

Environment and Climate Change

Planning Options

Alternative 1

No change to status quo. Maintains existing programs to implement *Sustainability 2030*.

Alternative 2

Expands programs that conserve lands for carbon sequestration. Supports conserving an additional 50,000 acres of land by expanding the open space tax program, transfer of development rights, and Conservation Futures programs. Promotes managing public and private lands to increase their carbon sequestration potential.

Alternative 3

Provides policy, program, and funding support to conserve additional lands for carbon sequestration. Supports new programs and policies to conserve an additional 100,000 acres of land beyond that preserved by Alternative 2. Supports additional market-based incentives to encourage carbon sequestration.

Data and Issues to be Addressed

Proposed policies below are listed by issue. These include:

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Proposed Policies

Please note that the numbering system will be changed in the final plan. The numbers that are not in sequence are because some have been moved from other sections of the earlier plan or have been added for the first time.

GOAL ENV-1 Conserve and protect critical and environmentally sensitive areas.

- ENV-1.1 Recognize the importance of critical areas in supporting and protecting human life, and safety, and resilience to environmental hazards.
- ENV-1.2 Recognize the importance of critical areas in contributing to a high quality of life.
- ENV-1.3 Protect natural resource lands and ecosystems through regulations and processes based on best available science.
- ENV-1.4 Establish annual countywide and agency-specific performance goals included within a sustainability plan or strategic (business) plan, and budgets.
- ENV-1.5 Coordinate with other entities to protect critical areas, address environmental issues, and fulfill ecosystem restoration obligations including coordinating with Tribal, federal, state and local jurisdictions, countywide planning groups, Lead Entities, Local Integrating Organizations, and watershed councils in the protection of critical areas.
- ENV-1.6 Explore partnerships with agencies, schools, and nonprofits to provide public awareness and educational opportunities that promote environmental stewardship.
- ENV-1.7 Provide current and future property owners information regarding land use restrictions associated with the property.
- ENV-1.8 Coordinate with state, federal, educational institutions, and Tribal agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations to access the most current and best available science and inform integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to environmental planning and assessment.

Vegetation Retention

GOAL ENV-2 Ensure native vegetation is retained and protected in public and private development.

- ENV-2.1 Accurately identify pre-project vegetative conditions through the use of aerial photographs and site visits.
- ENV-2.2 Conserve and restore native vegetation with emphasis on riparian vegetation to reduce erosion, provide shade, and improve the resilience of riparian ecosystems to climate change.
- ENV-2.3 Provide education on the environmental functions and processes provided by native vegetation.
- ENV-2.4 Allow clearing for development when standards are implemented to maintain or improve local conditions, including through the use of regionally native and climate adapted plants

Air Quality

GOAL ENV-3 Attain a high level of air quality to ensure a reduction in adverse health impacts and to provide clear visibility for the scenic views.

- ENV-3.1 Continue to work to meet federal and state air quality requirements.
- ENV-3.2 Encourage use of clean heating sources to decrease air pollution.

- ENV-3.3 Provide information to the public on proper use of wood stoves.
- ENV-3.4 Develop land use practices which improve air quality, including infill development and concentrating high density land uses which reduce vehicle trips.
- ENV-3.5 Recognize the relationship between reducing vehicle trips, vehicle miles traveled, and reducing carbon emissions.
- ENV-3.6 Encourage development and implementation of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce pollutants, smog, and diesel air-toxins. Note: TDM Strategies include increased usage of transit; nonmotorized transportation modes; promotion and accommodation of high occupancy vehicles; promotion of alternative energy-based transportation infrastructure and fuels; and promotion of telecommuting.
- ENV-3.7 Encourage the use of renewable electricity sources through participating in a green power purchasing program and streamlining the permitting process for distributed energy sources.
- ENV-3.8 Eliminate residential burning of garbage and yard debris by providing curbside solid and organic waste collection services.
- ENV-3.9 Consider air quality benefits when reviewing mandatory garbage collection or organic waste subscription services.
- ENV-3.10 Encourage new use of new technologies and strategies that minimize impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions from increased industrial uses within the Employment Centers.
- ENV-3.11 Use data-informed tools to prioritize improving air quality in disproportionately impacted communities.

