

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN

2023 – 2029



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Introduction

Urban and community forests in Washington are valuable local resources and cornerstones of our reputation as the Evergreen State. Urban trees are directly linked to the health and well-being of nearby residents, wildlife, and aquatic habitat.

The mounting environmental challenges facing our urban forests threaten public health and quality of life across Washington. Investments in urban trees and forests support cost-effective strategies to reduce negative environmental conditions such as heat, flooding, and pollution, while helping communities become greener, cleaner, healthier, and more resilient.

History of Urban and Community Forestry in Washington

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) was established in 1990. The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) began making available federal grant funds for urban and community forestry programs that year after Congress amended the 1978 Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act.

Following the 1991 passage of [SB5264](#) – the enabling legislation authorizing establishment of the UCF program – Washington DNR has been responsible for the establishment and maintenance of an urban and community forestry program ([RCW 76.15](#)) to:

1. Encourage planning for, planting, maintaining, and managing of trees across Washington’s cities, counties, and tribal lands;
2. Encourage coordination of localized activities to maximize participation in urban and community forestry-related program development and implementation;
3. Foster healthy economic activities associated with urban and community forestry-related business;
4. Facilitate creation of employment opportunities related to urban and community forestry activities, including opportunities for youth;
5. Provide meaningful voluntary opportunities for Washington residents and organizations interested in urban and community forestry;
6. Contribute to improved human health through targeted delivery of programs and activities in highly impacted communities with greater health disparities; and
7. Contribute to salmon and orca recovery.

The Washington Community Forestry Council (WCFC) was established in 1991 to guide the new program under RCW 76.15.020, and to advise and support DNR in carrying out the mission of the Washington State Urban and Community Forestry Program. The WCFC seeks to ensure a balance of statewide representation is achieved by recruiting and nominating members for appointment to the Council by the Commissioner of Public Lands.

Members of the council represent a diverse suite of stakeholders and interests, including local, state, and federal agencies, academic institutions, nonprofit and private sector forestry, landscape architects, arborists, urban planners, and others engaged in urban and community forestry.

These members, as committed by the WCFC articles of association, advise the Commissioner of Public Lands and DNR staff on their policies and programs related to urban and community forestry; provide a statewide vision that enhances and heightens awareness of forest and associated natural resource management in community and urban areas; promote public awareness and education of urban and community forestry issues; provide leadership on urban and community forestry issues; provide information for people in the field of, and with and interest in, urban and community forestry; cultivate cooperation among all sectors involved in urban and community forestry; advise the Washington Legislature and the people of Washington on the best ways to preserve, protect, expand, and improve Washington's urban and community forests; and promote and enhance the implementation of the UCF program's strategic plan.

The Legislature passed the Evergreen Communities Act (ECA) in 2008 ([E2SHB2844](#)), but the subsequent recession left the bill unfunded for many years. The Legislature built upon the ECA in 2021 by passing [Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1216](#), which revitalized the 2008 law and expanded the authorities of DNR to assist cities, counties, tribes, and other public bodies to establish and maintain their urban forests. This included a financial investment – the first primary state-source of funding to support delivery of DNR's urban and community forestry mandate. The 2021-2023 biennium budget allocated \$2.68 million for E2SHB1216.

Plan Creation

This plan was developed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program in cooperation with the Washington Community Forestry Council to guide program delivery through the next three biennia (2029), with some long-term goals out to 2040.

Aligned Efforts

There are numerous, ongoing efforts aligned with urban and community forestry in Washington.

Washington Forest Action Plan (FAP): The FAP is the basis for the UCF strategic plan. Reinvigorating the ECA is identified as a goal of the FAP, one which was achieved by passage of E2SHB1216. The FAP focuses on incorporation of equity and environmental justice into program delivery, which is a statutory obligation within E2SHB1216. Also included in the plan is a map of priority areas for program delivery based on a GIS analysis incorporating data from the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map as a proxy dataset for environmental justice issues.

