policy matrix in Attachment 1.

### **Next Steps**

With PC feedback on the questions posed at the beginning of this memo, staff will continue to refine the draft goal and policy amendments. The PC will hold public hearings on the Plan updates which will include the SCE Element in Spring 2024 and Council will complete final adoption by Fall 2024.

### **Attachments**

1. SCE Element Draft Goals and Policies

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<sup>7</sup> <https://carbonleadershipforum.org/>

Sustainability, Climate and Environment Element Goal and Policy Updates			
EXISTING Environment ELEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES	PROPOSED GOAL AND POLICY REVISIONS Deleted text shown in strikethrough. Added text shown in underline.	NOTES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION	REVISION REQUIRED PER: (State, Regional, County, Equity Review etc.)
Figure E-1: Wetlands, Streams and Lakes	<i>No change</i>	Map exhibit for wetland, streams and Lake in Kirkland	
Figure E-2a: Landslide Susceptibility	<i>No change</i>	Parcels in Kirkland that have been mapped for landslide susceptibility in Kirkland.	
Figure E-2b: Liquefaction Potential	<i>No change</i>	Parcels in Kirkland that have been mapped for potentially liquifying during strong ground shaking events such as an earthquake.	
Figure E-3: Topography	<i>No Change</i>		
Figure E-4: Tree Canopy	Potential changes. See notes for Planning Commission.	Staff is procuring a better map for Tree Canopy than the 2015 official City map. The new map will be based on more current mapping and be provided prior to adoption.	
<b>*Note that highlighted goals and policies are suggested for discussion at the February 8th Planning Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>Goal E-1:</b> Protect and enhance Kirkland's natural systems and features.	<i>No change</i>		
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-1.#:</b> <u>Incorporate environmental protection and restoration efforts including climate action, mitigation, and resilience into elements and related functional plans to ensure that the quality of the natural environment and its contributions to human health and vitality is sustained now and for future generations.</u>	added climate action, mitigation and resilience to this county policy because until now, we did not have climate mitigation and resilience in our policies.	KC County Wide Policy EN-1
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-1.1: Use a system-wide approach <u>in designing and implementing interdisciplinary strategies</u> to effectively manage natural systems, <u>including areas that cross jurisdictional boundaries working</u> in partnership and coordination with affected State, regional, and local <u>government and</u> agencies as well as affected federally recognized tribes.	Combined existing policy with two County policies.	KC County Wide Policy
Policy E-1.2: Manage activities affecting air, vegetation, water, and the land to enhance and 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.	<i>No change</i>		

Sustainability, Climate and Environment Element Goal and Policy Updates			
EXISTING Environment ELEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES	PROPOSED GOAL AND POLICY REVISIONS Deleted text shown in strikethrough. Added text shown in underline.	NOTES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION	REVISION REQUIRED PER: (State, Regional, County, Equity Review etc.)
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-1.3: 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 <u>and incentivize private landowners to restore the ecological assets on their property.</u>		
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.	<del>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.</del>	Striking this policy because it existed prior to the significant update to KZC 90 in 2018, thus making it obsolete and restoration is adequately covered by keeping Policy E-1.2 and E- 1.3 in place.	
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.	<del>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.</del> <u>Ensure public and private projects incorporate locally appropriate, low-impact development approaches, utilize the most current high performance bulding certifications requirements and employ a watershed approach for managing stormwater, protecting water quality, minimizing flooding and erosion, protecting habitat, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</u>	Combined existing policy concepts with County policy EN-3 as the new policy combines some of old and expands to include new sustainability and other environmental aspects of what we are doing now (High Performance building certifications) and what we want to do with watershed planning framework. Customized KC Policy components of watershed planning for Kirkland	KC County Wide Policy
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-1.#:</b> <u>Incorporate an integrated and comprehensive approach to managing fish and wildlife habitat to accelerate ecosystem recovery, focusing on enhancing the habitat of salmonids and other threatened and endangered species and species of local importance.</u>	Customized for Kirkland by City's Stormwater team	KC County Wide Policy
Policy E-1.6: Minimize human impacts on habitat areas and pursue the creation of habitat corridors where wildlife can safely migrate.	<del>Policy E-1.6: Minimize human impacts on habitat areas and pursue the creation of habitat corridors where wildlife can safely migrate.</del> <u>Policy E-1.6: Identify and preserve significant open space opportunities that provide the following valuable functions: Ecosystem linkages and migratory corridors crossing jurisdictional boundaries; Active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities; Wildlife habitat and migration corridors that preserve and enhance ecosystem resiliency; Preservation of ecologically sensitive, scenic, or cultural resources; Urban green space, habitats, and ecosystems; and provides opportunity for food production potential.</u>	Merged Countywide Planning Policy with existing Policy E-1.16	KC County Wide Policy
Policy E-1.7: Develop a Citywide Sustainability Master Plan.	<del>Policy E-1.7: Develop a Citywide Sustainability Master Plan.</del> <u>Provide consistent and stable financial resources and staff to effectively implement the City's Sustainability Strategic Plan (formerly known as the Sustainability Master Plan).</u>	Plan has been created and the need for a funding source is needed to implement I The previous title of the plan has been changed pursuant to equity review and adopted ordinance to remove the term "master" and the highest functional plan is considered a "strategic" plan.	Equity Review

