



**RIDGEFIELD CITY COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, March 6, 2025
RACC - Columbia Assembly Room
510 Pioneer Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642**

- I. STUDY SESSION - 4:00 P.M.**
 - 1. Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Update: Climate Element - Claire Lust, Community Development Director**
 - 2. EMS District 2 Board Proposed Amendments - Steve Stuart, City Manager**
- II. ADJOURN**



City of Ridgefield
**Comprehensive Plan Update
Climate Element – Study
Session**

March 6, 2025

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2045

Agenda

- Background
 - State requirements
 - Interlocal Agreement
 - Community survey results
- *Discussion:* Draft Goals & Policies



State Requirements

- House Bill 1181 mandates the inclusion of a **climate element** in local comprehensive plans, with two sub-elements:
 - **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Sub-element:** Must identify actions Ridgefield will take to:
 - Reduce overall GHG emissions generated by transportation and land use;
 - Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and
 - Prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities.
 - **Resilience Sub-element:** Identify actions Ridgefield will take to:
 - Equitably enhance resiliency to, and avoid or substantially reduce the adverse impacts of, climate change in human communities and ecological systems.
 - Prioritize actions that benefit overburdened communities that will be most impacted by natural hazards due to climate change.



Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Climate Planning

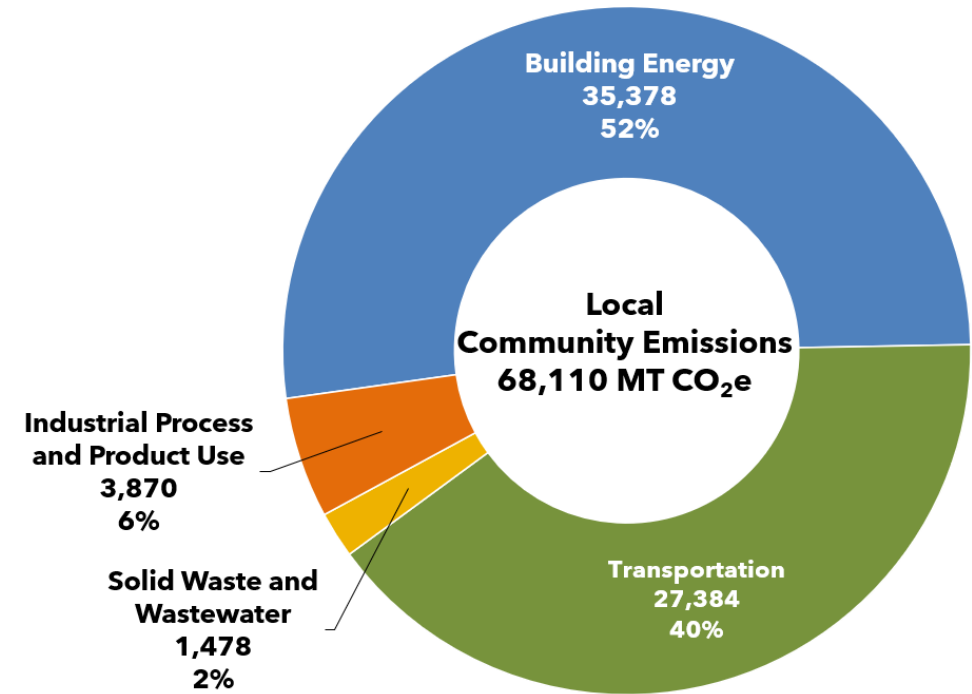
- Agreement between Clark County, Ridgefield, La Center, Camas, Battle Ground, Washougal, and Yacolt
- Key Deliverables:
 - Ridgefield GHG baseline inventory
 - Staff training to update the GHG inventory
 - Evaluation of natural hazards in Ridgefield
 - Vulnerability & Risk Assessment: Extreme Heat to Wildlife in Gee Creek, Lake River, and the National Wildlife Refuge



