

# Vision, Principles & Goals

Thurston Regional Planning Council

## *Vision Statement*

In addition to doing its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Thurston County region will remain resilient in the face of climate change impacts during the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

## *Guiding Principles*

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

- 1)** Think in terms of multiple generations and connected built and natural systems, as well as view local and regional decisions through the lens of social, economic and environmental sustainability;
- 2)** Increase resiliency through achievable, flexible — and, where possible, measurable and replicable — adaptation strategies and actions 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 and actions with mitigation co-benefits, such as reducing, capturing and storing greenhouse gas emissions;
- 5)** Utilize sound scientific research, scenarios modeling, economic analysis and other 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)** Consider the impacts of climate change and adaptation recommendations on the region's economy, environment and society; this includes all urban and rural communities — especially vulnerable residents — and the ecosystem benefits provided by natural systems;
- 8)** Recognize and strive to protect local indigenous tribes' community health and well-being, including natural resources security and self-determination;
- 9)** Seek broad community input, as well as educate residents about climate change and inspire them to take action.

## ***Regional Goals***

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee selected the Sustainable Thurston project's 12 priority goals (*below*) as the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan's goals. TRPC policymakers adopted Sustainable Thurston in 2013 and subsequently integrated its elements into a variety of local policies and projects, including Thurston Thrives and the County-Wide Planning Policies. The 12 goals, which are regional in scope, are as follows:

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

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

**Goal 3:** Create a robust economy;

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Goal 10:** Maintain air quality standards;

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

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