Sustainability, Climate and Environment Element Goal and Policy Updates			
EXISTING Environment ELEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES	PROPOSED GOAL AND POLICY REVISIONS Deleted text shown in strikethrough. Added text shown in underline.	NOTES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION	REVISION REQUIRED PER: (State, Regional, County, Equity Review etc.)
Policy E-1.8: Provide information to all stakeholders concerning natural systems and associated programs and regulations.	Policy E-1.8: Provide information <u>on regulations and enhance programs, education and incentives</u> to all stakeholders concerning <u>improvement of natural systems and their function.</u> <del>and associated programs and regulations.</del>	More proactive approach that can help boost the ecological function of natural systems	
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.	Policy E-1.9: Using a watershed-based approach, both locally and regionally, apply best available science in formulating regulations, incentives, and programs <u>which encourage public and private landowners, as well as the broader community, to enhance habitat, ecology and ecosystem services that maintain and improve</u> the quality of Kirkland's water resources.	Combined existing policy with applicable language from KC County Wide Planning Policy	Additions from County Wide Planning Policy
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-1.##:</b> <u>Engage with the Puget Sound Partnership around implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda and coordinate land use and transportation plans and actions for the benefit of Puget Sound and its watersheds.</u>	Policy customized for Kirkland	KC County Wide Policy
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-1.##:</b> <u>Restore freshwater shorelines, watersheds, estuaries, and other waterbodies to a natural condition for ecological function and value, where appropriate and feasible and incentivize private landowners to do similar efforts on their land.</u>	Added incentivizing private landowners as the City does a lot of these restoration project on public land.	KC County Wide Policy
Policy E-1.10 Prioritize removing fish passage barriers for public projects.	<i>No change</i>		
Policy E-1.11 Support programs and incentives to encourage removal of fish passable barriers and daylighting of streams on private property.	<i>No change</i>		
Policy E-1.12 Protect surface water functions by preserving and enhancing natural drainage systems.	<del>Policy E-1.12 Protect surface water functions by preserving and enhancing natural drainage systems.</del>	Removing this policy after consultation with Stormwater Team as the intent is covered in a new policy below*.	
Policy E-1.13 Comprehensively manage activities that may adversely impact surface and ground water quality or quantity.	<del>Policy E-1.13 Comprehensively manage activities that may adversely impact surface and ground water quality or quantity.</del>	Removing this policy after consultation with Stormwater Team as the intent is covered in a new policy below*	
	<b>NEW Policy E-1.##:</b> <u>Manage surface water systems to improve water quality and habitat functions, minimize erosion and sedimentation, protect public health, reduce flood risks, and moderate peak stormwater runoff rates through regulations and implementation of programs. Work cooperatively among local, regional, state, national, and tribal jurisdictions to establish, monitor, and enforce consistent standards for managing streams and wetlands throughout drainage basins.</u>	*Kirkland Stormwater Team advised that this new King County policy better suited their needs and includes the intent from two existing policies E-1.12 and E-1.13 they suggest eliminating.	KC County Wide Policy
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-1.##:</b> <u>Maintain funding and programs to monitor water quality, quantity, biological conditions, and outcome measures for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of monitoring efforts.</u>	New policy customized for Kirkland by the Stormwater team.	KC County Wide Policy
Policy E-1.14 Respond to spills and dumping of materials that are impactful to the environment.	<i>No change</i>		



