Climate Element- Summary of Comments Matrix –

Note: Whatcom County staff have reviewed all comments submitted regarding the Advisory Committee draft of the Climate Element. The table below provides a high-level summary of the comments received and includes additional context and explanations to help inform the Planning Commission and Council as they evaluate comments at the August 6th work session. The comment summary may also assist residents and stakeholders who are interested in the written comments on the climate element. The Planning Commission and Whatcom County Council will determine whether to recommend changes to the Climate Element Planning Commission draft. Changes included within the Planning Commission recommendation will also be included in the draft forwarded to the Whatcom County Council. The Whatcom County Council will also conduct a review process, which includes additional opportunities for public input (both written and oral comments). This summary is provided for informational purposes only and does not represent final decisions or policy actions.

Planning Commission and Council Discussion Date: August 6th, 2025

Page #	Existing Goal or Policy Text- Advisory Committee Draft (Jan. 2025)	Comment # (comments listed below by commenter)	Proposed Revision	Description
12-1	The Climate Element is a required element of comprehensive plans under HB 1181.	**130**	The Climate Element is a required element of comprehensive plans under RCW 36.70A.020.	Revised to include RCW reference rather than bill #.
12-2	To ensure that goals and policies included in the Climate Element are internally consistent with other elements of the County's Comprehensive Plan, a policy audit was conducted to identify any similar or overlapping goals and policies from other elements of the County's adopted Comprehensive Plan.	**131**	Add comment: "Sections were proposed in chapters across the Comprehensive Plan, as appropriate based on the requirements of HB 1181, County planning documents, and resolution 2022-036. The climate element includes new policy language to address the intermediate guidance requirements and address local policy priorities. Internal consistency will continue to be assessed until adoption of the Comprehensive Plan."	Add in text comment
12-3	The 2022 Whatcom County Greenhouse Gas Inventory quantified emissions produced by activities across Whatcom County, including emissions from the built environment, transportation, solid waste and wastewater treatment, refrigerant use, and land use	**132**	The 2022 Whatcom County Greenhouse Gas Inventory quantified emissions produced by activities across Whatcom County, including emissions from the built environment, industrial processes, transportation, solid waste and wastewater treatment, refrigerant use, and land use.	Added industrial processes
12-3	Agricultural producers can reduce emissions associated with production and distribution through adoption of renewables and reductions in fuel use, including decreasing distances travelled for distribution. Land based strategies	**178**	Add and local processing	To reduce distances associated with transport of food through local processing

	to reduce emissions also include the implementation of practices that increase carbon stored in soil or vegetation. Other changes in production practices that result in reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide include improved manure management and reduced pesticide use.			
12-3	Policy 12.1.1 - Support and incentivize renewable energy projects, including agrivoltaic systems, that integrate renewable energy production with ongoing agricultural activities.	**133**	Policy 12.1.1 - Support incentives for renewable energy projects, including agrivoltaic systems, that integrate renewable energy production with ongoing agricultural activities.	Broader language for a variety of incentive types
12-4	Policy 12.1.2: Encourage agricultural producers to reduce fuel use and agricultural supplies, synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides derived from fossil fuels.	**2**	Policy 12.1.2 - Encourage agricultural producers to reduce the use of fuels, agricultural supplies, synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides derived from fossil fuels.	Minor change to syntax of sentence- consistent with CAP Agriculture strategy 4 and recommendation 4.3, Food Systems Plan 5.1.6 and Commerce Measure Z.04.
12-4	Policy 12.1.3- Build consumer demand for locally produced agricultural products by supporting retail, institutional, and community market opportunities for local producers and food businesses.	**179**	Policy 12.1.3- Increase accessibility of locally produced agricultural products by supporting retail, institutional, and community market opportunities for local producers and food businesses.	Incorporate feedback from Food Systems Committee member
12-5	Sector description: Retrofits to existing building space through better insulation, improved heating and cooling equipment, and increased building efficiency drive emissions reduction.	**4**	Retrofits to existing building space through better insulation, envelope and duct airsealing, improved heating and cooling equipment, and increased building efficiency drive emissions reduction.	Inclusion of other mechanism to improve building efficiency.
12-5	Goal 12.2- Decarbonize buildings by promoting the transition to renewable energy sources, implementing green building standards, and retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient.	**134**	Goal 12.2- Reduce emissions from building and energy use by promoting the transition to renewable energy sources, implementing green building standards, and retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient.	Change from use of word “decarbonize”
12-5	Policy 12.2.2 and 12.2.3- Policy 12.2.2- Expand resources and incentives for the retrofitting of existing buildings to improve	**5**	12.2.2- Expand access to state and federal resources, technical assistance, and incentives for the retrofitting of existing buildings to improve building operational efficiency.	Both policies relate to building retrofits, combined to streamline. Recommendation to specify building types or recommend heat pump technologies not included. Added clarification of “state and federal” to clarify

	building operational efficiency. Policy 12.2.3- Provide technical assistance to residential and commercial building owners to facilitate energy retrofits.		Remove 12.2.3	County role.
12-5	Policy 12.2.7- Encourage the design of highly energy-efficient new buildings that utilize on-site or off-site renewable energy, reduce refrigerant use, and include the use of low-carbon, recycled, or reused materials in building projects.	**7**	Policy 12.2.7- Encourage the design of highly energy-efficient new buildings that utilize on-site or off-site renewable energy, ~~reduce refrigerant use~~, and include the use of low-carbon, recycled, or reused materials in building projects.	CIAC rationale- "More heat pumps will increase the amount of refrigerant in the installed HVAC equipment, increasing leakage potential, so the policy may have an unintended conflict in the current form."
12-5	Policy 12.2.8- Update the Whatcom County code and development standards to incorporate best practices for minimizing renewable energy project permitting and siting conflicts.	**169, 178**	Policy 12.2.8- Update the Whatcom County code and development standards to incorporate best practices for minimizing renewable energy project permitting and siting, consistent with WA Healthy Environment for All Act guidance.	Incorporate environmental justice principles and WA HEAL Act
12-6	Policy 12.2.9- Encourage the use of locally or regionally derived building materials, such as wood and mass timber products that store embodied carbon.	**8**	Policy 12.2.9- Improve construction resource efficiency by encouraging ~~Encourage~~ the use of locally or regionally derived building materials that sequester and store embodied carbon.	Include outcome measure and add "sequester" carbon in addition to store carbon.
12-6	Replace "tribe" with "Tribe"	**9**	Change all tribe with Tribe	Washington State Office of Equity: Uses capitalized "Tribes" in reference to the collective of sovereign tribal nations. Consistently uses Tribal as an adjective: "Tribal governments," "Tribal consultation."
12-6	Siting of utility and infrastructure projects, such as energy, water, or transportation systems, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions can have a negative impact on cultural resources. As required by RCW 70A.65.305, Whatcom County consults with any affected federally recognized tribe on Climate Commitment Act funded programs or projects that may impact tribal resources**.**	**154**	Siting of utility and infrastructure projects, such as energy, water, or transportation systems, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions can have a negative impact on cultural resources. As required by RCW 70A.65.305, Whatcom County should consult with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Department of Fish and Wildlife and all interested federally recognized Tribes on Climate Commitment Act funded programs or projects that may impact Tribal resources. Tribal resources as recognized by RCW 70A.65.305 include "Tribal cultural resources, archaeological sites, sacred sites,	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist

			fisheries, or other rights and interests in tribal lands and lands within which a tribe or tribes possess rights reserved or protected by federal treaty, statute, or executive order."	
12-6	**Goal 12.3- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to cultural resources due to energy, transportation, and water infrastructure siting and operations.**	**155**	Goal 12.3- Protect, avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to cultural resources from Climate Commitment Act funded programs or projects through meaningful consultation, as defined by HB 1753 and RCW 70A.65.305, with the appropriate local, state and federal authorities, including affected Indian Tribes.	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist
12-6	Policy 12.3.1- During the review of large-scale renewable energy permitting applications, determine the potential impacts on affected cultural resources and initiate consultation, as appropriate.	**156**	Policy 12.3.1- At the earliest possible date prior to submittal of an application to receive funds from Climate Commitment Act accounts, Whatcom County will consult with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Department of Fish and Wildlife and all interested federally recognized Tribes in accordance with HB 1753.	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist
12-6	Policy 12.3.2- Evaluate the potential impacts of proposed low-carbon transportation projects, energy transmission, and water utility infrastructure expansion on cultural resources.	**157**	Policy 12.3.2- Consultation will be early, meaningful, and individual with any affected federally recognized Tribe, with the goal of identifying Tribal and cultural resources potentially affected by the funding decisions and funding programs, assess their effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on cultural resources.	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist
12-6	Policy 12.3.3- Whatcom County will consult with all affected federally recognized tribes regarding funds received from Climate Commitment Act accounts, in accordance with HB 1753.	**158**	Policy 12.3.3 - Whatcom County will accept any documents summarizing Tribal issues, questions, concerns, or other statements regarding the project. The summary document submitted by Tribes during consultation will become part of the official application on file and do not limit what issues affected Tribes raise in the consultation process**.**	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist
12-6	New policy	**159**	Policy 12.3.4- Whatcom County will adhere to all state and federal regulations that protect the location of certain cultural resources from disclosure. Any information that is exempt from disclosure pursuant to RCW 42.56.300 or federal law, including section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, shall not become part of the official application file.	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist

12-6	New policy	**160**	Policy 12.3.5- Consultation will be independent of, and in addition to, any public participation process required by federal or state law, or by a federal or state agency, including the requirements of Executive Order 21-02 related to archaeological and cultural resources.	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist
12-6	New policy	**161**	Policy 12.3.6- Whatcom County will work with the state and Tribes to identify and determine the potential impacts on affected cultural resources during the review of large-scale renewable energy permitting applications.	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist
12-6	New policy	**162**	Policy 12.3.7- Whatcom County will work with the state and Tribes to identify and evaluate the potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, of proposed low-carbon transportation projects, energy transmission, and water utility infrastructure expansion on cultural resources.	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist
12-6	New policy	**163**	Policy 12.3.8- Development on sites adjacent to or containing cultural resources should be planned and carried out as to be compatible with continued protection of that resource.	Recommended language from Whatcom County Archaeologist
12-7	Goal 12.4- Support the development of a local economic system that fosters business opportunities associated with climate action.	**10**	Goal 12.4- Support the development of a local economic system that fosters business operations and opportunities associated with climate action.	Goal should target not only businesses that can assist climate implementation, but also reduce emissions associated with business operations.
12-8	Goal 12.5- Protect, expand, and restore green space and tree canopy and adopt best management practices to promote aquatic and terrestrial carbon sequestration.	**11**	Goal 12.5- Protect, expand, retain and restore open space, green space and tree canopy ~~and tree canopy and adopt best management practices~~ to promote aquatic and terrestrial carbon sequestration.	Maintain greenspace consistent with HB 1181 requirement to retain open and greenspace.
12-9	Policy 12.5.3- Increase and protect the urban tree canopy, particularly in areas with low canopy cover that are vulnerable to urban heat island effects.	**12, 135**	Policy 12.5.3- Increase, retain, and protect the ~~urban~~ tree canopy in UGAs, prioritizing underserved areas with low canopy cover and areas that may otherwise be vulnerable to urban heat island effects.	Retain tree canopy in UGAs consistent with HB 1181 requirement for tree canopy.
12-9	Policy 12.5.4- Develop and implement tree re-establishment and forest management plans for County-owned property, including individual parcels, parks and forestland that address climate	**136**	Policy 12.5.4- Develop and implement forest management plans for County-owned property, including individual parcels, parks, greenspace and forestland that address climate stressors and guide adaptive management practices.	Added greenspace to account for broader set of land use types

	stressors and guide adaptive management practices.			
12-9	Policy 12.5.5- Discourage the conversion of forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other high-carbon storage areas for uses that are incompatible and carbon sequestration goals.	**172**	Policy 12.5.5- Discourage the conversion of forests, grasslands, and other high-carbon storage areas for uses that are incompatible with habitat preservation and carbon sequestration goals.	Add habitat preservation as co-benefit
12-9	New policy	**137**	Policy 12.5.6- Identify, protect, and restore riparian areas on public and private properties to protect water quality, salmon habitat, and to store carbon in riparian vegetation, wetlands, and soils.	Added additional carbon sequestration policy.
12-9	Move Goal and policies 12.6 to resilience subelement	**14**	Move both policies to resilience subelement	Reorganizing of subelement section to combine with Emergency Management section in resilience subelement.
12-9	Policy 12.7.4- Support programs that provide financial assistance or subsidies for low-income households to improve energy efficiency, reduce utility costs, and access renewable energy.	**15**	Policy 12.7.4- Support programs that provide financial assistance or subsidies for low-income households and landlords to improve energy efficiency, reduce utility costs, and access renewable energy.	Some financial assistance or subsidies on behalf of low-income households is provided directly to landlords.
12-9	New policy	**173**	Policy 12.7.6- Improve recreational access to public lands to promote equitable access to open space, greenspace, and parks and improved public health outcomes.	Added for co-benefits for open and greenspace
12-11	Sector description: To lower transportation emissions, Whatcom County is evaluating land use planning practices that promote taking fewer trips and assessing regional investments in public transit and active transportation	**17**	To lower transportation emissions, Whatcom County is evaluating land use planning practices that promote taking fewer trips and assessing regional investments in public transit and multimodal ~~active~~ transportation. Improving transportation options and multimodal connectivity for all residents reduces emissions and advances equity.	Active transportation refers to only pedestrian mobility where multimodal is a broader term, including walking, biking, public transit, driving, ferries, and connecting with rail and aviation.
12-11	Goal 12.8- Support decarbonization of the transportation system by adopting new technologies, expanding infrastructure, improving	**18**	Goal 12.8- Support reductions in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and in greenhouse gas emissions per VMT by adopting new transportation planning approaches and technologies, expanding infrastructure, improving connectivity, and	Streamlined sentence and clarified focus on VMT and carbon reduced per VMT as focus for transportation goal.

	connectivity, and increasing access to low-carbon transportation options.		increasing access to low-carbon transportation options.	
12-11	Policy 12.8.1- Support efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), including compliance with the Commute Trip Reduction Act and other initiatives to increase carpooling, ridesharing, telecommuting, bicycling, and transit use.	**19, 173**	Policy 12.8.1- Support efforts to reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single occupant vehicle trips, including compliance with the Commute Trip Reduction Act and other initiatives to increase carpooling, ridesharing, telecommuting, bicycling, rail, and transit use.	Included reductions in single occupant vehicle trips and rail as means to reduce transportation emissions.
12-11	Policy 12.8.6- Invest in the development and installation of a countywide electric vehicle charging infrastructure network, prioritizing underserved and disadvantaged communities to ensure equitable access.	**21**	Policy 12.8.6- Invest in the development and installation of a countywide electric vehicle charging ~~infrastructure~~ network, prioritizing underserved and disadvantaged communities to ensure equitable access.	Minor terminology change.
12-12	Policy 12.8.7- Collaborate with regional partners to facilitate the expansion of EV infrastructure across Whatcom County.	**22**	Policy 12.8.7- Collaborate with regional partners to facilitate the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure across Whatcom County.	Minor change to reduce abbreviations.
12-12	Policy 12.8.8- Implement the Regional Trails Plan and further expand an interconnected, regional multimodal network of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities that enables more trips via walking, biking, and transit.	**23**	Policy 12.8.8- Implement the countywide active transportation network ~~the Regional Trails Plan and further expand an interconnected, regional multimodal network~~ of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities that enables more trips via walking, biking, and transit.	Standardized terminology to align with transportation chapter.
12-12	Policy 12.8.10- Collaborate with Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) to ensure the operation of a reliable and efficient transit network that reduces emissions by promoting transit use over internal combustion engine vehicles.	**24**	Policy 12.8.10- Collaborate with Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) to ensure the operation and promote the use of a reliable, ~~and~~ efficient, and equitable transit network that reduces emissions by promoting transit use over internal combustion engine vehicles.	Added mention of equity
12-12	Policy 12.8.12- Support regional and industrial efforts to reduce emissions in the aviation sector through investments in sustainable	**25**	Policy 12.8.12- Support regional and industrial efforts to reduce emissions in the aviation sector through advancements in sustainable aviation fuel	Removed mention of investments in fuel

	aviation fuel and advancements in fuel efficiency and aircraft technologies.		and aircraft technologies.	
12-13	Policy 12.8.13- Support Port of Bellingham's initiatives to electrify shipping terminals and promote the transition to cleaner marine engines and equipment.	**26**	Policy 12.8.11- Support the Port of Bellingham's initiatives to electrify shipping terminals and promote the transition to cleaner marine engines and equipment.	Minor grammar change.
12-13	Policy 12.8.14- Review bidding and procurement policies to prioritize lower-carbon alternatives to portland cement in County funded transportation projects.	**28**	Policy 12.8.13- Review bidding and procurement policies to prioritize lower-carbon alternative materials and processes ~~to portland cement~~ in County-funded transportation projects.	Materials and processes less prescriptive to material type.
12-13	Sector description: Waste diversion strategies can reduce the amount of waste transferred to landfills outside Whatcom County.	**29**	Waste diversion strategies can reduce the amount of waste generated in Whatcom County that is currently being transferred to landfills outside Whatcom County.	Grammar clarification
12-13	Updating existing wastewater treatment infrastructure and replacing septic tanks and water systems further reduces methane emissions.	**143**	Updating existing wastewater treatment infrastructure and maintaining septic tanks further reduces methane emissions.	Clarified relationship between septic tanks and methane production.
12-14	N/A	**30**	Update waste goal- Reduce emissions associated with sewage disposal and wastewater treatment.	Supportive of water quality and climate goals ex: OSS program
12-14	Policy 12.9.4- Support the expansion of organic material collection services to increase the diversion of waste from landfills.	**191**	Policy 12.9.4- Support the expansion of organic material collection services to increase the diversion of waste from landfills, as required by RCW 70A.205.545 and consistent with RCW 70A.205.715.	
12-14	Policy 12.9.7- Expand the septic tank replacement rebate programs to incentivize the installation and maintenance of systems.	**192**	Policy 12.9.7- Expand the septic tank replacement rebate programs and septic inspections to incentivize the installation and maintenance of systems.	
12-14	New policy	**193**	Policy 12.11.6- Compliant with RCW 70A.205.040, Whatcom County will amend zoning code to allow for the siting of organic materials management facilities in the areas identified in RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(i), to the extent necessary to	

			provide for the establishment of the organic materials management volumetric capacity identified under RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(ii).	
12-14	Policy 12.9.4- Support the expansion of organic material collection services to increase the diversion of waste from landfills.	**172**	Policy 12.9.4- Support the expansion of organic material collection services to increase the diversion of waste from landfills, as required by RCW 70A.205.545 and consistent with RCW 70A.205.715.	Add RCW reference for organics management.
12-14	Policy 12.9.6- Support the adoption of cogeneration engines and other technology that reduces methane emissions in public wastewater treatment systems.	**31**	Policy 12.9.6- Support the adoption of technologies ~~cogeneration engines and other technology~~ that reduce~~s~~ methane emissions in public wastewater treatment systems.	Less prescriptive of technology
12-15	Policy 12.11.1- Advocate for updates to the Washington State Building Code to increase the energy efficiency of homes and buildings consistent with SB 5854.	**32**	Policy 12.11.1- Advocate for updates to the Washington State Building Code to increase the energy efficiency of homes and buildings consistent with 2009 SB 5854 "Energy First Bill".	Clarification of bill reference, moved to Buildings and Energy
12-15	Policy 12.11.4- Discourage forest conversion for non-forestry uses by providing clear incentives for climate-adaptive forest management and maintenance of the forest land base.	**147**	Policy 12.11.4- Review Whatcom County code for opportunities discourage conversion of forestland for non-forestry uses.	Supportive of greenhouse gas reduction by preserving forestland for climate-adaptive forest management.
12-15	Policy 12.11.5- Strongly discourage development that would degrade wetlands to support carbon sequestration goals.	1, 193	Policy 12.11.5- Consistent with the Critical Areas Ordinance, strongly discourage development that would degrade wetlands to support carbon sequestration goals.	Additional review of dev. Regulations/ CAO for consistency with guidance.
12-15	Policy 12.11.6- Evaluate mitigation monitoring to determine the effectiveness of critical areas protections and riparian management initiatives.	194	Policy 12.11.6- Evaluate mitigation monitoring to determine the effectiveness of critical areas protections and riparian management initiatives.	New policy to determine relationship between climate impacts and impact on CAO effectiveness.

