

Rivera, Eva

From: 350 Yakima Climate Action <350yakimaclimateaction@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Martin, Trevor; Ask Planning
Cc: Bob Cox; Felipe Rodriguez-Flores; Ray Paoella
Subject: Planning Commission Public Hearing on Climate Resiliency Subelement

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Planning Manager Martin,

Yesterday, October 14, 2026, the City of Yakima Planning Commission held a public hearing on policy and goal language on the new *Climate Resiliency Subelement* requirements in the State Growth Management Act. Prior to the public hearing, 350 Yakima Climate Action submitted written comments saying that critical documents such as the Proposed Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS), 6 appendices and Planning Commission 10/14/2026 agenda were not made available to the public. Also, the “Climate Vulnerability Assessment Memo” and “Climate Element Crosswalk” summary have not been released for public for review and comment.

In addition, I attended yesterday’s hearing in person, and I testified that critical documents, including the Climate Vulnerability Assessment Memo and Climate Element Summary, have not been made available for public review. This limits the public’s ability to meaningfully evaluate the Climate Resiliency Plan.

Planning Commissioner Anne Knapp expressed concern that the public cannot review the Comprehensive Plan Appendices [including Climate Resiliency reports], and she was concerned about a lot of errors in the Comprehensive Plan documents. Ms. Knapp also asked how public comments will be considered/incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan. And then she asked, does the Planning Commission have time to review “the comments from people like Ms. Anderson” and come back at another meeting to address the public comments? The Planning Manager's response was “No, we don’t have that kind of time.” Commission Chair Charles Hitchcock then suggested addressing these public comments at the October 28 Planning Commission meeting, but just as the Commission was about to decide on the October 28 meeting, Berk Consultant Ferdouse Oneza interrupted. Ms. Oneza said these public comments could be addressed in 5 years as part of an Implementation Plan, which surprised me.

350 Yakima Climate Action respectfully requests the City of Yakima do the following:

1. Release the “Climate Vulnerability Assessment Memo” and “Climate Element Crosswalk” for public review and comment;
2. Issue a revised Notice of Public Hearing & public comment period on the Comprehensive Plan Climate Resiliency Subelement and SEPA until the October 28 Planning Commission meeting;
3. At the October 28 meeting, the Planning Commission can consider and incorporate public comments into the Climate Resiliency Subelement; and

4. Please postpone sending the 60-day Commerce Department Notice of Intent to amend the Comprehensive Plan Climate Resiliency Subelement until October 28.

Washington Departments of Health and Ecology estimated 78 deaths/100,000 population in the East Yakima Overburdened Community from PM 2.5 air pollution that has been exacerbated by climate change. This is by far the highest mortality rate in Washington. How can this not be significant enough to do SEPA environmental review on new Climate Resiliency Subelement?

At the hearing, the Planning Manager said it wasn't necessary to do a SEPA review because it was already done in 2017 as part of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan process. But, the 2017 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement did not consider any of this new information and could not have considered the Climate Resiliency Subelement requirements because they were not enacted into state law until six years later in 2023.

Thank you for your consideration,

350 Yakima Climate Action

Coleen Anderson

cc: Yakima City Planning Commission

--
350 Yakima Climate Action acknowledges we live and work on the ancestral lands of the fourteen Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The people of the Yakama Nation inhabited more than 12 million acres across Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties. We thank the caretakers of this land who have lived here and continue to live here since time immemorial.