

Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles

Approved by Steering Committee, August 29, 2019

Vision

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

Goals

Regional Goals

These 12 goals are from TRPC’s 2013 *Creating Places – Preserving Spaces: A Sustainable Development Plan for the Thurston Region (Sustainable Thurston)*.

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.

Climate Mitigation Target Goal

Reduce net communitywide greenhouse gas emissions 45% below 2015 levels by 2030 and 85% below 2015 levels by 2050 to ensure that our community does its part to keep the global average temperature from rising more than 2° Celsius (3.6° F) above historic levels.

Guiding Principles

1. **Holistic.** 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. **Action-oriented.** Develop actions and strategies that are meaningful and realistic: go beyond general guidance to identify the specific steps needed to make changes that are effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions below the emission targets;
3. **Adaptive.** Consider both the short- and long-term impacts of climate change, regularly report on progress, 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;
4. **Co-benefits.** 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 or other costs, improving health outcomes, or addressing equity;
5. **Science-based.** Utilize sound scientific research, modeling, economic analysis, and other tools to understand the outcomes of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
6. **Track record.** Incorporate and complement work produced by others, including successful examples from existing local and regional climate action plans;
7. **Equity.** Consider how the costs and benefits of mitigation actions will be shared across all communities: including both urban and rural areas, low-income households, communities of color, and other populations that historically have been impacted by environmental hazards or are otherwise vulnerable to climate impacts;
8. **Tribal sovereignty.** Recognize and support protection of local indigenous tribes' community health and well-being, including natural resources security and self-determination;
9. **Public engagement.** Seek broad community input, educate residents about climate change, and inspire them to take action.
10. **Readiness.** Consider and prioritize strategies that can be launched and realized quickly using existing resources and/or networks.