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# Discussion on Citizen Petition to Revise the Carbon Neutrality Plan Priorities

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# Agenda

- 1 Overview of the Citizen Petition
- 2 Background: Back to basics
- 3 The CNP supports action on fire, flooding, and drought
- 4 Ongoing work on fire, flooding, and drought
- 5 Discussion

# 1 Citizen Petition

This petition requests the City Council add **Wildfire, Flooding, and Drought** to the current Priorities listed in the Carbon Neutrality Plan (CNP). These three are the most direct environmental threats identified by a Flagstaff-specific vulnerability assessment and highlighted in the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan pp. 17, 18. Include in the CNP specific goals and strategies for addressing Prevention, Detection and Suppression of Wildfires; Mitigation of Flooding; and Preparation for Drought.

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Background: Back to Basics

# Mitigation vs. Adaptation

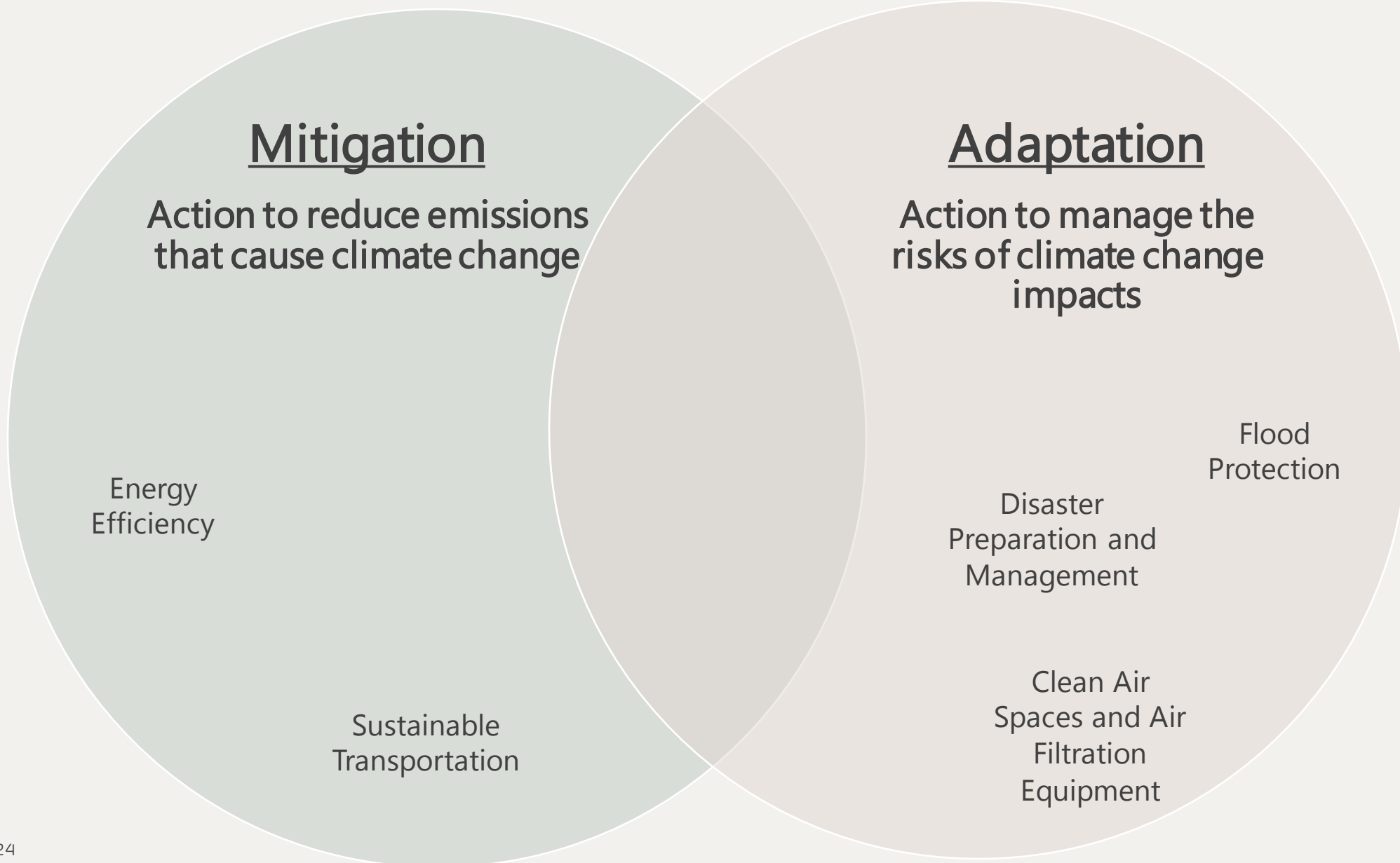
## Mitigation

Action to reduce emissions  
that cause climate change

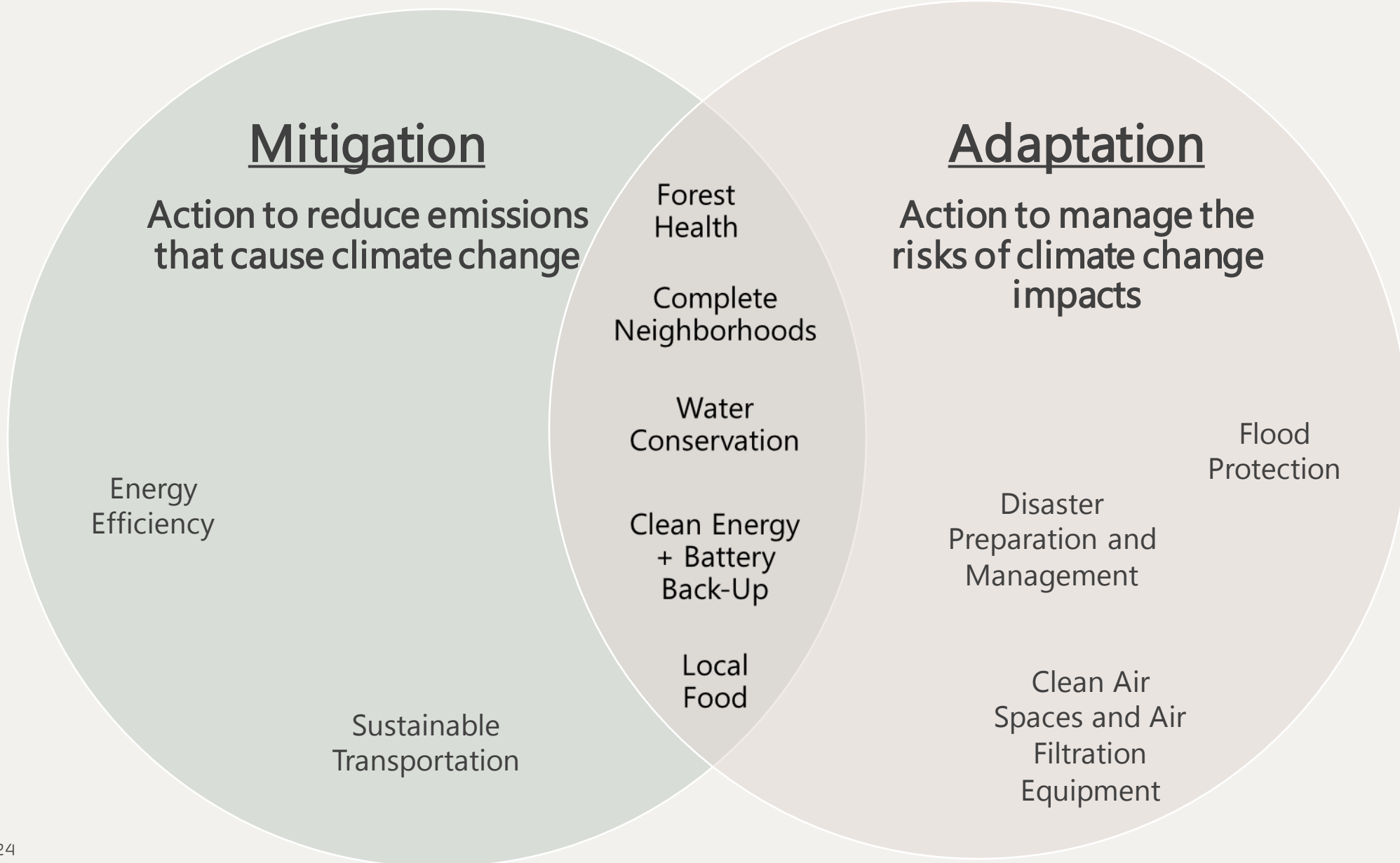
## Adaptation

Action to manage the  
risks of climate change  
impacts

# Mitigation vs. Adaptation



# Mitigation vs. Adaptation



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Action on fire,  
flooding, and drought is  
supported by the  
current CNP

