

## Appendix A Glossary

**Active transportation:** forms of pedestrian mobility including walking or running, the use of a mobility assistive device such as a wheelchair, bicycling and cycling irrespective of the number of wheels, and the use of small personal devices such as foot scooters or skateboards. Active transportation includes both traditional and electric assist bicycles and other devices. Planning for active transportation must consider and address accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (U.S.C. Title 42, 1990 as amended) and the distinct needs of each form of active transportation.

**Active transportation facilities:** facilities provided for the safety and mobility of active transportation users including, but not limited to, trails, as defined in RCW 47.30.005, sidewalks, bike lanes, shared-use paths, and other facilities in the public right-of-way.

**Agrivoltaics:** the use of land for both agriculture and solar photovoltaic energy generation.

**Carbon sequestration:** the storage of carbon through natural, deliberate, or technological processes in which carbon dioxide is diverted from emissions sources or removed from the atmosphere and stored biologically in the ocean and terrestrial environments, underground, or in geological formations.

**Climate adaptation:** the process of adjusting to new conditions in order to reduce risks to valued assets.

**Climate impact:** the consequences of realized risks on natural and human systems, where risks result from the interactions of climate-related hazards (including extreme weather/ climate events), exposure, and vulnerability.

**Climate element sector:** categories of natural resources or community assets (such as physical buildings, infrastructure, and historic places) that can be impacted by or contribute to climate change. The following climate element sectors are defined as follows:

- (a) Agriculture and Food Systems includes food production and distribution; including processing in industrial areas and community gardens in urban areas;
- (b) Built Environment and Energy includes power generation, transmission, and consumption in buildings and the built environment; this excludes transportation infrastructure;
- (c) Cultural Resources and Practices includes historic sites and cultural resources and practices;
- (d) Economic Development includes business continuity and opportunities;
- (e) Emergency Management includes emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;

- (f) Health and Well-Being includes public health and community well-being;
- (g) Ecosystems includes terrestrial and aquatic species, critical areas, and ecosystem services;
- (h) Transportation includes transportation modes and infrastructure (such as, vehicles, roads, bridges, streetlights, sidewalks, bike lanes);
- (i) Waste Management includes materials recycling and disposal;
- (j) Water Resources includes water quality and quantity; and
- (k) Zoning includes regulations for the land that is designated into areas (or zones), each with specific rules defining what types of development (for example, residential, commercial, and (for example, regulations describing height, bulk, use, and density).

**Climate measure:** a goal or policy that can increase resilience to climate change impacts or reduce greenhouse gas emissions or does both.

**Climate resilience:** as defined in RCW 70A.65.010, the ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities.

**Carbon sequestration:** as defined in RCW 70A.65,010, the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide through biologic, chemical, geological, or physical processes.

**Decarbonization:** human actions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from human activities.

**Drought:** an exceptional period of water shortage for existing ecosystems and the human population (due to low rainfall, high temperature and/ or wind).

**Emissions:** the release of climate-altering gases and aerosols into the atmosphere from human and natural sources.

**Environmental justice:** the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities and the equitable distribution of resources and benefits.

**Emissions scenarios:** quantitative illustrations of how the release of different amounts of climate-altering gases and aerosols into the atmosphere from human and natural sources will produce different future climate conditions.

**Extreme heat:** temperatures that are much hotter and/ or humid than average.

**Extreme precipitation:** An extreme/ heavy precipitation event is an event that is of very high magnitude with a very rare occurrence at a particular place.

**Green infrastructure:** a wide array of natural assets and built structures within an urban growth area boundary, including parks and other areas with protected tree canopy that maintain and restore natural hydrology by storing, infiltrating, evapotranspiring and using stormwater.

**Greenhouse gas:** as defined in RCW 70A.45.010, include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and any other gas or gases designated by the Department of Ecology by rule.

