



Memorandum

To: Department of Commerce
(GMSClimate@commerce.wa.gov) Date: February 13, 2025

From: Nicholas Mirra, MFA project manager Project No.: M2373.01.004

Re: Contract No. 24-63610-300 – Memorandum of Completion, Deliverable #1: Planning and engagement tasks

Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (MFA) prepared this memorandum on behalf of the City of Ferndale (the City) to document the completion of work contained in Deliverable #1. The work completed for Deliverable #1 includes the planning and engagement tasks (Section 2, Tasks 2.1 – 2.4) in support of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Sub-element.

The tasks completed include the following:

- Task 2.1. Form a Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT).
 - The City identified and invited seven participants to join the CPAT and the first meeting was held on January 30, 2025. The roster of participants and the notes from the meeting's vision statement exercise are included as an attachment.
- Task 2.2. Establish a public participation plan that supports environmental justice.
 - The finalized plan is included as an attachment. MFA is supporting the City in implementing the plan.
- Task 2.3. Establish a tribal engagement strategy.
 - The finalized strategy is included as an attachment. MFA is supporting the City in implementing the strategy.
 - In December 2024 the City of Ferndale sent letters to the Nooksack Tribe and the Lummi Nation inviting them to participate in the City's planning process.
- Task 2.4. Develop a vision statement.
 - During the first CPAT meeting on January 30 the group brainstormed elements for a draft vision statement. The draft vision statement is included in the meeting summary.

Elements of the work completed are included in the attachments.

Attachments:

Public Engagement Strategy

Tribal Engagement Strategy

CPAT roster and Jan. 30, 2025 meeting summary, including draft vision statement

Public Engagement Strategy

City of Ferndale Climate Element

Prepared for:

City of Ferndale

January 31, 2025

Project No. M2373.01.001

Prepared by:

Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.

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1 Purpose

This document outlines the City of Ferndale’s public engagement approach for the development of their Comprehensive Plan Climate Element. This document is designed to support an equitable and meaningful engagement process that can reach a diverse cross-section of Ferndale’s community. The strategies outlined in this document aim to meet Commerce’s guidelines for “early and continuous public engagement.”

1.1 Washington State Department of Commerce Guidance

The City of Ferndale will implement a public engagement strategy that follows the Washington State Department of Commerce’s [Intermediate Climate Element Planning Guidance](#). In this guidance, local governments are encouraged to integrate equity, inclusivity, and collaboration into their climate element development process to create meaningful, community-driven outcomes. They should coordinate these efforts with broader comprehensive plan engagement strategies and make the goals and desired outcomes of this engagement clear.

Commerce encourages local governments to identify and engage overburdened community groups—those most affected by climate change—and ensure they have a fair opportunity to participate in shaping solutions. This plan outlines strategies Ferndale will use to engage these audiences.

Beyond specifically overburdened communities, Commerce encourages local governments to educate and engage the broader community about climate resilience and emissions mitigation by conducting early and continuous public engagement. Ferndale will look for opportunities to include climate resilience materials into other City engagement activities occurring concurrent with the Climate Element process.

2 Goals and Outcomes

The City of Ferndale will pursue the following equity goals and desired outcomes for their Climate Element engagement process.

2.1 Equity Goals

This process should provide engagement opportunities...

1. With **multiple avenues** for participation;
2. That accommodate community members with **different levels of time, resources, and accessibility needs**;
3. That promote **positive and constructive dialogue** with community members **across political, economic, and social divides**; and
4. That highlight **climate solutions as opportunities** to enhance economic vitality, public health, environmental protection, and community well-being.

2.2 Desired Outcomes

The City will conduct engagement with the following desired outcomes in mind:

1. **Increased Awareness and Education:** A community better informed about local climate challenges, resilience strategies, and opportunities to contribute to solutions.
2. **Community Buy-In:** Widespread support for the City's climate policies, rooted in shared community goals and a sense of collective ownership.
3. **Empowered Partners:** A diverse group of community members empowered to contribute to policy development and support the City's future implementation efforts.
4. **Equity-Driven Policies:** Climate resilience and emissions reduction strategies that help address the needs of overburdened and historically marginalized communities.