RESILIENCE SUBELEMENT

12-17	The resilience sub-element includes prioritized measures that reduce the severity of the projected climate impacts from sea level rise, landslides, flooding,	**33**	The resilience sub-element includes prioritized measures that reduce the severity of the projected climate impacts from changing temperature and precipitation patterns, sea level rise, flooding, erosion, sedimentation, landslides,	Change other effects of climate change to climate impacts.

	drought, heat, smoke, wildfire and changing temperature and precipitation patterns.		~~flooding~~, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire, and ocean acidification. ~~and changing temperature and precipitation patterns~~.	
12-17	Warmer air temperatures, more extreme heat days, and drought can result in reduced water availability and increase crop and livestock stress, negatively impacting yield. As the suitable seasonal windows for planting and cultivation shift, agricultural producers may need to establish new crop rotations and adopt new practices. More extreme precipitation and shifts in snowpack and stream flows will change the seasonal availability of water for irrigation and affect agricultural operations.	**35**	Higher air temperatures, more days with extreme heat, flooding, and drought are expected to disrupt water availability and intensify stress on crops and livestock, undermining sustainability and reducing yields. More extreme precipitation and shifts in snowpack and stream flows will alter seasonal water availability for irrigation and drive changes to agricultural practices. As suitable seasonal windows for planting and cultivation shift, producers may need to adopt climate-adaptive agricultural practices, including regenerative agriculture, modified crop and livestock selection, soil carbon enhancement, and water conservation.	Revised for clarity and accuracy
12-19	Policy 12.12.2- Promote the adoption of climate-friendly agricultural practices, such as regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, tree intercropping, and aquaculture to increase carbon sequestration and improve soil health.	**38**	Policy 12.12.2- Promote the adoption of climate-friendly agricultural practices that increase carbon sequestration and improve soil health through innovative methods, including regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, and silvopasture.	First section of sentence is implementation focused. Retain mention of silvopasture.
12-19	New policy	**148, 183**	New policy- Promote seaweed and shellfish aquaculture to increase food security, improve kelp carbon sequestration and reduce localized ocean acidification.	Marine Resources Committee comment
12-19	Policy 12.12.5- Develop and implement strategies to conserve water resources for agricultural use, including incentives for water-efficient irrigation systems and practices.	**41**	Policy 12.12.5- Develop and implement strategies to conserve water resources for agricultural use, including incentives for water-efficient irrigation systems and practices that enhance water catchment and retention.	Specifies mechanism for water efficiency.
12-19	Policy 12.12.6-.Prepare for potential saltwater intrusion into	**42**	Policy 12.12.6- Develop a monitoring and response strategy for saltwater intrusion into	Changed focus of policy to reflect CIAC recommended language.

	aquifers and drainage systems by adopting measures such as monitoring salinity levels, improving drainage infrastructure, and evaluating alternative water sources		aquifers and drainage systems.	
12-20	Policy 12.12.7-. Explore opportunities to expand water storage capacity and improve streamflow management for agricultural purposes, particularly in areas vulnerable to seasonal water shortages	**44**	Policy 12.12.7- Continue supporting local, regional, and state partners to implement real-time drought monitoring systems and forecasting capabilities that support emergency water access plans for water users.	Focus on drought monitoring systems and response.
12-21	N/A	**47**	Policy 12.12.10- Evaluate loss of agricultural land due to climate change and institute zoning changes to avoid conversion of agricultural land to other uses.	Removed specifics of implementation
12-21	Warmer air temperatures due to climate change may lower energy demand for heating buildings. Increased temperatures also have the potential to increase cooling demand in the summer, particularly in areas where tree cover is lower and there are more heat islands. Climate hazards, like sea level rise and flooding, may also cause displacement, in addition to damaging or destroying of existing structures. Increased prevalence of wildfire is also expected to increase displacement, increase exposure of vulnerable populations to heat and smoke, reduce insurability, and increase building retrofit costs that improve weatherization and cooling.	**48**	More extreme climate conditions and weather events will likely increase energy demand for heating and cooling buildings, particularly those that are not adequately weatherized. While warmer air temperatures due to climate change may lower energy demand for heating buildings, increased demand during extreme cold weather events could offset any demand decrease during cold-weather months. Hotter and longer summers punctuated by extreme heat waves will increase cooling demand in the warm-weather months, particularly in areas with inadequate tree cover and development patterns that create heat islands. Climate hazards, such as sea level rise, erosion, and flooding, may also cause displacement, and damage or destroying existing structures. The increased prevalence and intensity of wildfires are also expected to heighten displacement risk, and increase exposure of all populations, especially the most vulnerable, to heat and smoke. These disruptive forces will reduce insurability and raise retrofit costs for buildings that require improved	Improved clarity

			weatherization, indoor air quality safety, heating, and cooling.	
12-21	Goal 12.13- Design and update building and energy infrastructure for increased reliability and recovery during extreme weather events and other hazards worsened by climate change.	**49**	Goal 12.13- Design and update building and energy infrastructure for increased survivability, reliability, recovery, and efficiency during extreme weather events, floods, wildfires, and other hazards exacerbated by climate change.	Included additional hazards.
12-22	Policy 12.13.1- Encourage utility providers to upgrade and improve energy infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate-related hazards.	**50, 172**	Policy 12.13.1- Encourage utility providers to upgrade and improve energy infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate-related hazards and to safeguard public health and improve service capacity for remote, underpowered communities.	Remove mention to electrical and gas pipelines
12-22	Policy 12.13.2- Promote participation in utility energy efficiency and demand response programs to reduce energy consumption during peak periods, especially during extreme weather events.	**51**	Policy 12.13.2- Promote participation in utility energy efficiency and demand response programs to reduce energy consumption during peak periods, especially during extreme weather events, and to extend available system capacity during emergency conditions.	Improves resilience response to emergencies
12-22	Policy 12.13.3- Promote building design for passive survivability to ensure safe indoor conditions in the event of an extended energy outage.	**52**	Policy 12.13.3- Develop ~~Promote~~ building design standards that reflect climate forecasts for the region and provide for passive survivability to ensure safe indoor conditions in the event of an extended energy outage.	Removed requirement for passive survivability
12-22	Policy 12.13.4- Promote the development of distributed generation systems, such as solar panels and microgrids, particularly in critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, emergency shelters) to ensure energy availability during power outages.	**53**	Policy 12.13.4- Require the installation of ~~Promote the development of~~ distributed generation systems, such as solar ~~panels~~ with energy storage and microgrids ~~particularly~~ in critical facilities (e.g., emergency management centers, essential public infrastructure, and County facilities) to ensure energy availability during power outages for County owned critical facilities.	Amend to county owned critical infrastructure
12-23	Policy 12.13.5- Implement development regulations that discourage buildings and	**54**	Policy 12.13.5- Update flood code to reflect climate exacerbated flooding and evaluate development regulations that ~~discourage~~ restrict	Change placement to location, supports HB 1181 hazard reduction goals

	infrastructure in flood-prone areas, and if they are allowed, ensure buildings are adapted to withstand flooding, through strategies like elevation, floodproofing, and improved drainage systems.		and regulate the design and location of buildings and infrastructure in flood-prone areas, and to the extent they are allowed, ensure buildings are adapted to withstand flooding through standards related to ~~strategies like~~ elevation, floodproofing, improved drainage systems, and the protection of life and property.	
12-23	Policy 12.13.6- Support relocation or retrofitting of critical infrastructure and at-risk buildings in areas subject to frequent flooding to reduce long-term risks and recovery costs.	**55**	Policy 12.13.6- Prioritize ~~Support~~ relocation or retrofitting of critical infrastructure and at-risk buildings in areas subject to frequent flooding to reduce long-term risks and recovery costs, and adopt land use regulations that restrict further development in areas forecasted to experience additional flood impacts due to climate change.	Change terminology from critical areas to climate impact areas.
12-23	Policy 12.13.7- Implement development regulations to mitigate wildfire risks and partner with agencies to create defensible spaces around structures in wildfire-prone areas.	**55**	Policy 12.13.7- Implement development regulations to mitigate wildfire risks and partner with agencies to create defensible spaces around structures in the wildfire-prone wildland-urban interface and to safeguard densely populated areas.	Added mention of WUI
12-23	Policy 12.13.8- Support relocation or retrofitting of essential infrastructure and vulnerable buildings in high-risk wildfire zones to enhance safety and recovery capabilities.	**56**	Policy 12.13.8- Prioritize ~~Support~~ relocation or retrofitting of essential infrastructure, including undergrounding electrical lines and gas pipelines, in high-risk wildfire zones to enhance safety and recovery capabilities.	Specify risk associated with utility infrastructure to wildfires
12-23	Policy 12.13.9- Maintain land-use policies that reduce exposure to landslide risks by restricting development in high-risk areas.	**57, 150**	Policy 12.13.9- Maintain land-use policies and update the Critical Areas Ordinance that reduce exposure to landslide risks by completing additional geotechnical assessments in highest-risk areas.	Clarity intent is to prohibit and reflecting that additional assessment is needed to inform additional development restrictions.
12-24	Policy 12.13.10- Promote relocation or reinforcement of infrastructure and homes in areas vulnerable to landslides to mitigate the impact of this hazard.	**58**	Policy 12.13.10- Promote relocation or reinforcement of infrastructure and homes in areas vulnerable to landslides to mitigate the threat to public health and safety posed by ~~impact of~~ this hazard.	Policy provides additional clarification

12-25	Policy 12.13.11- Prepare for rising sea levels rise by developing and implementing land use regulations that restrict development and encourage relocation of essential infrastructure and residential structures in vulnerable coastal areas at risk of inundation and repeated flooding.	**59**	Policy 12.13.11- Prepare for sea level rise by developing and implementing land use regulations that restrict development and encourage relocation of essential infrastructure and residential structures in vulnerable coastal areas at risk of inundation and repeated flooding.	Use phrase “sea level rise”
12-24	Policy 12.13.12- Support adaptation measures such as habitat restoration, shoreline protection devices, and elevation of structures and infrastructure to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels.	**60, 175**	Policy 12.13.12- Support adaptation measures such as habitat restoration, soft shoreline stabilization techniques, and elevating ~~elevation of~~ structures and infrastructure, and managed retreat to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels.	Use term for elevation
12-24	Policy 12.13.13- Partner with organizations to ensure the availability of adequate emergency sheltering facilities for vulnerable populations during extreme cold events.	**61**	Policy 12.13.13- Partner with organizations to ensure the availability of adequate short-term emergency sheltering and temporary relief facilities for vulnerable populations during extreme weather events ~~events~~.	Clarify short term sheltering and change to extreme weather events.
12-24	Policy 12.13.15- Retrofit public buildings and other critical facilities to incorporate air filtration systems and cooling technologies to protect vulnerable populations from heat stress and smoke-related health impacts.	**63**	Policy 12.13.15- Retrofit public buildings and other critical facilities to incorporate efficient air filtration systems and cooling technologies to protect vulnerable populations from heat stress and smoke-related health impacts.	Minor change
12-25	Cultural resources are at increased risk to climate change due to warmer air temperatures, more extreme heat days, drought, and flooding. Climate change can result in increased stress to and loss of habitat for culturally significant species, increase storms and flooding, shift habitat distribution, damage historic and cultural sites, and limit access to gathering sites in coastal areas.	**64**	Cultural resources are at increased risk to climate change due to warmer air temperatures, more extreme heat days, drought, wildfires, and flooding. Climate change can result in increased stress ~~to~~ and loss of habitat for culturally significant species, increased storms and flooding, shifting habitat distribution, damage to historic and cultural sites, and limited access to gathering sites in coastal areas.	Minor changes

12-25	New policy	**164**	Policy 12.14.1- Consult with Tribes to identify cultural resources and practices, including historic sites and culturally important traditional foods and natural resources that are threatened by climate change.	Recommended change from Whatcom County archaeologist
12-25	Policy 12.14.3- Evaluate the vulnerability and sensitivity of culturally significant roads, trails, and landscape features to damage or alteration from climate change.	**165**	Policy 12.14.3- Through consultation with Tribes, evaluate the vulnerability and sensitivity of culturally significant roads, trails, and landscape features to damage or alteration from climate change.	Recommended change from Whatcom County archaeologist
12-25	Policy 12.14.4- Protect and restore culturally significant species and habitats that are threatened by climate change.	**166**	Policy 12.14.4- Through consultation with Tribes, protect and restore culturally significant species and habitats that are threatened by climate change.	Recommended change from Whatcom County archaeologist
12-25	Policy 12.14.5- Strengthen partnerships with the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe to advance the adaptation and preservation of cultural resources at risk due to climate change, as identified in tribal cultural resource codes.	**167**	Policy 12.14.5- Strengthen partnerships with federally recognized Tribes to advance the adaptation and preservation of cultural resources at risk due to climate change, as identified in tribal cultural resource codes.	Recommended change from Whatcom County archaeologist
12-25	Due to climate change, the regional economy risks accelerated job loss, decreased productivity in key sectors such as the maritime, tourism, agriculture, and forestry sectors, and reduced recreation and tourism. Whatcom County is expected to experience increasing costs related to relocation and damage to property and infrastructure due to coastal and riverine flooding, in addition to losses due to extreme heat, drought, wildfire, and ocean acidification. There is expected to be increasing price volatility for business inputs, loss of operations continuity, shipping disruptions, and a possibility of increased insurance premiums.	**66**	Due to climate change, the regional economy risks employment disruption and ~~accelerated job loss~~ decreased productivity in key sectors such as the maritime, tourism, agriculture, and forestry sectors, and reduced recreation opportunities ~~and tourism~~. Whatcom County is expected to experience increasing costs related to relocation and damage to property and infrastructure due to coastal and riverine flooding, in addition to losses due to extreme heat, drought, wildfire, and ocean acidification. There is expected to be increasing price volatility for business inputs, loss of operational continuity, shipping disruptions, and ~~a possibility of~~ increased insurance premiums or unavailability of insurance in some areas	Minor changes for clarity.

12-26	Goal 12.15- Foster and enhance the resilience of key economic sectors against the risks of extreme heat, drought, wildfires, flooding, coastal inundation, and ocean acidification.	**67**	Goal 12.15- Foster and enhance the resilience of key economic sectors against the risks of extreme heat, c**hanges in temperature and precipitation,**, drought, wildfires, riverine and coastal flooding ~~inundation~~, and ocean acidification	Added additional hazards
12-26	Policy 12.15.2- Encourage the Port of Bellingham to adapt port-owned facilities and infrastructure to coastal flooding and sea level rise impacts.	**69**	Policy 12.15.2- Partner with ~~Encourage~~ the Port of Bellingham to adapt port-owned facilities and infrastructure to coastal flooding, ~~and~~ sea level rise, and other climate impacts.	Revise to with the Port.
12-27	Policy 12.15.6- Encourage energy infrastructure modernization, such as underground transmission lines, to improve safety and reduce vulnerability to climate-related disruptions.	**72**	Policy 12.15.6- Encourage energy infrastructure modernization, including underground transmission lines, microgrids, and smart grid technologies, to improve safety and reduce vulnerability to wildfire and other climate impacts.	Adds additional technology examples
12-27	Risks to ecosystems from climate change include increased temperatures, extreme precipitation, drought, and ocean acidification. These climate impacts are expected to increase insect outbreak, result in loss of near-shore habitat and coastal wetlands to sea-level rise and erosion, and change species diversity and distribution. Based on climate projections, there is expected to be species loss, increased competition from invasive species, and a decline in ecosystem health. Increased ocean acidification and temperature and increased stress on species in lakes and rivers is expected to result in a loss of ecological function and	**73**	Climate change brings great risks to ecosystems. Rising temperatures, extremes of flood and drought, increased wildfires, sea level rise, and ocean acidification are projected to bring landscape change, habitat loss, reduced species diversity, disrupt species distribution and cause an overall decline in ecosystem health.	Minor grammatical change

	biodiversity.			
12-27	Goal 12.16- Protect and restore priority critical areas and natural habitats in areas that experience floods, sea level rise, landslides, wildfires, drought, or other events exacerbated by climate change.	**74**	Goal 12.16- Protect and restore priority critical areas and natural habitats ~~in areas~~ that are at high risk for ~~experience~~ flooding, sea level rise, landslides, wildfires, drought, or other events exacerbated by climate change.	Minor grammatical change
12-28	Policy 12.16.1- Protect and restore coastal ecosystems, including estuaries and marine habitats vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal flooding.	**75**	Policy 12.16.1- Protect and restore coastal ecosystems, including estuaries and marine habitats that are vulnerable to sea level rise, ~~and~~ coastal flooding, and erosion.	Minor grammatical change
12-28	Policy 12.16.2- Promote reforestation initiatives that increase forest cover and build resilience to wildfires, drought, and pest outbreaks.	**76**	Policy 12.16.2- Promote climate-resilient forest management practices that increase canopy cover where appropriate, improve forest health, and mitigate wildfire risks.	Change in focus from reforestation to forest management which has higher carbon reduction potential.
12-28	Policy 12.16.3- Encourage climate-resilient forest management practices, such as selective thinning and controlled burns, to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risks.	**77**	Policy 12.16.3- Encourage climate-resilient forest management practices, such as selective thinning and controlled burns to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risks.	Minor revisions
12-29	Policy 12.16.4- Protect and restore riparian buffers to improve water retention and reduce flood risk.	**78**	Policy 12.16.4- Protect and restore watersheds, riparian buffers, and wetlands to increase carbon sequestration, improve water retention and reduce flood risk.	Revision for carbon sequestration
12-29	Policy 12.16.5- Enhance partnerships with state agencies, tribal nations, and conservation organizations to implement watershed-scale restoration initiatives to increase resilience to climate impacts.	**79**	Policy 12.16.5- Strengthen ~~Enhance~~ partnerships with state agencies, Tribal nations, and conservation organizations to implement watershed-scale restoration initiatives to increase resilience to climate impacts.	Minor revision
12-29	Policy 12.16.7- Coordinate ecosystem planning efforts across jurisdictional boundaries to address climate impacts on priority habitats.	**80**	Policy 12.16.7- Coordinate countywide ecosystem planning efforts ~~across jurisdictional boundaries~~ to address climate impacts on priority habitats.	Jurisdictional boundaries unclear

