



SKAGIT COUNTY 2025
Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Engagement Summary

LAST UPDATED September 16, 2024

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 comprehensive plan process when new engagement activities are completed. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

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Appendices

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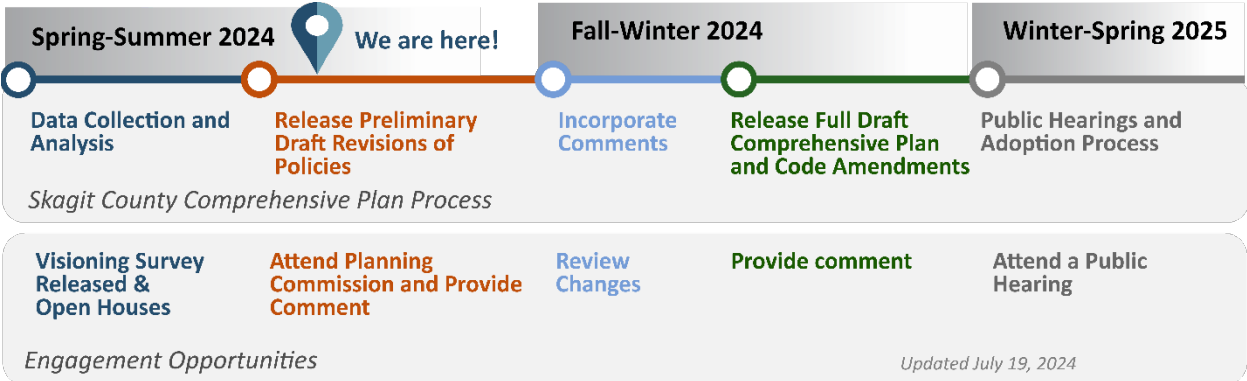
Furthering the Public Participation Program

This engagement document is intended to be a living document and will be updated throughout the 2025 Skagit County Comprehensive Plan update. In April 2024, Skagit County completed the public participation program for the Comprehensive Plan which outlines goals, strategies, and timelines of the project’s engagement. To review the public participation plan, visit the project website at skagitcounty.net/2025CPA.

The public participation plan goals are:

- Commit to early and continuous engagement
- Broadly disseminate proposals and information in accessible formats
- Provide equitable opportunities for public participation in all areas of Skagit County
- Provide timely information at key milestones
- Use concise, plain, and easy to understand language
- Consult with local tribes
- Consult with neighboring jurisdictions, and federal and state agencies.
- Provide multilingual engagement opportunities and materials
- Update the project website with current information
- Utilize a variety of outreach mediums including local media, print, web, social media, emails, community meetings, and open houses

Comprehensive Plan Process and Engagement Opportunities



The table above shows where community engagement opportunities run concurrent with project.

Engagement Commitments

Commit to inform –Skagit County will keep the community well informed from start to finish.

Commit to involve – Skagit County will consult with specific stakeholders and make sure that their needs and concerns are reflected in the plan.

Commit to collaborate – Skagit County will gather advice and innovative ideas from the community and incorporate them into the plan’s decisions to the maximum extent possible.

Commit to circle back – Skagit County will share how feedback was used to demonstrate the importance of community engagement process.

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Commit to summarize our activities – Skagit County will acknowledge people’s time and participation after each activity (surveys, interviews, community meetings, etc.). Skagit County and the consultant team will summarize feedback by creating a community engagement summary that will be available on the project website.

Commit to provide adequate public notice – We will inform the public of opportunities to participate in a timely manner, at least a week in advance of a meeting or activity where feedback is sought.

First Survey

Summary

In April to May 2024, Skagit County conducted an online public survey to gather feedback from the community. The goal was to identify the general community perception of the Skagit County’s strengths and weaknesses, and determine key areas needing focus for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan periodic update cycle. This initiative was one of many strategies aimed to involve the community in shaping Skagit County’s future direction by prioritizing areas of improvement efforts. The survey findings provide valuable insights for staff and policymakers. These results will be used to guide focus areas for policy or influence future engagement questions.

The survey was widely advertised across Skagit County’s diverse networks, both online and in-person, to encourage maximum community participation. This included use of Skagit County’s social media and utilizing the department’s listserv. Long-range planners from Skagit County actively promoted the survey during public meetings and engaged with residents at various community events, including the Concrete Community Resources Fair on April 8, 2024 and Healthy Kids Day at Skagit YMCA on April 13, 2024. See Tabling section for information about these events. Additionally, the survey was distributed via email to individuals subscribed to Skagit County newsletter, as well as various stakeholder groups and advisory boards. The survey was open for five weeks from April 9, 2024 and closed on May 14, 2024 with 717 participants.

Goals

Skagit County identified the following goals for the survey.

1. Identify broad priorities from Skagit County residents
2. Identify Skagit County’s greatest strengths
3. Identify Skagit County’s greatest weaknesses
4. Identify key topics for the Comprehensive Plan to focus on
5. Use the survey to advertise the start of the year-long project
6. Collect emails from interested residents to build a network for future input

Based on these goals, the survey was written to be short, quick, and easy to complete to collect the most responses from residents and invite participants to stay involved via email. As required by state law, community engagement for the Comprehensive Plan is meant to be continuous and the engagement opportunities were structured with the intent that all participants will have more opportunities to provide more detailed feedback.

Survey Questions

Based on the approach and goals for the first community survey the following questions were used:

1. What values best describe Skagit County? Please rank your priorities. (1–highest; 8–lowest)
 - a. Family oriented
 - b. Stewardship of natural resources
 - c. Health and safety
 - d. Prosperity and opportunity
 - e. Diversity and community inclusion
 - f. Community cohesiveness
 - g. Financial sustainability
 - h. Equity
2. What are Skagit County's greatest strengths? Pick two.
 - a. Housing supply and affordability
 - b. Local industry and employment
 - c. Environment (stewardship and water resources)
 - d. Environment (natural resource extraction)
 - e. Rural character
 - f. Public facilities and services (roads, parks, and community buildings)
 - g. Transportation options (bike, bus, car, and walking)
 - h. Community resilience and natural hazard mitigation
 - i. Healthy food access
 - j. Other (please specify)
3. What are Skagit County's greatest weaknesses? Pick two.
 - a. Housing supply and affordability
 - b. Local industry and employment
 - c. Environment (stewardship and water resources)
 - d. Environment (natural resource extraction)
 - e. Rural character
 - f. Public facilities and services (roads, parks, and community buildings)
 - g. Transportation options (bike, bus, car, and walking)
 - h. Community resilience and natural hazard mitigation
 - i. Healthy food access
 - j. Other (please specify)
4. Skagit County is aiming to establish a vision to guide the Comprehensive Plan and for the County of the next 20 years. We want to know what is most important to you. What priorities do you feel are most important to focus on over the next 20 years? Please rank your priorities (1-highest; 6-lowest).
 - a. Preserving agricultural land
 - b. Community resilience and hazard mitigation
 - c. Transportation improvements
 - d. Improving housing supply and affordability
 - e. Economic growth and jobs
 - f. Environmental preservation

Questions 5-7 were demographic questions, analyzed on page 9.

Results

The highest-ranking values were family oriented, stewardship of natural resources, and health and safety. The highest-ranking strengths were rural character, environment (stewardship and water resources), and healthy food access. The highest-ranking weaknesses were housing supply and affordability, transportation options, and local industry and employment. The full list of rankings for all options provided can be found in Appendix A.

Highest-ranking Values	Family Oriented, Stewardship of Natural Resources, Health and Safety
Highest-ranking Strengths	Rural Character, Environment (Stewardship and Water Resources), Healthy Food Access
Highest-ranking Weaknesses	Housing Supply and Affordability, Transportation Options, Local Industry and Employment

For the questions identifying strengths and weaknesses, a write-in option was provided. Write-in responses and complete survey questions can be found in the survey results included in Appendix A.

Respondents prioritized preserving agricultural land as the number one priority for Skagit County. This was also true when comparing the responses by the region and by age. The second-highest ranked priority from respondents was improving housing supply and affordability although when comparing the responses by region, region A's second highest-ranked priority was environmental preservation and region C's second highest-ranked priority was community resilience and hazard mitigation. Regardless of age, improving housing supply and affordability was ranked as the second highest priority.

Question 4 Summarized: What priorities should Skagit County focus on over the next 20 years?	
#1	Preserving agricultural land
#2	Improving housing supply and affordability
#3	Environmental preservation
#4	Economic growth and jobs
#5	Community resilience and hazard mitigation
#6	Transportation improvements

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Respondents were asked to identify the region that they lived and worked in based on the map provided below.

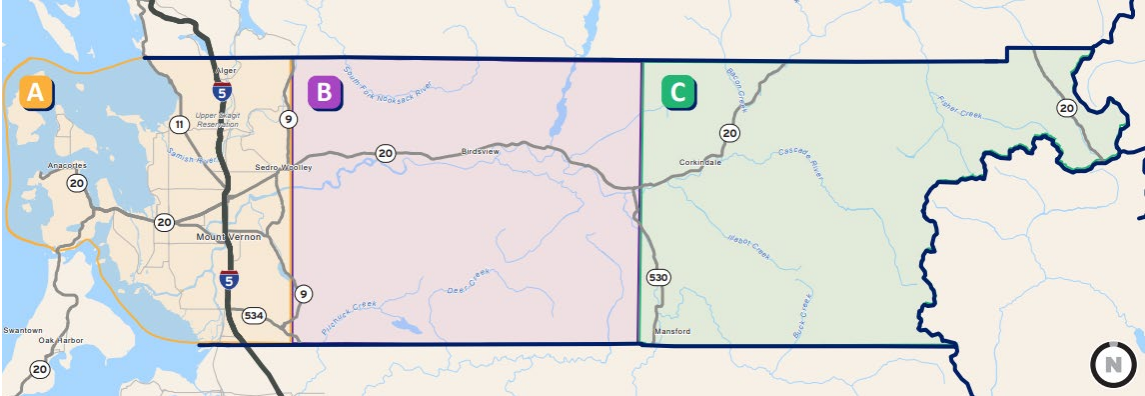


Figure 1 Map of Skagit County used to help determine where survey participants live.

Results were further analyzed by the region respondents lived and worked to identify local differences in survey responses. It was generally found that regardless of where respondents lived, priorities were similar.

- All three regions listed “preserving agricultural land” as the top priority.
- All three regions listed “economic growth and jobs” as the fourth priority.
- Region A listed “environmental preservation” the highest out of the three regions.
- Region B listed “improving housing supply and affordability” the highest out of the three regions.
- Region C listed “community resilience and hazard mitigation” the highest out of the three regions.

Question 4 Summarized by Region		
Region A Responses Ranked	Region B Responses Ranked	Region C Responses Ranked
1 Preserving agricultural land	1 Preserving agricultural land	1 Preserving agricultural land
2 Environmental preservation	2 Improving housing supply and affordability	2 Community resilience and hazard mitigation
3 Improving housing supply and affordability	3 Environmental preservation	3 Improving housing supply and affordability
4 Economic growth and jobs	4 Economic growth and jobs	4 Economic growth and jobs
5 Transportation improvements	5 Transportation improvements	5 Environmental preservation
6 Community resilience and hazard mitigation	6 Community resilience and hazard mitigation	6 Transportation improvements

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General Findings by Age

Priorities of respondents ages 18-44:

1. Preserving agricultural land
2. Improving housing and affordability
3. Environmental preservation
4. Economic growth and jobs
5. Community resilience and hazard mitigation
6. Transportation improvements

Priorities of respondents ages 45-76 or older:

1. Preserving agricultural land
2. Improving housing and affordability
3. Environmental preservation
4. Community resilience and hazard mitigation
5. Economic growth and jobs
6. Transportation improvements



717

Responded to the community survey.

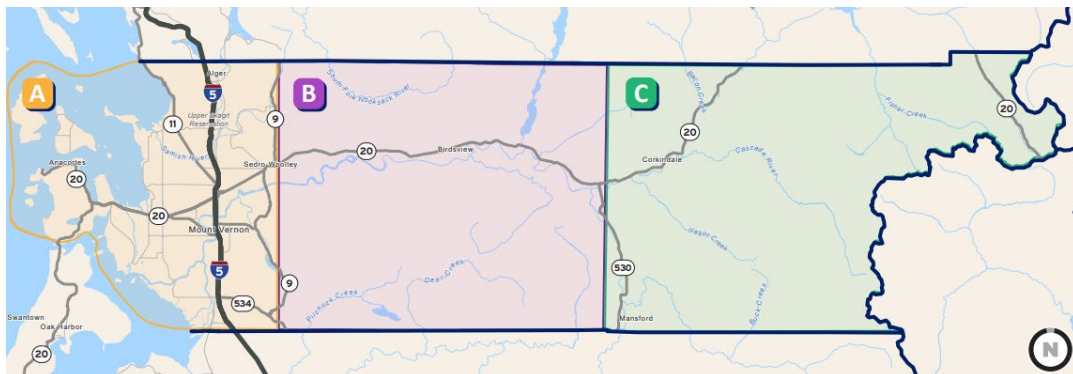


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Signed up to receive project updates on the project.

Survey Participants

93.58%	Live in Skagit County
76.15%	Own property in Skagit County
54.39%	Work in Skagit County
22.42%	Own or operate a business in Skagit County
1.95%	Go to school in Skagit County
1.26%	Visitor of Skagit County



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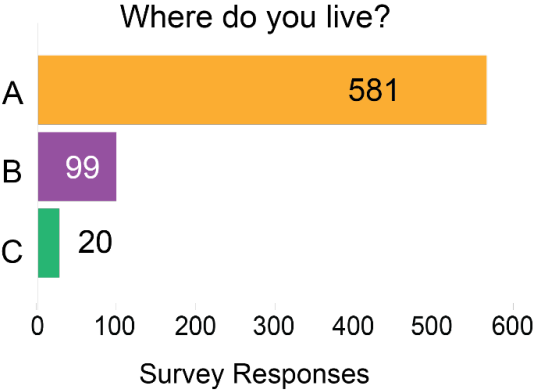


Figure 2 "Where do you live?" Demographic Question from Survey

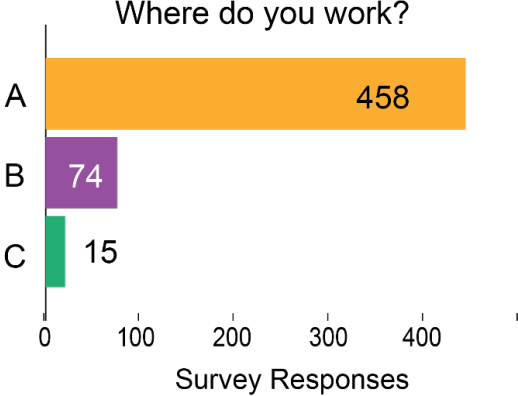
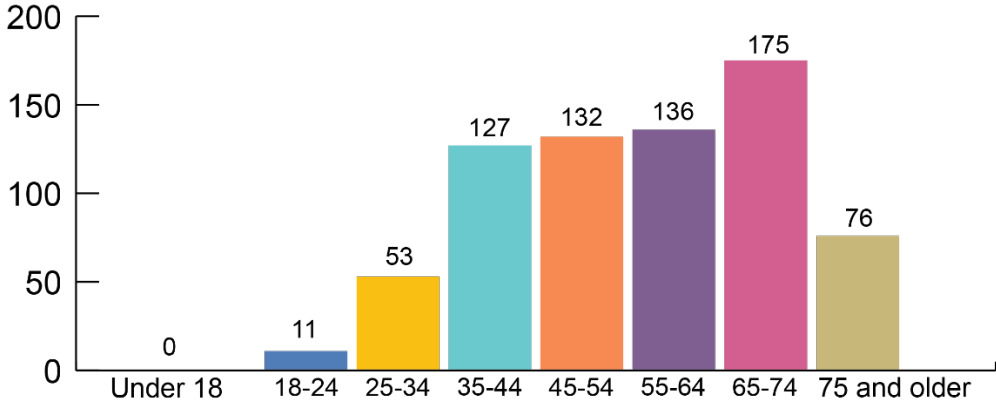


Figure 3 "Where do you work?" Demographic Question from Survey

A total of 581 participants live in Region A, around Mount Vernon, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, and Anacortes. A total of 99 participants live in Region B, around Hamilton and Concrete. A total of 20 participants live east of Rockport. A total of 458 participants work in Region A around Mount Vernon, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, and Anacortes. A total of 74 participants work in Region B, around Hamilton and Concrete. A total of 15 participants work east of Rockport.

