

## City of Sunnyside Climate Resilience Planning

With the passage of [E2SHB 1181](#) during the 2023 Washington state legislative session, The City of Sunnyside is now required to add a Climate Change Element to its Comprehensive Plan.

The legislation creates a new mandate that spans several elements in the comprehensive plan, such as transportation, land use, parks and recreation, capital facilities and utilities, environmental, and economic development. The new Climate Change Element needs to include a resilience sub-element.

The Washington State Department of Commerce [developed guidance](#) for local governments to follow as part of this legislation. The City of Sunnyside received a grant through the Climate Commitment Act to complete this work.

The Commerce grant was extended through the end of 2026, to follow the concurrent [Periodic Update process](#). This new timeline will allow the city to complete the required Climate Element in conjunction with the remaining Comprehensive Plan update.

### For more information

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be informed of future updates during this process, please send an email with the subject line “Climate Element” to [hmejia@sunnyside-wa.gov](mailto:hmejia@sunnyside-wa.gov). Updated documents will also be added to this web page when available.

### Developing a Climate Element

The process to add a Climate Element to the Sunnyside Comprehensive Plan begins with seating a Climate Resilience Advisory Team. The City Council adopted section [2.50.170](#) of the Sunnyside Municipal Code on April 8, 2024, which created the Climate Resilience Advisory Team (CRAT). The CRAT has seven members who will be active participants in this project.

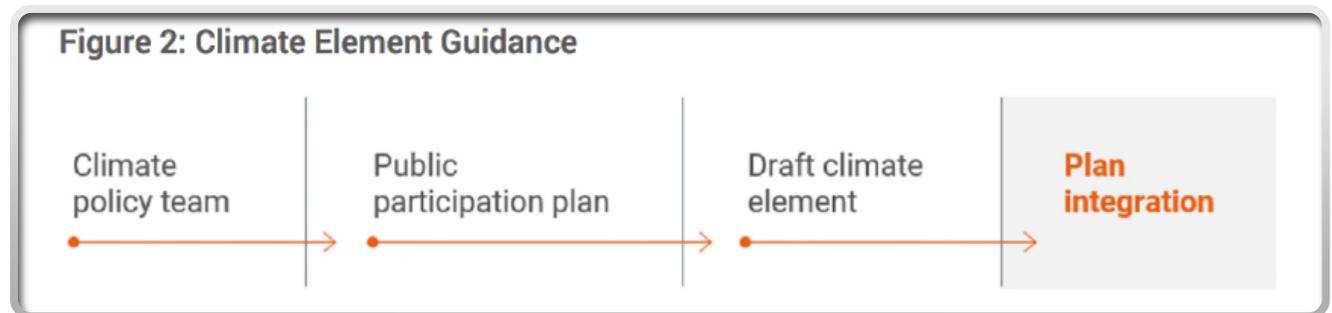


Figure: Dept. of Commerce Climate Element Planning Guidance – Dec. 2023

The CRAT reviewed and approved a Public Participation Plan (PPP) on December 16, 2025 (See document link below). The PPP will be designed to provide multiple opportunities for public engagement throughout the process.

Drafting the Climate Element will involve the following steps:

- Identify community assets;
- Identify priority climate hazards;

- Explore hazards and changes in the climate;
- Develop goals and policies for Climate Resilience; and
- Draft the final element for review and approval.

### **Documents**

- Public Participation Plan
- Climate Element Workbook Sheets
  - Identify Community Assets
  - Explore Hazards and Changes in the Climate
  - Pair Assets and Hazards
- Summary of Hazards

# CLIMATE PLANNING FOR THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE

In 2023, Washington State passed House Bill 1181, which requires the City to address climate change in our comprehensive plan. Sunnyside has begun to explore projected changes to our local weather patterns and environment.\* Through research and ongoing stakeholder engagement, we aim to better understand how those changes will impact our community, economy, built environment, natural areas, and more. Planning for potential climate hazards is an essential step to safeguarding vulnerable populations, ecosystems, and the infrastructure we depend on.

The following summaries explain climate-related hazards facing the City. Hazards are often connected. For example, dry conditions caused by heat and drought increase wildfire risk, while extreme precipitation can lead to flooding and landslides.



## Drought

### Precipitation Drought

26% chance of drought each year

The likelihood that any given year in the future 30-year period will have a total summer precipitation below 75% of the historic norm



## Extreme Precipitation

### Heavy Precipitation Magnitude

5-16% increase in total precipitation

Heavy Precipitation is a measure of the 2-year storm

### Extreme Precipitation Magnitude

15-18% increase in total precipitation

Extreme Precipitation is a measure of the 25-year storm



## Wildfire

### Wildfire Danger

Additional 8 high fire danger days per year



Greater potential for wildfire activity when ignition sources and sufficient fuels are present

# CLIMATE PLANNING FOR THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE



## Extreme Heat

### Summer Maximum Temperature



Warmer summers directly affect the health and well-being of people and water availability for crops and ecosystems

### Hot Days



Additional days with temperature above 100°F is an indicator of potential damage to transportation infrastructure such as roads and bridges

### 90°F and 65°F Max Humidex



Humidex is an indicator of day-time (90°F) and night-time (65°F) heat stress

### Cooling Degree Days



Greater energy demand for cooling buildings in summer



\*Data source:

University of Washington,  
Climate Mapping for a  
Resilient Washington  
webtool,  
[https://data.cig.uw.edu/  
climatemapping/](https://data.cig.uw.edu/climatemapping/)

Projections are based on a  
"business as usual"  
emissions scenario called  
RCP 8.5.

"The WA Department of Commerce climate planning grant is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by

putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at [www.climate.wa.gov](http://www.climate.wa.gov).”