12-29	Policy 12.16.8- Promote ecosystem restoration projects that prioritize the recovery of habitats critical endangered, threatened, and priority species and support climate adaptation goals.	**81**	Policy 12.16.8- Promote ecosystem restoration projects that prioritize the recovery of habitats for critically endangered, threatened, and priority species. ~~and support climate adaptation goals~~.	Minor revision
12-29	Climate hazards such as drought, temperature fluctuations, and flooding are expected to increase costs and demands for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery services, could strain local emergency response capacity. These climate risks include increased demand for shelter, additional pressure on energy grids, and disruption to emergency management facilities, medical services, and critical supplies due to unsafe travel conditions.	**82**	Climate hazards such as drought, extreme temperature fluctuations, wildfire, and flooding are expected to increase costs and demands for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery services and could strain or overwhelm local emergency response capacity. These climate risks include increased demand for shelter, additional pressure on energy grids, and disruption to emergency management facilities, medical services, and critical supplies due to impossible or unsafe travel conditions and the potential magnitude of emergency events.	Minor revisions
12-29	Policy 12.17.1- Incorporate climate risk assessments into hazard mitigation plans, including hazards such as extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, and coastal inundation.	**83**	Policy 12.17.1- Incorporate climate risk assessments into hazard mitigation plans, including hazards such as extreme heat, drought, wildfires and wildfire smoke, riverine flooding, and coastal flooding ~~coastal inundation~~.	Include additional climate impacts
12-30	Policy 12.17.2- Update emergency management plans to improve Whatcom County's capacity to respond to and recover from climate hazards, ensuring that plans are regularly reviewed and updated to include new climate projections.	**84**	Policy 12.17.2- Update emergency management plans to improve Whatcom County's capacity to respond to and recover from climate impacts and natural-related hazards, ensuring that plans are regularly reviewed to address the latest ~~updated to include new~~ climate change projections and emerging hazards, such as wildfire threats to densely populated areas.	Revised for clarity
12-30	Policy 12.17.4- Ensure that vulnerable communities are prioritized in emergency management planning, including residents in floodplains, coastal	**86**	Policy 12.17.4- Prioritize overburdened communities in emergency management planning ~~vulnerable~~ ~~are prioritized in emergency management planning~~, including residents in floodplains, coastal zones, wildfire-prone areas,	Addition of island communities

	zones, wildfire-prone areas, and other areas at high risk of climate hazards.		islands, and other areas at high risk of climate hazards.	
12-30	Policy 12.17.6- Ensure that evacuation routes are regularly assessed, maintained, and accessible to all residents, including those with limited access to transportation.	**87**	Policy 12.17.6- Ensure that evacuation routes are regularly assessed, maintained, publicized, and accessible to all residents, including those with limited access to transportation.	Benefits to vulnerable populations
12-30	Policy 12.17.7- Increase community awareness and preparedness for climate-related emergencies by conducting regular evacuation drills and providing accessible public information.	**88**	Policy 12.17.7- Increase community awareness and preparedness for climate-related emergencies by conducting regular tests of evacuation and other emergency alerts ~~evacuation drills~~ and providing accessible public information.	Changed from evacuation drills
12-30	Policy 12.17.9- Collaborate with local organizations and community groups to expand access to extreme weather shelters for vulnerable populations, including low-income, medically fragile, elderly, and homeless individuals.	**89**	Policy 12.17.9- Collaborate with local organizations and community groups to expand the capacity of and facilitate access to extreme weather shelters for vulnerable populations, including low-income, medically fragile, elderly, and homeless individuals.	Focus on capacity and facilitation of access
12-31	Policy 12.17.11- Prioritize the relocation or retrofitting of existing critical infrastructure that is highly vulnerable to climate hazards, ensuring continued functionality during extreme events.	**90**	Policy 12.17.11- When ~~Prioritize the~~ relocating on or retrofitting ~~of~~ existing critical infrastructure, give priority to those installations that are ~~is~~ highly vulnerable to climate hazards, ensuring continued functionality during extreme events.	Focus on high risk infrastructure
12-31	Climate change is adversely impacting public health by increasing cases of infectious and vector-borne diseases and reducing food security and water quality. Floods, droughts, wildfires, extreme temperatures, and storms may also contribute to increased chronic disease and hospitalization. Overburdened communities, particularly those	**91**	Climate change is adversely impacting public health by increasing cases of infectious and vector-borne diseases and reducing food security and water quality. Floods, droughts, wildfires and wildfire smoke, extreme temperatures, and storms are expected to ~~may also~~ contribute to increased acute health emergencies, chronic disease, and hospitalization. Overburdened communities, particularly those with preexisting health conditions, socioeconomic vulnerabilities, residence in a climate impact zone, or	Minor changes

	with preexisting health conditions, socioeconomic vulnerabilities, residence in a climate impact zone, or occupational risk are more likely to experience health impacts due to climate change.		occupational risk are more likely to experience health impacts due to climate change.	
12-31	Policy 12.18.1- Integrate climate-related health risks into public health planning to address the needs of frontline and disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected by climate hazards.	**92**	Policy 12.18.1- Integrate climate-related health risks into public health planning, giving priority to address the needs of overburdened communities disproportionately affected by climate hazards.	Minor changes
12-32	Policy 12.18.2- Develop community-based health programs that focus on preventing and mitigating the adverse health impacts of climate change, such as heat stress, respiratory illnesses, and waterborne diseases.	**93**	Policy 12.18.2- Develop community-based health programs that focus on preventing and mitigating the adverse health impacts of climate change, such as heat stress, wildfire smoke exposure, respiratory illnesses, and waterborne, invasive-species borne, and other novel infectious diseases.	Additional health impacts noted
12-32	Policy 12.18.4- Prioritize investments in health infrastructure and services in communities most affected by climate-related health impacts, including low-income neighborhoods, rural areas, and other frontline communities.	**94**	Policy 12.18.4- Prioritize investments in health infrastructure and services in communities most affected by climate-related health impacts, including low-income neighborhoods, rural areas, and other overburdened ~~frontline~~ communities.	Standardization of language and prioritization of overburdened communities
12-32	Policy 12.18.6- Establish contingency plans with community partners for maintaining critical health services, including mobile health units and telemedicine, during extreme weather events and infrastructure failures.	**95**	Policy 12.18.6- Establish contingency plans and train to execute them with community partners for maintaining critical health services, including mobile health units and telemedicine, during extreme weather events and infrastructure failures.	Add focus on training
12-32	New policy	**180**	12.18.8 Improve public health outreach to increase compliance with Washington Outdoor Heat Exposure Rules to reduce exposure and prevent heat-related illness for outdoor workers, including agricultural workers.	Added to address vulnerable population to heat related illness

12-33	Policy 12.18.7- Collaborate with emergency management responders to develop strategies for rapidly restoring essential services in the wake of climate-related disasters, particularly in disadvantaged communities.	**96**	Policy 12.18.7- Ensure that ~~Collaborate with~~ emergency management responders are trained and equipped to ~~develop strategies for~~ rapidly restore ~~restoring~~ essential services in the wake of climate impacts and natural disasters, particularly in overburdened ~~disadvantaged~~ communities.	Change terminology from “climate-related disaster” to climate impacts and natural hazards
12-33	Transportation infrastructure is expected to be adversely impacted by climate change, including increased road surface damage from higher temperatures, additional maintenance requirements for roadside and strip vegetation and infrastructure damage from rain, freeze, and thaw cycles. Increasing temperatures and flooding may lead to road closures, ferry and transit delays, and risks to routes, roads, bridges, sidewalks, trails, and rail infrastructure.	**97**	Climate change is expected to ~~Transportation infrastructure is expected to be~~ adversely impact transportation infrastructure ~~impacted by climate change~~, including increased road surface damage from higher temperatures, additional maintenance requirements for roadside ~~and strip~~ vegetation and infrastructure damage from rain, freeze, and thaw cycles. Increasing temperatures and flooding may cause ~~lead to~~ road closures, delays in ferry, ~~and~~ transit, and air travel ~~delays~~, ~~and~~ as well as risks to routes, roads, bridges, sidewalks, trails, ~~and~~ rail, and airport infrastructure.	Change to reflect additional impacts
12-33	Policy 12.19.1- Integrate climate risk assessments in transportation planning efforts to ensure that transportation networks remain functional in the face of flooding, wildfire, sea-level rise, and other climate impacts.	**99**	Policy 12.19.1- Conduct ~~Integrate~~ climate risk assessments during ~~in~~ transportation planning processes to ensure that transportation networks remain operational amid flooding, wildfire, sea-level rise, extreme heat, and landslides, using available data to prioritize upgrades for vulnerable routes~~ and other climate impacts~~.	Added additional climate impacts
12-33	Policy 12.19.2- Collaborate with regional, state, and local partners to develop comprehensive transportation plans that incorporate climate adaptation strategies, focusing on vulnerable populations and critical access routes.	**100**	Policy 12.19.2- Collaborate with regional, state, and local partners to develop and implement comprehensive transportation plans that incorporate climate adaptation strategies and prioritize the protection of ~~focusing on~~ vulnerable populations, ~~and~~ critical access and evacuation routes.	Rephrased
12-33	Policy 12.19.3- Prioritize climate-resilient transportation options, such as public transit, cycling, and	**101**	Policy 12.19.3- Improve access to ~~Prioritize~~ climate-resilient transportation options, such as public transit, cycling, and pedestrian	Clarify policy intent

	pedestrian infrastructure to increase system flexibility during disruptions.		infrastructure to increase system flexibility during disruptions for rural and overburdened communities.	
12- 34	Policy 12.19.4- Invest in resilient transportation infrastructure, such as green infrastructure, stormwater management systems, and natural buffers to mitigate the risks of climate-related hazards like flooding and landslides.	**102**	Policy 12.19.4- Invest in resilient transportation infrastructure that prioritizes greenspaces, stormwater management, natural buffers, and wetland restoration to mitigate climate-related risks of flooding, landslides, and coastal erosion.	Add coastal erosion
12-34	Policy 12.19.5- Identify and reinforce critical transportation corridors that serve as lifelines for emergency response and recovery, ensuring that these routes remain operational during disasters.	**103**	Policy 12.19.5- Identify, map, and regularly review the viability of ~~and reinforce~~ critical transportation corridors that serve as lifelines for emergency response and recovery, ensuring that these routes remain operational during disasters.	For long-range planning exercise
12-34	Policy 12.19.6- Develop contingency plans to minimize transportation service disruptions due to extreme weather events, focusing on the rapid restoration of public transit, emergency evacuation routes, and freight corridors.	**104**	Policy 12.19.6- Develop and regularly update contingency plans to minimize transportation service disruptions caused by ~~due to~~ extreme weather events, emphasizing ~~focusing on~~ the rapid restoration of public transit, emergency evacuation routes, and freight corridors.	Minor revision
12-34	Policy 12.19.7- Implement real-time monitoring and communication systems to provide timely updates to the public on transportation service disruptions, including low-income and rural populations.	**105**	Policy 12.19.7- Implement and maintain real-time monitoring and communication systems to provide timely updates to the public on transportation service disruptions, accessible to ~~including~~ low-income, ~~and~~ rural, underserved, and other vulnerable populations.	Additions of vulnerable populations
12-34	New policy	**176**	Incorporate hydrologic climate impacts into the design of water-crossing structures (i.e., climate-smart culverts and bridges) for fish passage and habitat quality.	Add new policy
12-35	More extreme precipitation, storms, and flooding increases strain on wastewater systems and increases the risk of flooding to	**109**	More extreme precipitation, storms, sea level rise, and flooding increase~~s~~ strain on wastewater systems and increase~~s~~ the risk of flooding to waste management facilities and landfills.	Minor change

	waste management facilities and landfills. Flooding can have an adverse impact on waste pickup and delivery operations and increase service needs for disposal following storms due to the accumulation of debris that risks public safety.		Flooding and wildfires can have an adverse impact on waste pickup and delivery operations and increase service needs for disposal following storms and wildfires due to the generation and accumulation creating ~~debris that risks~~ public safety risks.	
12-35	Policy 12.20.2- Update the Debris Management Plan to incorporate climate hazards and plan for continued operations during and after climate-related disruptions, such as extreme storms, wildfires, or heatwaves.	**110**	Policy 12.20.2- Update the Debris Management Plan to incorporate climate hazards and plan for continued operations during and after climate-related disruptions, such as extreme storms, floods, wildfires, or heatwaves.	Minor change
12-36	Policy 12.20.3- Encourage upgrades of waste facility infrastructure, such as stormwater management systems, to mitigate risks from flooding and erosion.	**111**	Policy 12.20.3- Encourage upgrades of waste facility infrastructure, such as stormwater management systems, to mitigate infrastructure risks ~~to them~~ from flooding and erosion, sea level rise, and contamination risks~~.~~	Remove section about PFAs due to specificity
12-36	Climate hazards, including drought and flooding, are shifting the timing of snowmelt and causing variable streamflow levels. Drought is expected to also increase aquifer drawdown and may increase saltwater intrusion into aquifers. Flooding is likely to increase demands on stormwater management systems and cause adverse impacts to drinking water which negatively impacts water supply and storage	**113**	Projected climate change will adversely affect water availability, quality, and stormwater management. The retreat of the Nooksack glaciers and decreased winter snowpack will result in lower spring and summer streamflow. Warmer and drier summers will increase demands on aquifers, causing further reductions in instream flows and increasing the risk of seawater intrusion, especially when combined with rising sea levels. In addition, increased winter precipitation will result in more frequent and intense flooding requiring innovative stormwater management solutions. With the anticipated disruption of the county's hydrological patterns due to climate change, it is important to prioritize proactive measures to ensure water security and enhance community resilience against its long-term impacts.	Changes reflect sector focus
12-37	Goal 12.21- Enhance the resilience of Whatcom County's	**114**	Goal 12.21- Strengthen ~~Enhance~~ the resilience of Whatcom County's water sources and systems	Remove "long-term sustainability"

	water sources and systems to climate impacts through partnerships to advance watershed protection, habitat enhancement, and water infrastructure improvements.		against ~~to~~ climate impacts by enhancing ~~through partnerships to advance~~ watershed protection, stabilizing water supplies, safeguarding habitats, and ~~habitat enhancement, and~~ water infrastructure improvements.	
12-37	Policy 12.21.1- Consider climate change, including changes in groundwater, sea level rise, and compound flooding in the floodplain management planning process.	**115**	Policy 12.21.1- Consider climate change in the floodplain management planning process, including changes in groundwater, sea level rise, and flooding frequency and magnitude. ~~compound flooding in the floodplain management planning process.~~	Flooding frequency and magnitude
12-37	Policy 12.21.2- Collaborate with local, regional, and tribal partners to ensure water resource planning through the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Project integrates climate projections, with a focus on evaluating the impacts of climate change on water availability, quality, and infrastructure.	**116**	Policy 12.21.2- Collaborate with local, regional, and Tribal partners to ensure that water resource planning through the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Project integrates climate projections and surface and groundwater modeling and monitoring with a focus on evaluating the impacts of climate change on water availability, quality, and infrastructure.	Minor change
12-37	Policy 12.21.4- Invest in green infrastructure solutions, such as bioswales and permeable pavements, to manage increased stormwater runoff caused by increased precipitation.	**117**	Policy 12.21.4- Invest in green infrastructure solutions, such as bioswales and permeable pavements, to manage increased stormwater runoff caused by increased precipitation and mitigate the adverse effects of construction and development.	Reflects additional development impact
12-37	Policy 12.21.5- Update stormwater treatment systems to handle larger volumes of runoff, reducing the risk of flooding and water contamination during storms.	**118**	Policy 12.21.5- Update stormwater treatment systems, including fish barrier culverts, to handle larger volumes of runoff, reducing the risk of flooding and water contamination during storms.	Minor revision
12-37	New policy	**177**	Assess and implement resilience strategies to reduce the vulnerability of aquifers, wastewater systems, and septic systems to seawater intrusion, flooding from rising sea levels, and changing groundwater tables.	Add new policy recommended Nooksack tribal staff
12-38	New policy	**120**	Policy 12.21.xx- Work with PUD-1 and public water systems to coordinate voluntary and	Part of drought contingency plan

			mandatory water use restrictions during declared droughts.	
12-39	New policy	**12b**	Policy 12.21.xxx- Identify potential interties between public water systems to mitigate drought impacts.	Part of drought contingency plan
12-39	Zoning and development changes can build resilience to climate impacts by limiting new development in areas at risk of flooding, wildfire, sea level rise, and other climate hazards. Development regulations and zoning also affect availability and uses of developable land in hazard zones, reduce risk to shoreline properties, and reduce infrastructure damage and displacement. Coastal and riverine infrastructure is particularly at risk to sea level rise and flooding, which can be mitigated through natural and built infrastructure solutions.	**121**	Zoning and development changes can build resilience to climate impacts by limiting new development in areas at risk of flooding, wildfire, sea level rise, and other climate hazards. Development regulations and zoning also affect the availability and permitted uses of developable land in hazard zones, reduce risk to shoreline properties, and reduce infrastructure damage and displacement. Coastal and riverine infrastructure is particularly at risk to sea level rise and flooding, which can be mitigated through natural and built infrastructure solutions. Infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface and even in areas of dense development are increasingly at risk from wildfire as fire seasons become hotter and drier. These risks can be mitigated with development regulations and zoning.	Minor changes and addition regarding WUI
12-39	Goal 12.22- Update zoning and development regulations that incorporate best practices for reducing the risk of extreme heat, sea level rise, flooding, wildfire, and other climate hazards.	**122**	Goal 12.22- Update zoning and development regulations that incorporate best practices for reducing the risks of extreme heat, sea level rise, reduced water availability, flooding, wildfire, and other climate hazards.	Addition of reduced water availability
12-39	Policy 12.22.1- Expand protections for critical areas and shorelines that are vulnerable to sea level rise, ensuring that development is restricted in high-risk zones.	**123**	Policy 12.22.1- Expand protections for critical areas and shorelines that are vulnerable to sea level rise and flooding, ensuring that development is restricted in high-risk zones.	Add additional climate impact
12-40	Policy 12.22.3- Prioritize the transfer of development rights from high-risk areas, including shorelines and flood-prone zones to urban growth areas or other areas less susceptible to climate	**125**	Policy 12.22.3- Prioritize the transfer of development rights from high-risk areas, including shorelines and flood-prone and fire-prone zones to ~~urban growth areas or other~~ areas less susceptible to climate impacts.	Reflect fire hazards

	impacts.			
12-40	Policy 12.22.4- Incorporate climate migration considerations into zoning and land use policies to ensure that new development occurs in areas that are safe from climate hazards, such as sea level rise, flooding, and wildfires.	**126**	Policy 12.22.4- Incorporate climate migration considerations into zoning and land use policies to ensure that new development occurs only in areas that at lower risk to climate impacts, such as sea level rise, decreased water availability, flooding, and wildfires.	Revise to lower risk
12-40	Policy 12.22.6- Require that applicants conduct climate risk assessments to inform rezoning requests in rural study areas and ensure that future development is restricted in areas vulnerable to extreme heat, flooding, and other climate hazards.	**127**	Policy 12.22.6- Require climate risk assessments to inform rezoning requests in rural study areas and ensure that future development is restricted in areas vulnerable to extreme heat, flooding, wildfire, and other climate hazards.	Added wildfire
12-40	Policy 12.22.7- Rezone high-risk areas to discourage new development in zones susceptible to wildfires, landslides, flooding, and sea level rise.	**128**	Policy 12.22.7- Rezone high-risk areas to prohibit ~~discourage~~ new development in zones at high-risk of ~~susceptible to~~ wildfires, landslides, flooding, and sea level rise and regulate development in areas of moderate risk in accordance with best practices to mitigate potential public safety risks and property losses.	Reflects application of climate risk mapping

