

2 Goals and Policies

2.1 Planning Process

PP Goal 1: Develop a Comprehensive Plan that reflects the community’s vision and objectives, is consistent with the State’s planning laws, and is implemented through various local development regulations.

Policy 1: Use zoning and subdivision ordinances, performance standards, and related measures to implement the plan.

Policy 2: Use and maintain County-wide resource inventories to assist in determining the suitability and capability of the land and its resources to support future development.

Policy 3: Make land use decisions consistent with the Land Use Map and with the inherent capability of the land to sustain uses without creating problems that require a publicly funded solution (e.g., flooding, landslides).

Policy 4: Coordinate the County's plans and programs with those at local, regional, and state levels.

PP Goal 2: Develop and maintain a Comprehensive Plan responsive to growth and economic trends which can be readily adapted to changing conditions.

Policy 1: Base amendments to the Comprehensive Plan on facts and findings that respond to public needs, are beneficial to the public interest, and are consistent with the vision and goals of the County.

Policy 2: Review and update the Comprehensive Plan according to the GMA.

PP Goal 3: Continue citizen involvement that insures full citizen participation in public decision-making according to the County’s adopted Public Participation Plan.

Policy 1: Maintain opportunities for citizen involvement and input on issues in advance of making land use decisions.

Policy 2: Provide information to citizens through the news media and other outreach processes as indicated in the Public Participation Plan to allow maximum citizen involvement.

2.2 Land Use

LU Goal 1: Ensure that land uses are compatible with surrounding uses that maintain public health, safety, and general welfare, and giving special consideration to advancing environmental justice.

Policy 1: Maintain a mix of land uses that [allow for a variety of housing types while supporting](#) the character of each rural community.

Policy 2: Promote compatible mixed uses of urban intensity that are appropriate [in UGAs and](#) where community sewer and water are available or provided, [including and outside of](#) UGAs [and within](#) designated Rural Community Center areas and Commercial zones, and Planned Developments (PDs).

Policy 3: Maximize the opportunities for compatible development within land use designations to serve a multitude of compatible uses and activities.

Policy 4: Establish regulations for site planning and design to avoid or reduce potential impacts associated with "land use incompatibility" of proposed non-farm developments on parcels adjacent to lands designated GMA Agriculture, Rural Resource, or adjacent to lands being farmed commercially within other rural designations.

Policy 5: Encourage multi-modal connectivity between land uses that enhances community access and promotes healthier and more active lifestyles for residents.

Policy 6: [Encourage Plan](#) compact development within [incorporated](#) UGAs [where adequate infrastructure is available](#).

[Policy 7: Consider identified patterns of development and likely future development pressure in areas when designating and maintaining UGAs.](#)

[Policy 8: Consider ways to advance environmental justice in land use planning designations and development regulations, including efforts to avoid creating or worsening environmental health disparities.](#)

Policy ~~798~~: Encourage "green infrastructure" in new developments and redevelopments to address flooding and storm water runoff.

LU Goal 2: Follow controlling law and constitutional requirements, both state and federal, to ensure the appropriate protection of private property rights.

Policy 1: Prevent regulations that create undue adverse economic impacts, or unnecessarily restrict the use of private property.

Policy 2: Monitor evolving state and federal statutory amendments and judicial precedent so that timely amendments or changes can be made in implementing Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations.

2.2.1 Urban Growth

LU Goal 3: Concentrate urban development ~~in and adjacent to existing~~ within urban growth areas.

Policy 1: Promote urban growth within the UGA and incorporated areas where urban services are available.

Policy 2: Encourage ~~well-designed~~, compact development ~~of a wide variety of housing types and uses~~ in UGAs to save taxpayers and ratepayers money, ~~prevent disinvestment~~, conserve water, reduce water pollution, and support transit use.

LU Goal 4: Establish UGAs adjacent to incorporated areas, within which an orderly and cost-effective transition from rural to urban land uses and authority can be coordinated within the next 10 to 20 years.

Policy 1: Consider UGA expansions according to the process identified in the Benton CWPP.

Policy 2: Facilitate the realization of regional transportation and other infrastructure and public facilities plans.

Policy 3: Designate zoning and promote development on unincorporated lands within the UGAs consistent with the cities' Comprehensive Plan land use designations.

Policy 4: Promote outreach to established ~~citizen-community~~ interest groups regarding significant developments proposed within or adjacent to their communities.

2.2.2 Communities Outside UGAs

LU Goal 5: Identify the location, site planning, and density of new non-farm development outside of UGAs to protect existing agriculture from incompatible adjacent land uses.

Policy 1: Establish compatible land uses adjacent to areas designated as GMA Agriculture to minimize conflicts associated with farm activities such as spray, dust, noise, odors, and liability.

2.2.3 Rural Lands

LU Goal 6: Preserve rural lifestyles outside UGAs and incorporated areas while accommodating new population growth consistent with ~~the protection of~~ rural character.

Policy 1: Maintain overall residential densities within rural residential areas that ~~protect surface and ground water, can be supported by available public services, provide rural housing types,~~ reflect rural character as defined by the GMA, and are low enough to perpetuate rural

lifestyles, which are typically characterized locally by a predominantly open landscape inhabited by households engaged in diverse and recreational land use activities related to livestock and crop production; protect surface and ground water; and that can be supported by available public services.

Policy 2: Support the protection of ground and surface water through Development in rural areas is typified by large lots and less dense development in the rural areas. Favoring development that is less dense and has larger lots helps maintain the rural character of designated rural areas and supports the protection of ground and surface water.

Policy 3: Designated rural areas will be utilized to reduce the inappropriate conversion of agricultural lands, prevent sprawling low-density development and assure that rural development is compatible with surrounding rural and agricultural areas.

Policy 4: Encourage low impact recreational uses and protect open spaces that preserve rural character.

Policy 5: Provide public services consistent with rural character. Rural developments will not impact existing public facilities/services to the extent that the level of service for that facility is reduced below the adopted threshold and/or acceptable operation capacity. Rural developments should occur where adequate access to transportation systems, and rural levels of utilities and facilities, such as domestic water, power, and fire and police protection are available.

Policy 6: Rural development shall minimize potential adverse impacts to water quality, slope stability, vegetation, wildlife and aquatic life as implemented through the County's critical area regulations, shoreline master program, and hydrology manual.

~~Policy 7: Support the availability of sufficient water to maintain the agricultural industry and agricultural processing and value-added manufacturing.~~

Policy 87: Encourage long-term conservation, adequate water supply, and the wise stewardship of natural resources within Benton County for the benefit of current and future residents.

Policy 98: Encourage the continued communication with irrigation districts, legislature, and other responsible entities to ensure that adequate irrigation water is available for agricultural uses.

Policy 109: Limit impervious surface in rural lands by implementing maximum lot coverage in the development regulations.

Commented [FO22]: This section is moved to Land Use Element for discussion.

Commented [BF23R22]: Follow up - Ben actually just deleted this text as this concept is covered here in the remaining Policy 5 text, and in LOS discussion in Section 9.2

Commented [FO24]: Moved under Agriculture

Policy ~~44~~10: Encourage the use of low-impact development (LID) measures in the Eastern Washington Low Impact Development Guidance Manual and their application to urban development, urban and rural subdivisions, and large rural developments in Benton County.

