

# Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan: Steering Committee Introductory Discussion on Plan Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles

## May 22, 2019 Steering Committee Meeting, Agenda Item #2.

The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Steering Committee will approve the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan vision, goals, and guiding principles.

- On May 22, the Steering Committee will be introduced to the Climate Adaptation Plan’s overarching policy language as building blocks to develop the Climate Mitigation Plan’s goals and guiding principles.
- In June, the Stakeholder Committee will start shaping a Climate Mitigation Plan-specific set of goals and guiding principles.
- Project staff will capture the Stakeholder Committee’s input and draft goals and guiding principles.
- Later this summer, staff will present the draft goals and guiding principles to the Steering Committee for review, refinement, and approval.

The Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan’s contents are included in this document. Staff comments are provided to highlight policy language that should be considered for revision.

<b>Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan Contents</b>	<b>Staff Comments for the Mitigation Plan</b>
<b>Vision Statement</b> “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.”	The Vision Statement addresses both mitigation and adaptation.  <i>How does the Steering Committee want to reaffirm the existing vision or revise it for the Mitigation Plan?</i>

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<p><b>Regional Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create vibrant centers, corridors and neighborhoods while accommodating growth;</li> <li>2. Preserve environmentally sensitive lands, farmlands, forest lands, prairies, and rural lands, and develop compact urban areas;</li> <li>3. Create a robust economy;</li> <li>4. Protect and improve water quality, including groundwater, rivers, streams, lakes and Puget Sound;</li> <li>5. Plan and act toward zero waste in the region;</li> <li>6. Ensure that residents have the resources to meet their daily needs;</li> <li>7. Support a local food system to increase community resilience, health and economic prosperity;</li> <li>8. Ensure that the region’s water supply sustains people in perpetuity while protecting the environment;</li> <li>9. Move toward a carbon-neutral community;</li> <li>10. Maintain air quality standards;</li> <li>11. Provide opportunities for everyone in the Thurston Region to learn about and practice sustainability;</li> <li>12. Make strategic investments to advance sustainability regionally.</li> </ol>	<p>The Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee drew extensively from Thurston Regional Planning Council’s 2013 “Creating Places – Preserving Spaces: A Sustainable Development Plan for the Thurston Region.” The goals are nearly identical to what is adopted in the Sustainable Thurston Plan.</p> <p>The goals protect, preserve, promote, and support economic, social, and natural resources that are essential to the quality of life in Thurston County communities.</p> <p><i>Are these goals appropriate for Mitigation Plan?</i></p> <p>Adaptation includes activities and strategies for coping with adverse impacts and changes to our environment. Mitigation includes activities to reduce or eliminate the source of GHG emissions that contribute to climate change.</p> <p><i>The Climate Adaptation Plan cited Sustainable Thurston’s GHG reduction targets which differ from the partners’ current adopted targets. Consider how the current GHG reduction targets should be reflected in the goals: 45% below 2015 levels by 2030 and 85% reduction by 2050.</i></p>
<p><b>Guiding Principles</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> </ol>	<p>This principle is applicable to mitigation activities.</p>

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<p>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;</p>	<p>Should be revised to address adaptive mitigation strategies</p>
<p>3. Be responsive to immediate and long-term climate impacts — both emergencies and opportunities;</p>	
<p>4. Identify and leverage climate change adaptation strategies and actions with mitigation co-benefits, such as reducing, capturing, and storing greenhouse gas emissions;</p>	<p>Could be revised to focus on climate mitigation strategies that offer “community co-benefits.”</p>
<p>5. Utilize sound scientific research, scenarios modeling, economic analysis, and other tools to analyze regional and local climate change vulnerabilities, risks, and solutions;</p>	<p>This guiding principle focuses on science and methodologies in support of hazard avoidance. Could be revised to focus on qualitative and quantitative analysis of mitigation activities to reduce GHG emissions.</p>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Focuses on other plans that address adaptation and hazard avoidance. Could focus on broader regional, state, and federal climate mitigation efforts.</p>
<p>7. Consider the impacts of climate change 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;</p>	<p>Adaptation and resilience strategies will remain critical and there should be consideration given to such efforts in the context of the Climate Mitigation Plan.</p>
<p>8. Recognize and strive to protect local indigenous tribes’ community health and well-being, including natural resources security and self-determination;</p>	<p>This is an impactful principle that retains relevance in mitigation planning efforts.</p>
<p>9. Seek broad community input, as well as educate residents about climate change and inspire them to take action.</p>	<p>This principle applies equally to adaptation and mitigation.</p>