Climate Impact Advisory Committee Comments (3-20-2025 Approved Revisions):

Comment #/ Page #	Comment #: Page #: Policy Text	CIAC Comment on Policy	Comment Resolution
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SUBELEMENT			
1- 12-3	Sector description: Agricultural producers can reduce emissions associated with production and distribution through adoption of renewables and reductions in fuel use, including decreasing distances travelled for distribution.	Agricultural producers should ~~can~~ reduce emissions associated with production and distribution through adoption of renewables and reductions in fuel use, including decreasing distances travelled for distribution. Rationale for changes: More directive language.	Not recommended- changes in production and distribution practices are voluntary.
2- 12-4	Policy 12.1.2: Encourage agricultural producers to reduce fuel use and agricultural supplies, synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides derived from fossil fuels.	Policy 12.1.2 - Encourage agricultural producers to reduce the use of fuels, agricultural supplies, synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides derived from fossil fuels. Rationale for changes: Rephrase the use of fuels to reduce fuel use.	Recommended- Minor change to syntax of sentence.
3- 12-4		New policy- Policy 12.1.8- Promote farm management practices that maximize soil carbon storage and increase water and nutrient availability.	Not recommended- Duplicates Climate Element Resilience policy 12.12.2 and Chapter 8 Resource Lands policy 8A-4.
4- 12-5	Sector description: Retrofits to existing building space through better insulation, improved heating and cooling equipment, and increased building efficiency drive emissions reduction.	Retrofits to existing building space through better insulation, envelope and duct airsealing, improved heating and cooling equipment, and increased building efficiency drive emissions reduction.	Recommended- adds envelope and duct airsealing to list of retrofit improvements.
5- 12-5	Policy 12.2.2- Expand resources and incentives for the retrofitting of existing buildings to improve building operational efficiency. Policy 12.2.3- Provide technical assistance to residential and commercial building owners to facilitate energy retrofits.	Policy 12.2.2- Expand resources, technical assistance, and incentives for the retrofitting of existing residential and commercial buildings to improve building operational efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by installing heat pump technologies. ~~Policy 12.2.3- Provide technical assistance to residential and commercial building owners to facilitate energy retrofits.~~	Recommended in part. Installation of heat pump technologies is too prescriptive and not an appropriate retrofit for every building.
6- 12-5		New Policy- Policy 12.2.3- Maintain a website with technical resources for	Not recommended- Appropriate as part of implementation strategy for Climate Element in

		homeowners, commercial building owners, and developers on energy efficiency measures, greenhouse gas reduction strategies, and financing opportunities appropriate for the local building stock.	coordination with state investment. WA Department of Commerce funded to develop energy navigator funding to develop a statewide resource.
7- 12-6	Policy 12.2.7- Encourage the design of highly energy-efficient new buildings that utilize on-site or off-site renewable energy, reduce refrigerant use, and include the use of low-carbon, recycled, or reused materials in building projects.	Policy 12.2.7- Encourage the design of highly energy-efficient new buildings that utilize on-site or off-site renewable energy, utilize recognized skilled contractors ~~reduce refrigerant use~~, and include the use of low-carbon, recycled, or reused materials in building projects.	Recommended in part. Removal of "reduce refrigerant use" due to possible unintended consequence from heat pumps. "Recognized skilled contractors," not recommended.
8- 12-6	Policy 12.2.9- Encourage the use of locally or regionally derived building materials, such as wood and mass timber products that store embodied carbon.	Policy 12.2.9- Improve construction resource efficiency by encouraging ~~Encourage~~ the use of locally or regionally derived building materials that sequester and store embodied carbon, as well as reclaiming usable/ recyclable materials from construction demolition projects, where feasible.	Recommended in part. Remainder of policy language duplicative of policy, "Policy 12.9.5- Revise Whatcom County's Flow Control Ordinance (No. 91-041) to include the recycling of construction and demolition debris, promoting the reuse and recovery of building materials to reduce waste and associated emissions.
9- 12-6	Replace "tribe" with "Tribe"	As required by RCW 70A.65.305, Whatcom County consults with any affected federally recognized Tribe on Climate Commitment Act funded programs or projects that may impact Tribal resources.	Recommended- Washington State Office of Equity.
10- 12-7	Goal 12.4- Support the development of a local economic system that fosters business opportunities associated with climate action.	Goal 12.4- Support the development of a local economic system that fosters business operations and opportunities associated with climate action.	Recommended- goal expanded to include operations
11- 12-8	Goal 12.5- Protect, expand, and restore green space and tree canopy and adopt best management practices to promote aquatic and terrestrial carbon sequestration.	Goal 12.5- Protect, expand, maintain, and restore green space and tree canopy and adopt best management practices to promote aquatic and terrestrial carbon sequestration.	Recommended- HB 1181 consistent with retaining green space.
12- 12-9	Policy 12.5.3- Increase and protect the urban tree canopy, particularly in areas with low canopy cover that are vulnerable to urban heat island effects.	Policy 12.5.3- Increase, maintain, and protect the urban tree canopy, prioritizing areas with low canopy cover and areas that	Recommended- rephrased and included word retain to clarify.

		may otherwise be vulnerable to urban heat island effects.	
13- 12-9	Policy 12.5.5- Discourage the conversion of forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other high-carbon storage areas for uses that are incompatible with carbon sequestration goals.	Policy 12.5.5- Discourage the conversion of forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other high-carbon storage areas for uses that are incompatible with the goals for carbon sequestration and protection of water sources.	Not recommended- protection of water resources addressed in resilience subelement in water resources sector.
14- 12-9	Goal 12.6- Update critical infrastructure for increased reliability during extreme weather events, with a particular focus on prioritizing areas and populations most vulnerable to climate change. Policy 12.6.1- Encourage utility providers to enhance the resilience of energy infrastructure by preparing for disruptions in energy supply, electricity transmission, and power distribution. Policy 12.6.2- Coordinate with Whatcom Transportation Authority to assess potential transit service disruptions and create plans to maintain transit reliability during extreme weather events.	Move goal and both policies to resilience subelement	Recommended- section move to resilience subelement due to stronger relationship between goals and policies and climate impacts.
15- 12-9	Policy 12.7.4- Support programs that provide financial assistance or subsidies for low-income households to improve energy efficiency, reduce utility costs, and access renewable energy.	Policy 12.7.4- Support programs that provide financial assistance or subsidies for low-income households and landlords to improve energy efficiency, reduce utility costs, and access renewable energy.	Recommended- in some there are exceptions for payments made directly to utility companies by landlords.
16- 12-10	Policy 12.7.5- Strengthen support for community-based programs that promote access to locally produced, healthy, and culturally appropriate food, particularly for individuals experiencing food insecurity.	Policy 12.7.5- Strengthen support for community-based programs that promote reduced cost and easy access to locally produced, healthy, and culturally appropriate food, particularly for individuals experiencing food insecurity.	Not recommended- food access includes factors- economic, physical, and social access, reduced cost and easy are implied.

17- 12-11	Sector description: To lower transportation emissions, Whatcom County is evaluating land use planning practices that promote taking fewer trips and assessing regional investments in public transit and active transportation	To lower transportation emissions, Whatcom County is evaluating land use planning practices that promote taking fewer trips and assessing regional investments in public transit and multimodal ~~active~~ transportation. Improving transportation options and multimodal connectivity for all residents reduces emissions and advances equity.	Recommended- active transportation refers to only pedestrian mobility where multimodal is a broader term, including walking, biking, public transit, driving, ferries, and connecting with rail and aviation.
18- 12-11	Goal 12.8- Support decarbonization of the transportation system by adopting new technologies, expanding infrastructure, improving connectivity, and increasing access to low-carbon transportation options.	Goal 12.8- Support decarbonization of the transportation system through reductions in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and in GHG emissions per VMT by adopting new transportation planning approaches and technologies, expanding infrastructure, improving connectivity, and increasing access to low-carbon transportation options, and adopting approaches that can help reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicle transportation.	Recommended in part- run on sentence. Keep focus on VMT reduction and reduction. Included reduction in SOV vehicle trips in 12.8.1.
19- 12-11	Policy 12.8.1- Support efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), including compliance with the Commute Trip Reduction Act and other initiatives to increase carpooling, ridesharing, telecommuting, bicycling, and transit use.	Policy 12.8.1- Support efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), including compliance with the Commute Trip Reduction Act and other initiatives to increase carpooling, ridesharing, telecommuting, bicycling, rail, and transit use.	Recommended- included reductions in single occupant vehicle trips.
20- 12-11	Policy 12.8.3- Promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by increasing awareness of state and federal incentives for EV purchases and leases.	Policy 12.8.3- Promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by increasing awareness of state and federal incentives for EV purchases and leases and by developing programs that help reduce the upfront costs of an EV purchase.	Not recommended- Commerce has statewide EV lease program.
21- 12-11	Policy 12.8.4- Invest in the development and installation of a countywide electric vehicle charging infrastructure network, prioritizing	Policy 12.8.4- Invest in the development and installation of a countywide electric vehicle charging ~~infrastructure~~ network,	Recommended- minor terminology change.

	underserved and disadvantaged communities to ensure equitable access.	prioritizing underserved and disadvantaged communities to ensure equitable access.	
22- 12-12	Policy 12.8.5- Collaborate with regional partners to facilitate the expansion of EV infrastructure across Whatcom County.	Policy 12.8.5- Collaborate with regional partners to facilitate the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure across Whatcom County.	Recommended- minor change to reduce abbreviations
23- 12-12	Policy 12.8.6- Implement the Regional Trails Plan and further expand an interconnected, regional multimodal network of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities that enables more trips via walking, biking, and transit.	Policy 12.8.6- Implement a countywide active transportation network ~~the Regional Trails Plan and further expand an interconnected, regional multimodal network~~ of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities that enables more trips via walking, biking, and transit.	Recommended- standardized terminology to align with transportation chapter
24- 12-12	Policy 12.8.8- Collaborate with Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) to ensure the operation of a reliable and efficient transit network that reduces emissions by promoting transit use over internal combustion engine vehicles.	Policy 12.8.8- Collaborate with Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) to ensure the operation and promote the use of a reliable, ~~and~~ efficient, and equitable transit network that reduces emissions by promoting transit use over internal combustion engine vehicles.	Recommended- added mention of equity
25- 12-12	Policy 12.8.10- Support regional and industrial efforts to reduce emissions in the aviation sector through investments in sustainable aviation fuel and advancements in fuel efficiency and aircraft technologies.	Policy 12.8.10- Support regional and industrial efforts to reduce emissions in the aviation sector through advancements in fuel efficiency and aircraft technologies, and the electrification of airport equipment. ~~investments in sustainable aviation fuel and advancements in fuel efficiency and aircraft technologies.~~	Recommended in part – aviation fuel more greenhouse gas intensive than airport equipment.
26- 12-13	Policy 12.8.11- Support Port of Bellingham's initiatives to electrify shipping terminals and promote the transition to cleaner marine engines and equipment.	Policy 12.8.11- Support the Port of Bellingham's initiatives to electrify shipping terminals and promote the transition to cleaner marine engines and equipment.	Recommended- minor grammar change.
27- 12-13	Policy 12.8.12- Support state and federal incentives to increase efficiency and replace	Policy 12.8.12- Support state and federal incentives to increase efficiency and replace	Not recommended- Lummi Island ferry included as county asset to address in capital

	diesel-powered passenger and freight trains with lower carbon alternatives.	diesel-powered passenger ~~and~~ freight trains, and the Lummi Island ferry with lower carbon alternatives.	facilities chapter.
28- 12-13	Policy 12.8.13- Review bidding and procurement policies to prioritize lower-carbon alternatives to portland cement in County funded transportation projects.	Policy 12.8.13- Review bidding and procurement policies to prioritize lower-carbon alternative materials and processes ~~to portland cement~~ in County-funded transportation projects.	Recommended- materials and processes less specific
29- 12-13	Sector description: Waste diversion strategies can reduce the amount of waste transferred to landfills outside Whatcom County.	Waste diversion strategies can reduce the amount of waste generated in Whatcom County that is currently being transferred to landfills outside Whatcom County.	Recommended- grammar clarification
30- 12-14	N/A	Goal 12.9.X- Reduce emissions generated from sewage disposal and wastewater treatment.	Recommended in part
31- 12-14	Policy 12.9.6- Support the adoption of cogeneration engines and other technology that reduces methane emissions in public wastewater treatment systems.	Policy 12.9.6- Support the adoption of technologies ~~cogeneration engines and other technology~~ that reduce~~s~~ methane emissions in public wastewater treatment systems.	Recommended- less prescriptive of technology
32- 12-15	Policy 12.11.1- Advocate for updates to the Washington State Building Code to increase the energy efficiency of homes and buildings consistent with SB 5854.	Policy 12.11.1- Advocate for updates to the Washington State Building Code to increase the energy efficiency of homes and buildings consistent with 2009 SB 5854 "Energy First Bill".	Recommended- clarification of bill reference
RESILIENCE SUBELEMENT			
33- 12-17	The resilience sub-element includes prioritized measures that reduce the severity of the projected climate impacts from sea level rise, landslides, flooding, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire and changing temperature and precipitation patterns.	The resilience sub-element includes prioritized measures that reduce the severity of the projected climate impacts from changing air and water and precipitation patterns, sea level rise, ocean acidification, flooding, erosion, sedimentation, landslides, ~~flooding~~, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire, and other effects of climate change. ~~and changing temperature~~	Recommended- change other effects of climate change to climate impacts.

		~~and precipitation patterns~~.	
34- 12-17	The 2025 Whatcom County Climate Hazard & Impact Assessment Report analyzes the social, economic, and physical vulnerability of Whatcom County communities and infrastructure to climate change. The analysis evaluates key infrastructure assets and natural systems are vulnerable to climate change and identifies priority climate resilience areas adversely impacted by climate change. For a more detailed discussion of current and projected climate hazards, see the Appendix.	The 2025 Whatcom County Climate Hazard & Impact Assessment Report will analyze the social, economic, and physical vulnerability of Whatcom County communities and infrastructure to climate change. The analysis evaluates key infrastructure assets and natural systems that are vulnerable to climate change and identifies priority climate resilience areas adversely impacted by climate change. For a more detailed discussion of current and projected climate hazards, refer to ~~see~~ the Appendix.	Not recommended- report now complete.
35- 12-17	Warmer air temperatures, more extreme heat days, and drought can result in reduced water availability and increase crop and livestock stress, negatively impacting yield. As the suitable seasonal windows for planting and cultivation shift, agricultural producers may need to establish new crop rotations and adopt new practices. More extreme precipitation and shifts in snowpack and stream flows will change the seasonal availability of water for irrigation and affect agricultural operations.	Higher air temperatures, more days with extreme heat, flooding, and drought are expected to disrupt water availability and intensify stress on crops and livestock, undermining sustainability and reducing yields. More extreme precipitation and shifts in snowpack and stream flows will alter seasonal water availability for irrigation and drive changes to agricultural practices. As suitable seasonal windows for planting and cultivation shift, producers may need to adopt climate-adaptive agricultural practices, including regenerative agriculture, modified crop and livestock selection, soil carbon enhancement, and water conservation.	Recommended- Revised for clarity and accuracy
36- 12-18	**Goal 12.12 Adapt agricultural production systems and practices to a changing climate and fortify the food system against climate disruptions.**	Goal 12.12- Adapt agricultural production systems and practices to a changing climate, strengthening ~~and fortify~~ the resilience of the food system against climate disruptions by fostering long-term sustainability and economic security for local farmers and communities.	Not recommended- retain goal language.
37- 12-18	Policy 12.12.1- Support agricultural producers in diversifying crops resilient to climate change, promoting variety in crop types to improve food	Policy 12.12.1- Support incentives for climate-resilient crop diversification and agricultural research initiatives, including	Not recommended- utilize less prescriptive language.

	security, and reducing risks associated with climate variability.	the proposed agricultural research station, with field trials for new crops, varieties, livestock breeds, and animal husbandry practices.	
38- 12-19	Policy 12.12.2- Promote the adoption of climate-friendly agricultural practices, such as regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, tree intercropping, and aquaculture to increase carbon sequestration and improve soil health.	Policy 12.12.2- Support technical training and identify financial incentives to accelerate the adoption of climate-friendly agricultural practices that increase carbon sequestration and improve soil health through innovative methods, including regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, and silvopasture.	Recommend in part- first section of sentence is implementation focused. Retain mention of silvopasture.
39- 12-19	Policy 12.12.3- Evaluate the risks posed by climate hazards (e.g. drought, flooding, heat waves) to agricultural production, and develop strategies to mitigate these risks.	Policy 12.12.3- Conduct and regularly update an interagency and public/ private evaluation of the threats posed by climate hazards (e.g., drought, flooding, heat waves) to agricultural production and food security, and develop and deploy effective risk management strategies.	Not recommended- first section of sentence is prescriptive to process.
40- 12-19	Policy 12.12.4- Encourage agricultural producers to diversify their product offerings, where feasible, to increase the resilience of the local food system to climate-related disruptions.	Policy 12.12.4- Identify financial and technical support resources for producers, processors, and local farmers' markets to create additional revenue streams (e.g., value-added processing, ecotourism or agritourism, direct-to-consumers sales, and/or climate-adaptive ecosystem service markets) and support aquaculture as a measure to strengthen the climate resilience of our local food system.	Not recommended- implementation focused.
41- 12-19	Policy 12.12.5- Develop and implement strategies to conserve water resources for agricultural use, including incentives for water-efficient irrigation systems and practices.	Policy 12.12.5- Develop and implement strategies to conserve water resources for agricultural use, including incentives for water-efficient irrigation systems and practices that enhance water catchment and retention.	Recommended- specifies mechanism for water efficiency.
42- 12-19	Policy 12.12.8- Explore opportunities to expand water storage capacity and improve streamflow management for agricultural purposes, particularly in areas vulnerable to seasonal water shortages.	Policy 12.12.6- Continue supporting local, regional, and state partners to implement real-time drought monitoring systems and forecasting capabilities that support emergency water access plans for farmers	Recommended- focus on drought monitoring systems and response.

		during drought years.	
43- 12-20	Policy 12.12.7- Coordinate with local, regional, and state partners to monitor and project drought conditions, ensuring timely planning for water storage needs to support agricultural production during periods of water scarcity.	Policy 12.12.7- Investigate opportunities to expand water storage capacity and improve streamflow management for agricultural purposes by collaborating with local, regional, state, and Tribal partners to invest in watershed-scale water retention projects, including wetland restoration and water catchment practices while implementing a water banking system that facilitates water rights trading.	Not recommended- provides specific project types for managing water supply.
44- 12-20	Policy 12.12.6- Prepare for potential saltwater intrusion into aquifers and drainage systems by adopting measures such as monitoring salinity levels, improving drainage infrastructure, and evaluating alternative water sources.	Policy 12.12.8- Develop a monitoring and response strategy for saltwater intrusion into aquifers and drainage systems, including emergency response triggers, financial support, and freshwater storage in at-risk coastal areas.	Recommended in part- Develop a monitoring and response strategy for saltwater intrusion into aquifers and drainage systems
45- 12-20	Policy 12.12.10- Promote best practices in soil conservation to minimize erosion, particularly in areas at high-risk of riverine flooding or sea level rise.	Policy 12.12.10- Under the leadership of the Whatcom Conservation District, promote best practices in soil conservation to minimize erosion, particularly in areas at high-risk of riverine flooding or sea level rise.	Not recommended- did not specify partners in other policies.
46- 12-21	N/A	Policy 12.12.11- Set targets for improving soil health in critical, high-risk areas by developing a monitoring framework that measures soil carbon over time to incentivize soil carbon sequestration while integrating eco-credits into bioregional carbon markets with financial benefits flowing through to participating farmers.	Not recommended- implementation focused.
47- 12-21	N/A	Policy 12.12.13- Evaluate loss of agricultural land due to climate change and institute policies, including expanding the conservation easement program and possible rezoning of lands in Rural Study areas, to avoid conversion of agricultural land to other uses.	Recommended in part- remove specifics of implementation
48- 12-21	Warmer air temperatures due to climate change may lower energy demand for heating buildings.	More extreme climate conditions and weather events will likely increase energy	Recommended- improve clarity.