How old are you?



The highest age groups that participated in the survey were between 65 to 74. The three highest age groups that participated in the survey were 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and the lowest participating age groups were 18 to 24, 25 to 34, and 75 and older. No participants in the survey were under 18.

Key Takeaways for the Comprehensive Plan

The results of this survey was one of the early outreach community engagement efforts utilized to identify groups selected for stakeholder interviews, discussed in the next section of this document. Because the top four priorities were preserving agricultural land, improving housing supply and affordability, environmental preservation, and economic growth and jobs stakeholder groups from these four areas were invited to discuss issues around these topics.

Tabling Events

Summary

Between April to June 2024, Planning and Development Services (PDS) staff attended four community events to advertise the start of the project and notify residents of the opportunity to participate in the first community survey and information on how they can follow the project and provide input.

Goals

The goal of the tabling events was to meet residents where they are, foster open conversations, and provide the opportunity to educate those that haven't yet participated in the planning process.

Results

At these events, staff had open conversations with community members and collected valuable comments to consider before starting the plan drafting process. The comments are paraphrased from what was heard from the community. Direct quotes are in quotation marks.

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TABLING EVENTS SNAPSHOT

East Skagit County – Community Resource Fair

Location: Concrete Senior Center,
45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, WA 98327

Audience: East Skagit County residents

Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Healthy Kids Day – Community Resource Fair

Location: Skagit Valley YMCA,
1901 Hoad Rd., Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Audience: Families and young children

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2024

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Berry Dairy Days

Location: 520 E. Fairhaven Ave.,
Burlington, WA 98233

Audience: Festival attendees

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Community Connect

Location: 17400 Cook Rd.,
Burlington, WA 98233

Audience: Farm workers

Date: Saturday, June 29, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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Caption 2. PDS staff attending the East Skagit County Community Resource Fair

Comments from East Skagit County - Community Resource Fair

Comments within quotations are direct quotes, all other comments are paraphrased.

Increased the transparency of available data with technological solutions. For example, King County provides a map of the as-builts for sewer/ water. This can help assist with development and avoid delays in construction by knowing where things are. - Community Member

“Desperate need for transitional housing.” - Volunteers of America staff

Improved transportation access. - Community member

“More homes.” - Community member

It can be difficult writing codes and regulations if you do not have the capacity or political buy-in to do so. Example provided was code enforcement of abandoned vehicles in rural areas around the Town of Concrete. The goals and objectives provided in plans and regulations need to be obtainable and realistic. Avoid lofty goals that will never be accomplished. - Concrete Planning Commissioner

There needs to be work within Skagit County to keep and elevate higher education within the region and provide more opportunities for locals to pursue their education without having to move or commute to educational institutions. Skagit Valley College is working to partner with organizations to assist students with internships and job opportunities within the County. - Skagit Valley College Outreach Staff

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Caption 2. PDS staff and Kimley-Horn staff at the Healthy Kids Community Resources Fair

Comments from Healthy Kids Day – Community Resource Fair

Comments within quotations are direct quotes, all other comments are paraphrased.

Transportation and ADA accessibility are lacking for public and commercial facilities. It is difficult for caregivers to transport their clients that are in wheelchairs and walking aids. - Community member and home health aide.

“We need to support our ag community.”

“Affordable housing”

“It’s grown up too fast”

There needs to be multifamily housing with on-site childcare. Transportation is a major challenge for families, especially those with children who have health issues and have to shuttle children between medical appointments and childcare facilities. It would be easier for families to consolidate these uses to reduce vehicle trips. - Community member and parent

More educational childcare facilities that provide services over the summer break. It is challenging for families with working parents to find quality childcare. Currently there are not enough opportunities throughout the County creating tight competition for registration. - Community member and parent

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Caption 3. PDS staff at Berry Dairy Days

Comments from Berry Dairy Days

Comments within quotations are direct quotes, all other comments are paraphrased.

Development needs to stay in the cities and the county needs to remain rural.

“Housing is too expensive and hard to get. It’s hard for families with one income.”

Better transportation is needed. There is now traffic on I-5 where there never used to be. Solutions are needed to encourage other forms of transportation besides relying on personal vehicles.

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Caption 4. PDS staff at Community Connects Farmworker Event

Comments from Community Connect Farmworker Event

Comments are paraphrased.

Childcare services are limited.

Bus routes to farms / agricultural bus routes

Rental contract lengths are too long. Temporary rental contracts should be 3 to 6 months, but most landlords require contracts that are greater than 6 months.

There is a need for assistance with farmworker minimum wage and childcare.

Need more services near homes, including bus routes.

Services are too expensive in the city. Childcare is too expensive, and most people cannot afford it. The minimum wage cannot support the cost of living.

Organizations to reach out to: Helping Hands, Welcome Home Skagit, Alternative Housing Alliance.

Lack of rental housing in the cities.

Families have been looking for suitable rental properties.

Services near transportation, it is difficult to travel by walking.

Streamlining permit timelines and processes.

Rent is too high with upfront costs. Provide more services near homes.

Seasonal worker housing availability. Too many restrictions on rental contracts.

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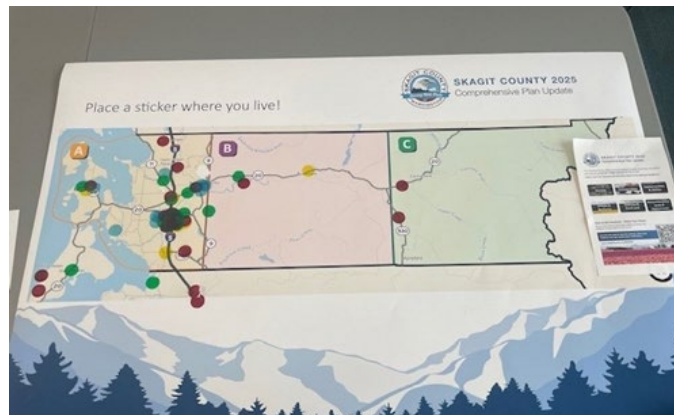
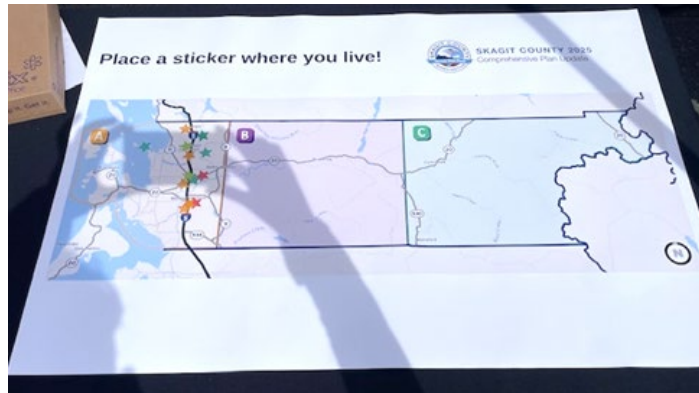
Participants Summary

Demographic data is not collected at tabling events to encourage participation from everyone. However, PDS staff did collect the general location of where residents lived in Skagit County as a tabling activity. Participants were asked to place a sticker where they live. The color of the stickers did not correlate to any data collected.

Generally, participants at the Healthy Kids Fair lived in Mount Vernon – Burlington area. A few participants lived in Anacortes, La Conner, Sedro-Woolley, and East Skagit County.

Participants at Berry Dairy Days were from various areas along I-5.

Caption 5. Map activity results at Berry Dairy Days



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Caption 6. Map activity results at Healthy Kids Community Resources Fair

First Stakeholder Interviews

Summary

Based on the first survey results which identified the top four priorities for Skagit County to focus on for the next 20 years, stakeholder groups focusing on agricultural, environmental, housing, and economic conditions in the community were invited to participate in early discussions before policy development.

The stakeholder interviews were completed in a series of online and in-person interviews between June 1st, 2024, and July 10th, 2024. Overall, 8 stakeholder interviews were held and over 36 people attended the meetings.

The project team reached out to a wide range of stakeholders and attended several monthly meetings held by different groups to advertise the Comprehensive Plan and gauge interest in participating in interviews. From these discussions, the interviews were schedule with the following organizations:

Housing Focus

- Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association
- Helping Hands Food Bank
- Skagit Habitat for Humanity

Agricultural Focus

- Agricultural Advisory Board
- Skagit County Farmers
- Skagit County Drainage and Irrigation District Consortium

Environmental Focus

- Marine Resource Committee
- Forestry Advisory Committee

Economic Focus

- Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County

Important note: more stakeholder interviews are proposed to be completed in September 2024 to specifically address new state requirements for climate change, resiliency, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Although the stakeholder interviews had four key focus areas based on the top priorities from the survey, the stakeholder interview questions were created to collect comments on several topics. All interviewees were provided the same questions ahead of the meeting. During the interview, the facilitator introduced the questions but allowed the interviewees to steer the conversation towards their primary concerns, ensuring the collection of the most valuable feedback This also helps the project team understand the areas of greatest importance to each group.

Comments said during the meeting were written down verbatim and assigned to an element in the Comprehensive Plan. See the sticky note boards in Appendix D.

Goals

Skagit County identified the following goals for the first round of stakeholder interviews:

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1. Collect detailed information about existing conditions in these topics (agriculture, housing, economic development, environmental).
2. Collect current progress made to improve conditions in these topics
3. Collect feedback on future policies or actions that could improve these topics

Stakeholder Interview Results

Agricultural Focus

Finding balance between preserving agricultural land and promoting economic opportunity.

Farmers that participated in the stakeholder interviews had different views on the future of agricultural land based on the scale of the farming business. Farmers that operated large, historical farms generally prioritized preservation, keeping the existing policies as they are. Farmers that had relocated or established their business within the last 10 years expressed the desire to explore new options for economic diversity to keep up with costs.

- Interviewees expressed the desire to maintain agricultural land, property rights, and a strong agricultural industry for farmers in the area.
- Concerns about agricultural land turning into developable land to accommodate for growth as a result of pressures from outside development companies buying ag land and changing the farmland forever. There is no way a local farmer can keep up with outside investments.
- Another reoccurring concern shared was using agritourism. It creates the opportunity educate people about local farming and can help diversify farming income. The other point shared is that it can negatively impact resource lands by taking land out of production.
- Policies are needed to retain operators in the county and support first generation farmers.

Provide housing, services, and transportation for agricultural workers.

- Concern about housing for agricultural workers, cost of living, and paying fair wages. The ability to pay workers a living wage cannot keep off with the cost of living, particularly rent, in the County.
- Providing incentives for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that could provide affordable rental spaces.
- Alternative solutions needed, for example, have Community oriented housing, centralized shared green space
- Remote jobs are impacting and increasing growth, placing added development pressure on resource lands in need of larger regional transportation networks in and out of the County.
- Ensuring future growth aligns with transit plans locally and regionally.
- Using roundabouts as a traffic management tool.
- Ensuring sufficient access at choke points on the roads.

Finding balance between preserving agricultural land and creating opportunities for growth/housing.

Multiple interviewees were concerned about increasing impervious surfaces to accommodate growth. This has a large impact on water runoff and stormwater. Interviewees mentioned promoting infill development and prioritizing developing in existing city centers to relieve current pressure to develop rural lands.

- Build affordable housing that already has impervious surfaces and that is ripe for redevelopment. No addition of impervious surface or conversion of farmland.
- Keep multifamily housing near transit lines and social services to limit VMT.

Finding balance between preserving agricultural land and environmental preservation.

Multiple interviewees mentioned that some strategies to combat climate change or promote environmental preservation can be a hindrance to the agriculture industry. One common issue brought several times was critical areas.

- Ensuring maps are accurate and updated frequently.
- Potentially integrating a natural resources plan with climate change plan.

Improving capital facilities and infrastructure to build a resilient agricultural industry that can withstand potential impacts from climate change.

- *“Without drainage, flood control, and irrigation agricultural would not happen and we need to invest in infrastructure for protection against climate change.”*
- Making sure prioritizing infrastructure improvements isn’t being misaligned with agricultural improvements.
- Identify how to get irrigation water to the natural resource lands. The delta cannot sustain anymore impervious surfaces, this is becoming a problem. Limit surface water or bolster stormwater code.
- Infrastructure is needed for value added agriculture; storing, cooling, barns, packaging etc. High costs can push out smaller farms.
- Concern around contained communities and the inability for those roads to be maintained.
- Planning for future growth within schools.

Climate/Hazard Mitigation for Agricultural Focus

Generally, interviewees expressed concern about the protection of agricultural lands when faced with potential hazards, especially hazards from climate change. Conversations focused on emergency management, like evacuation routes, communication, and protection of lands should hazards occur.

- Needing to think about long term management of the marine dike
- Concern about water availability/security; how valuable is agricultural land without water?
- Concerns about potential policies making farming activities more expensive and less viable.
- The Comprehensive Plan should take a holistic approach to climate change.
- The current levees are only 50-year levees which is not ideal flood protection. But there are no policies that promote the creation of 100-year levees.
- The hazard mitigation plans and the flood plans from the County could bolster the district or levees, or they could harm the districts if the goals are not in alignment.

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- Concern around food security.
- Is the County prepared for evacuation and communication in the rural areas? How can this be paired with the Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Environmental Focus

Ensuring industry and environmental and natural resource protection are addressed concurrently.

- Continuing to support the Forestry Advisory Board to demonstrate commitment to natural resource preservation
- Interviewees made mention of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and potentially integrating it with stormwater management plans. Interviewees want Skagit County to be a leader in shoreline stabilization, green infrastructure, and water restoration and management.
- Equitable access to waterfronts was mentioned. This comment also relates to climate change and resiliency.

Finding balance between preserving agricultural land and creating opportunities for growth/housing.

- *“Transitioning from agricultural land to developable land is having huge impacts on resources, water, and inundation.”*

Providing housing and transportation options for all types of families and demographics in the County.