GHG Inventory

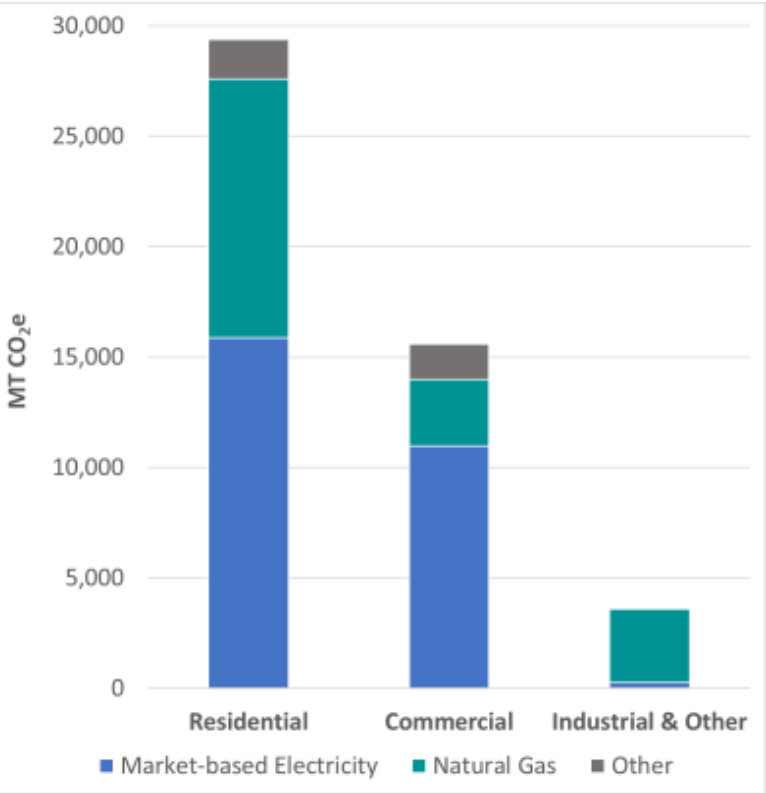
- Ridgefield's local emissions primarily come from building energy and transportation.
- Almost all emissions from buildings and transportation are from fossil fuels (over 92% of local emissions).

Local Emissions in Ridgefield



GHG Inventory

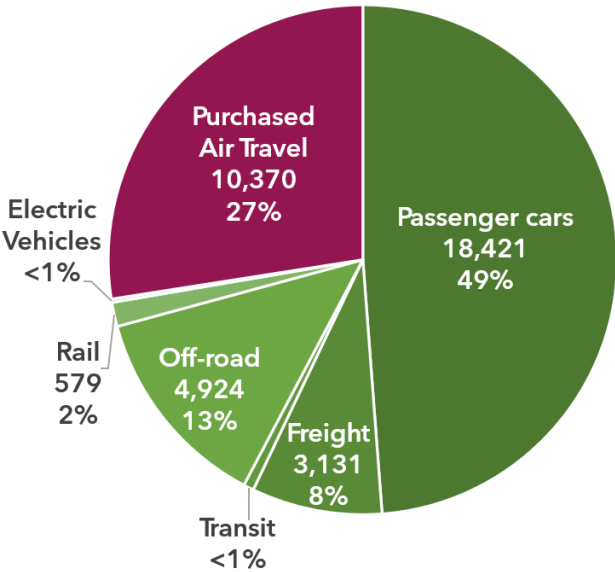
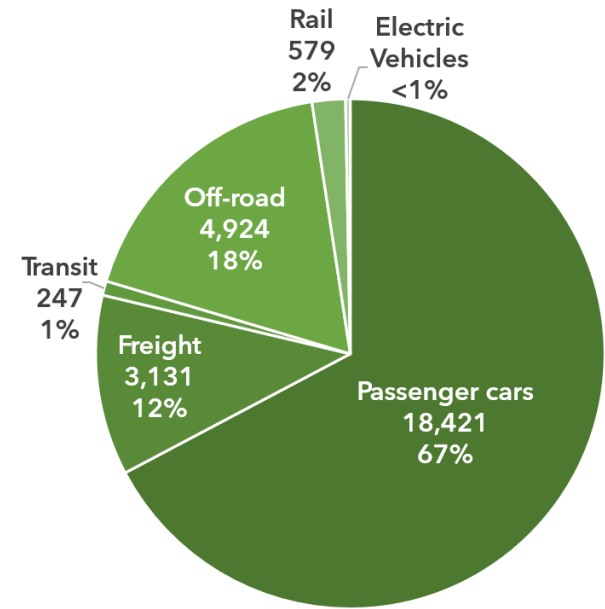
Building Energy Emissions by Source



Transportation Emissions Breakdown

Left: Ridgefield’s transportation emissions, excluding air travel.