	Increased temperatures also have the potential to increase cooling demand in the summer, particularly in areas where tree cover is lower and there are more heat islands. Climate hazards, like sea level rise and flooding, may also cause displacement, in addition to damaging or destroying of existing structures. Increased prevalence of wildfire is also expected to increase displacement, increase exposure of vulnerable populations to heat and smoke, reduce insurability, and increase building retrofit costs that improve weatherization and cooling.	demand for heating and cooling buildings, particularly those that are not adequately weatherized. While warmer air temperatures due to climate change may lower energy demand for heating buildings, increased demand during extreme cold weather events could offset any demand decrease during cold-weather months. Hotter and longer summers punctuated by extreme heat waves will increase cooling demand in the warm-weather months, particularly in areas with inadequate tree cover and development patterns that create heat islands. Climate hazards, such as sea level rise, erosion, and flooding, may also cause displacement, and damage or destroy of existing structures. The increased prevalence and intensity of wildfires are also expected to heighten displacement risk, and increase exposure of all populations, especially the most vulnerable, to heat and smoke. These disruptive forces will reduce insurability and raise retrofit costs for buildings that require improved weatherization, indoor air quality safety, heating, and cooling.	
49- 12-21	Goal 12.13- Design and update building and energy infrastructure for increased reliability and recovery during extreme weather events and other hazards worsened by climate change.	Goal 12.13- Design and update building and energy infrastructure for increased survivability, reliability, recovery, and efficiency during extreme weather events, floods, wildfires, and other hazards exacerbated by climate change.	Recommend- included additional hazards.
50- 12-22	Policy 12.13.1- Encourage utility providers to upgrade and improve energy infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate-related hazards.	Policy 12.13.1- Encourage utility providers to upgrade and improve energy infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate-related hazards and to safeguard public health and safety against fires, explosions, and other threats arising from energy infrastructure, including electrical lines and gas pipelines.	Recommend in part- remove mention to electrical and gas pipelines

51- 12-22	Policy 12.13.2- Promote participation in utility energy efficiency and demand response programs to reduce energy consumption during peak periods, especially during extreme weather events.	Policy 12.13.2- Promote participation in utility energy efficiency and demand response programs to reduce energy consumption during peak periods, especially during extreme weather events, and to extend available system capacity during emergency conditions.	Recommend- improves resilience response to emergencies
52- 12-22	Policy 12.13.3- Promote building design for passive survivability to ensure safe indoor conditions in the event of an extended energy outage.	Policy 12.13.3- Develop ~~Promote~~ building design standards that reflect climate forecasts for our region and provide for passive survivability to ensure safe indoor conditions in the event of an extended energy outage, and require that new buildings meet such standards	Recommend in part- remove requirement for passive survivability
53- 12-22	Policy 12.13.4- Promote the development of distributed generation systems, such as solar panels and microgrids, particularly in critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, emergency shelters) to ensure energy availability during power outages.	Policy 12.13.4- Require the installation of ~~Promote the development of~~ distributed generation systems, such as solar ~~panels~~ with energy storage and microgrids ~~particularly~~ in critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, emergency response and management centers, essential infrastructure and transportation, logistics, and communication hubs, and emergency shelters) to ensure energy availability during power outages.	Recommend in part- amend to county owned critical infrastructure
54- 12-23	Policy 12.13.5- Implement development regulations that discourage buildings and infrastructure in flood-prone areas, and if they are allowed, ensure buildings are adapted to withstand flooding, through strategies like elevation, floodproofing, and improved drainage systems.	Policy 12.13.5- Implement development regulations that ~~discourage~~ restrict and regulate the design and placement of buildings and infrastructure in flood-prone areas, and to the extent ~~if~~ they are allowed, ensure buildings are adapted to withstand flooding through standards related to ~~strategies like~~ elevation, floodproofing, improved drainage systems, and the protection of life and property.	Recommend- change placement to location, supports HB 1181 hazard reduction goals
55- 12-23	Policy 12.13.6- Support relocation or retrofitting of critical infrastructure and at-risk buildings in	Policy 12.13.6- Prioritize ~~Support~~ relocation or retrofitting of critical infrastructure and at-risk buildings in areas subject to frequent	Recommend in part- change terminology from critical areas.

	areas subject to frequent flooding to reduce long-term risks and recovery costs.	flooding to reduce long-term risks and recovery costs, and adopt land use regulations that restrict further development in those critical areas.	
55- 12-23	Policy 12.13.7- Implement development regulations to mitigate wildfire risks and partner with agencies to create defensible spaces around structures in wildfire-prone areas.	Policy 12.13.7- Implement development and maintenance regulations to mitigate wildfire risks and partner with agencies to create defensible spaces around structures in the wildfire-prone wildland-urban interface and to safeguard densely populated areas.	Recommend in part- remove maintenance regulations
56- 12-23	Policy 12.13.8- Support relocation or retrofitting of essential infrastructure and vulnerable buildings in high-risk wildfire zones to enhance safety and recovery capabilities.	Policy 12.13.8- Prioritize ~~Support~~ relocation or retrofitting of essential infrastructure, including undergrounding electrical lines and gas pipelines, and of vulnerable buildings in high-risk wildfire zones to enhance safety and recovery capabilities.	Recommend- specify risk associated with utility infrastructure to wildfires
57- 12-23	Policy 12.13.9- Maintain land-use policies that reduce exposure to landslide risks by restricting development in high-risk areas.	Policy 12.13.9- Maintain land-use policies that reduce exposure to landslide risks by prohibiting ~~restricting~~ development in high-risk areas.	Recommend- clarity intent is to prohibit
58- 12-24	Policy 12.13.10- Promote relocation or reinforcement of infrastructure and homes in areas vulnerable to landslides to mitigate the impact of this hazard.	Policy 12.13.10- Promote relocation or reinforcement of infrastructure and homes in areas vulnerable to landslides to mitigate the threat to public health and safety posed by ~~impact of~~ this hazard.	Recommend- policy provides additional clarification
59- 12-25	Policy 12.13.11- Prepare for rising sea levels rise by developing and implementing land use regulations that restrict development and encourage relocation of essential infrastructure and residential structures in vulnerable coastal areas at risk of inundation and repeated flooding.	Policy 12.13.11- Prepare for rising sea levels ~~rise~~ by developing and implementing land use regulations that restrict development and encourage relocation of essential infrastructure and residential structures in vulnerable coastal areas at risk of inundation and repeated flooding.	Recommend in part- use phrase “sea level rise”
60- 12-24	Policy 12.13.12- Support adaptation measures such as habitat restoration, shoreline protection devices, and elevation of structures and infrastructure to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels.	Policy 12.13.12- Support adaptation measures such as habitat restoration, shoreline protection devices, and elevating ~~elevation of~~ structures and infrastructure to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels.	Recommend- use term for elevation
61- 12-24	Policy 12.13.13- Partner with organizations to	Policy 12.13.13- Partner with competent	Recommend in part- clarify short term

	ensure the availability of adequate emergency sheltering facilities for vulnerable populations during extreme cold events.	nongovernmental organizations to ensure the availability of adequate emergency sheltering and temporary relief facilities for vulnerable populations during extreme cold, heat, flooding, wildfire smoke, and other public emergencies ~~events~~.	sheltering and change to extreme weather events.
62- 12-24	Policy 12.13.14- Increase public access to community-serving facilities to provide relief during extreme heat events and periods of poor air quality due to wildfire smoke.	Policy 12.13.14- Expand ~~Increase~~ public access to emergency shelters and community-serving facilities that ~~to~~ provide relief during extreme heat and cold, wildfire smoke, and post-disaster recovery by strengthening partnerships and coordination efforts to ensure these facilities are accessible and equipped to meet public health and safety needs during climate-related, as well as other major public emergencies ~~events and periods of poor air quality due to wildfire smoke~~.	Not recommended- implementation focus is guided by Department of Emergency Management definitions of emergency.
63- 12-24	Policy 12.13.15- Retrofit public buildings and other critical facilities to incorporate air filtration systems and cooling technologies to protect vulnerable populations from heat stress and smoke-related health impacts.	Policy 12.13.15- Retrofit public buildings and other critical facilities to incorporate efficient air filtration systems and cooling technologies to protect vulnerable populations from heat stress and smoke-related health impacts.	Recommend- minor change
63- 12-25	Cultural resources are at increased risk to climate change due to warmer air temperatures, more extreme heat days, drought, and flooding. Climate change can result in increased stress to and loss of habitat for culturally significant species, increase storms and flooding, shift habitat distribution, damage historic and cultural sites, and limit access to gathering sites in coastal areas.	Cultural resources are at increased risk to climate change due to warmer air temperatures, more extreme heat days, drought, wildfires, and flooding. Climate change can result in increased stress ~~to~~ and loss of habitat for culturally significant species, increased storms and flooding, shifting habitat distribution, damage to historic and cultural sites, and limited access to gathering sites in coastal areas.	Recommend- minor changes
64- 12-25	Policy 12.14.3- Evaluate the vulnerability and sensitivity of culturally significant roads, trails, and landscape features to damage or alteration from climate change.	Policy 12.14.3- Collaborate with Tribes and others to evaluate the vulnerability and sensitivity of culturally significant roads, trails, and landscape features to damage or alteration from climate change, and institute appropriate policies for preservation.	Not recommended- revised for specify to address cultural resources review process

65- 12-25	Policy 12.14.4- Protect culturally significant species and habitats that are threatened by climate change.	Policy 12.14.4- Protect culturally significant species (e.g., salmon and other finfish, shellfish, non-timber forest products) that are threatened by climate change.	Recommended in part- add habitats back in and remove non-timber forest products
66- 12-25	Due to climate change, the regional economy risks accelerated job loss, decreased productivity in key sectors such as the maritime, tourism, agriculture, and forestry sectors, and reduced recreation and tourism. Whatcom County is expected to experience increasing costs related to relocation and damage to property and infrastructure due to coastal and riverine flooding, in addition to losses due to extreme heat, drought, wildfire, and ocean acidification. There is expected to be increasing price volatility for business inputs, loss of operations continuity, shipping disruptions, and a possibility of increased insurance premiums.	Due to climate change, the regional economy risks employment disruption and ~~accelerated job loss~~ decreased productivity in key sectors such as the maritime, tourism, agriculture, and forestry sectors, and reduced recreation opportunities ~~and tourism~~. Whatcom County is expected to experience increasing costs related to relocation and damage to property and infrastructure due to coastal and riverine flooding, in addition to losses due to extreme heat, drought, wildfire, and ocean acidification. There is expected to be increasing price volatility for business inputs, loss of operational continuity, shipping disruptions, and ~~a possibility of~~ increased insurance premiums or unavailability of insurance in some areas	Recommended- minor changes for clarity.
67- 12-26	Goal 12.15- Foster and enhance the resilience of key economic sectors against the risks of extreme heat, drought, wildfires, flooding, coastal inundation, and ocean acidification.	Goal 12.15- Foster and enhance the resilience of key economic sectors against the risks of extreme heat, rising stream temperatures, reduced summer streamflow, drought, wildfires, riverine and coastal flooding ~~inundation~~, and ocean acidification	Recommended- added additional hazards
68- 12-26	Policy 12.15.1- Promote financial and technical assistance programs to help agricultural producers introduce diversified intercropping, crop and livestock selection, and climate-adaptive agricultural practices in response to climate change.	Policy 12.15.1- Promote financial and technical assistance programs to help agricultural producers introduce climate-adaptive and regenerative agricultural practices, including adaptive crop and livestock selection, soil and soil carbon conservation, water conservation and storage, flood mitigation, and drainage improvement. ~~diversified intercropping, crop and livestock selection, and climate-adaptive agricultural practices in response to climate change.~~	Not recommended- some of the other practices are listed across the plan

69- 12-26	Policy 12.15.2- Encourage the Port of Bellingham to adapt port-owned facilities and infrastructure to coastal flooding and sea level rise impacts.	Policy 12.15.2- Cooperate with ~~Encourage~~ the Port of Bellingham to implement aspects of its Climate Action Strategy that adapt port-owned facilities and infrastructure to coastal flooding, ~~and~~ sea level rise, and other climate impacts.	Recommend in part- partner with the Port.
70- 12-26	Policy 12.15.3- Monitor the impacts of warming ocean temperatures and ocean acidification on the seafood industry and promote diversification to reduce vulnerability to climate-related disruption.	Policy 12.15.3- Monitor the impacts of warming ocean temperatures and ocean acidification on the seafood industry by collaborating with Tribal and commercial shellfish cultivators and scientists to investigate options for cultivating new species or breeding existing species that will be less vulnerable ~~promote diversification to reduce vulnerability~~ to climate-related disruption.	Not recommended- too prescriptive.
71- 12-27	Policy 12.15.4- Promote climate-adaptive forest management practices, such as increasing age distribution, rotation period, and stand structure to improve forest resilience to climate impacts.	Policy 12.15.4- Promote climate-adaptive forest management practices that ensure a sustainable forestry industry, such as wider ~~increasing~~ age distribution, longer rotation periods, improved ~~and~~ stand structure, enhanced in-stand soil health, and forward-looking seed selection to improve forest resilience to climate impacts.	Not recommended- lists more practices with specify
72- 12-27	Policy 12.15.6- Encourage energy infrastructure modernization, such as underground transmission lines, to improve safety and reduce vulnerability to climate-related disruptions.	Policy 12.15.6- Encourage energy infrastructure modernization, including underground transmission lines, microgrids, and smart grid technologies, to improve safety and reduce vulnerability to wildfire and other climate-related disruptions.	Recommended- adds additional technology examples
72- 12-27	Policy 12.15.7- Develop economic innovation strategies to minimize workforce displacement caused by climate-related impacts on key industries.	Policy 12.15.7- Develop economic innovation strategies to minimize workforce displacement and market disruptions in key industries arising from climate change and energy transition-related activities. ~~caused by climate-related impacts on key industries.~~	Not recommended- retain focus on workforce displacement
73- 12-27	Risks to ecosystems from climate change include increased temperatures, extreme precipitation, drought, and ocean acidification.	Climate change brings great risks to ecosystems. Rising temperatures, extremes of flood and drought, increased wildfires,	Recommended- minor grammatical change