3 Audiences

The City of Ferndale aims to engage members from diverse backgrounds across the community, with an emphasis on those facing disproportionate risks from climate change and those likely to be affected by climate-related policies.

3.1 Populations likely to experience climate change “first and worst”

These groups face disproportionate risks from climate-related impacts like flooding, heatwaves, and poor air quality:

- **Low-Income Households:** Residents with fewer resources to recover from climate-related disasters or adapt to changes like rising utility costs or property damage.
 - On the [WA Environmental Health Disparities Map](#), one of the census tracts in the center of Ferndale (010502) ranks an 8 of 10 on the Social Vulnerability Index. This is due to high scores in several drivers, including a 10 of 10 in percent of population unemployed, an 8 of 10 for percent of population living in poverty, an 8 of 10 for percent of population without a high school diploma, and a 7 of 10 for percent of population 19-64 without health insurance.
- **Elderly and Disabled Residents:** Vulnerable to heatwaves, flooding, and health impacts from air pollution or extreme weather due to limited mobility or health conditions.
 - The same census tract that captures the center of Ferndale ranks in the seventh decile (7 out of 10) for percent of the population with a disability ([WA Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)).
- **Communities Living in High-Risk Areas:**
 - Residents of neighborhoods prone to **flooding** (e.g., areas near the Nooksack River and low-lying zones).

- The Nooksack River runs from the north-east diagonally through the center of Ferndale. In the November 2021 floods, the overflowing Nooksack River prompted a voluntary evacuation order for 10 blocks near the downtown area (south of Main St between 4th Ave and the river) and flooded homes, businesses, and roads.
- **Indigenous Communities:** Including members of the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe, whose traditional lands, cultural practices, and livelihoods may be impacted by climate changes like rising sea levels or ecosystem disruptions.
 - Sections of south Ferndale (W Smith to Slate Rd), and west Ferndale (west of Vista Dr and Azalea Ave) are part of census tracts that are identified as Overburdened and contain Tribal Reservation land ([Overburdened Communities of Washington State map](#)).
- **Non-English Speaking and Immigrant Communities:** May lack access to climate-related resources or emergency information due to language or cultural barriers.
 - The census tract through the center of Ferndale ranks a 6 of 10 for percent of population with a primary language other than English. The census tract immediately to the east (010600, capturing Ferndale south of the Nooksack River) ranks an 8 of 10 on the same metric ([WA Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)).

3.2 Populations likely to be impacted by climate actions

Climate policies can bring benefits but may also have unintended consequences for some groups, if policies are not created with them in mind:

- **Energy-Burdened Residents:** Households already struggling to afford utility bills may be disproportionately affected by costs associated with transitioning to cleaner energy sources.
- **Rural Residents and Farmers:** Land-use policies, water conservation efforts, or renewable energy siting could affect access to resources or economic opportunities.
- **Business Owners:** Especially those reliant on energy-intensive industries or supply chains, who may face challenges adapting to emissions reduction policies.
- **Commuters and Transportation-Dependent Residents:** Policies to reduce vehicle emissions or reliance on fossil fuels may impact people who depend on personal vehicles due to limited public transit options.
- **Industrial and Construction Workers:** Workers in fossil fuel-dependent industries or sectors like construction may need reskilling or job transition support in the long-term.

4 Engagement Strategies

To achieve the purposes listed above, the City of Ferndale will employ the strategies below. The consultant team will produce engagement materials to support the City-led public engagement activities.

4.1 Periodic updates

The consultant team will prepare periodic updates to keep the public informed of climate element progress and opportunities to engage. These updates will focus on sharing GHG data, goals, and implementation strategies in accessible language. The City can pursue its equity goals by distributing updates both virtually and physically, and sending updates to community groups and hubs for key communities and audiences identified in Section 3.