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# CNP GOALS INFORMED BY THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

1. Dramatic increase in **ambition**
2. City-wide **mobilization**
3. **Educating** residents and **engaging** youth
4. Full **community** participation
5. Prioritize **vulnerable communities**
6. Nationwide call for **mobilization**
7. Sets a goal of **carbon neutrality by 2030**
8. Calls on **all governments** to act


# Three core goals of the CNP




1. Achieve carbon neutrality by 2030



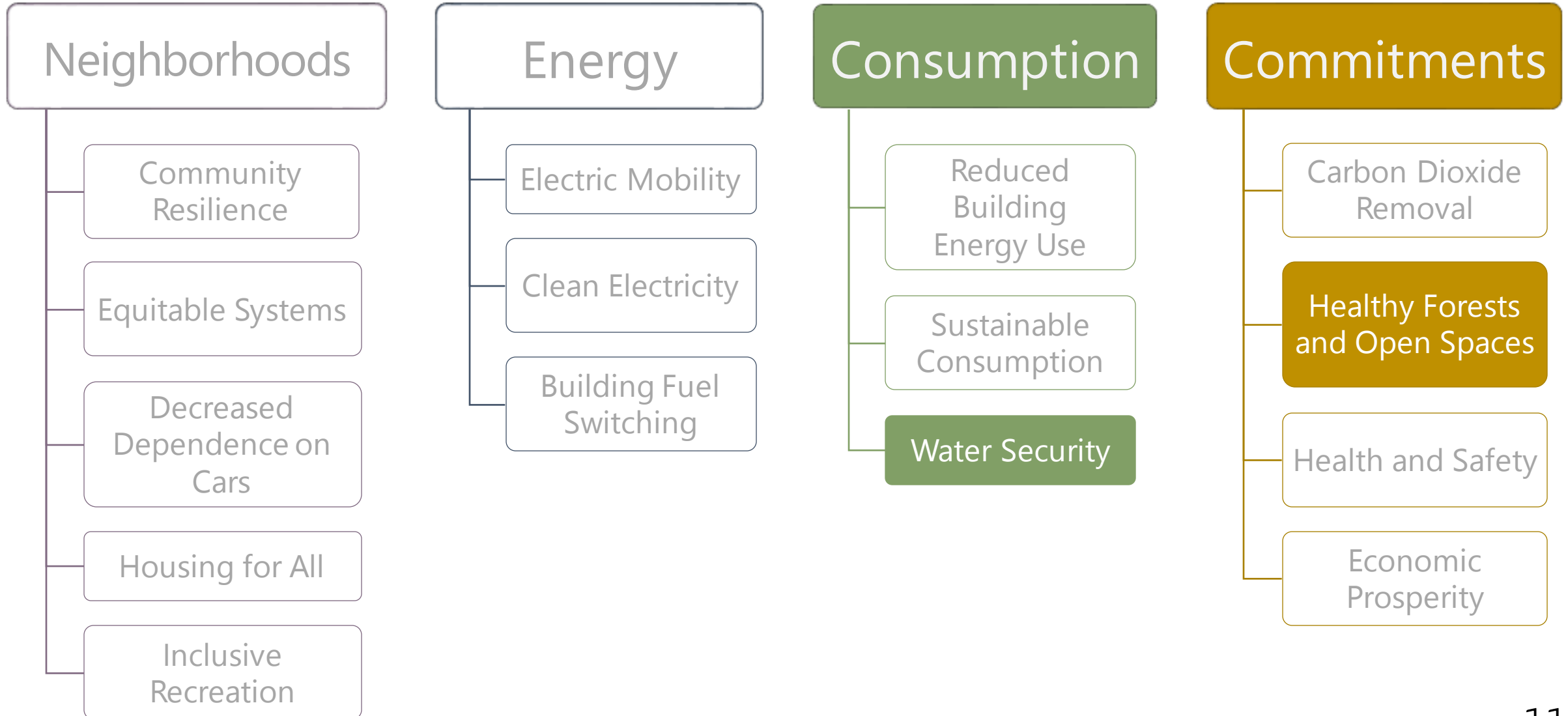
2. Prepare Flagstaff's communities, systems, and resources to be more resilient to climate change impacts



3. Address climate change in a manner that prioritizes those most impacted and ensures the costs and benefits of climate adaptation and mitigation are equitably distributed



# Fire, flooding and drought are in the CNP



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The City's ongoing work on fire, flooding, and drought is supported, but not driven, by the CNP.