Policy ~~42~~11: Support on-site infiltration in rural areas for new lots, subdivisions and developments by promoting storm water best management practices. Promote the retention of existing native vegetative cover in landscaping plans for areas zoned Rural Lands One Acre (RL-1), Rural Lands Five Acre (RL-5), Rural Lands Twenty Acre (RL-20), and Planned Development (PD) zones applied to any of these zones. ~~Where the proposed development will not be precluded, limit impervious surfaces that are not infiltrated on-site for all new development in the zoning districts listed above to no more than ten percent and require the retention of 45 percent vegetative cover, which may include native or non-native species, provided soil infiltration/filtration properties are maintained.~~

Commented [FO25]: Suggest moving this to development regulations

Commented [GW26]: Correct, these are zoning standards

Policy ~~43~~12: Encourage the reduction of fire risk and urban/wildland interface through fire-wise principles, prevention measures, and other programs.

Policy ~~44~~13: Support and encourage the use of and application of Firewise principles and other fire risk reduction measures consistent with the Benton County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan to reduce fire risk for urban development, urban subdivisions, rural subdivisions and large rural developments susceptible to wildfires. Encourage the implementation of the Firewise principles, or similar best management measures, applicable to individual lots on all lots at risk from wildfires.

Commented [GW27]: We may want to reevaluate and update if needed once we get the Wildlands/Urban Interface strategy completed

Policy ~~45~~14: Encourage new rural development away from the 100-year floodplain, and as guided in the County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, CAO, and SMP.

2.2.4 Master Plan Resorts and Small-scale Recreational or Tourist Use

LU Goal 7: Provide opportunities for Master Planned Resorts (MPRs) and Small-scale Recreational or Tourist (SSRT) uses consistent with the GMA.

Policy 1: Provide MPR and SSRT development regulations that are consistent with provisions of RCW 36.70A.360, the Comprehensive Plan, and County regulations.

Policy 2: Locate MPR and SSRT Uses outside the vicinity of UGAs according to the provisions of the GMA.

- Policy 3: Develop a master site plan that functionally integrates various land uses with motorized and non-motorized circulation systems that are accessible to public transportation where available and connect with open spaces for public use.
- Policy 4: Ensure that infrastructure, such as roads, water supply, and utility standards are consistent with rural densities and uses.
- Policy 5: Prepare a capital facilities plan. Necessary capital facilities, utilities, and services may be provided to a MPR by service providers from outside the boundary of the MPR, including municipalities and special service districts, provided that all costs associated with service extensions and capacity increases directly attributable to the MPR are fully borne by the resort.
- Policy 6: Ensure that developments contain open space and open space amenities (paths, trails, scenic overlooks, and viewpoints) that are open to the public.

2.3 Natural Resource Lands

NR Goal 1: Conserve and maintain agricultural land of long-term commercial significance as the local natural resource most essential for sustaining the County's agricultural economy.

- Policy 1: Conserve areas designated "GMA Agriculture" in the Comprehensive Plan for a broad range of agricultural uses to the maximum extent possible and protect these areas from the encroachment of incompatible uses.
- Policy 2: In the event of a conflict between residential uses and normal and routine practices of commercial agriculture on lands designated as GMA Agriculture, support the agricultural use where it is evident that the agricultural practice is consistent with or equivalent to recognized Best Management Practices.
- Policy 3: Recognize that only uses related or ancillary to, supportive of, complimentary to, and/or not in conflict with agricultural activities are appropriate in areas designated GMA Agriculture, and that these types of development should be encouraged to occur on lands with poor soils or lands otherwise not suitable for agricultural purposes.
- Policy 4: Apply development standards that conserve water resources when reviewing proposed new non-agricultural developments to sustain the ability of the regional agricultural economy to expand and respond to new market conditions and opportunities, or drought, extreme heat, or other impacts of a changing climate.

Commented [GW28]: We may want to revisit and confirm this after our ag tourism discussions and ensure this complies with WAC 365-195-815

NR Goal 2: Identify and protect mineral resource lands of commercial significance and from being significantly compromised by encroaching land uses that are incompatible with mining activity uses.

- Policy 1: Protect mineral and aggregate resources of commercial significance from compromise by applying the County's Mineral Resources Protective Ordinance and BCC Title 15, Mineral Resource Lands when the owner of the resource requests such protection and use of the site has not already been compromised by incompatible adjacent land uses or development.
- Policy 2: Discourage incompatible uses from encroaching upon and compromising the exploitation of protected mineral and aggregate resources.
- Policy 3: Reclaim sites used for the extraction of mineral and aggregate resources in a manner consistent with applicable laws and ordinances.

2.4 Water Resources

WR Goal 1: Conserve, maintain, and manage existing ground and surface water resources to meet existing and future water supply needs for cities, farms, industry, and rural growth.

2.4.1 General Policies

- Policy 1: Support efforts to secure long-term, sustainable water supplies that are consistent with the Benton County Comprehensive Land Use Plan or the Comprehensive Land Use Plans of the municipalities within Benton County.
- Policy 2: Encourage water reuse, conservation, and responsible stewardship through the development of voluntary conservation programs, educational outreach, and alterations to current water policy that provide incentives for common sense approaches to stewarding water resources.
- Policy 3: Support increasing water storage by increasing capacity in existing reservoirs, developing new above ground water storage capacity, and the development of storage capacity through aquifer storage and recovery, enhanced water recharge, and other groundwater management strategies.
- Policy 4: Support ground water management strategies, including maintaining the County's Rural Water Supply Program, that permit the responsible development of ground water resources, while protecting the long-term sustainability of aquifers and considering trends for changes in precipitation and drought and how this impacts groundwater recharge.

Commented [GW29]: Should we add a general policy for Rural Water Supply Program?

Commented [ma30R29]: That could be helpful. I see it fitting fluidly with Policy 4. Our policies may be more effective if we tie them to specific programs we already have and could further advance, i.e., the rural water supply program.

Commented [BF31R29]: Updated

Commented [ma32]: If we have secured water rights for future development through the RWSP for 4+ decades from now, do we still need to include this policy?

Commented [BF33R32]: I think so - rural water supply is only one of many needs - water for ag, industry and commercial uses in the County and similarly in the cities (minus the ag)

Commented [BF34]: Cascadia recommended

- Policy 5: Encourage water management practices that will allow and provide incentives for reclaiming water resources that retain economic and recreational resources. Such practices include reclaiming waters used for food processing to irrigate crops or reclaiming wastewater to support developed open spaces, such as parks or golf courses.
- Policy 6: Encourage voluntary conservation of water resources through xeriscape (low water use landscape plantings) and other low water use methods.
- Policy 7: Encourage water marketing, the trading of water rights as commodities, providing there are sufficient controls in place to protect the basic needs of Benton County citizens and industries.
- Policy 8: Support the formation and utilization of Water Conservancy Boards to review water rights transfer applications.
- Policy 9: Support selective continued issuance of new water rights from groundwater sources where new water rights will not impair existing rights and are consistent with the long-term sustainability of aquifers.

2.4.2 *Municipal Water Supply Policies*

- Policy 1: Endorse responsible stewardship of municipal water supplies.
- Policy 2: Work to identify opportunities for water conservation on County property and at County facilities.
- Policy 3: Encourage the use of irrigation water for non-potable uses in housing units, parks, and other developed lands within water service areas.
- Policy 4: Acknowledge that municipal governments and other water utilities, as applicable, are the best long-term water supply service providers within designated UGAs.
- Policy 5: Consider existing public or private water purveyors first when the need arises for a rural domestic water supplier.
- Policy 6: Look to Satellite Management Agencies (SMA) first for assistance with operations and management of failing or troubled water systems throughout the County. Encourage an increase in the number of approved SMAs in the County.