- Ensuring schools are keeping up with growth
- Impact of remote jobs and the disparity between long term residents and new residents and how that will impact gentrification
- Ensure housing accommodates multi-generational living
- Cost and value of land being too high to develop.
- Part of creating equity in a community is thinking of transportation and growing concurrently and ensuring multiple modes of transportation.
- It is very challenging for natural resource - based business to recruit and retain workforce since their employees have difficulty and are often unable to find housing near employment.
- *“There should be an emphasis on interconnected community through walking and biking.”*

Ensure existing infrastructure is maintained.

- Multiple interviewees mentioned that bridges need to be assessed and updated to maintain existing levels of forest management.
- Multiple interviewees mentioned that exiting infrastructure, like roads through federal lands, are not being maintained by property owners or agencies. These roads have historically provided support to the forest industry and management of forestry lands. *“Once it’s gone it’s a large problem for future timber industries to grow.”*
- Discussion around Public Works projects helping protect the shoreline, preserve water, and prevent pollution of natural resources

Climate/Hazard Mitigation

- Multiple interviewees were concerned about sea-level rise.
- Coastal restoration and preservation is a concern especially with stress from development.
- Common concerns are landslides, erosion, overland flow, inundation, and alluvial floodplains.
- Illegal dumping on forest resource lands is a significant challenge to forestry groups for the cost to dispose garbage, abandoned appliances/ vehicles and the possible environmental damage from hazardous materials.
- Understanding limitations in growth and the capacity to preserve.
- Communities around the river could be impacted in the predominant rain.
- *“Effects on cultural resources due to climate change is another element that should be considered in preserving.”*

Economic Development

- Supporting businesses in areas people live to ensure living wages
- Keep and retain waterfront and water-based businesses.

Housing and Building Focus

Increase affordable and accessible housing options for all residents in Skagit County.

- Interviewees made mention of needing to close the gap from shelters to long term housing and allow for more options between the two.
- Providing housing options for senior citizens and multigenerational households. Seniors may have challenges aging in their homes with increased maintenance costs while receiving a limited fixed income. There are people who “have a home without lights or water but they have nowhere to go. They cannot live in their homes, but they have nowhere to go.”
- Decreasing the difficulties around the permitting process
- Interviewees agreed that ADUs should be explored as additional housing options

Finding balance between preserving agricultural land and creating opportunities for growth/housing.

- Interviewees expressed several concerns about finding available and affordable land for new housing projects and several barriers to construction.
- Building permit processes are not transparent and can often have unpredictable timelines.
- Locating appropriate land for new housing projects has been difficult.
- *“Once land around the UGA [urban growth area] gets approved to be farmland it creates a barrier to ever allowing any new housing or UGA expansion.”*

Integrate transportation and housing planning between the County, cities, and agencies, like Skagit Transit.

- Barriers to transit in Skagit County are the scattered amounts of densities and communities, which makes it difficult to increase number of bus stops and make an interconnected system.

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- Consider transit-oriented development and build near existing transportation hubs for better opportunities for expansion.
- Challenges on east county with transportation. Affordable housing has to go with it and services.

Finding balance between increasing housing stock and environmental and agricultural preservation.

- Balancing development with preservation of natural resources and farmland
- Educating developers on buffers within critical areas so they understand the full capabilities of critical areas.

Capital Facilities/Utilities

- Ensuring water availability

Increase the number of programs and policies to protect housing stock from potential climate impacts and climate related hazards.

- *“In Marblemount there is a huge worry about fire. There is a large area of low-income populations and people are reliant on the food bank in these areas.”*
- Hamilton areas deal with floods regularly. The food bank and other services help move people and haul off debris.
- *“Example 25 people living in trailers that had to move in Hamilton from floods and were not able to move back from landlord.”*
- Mobile homes are susceptible to mold and other unhealthy living conditions.
- Concerns about wildfire
- Solar and electric should be promoted and incentivized by the County. Including planning around transitioning houses to alternative energy.
- The County should consider possibilities and impacts if outages occur.

Economic Focus

Ensure economic development is orderly and comprehensive.

- A lot of work was done with public health, especially during the pandemic. It's crucial that Skagit County understands the importance of public health and the impacts it has on the economy.
- Skagit County Leadership works across disciplines. It's important that help is received in order to move issues forward and come to a solution. It can be easy to get stuck before taking any action; "we have the tendency to admire the problem for a long long long time before diving in and working on issue."
- People tend to criticize if it doesn't fit every element of the issue. They are multifaceted and cannot be solved with one solution, but a solution can help. There do not need to be competing concerns.
- *“The growth of Skagit County is not nearly as large as other counties. It is not explosive growth; it is incremental growth. There is a want to prioritize the economy by ensuring that people can both work and live within the County.”*

Rural/Agricultural

- Developable land is hard to find for expanding businesses or housing especially in rural areas.
- Currently, farmers are having a hard time making a living with the land that they own. Support value added agricultural and ancillary activities. The County is heavily protecting farmland, concern that is overprotection prohibits people from making a living on land. Surgical approach to managing uses.

Provide housing for all families and populations.

Interviewees mentioned there is a need for greater diversity in housing options. Provide options for all family sizes, incomes, and abilities. The most common types of housing discussed were transitional housing, shelters, smaller units (one-two bedrooms).

- Need more multi-family and rental properties for younger populations.
- Concerted effort around new housing projects being close to work centers.
- Housing options near population and work centers rather than on farmland or floodplains.
- Needing to accept more density to preserve the beauty of the landscape in Skagit County.
- It is difficult for families to encourage their kids to grow up and live within Skagit County due to housing price points.
- More entry-level housing is necessary
- Need to reduce costs for the builders and find a way for the public sector to share the risk and cost.
- The Skagit Housing Consortium encourages group conversation.
- Matha's Place is a model for addressing homelessness, but it does not address the issue of workforce housing. We need a range of housing projects that specifically targets different housing problems.
- Potential for housing in unincorporated areas of Skagit County

Create connections between housing, services, and transportation.

- Connecting people to where they work and where they recreate should be prioritized.
- Connecting the train to the bus is what people want. Taking people off the roads and using different modes of transportation. This way support is given to the lower-income populations that cannot afford a car, maintenance, gas etc.
- Transportation is an equity issue for the lower income population. In addition to the environmental benefits, we want to make sure that people can get to and from work.
- Childcare can be a major challenge for individuals when trying to enter or rejoin the workforce.

Capital Facilities/Utilities

- Broadband is much better than it used to be but could still be improved for businesses and homes. It is important to extend outside of the urban cores.
- A pressing issue within Skagit County is power. Limited electric power discourages industrial consumers. This will need to be addressed in the near future, such as new substation.

Hazard Mitigation

- Ensuring businesses in rural areas get hazard relief.
- Natural hazards exasperated by climate change impacts. For example; cold snaps- crop failure, pipes bursting. Businesses upriver are disproportionately affected per capita as are home based businesses.

Potential Actions Mentioned

Throughout the interviews, participants mentioned potential County actions. These actions were collected and assembled into a general list to present as part of the community engagement data although their inclusion in this engagement report does not guarantee they will be adopted in the Comprehensive Plan as is.

These have been paraphrased to clarify the context from the conversation.

- The County should consider how to work with diking districts or irrigation districts when developing land use policies to continue farming activities.
- Engage companies that assist farmers in their business operations.
- Ensuring the County can make the permitting process easier for affordable housing construction for Habitat for Humanity projects.
- Ways to incentivize smaller housing types in limited areas of more intensive rural development (LAMIRDs) for first time home buyers or for seniors that don't need large houses or can't live in them.
- Develop incentives for smaller housing types, reduce the permit process timeline for homes built for affordable housing, multifamily tax incentives and density incentives for low-income units, create opportunities for seniors to downsize.
- Incentivizing cottage ordinances and small lot subdivisions for duplexes.
- Demonstration programs can help incubate housing types and show the community new and innovative ways to create nontraditional housing types.
- Address bridges that need to be updated for the capital facilities plan.
- Ensuring coordination with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and the hazard mitigation plan and community wildfire protection plan.
- Educating the public on the importance of natural resource programs in the County: tax benefits, open space benefits, revenue, and jobs
- Explain how the forest industry will be promoted but still be able to mitigate climate in certain ways and emphasize fuel reduction more than carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture.
- Consider how to balance the tension between limiting infrastructure in rural areas and developing growth.
- Write policies to bolster the ability to apply for funding, especially for green infrastructure and road projects.
- Skagit County should make a vulnerability map of properties with the most concerning hazards.
- The Comprehensive Plan should be done in such a way that it's respectful of tribes and treaty rights and acknowledges this to avoid any future issues.
- Is there potential for a transfer of development rights program?

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- The County should encourage and support this resiliency groups that are forming in the County. Consult with Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) and Public Works on this effort.
- The Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) should be proactive in responding to climate.

June 2024 Open Houses

Summary

Skagit County hosted three open houses early in the project before drafting goals and policy revisions to the Comprehensive Plan. These were hosted at the end of June in Anacortes, Sedro-Woolley, and Concrete. The open houses were scheduled in these locations to provide opportunities to participate in-person in West, Central, and East Skagit County.

A future open house is tentatively scheduled for early October and will be in hosted in Mount Vernon.

The meeting format was self-guided with no formal presentation. Participants could arrive anytime between 5:30 and 7:00 and walk through a collection of poster boards that educated participants on state requirements and engaged participants to provide feedback. The topics covered at the open houses were land use/rural, housing, capital facilities, transportation, climate change and resiliency.

Goals

1. Educate the public about the new state requirements specific to this periodic update.
2. Ensure residents are aware of the new element regarding climate change with two sub elements for resiliency and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.
3. Collect community feedback specific to the Comprehensive Plan elements that will help guide the preliminary policy revisions presented between July and October 2024.

OPEN HOUSE SNAPSHOT

Attendance

More than 100 people attended open houses at three different locations in Skagit County. The open house that received the highest attendance was hosted at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center with over 60 attendees.

Comments Collected

Over 400 comments were collected across all open houses. The comments collected identified issues or opportunities related to rural character, housing, transportation, climate, and resiliency.

Locations

Anacortes Depot Arts & Community Center
Thursday, June 20th
5:30PM-7:00PM
611 R Ave.
Anacortes, WA

Sedro-Woolley Community Center
Wednesday, June 26th
5:30PM-7:00PM
703 Pacific St.
Sedro-Woolley, WA

Concrete High School
Thursday, June 27th
5:30PM-7:00PM
7830 S Superior Ave.
Concrete, WA

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Caption 37. Open House Attendees at the Anacortes Depot Arts & Community Center

Results

What does rural character mean to you?

The comments focus on preserving rural and natural environments while managing urban growth. Key points include:

- **Habitat Protection:** Emphasis on creating and maintaining habitats for a variety of wildlife such as eagles, ospreys, and seals, and preserving natural areas like forests, wetlands, and rivers for their ecological functions, including carbon sequestration.
- **Rural Character and Preservation:** A strong desire to maintain rural character by protecting open spaces, farmland, and natural landscapes from urban sprawl and non-agricultural development. Rural areas should remain sparsely populated with limited development, focusing on agriculture and conservation.
- **Sustainable Development:** Advocacy for sustainable farming practices, reduced density in rural areas, and the importance of green spaces, parks, and scenic beauty. Some comments suggest implementing clustered housing with significant open space and integrating new climate solutions like biochar.
- **Regulation and Zoning:** Calls for updating zoning laws to balance housing needs with the preservation of natural lands. Some advocate for stricter regulations to prevent farm conversion to residential use and non-commercial exploitation of natural areas.
- **Community and Quality of Life:** A vision of a close-knit community with minimal governmental intrusion, emphasizing a connection to nature, quiet environments, and less traffic. There is also concern about the impact of pesticides and the need for transparency about their use.
- **Balanced Growth:** A need to manage population growth by concentrating development in urban areas and preserving rural areas for agriculture, natural habitats, and low-density living.
- **Public Safety and Resources:** Acknowledgment of the need for resources to address issues such as rural homelessness and ensuring public safety while maintaining the rural lifestyle.

Overall, the comments reflect a commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable living, and thoughtful urban planning to protect and preserve rural landscapes and natural habitats.

What housing issues are you seeing in Skagit County?

The comments highlight pressing issues related to housing affordability, density, and planning, with a strong focus on balancing development with the preservation of natural areas and community needs. Key themes include:

- **Affordable Housing:** There is a critical need for more affordable housing options, particularly for low-income and essential workers. Concerns include rising rents, insufficient low-income housing, and long waitlists. Many advocate for mandating affordable units in new developments and exploring alternative housing models like tiny homes and ADUs.

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- **Housing Density and Development:** Support for increasing housing density in urban areas to prevent sprawl and better utilize existing infrastructure. Calls to restrict or eliminate short-term rentals (e.g., Airbnb) to free up housing for residents and avoid mega-mansions in favor of more modest, varied housing types.
- **Public Transit and Green Space:** Emphasis on integrating housing with public transit and ensuring access to green spaces. This includes the need for new housing to be near transit, groceries, and parks to promote livability and reduce traffic congestion.
- **Preservation and Regulation:** Advocates for protecting rural lands and natural resources from excessive development. There are suggestions for stricter regulations on ADUs to maintain neighborhood aesthetics and avoid environmental degradation.
- **Senior and Special Needs Housing:** Acknowledgment of the growing need for senior housing and accessible living options. Concerns about seniors losing their homes due to rising costs and a lack of affordable, single-level housing options are prominent.
- **Development Policies:** Calls for better zoning regulations, streamlined permitting processes, and incentives for green and sustainable building practices. Some propose revisiting existing policies to enhance housing affordability and ensure that new developments include necessary amenities and services.
- **Community and Quality of Life:** Desire to maintain a high quality of life with adequate public services, green spaces, and community facilities. There is also a focus on creating diverse, mixed-income neighborhoods to avoid socio-economic segregation.

Overall, the comments reflect a desire to address housing challenges through increased density, better regulation, and strategic development while safeguarding natural resources and ensuring community well-being.

What improvements or additions would you like to see in our community's public facilities, such as sidewalks, parks, sewer, water systems, or other government services, to better meet the needs of residents now and in the future?

The comments reflect a strong desire for improved infrastructure and transportation options, with a focus on safety, accessibility, and environmental sustainability. Key points include:

- **Infrastructure Improvements:** There is a significant push for developing more sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use trails to enhance safety and encourage walking and cycling. Specific requests include separated motor, bike, and pedestrian routes, better sidewalks in high-traffic areas, and improved bike trails connecting cities. Concerns about current infrastructure include broken sidewalks, inadequate bike paths, and unsafe conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Public Transportation:** Many advocate for expanded and more efficient public transit options, including shelters at bus stops, increased stops in various areas, and better connections to parks and community spaces. Suggestions also include electric taxis and improved services for remote areas like Marble Mount.
- **Climate and Environmental Concerns:** There is a call for transportation planning that addresses climate impacts such as sea-level rise, increased flooding, and drought. This

includes developing plans for road maintenance and improvements in vulnerable areas and integrating green infrastructure to mitigate these effects.