	These climate impacts are expected to increase insect outbreak, result in loss of near-shore habitat and coastal wetlands to sea-level rise and erosion, and change species diversity and distribution. Based on climate projections, there is expected to be species loss, increased competition from invasive species, and a decline in ecosystem health. Increased ocean acidification and temperature and increased stress on species in lakes and rivers is expected to result in a loss of ecological function and biodiversity.	sea level rise, and ocean acidification are projected to bring landscape change, habitat loss, reduced species diversity, disrupt species distribution and cause an overall decline in ecosystem health.	
74- 12-27	Goal 12.16- Protect and restore priority critical areas and natural habitats in areas that experience floods, sea level rise, landslides, wildfires, drought, or other events exacerbated by climate change.	Goal 12.16- Protect and restore priority critical areas and natural habitats ~~in areas~~ that are at high risk for ~~experience~~ flooding, sea level rise, landslides, wildfires, drought, or other events exacerbated by climate change.	Recommended- minor grammatical change
75- 12-28	Policy 12.16.1- Protect and restore coastal ecosystems, including estuaries and marine habitats vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal flooding.	Policy 12.16.1- Protect and restore coastal ecosystems, including estuaries and marine habitats that are vulnerable to sea level rise, ~~and~~ coastal flooding, and erosion.	Recommend- minor grammatical change
76- 12-28	Policy 12.16.2- Promote reforestation initiatives that increase forest cover and build resilience to wildfires, drought, and pest outbreaks.	Policy 12.16.2- Promote climate-resilient forest management practices that increase canopy cover where appropriate, improve forest health, and mitigate wildfire risks.	Recommend- change in focus from reforestation to forest management which has higher carbon reduction potential.
77 12-28	Policy 12.16.3- Encourage climate-resilient forest management practices, such as selective thinning and controlled burns, to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risks.	Policy 12.16.3- Encourage climate-resilient forest management practices, such as selective thinning, controlled burns, and biochar production to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risks.	Recommend- minor revisions.
78 12-29	Policy 12.16.4- Protect and restore riparian buffers to improve water retention and reduce flood risk.	Policy 12.16.4- Protect and restore watersheds, riparian buffers, and wetlands by utilizing regenerative nature-based climate solutions that boost soil carbon, enhance ~~to improve~~ water retention and reduce flood risk.	Recommend in part- to increase carbon sequestration, improve water retention, and reduce flood risk.
79- 12-29	Policy 12.16.5- Enhance partnerships with state agencies, tribal nations, and conservation organizations to implement watershed-scale	Policy 12.16.5- Strengthen ~~Enhance~~ partnerships with state agencies, Tribal nations, and conservation organizations to	Recommend- minor revision

	restoration initiatives to increase resilience to climate impacts.	implement watershed-scale restoration initiatives to increase resilience to climate impacts.	
80- 12-29	Policy 12.16.7- Coordinate ecosystem planning efforts across jurisdictional boundaries to address climate impacts on priority habitats.	Policy 12.16.7- Coordinate countywide ecosystem planning efforts ~~across jurisdictional boundaries~~ to address climate impacts on priority habitats.	Recommend- jurisdictional boundaries unclear
81- 12-29	Policy 12.16.8- Promote ecosystem restoration projects that prioritize the recovery of habitats critical endangered, threatened, and priority species and support climate adaptation goals.	Policy 12.16.8- Promote ecosystem restoration projects that prioritize the recovery of habitats for critically endangered, threatened, and priority species. ~~and support climate adaptation goals~~.	Recommend- minor revision
82- 12-29	Climate hazards such as drought, temperature fluctuations, and flooding are expected to increase costs and demands for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery services, could strain local emergency response capacity. These climate risks include increased demand for shelter, additional pressure on energy grids, and disruption to emergency management facilities, medical services, and critical supplies due to unsafe travel conditions.	Climate hazards such as drought, extreme temperature fluctuations, wildfire, and flooding are expected to increase costs and demands for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery services and could strain or overwhelm local emergency response capacity. These climate risks include increased demand for shelter, additional pressure on energy grids, and disruption to emergency management facilities, medical services, and critical supplies due to impossible or unsafe travel conditions and the potential magnitude of emergency events.	Recommend- minor revisions
83- 12-29	Policy 12.17.1- Incorporate climate risk assessments into hazard mitigation plans, including hazards such as extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, and coastal inundation.	Policy 12.17.1- Incorporate climate risk assessments into hazard mitigation plans, including hazards such as extreme heat, drought, wildfires and wildfire smoke, riverine flooding, and coastal flooding ~~coastal inundation~~.	Recommend- include additional climate impacts
84- 12-30	Policy 12.17.2- Update emergency management plans to improve Whatcom County's capacity to respond to and recover from climate hazards, ensuring that plans are regularly reviewed and updated to include new climate projections.	Policy 12.17.2- Update emergency management plans to improve Whatcom County's capacity to respond to and recover from climate-related hazards, ensuring that plans are regularly reviewed and financial and material resources provided to address the latest ~~updated to include new~~ climate	Recommend- revisions to "financial and material resources provided"

		change projections and emerging hazards, such as wildfire threats to densely populated areas.	
85- 12-30	Policy 12.17.3- Strengthen partnerships with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to coordinate emergency preparedness and response efforts across jurisdictional boundaries.	Policy 12.17.3- Strengthen partnerships with federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies to coordinate emergency preparedness and response efforts across jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries.	Not recommended- remove land ownership
86- 12-30	Policy 12.17.4- Ensure that vulnerable communities are prioritized in emergency management planning, including residents in floodplains, coastal zones, wildfire-prone areas, and other areas at high risk of climate hazards.	Policy 12.17.4- Ensure that emergency management planning prioritizes overburdened ~~vulnerable~~ communities ~~are prioritized in emergency management planning~~, including residents in floodplains, coastal zones, wildfire-prone areas, islands, and other areas at high risk of climate hazards.	Recommended- addition of island communities
87- 12-30	Policy 12.17.6- Ensure that evacuation routes are regularly assessed, maintained, and accessible to all residents, including those with limited access to transportation.	Policy 12.17.6- Ensure that evacuation routes are regularly assessed, maintained, publicized, and accessible to all residents, including those with limited access to transportation.	Recommended- benefits to vulnerable populations
88- 12-30	Policy 12.17.7- Increase community awareness and preparedness for climate-related emergencies by conducting regular evacuation drills and providing accessible public information.	Policy 12.17.7- Increase community awareness and preparedness for climate-related emergencies by conducting regular tests of evacuation and other emergency alerts ~~evacuation drills~~ and providing accessible public information.	Recommended- changed from evacuation drills
89- 12-30	Policy 12.17.9- Collaborate with local organizations and community groups to expand access to extreme weather shelters for vulnerable populations, including low-income, medically fragile, elderly, and homeless individuals.	Policy 12.17.9- Collaborate with local organizations and community groups to expand the capacity of and facilitate access to extreme weather shelters for vulnerable populations, including low-income, medically fragile, elderly, and homeless individuals.	Recommended- focus on capacity and facilitation of access
90- 12-31	Policy 12.17.11- Prioritize the relocation or retrofitting of existing critical infrastructure that is highly vulnerable to climate hazards, ensuring continued functionality during extreme events.	Policy 12.17.11- When ~~Prioritize the~~ relocating on or retrofitting ~~of~~ existing critical infrastructure, give priority to those installations that are ~~is~~ highly vulnerable to climate hazards, ensuring continued	Recommend- focus on high risk infrastructure

		functionality during extreme events.	
91- 12-31	Climate change is adversely impacting public health by increasing cases of infectious and vector-borne diseases and reducing food security and water quality. Floods, droughts, wildfires, extreme temperatures, and storms may also contribute to increased chronic disease and hospitalization. Overburdened communities, particularly those with preexisting health conditions, socioeconomic vulnerabilities, residence in a climate impact zone, or occupational risk are more likely to experience health impacts due to climate change.	Climate change is adversely impacting public health by increasing cases of infectious and vector-borne diseases and reducing food security and water quality. Floods, droughts, wildfires and wildfire smoke, extreme temperatures, and storms are expected to ~~may also~~ contribute to increased acute health emergencies, chronic disease, and hospitalization. Overburdened communities, particularly those with preexisting health conditions, socioeconomic vulnerabilities, residence in a climate impact zone, or occupational risk are more likely to experience health impacts due to climate change.	Recommend- minor changes
92- 12-31	Goal 12.18- Prioritize equitable access to resources and services for frontline and disadvantaged communities experiencing adverse health impacts due to climate change.	Goal 12.18- Ensure that public health planning takes account of increased morbidity risk for all segments of the population due to climate change. Provide ~~Prioritize~~ equitable access to resources and services for overburdened ~~frontline and disadvantaged~~ communities experiencing adverse health impacts due to climate change.	Not recommended- address in policies below.
92- 12-31	Policy 12.18.1- Integrate climate-related health risks into public health planning to address the needs of frontline and disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected by climate hazards.	Policy 12.18.1- Integrate climate-related health risks into public health planning, giving priority to address the needs of overburdened communities disproportionately affected by climate hazards.	Recommend- minor changes
93- 12-32	Policy 12.18.2- Develop community-based health programs that focus on preventing and mitigating the adverse health impacts of climate change, such as heat stress, respiratory illnesses, and waterborne diseases.	Policy 12.18.2- Develop community-based health programs that focus on preventing and mitigating the adverse health impacts of climate change, such as heat stress, wildfire smoke exposure, respiratory illnesses, and waterborne, invasive-species borne, and other novel infectious diseases.	Recommend- additional health impacts noted
94- 12-32	Policy 12.18.4- Prioritize investments in health infrastructure and services in communities most	Policy 12.18.4- When investing ~~Prioritize investments~~ in health infrastructure and	Recommend- standardization of language and prioritization of overburdened communities

	affected by climate-related health impacts, including low-income neighborhoods, rural areas, and other frontline communities.	services, prioritize actions in communities most affected by climate-related health impacts, including low-income neighborhoods, rural areas, and other overburdened ~~frontline~~ communities.	
95- 12-32	Policy 12.18.6- Establish contingency plans with community partners for maintaining critical health services, including mobile health units and telemedicine, during extreme weather events and infrastructure failures.	Policy 12.18.6- Establish contingency plans and train to execute them with community partners for maintaining critical health services, including mobile health units and telemedicine, during extreme weather events and infrastructure failures.	Recommend- add focus on training
96- 12-33	Policy 12.18.7- Collaborate with emergency management responders to develop strategies for rapidly restoring essential services in the wake of climate-related disasters, particularly in disadvantaged communities.	Policy 12.18.7- Ensure that ~~Collaborate with~~ emergency management responders are trained and equipped to ~~develop strategies for~~ rapidly restore ~~restoring~~ essential services in the wake of climate-related disasters, particularly in overburdened ~~disadvantaged~~ communities.	Recommend- change terminology from “climate-related disaster” to climate impacts and natural hazards
97- 12-33	Transportation infrastructure is expected to be adversely impacted by climate change, including increased road surface damage from higher temperatures, additional maintenance requirements for roadside and strip vegetation and infrastructure damage from rain, freeze, and thaw cycles. Increasing temperatures and flooding may lead to road closures, ferry and transit delays, and risks to routes, roads, bridges, sidewalks, trails, and rail infrastructure.	Climate change is expected to ~~Transportation infrastructure is expected to be~~ adversely impact transportation infrastructure ~~impacted by climate change~~, including increased road surface damage from higher temperatures, additional maintenance requirements for roadside ~~and strip~~ vegetation and infrastructure damage from rain, freeze, and thaw cycles. Increasing temperatures and flooding may cause ~~lead to~~ road closures, delays in ferry, ~~and~~ transit, and air travel ~~delays~~, ~~and~~ as well as risks to routes, roads, bridges, sidewalks, trails, ~~and~~ rail, and airport infrastructure.	Recommend- change to reflect additional impacts
98- 12-33	Goal 12.19- Ensure the resilience of the transportation system by considering climate risks in siting and planning, incorporating redundancies, preparing for disasters and other impacts, and conducting coordinated planning for system recovery.	Goal 12.19- Ensure the resilience and adaptability of the county and regional transportation system by integrating climate risk assessments into essential elements of ~~considering climate risks in siting and~~ planning, site selection, and infrastructure maintenance to prepare for emergencies,	Not recommended- changes change policy intent.

		create redundancies, and implement coordinated recovery strategies with measurable benchmarks that evaluate and enhance the system's reliability over time.	
99- 12-33	Policy 12.19.1- Integrate climate risk assessments in transportation planning efforts to ensure that transportation networks remain functional in the face of flooding, wildfire, sea-level rise, and other climate impacts.	Policy 12.19.1- Conduct regular geographic information system (GIS) based ~~Integrate~~ climate risk assessments during ~~in~~ transportation planning exercises to ensure that transportation networks remain operational amid flooding, wildfire, sea-level rise, extreme heat, and landslides, using available data to prioritize upgrades for vulnerable routes and to guide project funding decisions~~. and other climate impacts~~.	Recommended in part- add additional climate impacts
100- 12-33	Policy 12.19.2- Collaborate with regional, state, and local partners to develop comprehensive transportation plans that incorporate climate adaptation strategies, focusing on vulnerable populations and critical access routes.	Policy 12.19.2- Collaborate with regional, state, and local partners to develop, harmonize, and implement comprehensive transportation plans that incorporate climate adaptation strategies and prioritize the protection of ~~focusing on~~ vulnerable populations, ~~and~~ critical access routes, and evacuation corridors.	Recommended- rephrase
101-12-33	Policy 12.19.3- Prioritize climate-resilient transportation options, such as public transit, cycling, and pedestrian infrastructure to increase system flexibility during disruptions.	Policy 12.19.3- Develop and finance ~~Prioritize~~ climate-resilient transportation options, such as public transit, cycling, and pedestrian infrastructure to increase system flexibility during disruptions and improve access to these options for rural and overburdened communities.	Recommended in part- Improve access to climate resilient transportation options, such as public transit, cycling, and pedestrian infrastructure to increase system flexibility during disruptions for rural and overburdened communities.
102-12-34	Policy 12.19.4- Invest in resilient transportation infrastructure, such as green infrastructure, stormwater management systems, and natural buffers to mitigate the risks of climate-related hazards like flooding and landslides.	Policy 12.19.4- Invest in resilient transportation infrastructure that prioritizes greenspaces, robust stormwater management, natural buffers, and wetland restoration to mitigate climate-related risks of flooding, landslides, and coastal erosion ~~such as green infrastructure, stormwater management systems, and natural buffers to mitigate the risks of climate-related hazards like flooding and landslides.~~	Recommended in part- add coastal erosion, retain remainder of sentence

103-12-34	Policy 12.19.5- Identify and reinforce critical transportation corridors that serve as lifelines for emergency response and recovery, ensuring that these routes remain operational during disasters.	Policy 12.19.5- Identify, map, and regularly review the viability of ~~and reinforce~~ critical transportation corridors that serve as lifelines for emergency response and recovery, ensuring that these routes remain operational during disasters.	Recommended- for long-range planning exercise
104-12-34	Policy 12.19.6- Develop contingency plans to minimize transportation service disruptions due to extreme weather events, focusing on the rapid restoration of public transit, emergency evacuation routes, and freight corridors.	Policy 12.19.6- Develop and regularly update contingency plans to minimize transportation service disruptions caused by ~~due to~~ extreme weather events, emphasizing ~~focusing on~~ the rapid restoration of public transit, emergency evacuation routes, and freight corridors.	Recommended- minor revision
105-12-34	Policy 12.19.7- Implement real-time monitoring and communication systems to provide timely updates to the public on transportation service disruptions, including low-income and rural populations.	Policy 12.19.7- Implement and maintain real-time monitoring and communication systems to provide timely updates to the public on transportation service disruptions, accessible to ~~including~~ low-income, ~~and~~ rural, underserved, and other vulnerable populations.	Recommended- additions of vulnerable populations
106-12-34	Policy 12.19.8- Prioritize equitable access to alternative transportation options for communities disproportionately impacted by service disruptions, including low-income and rural populations.	Policy 12.19.8- Prioritize equitable access to public transit ~~alternative transportation~~ options for communities disproportionately impacted by service disruptions, including rural, low-income, and other vulnerable populations. ~~for communities disproportionately impacted by service disruptions, including low-income and rural populations~~	Remove- addressed in 12.19.3
107-12-34	Policy 12.19.9- Factor climate risks, such as sea level rise, flooding, extreme heat, and landslides, into the siting and design of new transportation infrastructure to minimize future vulnerabilities.	Policy 12.19.9- Ensure that all new transportation infrastructure minimizes future vulnerabilities by incorporating climate risk assessments and resilience-focused design standards that address sea level rise, flooding, extreme heat, and landslides.	Not recommended- retain language
108-12-34	Policy 12.19.10- Support the strategic closure, rerouting, or elevation of critical transportation infrastructure that is at high risk of climate impacts, such as roads in areas at risk of wildfire	Policy 12.19.10- Perform cost-benefit analyses, engage affected communities, and carefully plan for the closure, rerouting, or elevation of critical transportation	Not recommended- implementation focused

	and flooding.	infrastructure in areas at ~~Support the strategic closure, rerouting, or elevation of critical transportation infrastructure that is at~~ high risk of climate impacts, such as roads in areas at risk of wildfire and flooding.	
109-12-35	More extreme precipitation, storms, and flooding increases strain on wastewater systems and increases the risk of flooding to waste management facilities and landfills. Flooding can have an adverse impact on waste pickup and delivery operations and increase service needs for disposal following storms due to the accumulation of debris that risks public safety.	More extreme precipitation, storms, sea level rise, and flooding increase~~s~~ strain on wastewater systems and increase~~s~~ the risk of flooding to waste management facilities and landfills. Flooding and wildfires can have an adverse impact on waste pickup and delivery operations and increase service needs for disposal following storms and wildfires due to the generation and accumulation creating ~~debris that risks~~ public safety risks.	Recommended- minor change
110-12-35	Policy 12.20.2- Update the Debris Management Plan to incorporate climate hazards and plan for continued operations during and after climate-related disruptions, such as extreme storms, wildfires, or heatwaves.	Policy 12.20.2- Update the Debris Management Plan to incorporate climate hazards and plan for continued operations during and after climate-related disruptions, such as extreme storms, floods, wildfires, or heatwaves.	Recommended- minor change
111-12-36	Policy 12.20.3- Encourage upgrades of waste facility infrastructure, such as stormwater management systems, to mitigate risks from flooding and erosion.	Policy 12.20.3- Encourage upgrades of waste facility infrastructure, such as stormwater management systems, to mitigate infrastructure risks ~~to them~~ from flooding and erosion, sea level rise, and contamination risks ~~for them~~, including from accumulation of PFAs and other toxic or environmentally hazardous chemicals in biosolids.	Recommended in part- remove section about PFAs due to specificity
112-12-36	Policy 12.20.4- Establish protocols for safe and efficient waste collection and disposal of debris during and after emergencies, ensuring that waste services respond to extreme weather events.	Policy 12.20.4- Establish protocols for safe and efficient waste collection and disposal of debris, including best practices for handling toxic or environmentally hazardous materials, during and after emergencies, ensuring that waste services respond to extreme weather and wildfire events.	Not recommended- best practices included under protocols
113-12-36	Climate hazards, including drought and flooding, are shifting the timing of snowmelt and causing	Projected climate change will adversely affect water availability, quality, and	Recommended- changes reflect sector focus

	variable streamflow levels. Drought is expected to also increase aquifer drawdown and may increase saltwater intrusion into aquifers. Flooding is likely to increase demands on stormwater management systems and cause adverse impacts to drinking water which negatively impacts water supply and storage	stormwater management. The retreat of the Nooksack glaciers and decreased winter snowpack will result in lower spring and summer streamflow. Warmer and drier summers will increase demands on aquifers, causing further reductions in instream flows and increasing the risk of seawater intrusion, especially when combined with rising sea levels. In addition, increased winter precipitation will result in more frequent and intense flooding requiring innovative stormwater management solutions. With the anticipated disruption of the county's hydrological patterns due to climate change, it is important to prioritize proactive measures to ensure water security and enhance community resilience against its long-term impacts.	
114-12-37	Goal 12.21- Enhance the resilience of Whatcom County's water sources and systems to climate impacts through partnerships to advance watershed protection, habitat enhancement, and water infrastructure improvements.	Goal 12.21- Strengthen ~~Enhance~~ the resilience of Whatcom County's water sources and systems against ~~to~~ climate impacts by enhancing ~~through partnerships to advance~~ watershed protection, stabilizing water supplies, safeguarding habitats, improving ~~habitat enhancement, and~~ water infrastructure, and cultivating equitable partnerships for long-term sustainability ~~improvements~~.	Recommended in part- remove "long-term sustainability"
115-12-37	Policy 12.21.1- Consider climate change, including changes in groundwater, sea level rise, and compound flooding in the floodplain management planning process.	Policy 12.21.1- Consider climate change in the floodplain management planning process, including changes in groundwater, sea level rise, and flooding frequency and magnitude. ~~compound flooding in the floodplain management planning process.~~	Recommended- flooding frequency and magnitude
116-12-37	Policy 12.21.2- Collaborate with local, regional, and tribal partners to ensure water resource planning through the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Project integrates climate projections, with a focus on evaluating the	Policy 12.21.2- Collaborate with local, regional, and Tribal partners to ensure that water resource planning through the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Project integrates climate projections and surface	Recommended- minor change

