

Natural Environment Element - Draft Policy Amendments

Proposed Draft Policy: Proposed <u>new text</u> and proposed ((removed text))	Reason for Proposed Change
<p>Policy 1.A.1 Regulatory programs developed for the protection of the natural environment shall provide certainty, clarity, flexibility, efficiency, public outreach, and education so that ((citizens)) people understand the requirements, permits are processed quickly, and alternative approaches that provide equal or greater protection to the environment may be considered.</p>	<p>Housekeeping amendment.</p>
<p><u>Policy 1.A.8 The county shall plan for equitable access to clean air and water, a healthy environment, and natural open spaces, and prioritize reduction of impacts to vulnerable populations that have been disproportionately affected.</u></p>	<p>Proposed new policy consistent with Multicounty Planning Policies (MPP)-En-3, En-4, En-7, En-8, En-15, En-21, and Countywide Planning Policy (CPP) Env-8.</p> <p>The listed MPPs discuss the need to maintain and improve air, water, soil, and other natural systems equitably for all residents in the region, and then reduce and mitigate noise and light pollution equitably for all residents. For example, MPP-En-3 reads, “Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Reduce the impacts of transportation on air and water quality and climate change.”</p> <p>MPP-En-4 reads, “Ensure that all residents of the region, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of a healthy environment.”</p>
<p>Policy 1.C.1 The county shall continue to protect water resources and natural watershed processes by maintaining the quality, rates and supplies of water, sediment, and woody debris through the use of a variety of strategies, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) maintaining the natural hydrologic cycle and minimizing alterations of natural drainage patterns; (b) encouraging alternative impervious surface techniques; (c) providing for the retention of natural vegetation; (d) developing and implementing watershed management plans that protect water quality and address non-point pollution and the cumulative effects of land management on ecological systems; ((and)) (e) utilizing low impact development (LID) techniques and site planning((+)); and <u>(f) promoting innovative and environmentally sensitive development practices in siting, design, materials selection, construction, and maintenance.</u> 	<p>Proposed revisions to incorporate concept from MPP-En-5 that states, “Locate development in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features. Promote the use of innovative environmentally sensitive development practices, including design, materials, construction, and on-going maintenance.”</p>
<p>Policy 1.C.2 The county shall continue to protect and enhance wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas through the use of a variety of strategies, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) including best available science in plans and programs; (b) supporting the development and implementation of watershed management plans and identifying areas where voluntary restoration and enhancement should be used to improve water quality, water quantity, fish habitat and overall hydrologic function; (c) coordinating the use of agricultural resource lands with the protection, restoration and/or enhancement of ecological functions and values; (d) developing incentive-based, voluntary restoration and enhancement programs to offset impacts to overall ecological functions and values resulting from development projects or the use of agricultural resource lands and encouraging creative on-site, and reach scale restoration/enhancement proposals that optimize natural and/or agricultural resource values and ecological function; ((and)) (e) including strategies for monitoring and adaptive management in plans and programs((+)); <u>(f) acquiring land for habitat restoration or for open space, recreation, and conservation; and</u> <u>(g) conserving habitat and open space through incentive programs like transfer of development rights.</u> 	<p>Proposed additions (f) and (g) provide additional strategies for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas as mentioned in introduction of the Natural Environment Element. These proposed additions are consistent with revisions to the CPPs addressing Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) such as CPP Env-1 through 3, that aim to identify and protect the natural ecosystems and open spaces of the county. Proposed revision also consistent with CPP Env-5, CPP-DP-32, and MPP En-10.</p>

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((Objective 1.D The county shall protect the health, safety, welfare and the economy of the community by minimizing the risks associated with natural hazards.))	Propose to move objective to group with similar policies under Goal NE 8.
((Policy 1.D.1 The county should consider natural hazards in all land use planning.))	Propose to move policy to group with similar policies under Goal NE 8.