Water Quality and Supply

GOAL ENV-4 Coordinate air quality improvement efforts with agencies and jurisdictions to monitor transportation demand management programs benefits, develop responses to wildfire smoke, share technical information on air quality, and integrate land use and transportation policies.

- ENV-4.1 Coordinate with local agencies and jurisdictions to develop transportation control measures and similar mobile source emission reduction programs that may be warranted to attain or maintain air quality health standards.
- ENV-4.2 Coordinate with agencies to provide information on air pollution quality problems and measures to improve air quality.
- ENV-4.3 Prioritize at-risk communities and community members for actions that mitigate poor air quality and extreme heat, including incentivizing infrastructure for facilities that serve high-risk populations.

GOAL ENV-5 Protect aquifers and surface waters to ensure that water quality and quantity are maintained or improved.

- ENV-5.1 Ensure coordination among all appropriate local, state, federal, and tribal agencies, and non-governmental organizations the review and analysis of water quality.
- ENV-5.5 Periodically review and update standards for activities that may adversely impact water quality or quantity in aquifers, watersheds, and surface waters to ensure that they are consistent with state and federal laws.
- ENV-5.6 Periodically review and update performance standards for new development and retrofitting of existing facilities in Pierce County's Stormwater and Site Development Manual to be consistent with best available science and technically equivalent to the Western Washington Stormwater Manual.
- ENV-5.7 Collaborate with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) to ensure that permit information is integrated into inter-agency decision making.

- ENV-5.8 Encourage the proper storage and disposal of agricultural animal waste.
- ENV-5.9 Consider mandatory sewer connections within established sewer service areas.
 - ENV-5.9A Support TPCHD in enforcing existing state regulations regarding routine septic maintenance regulations through the expansion of an operation and maintenance program.
 - ENV-5.9B Continue to connect septic system owners in low-income communities outside of established sewer areas with affordable loans to help repair, upgrade, or replace failing systems.
 - ENV-5.9C Explore partnerships and opportunities to support financing the transition from septic to sewer.
- ENV-5.10 Protect and monitor water quality in commercial and recreational shellfish areas.
 - ENV-5.10.1 Coordinate with partner agencies to improve water quality in shellfish areas that are threatened or have past closures due to high bacteria levels, as outlined in Closure Response Plans.
 - ENV-5.10.2 Partner with the health department, state agencies, and other community partners to connect residents with educational materials and support on the risk of shellfish biotoxins to promote safe recreational shellfish harvesting.
- ENV-5.11 Implement the recommendations of the watershed basin plans, salmon recovery and other ecosystem recovery plans to protect water quality and quantity necessary to support healthy fish populations as described in Goal ENV-9A.
- ENV-5.15 Coordinate with other interested agencies and groups to implement and improve voluntary programs, financial and technical assistance programs, and market-based approaches to encourage conservation and protect groundwater and surface water quality and quantity.
 - ENV-5.15A Encourage water conservation and recycling to promote drought resilience through reuse of water.
 - ENV-5.15A.1 Support TPCHD to develop standards and regulations to allow potable and non-potable rainwater harvesting for appropriate development projects.
 - ENV-5.15B Address contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) through a coordinated effort.
 - ENV-5.15B.1 Collaborate across county departments to prioritize source control of contaminants and implement best management practices to reduce CECs in surface waters.
 - ENV-5.15B.2 Consider co-benefits of CEC reduction when funding and designing County infrastructure projects.
 - ENV-5.15C Explore satellite wastewater treatment facilities higher in the watersheds with tertiary treatment , preventing water from discharging directly into the Sound.

Watershed Planning

GOAL ENV-5.4 (to be renumbered) Manage and plan water resources on a watershed basis to protect and restore water resources and natural watershed processes.

- ENV-5.4.1 Protect lakes identified as a drinking water source through the development of a lake management plan to address identified impairments.
 - ENV-5.4.1.1 Work with Cascade Water Alliance to (1) begin implementation of the Lower White River Basin Plan's recommendations regarding the Lake Tapps Reservoir, starting with a pilot program targeting phosphorus in the Lake Tapps Reservoir; and (2) ensure that long-term support and funding for implementing the Plan's recommendations are sufficient to be successful.