2.4.3 *Rural Domestic Water Policies*

- Policy 1: Public and private purveyors, along with exempt wells operated by individual households, adequately provide for water needs in rural areas of the County. The County will not seek

to become a residential water purveyor except where mandated by the state under RCW 43.70.195.

Policy 2: Recognize that new rural water right permit exempt wells are junior to senior surface and ground water rights and may have the potential to impair these water rights. Support the implementation of water management and mitigation strategies to avoid or offset impacts from exempt wells, as applicable, that allow for continued growth and development consistent with the land use plan.

Policy 3: Rural development shall provide adequate water for domestic use. When feasible, rural developments will be encouraged to utilize existing community systems with adequate availability for domestic water and sewage disposal.

Policy 4: New groundwater uses must provide evidence that the proposed water source is physically and legally available. Groundwater uses and withdrawals, including the issuance of building permits and the approval of land divisions, must be consistent with RCW 90.44.050, and with applicable rules adopted pursuant to RCW 90.22 and 90.54.

2.4.4 *Industrial Policy*

Policy 1: Support efforts to secure long-term sustainable water supplies sufficient to provide for industrial activity on the Hanford site, in the Finley area, and in other industrial designated areas.

2.4.5 *Agriculture Policies*

Policy 1: Support the availability of sufficient water to maintain the agricultural industry and agricultural processing and value-added manufacturing.

~~Policy 12: Encourage efforts to secure long-term water supplies to support the County's strong and diverse agriculture economy.~~

Policy ~~223:~~ Support the withdrawal of additional water from the John Day and McNary pools, under reserved and new water rights, and water right changes and transfers, to service additional agricultural needs, including direct irrigation, food processing, and related ag-industrial needs.

Policy ~~334:~~ Encourage the continued development of water transfers and changes to meet changing agricultural production needs.

Commented [FO35]: Moved from Rural. The next policy is very similar, so this one can be deleted as well.

Policy 445: Support strategies that improve water supply during drought conditions for irrigation districts and other water right holders on the Yakima River consistent with the Yakima Integrated Plan (Ecology and USBR 2011).

WR Goal 2: Protect and enhance surface and groundwater water quality for human health, drinking water supply, and to meet water quality standards.

Policy 1: Prohibit developments which have the potential for significant individual or cumulative impacts on ground and surface water quality; or alternatively, site and design developments to avoid or mitigate such impacts.

Policy 2: Protect surface and groundwater quality as a resource essential to the public health, safety and welfare, economic growth, and prosperity of Benton County.

Policy 3: Support development and management of County-owned storm water systems that protect surface and ground water quality consistent with local conditions.

Policy 4: Support the Benton-Franklin Health District to develop and implement septic tank and drain field standards that protect surface and ground water quality and human health.

Policy 5: Encourage educational programs and voluntary efforts of agricultural producers, processors, irrigation districts, and municipal users to responsibly manage return flows to improve surface and ground water quality.

Policy 6: Support application of state standards in a manner that reflects climate differences in Benton County compared to other regions of Washington State.

WR Goal 3: Support continued multi-purpose uses of the Columbia River.

Policy 1: Encourage use of the Columbia River and its reservoirs as a key element in ensuring long-term availability of water supply, barge transportation, power generation, and flood control and support for population growth, agricultural production, industry, fisheries, and economic development. Pursuant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers John Day reservoir drawdown study, the reservoirs should also be maintained to protect wildlife habitat.

Policy 2: Support the designation and allocation of reserved water for municipal, commercial, industrial, and irrigation use from the John Day and McNary pools as per the authority under the RCW (90.54) and Washington Administrative Code ([WAC]173-531A.040) to allocate Columbia River water resources.

Policy 3: Support water resource policy decisions based on defensible science to meet the needs of people and fish and wildlife. Evaluate strategies for challenging policies that may not be scientifically defensible.

Policy 4: Support off-stream reservoirs to augment river flows.

WR Goal 4: Protect and enhance surface water resources to support rivers, streams, and wetlands that support fish and wildlife species and associated habitats.

Policy 1: Support strategies that improve flows for anadromous fish and other fish and wildlife during all types of water years on the Columbia and Yakima rivers, and for the Yakima River ensure actions are consistent with the Yakima Integrated Plan (Ecology and USBR 2011).

Policy 2: Promote a balanced response to listings of threatened and endangered species that provides improved conditions for species maintenance and recovery, while maintaining and allowing sustainable development of water resources for economic growth.

Policy 3: Equitably apply the Endangered Species Act by establishing specific, measurable recovery goals and addressing human factors, economic costs, and opportunity costs when preparing science-based species recovery and species protection plans.

Policy 4: Protect and enhance water quality to improve habitat conditions for salmonids.

2.5 Critical Areas

CA Goal 1: Protect the functions and values of critical areas within the county with land use decision-making and development review.

Policy 1: Apply standards, regulations, and mitigation strategies to development during the permitting and development approval process that protects critical areas functions and values.

Policy 2: Encourage new development and redevelopment in UGAs and large developments outside of UGAs to comply with low impact development standards as applicable.

CA Goal 2: Protect life and property and avoid or mitigate significant risks to public and private property and to public health and safety that are posed by frequently flooded and geologic hazard areas.

Policy 1: Limit developments in areas with higher risk for natural disaster or geologic hazard unless it can be demonstrated by the project proponent that the development is sited, designed, and engineered for long term structural integrity and that life and property on- and off-site are not subject to increased risk as a result of the development. [Additionally, establish](#)

development regulations that incorporate best practices for reducing the risk of wildfire, extreme heat, flooding, and other climate-exacerbated hazards.

Commented [BF36]: Added per Cascadia recommendation

Policy 2: Prevent developments within floodways and inherently unstable slopes as they are not suitable for developments. Review required buffers and setbacks for steep slopes and floodways vulnerable to erosion exacerbated by climate change, and establish new minimums, if necessary, so that improvements are not required to protect structures during their expected life.

Commented [BF37]: Per Cascadia

Policy 3: Locate and designate lands subject to natural disasters and current or future climate hazards for uses which avoid or minimize exposure of life and property to risk.

CA Goal 3: Protect the County’s natural areas, shorelines, and critical areas as unique assets to the community.

Policy 1: Use the CAO, SMP, SEPA, and other ordinances, as applicable, to designate and protect critical areas and the natural environment.

Policy 2: Identify and protect river, stream, wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation area functions and values.

Policy 3: Encourage development of water-oriented recreational, cultural, and commercial facilities in certain shoreline locations, consistent with SMP goals and policies and its criteria of no net loss of ecological functions, to enhance and diversify community recreational resources and its attractiveness to tourists.

Policy 4: Ensure public access to shorelines on public land, subject to regulations protecting public safety, sensitive habitat areas, and wildlife.

Policy 5: Encourage public agency acquisition of natural areas of scientific, research and educational significance for public benefit.

Policy 6: Identify and designate habitats of local importance to protect locally important habitats and species under the County CAO.

Policy 7: Any developments, uses, and/or activities in the channel migration zone should be consistent with the standards in the SMP.

Policy 8: Protections associated with landslide areas should be maintained according to the standards in the County CAO and SMP.

CA Goal 4: Sustain a diverse, productive, and high-quality natural environment for the use, health, and enjoyment of County residents.

Policy 1: Work with private and public property owners during development to ensure protection and appropriate use of the County's natural resources.

Policy 2: Integrate natural resources and critical areas such as rivers, creeks, ridges, and slopes into a linked pattern of open lands where feasible, to serve multiple open space functions such as buffers, visual resources, recreation, and wildlife habitat/corridors.

