



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Planning & Community Development **Analyst:** Ryan Countryman
ECAF: 2022-0207
Proposal: Proposed Motion 22-096 **Date:** March 1, 2022

Consideration

Proposed Motion 22-096 refers new policies related to urban tree canopy to Planning and Development Services (PDS) and the Snohomish County Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation as part of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Background and Analysis

This motion would amend the Natural Environment chapter of the General Policy Plan to add a new section with narrative, a new goal, objectives, and policies related to urban tree canopy. These changes seek to provide a healthy urban forest including tree canopy cover. Policies and objectives to help achieve that goal include seeking recognition as an Evergreen Community under the Evergreen Communities Act, taking steps to better manage the urban forest resource, including promoting partnerships to help with forest management, and considering regulatory changes to improve outcomes and alignment with related goals and policies.

Snohomish County could accomplish some aspects of the proposed policies under current regulations and by making modest adjustments to county operational priorities. Other proposed policies call for a review of codes and administrative rules to identify changes intended to improve tree canopy outcomes. Receiving recognition as an Evergreen Community would require creation of a new urban forest management program. Specifics about such program would be determined and budgeted after adoption of the policies.

Details are in Exhibit A attached to the motion.

Current Proposal

Summary and Scope: Referral of proposed policy amendments to the General Policy Plan to PDS and the Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation during the 2024 Update process.

Deadline: None

Fiscal Implications: No direct impact from this motion. Assuming adoption of the policies in 2024, the forest management program would need inclusion in a post-2024 budget.

Request: Move to General Legislative Session for consideration.