- ENV-5.4.3 Offset impacts from new domestic permit-exempt wells to achieve a net ecological benefit within the watershed through the implementation of watershed restoration and enhancement plans.
- ENV-5.4.4 Provide efficient water resource management by integrating projects from watershed restoration and enhancement plans into the 6-year surface water improvement plan.
- ENV-5.4.5 Address non-point source pollution to improve water quality through implementing the recommendations of the watershed action plans.

Groundwater

GOAL ENV-5.3 (to be renumbered) Ensure adequate recharge of aquifers utilized for domestic water supplies, and protect the quality of water in those aquifers.

- ENV-5.12 Give preference to natural solutions for maintaining aquifer recharge quantity and quality, including the maintenance of undisturbed vegetation for new developments located within mapped aquifer recharge areas.
- ENV-5.16 Coordinate with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) to ensure information regarding saltwater intrusion and techniques for prevention are publicly available.
- ENV-5.19 Ensure applicants for building permits, subdivisions, and divisions of land must demonstrate that the potable water needed to support the new development is available and meets drinking water standards.
- ENV-5.3.1 Explore the creation of an aquifer protection area to finance the protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of groundwater.
- ENV-5.3.2 Partner with TPCHD to improve groundwater quality and quantity monitoring, and use available data to inform land use regulations.
- ENV-5.3.3 Explore opportunities and partnerships to address failing water systems and support consolidation to make water systems more resilient and sustainable.

Stormwater

GOAL ENV-5.13 Reduce runoff pollutants into surface and groundwater.

- ENV-5.13.1 Develop and implement water quality preservation or improvement plans to manage current and future expected stormwater runoff, and prevent nonpoint source pollution.
- ENV-5.17 Continue to work with TPCHD and regional partners to provide public education to address polluted runoff by advancing broad-scale behavior change.
- ENV-5.13.3 Encourage Low Impact Development (LID) projects for existing development through connecting property owners with educational resources and incentives.
- ENV-5.14 Reduce runoff pollutants through coordinated updates to the Pierce County Stormwater Management Manual to implement best management practices for stormwater drainage and low impact development principles on development sites.
 - ENV-5.14.1 Use site specific soil surveys and consideration of local factors such as soil densities and types when determining appropriate stormwater management standards and technologies.
 - ENV-5.14.2 Encourage higher density developments and infill development through standards that reduce areas of impervious ground cover.
 - ENV-5.14.3 Make the use of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques in new developments the preferred and most widely used method of land development.
 - ENV-5.14.4 Consider regional stormwater detention when low impact development techniques are not feasible or where it can be shown to limit maintenance costs, improve the management of stormwater and increase the development potential of properties.

- ENV-5.13.5 Explore resources available to implement the capital projects necessary to fully restore Pierce County waterbodies listed as impaired under Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and other prioritized areas.

Shorelines

GOAL ENV-7 Assess the efficacy of the Shoreline Master Program in achieving no-net-loss of shoreline functions as an indicator of cumulative impacts of land use activities on shorelines.

- ENV-7.1 Ensure Develop a framework and ensure coordination among all appropriate County departments for regulated activities along shorelines
- ENV-7.2 Monitor cumulative impacts from shoreline development, unauthorized activities, mitigation, and restoration projects through a tracking process to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the County's shoreline regulations.
- ENV 7.4 Identify and implement strategies to increase the resilience of shoreline communities and ecosystems to sea level rise and other climate hazards, through balancing the needs of residential and water dependent uses with protecting shoreline ecological functions.

Growth Management Act and Critical Areas Protection

Best Available Science

GOAL ENV-14 Use best available science to designate and protect critical areas within Pierce County.