4.1.1 Virtual updates

The City will periodically update its website and send email updates to community groups and interested parties. The consultant team will put together fact sheets or infographics to accompany these updates, for more accessible engagement.

The City will distribute project updates at the following points:

1. **Project kickoff:** The first notification, in late January or early February, will outline the City's climate element development process, Commerce requirements, and upcoming opportunities to engage.
2. **Open house and survey opened:** In March, an update will go out with a link to the online open house webpage and survey.
3. **Draft Measures proposed:** By the end of June the City will have draft goals, measures and an implementation plan. This update will share a summary of that progress and include forthcoming opportunities for the community to review that draft and provide additional feedback. This update will also share how feedback collected earlier in the year has shaped the currently proposed measures.

The City also plans to host virtual code update meetings, at which it can highlight proposed code changes from the Climate Element.

4.1.2 Physical updates

The consultant team will design flyers or fact sheets for the City to print and distribute at local events and with community partners. These flyers will share high-level project information, ways to follow progress, and key engagement opportunities. Physical engagement materials can be sent to residents or community organizations by mail and can help improve accessibility for community members less comfortable with technology.

4.2 Climate Policy Advisory Team

The Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) is a small group of community members and subject-matter experts who will follow the development of the climate element and provide recommendations to the City at different decision-making points of the process.

CPAT meetings will occur starting January 2025 and run through at least June 2025. More details can be found in the "CPAT Meeting Overview" document.

4.3 Online Open House and Survey

The City will host an online open house webpage in March or April, that educates the public about Ferndale's climate challenges and potential mitigation and adaptation policies. An online open house allows community members to learn and engage on their own schedule, without the requirement to attend an event in-person at a specific time and place.

The website will include a survey inviting community members to share their values and climate policy priorities. The results of this survey will inform the proposed selections from Commerce's Menu of Measures. This survey will be distributed through digital and physical copies, to reach community members with varying schedules, abilities to attend events, and comfort with technology.

4.4 Additional Efforts to Engage Overburdened Communities

To ensure equitable participation in the development of the Climate Element, the City of Ferndale will adopt tailored strategies to reach overburdened communities (see section 3). Building on planned engagement tactics, these additional efforts aim to reduce barriers to participation and ensure that the voices of vulnerable and historically marginalized populations are centered in the process.

4.4.1 Community Liaison Partnerships

The City will collaborate with trusted community organizations to serve as liaisons between the City and overburdened communities. The City will provide these organizations with engagement materials (flyers, fact sheets, translated resources) and briefings to help them effectively communicate project goals and share feedback opportunities.

4.4.2 Culturally and Linguistically Relevant Materials

The City of Ferndale will translate critical engagement materials into the primary non-English languages spoken in Ferndale (Spanish). The engagement materials will use culturally appropriate messaging that resonates with different community groups and reflects their unique concerns and values.

4.4.3 Targeted Outreach for Key Groups

The City will distribute physical update materials to community hubs such as the Ferndale Food Bank, the WTA Ferndale station, Unity Care NW North Whatcom, Grocery Outlet, Ferndale Asian Grocery, Los Cabos Latin Mart, the Lummi Bay Market. The City will also send postcard mailers to homes and businesses in the flood zone along the river, to affordable housing complexes, and other climate-affected areas.

Tribal Engagement Strategy

City of Ferndale Climate Element

Prepared for:

City of Ferndale

January 31, 2025

Project No. M2373.01.001

Prepared by:

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1 Purpose

This document includes the consultant team’s recommended approach to support the City of Ferndale’s tribal engagement for the development of their Comprehensive Plan Climate Element. This document is designed to support a “tribes-first” approach, outlined in Section 2, which includes reaching out to local tribes at the project outset to inform them of the project approach and invite their participation. The tribes may then determine and articulate the ways and extent to which they engage with the work at their discretion, to the degree that benefits their community and fits into their capacity.