((Policy 1.D.2 The county should develop comprehensive floodplain management plans. Where cities and the county share common floodplains, joint flood hazard planning and interlocal agreements should be used to ensure consistent floodplain management.))	Propose to move policy to group with similar policies under Goal NE 8.
((Policy 1.D.3 The county should develop and update drainage basin plans that document urban flooding problems and potential solutions.))	Propose to move policy to group with similar policies under Goal NE 8.
((Policy 1.D.4 The county should adopt and implement a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan to reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards.))	Propose to move policy to group with similar policies under Goal NE 8.
((Policy 1.D.5 The county shall develop programs that provide for notification of the presence of geologic hazards.))	Propose to move policy to group with similar policies under Goal NE 8.
Goal 2 Provide for the protection and encourage restoration of ecological functions and values across the landscape by coordinating planning efforts among jurisdictions and ((citizens)) the public.	Housekeeping amendment.
Policy 2.A.4 The county should coordinate with the ((state department of fish and wildlife)) Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies and tribes to protect, manage, and monitor water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife.	Housekeeping name update and incorporating focus on water quality in line with MPP-En-1, En-3, En-10, En-17.
Policy 2.A.6 The county should participate in regional salmon recovery planning efforts and aggressively pursue funding for implementation that can provide multiple environmental benefits	Proposed amendment to add clarity and directive about funding targeted for implementation. Amendment is consistent with MPP-En-1, En-6, En-11-12, En-14, En-16, En-Action-3.
<u>Policy 2.A.7 The county should coordinate environmental protection programs and acquisition priorities with the conservation needs identified in the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan to improve equitable access to open space.</u>	Proposed new policy to incorporate the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan into the Plan as directed by the MPPs in a way that is consistent with the CPPs and the background paper. MPP-En-12 reads, "Identify, preserve, and enhance significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries through implementation and update of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan." Proposed new policy is further consistent with MPP-En-4, En-Action-1, -4, CPP Env-2, Env-3, Env-5.
<u>Policy 2.A.8 The county should coordinate with other jurisdictions, tribes, and agencies to identify, protect, restore, and enhance habitat corridors and primary association areas necessary to support critical species.</u>	The proposed new policy will incorporate concept from MPPs and CPPs; and add support for estuary restoration projects into the Plan. The new policy is consistent with MPP-En-1, En-6, En-11-12, En-14, En-16, En-Action-3, CPP Env-2, Env-4, Env-5.
Policy 3.B.4 The county shall adopt vegetation retention standards to protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and ((limit)) avoid the use of invasive and non-native plant species that may adversely impact such habitat.	Invasive and non-native species degrade habitat values. The proposed change is consistent with the CPP Env-11. "The County and cities should establish and/or support programs that manage and work to reduce the spread of invasive species that are harmful to natural ecological function and habitat throughout the county."
Policy 3.B.9 The county ((should adopt)) shall maintain a water typing system and wetland classification system consistent with state guidelines.	The county has adopted such a classification system within the Critical Area chapters of code, so a tense change is required. The proposed change is also consistent with GMA guidelines, definitions, and best available science (BAS).
Policy 3.C.2 The county shall establish development regulations that include a variety of strategies for protecting groundwater, <u>including but not limited to requiring connection to existing public water systems in coordination with the water providers, and limiting overall reliance on new groundwater wells in rural and resource areas, particularly within sole source aquifers, public water providers' wellhead protection zones and areas providing recharge to streamflow consistent with state instream flow rules.</u>	Proposed revision is consistent with GMA protection for aquifer recharge areas and the state's instream flow rules in WAC 173-500 and subsequent watershed-specific chapters.

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Policy 3.C.3 <u>The county shall adopt and maintain standards addressing groundwater protection based on the best available information for aquifer location, sensitivity to and potential for contamination, and designation as a critical aquifer recharge area.</u>	Proposed new policy supports protection strategy in chapter 30.62C SCC and GMA guidelines in WAC 365-190-100(3).