Watershed Resilience Action Plan (WRAP): The WRAP defines actions to be taken within the Snohomish Watershed, also known as Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 7. Over the past few years, the UCF program has completed two grant projects from USFS. One produced a technical manual and a handbook for bridging gaps at the local level between urban foresters and storm water engineers in the central Puget Sound region. The second, completed in fall of 2021, conducted an urban tree canopy analysis in every incorporated municipality in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to identify impervious cover and opportunities for canopy enhancement. These resources will be promoted among jurisdictions in WRIA 7.

Plan for Climate Resilience: The Plan for Climate Resilience identifies the need to modernize and implement the ECA. The plan also describes a need to provide climate-informed messages and assistance to constituents to help them make better urban forest care and management decisions. Many constituents begin their interest in urban and community forestry via concerns about climate-related threats.

HEAL Act Implementation: The UCF program is tightly aligned with provisions of the HEAL Act through incorporation of the Environmental Health Disparities Map to prioritize delivery of program services; dedication of 50% of program resources to benefit highly impacted communities; increasing awareness and literacy of environmental justice issues; soliciting environmental justice experience in recruitments; amending the WCFC's Articles of Association and establishing an equitable member recruitment process; and consulting with tribes on implementation of E2SHB1216.

Carbon Sequestration: The UCF program provides guidance to communities on implementation of urban forest management tools and industry-accepted best practices for tree care. In doing so, communities are equipped to make decisions to maximize health and longevity of urban trees, maximizing carbon sequestered by urban forests. Some grants are provided to plant new trees, often in spaces where trees may not have existed before, creating opportunities for carbon sequestration. The program also promotes engagement in urban forest carbon markets to enhance future revenue for urban forest management.

DNR Strategic Plan: The DNR Strategic Plan lays out the agency's strategic priorities, some of which are to make DNR a great place to work and serve Washington's lands and communities; serve Washingtonians through thoughtful communication, ongoing collaboration, and authentic engagement; invest in Washington's people, lands, and communities; and protect our lands and waters. Furthermore, DNR vision is to have actions ensure a future where Washington's lands, waters, and communities thrive, and the mission is to manage, sustain, and protect the health and productivity of Washington's lands and waters to meet the needs of present and future generations. These core principles are woven into this plan and evident in the goals, objectives, and strategies herein.

Purpose Statement

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program educates residents and decision makers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees and assists local governments, community groups, and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees and vegetation wherever people live, work, and play in Washington State.

Program Vision

Improve quality of life for all residents of Washington through the retention, maintenance, growth, and access to well-established, contiguous, and equitably distributed urban forests and trees.

Program Mission

Provide leadership to create self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs that preserve, plant, and manage forests and trees for public benefits and quality of life.

Overarching Strategy

Support implementation and empower local jurisdictions to take actions resulting in improvements to urban tree health, enhanced protections for urban trees, increases in canopy cover, and equitable delivery of tree ecosystem services in highly impacted communities.

DNR Core Values

- Safety and Well-Being – Our top priority is the safety of our employees and the public.
- Public Service – We value and respect those we serve, and we value and respect the people of the Department of Natural Resources who step up to serve.
- Innovation and Creative Problem-Solving – We solve our state’s most pressing challenges through innovative thinking, dedication, and bold and creative vision.
- Leadership and Teamwork – We are committed to building leaders at all levels and building teams for success.

Goal 1: Support improvements to urban forests and tree equity for health and climate.

Improving urban forests and trees in Washington is the most impactful method to initiate change and maintain momentum. Restoring trees to urban areas where they were once plentiful begins to slow the myriad of negative impacts worsening each year. Once the baseline of current conditions is determined for all census block groups in the state, progress can be measured through indicators within other objectives such as investments made, and a Tree Equity Score (TES) calculated by national nonprofit American Forests. As of August 2023, 97 Washington cities are represented within the Tree Equity Map, and 69% have a TES of 75 or higher.

This goal is the underlying metric of success upon which all others build. Long-term success is demonstrated through changes in Tree Equity Score, shifting trends in program investment, and overall improved urban forest and tree conditions.

Long Term Target

By 2040, 75% of urban census block groups have a Tree Equity Score of 75 or higher, and all municipalities are on a trajectory to tree equity.