1.1 Washington State Department of Commerce guidance

The Washington State Department of Commerce’s [Intermediate Climate Element Planning Guidance](#) and [Tribal Planning page](#) provide guidance for tribal engagement.

Tribes are sovereign nations with the discretion to decide their level of participation in local comprehensive planning processes. The Growth Management Act (GMA) allows tribes to opt into local planning processes under SHB 1717 (2022). Local governments are legally obligated to respect tribal sovereignty and treaty rights through consultation, which involves efforts to reach consensus. If tribes do not engage, local governments should still share updates and invite input in other ways.

Local governments are encouraged to engage tribes with ties to reservation lands, ancestral lands, waters, or “usual and accustomed areas” near their jurisdiction. Early and individualized outreach is encouraged.

Based on these criteria, the City of Ferndale should consult the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe.

1.1.1 Formal coordination

Commerce outlines formal coordination as a potential path for tribal engagement. While formal government-to-government (G2G) consultation primarily occurs at federal and state levels, local governments can pursue their own formal coordination, at the local jurisdiction’s governance level, sometimes referred to by tribal nations as Council-to-Council diplomatic protocol. This would involve creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) focused on the climate element of the city’s comprehensive plan. Commerce’s Tribal Planning Coordination Manager is available to assist jurisdictions that are beginning or renewing relationships with tribes and requiring help with this option if it is of interest to the tribes. The consultant team recommends against formal coordination and the development of an MOU given the constrained timeline of the project.

1.1.2 Informal coordination

Another option, should the Lummi Nation or Nooksack Tribe choose not to participate in a formal coordination process, is informal coordination. Informal coordination involves conversations focused on information sharing with tribal staff at a department-to-department level. Successful informal coordination can incorporate tribal priorities into the Climate Element and help the City of Ferndale

reestablish relationships and build trust with tribal staff. This can aid in setting up formal coordination processes in future projects. To ensure this informal coordination is a positive experience, the City must clearly communicate about what can be accomplished within the short timeframe of this project, and report back to the tribal staff on how their input was used.

1.1.3 Public engagement

The above options are distinct from public engagement, but some tribal coordination activities fit within public engagement. This can include working with Indigenous groups that are not tribal governments, such as urban Native American organizations and/or tribal populations not located in their Indian Country, Native American non-profits and Indigenous community-based organizations.

1.2 City of Ferndale goals

In addition to complying with Growth Management Act guidelines, the City of Ferndale is interested in improving overall relationships with the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe.

The City of Ferndale is closely tied to the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe. The city is located on the tribes' ancestral lands, and neighbors current reservation lands. The Nooksack River runs through Nooksack Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust land near Deming and Everson, then through the City of Ferndale, before flowing through the Lummi Indian Reservation and emptying into Bellingham Bay. Key transportation corridors connect the jurisdictions together. The communities share key resources, including grocery stores, jobs, and schools. Over 630 Native American or Alaska Native students are served by Ferndale Public Schools, the majority of whom are members of the Lummi Nation.

As sovereign nations, the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe primarily negotiate at a G2G level. Due to the degree of shared interest in local resources, the City of Ferndale wishes to create ample opportunity for each tribe to engage in in the City's policymaking processes, to the degree that benefits their communities and capacity allows.

While the City of Ferndale does not wish to presume what level of participation will be of interest the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe, the Climate Element does hold potential for common interest. The Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe are leaders in local climate action. Ferndale's Element will dictate the City's plans for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and climate adaptation and resilience. Climate change is an indiscriminate force, not recognizing a difference in emissions from one jurisdiction or another, or halting hazards like floods along a political border. Emissions reduction and resilience measures can have a greater collective impact when measures are taken in coordination throughout the region. Climate change and the policies created to address it impact every facet of life. If the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe have capacity and interest to engage in this planning process, the City of Ferndale will have a clearer sense of their goals and interests and can help integrate and potentially address them in the City's Climate Element.

