Update of the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan

SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY (SLS) PARTNERS MEETING - THURSDAY, APRIL 9

David Killingstad, Principal Planner
Planning and Development Services
**Existing Policy Framework**

**Regional Planning**

Regional planning document for Snohomish, King, Pierce and Kitsap Counties

**Countywide Planning**

Provides a framework for local comprehensive plans within Snohomish County

**Local Planning**

Consists of goals, objectives and policies that serve as a guide to the county’s growth and development from the present through 2035
Putting the Framework into Action

- The next four slides provide examples of how the policy framework work and the pieces link together.

- Each successive policy document must be consistent with its predecessor.
MPP-En-20: Restore – where appropriate and possible – the region’s freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries to a natural condition for ecological function and value.

CPP Env-5: In recognition of the broad range of benefits from ecological systems, the County and cities should establish policies and strategies to restore – where appropriate and possible – the region’s freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries to a natural condition for ecological function and value.

GPP Goal NE 2: Provide for the protection and encourage restoration of ecological functions and values across the landscape by coordinating planning efforts among jurisdictions and citizens.
MPP-En-16: Preserve and enhance habitat to support healthy wildlife and accelerate the recovery of salmon, orca, and other threatened and endangered species.

CPP Env-3: The County and cities should identify and protect, enhance, or restore wildlife corridors and important habitat areas that support designated species of local or state significance and that are critical for survival of endangered or threatened species.

GPP NE 3.B.5: The county shall protect state and federal officially designated threatened and endangered species and their habitat conservation areas, as prescribed by state and federal law.
MPP-DP-38: Support long-term solutions for the environmental and economic sustainability of agriculture and forestry within rural areas.

CPP DP-29: The County shall develop strategies and programs to support agricultural and forest activities. a. Strategies should reduce conversion pressures on all resource lands and on rural lands with resource-based activities and may include redesignation of rural land to resource land. b. Programs may include transfer of development rights, purchase of development rights, and other conservation incentives that encourage the focus of growth in the Urban Growth Areas.

GPP GOAL LU 7: Conserve agriculture and agricultural land through a variety of planning techniques, regulations, incentive and acquisition methods.
MPP-DP-19: Support agricultural, farmland, and aquatic uses that enhance the food system in the central Puget Sound region and its capacity to produce fresh and minimally processed foods.

CPP DP-36: The County and cities should adopt policies that create opportunities for: a. Supporting urban food production practices, distribution, and marketing such as community gardens and farmers markets; and b. Increasing the local agricultural economy's capacity to produce, market, and distribute fresh and minimally processed foods.

GPP LU 7.C.10: The county shall support and participate in programs that promote and market locally grown and processed products.
In 2019 Planning and Development Services prepared four background papers.

Each paper focused on:
- Existing policy structure
- Emerging issues
- Key stakeholders

Each paper presented to the County Council and Planning Commission.
The Natural Environment
2023 Comprehensive Plan Background Paper
County’s Natural Environment policies and programs are protecting critical area functions and values.

County should remain committed to monitoring effectiveness of regulatory and non-regulatory programs.

Consider expanding focus on climate change and reliance on natural ecosystem services.

Closer look at the role of Salmon Recovery, Open Space Conservation and Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Continue to engage stakeholders about balancing protection of the natural environment with expected growth in Snohomish County.
Rural and Resource Lands
2023 Comprehensive Plan Background Paper
Agricultural Future Land Use Designations
Background Paper Summary

- County’s Agricultural policies and programs are protecting farmland.
- Continue to preserve and expand the County's Agricultural Economy.
- Look for strategies to reduce Rural/Urban Interface Conflicts.
- Reinforce historic rural/resource economic and cultural connections with adjacent cities & towns.
- Expand farm support activities including agri-tourism.
Policy Updates on Horizon

- Countywide Planning Policy Update
- 2024 GMA Comprehensive Plan Update
CPP Update Process

- Amendments to remain consistent with Vision 2050
- Amendments reflecting city, town and county priorities
- Adoption Deadline: Dec. 31, 2021
Under RCW 36.70A.130, Snohomish County and its cities/towns are required to:

- Plan for the succeeding 20 year population and employment growth forecast; and
- Review and revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of the GMA.

Under the GMA, Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties must complete their comprehensive plan update every 8 years.

June 30, 2024 deadline
2017-2043 Population Forecasts

Source: Office of Financial Management
2024 Update Project Components

Buildable Lands Report
Countywide Planning Policy Update
2043 Growth Targets
Comprehensive Plan Policy Review
Compliance Review
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review
Transportation Element Update
Park and Recreation Element Update
Capital Facilities Plan Update
The project will be as proactive as resources will allow in reaching the widest audience of stakeholders.

Digital delivery platforms and social media will be leveraged along with traditional methods of outreach.

Our partner cities and towns will be heavily involved through Snohomish County Tomorrow.

There will be extensive coordination with public service and utility providers.
Questions?
Contact Information

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