

Vision, Principles & Goals

Thurston Regional Planning Council

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Vision Statement

The Thurston County region will do its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remain resilient in the face of climate change impacts during the 21st century and beyond.

Guiding Principles

The core values that will shape the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan’s development and outcomes are as follows:

- 1) Take into account multiple generations, connected built and natural systems, and the triple bottom line (social, economic and environmental sustainability);
- 2) Increase resiliency through achievable, flexible adaptation strategies that will help the region prepare for and cope with climate change impacts;
- 3) Be responsive to immediate and long-term climate impacts — both emergencies and opportunities;
- 4) Identify and leverage climate change adaptation strategies with mitigation co-benefits, such as reducing, capturing and storing greenhouse gas emissions;
- 5) Utilize sound scientific research, scenarios modeling, economic analysis and other credible tools to analyze regional and local climate change vulnerabilities, risks and solutions;
- 6) Incorporate and complement work produced by others, including the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region, Sustainable Thurston, Thurston Thrives, and Olympia sea-level rise analyses;
- 7) Recognize and strive to protect local indigenous tribes’ community health and well-being, including natural resources security and self-determination;
- 8) Seek broad community input, as well as educate residents about climate change and inspire them to take action.

Regional Goals

The Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan's risk assessment will evaluate how climate change stressors (e.g., degraded air quality, ocean acidification, sea-level rise) will affect the ability to achieve regional sustainability goals. At its second meeting, the Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup opted to use Sustainable Thurston's 12 priority goals for the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan. The goals are as follows:

Priority Goal 1: Create vibrant centers, corridors and neighborhoods while accommodating growth;

Priority Goal 2: Preserve environmentally sensitive lands, farmlands, forest lands, prairies, and rural lands, and develop compact urban areas;

Priority Goal 3: Create a robust economy through sustainable practices;

Priority Goal 4: Protect and improve water quality, including groundwater, rivers, streams, lakes and Puget Sound;

Priority Goal 5: Plan and act toward zero waste in the region;

Priority Goal 6: Ensure that residents have the resources to meet their daily needs;

Priority Goal 7: Support a local food system to increase community resilience, health and economic prosperity;

Priority Goal 8: Ensure that the region's water supply sustains people in perpetuity while protecting the environment;

Priority Goal 9: Move toward a carbon-neutral community;

Priority Goal 10: Maintain air quality standards;

Priority Goal 11: Provide opportunities for everyone in the Thurston Region to learn about and practice sustainability;

Priority Goal 12: Make strategic investments to advance sustainability regionally.