Policy 3: Provide necessary trails or linkages between natural features when feasible.

CA Goal 5: Achieve balance among economic uses of land and critical areas protection.

Policy 1: Work with state, federal, and local agencies and other County stakeholders regarding the application of environmental protection laws and regulations.

Policy 2: Maintain and enhance the viability of agriculture while voluntarily protecting and enhancing critical areas through the County VSP on agricultural lands.

Policy 3: Apply Best Management Practices and the conservation practices outlined in the County VSP Work Plan to lands historically and currently used for the production of food, agricultural products, and grazing of livestock.

Policy 4: Continue to consistently apply Best Management Practices to lands used for the extraction of minerals.

2.6 Economic Development

ED Goal 1: Create a balanced and diverse economy that provides an opportunity to make economic and lifestyle choices for Benton County residents.

Policy 1: Promote industries that are diverse and support an agriculture-based economy.

Policy 2: Promote and protect tourism related to viticulture and other agricultural activities.

Policy 3: Provide adequate, accessible commercial areas while minimizing impact on surrounding uses.

Policy 4: Facilitate economic growth and prosperity while preserving the existing rural quality of life and character, as it is defined by rural residents.

ED Goal 2: Expand employment opportunities in unincorporated Benton County.

Policy 1: Maintain and protect the agricultural economic base of Benton County.

Policy 2: Locate commercial retail and service activities serving urban and regional markets within UGAs. Commercial development serving rural communities is appropriate on commercially designated lands within or adjacent to the communities of Finley, Plymouth, Paterson, and Whitstran. Evaluate MPRs and tourist-oriented visitor destinations for appropriate siting countywide.

Policy 3: Develop commercial activities in "nodes" or clusters as opposed to strip-type configurations.

Policy 4: Designate uses within "Rural Commercial" areas as those which either serve interstate freeway traffic or are located at the center of rural communities to serve their needs.

Policy 5: Plan, construct, and landscape commercial developments to be visually and physically compatible with surrounding areas and uses.

ED Goal 3: Provide areas for the location of light and environmentally acceptable heavy industrial uses, while minimizing impacts on surrounding rural uses.

Policy 1: Establish industrial sites on lands designated for industrial use to protect from incompatible uses by using performance and/or site design criteria.

Policy 2: Do not locate non-agricultural related industry on "GMA Agriculture" designated land.

Policy 3: ~~Identify diverse~~ locate industrial ~~land uses in the Plan and locate these uses and activities~~ where minimal environmental and social impact occurs. This includes appropriate buffers from critical areas and floodplains, and also includes prohibitions on siting polluting industrial activities in or near overburdened communities.

Commented [BF38]: Updated per Cascadia

Policy 4: Encourage light and heavy industrial uses to locate in areas where:

1. Access can be provided by major transportation networks such as road, rail, air, and water
2. Existing development is characterized by and/or compatible with industrial activity
3. Utilities, including electric, gas, water, and sewer, can be adequately provided, either as extensions of municipal facilities (e.g., by service contract) or by on-site facilities

2.7 Housing

HE Goal 1: Provide for a variety of residential uses ~~and densities in the unincorporated areas of the County~~ consistent with the rural character and lifestyles and a choice of housing types for people of all income levels.

Policy 1: Include ~~and preserve~~ a variety of dwelling unit types and ~~rural~~ densities within the rural housing stock.

Policy 2: Allow and regulate manufactured homes in the same way as site-built homes.

Policy 3: Work with Cities to provide housing for all economic segments of the population and seek to create the conditions necessary for the construction of affordable housing at appropriate densities within ~~each of the jurisdiction types (i.e., rural and urban) city limits.~~

Policy 4: Follow RCW 36.70A.350 with regard to ~~new fully contained communities when~~ approving urban densities located outside of urban growth boundaries and outside of existing Rural Community Center areas, unless they are encompassed by the expansion of an existing UGA.

Policy 5: Allow residential development within unincorporated Urban Growth Areas at rural densities prior to the provision of urban infrastructure, provided that future development at urban densities is not precluded.

Policy ~~56~~: Locate higher than rural densities in ~~the County's RL-1 areas and appropriate LAMIRD areas within-in~~ the Rural Community Centers ~~areas, Rural Transition Areas, or mostly within adjacent to~~ the communities of ~~Finley, Plymouth, Paterson, and Whitstran~~ ~~and uses when rural infrastructure is available and has capacity to support additional development per the adopted Land Use Map.~~

Policy ~~67~~: Keep plan provisions for the location of rural residential development ~~consistent with while~~ preserving agricultural lands and maintaining the rural lifestyles of the County while also minimizing conflicts with commercial agricultural activities.

Policy ~~78~~: Consider accessory dwelling units as an affordable housing option and look for flexible and innovative ways of integrating accessory dwelling units into single family residential zones.

HE Goal 2: ~~Plan for and accommodate sufficient Adequate~~ housing types should be that are ~~affordable and~~ available to meet the housing needs for the existing and projected population of all income groups.

Policy 1: Preserve ~~various existing, and viable, rural~~ residential areas and ~~housing types~~ protect ~~single-family residential areas~~ ~~them~~ from incompatible land uses.

Commented [KR39]: Should we narrow this down to just Finley and Plymouth?

Commented [BF40R39]: I don't think so - all allow higher density - some just have more capacity to accommodate growth than others

Commented [GW41]: Should we also mention the infill only of RL-1 lands that were established in 2018 comp plan update?

Commented [BF42R41]: Updated

Policy 2: Allow new housing in the unincorporated County consistent with densities maintained in the Land Use Element and map.

Policy 3: Identify sufficient land countywide for existing and projected residential needs for all income groups.

Policy 4: Plan for and accommodate a variety of residential development types in rural areas, including detached single-family housing, cluster housing, duplexes and other adjoined unit housing, and manufactured homes in conjunction with commercial uses in rural commercial areas and Rural Community Center areas.

Policy 5: Plan for and accommodate a variety of residential developments in urban areas including, but not limited to, middle housing types, ADUs, housing for moderate, low, very low, and extremely low income households, manufactured housing, multifamily housing, group homes, emergency housing, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing.

Policy 6: Countywide, ensure adequate zoning to support emergency and temporary housing for homeless as well as transitional and permanent supportive housing for formerly unhoused families and individuals.

HE Goal 3: Prevent discrimination and displacement in the development and maintenance of housing.

Policy 1: Evaluate the potential for displacement due to planning, public investments, redevelopment, and market pressures. Use strategies to mitigate displacement, as applicable.

Policy 2: Collaborate with the community to understand the drivers of displacement through involvement of community groups, organizations, and institutions in the affected areas.

Policy 3: Ensure that county regulations, and permit processes do not lead to displacement of marginalized populations.

Policy 4: Coordinate with housing authorities, public agencies, and private sector for housing developments.

Commented [FO43]: Ben, this is a compiled version of the last set of policy points in the RDI document.

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2.8 Transportation Element

Commented [BF44]: JUB

TE Goal 1: Provide safe, convenient, efficient, economic, and multi-modal transportation networks compatible with the rural character and which serve the transportation demands consistent with the Land Use Element, and all other relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 1: Provide adequate roads that safely handle anticipated traffic and serve a diversified area of industrial, agricultural, and residential uses.

Policy 2: Encourage transportation planning and projects that:

1. Conform with and serve the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan
2. Facilitate the flow of people, goods, local products, and services to strengthen and assist the expansion of the local and regional economy
3. Enable the conservation of energy

Policy 3: Improve the cost effectiveness of capital spending by coordinating new road construction with all jurisdictions and service districts/providers.