2 Engagement Strategies

To achieve the purposes listed above, the City of Ferndale and their consultant team will take the following steps.

2.1 Baseline engagement

2.1.1 Initial invitation

City of Ferndale Mayor Greg Hansen sent letters to the Chairs of each tribe in December 2024. The City of Ferndale drafted these letters, and the consultant team reviewed and edited them. Copies of these letters can be found in Appendix A. These letters are a broad invitation for tribal leadership or staff to participate in the development of the City's Climate Element in any way that makes sense to the tribe.

The letters:

- Thank each tribe for their leadership on climate action and stewardship of shared lands.
- Emphasize that the tribes' input will shape climate element goals and policies to help accommodate tribal needs and interests, in addition to Ferndale's.
- List the topics (e.g., GHG reduction, resilience, natural hazards and emergency management, transportation) that will be addressed by Ferndale's climate goals and policies.
- Emphasize flexibility, offering participation and input in any manner that works for the Chair and tribal staff.
- Provide the timeline for the climate planning process (January through June 2025) and list other known engagement opportunities (Climate Policy Advisory Team and broader public engagement).
- Extend an offer from Mayor Hansen to meet at a location of the tribes' choosing to discuss planning efforts or other interests, and to be available by call or email for any questions.

2.1.2 Background research

The consultant team will review key documents from the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe to better understand local tribal approaches to climate change.

- a. Lummi Nation 2024 [Priority Climate Action Plan](#)
- b. Nooksack Indian Tribe Natural Resources [Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment](#)
- c. Nooksack Indian Tribe 2020 [Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#)

In the case where the tribes wish to be informed of progress, understanding these documents will highlight what topics may be of particular interest to the tribes and can inform goals and policies for the Climate Element. In the case where one or both tribes choose to consult or collaborate with the City of Ferndale, this research will allow the City and the consultant team to enter conversations with a baseline of existing tribal efforts. The review of these documents will not be considered tribal engagement, but rather part of developing well-informed policy that is representative of the broader community.

2.1.3 Periodic updates

Per Commerce guidance, the City of Ferndale will provide periodic updates to the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe throughout the development of the Climate Element, whether or not the tribes

engage separately. Unless requested otherwise by either tribe, these periodic updates will be shared when the:

1. Draft vision statement is completed
2. Draft list of measures is completed
3. GHG inventory is completed
4. Draft Climate Element is completed
5. Final Climate Element is completed

The consultant team will draft an update email to each tribe at each of these points. These emails will be sent to the Chair and relevant departments by Mayor Hansen and city staff.

These periodic updates will include invitations to Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) meetings and share public engagement opportunities for tribes to pass on to interested members.

2.2 Tribes choose “consult” or “involve” as their level of participation

2.2.1 Meetings

If either tribe responds with interest in meeting with the City of Ferndale, the consultant team will support in scheduling, facilitating, and recording the outcome(s) of these meetings. The consultant team is scoped to attend one in-person meeting for each Tribe, along with City planning staff and Mayor Hansen.

Ideally, this form of meeting will allow city staff and consultants to meet with relevant tribal department staff or interested tribal leaders to discuss the tribe’s priority climate policies. The concerns and priorities voiced by each tribe in these coordination meetings will be recorded for inclusion within a summary of engagement.

If additional meetings are requested by either tribe and additional budget is not available, meetings may be hosted remotely or by city staff without consultant support.

2.2.2 CPAT attendance

Either tribe may choose to send representatives to CPAT meetings. Tribal representatives will be welcome at all meetings.

2.2.3 Other

To support flexibility in engagement for both tribes, the consultant team is prepared to reallocate budget from other scoped tribal engagement activities to meet the engagement method(s) each tribe shows the most interest in. For example, tribes may choose to engage and provide feedback through email, or request that the project team review specific tribal documents that provide the tribe’s climate policy priorities. The consultant team will also plan to be available in an advisory capacity to support City staff in taking on additional independent engagement with each tribe, if that is requested.

