

# Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles

Draft for July 18 Climate Advisory Workgroup Discussion

July 11, 2019

## Background

One of the key tasks of the Climate Advisory Workgroup is to develop and recommend a vision statement, goals, and guiding principles for the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (TCMP). The Steering Committee will approve the final version to be included in the Plan.

- At their May 22 meeting, the Steering Committee reviewed the 2018 Climate Adaptation Plan’s overarching policy language as a foundation to develop the Mitigation Plan’s vision and guiding principles.
- Based on their initial feedback, TRPC staff developed the draft goals and principles below for discussion by the Climate Advisory Workgroup.
- The Workgroup first reviewed the draft Vision, Goals, and Principles at their June 11 meeting, and will follow up with a discussion and recommendation at their meeting on July 18.
- Later this summer, staff will present the draft goals and guiding principles to the Steering Committee for review and approval.

## Vision Statement

The Vision Statement developed for the Climate Adaptation Plan focused on adaptation and resilience.

“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.”

Steering Committee members requested that the vision statement for the TCMP place the need for mitigation up front and use stronger language that communicates a sense of urgency driving the need for action.

### **DRAFT Vision Statement for Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan**

“Thurston County, Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater recognize the urgent threat that climate change poses to our community’s public health, public safety, environment, and economy. We will work together to identify and implement the most effective, efficient, and equitable actions to reduce locally generated greenhouse gas emissions to protect future generations from the most significant impacts of climate change.”

## Goals

The Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan’s goals drew extensively from TRPC’s 2013 *Creating Places – Preserving Spaces: A Sustainable Development Plan for the Thurston Region (Sustainable Thurston)*. There was general agreement among the Steering Committee members to maintain these goals and the nexus with *Sustainable Thurston* for the Mitigation Plan. While the regional goals emphasize the co-benefits of mitigation actions, there was a suggestion to highlight the mitigation target as a standalone goal for this process.

### Adopted Regional Goals

1. Create vibrant centers, corridors and neighborhoods while accommodating growth;
2. Preserve environmentally sensitive lands, farmlands, forest lands, prairies, and rural lands, and develop compact urban areas;
3. Create a robust economy;
4. Protect and improve water quality, including groundwater, rivers, streams, lakes and Puget Sound;
5. Plan and act toward zero waste in the region;
6. Ensure that residents have the resources to meet their daily needs;
7. Support a local food system to increase community resilience, health and economic prosperity;
8. Ensure that the region’s water supply sustains people in perpetuity while protecting the environment;
9. Move toward a carbon-neutral community;
10. Maintain air quality standards;
11. Provide opportunities for everyone in the Thurston Region to learn about and practice sustainability;
12. Make strategic investments to advance sustainability regionally.

### DRAFT Climate Mitigation Target Goal

Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions 45% below 2015 levels by 2050 and 85% below 2015 levels by 2050 to ensure that local communities do their part to keep the global average temperature from rising more than 2° Celsius above historic levels.

## Guiding Principles

The planning process for the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan was governed by nine guiding principles, many of which may be applicable to the Mitigation Plan. TRPC staff modified these based on input from the Steering Committee and the Advisory Workgroup’s June 11 stakeholder discussion. Although the Guiding Principles are numbered, they are not in ranked order – each is considered equally important for the planning process.

Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan DRAFT Guiding Principles	Considerations
1. <b>Systems approach.</b> 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;	This principle is unmodified from the Adaptation Plan.

<p>2. <b>Action-oriented.</b> Develop actions and strategies that are meaningful and realistic: go beyond general guidance to identify the specific steps needed to make effective changes that reduce greenhouse gas emissions;</p>	<p>Revised to address input from Workgroup – keywords include realistic, strong, clear, meaningful, tangible, effective</p>
<p>3. <b>Adaptive.</b> Consider both the short- and long-term impacts of climate change, and review and revise targets and approaches as needed to address emerging information about the timing and severity of climate impacts or the effectiveness of policies;</p>	<p>Revised to consider both need for longer time frame and adaptive approach to targets and opportunities. This principle addresses a desire of the Steering Committee for a process to review the targets, as well as Workgroup interest in effective actions.</p>
<p>4. <b>Co-benefits.</b> Identify and leverage climate change mitigation strategies and actions that offer other benefits to the community, such as increasing resilience or access to resources, reducing energy costs, improving health outcomes, or addressing equity;</p>	<p>Revised to focus on climate mitigation strategies that offer “community co-benefits.”</p>
<p>5. <b>Science-based.</b> Utilize sound scientific research, scenarios modeling, economic analysis, and other tools to analyze the outcomes of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;</p>	<p>Revised to focus on qualitative and quantitative analysis of mitigation activities to reduce GHG emissions.</p>
<p>6. <b>Learn from others.</b> Incorporate and complement work produced by others, including successful examples from existing local and regional climate action plans;</p>	<p>Revised to address Workgroup comments about learning from and building on other local climate mitigation planning efforts.</p>
<p>7. <b>Equity.</b> Consider how the costs and benefits of mitigation actions will be shared across all urban and rural communities — especially for low-income households, communities of color, and other vulnerable populations;</p>	<p>Revised to change “adaptation” to mitigation and increase focus on equity issues in our analysis.</p>
<p>8. <b>Tribal sovereignty.</b> Recognize and strive to protect local indigenous tribes’ community health and well-being, including natural resources security and self-determination;</p>	<p>This principle is unmodified from the Adaptation Plan.</p>
<p>9. <b>Public engagement.</b> Seek broad community input, as well as educate residents about climate change and inspire them to take action.</p>	<p>This principle is unmodified from the Adaptation Plan.</p>