Sustainability, Climate and Environment Element Goal and Policy Updates			
EXISTING Environment ELEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES	PROPOSED GOAL AND POLICY REVISIONS <i>Deleted text shown in strikethrough. Added text shown in underline.</i>	NOTES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION	REVISION REQUIRED PER: (State, Regional, County, Equity Review etc.)
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-1.15: Improve management of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces by employing low impact development practices and green infrastructure through City projects, <u>such as stormwater parks; pilot incentive programs on private property,</u> and development standards.	Existing policy with recommendation regarding stormwater parks from KC Stormwater. Cascade Water Association: Consider amending to include programs and initiatives to reduce impervious surfaces on private property that reduces stormwater runoff. Added Green Infrastructure to this policy.	
Policy E-1.16 Retrofit existing impervious surfaces for water quality treatment and look for opportunities to provide regional facilities.	<i>No change</i>		
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-1.##:</b> Engage in holistic flood hazard management efforts through the King County Flood Control District and King County Flood Planning.	Customized for Kirkland	KC County Wide Policy
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.	<i>No change</i>		
Policy E-1.18: Make allowances for connections between existing streams and their floodplain to increase floodplain storage.	Policy E-1.18: <del>Make allowances for connections between existing streams and their floodplain to increase floodplain storage.</del> <u>Policy E-1.18: Create connections between streams and floodplains to enhance ecological function and meet regulatory standards for floodplain development.</u>	Combined existing policy with applicable language KC County Wide Policy.	KC County Wide Policy
<b>*Note that highlighted goals and policies are suggested for discussion at the February 8th Planning Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>Goal E-2:</b> Protect, enhance and restore trees and vegetation in the natural and built environment.	<b>Goal E-2 :</b> Protect, enhance and restore trees and vegetation in the natural and built environment <u>to improve air quality, sequester carbon and ensure resilience to climate impacts</u>	Aligns with Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP)	
Policy E-2.1: Strive to achieve a healthy, resilient urban forest with an overall 40 percent tree canopy coverage.	Policy E-2.1: <u>Maintain and increase the tree canopy</u> <del>strive to achieve a native, diverse, and climate resilient urban forest with an overall</del> minimum 40 percent tree canopy coverage <u>that also helps accomplish the following actions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Increases green infrastructure projects, sustainable development and energy conservation,</u></li> <li>• <u>Prioritizes under-served communities and areas with low canopy cover,</u></li> <li>• <u>Mitigates pollution producing infrastructure, such as freeways and roads,</u></li> <li>• <u>Contributes to habitat and ecological function and green corridors,</u></li> <li>• <u>Implements the Urban Forestry Strategic Management plan,</u></li> <li>• <u>Increases public outreach and awareness of the benefits of trees,</u></li> <li>• <u>Dedicates resources for regular monitoring of urban forest health,</u></li> <li>• <u>Establishes strategic partnerships with overlapping jurisdictions,</u></li> <li>• <u>Mitigates urban heat islands and surface water runoff,</u></li> <li>• <u>Prioritizes mental, physical public health.</u></li> </ul>	Combined existing policy with existing Policies E-2.3, E-2.3 and two KC County Wide Policies.	KC County Wide Policy
Policy E-2.2: Implement the Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan.	<del>Policy E-2.2: Implement the Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan</del>	Urban Forestry recommended additions and alignment with the implementation of the Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan has been folded into E-2.1	KC County Wide Policy
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.	<del>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.</del>	This existing policy is covered in revised Policy E-2.1 and the regulatory framework is embedded in KZC 95.	