- ENV-14.1A Use best available science to inform critical areas regulations that protect human health, promote climate resilience, and maintain healthy habitats.
- ENV-14.1 Give special consideration to conservation and protection of anadromous fisheries.
- ENV-15.5 Require that regulated activities in critical areas occur with appropriate mitigation sequencing. Avoidance of impacts as is the highest priority, and lower priority measures should be applied only when higher priority measures are determined to be infeasible or inapplicable.
- ENV-8.2 Implement critical areas development regulations to protect and achieve no net loss of the ecosystem functions and values of critical areas. Monitor statewide efforts to implement net ecological gain as a requirement for critical area protections.

Adaptive Management

GOAL ENV-15 Recognize the value of adaptive management for continually evaluating and improving the effectiveness of critical areas policies, regulations, and practices.

- ENV-15.1 Establish a review and analysis process, using indicators and BAS [Best Available Science], to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of County environmental regulations.
- ENV-15.2 Monitor mitigation projects to better understand and inform mitigation requirements for future projects.
- ENV-15.3 Utilize new technologies and methodologies where appropriate to resolve environmental problems.
- ENV-15.4 Ensure regulations are applied and documented in the review process for all applications involving critical areas, including exemptions.
- ENV-15.5A Explore adaptive management techniques to protect and enhance critical areas adjacent to agricultural activities, such as VSP enrollment, through engagement with the public, stakeholders, and Tribes.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

GOAL ENV-8 Maintain, protect, and restore habitat conservation areas for fish and wildlife and for resident's benefit.

- ENV-8.1 Periodically review and update regulations that protect fish and wildlife habitat and priority habitat and species.
 - ENV-8.1A Minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat areas through site specific habitat assessments for development proposals.
- ENV-8.2 Place regulatory emphasis on protecting and achieving no net loss of critical habitat areas.
- ENV-8.3 Protect fish and wildlife corridors through permit review to ensure no net loss of function and value of riparian habitat.
- ENV-8.3.1 Continue to support restoration of natural functions in riparian areas for fully functioning and resilient ecosystems.
- ENV-8.5 Discourage incompatible land uses adjacent to habitat conservation areas.
- ENV-8.6 Pursue the permanent protection of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas through various financing and acquisitions strategies.
- ENV-8.7 Connect landowners to resources for maintaining and enhancing habitat areas including partnering with local, state and federal partners.
- ENV-8.8 Partner with Watershed Councils and external partners to support and expand public education and outreach efforts on the importance of, and ecosystem services provided by, habitat conservation areas.
- ENV-8.11 Seek cooperation between all County departments, as well as tribal, federal, state and local jurisdictions, countywide planning groups, salmon recovery groups, and watershed councils on issues impacting fish and wildlife habitat.
 - ENV-8.11.1 Support efforts to research and monitor fish and wildlife species and habitat quality to inform regional environmental protections.
 - ENV-8.11.1 Partner with Joint Base Lewis-McChord to better monitor the presence of endangered species and manage natural resources on lands near the base's boundaries.
- ENV-8.12 Consider climate stressors when determining allowed activities and uses within Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCAs), and ensure regulations maintain habitat integrity and function.
- ENV-8.13 Protect existing habitat where possible to minimize climate change impacts and degradation.

Flood Hazard Areas and Geologically Hazardous Areas

GOAL ENV-10 Avoid endangerment of lives, property, and resources in Floodways, Channel Migration Zones, Frequently Flooded Areas, and geologically hazardous areas.

- ENV-10.1 Review and update the boundaries of potential geologic and flood hazards areas as new data becomes available, and consider how hazardous areas are likely to change.
- ENV-10.1.1 Provide public access to available data for known hazardous and critical areas.
- ENV-10.2 Ensure future development minimizes threats to lives, property, and resources by diverting development away from hazardous areas and monitoring and refining development standards for frequently flooded areas and geologically hazardous areas.
 - ENV-10.2.1 Require appropriate standards for site development and structural design in areas where the effects of the hazards can be mitigated.
 - ENV-10.2.2 Encourage low densities and low intensity land use activities in hazardous areas.
 - ENV-10.2.3 Direct critical and community facilities away from areas subject to catastrophic, life-threatening hazards where the hazards cannot be mitigated.
 - ENV-10.2.4 Direct sewer lines, utilities, and public facilities away from hazardous areas.