Policy 3.D.5 The county (should) shall incorporate (new) best available science and analysis of flood hazards into its regulations and mapping as they become available, including accounting for increases in future flood flows, sea level rise and tsunami risk.	Proposed amendment to align the policy with the GMA requirement to ensure that code incorporates BAS. Consistent with MPP-En-6 concerning the use of BAS.
Policy 3.D.6 Flood regulations should allow for volume of on-site or in-floodplain excavation to offset volume or fill. <u>If ESA-listed fish may be present during flood events, excavation designed to provide compensatory storage of flood water must not result in fish entrapment.</u>	Digging holes in the floodplain is not an ecologically-recommended option for mitigating flood storage – ESA listed fish can become stranded in the water-filled hole once the surrounding flood waters recede. Holes in the floodplain must have surface water connection to the river/stream to prevent entrapment. The proposed revision is consistent with the biological opinion issued in 2008 by National Marine Fisheries Service in response to FEMA-proposed changes to the National Flood Insurance Program documents usage of the floodplain by ESA-listed fish and sets forth reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) to prevent harm under the law.
(Policy 3.D.7 The county should promote programs that assist private landowners with projects that reduce damage from stream and river bank erosion and flooding.)	Proposed repeal as Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) is moving away from fixing private structures
Policy 3.D.7 <u>Floodplain planning shall rely on hazard reduction recommendations from integrated floodplain management and hazard mitigation plans, prioritizing recommendations that improve human safety and also benefit salmon.</u>	Proposed new policy as SWM is working on integrated floodplain management, and this policy will support those efforts.
Policy 3.D.8 <u>The county shall support and promote county projects designed to restore natural floodplain processes, increase floodplain storage, and improve habitat conditions for anadromous fish in key habitat areas needed for spawning, rearing, flood refuge, and/or osmoregulation as prioritized in salmon recovery plans.</u>	This proposed policy is consistent with the GMA requirement for special attention to anadromous fish in RCW 36.70A.172(1). It is also in line with SWM’s goal of integrated floodplain management and will support estuary restoration. The policy is consistent with MPP-En-20 and CPP Env-6.
Policy 3.D.9 <u>The county shall require that placement of flood control structures and other development activities in the 100-year floodplain follow recommendations from best available science following the mitigation sequence of avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on floodplain salmon habitat.</u>	The proposed policy fulfills a critical area requirement for use of BAS, and also aids with integrated floodplain management. Consistent with MPP-En-6.
Policy 3.D.10 <u>The county shall require that proposed development activities in the 100-year floodplain assess potential impacts on Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed anadromous fish, preserve access for fish to refuge areas, and prevent fish stranding.</u>	GMA requires special attention to anadromous fish, and this proposed policy will aid in County compliance with federal and local regulations under ESA and GMA.
Policy 3.D.11 <u>The county should require that design and construction of proposed development activities within and adjacent to the 100-year floodplain consider potential climate change related impacts on flood elevations and possible expansion of the floodplain extent.</u>	There is some cross over with this proposed new policy and the new Climate Change element, although this is important to have here as well for life, health safety, and long-term resilience. Given the life expectancy of manmade structures, future potential flood levels should be evaluated in site planning and structural design. Climate change is expected to result in deeper flood waters, higher tides, etc. Data (and forecasts) show that more areas will likely be affected by flooding outside of the current Special Flood Hazard Area mapped by FEMA. Flood waters could cover a larger area and potentially overwhelm existing flood control structures.
Policy 3.F.2 The county shall (develop) maintain shoreline environment designations that are based on existing use patterns, and the biological and physical character of the shoreline.	Housekeeping update to reflect current status.