- **Community Amenities:** Suggestions for new and improved community spaces include additional parks, trails, and recreational facilities like community pools and fairgrounds. There is also interest in creating spaces for mental and physical health care clinics and centralized facilities for social services.
- **Water Management:** Concerns about water supply and conservation are highlighted, with recommendations for better water monitoring, floodwater storage, and alternative water systems. There is also a call for protecting water intake sources and using sustainable practices like composting toilets and grey water systems.
- **Safety and Accessibility:** Emphasis on making transportation routes safer and more accessible, particularly for pedestrians, cyclists, and individuals with disabilities. This includes creating safer crosswalks, marked school zones, and improving transportation infrastructure to accommodate various needs.
- **Educational Facilities:** Addressing overcrowding in schools is a concern, with calls for more schools and resources to improve educational opportunities.
- **Recycling and Waste Management:** Requests for improved recycling pick-up services and waste management, including better handling of recycling and more options for composting.

Overall, the comments advocate for a comprehensive approach to transportation and infrastructure planning that considers safety, environmental impact, community needs, and accessibility.

What should we do about climate change in Skagit County?

The comments highlight a range of suggestions and concerns regarding climate change, environmental protection, and community planning:

- **Climate Action and Resilience:** There expressed interest to integrate climate change considerations into the SMP and the Growth Management Act (GMA) Plan. Comments stress the need for open discussion about climate impacts and increased efforts to build community resilience. Creating a Conservation Advisory Committee and a Climate Citizen's Advisory Committee is recommended to advocate for environmental protection and climate resilience.
- **Sustainable Energy and Transportation:** There is support for transitioning to non-fossil fuel energy sources and expanding renewable energy, including solar and hydroelectric power. Suggestions include increasing gasoline taxes, offering local incentives for solar installations, and promoting electric vehicles and public transportation. The need for electric vehicle charging stations and improvements in bike trails and public transit are also emphasized.
- **Environmental Protection and Restoration:** Many comments advocate for enhancing environmental conservation efforts. This includes planting more native trees, protecting forests, improving the water quality of lakes and rivers, and reducing pollution. There is a

call to stop clearcutting without replanting and to avoid hard armoring of shorelines, which can exacerbate erosion.

- **Community Planning and Development:** Recommendations include focusing on developing walkable, livable communities with good public transit and bike connectivity. There's a push for zoning changes to support commercial composting and better land management practices. Additionally, there is support for housing initiatives that cater to various income levels and for educational workshops on climate change and conservation.
- **Consultation and Involvement:** Comments stress the importance of consulting with local scientific experts, such as the Skagit Climate Science Consortium, and involving Tribal knowledge and perspectives in planning and decision-making processes.
- **Miscellaneous Concerns:** Some comments express skepticism about the extent of human impact on climate change and advocate against specific initiatives, such as Initiative 2117. Others suggest practical actions for individuals, such as reducing water and energy use.

Overall, the comments reflect a desire for proactive, science-based approaches to environmental protection and climate action, with a focus on sustainability, community resilience, and comprehensive planning.

What actions do you think Skagit County government should prioritize to enhance its preparedness and resiliency to changing climate?

The comments emphasize a range of priorities and actions for addressing climate change, environmental protection, and community planning:

- **Shoreline Management and Flood Protection:** There is a strong call to update the SMP to include considerations for sea level rise and avoid using hard armoring, which exacerbates erosion. Comments mention the need for collaboration with science-related communities and experts for climate related issues.
- **Development and Land Use:** Many comments advocate against further development in flood plains and areas prone to sea level rise. There's support for avoiding development on landslide-prone slopes and high-risk areas. Suggestions include focusing new growth in urban areas and avoiding urban development in flood plains. Land conservation should be prioritized alongside agricultural and forestry considerations.
- **Climate Action and Energy:** The need for a rapid transition to renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, and geothermal, is emphasized. Comments suggest increasing electrification and reducing fossil fuel use. There's also a call to support community solar projects, consider small-scale nuclear plants as a bridge fuel, and incentivize homeowners to switch to native plants and trees.
- **Disaster Preparedness and Resilience:** Recommendations include improving disaster preparedness, such as ensuring functional bridges and planning for extreme weather events. Educational workshops on climate change and conservation are suggested to help communities prepare for issues like wildfires and extreme temperatures.

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- **Environmental and Community Health:** Comments highlight the importance of preserving green spaces, improving water quality, and managing forest lands. There is support for better land management, protecting water sources, and addressing pollution.
- **Education and Policy:** There is a call for creating and updating comprehensive climate action frameworks and plans. This includes forming an Environmental and Sustainability Committee and implementing educational workshops for climate change and nature conservation. Leadership should focus on informing the public about climate policy and the importance of taking action.
- **Community Involvement and Equity:** Ensuring that climate action and environmental policies address inequities and are responsive to lower-income communities is a key concern. Consulting with local tribes and integrating their knowledge and solutions is also advocated.

Overall, the comments reflect a broad consensus on the need for science-based, proactive measures to address climate change, protect natural resources, and enhance community resilience.

What climate impacts are you most concerned about?

The comments provided reflect a wide range of concerns about the environment, economy, health, and community. Several comments mentioned concerns with a loss of quality of life from heightened wildfire activity, smoke, heat, and drought. There are also significant concerns about shoreline erosion and landslides, alongside the challenges in managing shorelines effectively.

- **Water Supply:** Educated snowpack melt in the summer leading to decreased in-stream flows. Flooding and tree loss are critical concerns, emphasizing that the cost of inaction will be much higher than taking preventive measures now.
- **Air Quality and Pollution:** Comments also focus on greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and declining air quality. The health consequences of heat and smoke are severe, affecting air quality and increasing disease rates. Reducing reliance on coal or oil trains to cut air pollution, fires, and explosions are suggested. Concerns about pollution from cars and component manufacturing.
- **Sea-Level Rise:** Comments express the need for effective responses to sea level rise, including saltwater intrusion, and tidal marshlands, as well as flooding.
- **Heat:** There is a strong emphasis on the loss of biodiversity, with pollution from greenhouse gases exacerbating this issue. The heat dome phenomenon, wildfire smoke, loss of trees, and drought are seen as interconnected problems, leading to heat, flooding, and wildfires. The extreme cold and winter weather in some areas, combined with inadequate shelter or housing, further compound these issues. Planting more trees and protecting animals are suggested as important measures.
- **Biodiversity Degradation and Loss:** Concerns about degradation of ecosystems will increase the vulnerability to climate related hazards. Loss of tree cover/canopy can lead to an increase in heat. Loss of vegetation can lead to increased landslides. Loss of wetlands can lead to further problems with flooding and sea level rise. Changes in plant and animal phenologies, such as altered food sources during bird migration and reproductive failures, are worrying.

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- **Wildfire and Smoke:** Comments address several impacts from wildfires including environmental degradation and smoke. Local wildfire hazards are a significant threat, and fires have been known to devastate wetlands. The loss of trees and vegetation due to wildfires is mentioned frequently. The agricultural sector is also suffering, with fires and extreme heat displacing wildlife and causing a loss of bird species.

Overall, these comments reflect a comprehensive concern for the multifaceted impacts of climate change on various aspects of life, urging for immediate and thoughtful action to mitigate these effects.

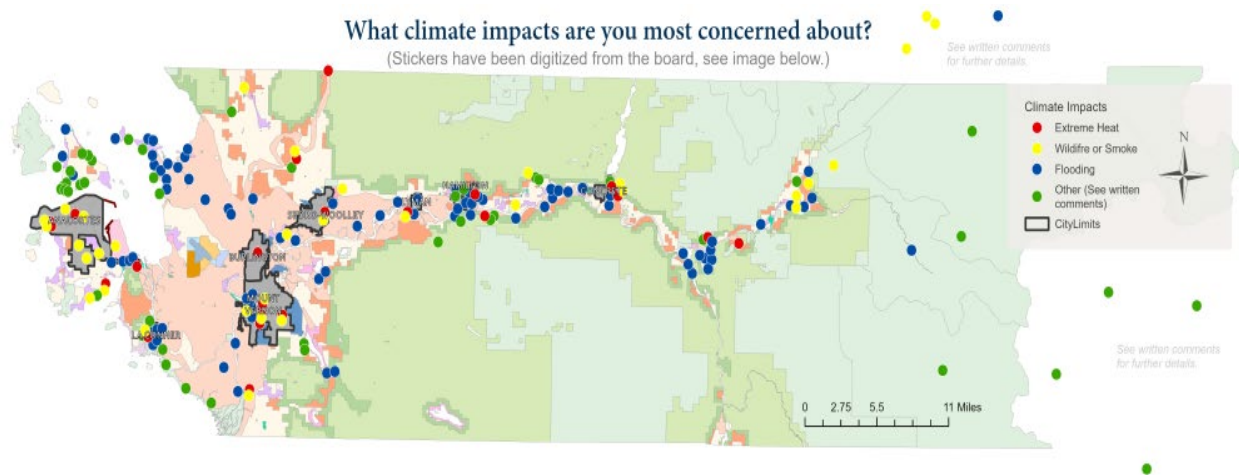


Figure 4 "What climate impacts are you most concerned about?" Map Activity Results from June Open Houses. See Appendix G for larger version.

At the open houses, attendees were invited to participate in a map activity asking them to put stickers around Skagit County identifying climate impacts they were most concerned about. Red dots are areas where attendees have experienced extreme heat. Yellow dots are areas where attendees have experienced wildfire or smoke. Blue dots are areas where attendees have experienced flooding. Green dots represent some other climate impacts further discussed in the comments above. A larger map to view the dots in greater detail is provided in Appendix G.

The highest concentrations of dots identifying flooding are clustered around La Conner, Hamilton, Concrete, Rockport, and other areas along the Skagit River.

The highest concentrations of dots identifying wildfire or smoke are clustered around developed areas, typically cities. This is most likely identifying that participants were concerned about impacts from smoke where they live.

The highest concentrations of dots identifying extreme heat are clustered around cities.

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Summary of Participant Data.

At all open houses, participants were given the option to submit demographic data. Demographic data helps ensure input is collected from all community members and helps assess further community engagement strategies.

Almost 25% of survey responses came from participants living in the 98221 ZIP code which is the City of Anacortes and Guemes Island. The second most participants, boasting over 20%, came from the ZIP code 98284 which is the City of Sedro Woolley, Town of Hamiton and the surrounding area.

Women made up 54% of the participants in this survey, 40% of respondents were men, and 6% preferred not to say.

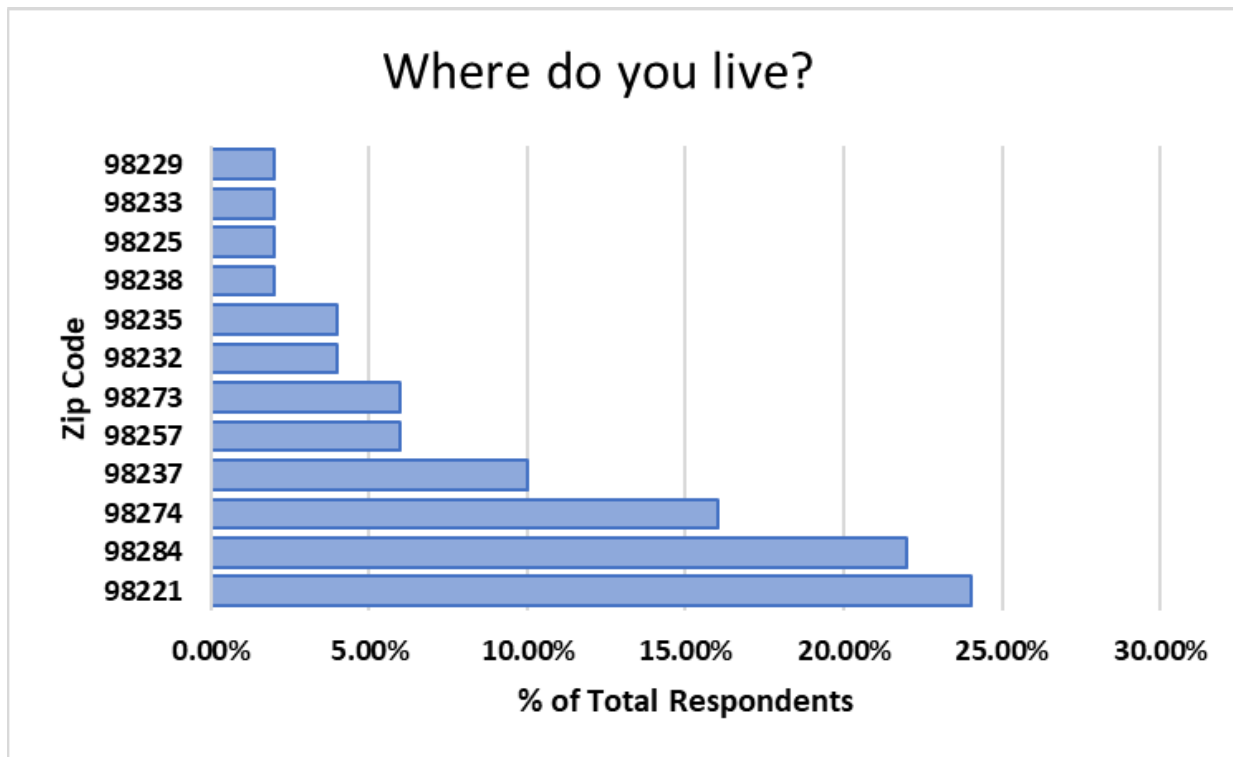
The majority (86%) of respondents in Skagit County self-identified as White or Caucasian. Following that was those who identified as multiracial (4%). Black or African American and Other both accounted for 2% of the survey population.

When asked what decade the participants were born in, about 33% stated that they were born between the years 1950 and 1959. The next largest group of respondents stated that they were born before 1950. The survey saw the least engagement with individuals who were born after the year 2000.

Participants that stated they had achieved an advanced degree made up 42% of the survey and 29% of respondents stated that they have earned a 4-year degree. A total of 15% of participants identified that they had completed some college or a 2-year degree and 2% had stated that they are a high school graduate.

Out of the 52 participants, 31 of them responded to the survey at the Sedro-Woolley Open House. At the Anacortes Open House there were 13 participants. Concrete Open House saw the lowest number of participants with 8.