Sustainability, Climate and Environment Element Goal and Policy Updates			
EXISTING Environment ELEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES	PROPOSED GOAL AND POLICY REVISIONS Deleted text shown in strikethrough. Added text shown in underline.	NOTES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION	REVISION REQUIRED PER: (State, Regional, County, Equity Review etc.)
Policy E-2.4: Balance the regulatory approach with the use of incentives, City practices and programs, and public education and outreach.	Policy E-2.4: <del>Balance the regulatory approach with the use of incentives, City practices and programs, and public education and outreach.</del> <u>Balance regulatory framework with targeted incentives and funding programs for private landowners, including support for low-income residents, such as tree planting and maintenance programs.</u>	Urban Forestry recommended additions.	
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.	Policy E-2.5: Collaborate with overlapping <u>agencies, utility providers and</u> jurisdictions to align Kirkland's <del>tree protection with the needs of utility providers, transportation agencies and others to maximize tree retention and reduce conflicts with major projects.</del> <u>optimize the collective impact of urban forest practices, programs, and strategies, reduce resource strain, and foster a coordinated response and approach to urban tree management.</u>	Expand existing policy to acknowledge urban forestry cross-collaboration experience.	
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-2.#:</b> <u>Ensure consistent interdepartmental and division stakeholder collaboration to effectively implement the Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan through cohesive work programs that integrate actions and goals across various departments.</u>	Promote <b>effective</b> implementation of the functional Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan	
<b>Goal E-3:</b> Improve public safety by avoiding or minimizing impacts to life and property from geologically hazardous areas.	<i>No change</i>		
Policy E-3.1 Require appropriate geotechnical analysis, sound engineering principles and best management practices for development in or adjacent to geologically hazardous areas.	No change		
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-3.2 Regulate land use and development to protect geologic, vegetation and hydrological functions and minimize impacts to natural features and systems <u>and utilize best available science and data for seismic and landslide area mapping.</u>	Added language from E-3.3	
Policy E-3.3: Utilize best available science and data for seismic and landslide area mapping.	<del>Policy E-3.3: Utilize best available science and data for seismic and landslide area mapping.</del>	Combined with E-3.2	
Policy E-3.4: Retain vegetation where needed to stabilize slopes.	<del>Policy E-3.4: Retain vegetation where needed to stabilize slopes.</del>	Covered by previous revisions to KZC 85	
Policy E-3.5: Promote sound soil management practices through standards, regulations and programs to limit erosion and sedimentation	<del>Policy E-3.5: Promote sound soil management practices through standards, regulations and programs to limit erosion and sedimentation</del>	Covered by previous revisions to KZC 85	
<b>*Note that highlighted goals and policies are suggested for discussion at the February 8th Planning Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>Goal E-4:</b> Goal E-4: Manage the built environment to reduce waste, prevent pollution, conserve resources and increase energy efficiency	<b>Goal E-4:</b> Manage the built environment to reduce waste, prevent pollution, conserve <u>water and other</u> resources, <del>and</del> increase energy efficiency, electrification <u>and renewable energy production and storage.</u>	Added water reduction and resilience measures to built environment goal. This goal now addresses a water resource study issue	
Policy E-4.1: Expand City programs that promote sustainable building certifications and require them when appropriate	Policy E-4.1: Expand City programs that promote <u>high performing</u> sustainable building certifications Green Factor landscaping standards and require them when appropriate.	Aligns with current development standards and the SSP	
Policy E-4.2: Design, build and certify public building projects to LEED, Living Building Challenge or equivalent certification standards.	Policy E-4.2: Design, build and certify public building projects to LEED, Living Building Challenge or equivalent certification standards <u>and ensure that buildings are net-zero emissions and that building materials and projects use lower global warming potential materials.</u>	Acknowledging that built environments impact on emissions and that materials embodied carbon that needs to be considered as well. There are lower global warming materials that can be used as specific versions of concrete, cement, steel and glass that are discussed on the Carbon Leadership Forum website that has been provided in the meeting packet.	