Policy 3.F.4 <u>The county should protect, restore, and enhance native vegetation as vital to support and improve shoreline and critical area ecological functions, attenuate stormwater flows, and offset or mitigate potential impacts from development.</u>	The proposed new policy is consistent with Shoreline Management Act (SMA), Snohomish County Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) regulations, and BAS. Native vegetation provides multiple ecological functions to protect water quality and provide habitat. In particular, this proposed policy is consistent with WAC 173-20-221(5), SCC 30.62A.320, SCC 30.67.599, and <i>Summary of BAS</i> (2006), pg.64-66. This proposed policy is also consistent with the proposed tree retention policies that will be out for public comment within Phase IV.

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Policy 3.F.5 <u>The county shall seek grant funding opportunities to implement restoration priorities identified in the Shoreline Management Program Restoration Element to restore and enhance shoreline hydrologic functions and estuaries.</u>	Consistent with Shoreline Management Act and Shoreline Management Plan policy, also MPP-En-17, En-20, CPP Env-6, the GMA requirement to focus on anadromous fish, and further supports estuary restoration.
Policy 3.G.1 The county shall (develop) <u>maintain</u> regulations for Class IV General forest practices and for conversion option harvest plans.	Housekeeping update to reflect current status.
Policy 3.G.2 The county shall (develop) <u>maintain</u> a process and criteria for lifting forest practices moratoria, which shall include public notification and procedures for appeals and public hearings.	Housekeeping update to reflect current status.
Policy 3.G.4 <u>Prior to commencement of land disturbing activities, the county shall require preservation of native trees and understory as a low impact development technique for stormwater management, whenever feasible.</u>	This new policy is proposed to support MPPs, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and proposed urban tree policies. Proposed policy is consistent with MPP-En-9, En-13, En-18, CPP Env-7 and with Salmon Safe Pledge – Action 03 and 06.
Policy 3.H.1 The county shall protect properties and water from adverse impacts by eliminating illicit discharges (and sediment transport) and regulating stormwater and land disturbing activity to reduce the discharges of pollutants and impacts to receiving waters.	Sediment transport is a beneficial ecological process, provided that sedimentation does not exceed natural levels.
(Policy 3.H.4 – REPEALED BY AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 14-070.)	Housekeeping
Policy 3.H.4 (5)	Re-number due to deletion of original 3.H.4 in 2014
Policy 3.H.5 (6)	Re-number due to deletion of original 3.H.4 in 2014
Policy 4.A.1 The county shall allow innovative strategies that protect surface and groundwater quality, minimize impacts to wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas on land used for commercial agriculture such as encouraging the use of farm conservation plans (or) <u>and</u> best management practices equivalent to those set forth in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) (FOTG) Manual, most recent edition(), and other state and federal guidance on best management practices.	Proposed revision to clarify that “innovative strategies” really means best management practices from the FOTG and other science-based sources.
Policy 4.A.4 The county should (consider establishing) <u>maintain</u> a permit assistance center to assist farmers in complying with natural environment regulations.	Proposed update to reflect current status.
Policy 4.A.6 The county shall develop and implement actions to conserve agricultural resource lands and restore ecological functions and values, seeking to increase both ecological and agricultural (and) resource viability and productivity.	Housekeeping amendment to fix typo.
Policy 4.B.4 <u>The county shall support habitat restoration projects that reestablish critical habitat functions while also supporting agricultural viability.</u>	New proposed policy will support multi-benefit projects in line with the Sustainable Land Strategy. It could also provide support for estuary restoration projects key to recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed fish. Proposed policy is consistent with MPP-En-20 and CPP Env-6.
Policy 5.A.3 The county shall, where appropriate, restore and enhance ecological functions on lands owned and managed by the county. Properties acquired for habitat conservation should be managed to preserve and enhance ecological functions and values (while providing) <u>and provide public access and</u> recreational opportunities <u>only where appropriate.</u>	This proposed revision recognizes that human intrusion into fragile habitat areas can counteract restoration/enhancement efforts. Public safety can also be an issue. However, land acquisition is often for parks or trails; public access is also a goal of the Shoreline Management Act. Funding source may also require public access.