2.3 Tribes chose “inform” as their level of participation

2.3.1 Inform and record

The level of participation chosen by the tribe will be recorded based on the response to the initial invitation to participate in the process. Unless requested otherwise, periodic updates (section 2.2) will be sent to keep the tribes informed and provide opportunities for them to engage later if it becomes of interest.

2.4 Intersection with public engagement

The City and consultant team will make every reasonable effort to ensure that public engagement opportunities are accessible to tribal members. Outreach methods for public engagement opportunities will include distributing outreach materials to Indigenous community organizations and hubs for local tribal members. This will not be considered tribal engagement, but rather part of conducting a robust and equitable community engagement process.

3 Schedule

Dates and activities are subject to change based on response from tribes.

Date	Activity	MFA Role	City Role
Dec. 2024	Prepare Tribal Engagement Strategy	Draft, incorporate feedback, and finalize version 1.	Review draft and provide feedback
Dec. 2024	Send initial invitation	Review letter.	Draft and send letter from Mayor.
TBD	Lummi Nation coordination meeting	Schedule, draft agenda, attend, take and summarize notes.	Communicate with Chair and department leads, review agenda, attend.
TBD	Nooksack Tribe coordination meeting	Schedule, draft agenda, attend, take and summarize notes.	Communicate with Chair and department leads, review agenda, attend.
Jan. 2025	Send update #1 Topic: CPAT meeting information	Draft update and CPAT meeting information.	Review draft and send update.
Jan./Feb. 2025	Send update #2 Topic: Draft vision statement	Draft update.	Review draft and send update.

Feb./March 2025	Send update #3 Topic: Draft measures	Draft update.	Review draft and send update.
April/March 2025	Send update #4 Topic: Draft Climate Element, public review opportunities	Draft update and public review opportunities.	Review draft and send update.
May/June 2025	Send Update #5 Topic: Final element, next steps	Draft update.	Review draft and send update.

Initial notification letters

Letter to Lummi Nation Chairman

{letterhead}

Subject: Invitation to Participate in the Development of the City of Ferndale's Goals and Policies for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction

Dear {Name, title},

On behalf of the City of Ferndale, I want to extend an invitation to you and the Lummi Nation to participate in the development of the city's approach to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Our staff is beginning the process of developing climate related goals and policies which will be included in the city's Comprehensive Plan.

My staff and I appreciate the Lummi Nation's participation in the global effort to address climate change and are grateful for Tribal members' leadership within our community. We believe that the Lummi Nation's cultural heritage and the historical connection with this land is an essential part of planning for our community's future. As such, we would greatly appreciate the assistance of the Lummi Nation in shaping these goals and policies to ensure your needs as well as ours are being addressed.

Based on guidance from the State of Washington, Ferndale's climate goals and policies will need to address variety of topics including:

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction (GHG)
- Resilience
- Agriculture and Food Systems
- Buildings and Energy
- Ecosystems
- Health and Wellbeing
- Natural Hazards and Emergency Management
- Transportation
- Waste Management
- Zoning and Development

We welcome your participation and input in any manner that works for you and your staff. Our climate planning process will begin after the first of the year. As part of our outreach, we will engage a Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) that will inform the development of our goals and policies. Broader public engagement will follow based on any input received from your staff and the CPAT. Our team anticipates the new GHG Reduction Element of the city's Comprehensive plan will be completed by the end of June 2025.



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We are in the very early stages of our planning process. Your input is important to us and I hope we can find an approach that works for your staff. Please reply or call me if you have any questions. I would welcome a meeting with you at a location of your choosing to discuss our planning efforts and any other interests you have with the City of Ferndale.

Sincerely,

Mayor Hansen

{signature line}

Letter to Nooksack Tribe Chairwoman

{letterhead}

Subject: Invitation to Participate in the Development of the City of Ferndale's Goals and Policies for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction

Dear {Name, title},

On behalf of the City of Ferndale, I want to extend an invitation to you and the Nooksack Tribe to participate in the development of the city's approach to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Our staff is beginning the process of developing climate related goals and policies which will be included in the city's Comprehensive Plan.