Objective 1.1

BY 2029, ESTABLISH A COMPLETE BASELINE OF EXISTING URBAN FORESTRY CONDITIONS FOR INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITIES.

STRATEGIES	1.1(a)	Invest in and utilize high-resolution canopy data, including High Resolution Change Detection, to inform tree equity and urban canopy assessment and as a methodology to assess urban cover statewide.
	1.1(b)	Conduct statewide analysis to assess urban forest structure, urban tree canopy cover, and other land cover types in urbanized areas to establish a baseline from which change can be assessed.
	1.1(c)	Establish a statewide Tree Equity Score baseline for all urban census block groups and plan for routine updates in partnership with American Forests
	1.1(d)	Assess tree canopy cover and perform tree inventory analysis to assist local jurisdictions with prioritization of low canopy areas and potential planting sites within low canopy areas.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		100% of urban census block groups assessed for Tree Equity.
		100% of counties assessed with high resolution canopy data.
		60% of accessible Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis data plots established by 2029.

Objective 1.2

BY 2029, AT LEAST 15% OF GRANT FUNDS ARE INVESTED INTO TREE PLANTING IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE EFFORTS.

STRATEGIES	1.2(a)	Improve the viability of tree stock supply chain to increase availability and accessibility of trees for planting in urban areas.
	1.2(b)	Establish a work group on climate-adapted urban tree species.
	1.2(c)	Increase grant-funded tree planting and maintenance opportunities.
	1.2(d)	Promote tree planting in areas with greatest need, such as low canopy areas, highly impacted communities, etc.
	1.2(e)	Develop a process and methodology to provide dedicated technical and financial assistance to perform deferred maintenance.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		15% of grant funds benefit tree planting or tree nurseries managed for public benefit.
		100% of planted trees funded through program activities are tracked and inventoried.
		10% of municipalities receive financial assistance to support maintenance activities.

Goal 2: Investments are focused in areas of greatest needs and where trees can have the greatest impact.

Focusing delivery of the policies, programs, activities, and investments of the Urban and Community Forestry Program in the areas of greatest need and with potential for the greatest impact ensures vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities are afforded the resources to mitigate what are often disproportionate impacts of low urban canopy cover.

Long Term Target

By 2040, of the census block groups impacted under Goal 1, at least 50% of highly impacted communities have received investments to increase their Tree Equity Score.

Objective 2.1

AT LEAST 50% OF RESOURCES USED IN DELIVERING THE POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UCF PROGRAM ARE BENEFITING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND ARE DELIVERED IN OR WITHIN ONE-QUARTER MILE OF HIGHLY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES (AS REQUIRED BY RCW 76.15.100).

STRATEGIES	2.1(a)	Identify and ensure at least 50% of state-appropriated funds benefit vulnerable populations and are delivered in or within one-quarter mile of highly impacted communities.
	2.1(b)	Identify and engage highly impacted communities experiencing high environmental health disparities in urban and community forestry.
	2.1(c)	Enhance grant recipient expectations to ensure recipients perform outreach to inform, include, and engage residents when implementing projects in highly impacted communities.
	2.1(d)	Expand UCF Program network to include organizations representing highly impacted communities and Tribal governments.
	2.1(e)	Reduce UCF funding application barriers to partners and organizations in communities with high environmental health disparities.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		50% of the program resources benefit highly impacted communities and are delivered in or within one-quarter mile of highly impacted communities.
		50% of technical assists are provided to jurisdictions that include census tracts identified as highly impacted communities.
		50% of state grant funds are awarded to benefit highly impacted communities and are delivered in or within one-quarter mile of highly impacted communities.

Goal 3: Urban and community forests are sustainable, resilient, and protected for current and future generations.

If Goal 1 can be viewed as the “what” and Goal 2 as the “where,” this goal is the “why.” Providing the tools, knowledge, and other resources to ensure sustainable, resilient, and protected urban and community forests ensures steps are taken towards reducing urban tree canopy loss and shifts urban trees from a maintenance liability or a challenge to be overcome during development to another aspect of urban infrastructure essential to a healthy community.

Long Term Target

By 2040, increase by 15% the number of Washington cities and towns using tools, plans, and policies to manage urban forests to reduce the average rate of canopy loss.