Policy 5.A.4 The county should develop acquisition and conservation easements programs directed at lands that have unique ecological values, <u>support critical species</u> , or cannot be protected by any other methods.	Proposed revision is consistent with the GMA requirement to protect critical species; special attention for anadromous fish. The revision is also consistent with CPP Env-5.
Policy 5.A.7 The county (should consider) <u>shall use</u> the recommendations contained in the watershed management plans and salmon recovery plans as (the) <u>a</u> basis for prioritizing restoration and enhancement projects.	Funding sources require justification for projects when applying for grants. Proposed revisions are consistent with regional and state salmon recovery goals as well as MPP En-Action-2, -3.

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Policy 5.B.6 The county should encourage ((citizens)) the public to be water resource stewards through participation in decision-making, volunteer activities, and technical assistance programs.	Housekeeping amendment.
Goal 6 Educate ((citizens)) the public regarding the natural environment and encourage voluntary environmental protection and stewardship.	Housekeeping amendment.
Policy 6.A.6 The county should provide ((citizens)) the public with information concerning species and habitats and voluntary methods for protecting and re-storing habitat areas.	Housekeeping amendment.
Policy 6.A.7 The county shall provide educational materials that describe ecologically friendly options for protecting property from damage due to shoreline erosion, and require use of soft shore armoring instead of hard armoring wherever feasible.	Proposed new policy is consistent with current situation and code. New policy is recommended to allow for a stronger focus on this topic. The county has distributed educational materials to marine shoreline property owners and to others seeking permits for installation or repair of shoreline armoring structures.
Policy 6.B.1 The county shall encourage voluntary protection and restoration of natural areas and assist in establishing stewardship programs to allow ((citizens)) the public to participate in the protection and preservation of ecologic systems important in their own communities. This effort may include participation in environmental planning and programs, volunteer activities, monitoring projects, and technical assistance and education programs.	Housekeeping amendment.
Policy 7.A.6 The county shall monitor results of the tree canopy regulatory requirements within urban unincorporated areas.	Newly proposed policy is consistent with current situation and policy direction proposed for this update to the Comprehensive Plan. Please note that this proposed language will be reviewed for consistency with new policies added under new Goal NE 9 – Tree Canopy.
Objective 8.A ((1-D)) ((The county shall protect)) Protect the health, safety, welfare, and the economy of the community by minimizing the risks associated with natural hazards.	Relocated from Objective 1.D to improve NE element structure. Housekeeping revisions for language style consistency with other objectives. Bold and blue text is newly proposed from Objective 1.D and maroon text with strike-through is proposed to be removed from the original 1.D.
Policy 8.A.1 ((1-D-1)) The county ((should)) shall consider natural hazards in all land use planning	Relocated from NE 1.D.1, strengthened directive to “shall.” Bold and blue text is newly proposed from Objective 1.D and maroon text with strike-through is proposed to be removed from the original 1.D.
Policy 8.A.2 ((1-D-2)) ((The county should develop comprehensive floodplain management plans.)) The county should adopt an integrated floodplain management approach that considers diverse interests and aims to reduce flood risks to people and property while also protecting habitat, water quality, agricultural viability and open space. ((Where cities and the county share common floodplains,)) An integrated floodplain management approach should include joint flood hazard planning and interlocal agreements ((should be used)) to ensure consistent floodplain management ((+)) where the county shares common floodplains with cities, tribes and state or federal agencies.	Relocated from NE 1.D.2, revised policy to support SWM integrated flood management approach. Bold and blue text is newly proposed from Objective 1.D and maroon text with strike-through is proposed to be removed from the original 1.D.
Policy 8.A.3 ((1-D-3)) The county ((should)) shall develop and update drainage basin plans that document urban flooding problems and potential solutions.	Relocated from NE 1.D.3, directive strengthened to “shall.”