Sustainability, Climate and Environment Element Goal and Policy Updates			
EXISTING Environment ELEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES	PROPOSED GOAL AND POLICY REVISIONS <i>Deleted text shown in strikethrough. Added text shown in underline.</i>	NOTES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION	REVISION REQUIRED PER: (State, Regional, County, Equity Review etc.)
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-4.3: Implement <u>high performing</u> energy efficiency projects for <u>existing and new</u> City facilities, and measure building performance through Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star or equivalent <u>energy benchmarking</u> program.	Additional language aligns with Sustainability Strategic Plan	
Policy E-4.4: Utilize rigorous sustainability standards and green infrastructure in all City projects.	Policy E-4.4: Utilize rigorous sustainability standards and green infrastructure in all City projects <u>to reduce embodied carbon in bid, design and construction; reduce water use and increase water reclamation to ensure community health and resilience.</u>	Aligns with the SSP and government operations and provides policy support for public projects.	
Policy E-4.5 Utilize life cycle cost analysis for public projects that benefit the built and natural environment.	<i>No change</i>		
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	<b>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 <u>and establishing embodied carbon limits for all projects.</u></b>	Many cities and entities such as RCC and K4C as discussing setting goals for embodied carbon in a similar way as done for operational carbon reduction. This revision acknowledges embodied carbon as something we should acknowledge, track and reduce over time as we do for our greenhouse gas emission reporting.	
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-4.7 Work with Cascade Water Alliance and other regional partners to pursue 100 percent use of a combination of reclaimed, harvested, grey and black water for the community's <u>non-potable</u> needs while <u>preserving the limited potable drinking water supply.</u>	Identify Kirkland's major water purveyor and strengthen need to work on water related issues in the community which aligns with the SSP.	
Policy E-4.8: Work with regional partners to achieve 70 percent recycling rate by 2020 and net zero waste by 2030.	<del>Policy E-4.8: Work with regional partners to achieve 70 percent recycling rate by 2020 and net zero waste by 2030.</del>	Move to Utility Element per Solid Waste Team	
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-4.9: <del>Promote public health and improve</del> <u>Prevent, mitigate, and remediate harmful environmental pollutants, toxins and hazards, including light, air, water, noise, soil, and structural hazards in the natural and built environments where they have contributed to racialized health or environmental disparities, and increase environmental resiliency in under-served communities.</u>	Merge existing policy with KC County Wide Policy	KC County Wide Policy and Equity Review
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b><u>NEW Policy E-4.1#:</u> Establish an annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) review and reporting process to demonstrate the City is reducing the use of toxic pesticides, chemical fertilizers, and other products on all City properties, and promote alternatives that minimize risks to human health and the environment, to the greatest possible extent.</b>		KC County Wide Policy and Equity Review and support SSP goal and polices regarding harmful pesticide use.
Policy E-4.10: Promote preservation and adaptive reuse of existing structures	Policy E-4.10: Promote preservation and adaptive reuse of existing structures <u>and collaborate with partners to establish a market for building moves. Support construction and demolition debris recycling, deconstruction requirements, and re-use of salvaged building materials</u>	Aligns with SSP and Housing Element and is next logical direction to find places for materials that are saved and reused.	
Policy E-4.11: Promote and recognize green businesses in Kirkland.	<del>Policy E-4.11: Promote and recognize green businesses in Kirkland.</del>	Move to Economic Development Element	