**Green space:** an area of land, vegetated by natural features such as grass, trees, or shrubs, within an urban context and less than one acre in size that creates public value through one or more of the following attributes:

- (a) Is accessible to the public
- (b) Promotes physical and mental health of residents
- (c) Provides relief from the urban heat island effects
- (d) Promotes recreational and aesthetic values
- (e) Protects streams or water supply
- (f) Preserves visual quality along highway, road, or street corridors

**Hazard:** the potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or trend that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems, and environmental resources.

**Multimodal transportation:** systems that address the movement of people and goods through infrastructure and services for walking, biking, public transit, driving, ferries, and connecting with rail and aviation. These systems should provide safe, well-connected mobility options for people of all ages and abilities, including those who do not drive.

**Multimodal level of service standard (MMLOS):** the performance and quality measure, metric, or criterion of transportation networks. A MMLOS standard encompasses many modes or systems, including vehicles, cycling, public transit, walking, and freight. RCW 36.70A.070 directs jurisdictions to establish multimodal level of service (MMLOS) standards for their transportation systems for all locally owned arterials, locally and regionally operated transit routes that serve urban growth areas, state-owned or operated transit routes that serve urban areas, and active transportation facilities to serve as a gauge to judge performance of the system.

**Net-zero:** a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are reduced to near-zero, and the limited remaining greenhouse gases which cannot be eliminated are mitigated with carbon dioxide sequestration to bring total net emissions to zero. Washington state has adopted a net-zero emissions reduction target that corresponds to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 95% of 1990 levels by 2050 (RCW 70A.45.020).

**Open space:** any undeveloped land area that is accessible to the public, which can include both green spaces and non-vegetated areas such as plazas, fields, or vacant lots. Open space emphasizes accessibility and lack of development, regardless of

whether it contains vegetation. While all green spaces are open spaces, not all open spaces are green spaces.

**Overburdened community:** a geographic area where vulnerable populations face combined, multiple environmental harms and health impacts, and includes, but is not limited to highly impacted communities as defined in RCW 19.405.020.

**Per capita vehicle miles traveled:** the number of miles traveled using cars and light trucks in a calendar year divided by the number of residents in Washington. The calculation of this value excludes vehicle miles driven conveying freight.

**Sea level rise-** increase to the height of sea level, both globally and locally (relative sea level change) due to a change in ocean volume.

**Transportation system:** all infrastructure and services for all forms of transportation within a geographic area, irrespective of the responsible jurisdiction or transportation provider.

**Tree canopy:** as defined by RCW 76.15.010, the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above and that can be measured as a percentage of land area shaded by trees.

**Urban and community forest:** as defined by RCW 76.15.010, land in and around human settlements ranging from small communities to metropolitan areas, occupied or potentially occupied by trees and associated vegetation. Urban and community forestland may be planted or unplanted, used or unused, and includes public and private lands, lands along transportation and utility corridors, and forested watershed lands within populated areas.

**Vulnerability:** the degree to which physical, biological, and socioeconomic systems are susceptible to and unable to cope with adverse impacts of climate change.

**Vulnerable populations:** population groups that are more likely to be at higher risk for poor health outcomes in response to environmental harms, due to:

- (i) Adverse socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, limited access to nutritious food and adequate health care, linguistic isolation, and other factors that negatively affect health outcomes and increase vulnerability to the effects of environmental harms; and
- (ii) Sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.

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.

**Wildland urban interface:** the geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland vegetative fuels.

**Wildfire:** a wildland fire originating from an unplanned ignition, such as lightning, volcanos, unauthorized and accidental human-caused fires, and prescribes fires that are declared wildfires.

**Note:** draft glossary descriptions are subject to change. Washington Department of Commerce is undertaking a rulemaking process for WAC 365-196: Updating administrative climate rules under the Growth Management Act (GMA) and final climate planning guidance. Proposed rulemaking amendments address the following:

- Chapter 365-195 – to clarify that best available science is applicable to development of the climate element.
- Chapter 365-196 – to address requirements of the climate element within comprehensive plans.