Policy 8.A.4 ((1-D-4)) The county ((should)) shall adopt and implement a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards.	Relocated from NE 1.D.4, directive strengthened to “shall.”
Policy 8.A.5 ((1-D-5)) The county shall develop programs that provide for notification of the presence of geologic hazards.	Relocated from NE 1.D.5
Policy 8.A.6 The county shall identify vulnerable communities at risk from environmental hazards and exposure to pollution and identify opportunities and funding for improving safety and environmental health.	Proposed new policy to reflect addition of equity in the CPPs. Policy is consistent with CPP Env-8, -9, -10.
Objective 8.B ((8-A))	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Objective 8.A)
Policy 8.B.1 ((8-A-1))	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Policy 8.A.1)

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Policy <u>8.B.2</u> (8.A.2)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Policy 8.A.2)
Policy <u>8.B.3</u> (8.A.3)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Policy 8.A.3)
Policy <u>8.B.4</u> (8.A.4)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Policy 8.A.4)
<u>Policy 8.B.5</u> The county shall seek the most current research, data, and mapping on hazards including but not limited to channel migration, landslides, earthquake faults and liquefaction zones, lahar routes, mine hazard areas, flood hazard areas and areas potentially subject to tsunami in coordination with local city, county, state, federal, and tribal agencies, and academic institutions.	Proposed new policy is necessary because of the requirement for BAS, it supports DEM and HMP, and it is important to share data to improve public safety.
Objective <u>8.C</u> (8.B)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Objective 8.B)
Policy <u>8.C.1</u> (8.B.1)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Policy 8.B.1)
Policy <u>8.C.2</u> (8.B.2) The county shall (adopt) <u>maintain</u> development regulations that minimize or eliminate nuisance odors through the use of best available control technologies, provided that odors occurring as a result of accepted agricultural or forest practices on natural resource lands shall be presumed reasonable and not a nuisance.	Housekeeping update consistent with current status, (originally Policy 8.B.2)
Policy <u>8.C.3</u> (8.B.3)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8. (originally Policy 8.B.3)
Policy <u>8.C.4</u> (8.B.4)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8. (originally Policy 8.B.4)
Policy <u>8.C.5</u> (8.B.5)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8. (originally Policy 8.B.5)
Policy <u>8.C.6</u> (8.B.6)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8. (originally Policy 8.B.6)
Policy <u>8.C.7</u> (8.B.7)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8. (originally Policy 8.B.7)
<u>Policy 8.C.8</u> Recognizing the ecosystem services of trees including air quality, habitat value, and temperature and flood mitigation, the county shall require tree retention on county owned property and within new developments to the greatest extent feasible considering public safety, interference with utilities, barriers to housing, urban development density standards, reasonable use and other factors as relevant.	Newly proposed policy is consistent with policy direction in current update to Comprehensive Plan related to retention/protection of tree canopy, and MPP-En-3, En-9, En-13, and CPP Env-8.
Objective <u>8.D</u> (8.C) Minimize (the) exposure (of citizens) to (the dangers of) excessive noise and light pollution.	Proposed revisions renumber and then amend the policy to reflect MPP-En-7 and CPP Env-9, (originally Objective 8.C). Further, the revision broadens the intent – neither humans nor the natural environment benefit from excessive noise or light pollution.
Policy <u>8.D.1</u> (8.C.1)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Policy 8.C.1)
Policy <u>8.D.2</u> (8.C.2)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Policy 8.C.2)
Policy <u>8.D.3</u> (8.C.3)	Renumbering due to moving Objective NE 1.D to goal 8, (originally Policy 8.C.3)
<u>Policy 8.D.4</u> The county shall require light shielding and visual buffering to improve land use compatibility where commercial, industrial or mixed use development with outdoor lighting is adjacent to residential uses.	Proposed new policy to reflect CPP Env-9 addressing light and noise pollution.

