

## City of Cle Elum

### Climate Element FAQ

The City of Cle Elum is developing a Climate Element for its Comprehensive Plan. The Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) is working with the consultant team at HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc to develop the plan in conformance with state requirements.



#### 1. Why is Cle Elum creating a Climate Element?

The Washington State legislature passed House Bill 1181 in 2023 which requires municipalities to add a climate chapter, addressing climate resilience, to their comprehensive plan.

#### 2. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is a requirement of the Washington State Growth Management Act. It is a 20-year plan to outline the future growth of the city, based on future population, housing, land use, capital facilities, and other projections.

#### 3. What is Climate Resilience?

Climate Resilience is the process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in the climate and minimizing negative impacts to natural systems, infrastructure, and communities.

#### 4. What is the Planning Area and Timeline?

The planning area is the Cle Elum City limits. The timeline to create the Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan is June 2025, based on grant requirements.

#### 5. What Climate impacts are projected for Cle Elum?

The CPAT is reviewing potential impacts related to Wildfires, Drought, Heat, Flooding, and Precipitation.

#### 6. Can I keep my Gas Stove?

Yes! The recent conversations and edits to the building code regarding gas stoves and appliances is not a component of this project. Those changes were made by the Washington State Building Code Council – <https://sbcc.wa.gov> Nothing in the Climate Element will reference a prohibition on gas appliances or a requirement to retrofit existing structures to remove gas appliances.

#### 7. Why is this important?

Developing a Climate Element is a state mandate, and the CPAT acknowledges that may not sit well with some Cle Elum residents. However, since we do need to complete this work, we want to draft something that is relevant to the needs of Cle Elum.

The creation of the Climate Element will maintain the city's compliance with the Growth Management Act which in turn will allow for the city to pursue grant funding for future implementation projects.

## 8. What projects?

This is where we need your help. We want to include goals and policies to support future projects that will help Cle Elum grow and prosper. One such project the CPAT has discussed is the creation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

## 9. How will this impact me?

This project will create a Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan that will include goals and policies for the City to potentially implement in the future, if funding is available. Some items that the Advisory Team has discussed are policies to create/develop Evacuation Routes, Identify funding for Backup Communications and Medical Plans, and developing a city-focused Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Climate Element *will not* require the citizens of Cle Elum to endure any financial hardships such as installing EV chargers or Solar Panels in their home.

## 10. What do you need from me and when do you need it?

The development of the Climate Element is an open-process and we want your comments and suggestions. Public engagement is an important component of this project, and at the end of the process, we want to develop a Climate Element that suits the needs of Cle Elum.

Public comment can be submitted anytime at the contact information below. There will also be opportunities to attend public meetings and hearings which will be scheduled in the future.

## 11. What impact does my feedback have?

All comments and feedback will be compiled into an appendix of the Climate Element. The comments will be reviewed by staff, the CPAT, and the City Council, and will help to shape the final document.

## 12. How can I stay informed?

Updates will be provided on the project website, when available - <https://cleelum.gov/climate-commitment/>

If you have any questions, please contact [planning@cleelum.gov](mailto:planning@cleelum.gov)



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).