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 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) 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.