- ENV-10.3 Maintain level of service for existing flood risk hazard reduction facilities on rivers and streams including dams, dikes, levees, and revetments, as defined in the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan.
- ENV-10.4 Maintain or restore natural river channel configurations, whenever possible.
- ENV-10.5 Pursue the public acquisition of flood hazard areas to minimize fiscal, environmental, property, and human loss.
- ENV-10.6 Continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System so residents and businesses can obtain flood insurance at reduced rates.
- ENV-10.7 Ensure damage to property, and people, and critical infrastructure is minimized through desktop analysis, ground-truthing techniques, and early warning systems to reduce exposure to known hazards.
 - ENV-10.7.1 Maintain an evacuation plan and lahar warning system for volcanic hazard areas.
 - ENV-10.7.2 Ensure that evacuation routes, procedures, and actions are in place.
 - ENV-10.7.3 Seek cooperation between all County departments, as well as tribal, federal, state and local jurisdictions, countywide emergency management planning groups to educate residents and businesses about hazards and what to do and where to go in the event of a natural disaster.
- ENV-10.8 Ensure that new lots and structures locate outside of floodplains, flood hazard areas, and sea level rise hazard areas through zoning and development regulations.
- NEW ENV-10.9 Coordinate with tribes and local jurisdictions to promote greater consistency of floodplain regulations, and to avoid potential adverse effects in the frequency, duration, or magnitude of flood hazards in downstream, upstream, or adjacent jurisdictions.
- ENV-10.10 Identify funding opportunities for protection, mitigation, or retreat strategies for existing structures in floodplains as described in the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan.
- ENV-10.11 Improve floodplain connectivity and support other policies and regulations that increase community resilience to flood hazards and improve water quality.

Wetlands

GOAL ENV-11 Establish appropriate long-term protection to ensure no net loss of wetlands.

- ENV-11.1 Periodically review and update the boundaries of potential wetland areas using local and national wetland inventories, soil surveys, FEMA flood mapping, or other indicators of hydrology.
- ENV-11.1A Determine whether regulated wetlands are present in the proposed vicinity of development projects through site evaluation.
- ENV-11.2 Evaluate opportunities to expand mitigation banking to restore watershed processes.
 - ENV-11.4.1 Use a regional, watershed-based approach to identify the wetland functions that will be lost due to regulated activities and develop mitigation requirements to compensate for those functions.
 - ENV-11.4.2 Locate compensatory mitigation actions strategically to restore functions within the hydrological unit impacted by the regulated activity, pursuant to best available science.
- ENV-11.3 Encourage innovation and equitable wetland management methods which protect public health, safety, and or welfare.
- ENV-11.6 Maintain and monitor wetland mitigation sites, as detailed in their mitigation plans, to ensure they are conserved.
- ENV-11.7 Partner with Tribal, federal, state, and local jurisdictions, and related non-profits to connect landowners to educational resources, trainings, and materials on the importance of wetland systems.
- ENV-11.8 Pursue the permanent protection of high conservation value important wetland areas in Pierce County using County land conservation programs.

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs)

GOAL ENV-11A Protect the community's drinking water by preventing the introduction of pollutants into the Central Pierce County Aquifer.

- ENV-11A.1 Review and update aquifer recharge areas and wellhead protection areas as new data becomes available from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. Classify them using state and federal resources to determine the susceptibility of the natural setting to groundwater contamination.
- ENV-11A.2 Regulate activities and conditions that pose contamination risks in aquifer recharge areas.
- ENV-11A.3 Collect and review information as part of development review to ensure that best management practices are implemented to prevent the introduction of contaminated runoff into groundwater.

Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems

GOAL ENV-9 Identify, protect, and enhance terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems so that they maintain viable, reproducing populations of plants and animals.