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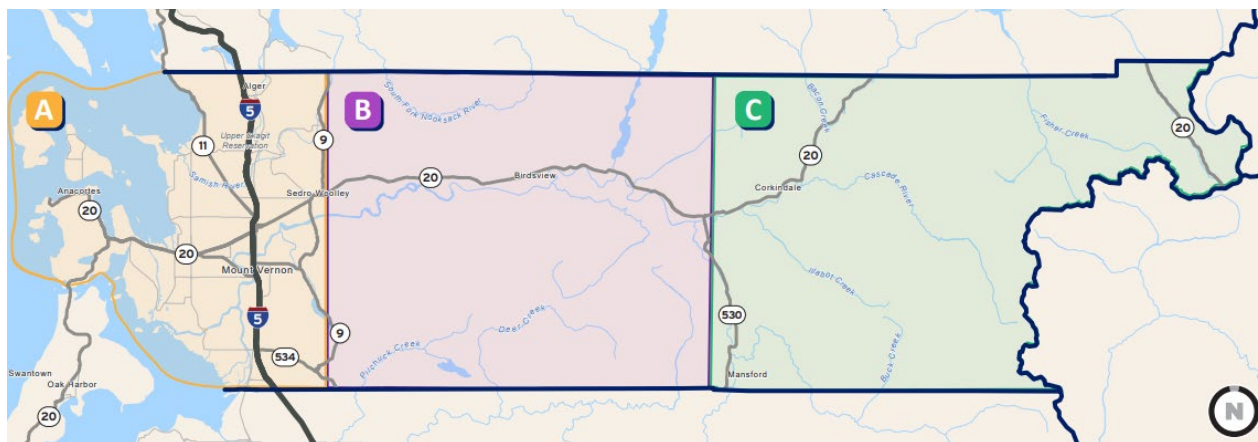


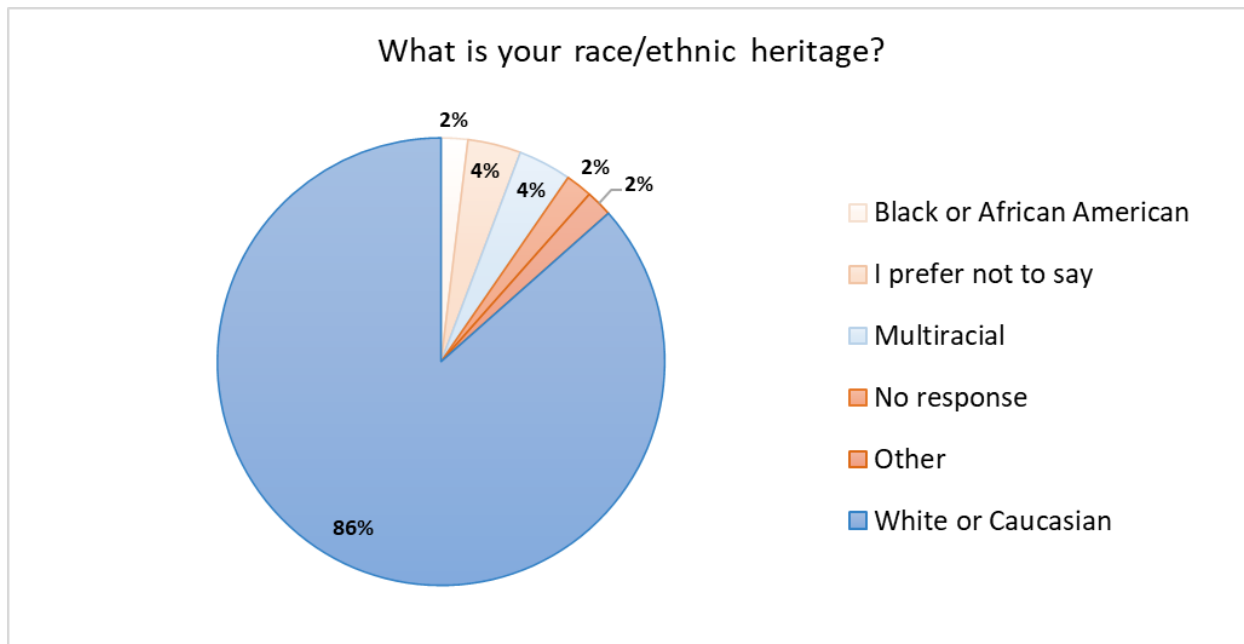
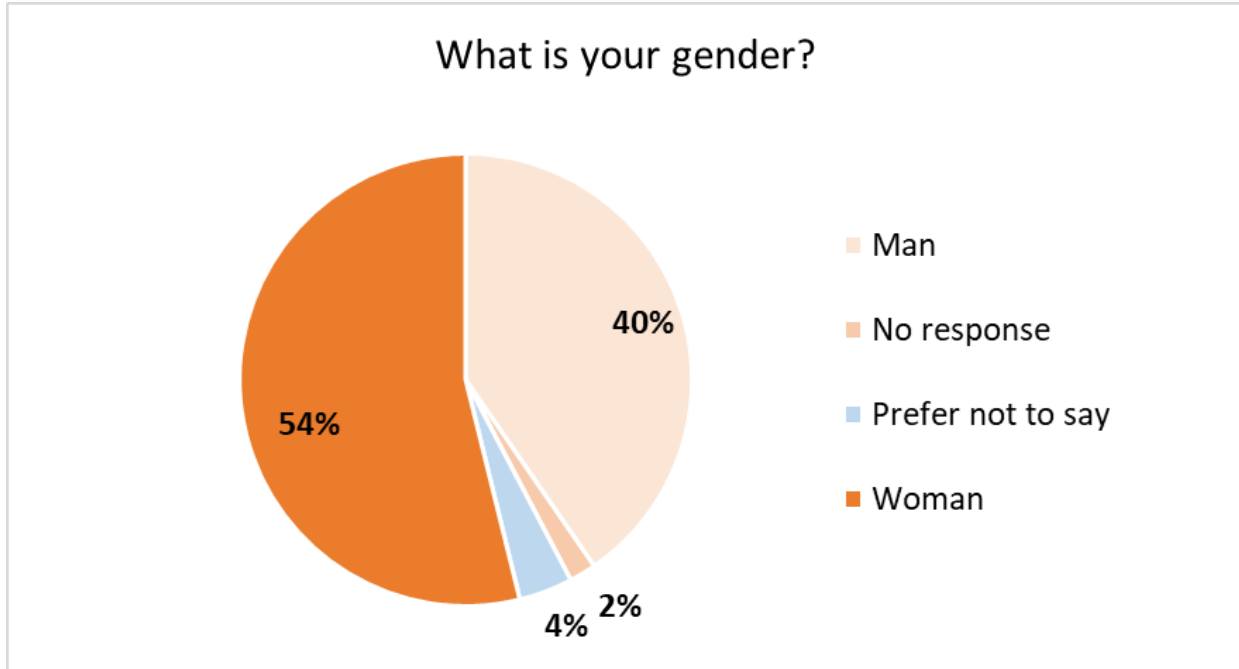
Region A Zip Codes: 98221 (Anacortes), 98284 (Sedro-Woolley), 98273 & 98274 (Mount Vernon), 98232 (Bow), 98233 (Burlington), 98235 (Clearlake), 98238 (Conway), 98257 (La Conner),

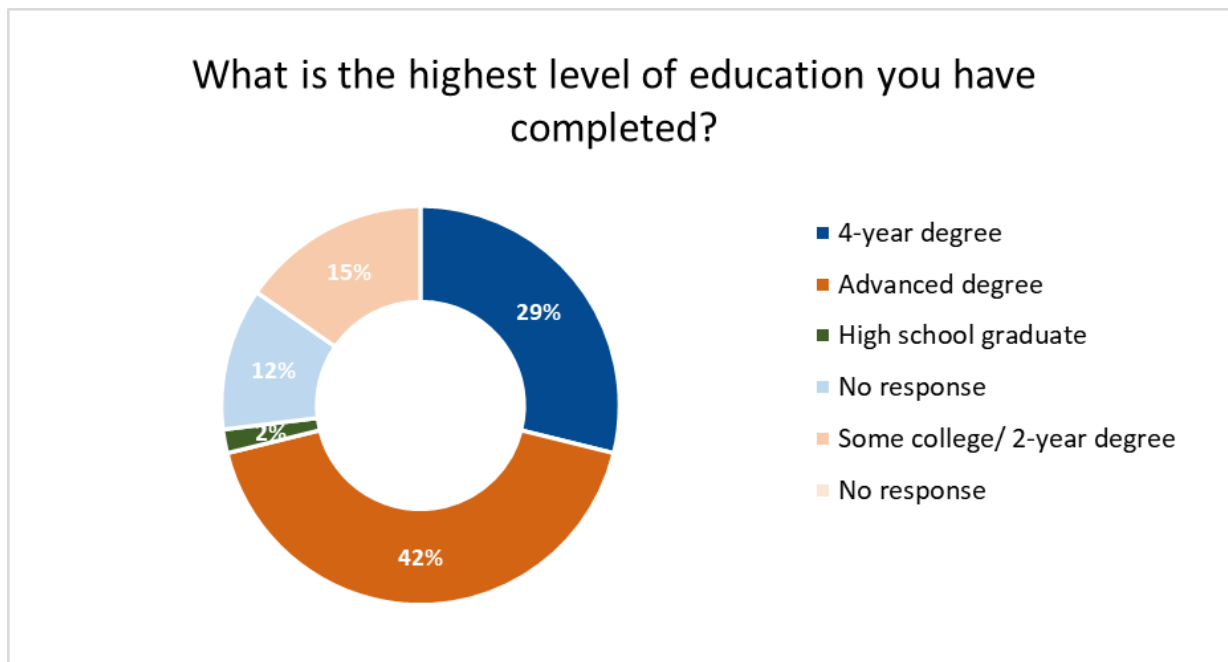
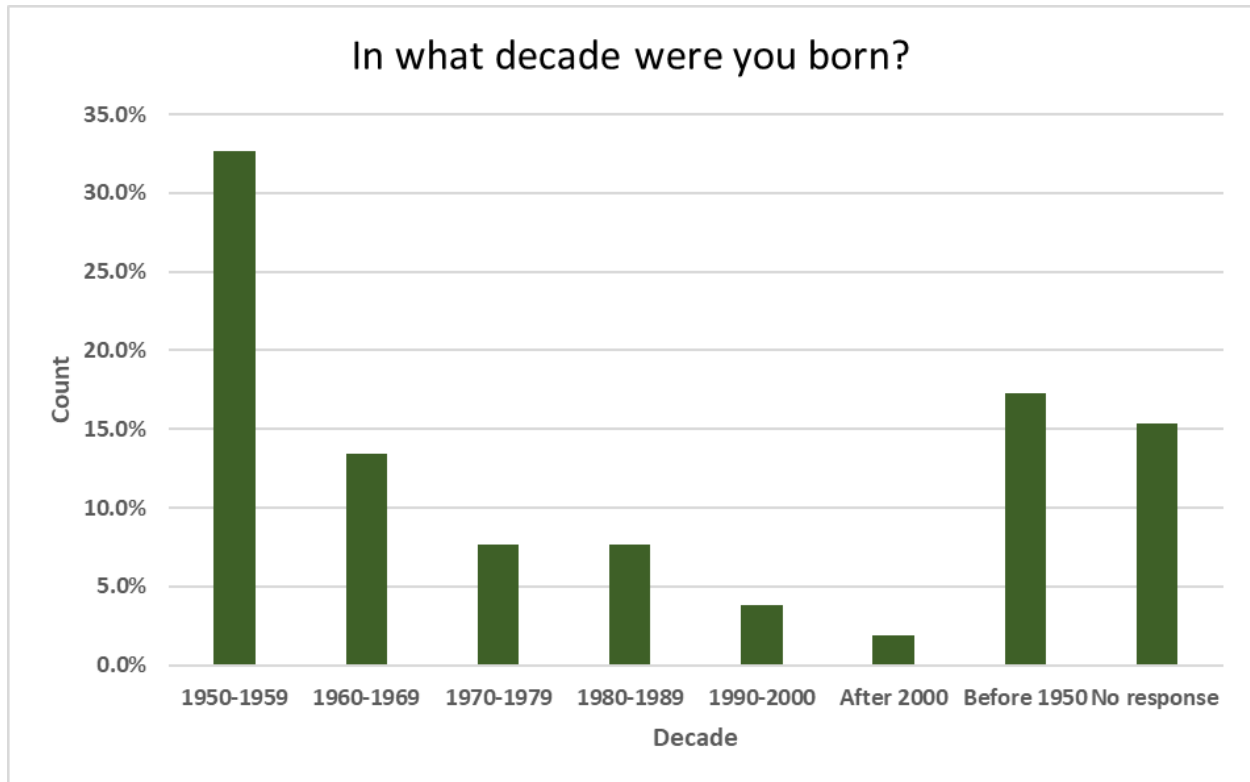
Region B Zip Codes: 98284 (Hamilton and Lyman)

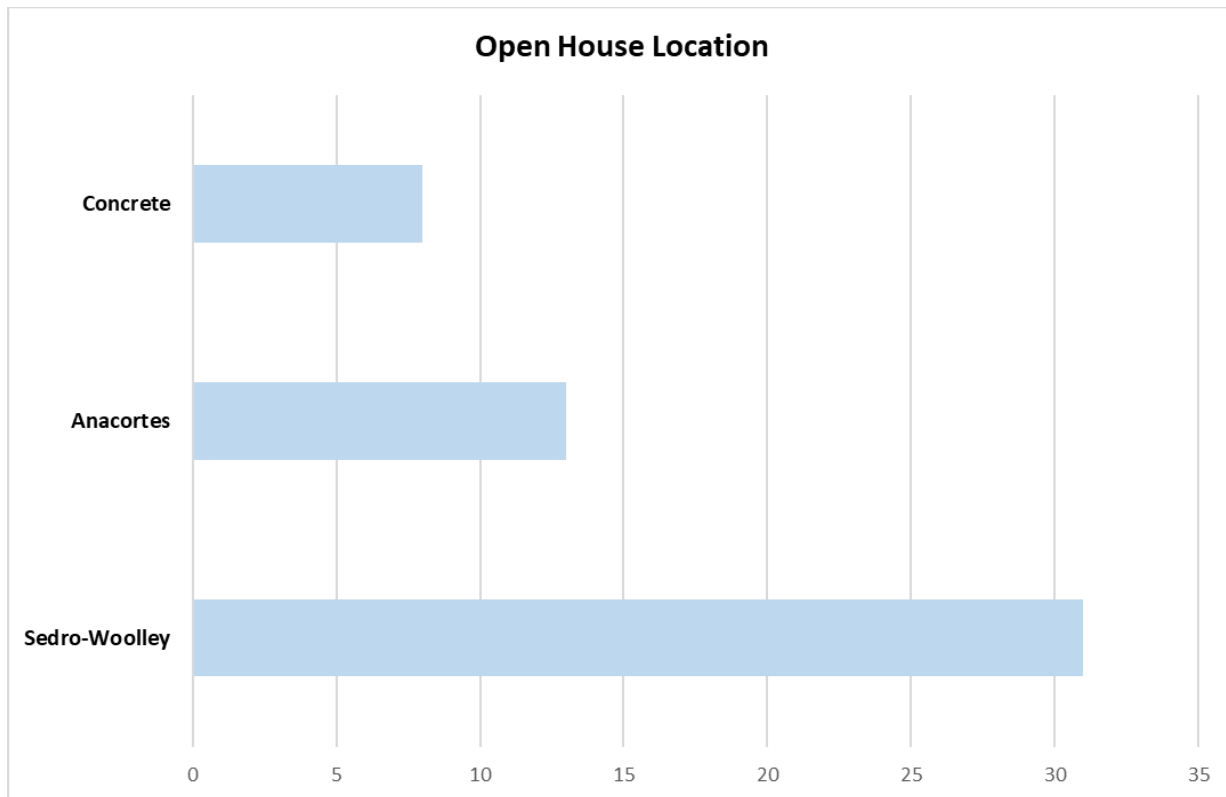
Region C Zip Codes: 98237 (Concrete)

Other Zip Codes: 98229 & 98225 (Bellingham)









Other Comments Received

Throughout the project, PDS staff receives comments about the Comprehensive Plan through written comments and email. These comments are recorded in this report for review by the public, Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. Comments have been copied and pasted or re-typed as submitted to PDS staff expect where typos or formatting issues occurred.