Right: Ridgefield’s transportation emissions, including imported emissions from air travel.

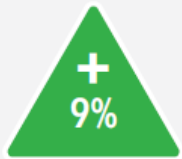


Hazard Risk Assessment

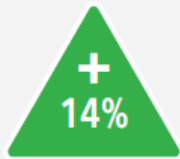


Extreme Precipitation

Total annual precipitation



by 2050



by 2080

Heavy rains can overwhelm drainage systems, collapse roadways, make driving unsafe, and lead to landslides and floods. Rainstorms may bring strong winds that down trees or powerlines. Though less rain is expected in summer, more is expected in other seasons.

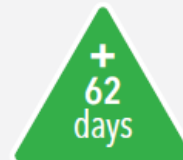


Extreme Heat

Annual days with a humidex** over 90°F



by 2050



by 2080

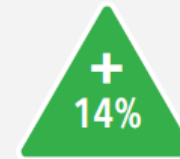
More hot days in summer will increase the risk of heat-related illness and may disrupt daily activities. Heat is expected to increase demand for water and electricity (air conditioning).

***Humidex is how hot it feels based on temperature and humidity*

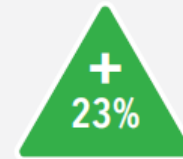


Landslides

Intensity of heavy precipitation events



by 2050



by 2080

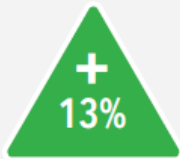
Heavy precipitation increases the risk of landslides by saturating the ground and loosening soil. Landslides damage natural areas, buildings, and infrastructure in their path. Debris may block roads, pollute waterways, and displace people living nearby.

Hazard Risk Assessment

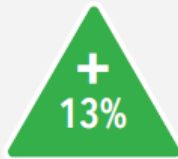


Flooding

Peak streamflow in the Lake River



by 2050



by 2080

Heavy rains cause flooding that may inundate homes, businesses, roads, and agricultural areas, leading to costly property damage and health impacts. Stream/river flooding can harm salmon and other aquatic species, create streambank erosion, and damage the quality of wildlife habitat.



Drought

Late summer precipitation (Jul 15 - Sept 15)



by 2050



by 2080

Less rain in summer means less water will be available for human use when demand is high. This will also impact wildlife by reducing the amount of water in lakes and streams.



Wildfires & Smoke

Annual days with high fire danger



by 2050



by 2080

Hotter, drier conditions increase the potential for wildfires, which may burn near populated areas, causing evacuations and property damage. Wildfire smoke can damage human health and disrupt daily activities.

Community Survey

- Online Survey:
 - Jan. 27 to Feb. 10, 2025
 - 67 responses
- Purpose:
 1. Learn how the community been affected by hazards in the past.
 2. Understand what would help the community respond and recover in the future.
 3. Identify community-supported ideas for reducing GHG emissions

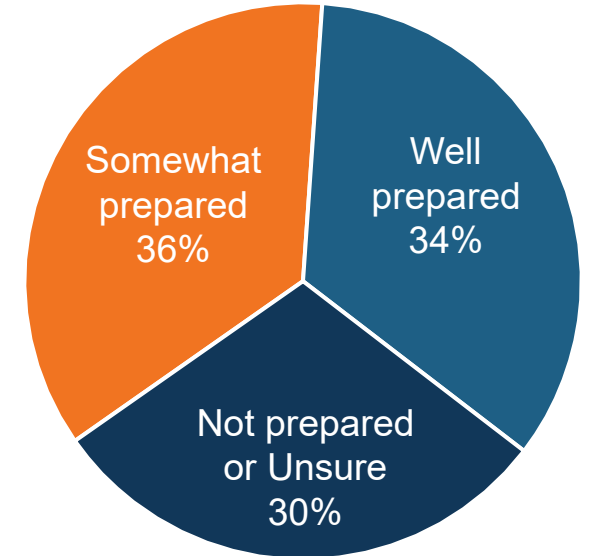
Community Engagement

- Most frequent natural hazards experienced in Ridgefield:
 - **Wildfire or wildfire smoke** (41 responses)
 - **Severe storms**, including heavy rain, wind, snow, ice (39 responses)
 - **Extreme heat or heat wave** (38 responses)
- Residents were affected by:
 - **Lost power or internet** (33 responses)
 - **Disruption to transportation facilities** (25 responses)
 - **Missed work or school** (24 responses)



