Snohomish County 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

June 4, 2024

County Council
Planning Committee Briefing
Climate Change and Resiliency Element

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Purpose of the Climate Change and Resiliency Element

Establish a framework that:

- Identifies and addresses climate impacts on public health, environment, economy, infrastructure.
- Uses an interdisciplinary approach furthers interdepartmental coordination.
- Integrates state and regional efforts and targets.
- Prioritizes overburdened / most vulnerable community members.

Draft Narrative for Climate Change and Resiliency Element

DRAFT - CLIMATE CHANGE ELEMENT - September 7, 2023

Climate Change and Resiliency Element

VISION STATEMENT

The Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan ("Plan") includes a Vision Statement that is presented in its entirety within the Introduction of the Plan. The Vision Statement is an aspirational goal that the Plan aims to help bring to fruition through the goals, objectives, and policies of each element. The Plan's Vision for Snohomish County in 2044 is:

We're all in this together: In 2044 Snohomish County is a resilient, vibrant, and inclusive place to live with a high-quality of life where all residents can thrive.

The Climate Change and Resiliency Element (CRE) is consistent with the Vision Statement, and focuses on the Resilience and Conservation guiding principle:

Resilience and Conservation: Communities are resilient to the changing climate. Special efforts continue to support our most vulnerable populations. The regional greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target is being met and the County has implemented transportation and building practices that conserve resources and promote healthy living. The County is well-prepared to respond to natural disasters and emergency events to keep communities safe.

The CRE supports the Vision Statement through policies focused on strengthening the county's climate resiliency by comprehensively addressing climate change (CRE Goal 1) with equity and inclusion, and prioritizing efforts to assist the most vulnerable (CRE Objective 1 A). This element also contains policies aimed at reducing localized greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to help meet the regional GHG emission reduction target and support state goals (CRE Goal 2). The CRE references and works in concert with other elements of the Plan for GHG emissions reductions and climate resiliency.



Three Things You Should Know

Optional Element: Based on Early Commerce Guidance and HB 1181

Interdisciplinary Approach: References other Elements and Programs

2029 – Updates for Hazard Mitigation Plan update, New GHG Emissions Inventory, Communitywide Climate Resiliency Plan



Based on Early Commerce Guidance & HB 1181

- An optional element for the County until 2029.
- Climate and Resiliency Element (CRE) Includes
 - GHG Emissions Reduction Subelement
 - Climate Resiliency Sub-Element

HB1181: Climate Law (2023)



Adds Climate & Resiliency Goal to Growth Management Act

Ensure that comprehensive plans:

- · adapt to and mitigate climate change;
- reduce GHG emissions and per capita VMT;
- · prepare for climate impact scenarios;
- foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards;
- protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and,
- · advance environmental justice.

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Climate planning law

Growth Management Act requires:

- Climate Resilience: mandatory for all jurisdictions fully planning under the GMA and encouraged for others
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction: mandatory for 11 counties and their cities over 6,000 population [see table]

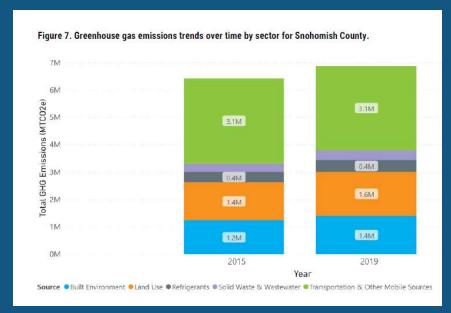
BOTH SUB-ELEMENTS R GHG Emissions & Resilie	
Benton	2026
Clark	2025
Franklin	2026
King	2029
Kitsap	2029
Pierce	2029
Skagit	2025
Snohomish	2029
Spokane	2026
Thurston	2025
Whatcom	2025
Note: Includes all cities wi	ithin these

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GHG Emissions Sub-element

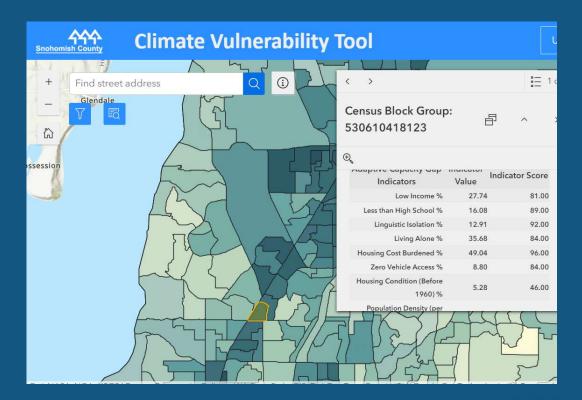
- Adopts the Puget Sound regional GHG emission reduction target.
- Supports the state's efforts to achieve net zero carbon by 2050.
- GHG emissions reductions for County operations: decarbonizing buildings, fleet electrification, conservation & recycling.
- GHG emissions reductions communitywide through land use and transportation planning: subarea plan, active transportation, Light Rail / TOD, zoning, VMT reductions, enhancing carbon sinks – tree canopy, land conservation/enhancement.





Resiliency Sub-element

- Policies to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Increase community climate resiliency (emergency management response/planning, increasing social capital).
- Maintaining a Climate Vulnerability Assessment, developing a communitywide resiliency plan.
- Establishing actions that prioritize assistance to overburdened/vulnerable community members.
- Informed by Climate Vulnerability Tool.





Interdisciplinary Approach to Climate Change

GHG Emissions Reduction in Other Elements & Programs

- Land Use
- Subarea Plan Element
- Transportation
- Natural Environment
- Parks and Recreation
- Capital Facilities and Utilities

Climate Resiliency in Other Elements & Programs

- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Capital Facilities and Utilities
- Natural Environment
- Subarea Plan Element
- Shoreline Management





Image credit: Washington State Department of Commerce

GMA Five-Year Check-in

- Final Commerce Climate Change Guidance
- Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy
- 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- Communitywide Resiliency Plan
- Updated GHG Emissions Inventory
- Updates to Best Available Science
- Potential Grant Work

Questions

https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/5597/2024-Update