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Objective 8.E <u>Protect water quality by seeking to minimize the introduction of pollutants into the environment.</u>	Proposed to add a new objective and policies to address water quality. New policies are consistent with: the GMA and SMA; MPPs-En-3, -10, -17, -18, -19, CPPs-Env-7, -8, -10, -11; BAS; NPDES and Clean Water Act; Snohomish County Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP); Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Action Agenda 2023; Orca Recovery Plan; Salmon Safe Pledge; Salmon Recovery Plans; Watershed Management Plans; and Shellfish Protection Program.
Policy 8.E.1 <u>The county shall make available educational materials describing best management practices for land maintenance, septic system care, natural yard care, control of invasive species, low impact development principles and techniques for stormwater management, ecological functions and values performed by trees and native vegetation, and healthier alternatives to toxic pesticides and herbicides.</u>	
Policy 8.E.2 <u>The county shall employ water quality best management practices to the greatest extent feasible in the management of county owned land and right-of-way.</u>	
Policy 8.E.3 <u>The county shall require that pollutants, including sediment, are removed from stormwater using best management practices, preferably low impact development wherever feasible, before the stormwater can reach natural water bodies.</u>	
Policy 8.E.4 <u>The county shall provide access to educational materials directed to shoreline property owners and users of recreational watercraft to help protect water quality, prevent spread of invasive species, and preserve natural shoreline ecological processes.</u>	
Policy 8.E.5 <u>The county shall support and promote programs addressing installation, inspection, maintenance, repair, and replacement of onsite sewage systems; the use of innovative state-of-the-art septic system designs and techniques, where feasible; and funding opportunities to assist property owners with associated implementation costs. Wherever feasible, failing septic systems should connect to an existing public sewer system.</u>	Septic systems are subject to public health requirements under state law (WAC 246-272A-0270) and this proposed new policy will be consistent with this law, consistent with MPP PS-11, PS-12, and CPP PS-19, and could raise awareness of current programs. For instance, the county currently supports the Savvy Septic Program and the Shellfish Protection Program. Failing septic systems are a significant source of surface water contamination and impairment of shellfish beds.
NEW Goal NE 9 – Tree Canopy goals, objectives, policies	Under separate project manager and timeline. Goal 9, objectives, and policies will be within Phase IV public comment period.
((Goal 9— Promote energy conservation and recycling to reduce detrimental effects on the natural environmental and human health and safety.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Objective 9.A— Recycle and reuse water.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.A.1— The county shall develop plans and programs for the reuse, recycling, and treatment of water.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.A.2— County facilities shall be designed, operated and maintained to ensure recycling of water occurs to the maximum extent possible.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.A.3— The county should promote the use of low impact development designs to encourage the reuse of water.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.A.4— The county should encourage the development of innovative water supplies such as rainwater catchment systems as a source of domestic drinking water.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Objective 9.B— Conserve nonrenewable energy resources while promoting the development and utilization of new and renewable energy resources.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.B.1— The county should adopt plans and regulations that require site planning and building design to promote energy conservation and reduce demand.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.B.2— The county shall encourage transportation alternatives such as, the expansion of transit service, carpools and vanpools to reduce consumption of fossil fuels.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.B.3— The county shall adopt and enforce the Washington State Energy Code for new construction.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.