- ENV-9.2 Coordinate ecosystem restoration strategies with tribal, federal, state, and local jurisdictions, countywide planning groups, and watershed groups in watersheds regulated or managed by the County.
- ENV-9.3 Incentivize the conservation of lands that represent the highest level of biological diversity and restore connectivity between protected areas to promote conservation of these ecosystems and foster climate resilience.
- ENV-9.4 Coordinate with state and federal partners to evaluate long term cumulative impacts to watershed hydrology, including the provision of sufficient streamflow for salmonids, and identify mitigation options.
- ENV-9.5 Promote urban forests through tree planting programs; maintenance of large healthy trees in parks, residential, commercial, and industrial areas; increase education and awareness as described in OS-4; and through the protection and restoration of forest ecosystems as described in ENV-15A.
- GOAL ENV-9A Maximize ecological benefits and climate resiliency of aquatic ecosystems through the implementation of recommendations of salmon recovery and other ecosystem recovery plans, as appropriate.
- ENV-9A.1 Assess recommendations of approved Lead Entity salmon recovery plans and Ecosystem Recovery Plans to inform updates to County plans and development regulations.
- ENV-9A.2 Work with tribal, public, and private sector partners to restore the functions of streams and floodplains to improve the resilience of aquatic ecosystems and reduce flood risk.
- ENV-9A.3 Work with tribal, public, and private sector partners to remove physical barriers to fish movement and migration to restore aquatic ecosystems and protect tribal treaty rights.

Light Pollution

GOAL ENV-12 Reduce Minimize negative impacts of light pollution to sensitive sites, such as conservation areas, sensitive wildlife habitat, livestock farms, or where light trespass into residential units is likely.

- ENV-12.1 Encourage the use of reflectors and appropriate aiming on new outdoor lighting to minimize the upward scattering of light.

Noise Pollution

GOAL ENV-13 Reduce, mitigate, and where possible eliminate noise pollution.

- ENV-13.1 Allow innovative methods of reducing or mitigating noise.
- ENV-13.2 Reduce, mitigate, and where possible eliminate noise pollution including impacts to overburdened communities.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction

GOAL ENV-15A Acquire, maintain, and manage lands to maintain or increase their carbon sequestration potential and reduce emissions associated with tree loss.

Alt 1

- ENV-15A.1 Support the ongoing work of the Conservation Futures, Transfer of Development Rights, and Open Space Programs.
- ENV-15A.2 Encourage participation in the State's small forest landowner assistance cost-share and stewardship programs.
- ENV-15A.3 Prevent loss of working farms through implementing resource zoning.

Alt 2

- ENV-15A.1 Acquire, maintain and manage at least 50,000 acres to maximize ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration potential, through alignment of the Open Space tax program, Transfer of Development Rights, and climate informed management of county-owned open spaces.
- ENV-15A.2 Encourage participation in the State's small forest landowner assistance cost-share and stewardship programs.
- ENV-15A.3 Prevent loss of private forestland and farmland through purchasing easements and implementing resource zoning.
- NEW ENV-15A.4 Provide education for landowners on management practices that increase carbon sequestration, such as improvements in forest cover and longer rotation forestry.

Alt 3

- ENV-15A.1 Expand and establish programs to acquire, maintain and manage at least 150,000 acres to maximize ecosystem services including carbon sequestration potential.
- ENV-15A.2 Encourage participation in the State's small forest landowner assistance cost-share and stewardship programs.
- ENV-15A.3 Expand and establish programs to prevent loss of private forestland and farmland through market-based incentives, purchasing easements, and resource zoning.
- ENV-15A.4 Provide education for landowners on management practices that increase carbon sequestration, such as improvements in forest cover and longer rotation forestry.
- ENV-15A.5 Review and update Transfer of Development Rights policies to support carbon sequestration and emissions reduction, for example through providing a higher credit ratio for projects providing carbon sequestration.
- ENV-15A.6 Explore opportunities to utilize market-based incentives to protect, promote, and support carbon sequestration and emissions reduction.
- ENV-15A.7 Prioritize conservation and habitat restoration projects of high conservation value lands as outlined in the Land Conservation Plan.
- ENV-15A.8 Provide policy and program support, and seek funding opportunities to meet guidance provided by the Land Conservation Plan.
- ENV-15A.9 Identify and monitor eel grass and kelp beds that provide aquatic habitat, carbon storage, and other ecosystem services.

Resilience

GOAL ENV-15B Identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to foster resiliency to climate impacts, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe passage and species migration in the Land Conservation Plan.