Community Engagement (cont.)

- Community members generally feel **well- to somewhat-prepared** for projected changes in the severity of natural hazards.
- Factors that helped most during or after natural hazards:
 - **Preparation or survival kit** (22 responses)
 - **Emergency alerts** (22 responses)
- Factors that would help prepare for future events:
 - **Community alerts** (36 responses)
 - **Increased maintenance for roads and sidewalks** (25 responses)
 - **Community disaster preparedness plan** (24 responses)
 - **Access to disaster preparedness training or information** (22 responses)



Community Engagement (cont.)

People, buildings, areas, or services in Ridgefield that you believe might be more vulnerable to natural hazards
(39 responses)

- Elderly (17 responses)
- People with disabilities and/or medical conditions (9 responses)
- Nature/Open space (8)

Questions?

Discussion:

***Draft* Climate Goals and Policies**

Draft Climate Goals and Policies

Commerce Guidance on Climate Goals/Policies: Address the following sectors, as applicable:

- Agriculture & Food Systems
- Buildings & Energy
- Cultural Resources & Practices
- Economic Development
- Ecosystems
- Transportation
- Water Resources
- Zoning & Development

To avoid duplication, the City will cross-reference policies in other elements that are supportive of, but not specific to, climate goals. For example, policies that:

- Decrease VMT (e.g., promote public transportation, remote work, etc.)
- Encourage walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods.
- Are protective of natural resources.
- Emergency Management
- Health & Well-being
- Waste Management

Draft Climate Goals and Policies

General discussion items:

- Are we missing any goals or policies?
- Any concerns about the draft goals/policies as written?
- Do you have ideas for action items/ways to implement a policy?

Draft Climate Goals & Policies

Goal 7.1: Encourage buildings and utilities be designed for energy efficiency and to withstand and recover from natural disasters.

Policy 7.1.1: Develop or modify design standards to integrate building features that reduce the impacts of natural hazards and increase resilience.

Policy 7.1.2: Promote the use of efficient energy systems in new and existing buildings to increase resiliency and reduce emissions and cost.

Policy 7.1.3: Prioritize the weatherization of existing and new residential buildings to lower emissions and enhance resilience.

Policy 7.1.4: Encourage local and community-based energy production and storage to provide education, economic development, and grid reliability benefits.

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Discussion Item: Should the City encourage/facilitate upgrades in private buildings by waiving/reducing permit fees?

Policy 7.1.3: Prioritize the weatherization of existing and new residential buildings to lower emissions and enhance resilience.

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Draft Climate Goals & Policies

Goal 7.2: Improve the efficiency and resiliency of the local multimodal transportation system.

Policy 7.2.1: Support the coordination of land use and multimodal transportation planning to improve the efficiency of the transportation system and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy 7.2.2: Encourage the conversion of public fleets to zero-emission vehicles and develop supporting charging infrastructure at public buildings and facilities.

Policy 7.2.3: Facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for private residential and commercial buildings.

Policy 7.2.4: Improve street connectivity and walkability to serve as potential evacuation routes.

Policy 7.2.5: Identify transportation infrastructure that is vulnerable to natural hazards and plan for a transportation system that is resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events and other hazards exacerbated by climate change.

Potential Action Item: Add shade to bus stops or popular active transit corridors.

Draft Climate Goals & Policies

Goal 7.3: Protect and restore green spaces and habitat to be resilient to natural hazards and provide refuge for people and wildlife during extreme weather.

Policy 7.3.1: Implement actions identified in stream restoration and salmon recovery plans to improve the climate resilience of streams and watersheds such as Gee Creek and Lake River to the effects of extreme heat.