My staff and I appreciate the Nooksack Tribe's participation in the global effort to address climate change and are grateful for Tribal members' leadership within our community. We believe that the Nooksack Tribe's cultural heritage and the historical connection with this land is an essential part of planning for our community's future. As such, we would greatly appreciate the assistance of the Nooksack Tribe in shaping these goals and policies to ensure your needs as well as ours are being addressed.

Based on guidance from the State of Washington, Ferndale's climate goals and policies will need to address variety of topics including:

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction (GHG)
- Resilience
- Agriculture and Food Systems
- Buildings and Energy
- Ecosystems
- Health and Wellbeing
- Natural Hazards and Emergency Management
- Transportation
- Waste Management
- Zoning and Development



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We welcome your participation and input in any manner that works for you and your staff. Our climate planning process will begin after the first of the year. As part of our outreach, we will engage a Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) that will inform the development of our goals and policies. Broader public engagement will follow based on any input received from your staff and the CPAT. Our team anticipates the new GHG Reduction Element of the city's Comprehensive plan will be completed by the end of June 2025.

We are in the very early stages of our planning process. Your input is important to us and I hope we can find an approach that works for your staff. Please reply or call me if you have any questions. I would welcome a meeting with you at a location of your choosing to discuss our planning efforts and any other interests you have with the City of Ferndale.

Sincerely,

Mayor Hansen

{signature line}



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City of Ferndale

Climate Policy Advisory Team

Workshop #1 – Draft Vision Statements

CPAT participants

Name	Representative organization
J. Manuel Reta	Ferndale community member
Hayden Richardson	Whatcom Transportation Authority
David Strich	Washington State Department of Transportation
Lauren Clemens	Whatcom County
Eric Weden	Weden Engineering
Kurt Baumgartner	Port of Bellingham
Ryan O’Larey	Ferndale City Councilmember
Project staff and facilitators	
Michael Cerbone	City of Ferndale – Community Development Director
Kyla Boswell	City of Ferndale – Assistant Planner
Vivian Ericson	Consultant facilitator
Natalie Sacker	Consultant note taker

The Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) met on January 30, 2025. Individual members of the CPAT developed vision statements, which were first discussed in pairs and then discussed by the full group.

Draft Vision Statement

To build a resilient and sustainable community by embedding climate-conscious practices into daily decisions, supporting regional goals, and expanding access to green infrastructure, transportation, and housing.

The project staff developed the draft vision statement based on words and phrases that CPAT members identified as potential key elements of a vision statement. The group will review the vision in future CPAT meetings and may refine it based on further discussion.

Words and phrases used to generate draft vision statement:

- Pragmatic

- Innovative
- Leader (there was some discussion within the group on this element should be included)
- Adaptive
- Sustainability
- The City of Ferndale institutionalizes practices across operations.
- Regional consistency and local specificity
- Integrated and woven throughout the plan and may not always be named directly.
- Embed in normal way of working.
- The entire community can access sustainable living practices (equity)
- Contribute to regional goals for climate mitigation.
- Leave it better than we found it.
- Keep Ferndale Green, people help each other within the community.

The following vision statements were collected from CPAT members and informed the vision statement:

- Build capacity to respond to climate hazards and reduce contributions to climate change.
- Incorporate Climate impacts into land-use decisions.
- Create alignment between Ferndale's Climate goals and regional goals.
- Encourage and promote multi-modal transportation, green infrastructure.
- Increase access to more sustainable options (housing, recreation, community, work, transportation, etc.)
- Climate change to keep Ferndale Green, under a way to safeguard people or community.
- To contribute to Ferndale's part to the regional climate resiliency goals for the next 20 years.
- Embed climate policy into Ferndale's normal way of working.
- To work towards a {word missing} for the community where we are in harmony with our changing world.
- Leave it better than we found it.