Objective 3.1

BY 2029, AT LEAST 65% OF INCORPORATED CITIES AND TOWNS HAVE TREE CANOPY ANALYSES, TREE INVENTORIES, URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS, OR ORDINANCES SUPPORTING IMPROVED URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION. ESTABLISH BASELINE FOR STATEWIDE URBAN CANOPY COVER AVERAGE RATE OF LOSS AND TAKE STEPS TOWARD REDUCING URBAN TREE CANOPY LOSS STATEWIDE.

STRATEGIES	3.1(a)	Provide grant funds for establishment of canopy analyses, tree inventories, management plans, and ordinances.
	3.1(b)	Provide training and education for staff from local jurisdictions on best practices for urban forest management and care.
	3.1(c)	Increase proactive, climate-informed best management practices in urban forest management plans among municipalities with populations over 40,000.
	3.1(d)	Evaluate efficacy of tree ordinances to improve protections for trees on public property.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		Baseline established for urban tree canopy coverage and rate of loss estimates using statewide high-resolution land cover data.
		65% of incorporated cities and towns are identified as having current or in-use urban tree canopy analyses, tree inventories, urban forest management plans, or ordinances.
		10% of incorporated municipalities with a population over 40,000 people have current or in-use urban forest management plans.
		By 2026, 100% of Tree City USA communities with tree ordinances comply with Arbor Day Foundation ordinance standards.

Objective 3.2

BY 2029, INCREASE PROGRAM TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DEDICATED TO URBAN FOREST MAINTENANCE.

STRATEGIES	3.2(a)	Increase program technical and financial assistance dedicated to urban forest maintenance.
	3.2(b)	Improve resilience of young trees to increase growth and longevity.
	3.2(c)	Develop a process and methodology to provide dedicated technical and financial assistance to perform deferred maintenance.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		10% of constituents receive technical assistance to address deferred maintenance.
		10% of constituents receive financial assistance to support deferred maintenance.
		25% of constituents are performing deferred maintenance.

Objective 3.3

BY 2029, PARTICIPATION IN DNR-MANAGED RECOGNITION PROGRAMS FOR URBAN FORESTRY WORK IS INCREASED BY 5%.

STRATEGIES	3.3(a)	Develop and deliver DNR urban forestry recognition programs incentivizing tree canopy and care.
	3.3(b)	Incorporate recognition program participation incentives into grant scoring criteria.
	3.3(c)	Administer and facilitate Arbor Day Foundation recognition programs.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		90% retention of currently participating entities receiving Tree City USA recognition.
		90% retention of currently participating entities receiving Tree Campus Higher Education recognition.
		90% retention of currently participating entities receiving Tree Line USA recognition.
		5% increase in new communities participating in Tree City USA.
		10% increase in new campuses participating in Tree Campus Higher Education.
		10% increase in new utilities participating in Tree Line USA.
		10% annual increase in entities receiving Evergreen Communities recognition.

Objective 3.4

BY 2029, INCREASE BY 5% THE CULTIVATION AND RETENTION OF A SKILLED URBAN FORESTRY WORKFORCE.

STRATEGIES	3.4(a)	Conduct statewide assessment of urban forest workforce to establish a baseline from which change can be assessed.
	3.4(b)	Introduce youth to the full range of education, employment, and community development opportunities available in the urban forestry sector.
	3.4(c)	Increase workforce development and green jobs in urban and community forestry with attention to underserved communities.
	3.4(d)	Increase the number of certified arborists on staff within incorporated municipalities.
	3.4(e)	Improve the workforce pipeline by engaging Washington Conservation Corps and similar outdoor-based crews to restore and maintain urban forest landscapes.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		5% increase in the number of cities and towns with professional urban forestry staff.
		10% increase in youth engaged in UCF associated career connected learning (in coordination with YEOP).
		10% increase in usage of youth conservation corps crews.
		By 2025, host one youth conservation corps individual placement annually.
		75% of the 50 most populated incorporated municipalities have a certified arborist on staff.

Goal 4: Green Infrastructure is seen as a solution to help mitigate for multiple hazards statewide.