	impacts of climate change on water availability, quality, and infrastructure.	and groundwater modeling and monitoring with a focus on evaluating the impacts of climate change on water availability, quality, and infrastructure.	
117-12-37	Policy 12.21.4- Invest in green infrastructure solutions, such as bioswales and permeable pavements, to manage increased stormwater runoff caused by increased precipitation.	Policy 12.21.4- Invest in green infrastructure solutions, such as bioswales and permeable pavements, to manage increased stormwater runoff caused by increased precipitation and mitigate the adverse effects of construction and development.	Recommended- reflects additional development impact
118-12-37	Policy 12.21.5- Update stormwater treatment systems to handle larger volumes of runoff, reducing the risk of flooding and water contamination during storms.	Policy 12.21.5- Update stormwater treatment systems, including fish barrier culverts, to handle larger volumes of runoff, reducing the risk of flooding and water contamination during storms.	Recommended- minor revision
119-12-38	N/A	Policy 12.21.x- Advocate for the reform of water rights, including the “use it or lose it” relinquishment doctrine, for agricultural and other users, to encourage efficient and timely use of limited water in projected drier, hotter summers.	Not recommended- adjudication and water policy discussed in other chapters.
120-12-38	N/A	Policy 12.21.xx- Work with PUD-1 and public water systems to coordinate voluntary and mandatory water use restrictions during declared droughts	Recommended- part of drought contingency plan
120b-12-39	N/A	Policy 12.21.xxx- Identify potential interties between public water systems to mitigate drought impacts.	Recommended- part of drought contingency plan
121-12-39	Zoning and development changes can build resilience to climate impacts by limiting new development in areas at risk of flooding, wildfire, sea level rise, and other climate hazards. Development regulations and zoning also affect availability and uses of developable land in hazard zones, reduce risk to shoreline properties, and reduce infrastructure damage and displacement. Coastal and riverine infrastructure is particularly at risk to sea level rise and flooding, which can be mitigated through natural and built infrastructure solutions.	Zoning and development changes can build resilience to climate impacts by limiting new development in areas at risk of flooding, wildfire, sea level rise, and other climate hazards. Development regulations and zoning also affect the availability and permitted uses of developable land in hazard zones, reduce risk to shoreline properties, and reduce infrastructure damage and displacement. Coastal and riverine infrastructure is particularly at risk to sea level rise and flooding, which can be	Recommended- minor changes and addition regarding WUI

		mitigated through natural and built infrastructure solutions. Infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface and even in areas of dense development are increasingly at risk from wildfire as fire seasons become hotter and drier. These risks can be mitigated with development regulations and zoning.	
122-12-39	Goal 12.22- Update zoning and development regulations that incorporate best practices for reducing the risk of extreme heat, sea level rise, flooding, wildfire, and other climate hazards.	Goal 12.22- Update zoning and development regulations that incorporate best practices for reducing the risks of extreme heat, sea level rise, reduced water availability, flooding, wildfire, and other climate hazards.	Recommended- addition of reduced water availability
123-12-39	Policy 12.22.1- Expand protections for critical areas and shorelines that are vulnerable to sea level rise, ensuring that development is restricted in high-risk zones.	Policy 12.22.1- Expand protections for critical areas and shorelines that are vulnerable to sea level rise and flooding, ensuring that development is restricted in high-risk zones.	Recommended- add additional climate impact
124-12-40	Policy 12.22.2- Promote the use of conservation easements and other land preservation tools to advance carbon sequestration tools.	Policy 12.22.2- Promote the use of conservation easements and other land preservation tools to increase carbon sequestration through changes in zoning codes, with funding, and by collaborating with relevant nongovernmental organizations. ~~to advance carbon sequestration tools.~~	Not recommended- implementation focused.
125-12-40	Policy 12.22.3- Prioritize the transfer of development rights from high-risk areas, including shorelines and flood-prone zones to urban growth areas or other areas less susceptible to climate impacts.	Policy 12.22.3- Prioritize the transfer of development rights from high-risk areas, including shorelines and flood-prone and fire-prone zones to ~~urban growth areas or other~~ areas less susceptible to climate impacts.	Recommended- reflect fire hazards
126-12-40	Policy 12.22.4- Incorporate climate migration considerations into zoning and land use policies to ensure that new development occurs in areas that are safe from climate hazards, such as sea level rise, flooding, and wildfires.	Policy 12.22.4- Incorporate climate migration considerations into zoning and land use policies to ensure that new development occurs only in areas that are relatively safe from climate hazards, such as sea level rise, decreased water availability, flooding, and wildfires.	Recommended in part- revise to lower risk

127-12-40	Policy 12.22.6- Require that applicants conduct climate risk assessments to inform rezoning requests in rural study areas and ensure that future development is restricted in areas vulnerable to extreme heat, flooding, and other climate hazards.	Policy 12.22.6- Require that applicants conduct climate risk assessments to inform rezoning requests in rural study areas and ensure that future development is restricted in areas vulnerable to extreme heat, flooding, wildfire, and other climate hazards.	Recommended- add wildfire
128-12-40	Policy 12.22.7- Rezone high-risk areas to discourage new development in zones susceptible to wildfires, landslides, flooding, and sea level rise.	Policy 12.22.7- Rezone high-risk areas to prohibit ~~discourage~~ new development in zones at high-risk of ~~susceptible to~~ wildfires, landslides, flooding, and sea level rise and regulate development in areas of moderate risk in accordance with best practices to mitigate potential public safety risks and property losses.	Recommended- reflects application of climate risk mapping
129-12-40	Policy 12.22.8- Evaluate the rezoning of low climate hazard risk areas for higher-density development, focusing on multi-modal and transit-oriented communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Policy 12.22.8- Evaluate the rezoning of low climate hazard risk areas for higher-density development, focusing on multi-modal and transit-oriented communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and on the potential for distributed renewable energy to also support resilience.	Not recommended- distributed renewable addressed in other policies.

John Thompson, Public Works- Natural Resources Comment Log:

Comment #: Page #	Policy Text	Comment on Policy	Comment Resolution
130- 12-1	The Climate Element is a required element of comprehensive plans under HB 1181.	Comment: How was HB 1181 codified? Reference RCW or WAC instead.	Recommend: Add WAC #
131- 12-2	To ensure that goals and policies included in the Climate Element are internally consistent with other elements of the County's Comprehensive Plan, a policy audit was conducted to identify any similar or overlapping goals and policies from other elements of the County's adopted Comprehensive Plan.	Policies complied, but did the audit find areas where new policies may be needed or improved?	Recommend to add comment: "Sections were proposed in chapters across the Comprehensive Plan, as appropriate based on the requirements of HB 1181, County planning documents, and resolution 2022-036. The climate element includes new policy language to address the intermediate guidance requirements and address local policy priorities. Internal consistency will continue to be assessed until adoption of the Comprehensive Plan."
132- 12-3	The 2022 Whatcom County Greenhouse Gas Inventory quantified emissions produced by activities across Whatcom County, including emissions from the built environment,	Do the refineries and natural gas power plants need a specific call out in this summary?	Recommend hange: Add industrial processes to the list in the description of the 2022 GHG Inventory.

	transportation, solid waste and wastewater treatment, refrigerant use, and land use		
133- 12-2	Policy 12.1.1 - Support and incentivize renewable energy projects, including agrivoltaic systems, that integrate renewable energy production with ongoing agricultural activities.	Change wording to “create incentives”	Recommend change: “Support and incentivize” to support incentives for
134- 12-4	Goal 12.2- Decarbonize buildings by promoting the transition to renewable energy sources, implementing green building standards, and retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient.	Define decarbonize or use plain language	Recommend change: “decarbonize” to “Reduce emissions from buildings and energy use”
135- 12-7	Policy 12.5.3- Increase and protect the urban tree canopy, particularly in areas with low canopy cover that are vulnerable to urban heat island effects.	Can this be revised to encourage/require that space be reserved for establishing trees where urban levels of new development or substantial redevelopment are planned. E.g. street trees, plazas, green strips in parking lots, etc.	Recommend change: Add “in UGAs”
136- 12-7	Policy 12.5.4- Develop and implement tree re-establishment and forest management plans for County-owned property, including individual parcels, parks and forestland that address climate stressors and guide adaptive management practices.	Is see the management of Lake Whatcom being more directly forest management while say South Fork Park or Hovander could have HMZ plus 300’ riparian buffers reestablished increasing tree cover, serving the river and storing carbon. We also have a number of parcels that are neither parks or forestland but where trees and shrubs and wetlands can be established supporting ecosystem functions.	Recommend change to add: open and greenspace to address climate stressors and improve carbon sequestration.
137- 12-7	12-8 Add policy- Policy 12.5.6 – Prevent further degradation of existing riparian areas along rivers, streams and wetlands and create incentives for restoration of riparian areas on public and private properties to protect water quality, provide for the physical and biological processes that form and maintain salmon habitat, and to store carbon in riparian vegetation, wetlands, and soils.	Where do we insert additional policies that relate to moderating climate impacts to basin hydrology and associated impacts to water quality, water supply, salmon and salmon habitat and the role that forested watersheds play in mitigating those impacts?	Recommend change to dd new policy- but retain focus on carbon sequestration (due to location in GHG reduction subelement)- 12.5.6 “Restore riparian areas on public and private properties to protect water quality, salmon habitat, and to store carbon in riparian vegetation, wetlands, and soils.” Existing riparian areas along river, streams, and wetlands discussed in resilience subelement.
138- 12-8	Add policy	Add new policy about the need to evaluate the locations of emergency response facilities (e.g. fire and police stations, medical, county and city response) and their	Not recommended- section moved to resilience subelement and vulnerability to critical infrastructure addressed in that subelement.

		current and future vulnerability and prepare to protect in place or relocate. Could add another policy about evaluating and establishing and informing the public about well-marked evacuation routes to be used in emergency situations	
139- 12-9	Transportation sector	Seems like part of the equation is also locating groceries, medical and other key needs in areas of population density (e.g. LMAIRD(?), uga etc.) so folks don't have to drive 25 miles or more each way to get food etc. Add another policy? Also seems like there is also a huge land-use link here – the more dispersed rural development, the more VMT's you've got.	No change- density of development addressed in Zoning and Development section of subelement
140- 12-9	Transportation sector	Anyway to get Amazon, FedEx and others to improve the coordination and efficiency of their deliveries? Amazon will deliver to our street maybe 6-10 times a day when one coordinated trip would do it.	No change- Intersection with transportation element, routes determined by individual companies.
141- 12-9	Policy 12.8.11- Support Port of Bellingham's initiatives to electrify shipping terminals and promote the transition to cleaner marine engines, equipment and vessels.	Are these options even available? Will they be in the near future? Not sure if this is the place to do it but All American Marine has been building hybrid and all electric vessels – combining more efficient hull design and propulsion systems.	No change- technology is shifting and vessels are moving to hybrid diesel electric and other technologies.
142- 12-9	Policy 12.8.12- Support state and federal incentives to increase efficiency and replace diesel-powered passenger and freight trains with lower carbon alternatives.	I don't disagree, but there are likely more diesel emissions on I-5 through Bellingham in an hour than by trains in a week. Maybe 12.8.2 gets at this already….	No change- rail emissions part of countywide inventory, necessitating separate policy.
143- 12-10	Waste diversion strategies can reduce the amount of waste that is currently being transferred to landfills outside Whatcom County. Decreasing waste production lowers greenhouse gas emissions emitted due to waste transport, processing, and disposal. Updating existing wastewater treatment infrastructure and replacing septic tanks and water systems further reduces methane emissions.	Replacing with what? New septics and water systems? Or is this trying to say tie into a central waste water treatment system/plant? How do water systems produce methane or is this referring to waste water systems? Can wording be clarified for people like me?	Recommend change: maintaining systems to reduce methane leakage
144- 12-11	Increasing water demand in industrial, commercial, and residential buildings and for agricultural irrigation results in more greenhouse gas emissions associated with	This section seems more tied to water supply (potable or treated industrial) than to waste water. Break wastewater out more explicitly as an emission source and water	No change- CIAC recommendation to create new section on wastewater addresses this comment.

	water treatment and transport. Reducing demand for water through water conservation and improvements in water treatment efficiency reduces the energy use necessary to produce and transport treated water.	re-use resource? Clarify if this is treating potable water or treating wastewater for reuse or return to streamflow.	
145- 12-12	Policy 12.10.3- Encourage the use of smart irrigation systems, stormwater management and reuse strategies, and preventative maintenance by water users to improve water efficiency.	Again, not sure if this is the place, but rainwater harvesting for use in irrigating home gardens helps reduce the volume of municipal water treated to some degree.	No change- residential water reuse for home gardens minor water use.
146- 12-12	Policy 12.11.2- Adopt incentive programs, such as density bonuses and tax deferrals in Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) to promote compact, transit-oriented, and infill development, reducing vehicle miles traveled and associated transportation emissions.	LAMIRDS? We have these areas of higher density development in the county, Paradise Valley as an example. The county has built a “resource center” there. Should we be providing for more basic services there such as grocery, law enforcement, EMT’s/basic medical clinic that could reduce trips into town for what can be an underserved community? Intent is not to promote sprawl, but to acknowledge we have population density that is totally car dependent.	Recommend- Revise to add LAMIRDs
147- 12-12	Policy 12.11.4- Discourage forest conversion for non-forestry uses by providing clear incentives for climate-adaptive forest management and maintenance of the forest land base.	This kinda reads that the policy says to provide clear incentives for conversion.	Recommend to revise to “Strengthen development regulations to discourage conversion of forestland for non-forestry uses.”
148- 12-15	Policy 12.12.2- Policy 12.12.2- Promote the adoption of climate-friendly agricultural practices, such as regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, tree intercropping, and aquaculture to increase carbon sequestration and improve soil health.	Probably need to discuss this. Aquaculture for fin fish can take a lot of water for the freshwater end of it and I’m pretty sure the county has an ordinance banning net pen type aquaculture in the marine waters of county. Develop separate policy specific to the various types of aquaculture?	Recommend to remove aquaculture and create separate policy.
149- 12-15	Agriculture and Food Systems	Do we know to what degree farmers have already done this? Seems like the big producers are well down this path already so maybe the smaller operations could use some help? And being prepared to convert to salt tolerant crops or abandon/convert fields to wetlands or other uses. Can’t do one without protecting the other.	No change- clarifying comments

		I've seen soil erosion with rill and small gully formation on upland fields that have minimal or no cover crop during wet winter months.	
150- 12-17	Policy 12.13.9- Maintain land-use policies that reduce exposure to landslide risks by restricting development in high-risk areas or areas adjacent to mapped landslides or landforms susceptible to landslide initiation.	The challenge with this wording is that we only have actual risk assessments for a few areas, primarily on alluvial fans. Restrictions could include requiring a risk assessment by a licensed engineering geologist or geotechnical PE	Recommend change- complete additional geotechnical assessment to assess risk countywide and restrict development in areas adjacent to landslides or landforms susceptible to landslide initiation.
151-12-20	Policy 12.16.6- Prioritize alpine habitats for active management, restoration, and protection across jurisdictional boundaries.	Guess I don't understand the basis for this one. My understanding is that most of the truly alpine areas in the county are in National Park or National Forest and are largely protected. Can this be reworded to say, "Prioritize areas in the middle to upper Nooksack watershed that have been heavily impacted by past forest management and forest road building for active management, restoration, and protection across jurisdictional boundaries."?	No change recommended- Nooksack Adaptation: STRATEGY 18. Prioritize, protect, and manage alpine habitat to reduce potential for habitat loss., STRATEGY 59. Increase resilience to climate change by preserving biodiversity in alpine habitat.
152- 12-20	Policy 12.16.7- Coordinate ecosystem planning efforts across jurisdictional boundaries to address climate impacts on priority habitats.	The devil is in the details. Who coordinates? Who sets priorities on habitat? Etc.	No change- further defined as part of ecosystem planning coordination.
153- 12-40	Policy 12.22.3- Prioritize the transfer of development rights from high-risk areas, including shorelines and flood-prone zones to urban growth areas or other designated areas less susceptible to climate impacts and ecological damage.	Am thinking we need to promote targeting specific areas to receive development if it is outside a city or UGA rather than general increased rural development.	No change- will require further definition as part of review of development regulations

Whitney Osienky- Public Works- Archaeologist Comment Log:

Comment #: Page #	Policy Text	Comment on Policy	Comment Resolution
154- 12-6	Siting of utility and infrastructure projects, such as energy, water, or transportation systems, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions can have a negative impact on cultural resources. As required by RCW 70A.65.305, Whatcom County consults with any affected federally recognized tribe on Climate Commitment Act funded	Siting of utility and infrastructure projects, such as energy, water, or transportation systems, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions can have a negative impact on cultural resources. As required by RCW 70A.65.305, Whatcom County should consult with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Department of	Accept all changes

	programs or projects that may impact tribal resources**.**	Fish and Wildlife and all interested federally recognized Tribes on Climate Commitment Act funded programs or projects that may impact Tribal resources. Tribal resources as recognized by RCW 70A.65.305 include "Tribal cultural resources, archaeological sites, sacred sites, fisheries, or other rights and interests in tribal lands and lands within which a tribe or tribes possess rights reserved or protected by federal treaty, statute, or executive order."	
155- 12-6	**Goal 12.3- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to cultural resources due to energy, transportation, and water infrastructure siting and operations.**	Goal 12.3- Protect, avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to cultural resources from Climate Commitment Act funded programs or projects through meaningful consultation, as defined by HB 1753 and RCW 70A.65.305, with the appropriate local, state and federal authorities, including affected Indian Tribes.	Accept all changes
156- 12-6	Policy 12.3.1- During the review of large-scale renewable energy permitting applications, determine the potential impacts on affected cultural resources and initiate consultation, as appropriate.	Policy 12.3.1- At the earliest possible date prior to submittal of an application to receive funds from Climate Commitment Act accounts, Whatcom County will consult with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Department of Fish and Wildlife and all interested federally recognized Tribes in accordance with HB 1753.	Accept all changes
157- 12-6	Policy 12.3.2- Evaluate the potential impacts of proposed low-carbon transportation projects, energy transmission, and water utility infrastructure expansion on cultural resources.	Policy 12.3.2- Consultation will be early, meaningful, and individual with any affected federally recognized Tribe, with the goal of identifying Tribal and cultural resources potentially affected by the funding decisions and funding programs, assess their effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on cultural resources.	Accept all changes
158- 12-6	Policy 12.3.3- Whatcom County will consult with all affected federally recognized tribes regarding funds received from Climate Commitment Act accounts, in accordance with HB 1753.	Policy 12.3.3 - Whatcom County will accept any documents summarizing Tribal issues, questions, concerns, or other statements regarding the project. The summary document submitted by Tribes during consultation will become part of the official application on file and do not limit what issues affected Tribes raise in the consultation process**.**	Accept all changes