Policy 7.3.2: Coordinate with environmental agencies on adaptive management strategies for the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge that address natural hazards including extreme heat, flooding, heavy precipitation, drought, and wildfire.

Policy 7.3.3: Identify opportunities to expand habitat protection and improve habitat quality and connectivity through invasive species management and enhancing the resilience of open spaces and habitat areas to natural hazards.

Potential Action Item: Partner with local organizations to establish a community-led invasive species removal program.

Policy 7.3.4: Protect and restore wetlands, wetland corridors, and floodplains to provide biological and hydrological connectivity that fosters resilience to flood risk and extreme weather events.

Policy 7.3.5: Protect and expand public green spaces and tree canopy to be resilient to extreme weather events and natural hazards.

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Discussion Item: Is there interest/value in revising the existing tree ordinance to be more protective of existing mature trees and to require more mitigation?

Draft Climate Goals & Policies

Goal 7.4: Protect the long-term sustainability of the municipal water system from the impacts of development and changing hydrological conditions.

Policy 7.4.1: Plan for how the municipal water system will maintain adequate service during major natural hazards as well as under projected hydrological conditions such as a reduction in late summer precipitation and increases in the frequency of heavy rains and stream or river flooding.

Potential Action Item: Assess water delivery vulnerabilities that may result from insufficient water supplies or disruptions to water delivery.

Policy 7.4.2: Retrofit and design new public spaces and municipal buildings to message community benefits and showcase resilient water technologies, management, and benefits.

Policy 7.4.3: Encourage the sustainable management of water resources on private properties through methods such as water conservation, reclaimed water systems, and smart irrigation.

Policy 7.4.4: Develop and implement a comprehensive drought resilience strategy that factors in projected climate impacts to the local economy, ecosystems, and residents, and sets appropriate actions for various drought stages.

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Draft Climate Goals & Policies

Goal 7.5: Enhance emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to mitigate risks and impacts associated with extreme weather and other hazards.

Policy 7.5.1: Develop comprehensive and accessible evacuation plans, educational materials, and emergency alerts to help residents prepare for and practice faster, safer evacuations.

Policy 7.5.2: Collaborate with CRESA and engage in programs such as Firewise and StormReady to enhance community preparedness.*

Policy 7.5.3: Conduct pre-disaster assessments for critical and essential facilities, and create strategies to mitigate risks, such as relocating or retrofitting these facilities.*

Policy 7.5.4: Encourage local businesses to develop and implement comprehensive emergency preparedness and response plans to minimize disruptions during extreme weather events and other hazards.

Draft Climate Goals & Policies

Goal 7.6: Protect community health and well-being from the impacts of climate-exacerbated hazards and ensure that the most vulnerable residents and overburdened communities do not bear disproportionate health impacts.

Policy 7.6.1: Establish a “resilience hub” or other designated refuge site(s) that will provide shelter, information, and resources during a hazardous event such as a heatwave, major storm, smoke event, or power outage.

Policy 7.6.2: Prioritize the distribution of educational materials, resources, and emergency support to populations that are exposed to hazards, such as outdoor workers and the unhoused, and populations with high sensitivity and limited ability to cope with hazards, such as older populations, young children, people without AC, and people with chronic health conditions.

Draft Climate Goals & Policies

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Discussion Item: What existing locations in the city could serve as a designated refuge during events?

Policy 7.6.2: Prioritize the distribution of educational materials, resources, and emergency support to populations that are exposed to hazards, such as outdoor workers and the unhoused, and populations with high sensitivity and limited ability to cope with hazards, such as older populations, young children, people without AC, and people with chronic health conditions.

Discussion Item: What actions are needed to ensure we reach vulnerable members of the community? Examples: Coordinate with community-based organizations to distribute information and engage isolated populations; Perform wellness checks (by phone or in person depending on staff/volunteer capacity) during hazard events.

Next Steps

- Finalize goal and policy language
- Finalize Climate Element (hold for final comprehensive plan adoption)
- Cross-reference supporting policies in other comprehensive plan elements (e.g., transportation, land use)



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Thank you!