Green infrastructure is a wide array of natural assets and built structures within an urban growth area boundary, including parks and other areas with protected tree canopy, as well as management practices at multiple scales that manage wet weather and that maintain and restore natural hydrology by storing, infiltrating, evapotranspiring, and harvesting and using stormwater (2SHB 1181 - 2023-24).

Mitigating hazards such as storm water runoff and flooding, air and water pollution, and urban heat events through green infrastructure and reducing impervious surfaces is larger than any one program, agency, or partner. Some strategies will require significant local and private buy-in to be successful and some actions may require property acquisition by an appropriate entity.

Long Term Target

By 2040, urban impervious surface average rate of increase is reduced by 10% statewide.

Objective 4.1

BY 2029, POSITION THE UCF PROGRAM AS A KEY RESOURCE FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS WANTING TO REDUCE IMPERVIOUS COVER AND INCREASE NATURAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.

STRATEGIES	4.1(a)	Identify areas of high impervious cover in and around urban riparian and nearshore habitats.
	4.1(b)	Integrate statewide, high-resolution land cover data, including tree canopy cover and impervious surface cover, into program prioritization tools.
	4.1(c)	Provide tools, data, and information to promote urban forestry as a tool to increase the benefits associated with urban tree canopy cover and reduce the negative impacts of impervious cover.
	4.1(d)	Facilitate tree planting with associated green infrastructure benefits in areas with greatest need, such as low canopy rates, highly impacted communities, etc.
	4.1(e)	Contribute to the understanding of water-associated ecosystem services of urban trees.
	4.1(f)	Identify DNR or other publicly owned land near urban areas appropriate for protection or designation as urban/community forests.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		100% of urban communities are assessed for areas of high impervious cover in and around urban riparian and nearshore habitats.
		75% of assessed communities are provided with impervious cover data.
		Baseline established for number program funded impervious surface reduction efforts.
		100% of DNR-owned land near urban areas is assessed for protection or designation as urban/community forests and data provided to DNR land managers and communities.
		By 2040, 15% of grant funds benefit natural green infrastructure projects.

Goal 5: DNR is a skilled and reliable leader for urban and community forestry statewide.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources is seen as a skilled and reliable leader for statewide urban and community forestry. This begins internally through excellence in organizational and administrative processes such as hiring, onboarding, budgeting, fiscal responsibility, partner involvement and engagement, and transparently representing the concerns of constituents.

Objective 5.1

BY 2029, GROW UCF PROGRAM EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT TO ENSURE EMPLOYEES FEEL ENGAGED, MOTIVATED, AND SUPPORTED BY ENSURING ALL EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY SCORES FOR FOREST RESILIENCE, REGULATIONS, AND AQUATIC RESOURCES MEET OR EXCEED 75%.

STRATEGIES	5.1(a)	Improve employee readiness for change through discussion about current conditions, future knowledge, and areas an employee can influence or take action to address change head on.
	5.1(b)	Ensure agency strategic plans and goals cascade to the program and individual level - ensuring clear and transparent communication regarding agency goals and targets.
	5.1(c)	Cultivate an environment where innovation and risk taking is encouraged.
	5.1(d)	Develop institutional pathways for soliciting employee input in programmatic decision making.
	5.1(e)	Cultivate an environment encouraging professional development; normalize coaching.
	5.1(f)	Establish practices fostering inclusion, belonging, and encouraging participation.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
100% of employees complete the Employee Engagement Survey (EES).		
75% of participating employees respond positively to all standard questions in the EES.		

Objective 5.2

STRENGTHEN URBAN FORESTRY DATA AND KNOWLEDGE TO ENABLE DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS BY CONDUCTING STUDIES, SUPPORTING RESEARCH, AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO RESULTS AND DATA.

STRATEGIES	5.2(a)	Develop a roadmap for increasing peer-reviewed research and publication around key issues associated with urban and community forestry management.
	5.2(b)	Establish a partnership with the Planning, Science, and Monitoring section as the division scientific services provider.
	5.2(c)	Post publicly funded data on the Washington Open Data Portal and on the U.S. Forest Service Data Portal when appropriate.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
Baseline established for Washington based urban forestry research and publications.		
50% increase in public urban forestry datasets posted on Washington Open Data Portal.		