Policy 4: Minimize the segmentation, loss, and compromising of agricultural lands and productivity resulting from new road construction.

Policy 5: Plan for the need to expand the existing road system to accommodate future growth in farm to market and industrial transport and overall traffic.

Policy 6: Use a frontage road or a circulation system, where practical, for commercial development to prevent the occurrence of numerous driveways opening onto arterial roadways.

Policy 7: Plan to expand transportation capacity by using existing facilities and rights-of-way, where practical and feasible.

Policy 8: Minimize the number of railroad crossings for public safety by using frontage roads, underpass installation, or signals.

Policy 9: Create an integrated network of safe pedestrian ways and/or bicycle routes along arterial and other roadways.

Policy 10: Construct pedestrian ways and bicycle routes in conformance with uniform design standards for trails and paths as described in the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Design Manual or standards developed and adopted by Benton County.

Policy 11: Review new development under the County's designated LOS on County owned roads.

Policy 12: Support the development of a complete streets policy that would make accommodations for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit users on appropriate roadways.

Policy 13: Maintain location and alignment of all proposed streets within a subdivision compatible with existing and planned streets, topographical conditions, public convenience and safety, and the proposed uses of the land to be served by such streets. Limit dead-end streets to 600 feet in maximum length as a means of protection to property, owners, residents, and emergency personnel.

Policy 14: Encourage the use of the local road network for short-range local vehicular trips, and integrate multimodal transportation strategies that reduce pressure on to use the local street system to assist in preserving the functionality of state highways, promote system efficiency and ensure equitable access for all users.

TE Goal 2: Provide an integrated network of trails and paths for non-motorized circulation throughout rural areas connecting to urban trails and paths to promote active lifestyles.

Policy 1: Provide safe pedestrian ways and bicycle routes, separate from vehicle roadways where feasible.

Policy 2: Provide County road rights-of-way wide enough for off-road walking, jogging, bicycling, and horseback riding where feasible.

Policy 3: Include local resident needs for pedestrian, bicycle, and recreational, and equestrian travel when those needs are identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

TE Goal 3: Maintain the integrity of the transportation system while minimizing environmental and other impacts.

Policy 1: Avoid and/or minimize adverse social, economic, and environmental impacts and costs.

Policy 2: Avoid or mitigate conflicts and adverse impacts to rural character that may occur due to the transportation network and its improvements.

TE Goal 4: Coordinate the transportation system with neighboring cities and other transportation providers.

Policy 1: Promote regional transportation plans that help to reduce VMT.

Policy 2: Work with transit, rail, port authorities, and other transportation agencies to promote a coordinated transportation system.

Commented [BF45]: WSDOT suggestions to ask yourself or the Planning Commission with Goal 4, policy 2:

- What role does the MPO (BFCG) play in Benton County transportation funding efforts and decisions? Are there any road blocks, conflicts or areas that could be identified to make improvements?
- How can the County improve reaching Goal 4?
- Are there areas that BC can increase or promote additional collaboration with Rail, Air, Water, Transit or non-motorized systems and improvements? Some may be very easy to promote in Comp Plan policies.
- Can WSDOT help provide anything realistic to improve information or resources with Transit, Rail, Ports, airports and other non-motorized transportation systems?
- What is the County's future vision for an ideal multi-modal transportation network? How and what can WSDOT do to promote this vision?

TE Goal 5: Protect public safety and property by establishing development regulations that discourage the siting of incompatible uses and airspace obstructions adjacent to general aviation airports that serve the public.

Policy 1: Preserve, maintain, and develop air, barge, and railway transportation facilities which serve the County.

2.9 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Historic Preservation

PL Goal 1: Develop and maintain a park system for Benton County residents and visitors that provides a variety of recreational opportunities in regional and local parks and open space.

Policy 1: Develop and maintain a regional park and trail system integrated with city recreational resources.

Policy 2: Encourage the development of a system of bicycling, hiking, recreational, and equestrian trails in the County that coordinates with existing and/or proposed city systems.

Policy 3: Encourage developers of low density, large lot subdivisions and plats to provide access easements for bicycle and horse riding within and between contiguous developments, connecting to regional trails and to establish a means of maintaining such easements through coordination between the County, developers, and homeowners.

Policy 4: Offer a broad range of recreational opportunities for various abilities and needs of County residents (e.g., fishing, hiking, playfields).

PL Goal 2: Work with cities and agencies to protect greenways and open spaces along the riverine corridor of the lower Yakima River.

Policy 1: Identify and consider acquisition of natural open space preserves, wildlife corridors, and critical areas as part of the park system.

Policy 2: Work with cities to promote the protection of natural resources and open spaces [to improve community and ecosystem resiliency](#).

PL Goal 3: Conserve visually prominent naturally vegetated steep slopes and elevated ridges that define the Columbia Basin landscape and are uniquely a product of the ice age floods.

Policy 1: Identify and preserve historically significant structures and sites whenever feasible.

Policy 2: Encourage the public and/or private acquisition of the prominent ridges within unincorporated Benton County as Open Space Conservation, in order to preserve views,

protect native habitat, and provide for public access and recreation associated with these landscapes.

Policy 3: Pursue a variety of means and mechanisms such as the preparation of specific and area plans, conservation easements, clustered developments, land acquisitions and trades, statutory requirements to protect the natural landform and vegetative cover of the Rattlesnake uplift formation, notably Rattlesnake, Red, Candy, and Badger mountains and the Horse Heaven Hills.

Policy 4: Consider the preservation of the ridges and hillside areas through various development regulations.

PL Goal 4: Preserve significant historic structures, districts, and cultural resources that are unique to Benton County.

Policy 1: Coordinate with local tribes to protect historic and cultural resources, [including from extreme weather and other natural hazards worsened by climate change.](#)

Policy 2: Preserve archaeologically significant sites by siting and designing development to avoid or mitigate impacts.

PL Goal 5: Identify, preserve, and protect historic, cultural, and archaeological resources found to be significant by recognized local, state, tribal or federal processes.

Policy 1: Identify known, recorded archaeological, cultural, and historic resources.

Policy 2: Update and refine the local process for evaluating the significance of historic, cultural, and archaeological resources.

Policy 3: Preserve areas that contain valuable historical or archaeological sites of federal, state, tribal, or local significance including those maintained in the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's database, areas known only to tribes and areas of higher risk potential. Maintain and enforce development code provisions that require conditioning of project approval on findings made by a professional archaeologist for development activities on sites of known cultural, historical, or archaeological significance.

Policy 4: Prior to demolition, moving, or alteration to any designated historic, cultural, and archaeological landmark, ensure that due consideration is given to its preservation or, at a minimum, documentation of its historic, cultural, or archaeological value.

2.10 Capital Facilities and Public Services

CF Goal 1: Anticipate the need and location of and plan for the timely and cost-effective provision of public facilities and services based upon the Land Use Element,

Policy 1: Ensure capital budget decisions are in conformity with this comprehensive plan, and establish associated procedures for reviewing and updating the capital facilities plan if probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs.

Policy 24: Expand and diversify the rural economy and employment base by constructing public facility capacity to serve as a framework and incentive for rural development consistent with land use designations.

Policy 32: Plan for the location and protection of anticipated and existing public uses such as parks, playgrounds, schools, essential public facilities, and other public, state, or federal activities or facilities owned and operated for the benefit of the public. As part of planning, maintain an inventory through the County GIS platform of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, including green infrastructure.