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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.	Policy E-4.12: Promote and encourage <u>Citywide</u> 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.		
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-4.1#:</b> <u>Work locally and regionally with partners and the community to develop a facility that houses and promotes equitable access to hand and electric tools, re-use of building materials, and other usable materials to foster a reuse community, promote equitable access to resources and reduces embodied carbon, waste, energy use and emissions.</u>	Policy developed with community support for tool library and SSP leaf blower action and current City Leaf Blower Initiative.	
<b>*Note that highlighted goals and policies are suggested for discussion at the February 8th Planning Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>Goal E-5:</b> Target carbon neutrality by 2050 to greatly reduce the impacts of climate change.	<b>Goal E-5:</b> Target <u>net -zero emissions and decarbonization for entire community carbon neutrality</u> by 2050 to greatly reduce the worst impacts of climate change <u>and fulfilling the City's regional responsibilities per King County Planning Policies and State legislation.</u>	Aligns with King County Countywide Planning policy and acknowledges that offsetting will not be the predominant methodology for measuring success of carbon emission	KC Countywide Planning Policy
<b>Policy E-5.1:</b> Achieve the City's greenhouse gas emission reductions as compared to a 2007 baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 percent by 2020</li> <li>• 50 percent by 2030</li> <li>• 80 percent by 2050</li> </ul>	<b>Policy E-5.1:</b> <del>Achieve the City's greenhouse gas emission reductions as compared to a 2007 baseline:</del> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• 25 percent by 2020</del></li> <li><del>• 50 percent by 2030</del></li> <li><del>• 80 percent by 2050</del> <u>Adopt and implement policies and programs and actions to achieve a target of reducing community-wide and government operation sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040, and 95%, including net-zero emissions through carbon sequestration and other strategies, by 2050. Evaluate and update these targets and the most effective actions to achieve them in consideration of the latest international climate science and statewide targets aiming to limit the most severe impacts of climate change and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius.</u></li> </ul>	Combined KC County Wide Planning Policy and existing policy E-5.1.. The result is in total alignment with State emission targets and K4C interests. Note: We don't have the most accurate emissions data from 2007, but our 2017 data has just been vetted and is much more accurate and complete.	State legislation and KC Countywide Planning Policy
<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-5.#:</b> <u>The City shall update its comprehensive community greenhouse gas emissions inventory that quantifies all direct sources of greenhouse gas emissions report on it every two years and update and report on government operations annually.</u>		KC Countywide Planning Policy
Policy E-5.2: Regularly update the City's Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP) in order to respond to changing conditions.	Policy E-5.2: Regularly update the City's <del>Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP)</del> Sustainability Strategic Plan in order to respond to changing conditions, <u>but not less than once every five years.</u>	Will move this policy to be near other SSP such as Policy E-1.7.	
Policy E-5.3: Fund and implement the strategies in Kirkland's Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP).	Policy E-5.3: Align budget decisions in support of climate and sustainability goals and prioritize, fund and implement <del>the strategies in Kirkland's Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP)</del> carbon emission reduction actions in the Sustainability Strategic Plan for government operations and community-wide benefit.	Revised to acknowledge that the functional Climate Action Plan has been embedded in the Sustainability Strategic Plan. since 2020.	
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-5.4: 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, the Regional Code Collaboration (RCC) <u>and the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative.</u>	Added the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative (PSCPC) as we work with both groups including the K4C on climate mitigation, adaptation and now resilience with the PSCPC	
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.	<i>No change</i>		