Emailed to staff on June 26, 2024, by Puget Sound Energy

Dear Jack Moore,

On behalf of Puget Sound Energy (PSE), I am reaching out to convey our thoughts for your consideration as part of the periodic update to the comprehensive plan and development regulations under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), specifically Chapters 36.70A and 43.21C. The attached spreadsheet contains suggested language as it relates to customer programs and our shared climate goals. In the attached, you will find 7 tabs grouped by category. At PSE, we recognize that climate change is one of the biggest existential threats facing our planet today. As one of the largest producers of renewable energy in the Pacific Northwest, PSE has been an early leader in addressing climate change and investing billions in renewable resources and energy efficiency for homes and businesses. Now, PSE is on the path to meet the current and future needs of its customers and to deliver on the requirements to decarbonize operations and serve its customers and communities equitably. This transition is unprecedented in terms of the magnitude of the change and the accelerated time frame

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in which it must be achieved. By working together, we can successfully drive towards our shared clean energy goals. PSE looks forward to providing input as the comprehensive plan items are discussed in more detail. Together, we can reduce emissions and keep energy safe, reliable, and affordable.

Thank you,

Emailed to staff on June 25, 2024, by Gena DiLabio.

Dear Senior Planners,

Please do not use farmland or forests in update. Provide for more parks for recreational use. Please protect wetlands, Puget Sound, salmon streams and the Skagit River. Provide for the health and safety of those people who live and work in the planning area. Coordinate water systems and preserve as much open space as possible. Scientists warn us that the climate is changing rapidly because of fossil fuel use, please keep this in mind as you plan for the future.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Written comments submitted to staff on July 16, 2024, by Puget Sound Partnership. This was a formal letter

Dear Skagit County Board of Commissioners,

On behalf of the Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB), we submit this letter with respect to your jurisdiction's current periodic update process, and associated updates to development regulations. The Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board supports the Leadership Council in carrying out its duties, including the development and implementation of the Action Agenda. The ECB is made up of 33 members, representing local, state, federal, and tribal governments, environmental and business interests. This broad representation supports the ECB to provide cross-caucus reporting and dialogue on priority issues, such as how to ensure the protection and restoration of habitat for ecologically sustainable watersheds for the future of all species through local periodic updates. This letter provides background on the priorities described in the Action Agenda and the resources available to support Comprehensive Plans and Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) amendments to align with those priorities. While this letter does not respond to materials produced as part of your comprehensive plan update, it does offer many specific recommendations and resources that will support the protection and recovery of the Puget Sound.

The recovery of Puget Sound is vital to human wellbeing in the region, to sustain threatened salmon, orcas, and numerous other species, and to preserve Puget Sound's ecosystem functions and values for current and future generations. But the Puget Sound ecosystem is under increasing threats from the development of ecologically important habitats, forests, farmlands, and other working lands, especially outside of urban growth areas. The smart growth strategy in the 2022-2026 Action Agenda identifies a key opportunity to "improve the implementation of the Growth Management Act within local

jurisdictions land use planning and decisions, and across jurisdictions to include the protection of natural areas and working lands.”

New planning requirements, updated science, and learning from the past ~8 years of Growth Management Act (GMA) implementation make this round of Comprehensive Plan updates a critical juncture and inspiring opportunity in our region’s collective work to recover Puget Sound. As you know, the Comprehensive Plan sets the stage for development activities and decisions which all have an impact on how well we achieve our goals to protect and restore Puget Sound. To support recovery of the Puget Sound, we recommend that jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region make use of the many science-based resources available to support development of Comprehensive Plan and CAO amendments that protect natural areas and working lands.

Our collective understanding of the complex relationships between land cover, development, and ecosystem health improves over time, and this is why cities and counties must include current, best available science and information in their local land use planning amendments during the periodic update. Fortunately, our state Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, Natural Resources, and Commerce have been busy updating and distributing science-based guidance to support local governments in this process. Cities and counties should leverage these resources below, and other science-based resources, to effectively amend their Comprehensive Plans and Critical Areas Ordinances:

- Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) and LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plans
- Local Salmon Recovery Watershed Chapters
- Department of Fish and Wildlife’s current Priority Habitats and Species Information
 - Riparian Management Zone Checklist for Critical Areas Ordinances
- Ecology’s Wetland Guidance for Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Updates
- Ecology’s Climate Resilience and Shoreline Management webpage
- Commerce’s Critical Areas Handbook and Checklist

To ensure smart growth in the Puget Sound region, the ECB recommends that jurisdictions consider and take action on the following:

1) At key points in the Comprehensive Plan update process, review and apply the Sound Choices Implementation Checklist. The checklist was developed by the Puget Sound recovery community and is intended to help local jurisdictions make updates to their comprehensive plans that align with Puget Sound recovery strategies and actions.

2) Ensure your local planning department takes advantage of funding for additional staff resources to incorporate salmon and Puget Sound recovery into local planning by applying for the Salmon Recovery through Local Planning Grant Program. Depending on funding availability, Washington State Department of Commerce will hold a fall 2024 round of funding. For more information contact angela.sanfilippo@commerce.wa.gov.

3) Understand how your local land use decisions will support region-wide efforts to achieve positive trends in Regional Land Use Indicators. The Puget Sound Partnership assesses the status and trends of threats through a set of regional land use indicators. Jurisdiction specific trend data for your county is available in the attached appendix.

4) Reach out to and involve local experts in Puget Sound recovery including Local Integrating Organization members, Salmon Recovery Lead Entities, as well as your local representatives on the Ecosystem Coordination Board, Ron Wesen, County Commissioner and Bill Blake. For additional support in facilitating connections with local experts please reach out to Laura.Rivas@psp.wa.gov.

As you help shape the future of Skagit County at this pivotal moment in time, the ECB requests that you take advantage of the valuable tools and resources included in this letter to ensure we are doing all we can to support our local communities and Puget Sound recovery. Thank you for considering our recommendations, tools, and resources.

Sincerely,

Written comments submitted on June 26, 2024, by Joan Stamm.

Dear Tara and Robby,

Thank you for hosting tonight's community meeting in Sedro Woolley. I learned a lot about various community needs and issues. Although I attended to specifically address preserving the Eaglemont Golf Course land as a pristine wilderness and wildlife corridor, I now understand that I need to take my concerns primarily to the City of Mount Vernon. However, since the Eaglemont lands border unincorporated County lands, including the Eaglemont land, county involvement in including these lands into your Open Space Plans would seem to be relevant. Please consider. As a member of the Skagit Land Trust, the Washington Native Plant Society, the Xerces Society and a working member of Skagit Master Gardeners, I would like to see a more sustainable and ecologically balanced approach to all land in Skagit County. Some ideas include:

1. Incentivizing homeowners to remove all or some of their turf lawn (as some counties already do) to be planted with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. This would provide more wildlife habitat, sequester more carbon, encourage pollinators, contribute to biodiversity and address water conservation.
2. Encourage public schools, community centers, government buildings, and libraries to plant trees and native plants, to install solar panels and to compost food and yard waste.
3. Preserve open spaces, forests, meadows, and farmland for future generations.
4. Incentivize buying electric powered lawn mowers and leaf blowers to reduce carbon emissions, or switching, where feasible, to rakes, brooms & push mowers.
5. Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides on County controlled land in order to preserve pollinators and to reduce air and water contamination.

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

The County has great potential in reducing carbon emissions, water and air pollution, habitat loss, and species extinction. Government regulations are needed to create a healthier ecosystem. I hope you will use your power and influence to do just that.

Best regards,

Emailed comment submitted on June 25, 2024, by Morgan Randall.

Protect and plant more trees.

The more trees we have, i.e. the more trees we plant and the more trees we save, the less impact there will be in our county from global heating. It is as complex and as simple as that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Email comments submitted on June 28, 2024, by Betty Carteret representing Citizens Climate Education Washington Chapter.

Tara and Robby,

I was very nice meeting you at the Comprehensive Plan meeting in Sedro Woolley. I was the one with the typed comments on the shipping labels that I left with Robby (that I have attached again here). As a little background, I am a mechanical engineer retired from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the Tri Cities. Since retiring in 2005, I have been focused on climate change education and outreach and have taught classes and give countless presentations in the area on climate change and the transition to clean energy and electrification.

I am currently the lead for the Skagit Chapter of Citizens Climate Education, a national organization with over 500 chapters in the US. We have a small, active chapter of people working on climate change outreach in Skagit County that is solutions oriented. I am personally working on educating people about building efficiency and electrification, but I am also very concerned about water issues in Skagit County driven by climate change. I believe there is a great opportunity to find integrated solutions to the current and projected increases of flooding and drought in our county. I personally urge that you include in your climate resilience element a study to identify the best options to store floodwater from the Skagit River (reservoirs, underground storage, aquifer recharge – or others) that can be drawn on during summer months for agricultural irrigation, residential and business use, as well as for salmon recovery and recreation. The solution(s) are going to be big projects and costly, so it is important that the county get started now on this as part of our resilience work and take advantage of funding available for such work through the Dept. of Commerce and the Climate Commitment Act. There are several other areas that I'd like to discuss as the planning process unfolds.

I also encourage you to establish a climate advisory team that can help with the planning process and bring in perspectives from residents, local nonprofits, community leaders and trusted voices for key stakeholder groups. This is recommended in Section 2 of the State GMA Climate Element guidance prepared by the Department of Commerce. Skagit County is lucky to have our own local experts on climate change, the Skagit Climate

Science Consortium, as well as several nonprofits committed to this area that could provide representatives to support such a team. Our organization would be happy to appoint a representative to work with you and we are collaborating also with the Skagit Clean Energy Alliance another group that might be interested in participating.

Thanks for hosting the informative session on July 26th and I look forward to continuing to connect with you as the process continues.

Water Management: projected flooding and drought due to climate change present an opportunity to develop joint solutions when you look at this as managing water to store excess for times of drought. Skagit County should evaluate options for developing large water storage capacity that can be drawn down during summer months to support agricultural

irrigation, residential and business usage, tourism/water sports, and also as a resource for wildfire suppression and to recharge aquifers.

Water management – start planning on developing new infrastructure for water storage from flooding early to enable time for thorough analysis, planning, and seeking funding to pay for such large infrastructure projects. Identify needs for revenue from grants, state programs, and possibly funding from residents of the county through appropriate measures (fees, taxes etc).

This needs to be a priority.

Reduce GHG Emissions through electrification: Electrification of residential, rental, and business properties can make a major contribution towards reducing emissions in Skagit. There are organizations in the County that can help with this such as the Skagit Clean Energy Association and Skagit Citizens' Climate Education (I am local chapter lead). Provide free mentors or coaches who can get people started with planning and refer to experts.

Look for ways that Skagit County can participate and benefit from building out of the electrical grid. This is happening to meet the increased electricity demands and could be an opportunity for the County.

Evaluate and streamline county planning requirements, permitting and regulations to support transition to electric vehicles, home HVAC, and other residential and business electrification efforts.

Find ways to make mass transit more attractive to a larger segment of the population. Find out what limits peoples use of buses and find ways to improve the barriers. Improve bike travel on county roads. Look to work done in other communities to provide bike trails both for recreation and for transit. Consider increasing bike lanes and other safety measures.

Look for ways for Skagit County to use funding resources available from both the State (Dept. of Commerce) and Federal Government that area available through the WA Climate Commitment Act, US Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Acts. These funds are available now and can help the county with funds for planning, education, and infrastructure development.

Develop programs in partnership with the state and PSE to educate homeowners,

renters, landlords and businesses on the benefits of energy efficiency and electrification to achieving goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There are many resources to help with this and local groups that can help such as our chapter of Citizens' Climate Education.

Review permitting for residential and business building and look to limit development in areas that are vulnerable to flooding, sea level rise, and wildfires.

Look at strategies for retreating from hazardous areas on the coast versus increasing shoreline armoring that impacts marine habitat and species.

Because the PNW will see less impacts of climate change we can expect large population growth in coming decades due to climate migration. We need to be planning ahead on how to manage this growth while protecting our critical farmland, which will be even more

important as other areas such as California and Midwest are impacted harder by climate change.

Population growth in future will need to be managed by looking at urban growth and identifying ways to site housing and transit to limit the need for car travel. Avoid concepts of Fully Contained Communities that drive increased GHG from car emissions.

Develop public education campaigns on the projected impacts of climate change in Skagit County but include education on what individuals, businesses, and visitors can do to reduce their carbon footprint including residential electrification; transition to EVs; supporting county and other programs that work for this.

Educate county employees on the plans and goals for the climate actions included in the new Comp Plan to increase support and participation. Create incentives that could get people excited about their work and efforts.

Educate public on funding available to help them transition to electric appliances, HVAC, EVs, and other items. This will help increase participation and reduce GHG emissions.

Educate landlords and large property developers about goals to reduce emissions through efficiency and electrification. Create goals to reduce emissions from large residential units (apartments etc.) and support things like solar panels, weatherization etc.

Look for programs already developed in other counties and cities that can be replicated in Skagit County.

Form a Climate Policy Advisory Team including representatives of local organizations, citizens, community leaders (especially in lower income communities).

Email comments submitted on June 27, 2024, y Rosann Wuebbels.

Hello, I couldn't make the Anacortes open house but have some suggestions. Revise development regulations relating to land use, natural resources lands, rural character, and environment, to ensure they are compliant with new state laws and reflect our community's priorities. My priority is to keep our farmland, open space and forestlands from development. Any development belongs in the city boundaries. Develop goals and

policies to encourage housing affordable to all income levels. Update transportation plans to support future road improvements and additional modes of transportation. Make our towns easier and safer to get around via bikes and walking. Create a community more resilient to climate exacerbated hazards and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Emailed comment submitted on June 27, 2024, by Kimberlei Rawson.

Dear Ms. Satushek,

Thank you for offering opportunities to learn about the Comprehensive Plan Update 2025 at the Berry Dairy Days and subsequent Open Houses. I have been a resident of Skagit County since 1995, and have lived in the Prairie, Cedardale areas. I have also lived in Colorado and Arizona. I am an educator, teaching mathematics and the performing arts for 31 years, and I have performed locally at McIntyre Hall and other venues in a variety of ensembles. My family has a background in agriculture, and I am aware that Skagit County has historically provided an extremely important role in seeds and products that feed the world. While we may be challenged to roll back the paving over of our rich farmland, we can do much to protect what is left. In an effort to address several of the items on the posters for the Open Houses, here are my “sticky note” responses to some of those questions:

Transportation: Hooray for the 90x and 80x and all the bus services in our area! My son was able to attend EvCC and also gain weekend access to return from UW because of your services. Thank you! If we could increase service in smaller vehicles to allow for connections (or more frequent connections) to Stanwood, Arlington, and Smokey Point, that would help get more of us commuters out of our single-occupant vehicles. Greater outreach with organizing van pools could be helpful. Smaller vehicles with more frequency could help facilitate greater ridership throughout our region between Mount Vernon/Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, and Anacortes. This would also help with agricultural tourism.