Policy 43: Eliminate existing service level deficiencies in existing facilities before expending capital funds for new uses. Capital facilities planning should integrate all of the County's capital project resources (grants, bonds, general County funds, donations, real estate excise tax, conservation futures property tax, fees and rates for public utility services, and any other available funding).

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Policy 54: Prioritize and evaluate public capital facilities annually for funding for capital projects that are necessary to accommodate existing and projected demands of the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Consider equity and potential displacement impacts in the process.

Policy 65: Prioritize capital facilities planning and expenditures consistent with this Comprehensive Plan for projects that accomplish one or more of the following:

4. Are essential for public health, safety, and welfare
 5. Address and/or improve the quality and level of regional government services
 6. Maintain designated transportation LOS
 7. Improve public and private sector productivity
 8. Facilitate the maintenance and growth of the rural/agricultural economy

Policy 7: Consider capital facility needs of other public entities in the County as part of capital facilities planning, including special purpose districts, and coordinate with cities on capital plans for UGAs.

Policy ~~8~~6: Explore public facilities and infrastructure investment options that use Hanford site resources and benefit the region beyond the Hanford area.

Policy ~~9~~7: Promote compatible development of land adjacent to existing and proposed school and other public facilities.

CF Goal 2: Provide for the siting of “Essential Public Facilities” using siting criteria that are consistent with statutory requirements applicable to these facilities and within appropriate land use designations,

Policy 1: Locate capital facilities identified as essential public facilities in a manner that will provide necessary service to intended users while minimizing the impact to surrounding land uses.

2.11 Utilities

UE Goal 1: Ensure utilities support the land use and economic development goals of the County.

~~Policy 1: Siting of proposed public facilities should be consistent with adopted land use policies.~~

UE Goal 2: Maintain public and private household water and sewer systems that are consistent with the rural character of the County.

~~Policy 1: Develop joint service agreements between special districts, counties, and cities for lands within UGAs.~~

UE Goal 3: Facilitate efficiency in utility land use and development.

~~Policy 1: Support development regulations that are flexible and receptive to innovations and advances in cellular technology and act upon the knowledge that moving information rather than people yields benefits of conservation and cost efficiencies.~~

~~Policy 2: Encourage multiple uses, including passive recreational use, in utility corridors where practical.~~

~~Policy 3: Facilitate maintenance and rehabilitation of existing utility systems and facilities and encourage the use of existing transmission/distribution corridors.~~

UE Goal 4: Develop and adopt provisions as necessary that support future demand for alternative energy vehicles.

~~Policy 1: Permit electric vehicle charging stations equipped with slow and medium speed charging equipment as an accessory or ancillary use to any principal use in all zoning districts.~~

2.11 Policy 2: Allow electric vehicle “rapid charging stations” designation in commercial, industrial, and agricultural zones as regulated in the zoning code and exclude in areas identified as critical resource areas. Utilities

UE Goal 1: Ensure utilities support the land use and economic development goals of the County.

Policy 1: Siting of proposed public facilities should be consistent with adopted land use policies.

UE Goal 2: Maintain public and private household water and sewer systems that are consistent with the rural character of the County.

Policy 1: Develop joint service agreements between special districts, counties, and cities for lands within UGAs.

UE Goal 3: Facilitate efficiency in utility land use and development.

Policy 1: Support development regulations that are flexible and receptive to innovations and advances in cellular technology and act upon the knowledge that moving information rather than people yields benefits of conservation and cost efficiencies.

Policy 2: Encourage multiple uses, including passive recreational use, in utility corridors where practical.

Policy 3: Facilitate maintenance and rehabilitation of existing utility systems and facilities and encourage the use of existing transmission/distribution corridors.

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Policy 2: Allow electric vehicle “rapid charging stations” designation in commercial, industrial, and agricultural zones as regulated in the zoning code and exclude in areas identified as critical resource areas.

2.12 Climate and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The goals outline below provide a general direction for building climate resilience in Benton County across sectors, including zoning and development, water resources, ecosystems, cultural resources and practices, agriculture resources and food systems, budling and energy, emergency management and community well-being, transportation, and communications and collaboration. These goals are based on the requirements of HB1181, which outlines specific criteria for addressing climate hazards that Benton County currently experiences and that are expected to worsen in the future.

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2.12.1 Overarching Goals and Policies

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CE Goal 1: CE Goal 1: Integrate climate resilience and GHG emissions reduction into local and regional planning, resource allocation, and overall strategy to ensure compliance with state guidelines and meaningful alignment with current and future priorities. Integrate Climate Resilience AND GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION INTO LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING, RESOURCE ALLOCATION, AND OVERALL STRATEGY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH STATE GUIDELINES AND MEANINGFUL ALIGNMENT WITH CURRENT AND FUTURE PRIORITIES.

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Policy 1: Develop and maintain staff expertise, skills, and capacity to implement Climate Element policies equitably across the region.

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Policy 2: CE-1.2: Strengthen and invest in regional capacity to track and report on climate resilience and GHG emissions reduction policy implementation across the County, including the Tri-Cities area. Develop and maintain shared progress reports, dashboards, and other tools to monitor and communicate progress on climate goals over time.

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Policy 3: CE-1.3: Comprehensive plan policies and implementing development regulations should be consistent with defensible science.

CE Goal 2: Build a Healthier and more resilient region by preparing for the impacts of climate change, protecting vulnerable communities and natural systems, supporting clean economic development, and strengthening agriculture, infrastructure, and emergency response. OVERARCHING CLIMATE RESILIENCE GOAL: BUILD A HEALTHIER AND MORE RESILIENT REGION BY PREPARING FOR THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, PROTECTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL SYSTEMS, SUPPORTING CLEAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

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2.12.2 Transportation, Buildings, Energy, and Land Use

GOAL CE-2CE Goal 3: Ensure policies and development regulations result in land use patterns and built environments that support resilience to extreme weather and climate-related impacts. ENSURE POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS RESULT IN LAND USE PATTERNS AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS THAT SUPPORT RESILIENCE TO EXTREME WEATHER AND CLIMATE-RELATED IMPACTS

Policy CE-2.1 Policy 1: Support retrofitting homes with low-cost cooling solutions that meet current building standards, for example by exploring partnership and funding opportunities for programs to provide HVAC units and installation to residents most vulnerable to extreme temperature events (e.g., low- income seniors).

CE-2.2 Policy 2: Monitor implementation of the state building code and consider whether additional development standards would be helpful to encourage the integration of exterior building features that reduce the impacts of extreme heat and precipitation.

CE-2.3 Policy 3: Encourage local utilities and fire departments to implement wildfire mitigation best practices such as undergrounding and vegetation management in fire-prone areas.

CE-2.4 Policy 4: Implement the BFCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan as well as multimodal transportation plans developed by the cities and counties to enhance the safety and security of the region's transportation system, improve access for motorized and non-motorized users—especially currently underserved populations—and increase the resilience of the transportation network to climate hazards.

CE-2.5 Policy 5: Explore ways to protect transit-users from extreme heat, such as working with Benton Franklin Transit to install shaded bus shelters and consider installing additional cooling features such as fans or misters.

CE-2.6 Policy 6: Coordinate with utility providers and partners, such as TRIDEC Energy Forward Alliance, to encourage the expansion of non-emitting infrastructure that provides reliable and affordable power, diversifying sources of energy.

Water Resources, Ecosystems, Agriculture, and Food Systems

GOAL CE-3CE Goal 4: Protect the viability of the region's water resources, ecosystems, and agricultural economy by promoting resilience to extreme weather and climate-related hazards, while balancing regional water needs and ecosystem health. PROTECT THE VIABILITY OF THE REGION'S WATER RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS, AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY BY PROMOTING RESILIENCE TO EXTREME WEATHER AND CLIMATE-RELATED HAZARDS, WHILE BALANCING REGIONAL WATER NEEDS AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH.