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Policy E-5.6: Support the adoption of a statewide low carbon fuel standard that gradually lowers pollution from transportation fuels.	Policy E-5.6: Support the adoption of a statewide low carbon fuel standard that gradually lowers pollution from transportation fuels and ensure that incentive programs are established to help under-served community members make the transition to low and zero emission transportation.	Revised to include equity lens be applied to this solution to bring everyone along.	
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-5.#: Advocate for clean, renewable aviation fuels to drastically reduce carbon emissions.</b>	We are advocating for other transportation fuels to get cleaner and produce less emissions and aviation fuel is something we know needs to be addressed as flying is part of our carbon emissions, but it is difficult to reduce by human behavior change alone.	
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-5.X: Establish goals, create and implement actions to reduce community and per capita vehicle miles travelled (VMT) that are aligned with overall GHG emission targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050. (TSP XX) (Transportation Element XX)</b>		Conformance with HB 1181
Policy E-5.7: Pursue 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 through regional collaboration.	Policy E-5.7: Pursue 100 percent renewable energy use <u>by the community and government operations</u> by 2050 through regional collaboration.	Revised to provide clarity that this policy applies to the community and government.	
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-5.#: Encourage the transition to a sustainable, clean and renewable energy future by reducing demand through efficiency and conservation, supporting the development of energy management technology, and meeting reduced needs from renewable and sustainable sources.</b>		KC Countywide Planning Policy
Policy E-5.8: Engage and lead community outreach efforts in partnership with other local governments, businesses and citizens to educate community about climate change efforts and collaborative actions.	Policy E-5.8: Engage and lead community outreach efforts in partnership with other local governments, businesses and citizens to educate community about climate change efforts and collaborative actions to <u>reduce carbon emissions, reduce energy use and be resilient to climate impacts.</u>		
<b>*Note that highlighted goals and policies are suggested for discussion at the February 8th Planning Commission Meeting</b>			
No existing goal	<b>NEW Goal E-X: Promote, enhance and implement plans and actions that are responsive to climate change impacts to ensure equitable community resilience</b>	New section on climate resilience preparedness and planning that needed a goal	HB 1181 Conformance
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-X: Promote energy efficiency, conservation methods, sustainable energy sources, electrifying the transportation system, and limiting vehicle miles traveled to reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and consumption of fossil fuels to support state, regional, and local climate change goals.</b>	Has a focus on transportation emissions and calls it out as transportation emissions account for approximately 40% of community emissions	KC Countywide Planning Policy
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-X: Address rising sea water by siting and planning for relocation of hazardous industries and essential public services away from the 500-year floodplain.</b>	Will move this policy to be in the Flood Management section.	KC Countywide Planning Policy
	<b>NEW Policy E-X: Proactively mitigate climate change by implementing immediate actions, including strategic planting of temporary, fast-growing forests in underutilized spaces, and prioritizing the retention of large, mature trees known for their substantial carbon storage capacity in order to rapidly mitigate climate change, promote biodiversity, and enhance overall environmental resilience within the urban landscape.</b>		KC Countywide Planning Policy

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<i>No existing policy</i>	<b>NEW Policy E-X:</b> <u>Support and advocate for increasing production and storage of clean renewable energy using the most current technologies such as but not limited to Community Solar, Wind Power and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).</u>		KC Countywide Planning Policy
<b>Goal E-6: Support and encourage a local food economy.</b>			
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.	<i>No change</i>		
Policy E-6.2: Promote land use regulations that ensure access to healthy food.	Policy E-6.2: Promote land use regulations that ensure equitable access to healthy food <u>by establishing and maintaining more community gardens where none exist and prioritize locating them where under-served community members live.</u>	Staff is still working through the correct and consistent terminology for affected community members. At King County, the term front line or underserved community member is used. Some have suggested underrepresented community members and Kirkland has created the term Priority Populations. Most all of the SCE policies are using under-served because it is descriptive and explains the equitable prioritization the policies suggest.	
Policy E-6.3: Reduce environmental impacts of food production and transportation by supporting regionally produced food.	Policy E-6.3: Reduce environmental impacts of food production and transportation by supporting regionally produced food <u>and advocating for reducing carbon emissions and the use of chemicals and preserving water supplies.</u>	Acknowledging the resources used to produce food and being mindful of the impacts relating to .the protection of other finite resources	
Policy E-6.4: Ensure food availability by planning for shortages during emergencies.	Policy E-6.4: <u>Create a food plan which ensures food and water availability for the entire community that mitigates for shortages during emergencies and promotes resilience</u>	Calls out creation of a food plan and links emergency management and community resilience. This plan promotes resilience in the community and could be helpful to have in place when emergencies occur.	
<b>*Note that highlighted goals and policies are suggested for discussion at the February 8th Planning Commission Meeting</b>			