- ENV-15B.1 Develop site specific management plans for County-owned forests and open spaces to protect the built environment through decreasing climate-exacerbated risks from severe wildfires, invasive species, and floods.
- ENV-15B.1.1 Actively manage forests and open spaces to improve ecosystem health and habitat through reducing stress related to drought, pests, and diseases.
- ENV-15B.2 Update timber resource management plans to reflect current best management practices.
- ENV-15B.3 Include regionally native and climate adapted trees, shrubs, and grasses in approved species lists for planted trees and landscape design standards to support climate resilience.
- ENV-15B.4 Work with partners in tribal and local governments to establish a native plant nursery and seed bank to support long-term restoration and carbon sequestration efforts.
- ENV-15B.5 Take early action to eliminate or control non-native invasive species that take advantage of climate change, especially where invasives threaten native species, ecosystem function or have significant economic impact.
- ENV-15B.5.1 Collaborate with partners to develop and implement an integrated approach to prevent the spread and establishment of species of concern (e.g., those already established in Pierce County and those that may expand their ranges due to climate change).
- ENV-15B.6 Increase aquatic habitat resilience to low summer flows including by increasing water residence time, storing water on the landscape, conserving water, maintaining and enhancing riparian vegetation, keeping waters cool, and protecting water quality.
- ENV-15B.7 Evaluate the implications of sea level rise and other climate impacts, including in habitat protection and restoration projects.

GOAL ENV-15C Address natural hazards created or exacerbated by climate change, including sea level rise, wildfire hazards, extreme heat, and other hazards through the All Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- ENV-15C.1 Enhance community resiliency to climate impacts, address natural hazards created or worsened by climate change, and prioritize actions that benefit overburdened communities through updates to the All Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ENV-15C.2 Invest in policies, programs, and projects to reduce impacts to the community due to flooding events as identified in the flood plan including: damage to infrastructure; ongoing maintenance costs; and to improve habitat conditions.
- ENV-15C.3 Collaborate with social service agencies and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to identify and address impacts to vulnerable populations who may be disproportionately impacted by climate hazards.
- ENV-15C.4 Utilize climate modeling and community input to assess future impacts on local assets and develop and strengthen goals and policies that support community resilience.
- ENV-15C.5 Build resiliency for water quality and quantity from drought, extreme heat, and other hazards worsened by climate change as described in ENV 5.15A.
- ENV-15C.6 Plan for wildfire hazards, including prevention, harm reduction, and recovery.
- ENV-15C.6.1 Support the incorporation of Washington Wildland-Urban Interface Code into local building codes.
- ENV-15C.6.2 Collaborate with regional partners on outreach and education programs regarding mitigating wildfire and smoke impacts.

- ENV-15C.6.3 Study and plan for ‘Flood after Fire’ impacts including increased sedimentation and run-off.
- ENV-15C.6.4 Collaborate with regional partners to connect small forest landowners with resources to support restoration efforts after fire.
- ENV-15C.6.5 Partner with local jurisdictions, County departments, and Fire departments to provide public education to prevent human caused wildfires.

Environmental Justice

GOAL ENV-15D Collaborate with communities to support adaptation to climate impacts and implement greenhouse gas reduction strategies consistent with environmental justice principles.

- ENV-15D.1 Support and adapt Environmental Education programs to further environmental justice by providing all residents with an equitable opportunity to learn about climate impacts and take actions to enhance community well-being and resilience.
- ENV-15D.2 Create and implement culturally relevant outreach and engagement initiatives as described in GOAL EQ-1. Distribute materials that will inform the community on near-term and longer-term climate change threats, to empower communities to engage in environmental decision making.
- ENV-15D.3 Support the development of leadership capacity in underserved communities for engaging in environmental decision making.
- ENV-15D.4 Partner with organizations that represent vulnerable populations and underserved communities to implement actions that will enhance community wellbeing and resilience.
- ENV-15D.5 Use data driven analysis to identify overburdened communities to prioritize for tree retention and planting programs, as described in OS-4.3.
- ENV-15D.6 Design urban forestry programs to address areas that disproportionately experience urban heat island impacts, poor air quality and poor water quality.