We are hoping for high-speed rail to be available in Bellingham or other nearby city so we can access Vancouver, BC, Seattle, and Portland to reduce our carbon footprint and improve transportation efficiency. In the meantime, increased frequency of Amtrak service would be helpful.

Locally, we need something like the monorail (gondola over rivers) to get us off I5 and the Skagit River Bridges, with frequent local vans to get everyone where they need to go. Sidewalks and Lime bikes, electric 3-wheel bikes for older folks, etc. could help. The major road corridors need to be utilized for through-traffic. We need to plan now for the big increase in population, BEFORE it becomes so expensive to retrofit. A monorail would be easier and less expensive than light rail because you can put it overhead in many existing roadways.

Climate: See above. See Housing below. Frequently-available public transportation is key. We can expect a large influx of climate refugees from our neighbors in more southern states.

Climate Concerns: We need to ban public fireworks altogether due to fire risk (more of a policy issue, I realize.)

Flooding: We should re-visit the idea of using the Nookachamps area to store excess water during the 500-yr flood events, compensating land owners there and having a plan

in place to evacuate farm animals. This would serve to protect the proposed infrastructure needed to address transportation, housing, and the business core of the county.

Housing/Rural Character/Justice: We need to increase density in our cities through multi-use zoning. Farmland and forest are rural; in towns and cities we need to encourage at least 4-story buildings (more stories would be better in certain areas) near public transportation hubs that feature restaurants, retail, grocery, and services so residents don't have to travel far to get what they need (leading to reduced greenhouse emissions). Increased education and permitting of ADU's would be helpful as well. By increasing the supply of housing in our area, we bring down the cost of living, thereby providing more access and a more just society for those with lower incomes. I hear the concerns of people who say they do not want the character of our towns to change. The reality, however, is that the population is going to grow dramatically, and we can recognize the importance of preserving farmland because we humans can go up, while there is only a set amount of fertile land for feeding everyone. Yes, science can improve yields, but those increases in yields will need to be used for the increase in population. This also affects food justice, keeping healthy food available close to home and available for many others in our country and indeed, around the world (seeds).

Justice/Climate/Housing: Along with increasing density and expanding public transportation, we need to reduce the requirements for parking lots. We should consider reclaiming some of our vast parking lots and return some patches to community gardens, planting more trees and reducing temperatures. For starters, we should pursue efforts to build multi-story retail plus housing units at the mostly-vacant Cascade Mall.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Written comments submitted on July 11, 2024, by the Skagit Land Trust.

Recommendation for The Board of County Commissioners to Create an Environmental Advisory Board.

Reason for this recommendation

Although 2023 Washington state legislation requires that local comprehensive plans include specific goals and policies for climate change preparedness, response, and recovery, Skagit County does not have a committee or board to advise and make recommendations on all of the foundational elements of these issues. Our county needs an environmental board focused on Skagit County's open space and natural lands that would also provide input on plans critical to climate change adaptation and carbon emissions reduction.

Natural ecosystems are all of a piece. They work together to regulate our climate, lock away carbon, clean and store the water we drink, provide adequate habitat for native fish and wildlife to adapt, slow and alleviate flooding, control storm water and filter pollutants, create natural beaches protecting communities, help deter invasive species, protect biodiversity, and allow people from all communities to connect with nature in healthy, low carbon ways.

None of our commissioner-appointed advisory boards associated in any way with the environment is charged with looking at Skagit County's natural lands from a holistic point of view. The Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) and Forest Advisory Board (FAB) have a commercial interests' focus. The County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board focuses largely on the recreational aspects of lands within the county parks system. The Marine Resources Committee is concerned principally with science, monitoring, education and restoration projects and does not play as advisory board role.

Critical area regulations do not cover the significant need the county has to identify and plan for conservation and restoration of a broad range of interconnected natural lands and environments, especially their critical role in climate adaptation and mitigation.

The County needs an environmental board with a diverse membership to evaluate Skagit County's natural lands and related policies through a variety of lenses, including social justice, biological and ecological sciences, climate science, and sustainability concepts to help the commissioners and the County make balanced decisions about the totality of our natural world and the people who inhabit it.

Proposed Primary Role and Duties

The Environmental Advisory Board reports to and makes recommendations to the Skagit County Board of Commissioners and Planning Agency on natural resource and environmental plans, policies and programs including, but not limited to:

- A.** Existing and proposed legislation affecting natural lands, open space, waters and wildlife habitat of Skagit County
- B.** Land uses as they impact the long-term sustainability of natural processes (river process, marine shoreline, etc.)
- C.** Ways to maintain, enhance, collaborate on, and promote natural solutions to improve climate preparedness.
- D.** Ways to maintain, enhance, collaborate on, and promote environmental justice and environmental stewardship.

For example, a key role of an Environmental Advisory Board would be to review and comment on evolving drafts of the comprehensive plan and climate change elements concerning the environment. Reviewing and commenting on plans is one of the main roles of the FAB and the AAB and would thus also apply here.

The Commissioners do not need to adopt a comprehensive plan policy calling for an Environmental Advisory Board in advance of its establishment; however, such a policy should be included in the proposed comprehensive plan update.

The advisory board would complement and not compete with any other governmental efforts to restore and manage the natural environment.

Additional roles of the Environmental Conservation Advisory Board

- Examine and advise on possible solutions and options for natural resource and environmental issues as they arise in Skagit County.
- Ensure that best available science is consistently available for consideration in local planning.
- Advise on updates and priorities in the County's Open Space Concept Plan to account for climate change.

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

- Advise on Integrated Plans as they develop; in particular, areas of fish and wildlife habitat and corridors.
- Make recommendations on measures that may be needed to protect the Skagit's unique natural ecosystems.
- Advise on ways to honor private property rights while supporting voluntary conservation and restoration.

Groups and Community Members that might be considered for appointment to the board include:

- **Nonprofit and Public Conservation and Restoration organizations that focus on environmental sustainability in the Skagit Area** (Skagit Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit River Systems Cooperative, Skagit Watershed Council, Skagit Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, etc.)
- **Organizations focused on education or research about the environment, including climate change** (Skagit Climate Science Consortium, North Cascades Institute, Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Skagit Audubon Society, Evergreen Islands, etc.)
- **Conservation-oriented businesses and nonprofits with demonstrated knowledge, interest and experience in one of the following areas:** natural sequestering of carbon; recycling; gleaning; native habitat restoration and/or engineering; surface water management; conservation biology; climate impacts on forests; aquatic or terrestrial ecology; hydrology etc.
- **Next generation groups with environmental programs** (Skagit Valley College, Triumph Teen Centre, Vamos Outdoors, Anacortes Green Club, etc.)
- **Community members and landowners at large from each district including young people** (under 23), those interested or with expertise in environmental issues, and members of an underserved community that may be disproportionately affected by climate change impacts.
- **This group would consult as needed with others including: tribal representatives; large ecosystem public land managers** (National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Natural Resources, WA State Parks, etc.); **other entities** planning for natural lands and open space locally; **natural resources** boards etc.

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**Submitted on July 11, 2024 on behalf of Skagit Land Trust
Molly Doran, Executive Director**

Written comment submitted by Skagit Land Trust on July 12, 2024.

Climate Change

Form a task force to work with staff to write a Climate Action Framework for Skagit County. The more communities participate in planning and strategy, the more realistic and effective the plan.

- **Compose a diverse task force with representatives from organizations and community members that reflect our “whole system”.** At the table

should be those focused on health, transportation, housing, conservation, natural resources, business, tourism, social justice, etc.

- Aim to work across jurisdictions (towns, cities, county) and have common, integrated goals and programs.
- **Climate impacts fall hardest on those that did the least to cause them.** Actions must assist these people and **they must be at the table.**

A Framework will not only help the County but also assist community-based organizations to help develop climate solutions.

- **Make a base map of the areas most vulnerable** to climate change as part of the Comprehensive Plan Supplemental Map section. This should include sea level rise, river flooding, excessive fire danger, geologic hazard areas (landslides, alluvial fans, erosion areas), areas with infrastructure hazards/potential failure that will be at increased risk with climate changes.
- **Speed up efforts to map the true 100-year flood plain.** Map how it will change over time.
- **Consult with the Skagit Climate Science Consortium.** They are local experts on climate change and have local data to inform this map.
 - Their maps use best available science and are free:
www.skagitclimatescience.org/flood-scenario-map/

Resiliency

EDUCATION:

- **Publish the map of potentially impacted areas that climate models show.** If people know they are vulnerable, they are more likely to move voluntarily or submit to voluntary buy outs or other options.
 - We also appreciate the County's mapping exercise at Open Houses which incorporates local knowledge and should be used with above.
- **Explore how resiliency options could work and make the options public so that people are educated on concepts and how they work. Consider:**
 - Managed retreat.
 - A Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program or other incentives to encourage property owners to move or exchange development rights voluntarily.
 - Use of grant funds and mitigation programs for voluntary buy outs by government organizations and conservation organizations.
- **Make a county web page on Climate Change and Resiliency: facts, tactics, science, stories and guidance such as "Best ways to lower your carbon footprint"**

REGULATION:

- **Pass Conservation Subdivision regulations.** This would allow professional conservation organizations or government entities to purchase part of a property from a voluntary landowner for strict conservation purposes without going through the

current arduous and expensive subdivision process. A conservation easement would be placed on the land purchased to ensure it was not developed. This is a win-win for adapting to climate change and for landowners who often want to keep the productive parts of their land, or move their home to a resilient location, but do not want to manage sensitive or increasingly hazardous excess acreage.

- **Have a Goal to Stop Putting Development in Harm's Way. Enact a mixture of voluntary incentives, education and regulations to:**

- restrict further development in the 100-year flood plan.
- restrict new development in natural hazard areas.
- restrict new development in areas most vulnerable to sea level rise.

- **Enact code that allows more land to be “sponges” and pollution strainers.**

- Allow for 100% recycling of household grey water in appropriate circumstances.
- Lessen impact of storm water system through controlled release and evaporation systems (natural greenspace protection, green roofs)
- Allow for experimentation in new homes or neighborhoods i.e. circular sewer systems.
- Add stricter code that protects aquifers, with special attention to sole source aquifers.

- **Skagit County should actively plan for sea level rise and climate change by updating the Shoreline Master Program in the next three years.**

- Conduct a sea-level rise vulnerability assessment and make it public.
- Add language that avoids construction in tidal and storm surge areas.
- Select a base elevation for all structures, utilities, and septic systems that will withstand inundation or destabilization for at least 60 years based on best available science.
- Ensure robust shoreline buffers on both marine and freshwater shorelines with strict limits for variances.
- Require that development on feeder bluffs have setbacks that reflect the typical lifespan of a building (i.e. 55 -100 years).
- Stress avoidance of new overwater structures. Any new overwater structures should minimize and mitigate impacts to eelgrass, kelp, and other critical environments.
- Limit hard armoring of shorelines to situations where there is no other alternative to protect an existing structure.
- Do not classify boulders as soft armoring.
- Require that new development be situated to avoid needing shoreline stabilization.

- **Develop systems to preserve our forests, wetlands, water and soils for natural carbon storage** as a way to reduce carbon emissions in the County.

- Identify carbon sequestration as a compatible forestry practice for Open Space taxation.
- Allow increased carbon storage (bio-char, etc.), including through mitigation programs, as compatible agricultural land uses for Open Space taxation.
- Adopt strict critical area code for science-based buffer widths to protect and restore healthy freshwater and coastal wetlands in all land use areas. These

store more carbon per acre than any habitat on earth. They also buffer communities from sea level rise, flooding, and fire.

PLANNING & STRATEGY

- **In the comprehensive plan chapters on Land Use, Natural Resources, and Environment elevate natural resource conservation for all types of land.** Prioritize conserving lands that mitigate climate change while helping provide clean water, unpolluted air, the ability for communities to adapt to changing conditions, and places for fish and wildlife to adapt.
- **Develop a transportation plan that incorporates sea level rise and natural hazard conditions into its planning.**
 - Identify roads at risk of erosion, natural hazards, or inundation due to climate change.
 - Have a plan that accepts that not all lands currently behind dikes or levees will remain viable for development or agriculture.
 - Develop ways for towns and neighborhoods with access roads at risk to help pay for dike and drainage infrastructure protecting those roads.
- **Update the [Skagit Countywide UGA Open Space Concept Plan](#) with climate change and green connectors in mind. Reduction of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)**
- **Focus on the causes of GHG emissions.** Every solution should be linked to the causes.
- **Create incentives to build electric vehicle charging infrastructure in rural areas,** including eastern Skagit County. Currently there are no public charging stations upriver, which greatly reduces incentives to move to electric transportation.
- **Prioritize the development of interconnected trails systems between towns and cities to decrease the use of motorized vehicles.**
 - Increase ways for communities to use non-carbon transportation- trails, bike paths, electric charging stations.
 - Allow public access trails on dikes. Develop incentives and protections for dike districts and adjacent landowners.
 - Develop additional trails to attract recreationists and eco-tourists (such as birders) increasing the county's tourist economy without increasing the carbon footprint. Eco-tourism contributes over \$20 billion to Washington's GDP and growing. Skagit County is uniquely positioned to capitalize on this trend with more tourist infrastructure such as trails and wildlife viewing sites.
 - Make completing the Centennial Trail from Snohomish County to Whatcom County a priority.
 - Develop a bike path from Edison to Burlington. The Samish Flats are a tourism site needing safer passage for bikers and walkers.
- **Work with cities and towns to help them plan for and absorb more people, homes, and businesses.** Modify the population distribution goal so that 90% of new population growth is in urban areas (rather than the current 80% goal).

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- **Encourage 20-minute neighborhoods.** 20-minute neighborhoods are places where residents have easy, convenient access to many of the places and services they use daily including grocery stores, restaurants, schools, and parks, without relying heavily on cars. Increasing the walkability of neighborhoods will reduce the county’s carbon output. **Encourage smaller “truck” farms on the edges of cities and towns through zoning incentives.**
- **Focus strongly on keeping growth in urban areas and making those urban areas livable.**
 - Establish high thresholds for when cities and towns are allowed to expand their Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).
 - Do not allow UGAs to expand into floodplain or critical areas.
 - Have programs that purchase development rights around UGAs to contain development and provide green spaces, parks, and trails. Green spaces will also help absorb storm waters and keep urban areas cooler.
 - Stop sprawl by outlawing Fully Contained Communities (FCC) in rural areas. FCCs increase GHG emissions as they contribute to increased vehicle use.
- **Develop Plans to Reduce harm including erosion, floods, and sea level rise by planning for green systems that allow natural processes to operate.**
- **Focus on connecting green spaces and wildlife corridors so wildlife can move freely as their habitat changes or is lost.**

Next Steps

Based on the engagement data collected so far, the project team will pose recommendations for changes to Comprehensive Plan policies and present preliminary draft policies to the Planning Commission between July to October 2024.

Comment Periods

There will be several comment periods between July 23, 2024 and November 2024. Another round of public comments will also open early 2025.

Open House

The next open house focusing on climate, resilience, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and environment will be on October 1st in Mount Vernon.

Survey

The next community survey will open on September 30th, 2024.

