



# 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

## Topic - Climate Change

### BACKGROUND:

#### Washington State and HB 1181

Legislation passed and signed into law in 2023 ([HB 1181](#)) adds a climate goal to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and requires local comprehensive plans to have a climate element with resilience and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation sub-elements.

- The resilience sub-element must include goals and polices to improve climate preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
- The greenhouse gas emissions sub-element must include goals and policies to reduce emissions and vehicle miles traveled.
- Climate elements must maximize economic, environmental, and social co-benefits and prioritize environmental justice in order to avoid worsening environmental health disparities.

Jurisdictions must update their transportation element and land use element, as well as add a climate element that is comprised of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction sub-element and a resilience sub-element.

*For Poulsbo, this body of work is due by 2029.* Grant funds from the state have been allocated to complete the work.

#### Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and Vision 2050

The region's local governments come together at the PSRC to make decisions about transportation, growth management, and economic development. VISION 2050 is the long-range growth management, environmental, economic, and transportation strategy for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties.

[VISION 2050](#) sets out a goal for the region to substantially reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and to prepare for climate change impacts. VISION 2050 identifies multicounty policies for local governments to address climate change. These multicounty policies have been incorporated into the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.

### CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS AND POLICIES PROPOSED IN THE 2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE:

#### Chapter 1: Introduction

##### *Poulsbo's Guiding Principles*

6. Improve and sustain the beauty and health of the surrounding natural environment while adapting to impacts from climate change.

#### Chapter 3: Community Character

##### **Policy CC-3.5**

*Require landscaping that contributes to and is an integral part of how a site interacts with the built and natural environment, and:*

- *Retains, enhances, and creates character and a sense of place;*
- *Utilizes native trees and plants, when feasible;*
- *Enhances water and air quality;*
- *Minimizes water consumption;*
- *Provides aesthetic value;*
- *Softens or disguises less aesthetically pleasing features of a site; and*
- *Provides buffers for transitions between uses or helps protect natural features.*

#### Chapter 4: Transportation

##### **Policy TR-9.10**

*Promote sustainable transportation options by encouraging the use of e-bike and e-scooters as a low-emission mode of travel while mitigating any negative impacts on pedestrian environments.*

**Policy TR-12.2**

*Collaborate with other government agencies (such as Puget Sound Regional Council, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology, Kitsap County, other cities) and the private sector to develop and implement strategies for addressing climate change and greenhouse gas reductions.*

**Chapter 5: Natural Environment**

**Climate Change**

Climate change refers to significant and long-term alterations in the Earth's average weather patterns, including temperature, precipitation, wind, and other climate-related factors. Addressing climate change requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses both mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (preparing for the impacts). Efforts to combat climate change encompass a wide range of actions, including policy initiatives, technological innovations, sustainable land management, and changes in individual and community behavior. Mitigating climate change not only helps to protect the planet's ecosystems and biodiversity but also safeguards the well-being and prosperity of current and future generations.

**GOAL NE-12**

Support achievement of regional and state greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

**Policy NE-12.1**

*Collaborate with other government agencies (such as Puget Sound Regional Council, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology, Kitsap County, other cities) and the private sector to develop and implement strategies for addressing climate change and greenhouse gas reductions.*

**Policy NE-12.2**

*Encourage conservation by use of alternative energy sources and energy management technologies.*

**Policy NE-12.3**

*Protect natural resources that sequester and store carbon such as wetlands, estuaries, stream buffers and urban tree canopy.*

**Policy NE-12.4**

*Reduce vehicle miles traveled and driving alone through land use and transportation strategies that provide opportunities and access to walking, biking, and transit. Support regional and state efforts to electrify the transportation system.*

**Policy NE-12.5**

*Encourage the reduction of building energy consumption through green building practices and promote the adaptive reuse of existing buildings recognizing the emission-reduction benefits of retaining existing buildings.*

**GOAL NE-13**

Support regional, state, and local efforts to increase climate resilience by participating in resilience planning and climate preparedness.

**Policy NE-13.1**

Support state, regional and countywide actions that support resilience by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and *natural* hazards on land, water, infrastructure, and health.

**Policy NE-13.2**

Address rising sea water by planning the siting of new hazardous industries and essential public services away from the 500-year floodplain. {500-year floodplain language directly from PSRC Vision 2050}

**Policy NE-13.3**

Assess *potential vulnerabilities* of the City's infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as flooding, storm surge, sea-level rise, and land hazards.

**Policy NE-13.4**

Enhance the City's urban tree canopy to support community resilience, mitigate urban heat and stormwater runoff. This can be accomplished through a program of tree planting in public areas, including street trees, public parks, public open

spaces, and public facilities. Consider programs that create incentives for residents and business to plant trees on their private property, in addition to any required applicable landscaping standards.

**Policy NE-13.5**

In *coordination* with regional fire districts and Washington Department of Natural Resources, encourage the implementation of Firewise concepts in forest and urban interface / intermix areas. {required per RCW 36.70A.070(1), as amended in 2023}

**Policy NE-13.6**

Provide educational material and resources for new and existing property owners to use in lowering their risk for wildland fires, *including* fire resistive construction techniques, construction and maintenance of defensible spaces, and fire-resistant landscapes, fuel reduction, and land use practices.

**Chapter 9: Economic Development**

**Policy ED-1.4**

*Ensure that economic development sustains and respects the region's environment and encourages development of established and emerging industries, technologies, and services that promote environmental sustainability, especially those addressing climate change and resilience.*

**Chapter 11: Health and Human Services**

**Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency**

Emergency preparedness and resiliency are essential pillars of any community's ability to withstand and recover from unforeseen crises and disasters. Being prepared for emergencies, whether natural or man-made, is not merely an option but a responsibility.

**Goal HH-4**

Develop an increased level of emergency preparedness among all segments of the population to help coordinate governmental response and recovery efforts that seek to minimize the adversity of a major emergency or disaster.

**Policy HH-4.1**

*Develop a plan to evaluate the City's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters and human-made disruptions in order to minimize disruptions to public services.*

**Policy HH-4.2**

*Develop a climate change risk assessment and impact analysis for city government facilities and operations.*

**Policy HH-4.3**

*Provide community education and outreach on wildfire smoke mitigation best management practices. Ensure outreach is accessible and prioritizes vulnerable communities, including those who work outside. {to address RCW 36.70A.070(1), as amended in 2023}*

**Policy HH-4.4**

*Work with community partners to establish hubs that can serve as clean air shelters for use by the public during wildfire smoke events.*