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Commented [BF49]: Greg - keep or delete? Primarily a city thing?

Commented [GW50R49]: While it is a city thing, we can keep it in should transit ever expand its boundaries outside of UGAs

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Policy 1: ~~CE-3.1~~: Promote sustainable water storage, irrigation, and water practices that help agricultural producers adapt to changing conditions while balancing regional water needs. Consider operational modernization and enhanced water conservation strategies, such as those in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, and coordinate with conservation and irrigation districts. Continue to implement County's Rural Water Supply Program to benefit the Yakima Basin water supply.

Policy 2: ~~CE-3.2~~: Promote innovation, investment, and management regimes that address trends for reduced precipitation and increased extreme heat, drought, smoke, and extreme precipitation. This includes supporting research and partnerships on reducing input costs, energy demand, water demand, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as plant varieties suited to changing weather conditions.

Policy 3: ~~CE-3.3~~: Encourage carbon sequestration and conservation of agricultural and open space land through existing programs such as the Open Space Taxation Program and Voluntary Stewardship Program, and consider new multijurisdictional tools such as conservation futures, transfers or purchase of development rights, or other strategies.

Policy 4: ~~CE-3.4~~: Identify compatible rural, urban and institutional lands for renewable energy infrastructure opportunities. Protect long-term viable agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive lands while allowing the least conflict with renewable energy siting.

Policy 5: ~~CE-3.5~~: Preserve or expand natural areas that help control flooding and provide shade, prioritizing projects for locations that frequently flood, have high heat conditions, or have community groups that are lower income or more sensitive to high heat (children, seniors, people with chronic health conditions).

Policy 6: ~~CE-3.6~~: Manage trees and other vegetation in both urban and rural areas to decrease risks from severe wildfires, preserving vegetation where possible and improving ecosystem health and habitat function.

Policy 7: ~~CE-3.7~~: Collaborate with partner agencies and groups to protect aquatic ecosystems and increase their resilience to extreme weather and climate- related impacts such as algal blooms and increased threat of invasive species.

Policy 8: ~~CE-3.8~~: Protect and enhance surface and groundwater quantity and quality, recognizing that water resources are essential to the public health, safety and welfare, economic growth, and prosperity of the Tri Cities Region and its jurisdictions, as well as the health of native fish.

Policy 9: **CE-3-9:** Coordinate with regional, state, federal, and tribal partners on plans to manage water resources and hydropower generation in the Yakima River Basin and Columbia River Basin. Advocate for long-range planning that considers at least 20 years of projected demand, and needs for increased storage capacity given increasing trends in intense precipitation, reduced snowpack, and severe drought.

Policy 10: **CE-3-10:** Ensure development regulations conserve water resources and support the Tri-Cities Region's ability to support a high quality of life and vibrant economy in a semi-arid climate. This includes implementing, monitoring, and possibly updating development regulations for water-efficient buildings, landscaping, irrigation systems, water systems, and stormwater management.

Policy 11: **CE-3-11:** Allow and incentivize private water management practices that recycle water for uses that require less treatment than drinking water. This could include reclaiming waters used for food processing to irrigate crops or reclaiming greywater to irrigate landscaping or golf courses (greywater is used potable water from sources such as sinks that does not include toilet water).

Policy 12: **CE-3-12:** Work with the Benton Conservation District to develop acceptable native plant species for new developments and restoration projects, to increase resilience and reduce maintenance costs and demand for irrigation water.

Policy 13: **CE-3-13:** Provide outreach or incentive programs to promote voluntary water and energy conservation. This could include raising public awareness of best practices such as switching from lawns to drought-tolerant landscaping or working with utilities to explore demand pricing structures that do not unfairly burden low-income households.

Policy 14: **CE-3-14:** Consider developing a comprehensive, local drought resilience strategy that complements state and federal water basin plans, factors in projected climate impacts, and sets action levels for different drought stages.

2.12.3 Economic Development and Cultural Resources

CE Goal 5: Ensure that the local economy, cultural resources, and cultural traditions are resilient to extreme weather and climate-related impacts. ~~GOAL CE-4: ENSURE THAT THE LOCAL ECONOMY, CULTURAL RESOURCES, AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS ARE RESILIENT TO EXTREME WEATHER AND CLIMATE-RELATED IMPACTS.~~

CE-4: Policy 1:1: Build on existing coordination with Tribal governments to strengthen community resilience and protect cultural resources from climate impacts. This includes supporting

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tribal efforts to increase knowledge collection and sharing about ways to protect cultural resources and build climate-adaptive systems related to food, health, and the economy.

Policy 2:CE-4.2: Collaborate with community partners to explore ways to expand entry level jobs and career development pathways in low-emission industries that align with the needs and strengths of Tri-Cities communities. Potential partners include local schools, labor unions, the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC), chambers of commerce, community-based organizations, and business leaders in light industrial uses and nuclear, solar, and hydropower energy.

Policy 3:CE-4.3: Ensure regional multijurisdictional hazard mitigation plans for Benton and Franklin counties include information about the impacts of extreme weather and climate-related hazards, and mitigation strategies for preparing for and managing post climate disaster hazards to protect community health, economies, and ecosystems.

2.12.4 Health and Well-being, and Emergency Management

CE Goal 6GOAL 5: Protect community health and well-being and enhance emergency preparedness, response, and recovery from the impacts of climate-related hazards, focusing resources on the people and places most at risk to these hazards~~PROTECT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AND ENHANCE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY FROM THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE-RELATED HAZARDS, FOCUSING RESOURCES ON THE PEOPLE AND PLACES MOST AT RISK TO THESE HAZARDS.~~

Policy 1:CE-5.1: Ensure critical infrastructure is resilient to natural hazards such as flooding and extreme heat and implement related area-wide and jurisdiction- specific mitigation actions in regional hazard mitigation plans.

Policy 2:CE-5.2: Collaborate at the regional, state, and federal levels on updating floodplain maps to reflect best available information and update local development codes as needed to mitigate for impacts related to changes in the floodplain over time

CE-5.3:Policy 3: Work with the community and funding partners to raise awareness of and expand programs that provide cooling and warming centers and other types of emergency shelter and resource distribution during extreme weather, focusing on supporting the people who are most at risk.

CE-5.4:Policy 4: Continue to mitigate risk of wildfires in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), consistent with regional multijurisdictional hazard mitigation plans for Benton and Franklin counties. This includes public education for private owners and residents and ensuring

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wildfire risk reduction strategies are incorporated into public land management practices and local development standards.

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CE-5.5:Policy 5: Evaluate and potentially expand community outreach and training programs focused on preparedness and response to floods, fire, poor air quality, extreme temperatures, and utility outages, and consistent with Firewise program.

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CE-5.6:Policy 6: Strengthen communication with non- English-speaking communities by continuing to build relationships with local groups and exploring the most effective methods for raising awareness of and engagement with climate issues.

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CE-5.7:Policy 7: Recognize that parks support climate resilience by providing public access to cool places, such as water or shaded areas, and by providing public gathering places where community members can connect and support each other. Promote equitable access to parks, creating inclusive and connected recreational spaces, and supporting culturally responsive, community-driven park development that reflects local needs and values.

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CE-5.8:Policy 8: Ensure all residents have access to information about climate impacts and an opportunity to participate in public decision- making processes related to plans and the use of public resources to address those impacts.