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((Objective 9.C — Provide safe, efficient and cost-effective disposal of solid waste while encouraging waste prevention, re-duction, and recycling.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.C.1 — The county shall develop plans and programs for the management of solid waste generated within Snohomish County.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.C.2 — The county shall be responsible for the disposal of solid waste generated within Snohomish County.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.C.3 — County facilities shall be designed, operated and maintained to ensure recycling is available and occurs when technically and eco-nomically feasible.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.C.4 — County offices and facilities shall set an example in waste prevention, reduction and recycling.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.C.5 — The county shall encourage waste prevention, reduction, and recycling of solid waste when technically and economically feasible.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.C.6 — The county shall design, maintain or retrofit solid waste facilities to prevent contaminated storm water run-off from the facility for the purpose of preventing water pollution.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 9.C.7 — The county shall site new solid waste handling facilities in a manner which will minimize impacts on the natural environment while providing essential solid waste disposal services.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Goal 10 — Help sustain Snohomish County’s economy, environment and communities by minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting clean energy development.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Objective 10.A — Adopt practices for Snohomish County government services and operations that minimize greenhouse gas emissions.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.A.1 — Identify and implement technologies to improve the efficiency of Snohomish County buildings and service vehicles.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.A.2 — Identify and implement operational and purchasing policies and practices that reduce emissions, support energy conservation and efficient use of resources.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.A.3 — Pursue options and incentives to reduce the vehicle miles traveled by Snohomish County employees in both their commuting and job-related activities.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.A.4 — Achieve green building certification for new county buildings and major renovation projects whenever appropriate and feasible.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.A.5 — Inventory the county’s greenhouse gas emissions and develop and implement a plan to minimize emissions.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Objective 10.B — Develop strategies for Snohomish County communities that support sustainability and minimize green-house gas emissions.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.1 — Incorporate the most current scientific consensus on climate change into the county’s planning processes.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.2 — Establish land use patterns that minimize transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and encourage the preservation of re-source lands, open space and habitat.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.3 — Support market development for alternative fuels and clean energy sources.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.4 — Encourage climate-friendly businesses and business practices and a clean energy economy.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.

Natural Environment Element - Draft Policy Amendments

Proposed Draft Policy: Proposed <u>new text</u> and proposed ((removed text))	Reason for Proposed Change
((Policy 10.B.5— Seek to reduce vehicle miles traveled by encouraging expanded availability and use of public transportation through planning, partnerships, investments and incentives.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.6— Adopt development regulations that foster energy conservation, environmental enhancement, recycling and waste reduction.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.7— Investigate long-term strategies to address waste management within Snohomish County’s borders to reduce emissions from the transport of waste, increase reuse and recycling and foster sustain-able practices.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.8— Develop education and incentive programs related to climate change and sustainability so that citizens, businesses and others can make informed decisions.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.9— Support intergovernmental planning regarding climate change and sustainability and coordinate local efforts with regional, state and federal efforts.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.10— Incorporate principles of sustainability and “green building” design— as set forth in “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” (LEED) certification— for development of the county Cathcart site. Ensure that this development will serve as a model for “green” building and sustainable neighborhood development in Snohomish County.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 10.B.11— Incorporate energy conserving and climate friendly construction and development techniques within all development activity at the county Cathcart site.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Goal 11— Help sustain Snohomish County’s economy, environment and communities by responding and adapting to the impacts of climate change.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element..
((Objective 11.A— Improve the county’s preparedness to respond to climate change.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 11.A.1— Work with community stakeholders, establish partnerships and organize resources to coordinate a response to the projected impacts of climate change.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 11.A.2— Periodically assess Snohomish County’s vulnerability to climate change, based on the most current scientific consensus, and utilize the findings and community priorities to guide policy development and infrastructure investments.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 11.A.3— Incorporate measures that account for, mitigate and monitor the expected impacts of climate change in planning for economic, environmental, and community health.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 11.A.4— Implement strategies and monitor progress to protect the county’s natural resources and systems from the projected impacts of climate change.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Objective 11.B— Strengthen the county’s ability to adapt to climate change impacts.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 11.B.1— Incorporate adaptive management for climate change, in response to the most current scientific consensus, into future comprehensive plans and development regulations.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 11.B.2— Develop strategies to encourage a diversified and sustainable economy that is resilient to the impacts of climate change.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 11.B.3— Develop incentives that encourage citizens to reduce the adverse impacts from climate change to their lives and communities.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.
((Policy 11.B.4— Promote the efficient use, conservation and protection of water resources.))	Propose to move to Climate Change Element.