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No existing goal	<b>NEW Goal E-#:</b> <u>Ensure a climate resilient community by working intentionally to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of fossil fuels and to be prepared for existing and future climate impacts</u>	New Policy to set goal for required Climate resilience policies and set the stage for future policies and actions.	Conformance with HB 1181: From Department of Commerce <b>Climate Change and Resiliency</b> A new required element for comprehensive plans and new goal of the GMA. Designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, plan for resilience and support environmental justice. Climate elements must maximize economic, environmental and social co-benefits and prioritize environmental justice in order to avoid worsening environmental health disparities. A climate element can take the form of a single comprehensive plan chapter or be integrated into several chapters/elements such as housing, transportation and land use.
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-#:</b> <u>Create a climate preparedness study by 2026 with goals and actions to ensure community resilience to climate impacts and incorporate its actions primarily into functional plans such as the Sustainability Strategic Plan, Transportation Strategic Plan, Hazard Management Plan and other relevant implementation plans.</u>	The existing element has a climate sub-element. Getting the goals and actions established now will allow us to be in a great position when it is required for use to have a separate Climate Element with a Greenhouse gas emission sub-element and a climate resilience sub-element. SSP will be updated in 2026, actions that ensure resilience can then be easily put into the SSP.	Conformance with HB 1181: See Note above from Department of Commerce
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-#:</b> <u>Provide support and financial assistance for under-served populations so they are able to make and maintain the transition to clean energy and full electrification of homes, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to ensure climate resilience to known, and flexibility to address, unknown impacts.</u>	The existing element has a climate sub-element. Getting the goals and actions established now will allow us to be in a great position when it is required for use to have a separate Climate Element with a Greenhouse gas emission sub-element and a climate resilience sub-element.	

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No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-#:</b> <u>Work with regional partners to help leverage funding to help Kirkland electrify its homes business, institutions and all means of transportation to counteract climate impacts and unintended outcomes.</u>	The existing element has a climate sub-element. Getting the goals and actions established now will allow us to be in a great position when it is required for use to have a separate Climate Element with a Greenhouse gas emission sub-element and a climate resilience sub-element. In addition, this was a city council and or planning commission study issue to electrify transportation which would also include bicycles and other means of transportation.	Conformance with HB 1181: See note above from Department of Commerce
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-X:</b> <u>Establish Climate Resilience Hubs in the City and or programs/initiatives to provide mitigation during heat and smoke events to ensure public health</u>	The existing element has a climate sub-element. Getting the goals and actions established now will allow us to be in a great position when it is required for use to have a separate Climate Element with a Greenhouse gas emission sub-element and a climate resilience sub-element. In addition, Resilience Hubs are defined by USDN as “community-serving facilities augmented to support residents and coordinate resource distribution and services before, during, or after a natural hazard event.” 1 At a minimum, a resilience hub should be able to provide emergency services during extreme events. These event that are coming our way now are heat and smoke events. But, they could also be public places that help in an emergency. The point of this is that we need them now and they can be used to help community members be safe during climate induced events.	Conformance with HB 1181: See note above from Department of Commerce
No existing policy	<b>NEW Policy E-X:</b> <u>Ensure the City's Water Plan provides equitable access to safe, clean drinking water to the entire community and especially during times of drought or emergencies</u>	The existing element has a climate sub-element. Getting the goals and actions established now will allow us to be in a great position when it is required for use to have a separate Climate Element with a Greenhouse gas emission sub-element and a climate resilience sub-element	Conformance with HB 1181: See note above from Department of Commerce



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<p><i>No existing policy</i></p>	<p><b>NEW Policy E-#:</b> <u>Using technology, monitor air quality throughout the City and establish programs, partnerships and initiative to reduce environmental impacts and improve human health.</u></p>	<p>The existing element has a climate sub-element. Getting the goals and actions established now will allow us to be in a great position when it is required for use to have a separate Climate Element with a Greenhouse gas emission sub-element and a climate resilience sub-element</p>	<p>Conformance with HB 1181: See note above from Department of Commerce</p>