Publish statewide UCF prioritization and aggregated urban tree inventory data.

25% increase in grant applications for urban forestry research projects.

Objective 5.3

BY 2029, EXPAND ENGAGEMENT OF THE WASHINGTON COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL (WCFC) IN DNR UCF WORK TO REINFORCE THEIR ROLE AS AN EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP FOR DNR URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIES	5.3(a)	Integrate a WCFC liaison into Tree Equity Collaborative.
	5.3(b)	Provide for at least biennial review of program strategic plan, council work plan, and articles of association.
	5.3(c)	Write and submit for consideration memos, positions on issues, or recommendations annually or more frequently as the need arises.
MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS		
		100% of vacant council seats have been filled by 2024.
		100% of members attend at least 75% of meetings.
		The council drafts and submits at least one memo or paper annually.

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Appendix A: Glossary

Census block group—Statistical divisions of census tracts, are generally defined to contain between 600 and 3,000 people, and are used to present data and control block numbering. (US Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html>)

Environmental health disparities—ranking of the cumulative risk faced from environmental factors that influence health outcomes. (University of Washington Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences: <https://deohs.washington.edu/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map-project>)

Evergreen Community – A city, town, or county designated under [RCW 76.15.090](#).

Evergreen communities act – The enabling legislation, as found within [RCW 76.15.020](#), establishing the DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program and authorizing assistance to cities, counties, federally recognized tribes, and other public and private entities in the development and coordination of policies, programs, and activities for the promotion of urban and community forestry.

Green jobs – jobs in businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources; or, jobs in which worker’s duties involve making their establishment’s production processes more environmentally friendly or use fewer natural resources. (US Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/green/#definition>)

Green infrastructure – Green Infrastructure is a wide array of natural assets and built structures within an urban growth area boundary, including parks and other areas with protected tree canopy, and management practices at multiple scales that manage wet weather and that maintain and restore natural hydrology by storing, infiltrating, evapotranspiring, and harvesting and using stormwater. ([RCW 36.70A.030](#) as amended via [23-25 E2SHB1181](#))

Highly impacted community – A community designated by the Department of Health based on cumulative impact analyses in RCW 19.405.140 or a community located in census tracts that are fully or partially on "Indian country" as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151. ([RCW 19.405.020](#) pursuant to [RCW 76.15.010](#))

Impervious cover – A non-vegetated surface area that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil mantle as under natural conditions prior to development. (WA Department of Ecology)

Tree City USA – An Arbor Day Foundation program recognizing communities making commitments to maintain and grow tree cover.

Tree Equity – Having enough trees present in a community to provide health, employment, and climate resilience benefits to everyone.

Tree Equity Score – A calculated score based on how much tree canopy and surface temperature align with income, employment, race, age, and health factors. (<https://treeequityscore.org/about/>)

Tree ordinance (urban forestry ordinance) – An ordinance developed by a city, county, or tribe that promotes urban forestry management and care of trees ([RCW 76.15.010](#))

Underserved community – Groups that have limited or no access to resources or that are otherwise disenfranchised. These groups may include people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged; people with limited English proficiency; geographically isolated or educationally disenfranchised people; people of color as well as those of ethnic and national origin minorities; women and children; individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs; and seniors. (FEMA:

<https://www.fema.gov/about/glossary>)

Urban – Areas of densely developed territory, specifically all territory, population, and housing units in urbanized areas and urban clusters. "Urban" classification cuts across other hierarchies except for census block and can be in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas. (US Census Bureau:

<https://www.census.gov/glossary/>)

Urban Cluster – A densely developed territory that contains a minimum residential population 2,500 people but fewer than 50,000. (US Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/glossary/>)

Urbanized Area – An area consisting of a densely developed territory that contains a minimum residential population of at least 50,000 people. (US Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/glossary/>)

Vulnerable population – Communities that experience a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to: (a) adverse socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and (b) sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization. ([RCW 19.405.020](#) pursuant to [RCW 76.15.010](#))