159- 12-6	New policy	Policy 12.3.4- Whatcom County will adhere to all state and federal regulations that protect the location of certain cultural resources from disclosure. Any information that is exempt from disclosure pursuant to RCW 42.56.300 or federal law, including section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, shall not become part of the official application file.	Accept all changes
160- 12-6	New policy	Policy 12.3.5- Consultation will be independent of, and in addition to, any public participation process required by federal or state law, or by a federal or state agency, including the requirements of Executive Order 21-02 related to archaeological and cultural resources.	Accept all changes
161- 12-6	New policy	Policy 12.3.6- Whatcom County will work with the state and Tribes to identify and determine the potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, on affected cultural resources during the review of large-scale renewable energy permitting applications.	Accept all changes
162- 12-6	New policy	Policy 12.3.7- Whatcom County will work with the state and Tribes to identify and evaluate the potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, of proposed low-carbon transportation projects, energy transmission, and water utility infrastructure expansion on cultural resources.	Accept all changes
163- 12-6	New policy	Policy 12.3.8- Development on sites adjacent to or containing cultural resources should be planned and carried out so as to be compatible with continued protection of that resource.	Accept all changes
164- 12-6	New policy	Policy 12.14.1- Consult with Tribes and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) to identify cultural resources and practices, including historic sites and culturally important traditional foods and natural resources that are threatened by climate change.	Accept all changes
165- 12-6	Policy 12.14.2- Identify culturally significant buildings and structures at risk of destabilization, submersion, or collapse due to flooding and consider relocation or elevation, if appropriate.	Add through consultation with Tribes	Accept all changes

166- 12-6	Policy 12.14.3- Evaluate the vulnerability and sensitivity of culturally significant roads, trails, and landscape features to damage or alteration from climate change.	Add through consultation with Tribes and DAHP	Accept all changes
167- 12-6	Policy 12.14.4- Protect and restore culturally significant species and habitats that are threatened by climate change.	Add through consultation with Tribes and DAHP	Accept all changes
168- 12-6	Policy 12.14.5- Strengthen partnerships with the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe to advance the adaptation and preservation of cultural resources at risk due to climate change, as identified in tribal cultural resource codes.	Strengthen partners with federally recognizes Tribes	Accept all changes

Margaret Taylor, Nooksack Tribal Staff

Comment #: Page #	Policy Text	Comment on Policy	Comment Resolution
169- 12-5	Policy 12.2.8- Update the Whatcom County code and development standards to incorporate best practices for minimizing renewable energy project permitting and siting conflicts.	Lack of conflict could be a lack of NIMBYism, as is often in the case in historically disenfranchised communities. Suggest adding environmental justice considerations using guidance in the WA HEAL Act.	Recommended- Replace minimizing renewable energy project permitting and siting conflicts with “best practices for permitting and siting, consistent with WA HEAL Act guidance.”
170- 12-5	Policy 12.2.9- Encourage the use of locally or regionally derived building materials, such as wood and mass timber products that store embodied carbon.	Encourage the use of sustainable, climate resilient silviculture.	Not recommended- silviculture addressed in resilience sub-element
171- 12-5	Cultural resources Sector	This sounds as if only CCA-funded projects require cultural review. How are non-CCA energy/climate projects handled? How do potential impacts get determined? Internally? In coordination w/ THPOs? What role does the County archeologist play? Similar to above. How does WC determine when consultation is appropriate? Just evaluate? Suggest: Avoid	See: revisions proposed by County archaeologist.
172- 12-9	Emergency management sector	Not specifically emergency management, but suggest: Encourage electrical utility providers (PSE) to enhance the capacity of power lines to remote, underpowered communities to allow for access to electrification resilience benefits.	Policy- Coordinate the development of a network of emergency hubs with centralized and accessible services during an emergency. Recommended to update policies 12.13.1 and improve service capacity for remote, underpowered communities.

		E.g., An electric car may function as a backup battery in an emergency, but it doesn't make sense to invest in an electric car in Deming because there is insufficient power capacity for a commercial charging station, according to PSE.	
173- 12-9	Emergency management sector	Policy- Coordinate the development of a network of emergency hubs with centralized and accessible services during an emergency.	Discussed in policy 12.17.9
174- 12-18	Agriculture and food systems sector	Diversity of crops AND climate-resilient varieties within crops (e.g., bolt resistant)	Discussed in 12.12.4
175- 12-24	Policy 12.13.12- Support adaptation measures such as habitat restoration, soft shoreline protection devices and elevation of structures and infrastructure to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels.	Add soft shoreline stabilization techniques, managed retreat	Recommended- aligns with natural ecosystem adaptation measures
176- 12-33	Add policy to transportation sector	Incorporate hydrologic climate impacts into the design of water-crossing structures (i.e., climate-smart culverts and bridges) for fish passage and habitat quality.	Recommended- add additional policy
177- 12-36	Add policy to water resources sector	Assess and implement resilience strategies to reduce the vulnerability of aquifers, wastewater systems, and septic systems to seawater intrusion, flooding from rising sea levels, and changing groundwater tables.	Recommended- add additional policy

Rhys Thorvald Hansen- Food Systems Committee Chair Comment Log:

Comment #: Page #	**Policy Text**	**Comment on Policy**	**Comment Resolution**
178- 12-3	Agriculture and Food Systems	Recommend adding processing 'distances traveled for processing and distribution' as the lack of processing (Particularly meat processing) adds significant travel miles to locally grown meals.	Suggested- local food processing
179- 12-3	Policy 12.1.3- Build consumer demand for locally produced agricultural products by supporting retail, institutional, and community market opportunities for local producers and food businesses.	12.1.3 Suggest instead of 'building consumer demand', 'increase accessibility of locally.' The demand is growing, but access points to local food markets is a challenge because of existing centralization and policies that incentivize economics of scale.	Suggest- Increase accessibility
180- 12-19	Agriculture and Food Systems	12.12.1 This goal looks good overall, except that it leaves out a key part of food system	Add policy to Health section to address Washington State Department of Labor &

		infrastructure, the agricultural workforce. Recommend adding a policy that encourages/incentivizes ag producers to adapt their practices to ensure the well-being of their workforces during extreme climate events.	Industries (L&I) adopted updates to Outdoor Heat Exposure rules to prevent heat-related illness and reduce traumatic injuries associated with heat exposure. Improve public health education for employers to prevent heat-related illness and reduce traumatic injuries associated with heat exposure for outdoor workers.

Dan Kostrzewski, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Comment Log:

Comment #: Page #	Policy Text	Comment on Policy	Comment Resolution
181	Policy 12.5.5- Discourage the conversion of forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other high-carbon storage areas for uses that areas incompatible with carbon sequestration goals.	How does this interact with encouraging significantly more mixed-use residential development to reduce car trips and accommodate our massive population increases, especially with so many more climate refuges expected to resettle here as conditions in California/Oregon get worse?	No change- generally, growth is intended to be concentrated in cities and UGAs, per the Growth Management Act guidelines. Retention of open and greenspace, urban and community forests, and housing development are also a requirement of the GMA which requires a balance of land use types countywide.
182	Comments on policies 12.7.1, 12.8 and 12.8.6, 12.8.8, 12.11, 12.19.3, 12.19.8, 12.19, 12.22, 12.22.8	12.7.1 Note that there is zero funding, no staffing and limited will to fund any bicycle or pedestrian infrastructure in Whatcom County currently. So, anything here would need to have a staffing and funding plan to realize any forward movement. Most funding entities are resistant to fund projects with no staffing in place. From what we were last told, the bike/ped budget is currently 40K annually in the county, not very much. 12.8 Once again, is there any funding or staffing here? These would be impossible to accomplish without either. 12.8.6 This is great too, but same question about staffing and funding. 12.8.8 As a previous regional transit user, the system is very, very difficult to rely on as a reasonable alternative unless you are old, poor or too young to drive. I would look to encourage a broader point-to-point (rather than just hub and transfer) infrastructure in	Implementation and funding comments for consideration by Planning Commission.

		the outlying communities. Independently I have had discussions with the WTA route planner and they seem unwilling or unable to consider any changes to the route network to make it more convenient for the transit-curious. 12.11 We have hit a common snag in the UGAs, where neither the city nor county will fund any bike or ped development in the UGAs. Need a cross-govt working group to figure that out. I saw encouraging language in the comp plan, but currently this is a real crux since the UGAs may stay UGAs for decades since the homeowners will need to vote to annex into the city from what I understand, which seems unlikely. 12.19.3 Once again, no funding or staffing to do anything here. 12.19 The current bus route frequency in the county is not very convenient/compatible with most schedules and there is low effort to bike/ped safe the routes from transit hubs into mixed use. Ferndale is a great example as the bike/bus route from the transit center to downtown is a frightening bike experience. 12.22 With the migration north and up of snow level, Mt Baker ski area will be seeing drastically higher visitation and traffic, so there is a practical imperative to facilitate more carpooling on 542. There is currently no park and ride infrastructure for the mountain and limited terrain to add any parking at the mountain. I'd suggest looking at the Barkley/Britton Rd intersection as the first opportunity to start building in park and ride capacity for Mt recreation at an increasingly busier Mt Baker. King County has done good work recently to facilitate trailhead parking transit options and leverage reverse commute park and	

		ride capacity, so that might be a good comp. I'd suggest adding something about dramatically increasing the rate of residential dwellings to accommodate a significantly increased population increase, partially due to climate migration and refuges. Our growth curve will likely continue to spike upward not just by population but also by percentage increase if current trends continue. 12.22.8 This is great, but once again no staff, budget or will at the county level to increase multi-modal infrastructure, which is decades behind other counties. The new Skagit County library is a great positive example of a rural county building in multi-modal at the heart of its new flagship downtown project with EV charging, park-and-ride parking and bike lockers just two blocks away from its biggest county transit hub.	

Marine Resources Committee Comment Log:

Comment #: Page #	Policy Text	Comment on Policy	Comment Resolution
183	New policy- aquaculture	Here's the notes from the meeting we had and my recommendations for the Climate Change portion of the Comp Plan in regards to seaweed/shellfish aquaculture and why it should be promoted, incentivized, supported, and encouraged by Whatcom County. The 2 key points are as follows and attached are documents/links to support. 1. Food and Economic Security: Aquaculture promotes more food and economic security by: not further impeding on terrestrial resources, requires zero inputs (as do most agricultural practices), encourages a more diverse sustainable working waterfront, offers a diverse crop	New policy- Promote seaweed and shellfish aquaculture to increase food security, improving kelp carbon sequestration and reducing localized ocean acidification.

		opportunity, offers economic opportunities to already working waterfront maritime folk from reductions in the fin-fishing industries (reduced runs, increased regulations). In the Comp Plan, sections 12 especially, it would be advised under the Goals to include aquaculture next to agriculture. 2. Ecosystem Services: The ecosystem services that shellfish/seaweed farms provide are numerous, including but not limited to: providing habitat, refuge, food for the basic levels of oceanic systems, macro/micronutrients, all of which are vitally important in supporting nearshore and intertidal species (especially ESA listed salmonids). The benefits provided by aquaculture for humans is also vitally important to preserve and encourage. Seaweeds/kelp sequester carbon, on a fairly small-scale science has shown, but they also sequester excess nutrients that we often deem as pollutants. Seaweeds can denutrify eutrophic waters where excess nitrogen occurs from upland terrestrial sources, typically agricultural sources. Seaweeds have also shown to reduce localized ocean acidification. Growing seaweed and protecting existing SAV (submerged aquatic vegetation) beds is recommended with increased ocean acidification (OA) and the need to protect shellfish beds, which are most affected by OA. Larvae and juvenile shellfish have reduced shell growth, during their most vulnerable times of growth, from the effects of OA, and therefor poses a large economic risk to the WA shellfish industry. Seaweed aquaculture also has shown to reduce the severity of wave attenuation and tidal erosion, which is an area of concern with increasing storm surges and rising oceans.	

Interdepartmental Review-

Comment #: Page #	Policy Text	Comment on Policy	Comment Resolution
184- 12-5	Policy 12.2.7- Update the Whatcom County code and development standards to incorporate best practices for renewable energy project permitting and siting, consistent with WA HEAL Act guidance.	Include full abbreviation	Policy 12.2.7- Update the Whatcom County code and development standards to incorporate best practices for renewable energy project permitting and siting, consistent with WA Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act guidance.
185- 12-5	Policy 12.2.9 - Advocate for updates to the Washington State Building Code to increase the energy efficiency of homes and buildings consistent with the 2009 SB 5854, "Energy First Bill."	Moved from Zoning & Development relates more closely to Buildings & Energy. Reference Energy First Bill due to past appeals I-2066.	
186- 12-8	Policy 12.5.5- Discourage the conversion of forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other high-carbon storage areas for uses that are incompatible with carbon sequestration goals.	Wetlands already regulated under Critical Areas Ordinance- remove	Policy 12.5.5- Discourage the conversion of forests, grasslands, and other high-carbon storage areas for uses that are incompatible with habitat preservation and carbon sequestration goals.
187- 12-9	New policy	Add policy related to impact of recreational access to open and greenspace for public health outcomes.	Policy 12.7.6- Improve recreational access to public lands to promote equitable access to open space, greenspace, and parks and improved public health outcomes.
188- 12-10	Policy 12.8.1- Support efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single occupant vehicle trips, including compliance with the Commute Trip Reduction Act and other initiatives to increase carpooling, ridesharing, telecommuting, bicycling, rail, and transit use.	Add per capita	Policy 12.8.1- Support efforts to reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single occupant vehicle trips, including compliance with the Commute Trip Reduction Act and other initiatives to increase carpooling, ridesharing, telecommuting, bicycling, rail, and transit use.
189- 12-10	New policy	Part of implementation of VMT targets and supporting actions WSDOT report due to HB 1181.	Policy 12.8.2- Work with Whatcom Council of Governments and cities to establish and track a local and regionally coordinated per capita VMT reduction goals and policies consistent with the statewide reduction targets in RCW 47.01.440.
190- 12-10	New policy	To establish regionally coordinated data regarding transportation emissions across Whatcom County.	Policy 12.8.3- Coordinate with WSDOT, Whatcom Council of Governments, and cities to update the regional transportation plan to estimate and track transportation related greenhouse gas emissions by jurisdiction in Whatcom County.
191- 12-12	Policy 12.9.4- Support the expansion of organic material collection services to increase the diversion of waste from landfills.	Add citation to RCW	Policy 12.9.4- Support the expansion of organic material collection services to increase the diversion of waste from landfills, as

			required by RCW 70A.205.545 and consistent with RCW 70A.205.715.
192-12-12	Policy 12.9.7- Expand the septic tank replacement rebate programs to incentivize the installation and maintenance of systems.	Add septic inspections	Policy 12.9.7- Expand the septic tank replacement rebate programs and septic inspections to incentivize the installation and maintenance of systems.
193-12-12	New policy	Add new organics management requirement	Policy 12.11.6- Compliant with RCW 70A.205.040, Whatcom County will amend zoning code to allow for the siting of organic materials management facilities in the areas identified in RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(i), to the extent necessary to provide for the establishment of the organic materials management volumetric capacity identified under RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(ii).
194-12-12	Policy 12.11.5- Strongly discourage development that would degrade wetlands to support carbon sequestration goals. Policy 12.11.6- Evaluate mitigation monitoring to determine the effectiveness of critical areas protections and riparian management initiatives.	Revised policy to address critical areas ordinance and monitoring to determine effectiveness of protections.	Policy 12.11.5- Consistent with the Critical Areas Ordinance, strongly discourage development that would degrade wetlands to support carbon sequestration goals. Policy 12.11.6- Evaluate mitigation monitoring to determine the effectiveness of critical areas protections and riparian management initiatives.
195-203 12-26	12.21.1, 12.21.3, 12.21.5, 12.21.6, 12.21.8, 12.21.9, 12.21.10, 12.21.16	Comments submitted by PW NR staff on Ecosystems section on policies listed in column to right.	Policy 12.21.1- Consider climate change in the floodplain management planning process, including incorporating best available science modelling changes in groundwater, sea level rise, and flooding frequency and magnitude. Policy 12.21.3- Prioritize the restoration of wetland and riparian management zones to mitigate temperature increases in streams and restore natural streamflow, improve habitat connectivity to lost or degraded habitats, protecting aquatic species that are vulnerable to warmer water conditions and providing connected habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.

			Policy 12.21.5- Update stormwater management practices and treatment systems to incorporate climate projections, including updating fish barrier culverts, to handle larger volumes of runoff, reducing the risk of flooding and water contamination during storms. Policy 12.21.6- Strengthen regulatory requirements for stormwater management in new developments to ensure that climate impacts are incorporated in design and construction, consistent with updated stormwater management guidance. Policy 12.21.8- Incorporate wetland riparian area, groundwater recharge areas, and headwater restoration and protection as a key component of climate adaptation strategies, recognizing the complimentary benefits of mitigating storm impacts and supporting biodiversity. Policy 12.21.9- Promote investments in infrastructure upgrades that enhance the capacity and conveyance of surface water to handle shifting water demands and supply variability. Policy 12.21.10- Implement natural water storage solutions, such as floodplain reconnection, beaver management, wetland enhancement, and headwater and critical aquifer recharge area restoration. Policy 12.21.16- Evaluate the vulnerability of the Lake Whatcom watershed to climate change, based on best available projections of changes in temperature and precipitation.

195- 12-28	12.22.1, 12.22.6, 12.22.7, 12.22.8, 12.22.9	Comments submitted by PW NR and by PDS staff	Policy 12.22.1- Evaluate expanding protection for critical areas and shorelines that are vulnerable to sea level rise and flooding, ensuring that development is restricted and/or adequately mitigated for in high-risk zones. Policy 12.22.4- Incorporate climate migration considerations into zoning and land use policies to encourage new development in areas that are at lower risk to climate impacts, such as sea level rise, decreased water availability, flooding, and wildfires. Policy 12.22.6a- Use best available science to periodically update countywide climate vulnerability assessments to inform land use planning and define areas vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding, wildfire, and other climate impacts. Policy 12.22.6- Refer to countywide climate vulnerability assessments when reviewing land use and development proposals that propose to increase density in rural and resource lands. Policy 12.22.7- Discourage new development in areas at high-risk to wildfires, landslides, flooding, and sea level rise without adequate mitigation measures in accordance with best practices to mitigate potential public safety risks and property losses. Policy 12.22.8- Evaluate the rezoning of low climate hazard risk areas for higher-density development in UGAs, focusing on multimodal and transit-oriented communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Policy 12.22.9- Update shoreline management program, critical areas ordinance, and flood

			code for consistency with Chapter 173-26 WAC rulemaking to address the impact of sea level rise and increased storm severity on people, property, and the environment.