# City Plans



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# Adopted City Plans that focus on fire, flooding, and drought

The following plans and projects work together to address fire threats, flooding, and drought:

- Flagstaff Regional Plan
  - Airport Emergency Operations Plan
  - Coconino County All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan
  - Carbon Neutrality Plan
  - Forest Stewardship Plan
  - Coconino County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plan
  - Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project
  - Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Guidelines
  - Rio de Flag Flood Control Project
  - Stormwater Strategic Plan
  - Wastewater Emergency Operations Plan
  - Water Conservation Strategic Plan
  - Water Services Strategic Plan 2025
  - Water Services Integrated Master Plan and Council-adopted water policies

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# City Plans that focus on mitigation

The CNP is the only plan focusing on directly on mitigation.

The CNP elevates mitigation, which is why it is the most detailed element of the plan. **To achieve carbon neutrality, we must focus on mitigation.**

Other plans that support mitigation:

- Water Conservation Strategic Plan
- Water Resources Master Plan
- Active Transportation Master Plan

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# A few examples of our mitigation work and collaborations supporting fire, flooding, and drought

## Existing Programs

- Flood proofing program
- Neighborhood Sustainability Grants
- HEPA clean air filters
- Stream Stewards
- Innovate Waste, Carbon Neutrality, and Water Conservation

## Grants

- EPA Resilience Hubs (secured)
- Moore Foundation Grant (secured in negotiations)
- EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (application due April 1<sup>st</sup>)

Getting to  
work ...

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# Current High-Priorities and Barriers

# Fire

## Relevant Adopted Plan/Project:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (update starting late 2024\*),
- Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project

## Priorities:

- 45,000 acres in priority forest health treatments

## Barriers:

- Public and private funding and market solutions
- Inconsistencies in risk pricing and rising insurance costs

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# Current High-Priorities and Barriers

# Flooding

## Relevant Adopted Plans:

- Stormwater Strategic Plan
- Water Services Strategic Plan
- Coconino County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Plan

## Priorities:

- More than \$40M in post-fire drainage projects
- Ongoing and consistent funding for stormwater maintenance

## Barriers:

- Inflation, cost of construction
- Appropriate project management staffing
- Reliance on external funds

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# Current High-Priorities and Barriers

# Drought

## Relevant Adopted Plans and Policies:

- Water availability strategies - City Code 7-03-001-0014
- City Council Adopted Water Policies
- Council-adopted Water Fund Capital Projects

## Priorities:

- City of Flagstaff Drought Contingency Plan
- Aging Infrastructure Capital Projects
- Securing Red Gap Ranch Pipeline Alignment
- Reclaimed Water System Upgrades
- Watershed resilience

## Barriers:

- Inflation, cost of construction
- Appropriate management staffing level

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DISCUSSION

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# Options

- 1 **Revise the CNP in FY25 to prioritize fire, flooding, and drought**
  - Would include a significant public engagement effort. Due to current workloads, would need to be consultant-supported. Budget need: \$80,000, timeline: 12 months, would need direction on level of public engagement.
  
- 2 **Focus on what the City is already doing in fire, flooding, and drought**
  - The Flagstaff Regional Plan
  - The Community Wildfire Protection Plan
  - COF Drought Contingency Plan
  - Upcoming grant-funded position for Fire and Climate Communications, etc...
  
- 3 **Revise the CNP to expand on adaptation priorities at the next scheduled revision period**
  - Next scheduled revision centered around emission calculations, new technologies, new commitments/partners, and impact scenarios. Timeline: January – November 2025

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# Staff Recommendation

- 1 Focus on the work the City is **already** doing to address fire, flooding, and drought
- 2 During the next scheduled CNP revision, expand the CNP to elevate adaptation priorities and reference all the existing plans/work the City is doing
- 3 Utilize grant funded position to increase level of communication not only about what the City is currently doing, but to inspire action and mobilization around fire, flooding, and drought preparedness

Thank You