- Collaborate with community groups to connect local concerns with regional and statewide efforts and help guide policies, programs, and investments.
- Seek input from populations that are typically most at-risk to climate impacts such as seniors, children, low-income households, and those with chronic health conditions. Also seek input from community service providers regarding people who are homeless.

CE-5.9:Policy 9: Protect the health and well-being of agricultural, construction, recreation, first responders, and other outdoor workers exposed to extreme heat, poor air quality, and other weather-related hazards. Coordinate with the Benton Franklin Health District, the State Department of Labor and Industries, and labor unions to consider strategies such as promoting awareness of worker protection laws and best practices such as scheduling heavy routine outdoor work during cooler times of day and providing breaks and shelter during extreme weather events.

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2.12.5 GHG Goals and Policies

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The following section presents GHG emissions reduction goals and policies. GHG emissions reduction goals and policies are organized by the following sectors:

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- Buildings and energy;

- Transportation, zoning and development, and land use; and
- Waste management.

OVERARCHING GHG EMISSION REDUCTION GOAL **GHG Goal 1: Support clean growth and climate-smart development in the region by reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, advancing clean energy, and integrating sustainable land use and transportation strategies.** SUPPORT CLEAN GROWTH AND CLIMATE SMART DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION BY REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ACROSS ALL SECTORS, ADVANCING CLEAN ENERGY, AND INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES.

2.12.6 Buildings and Energy

GOAL CE-6: IMPROVE BUILDING PERFORMANCE AND ENERGY RESILIENCE BY REDUCING ENERGY USE, SUPPORTING CLEANER ENERGY CHOICES, AND MAKING ENERGY-SAVING UPGRADES MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE.

GHG Goal 2: Improve building performance and energy resilience by reducing energy use, supporting cleaner energy choices, and making energy savings upgrades more accessible and affordable.

CE-6.1: Policy 1: Follow state building and energy code development and implementation specific to decarbonization. Educate and support building officials, partners, and staff to integrate energy and building codes for new and remodeled buildings that reduce energy use, expand EV charging infrastructure, and support a variety of energy sources, including renewable sources.

CE-6.2: Policy 2: Enhance energy resilience and reduce energy consumption in existing buildings by:

- Supporting public programs that incentivize or encourage energy efficiency retrofits for commercial and residential buildings.
- Advancing energy efficiency initiatives across residential, commercial, and municipal sectors, such as weatherization.
- Prioritizing programs that serve low-income, senior, and historically marginalized communities.

CE-6.3: Policy 3: Promote the use of sustainable building materials to improve energy and environmental performance through:

- Incentivized green building certification.

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- Building code and other development regulations.

CE-6.4:Policy 4: Consider creating a regional resource hub of federal, state, county, and local incentives available to residents interested in building electrification, insulation, and weatherization, to improve energy efficiency, resilience, and affordability. Prioritize low- and no-cost home retrofit packages for low-income and marginalized communities.

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2.12.7 Transportation, Zoning and Development, and Land Use

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Goal CE-7: COLLABORATE REGIONALLY TO PROMOTE TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE PATTERNS THAT SUPPORT REDUCTIONS IN EMISSIONS AND VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT), AIMING TO REDUCE REGIONAL VMT BY AT LEAST 5% BELOW 2022 LEVELS BY 2050 BY DIRECTING URBAN GROWTH TO CITIES AND FUTURE ANNEXATION AREAS, ON STRATEGIC UPDATES TO RURAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, AND ON MANAGING RURAL LANDS TO SUPPORT EMISSIONS REDUCTION CONSISTENT WITH POLICIES UNDER GOAL 3.

GHG Goal 3: Collaborate regionally to promote transportation and land use patterns that support reductions in emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT), aiming to reduce regional VMT by at least 5% below 2022 levels by 2050 by directing urban growth to cities and future annexation areas, on strategic updates to rural transportation systems, and on managing rural lands to support emissions reduction consistent with policies under CE Goal 4.

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CE-7.1:Policy 1: Foster higher-density, mixed-use development in urban villagesareas and transit corridors by supporting transit-oriented development and aligning zoning and permitting processes to facilitate compact growth near transit and amenities.

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CE-7.2: Create a safe, well-connected, and attractive bicycle and pedestrian transportation network to encourage active transportation and improve street connectivity and walkability. Ensure improvements integrate with transit networks and increase accessibility for people with disabilities and the elderly.

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CE-7.3:Policy 3: Coordinate with Ben-Franklin Transit to prioritize, develop, and maintain mobility hubs in transportation-efficient locations, especially in overburdened communities experiencing a scarcity of transportation alternatives. Incorporate mobility choices (including multimodal transportation and rideshares) for people with special transportation needs, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, the young, and low-income populations.

Commented [GW55]: Should we state we will coordinate with transit to do this.

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CE-7.4:Policy 4: Implement and seek alignment with the following plans to support regional transportation GHG emissions reductions, as required by the state: BFCOG Regional Active Transportation Plan; BFCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Transition 2045); BFCOG

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Regional Bicycle Plan; BFCOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; other Comprehensive Plan elements.

Policy 5: ~~CE-7.5:~~ Support the improvement of transit speed, frequency, coverage, and reliability, including improving the number of destinations reachable by transit.

~~CE-7.6: Policy 6: Encourage the private sector and other partners to provide subsidies for low-income residents to purchase or lease electric vehicles and bicycles. Encourage these partners to provide EV charging infrastructure, especially in areas that serve low-income populations and renters.~~

Policy 7: ~~CE-7.7:~~ Encourage (or require when mandated by state building code) EV charging infrastructure in major building remodels and retrofits where feasible.

Policy 8: ~~CE-7.8:~~ Encourage phasing out the use of gas-powered landscaping equipment and other off- or non-road vehicle and equipment types. ~~leading by example through local government practices.~~

Policy 9: ~~CE-7.9:~~ Promote local government leadership by:

- Converting vehicle fleet vehicles to low-emissions vehicles, where cost and technology allow.
- Developing and implementing programs that reduce staff commute VMT (e.g., provide free or subsidized transit passes, encourage ridesharing, explore options for telecommuting).

Policy 10: ~~CE-7.10:~~ Coordinate regionally to track trends in GHG emissions and VMT for 5-year Comprehensive Plan progress reporting, including coordinating on how to allocate data from unincorporated UGAs.

Policy 11: ~~CE-7.11:~~ Continue conducting joint-planning, where possible, between county and city governments for unincorporated Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). ~~Where possible, develop transportation and utility systems in UGAs to the standards of adjacent cities, and promote zoning that supports higher densities appropriate for future annexation.~~

2.12.8 Waste Management

~~GOAL CE-8: ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE WASTE MATERIALS SUSTAINABLY.~~

~~GHG Goal 4: Ensure that the community can reduce, reuse, and recycle waste materials sustainably.~~

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Commented [GW59]: Open to your thoughts on this one

Commented [BF60R59]: I actually like the way it was written prior to the deletions; we can discuss

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Policy 1: ~~CE-8.1~~ Explore opportunities to expand communitywide waste reduction and recycling programs to divert recyclable waste from entering landfills. This could include investing in new waste management options, collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions, and exploring opportunities to make recycling and composting more affordable and feasible.

Policy 2: ~~CE-8.2~~ Provide public education to encourage residents to use waste management providers, rather than burn garbage, to improve air quality and reduce fire risk.

Policy 3: ~~CE-8.3~~ Expand communitywide waste reduction and recycling programs to divert 40% of community recyclable waste from entering landfills by 2029, in alignment with Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

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