Please visit <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> to learn more about upcoming engagement events and how to provide further public comment on the Comprehensive Plan.

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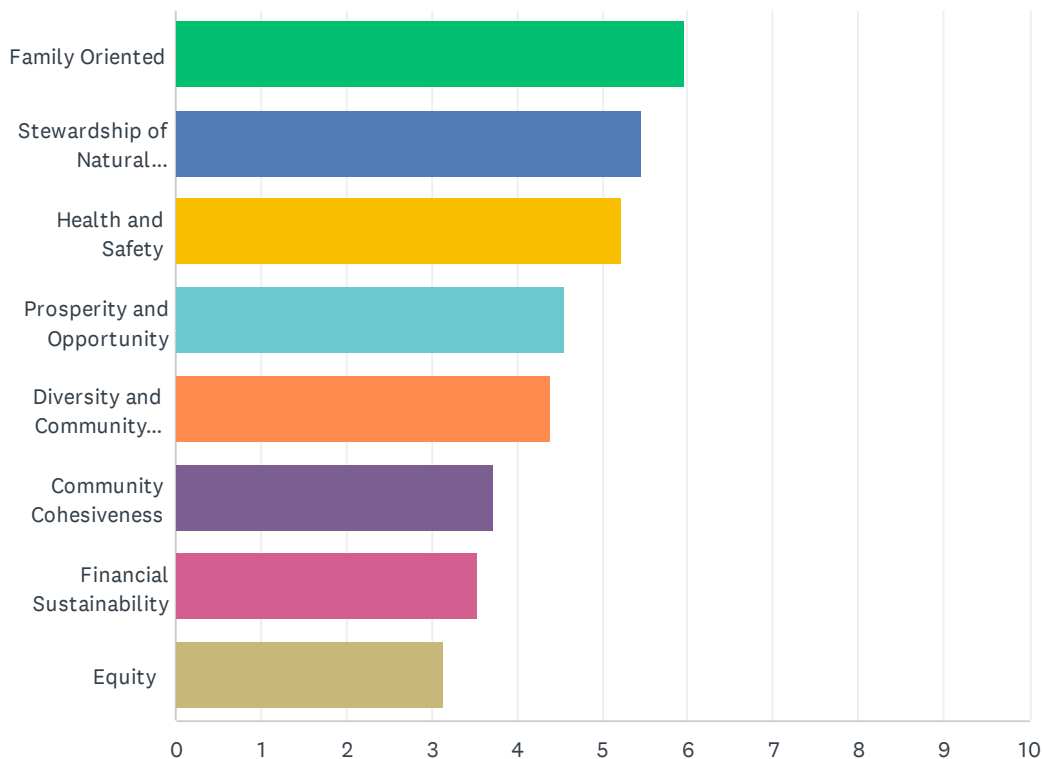
Appendices

Appendix A. First Survey Results

Survey results exported from Survey Monkey start on the next page.

Q1 What values best describe Skagit County? Please rank your priorities (1-highest; 8-lowest).

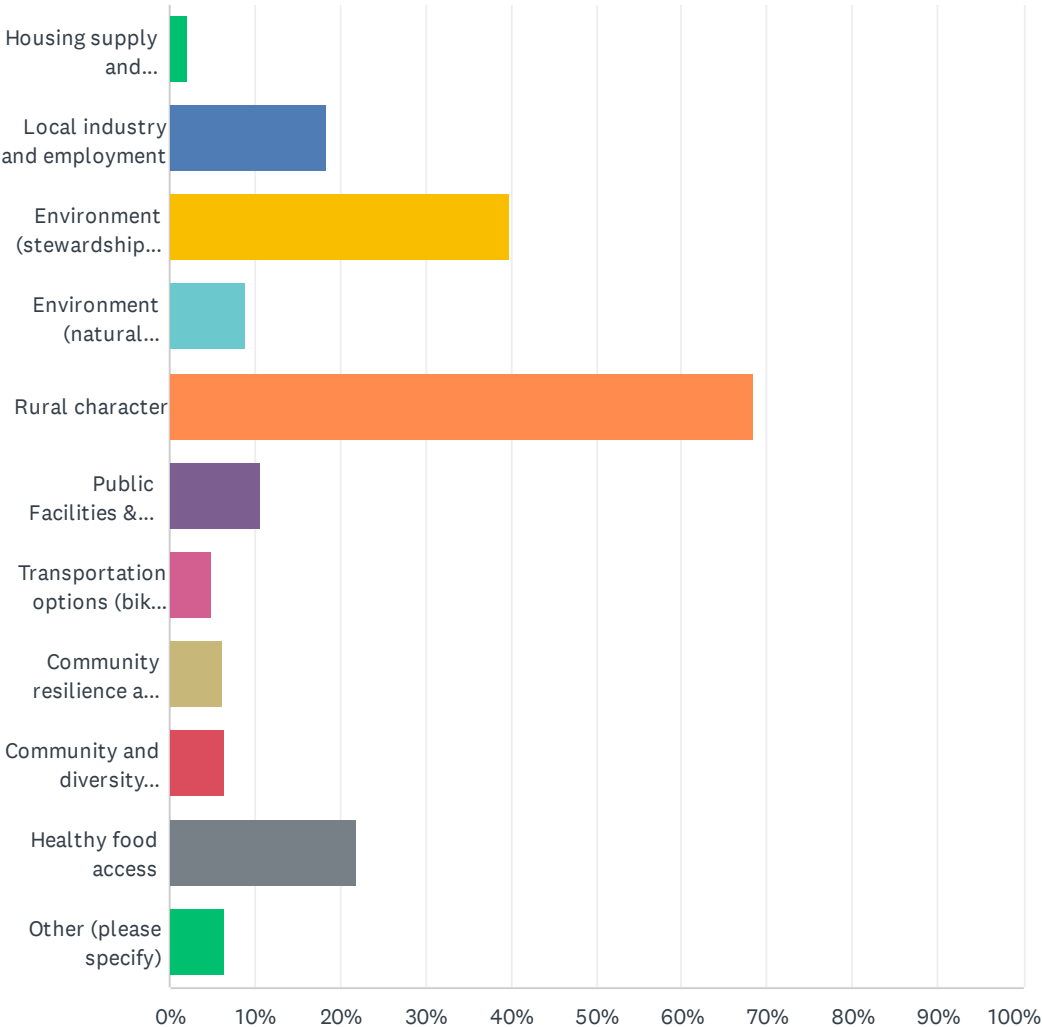
Answered: 710 Skipped: 7



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	SCORE
Family Oriented	33.80% 240	21.13% 150	11.97% 85	8.73% 62	7.61% 54	6.06% 43	5.21% 37	5.49% 39	710	5.98
Stewardship of Natural Resources	28.73% 204	12.96% 92	12.68% 90	10.28% 73	10.99% 78	9.58% 68	9.86% 70	4.93% 35	710	5.45
Health and Safety	9.44% 67	17.32% 123	21.27% 151	18.45% 131	15.35% 109	10.14% 72	5.21% 37	2.82% 20	710	5.22
Prosperity and Opportunity	6.34% 45	15.07% 107	15.21% 108	16.06% 114	14.37% 102	13.10% 93	11.27% 80	8.59% 61	710	4.56
Diversity and Community Inclusion	10.56% 75	17.18% 122	11.83% 84	9.58% 68	9.58% 68	10.28% 73	15.49% 110	15.49% 110	710	4.39
Community Cohesiveness	3.80% 27	5.77% 41	10.28% 73	12.25% 87	15.63% 111	24.08% 171	16.48% 117	11.69% 83	710	3.73
Financial Sustainability	6.34% 45	7.18% 51	10.56% 75	11.55% 82	11.41% 81	10.28% 73	12.39% 88	30.28% 215	710	3.54
Equity	0.99% 7	3.38% 24	6.20% 44	13.10% 93	15.07% 107	16.48% 117	24.08% 171	20.70% 147	710	3.13

Q2 What are Skagit County’s greatest strengths? (Pick two).

Answered: 717 Skipped: 0

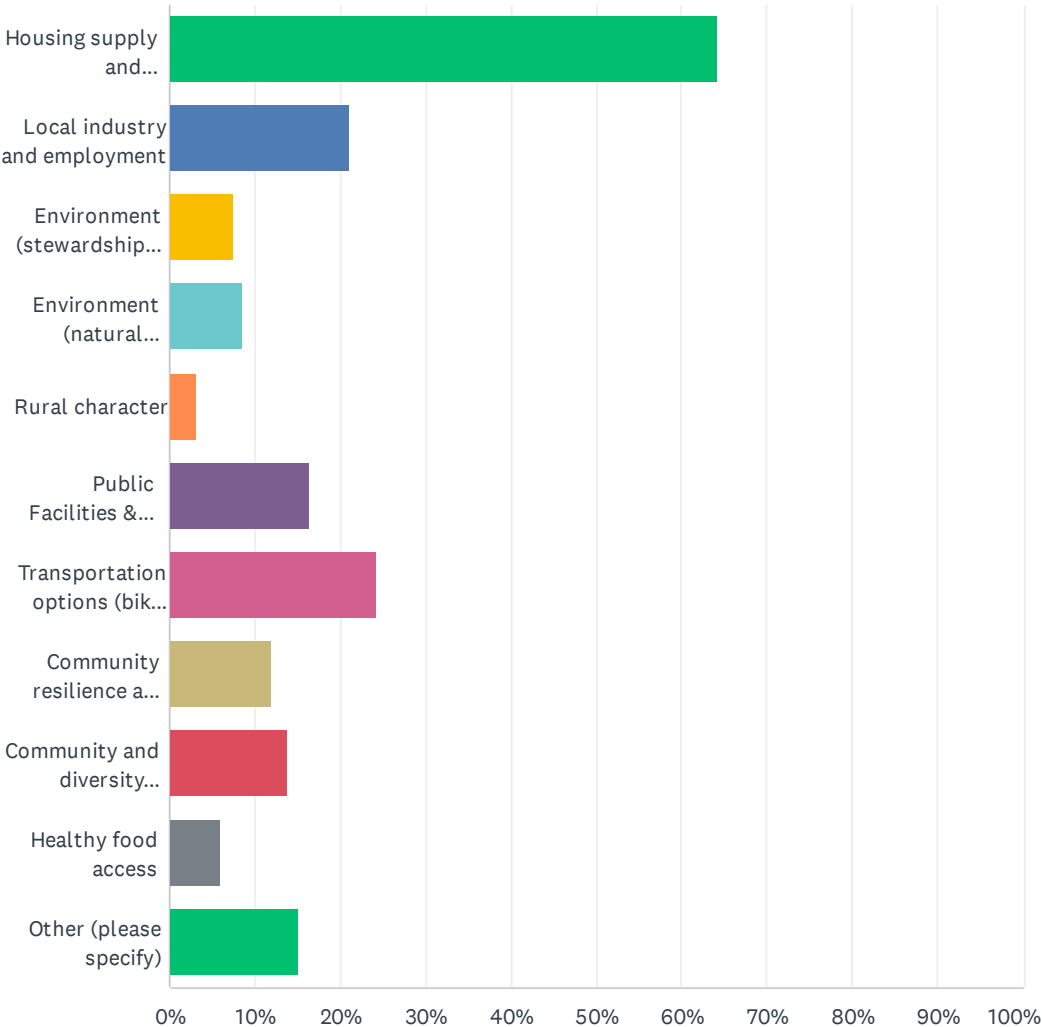


Skagit County 2025 Community Vision Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Housing supply and affordability	2.09%	15
Local industry and employment	18.27%	131
Environment (stewardship and water resources)	39.89%	286
Environment (natural resource extraction)	8.93%	64
Rural character	68.34%	490
Public Facilities & Services (Roads, parks, and community buildings)	10.74%	77
Transportation options (bike, bus, car, and walking)	4.88%	35
Community resilience and natural hazard mitigation	6.14%	44
Community and diversity inclusion	6.42%	46
Healthy food access	21.90%	157
Other (please specify)	6.42%	46
Total Respondents: 717		

Q3 What are Skagit County's greatest weaknesses? Pick two.

Answered: 717 Skipped: 0

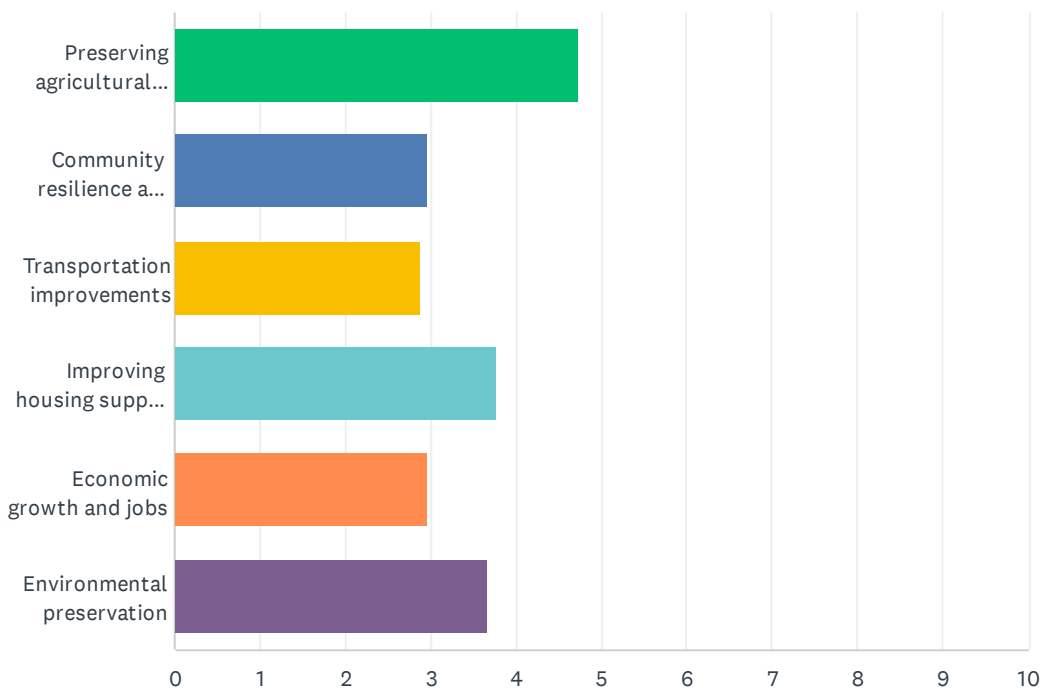


Skagit County 2025 Community Vision Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Housing supply and affordability	64.16%	460
Local industry and employment	21.06%	151
Environment (stewardship and water resources)	7.39%	53
Environment (natural resource extraction)	8.51%	61
Rural character	3.21%	23
Public Facilities & Services (Roads, parks, and community buildings)	16.32%	117
Transportation options (bike, bus, car, and walking)	24.41%	175
Community resilience and natural hazard mitigation	11.99%	86
Community and diversity inclusion	13.95%	100
Healthy food access	6.00%	43
Other (please specify)	15.20%	109
Total Respondents: 717		

Q4 Skagit County is aiming to establish a vision to guide the comprehensive plan and for the County of the next 20 years. We want to know what is most important to you. What priorities do you feel are most important to focus on over the next 20 years? Please rank your priorities (1-highest; 6-lowest).

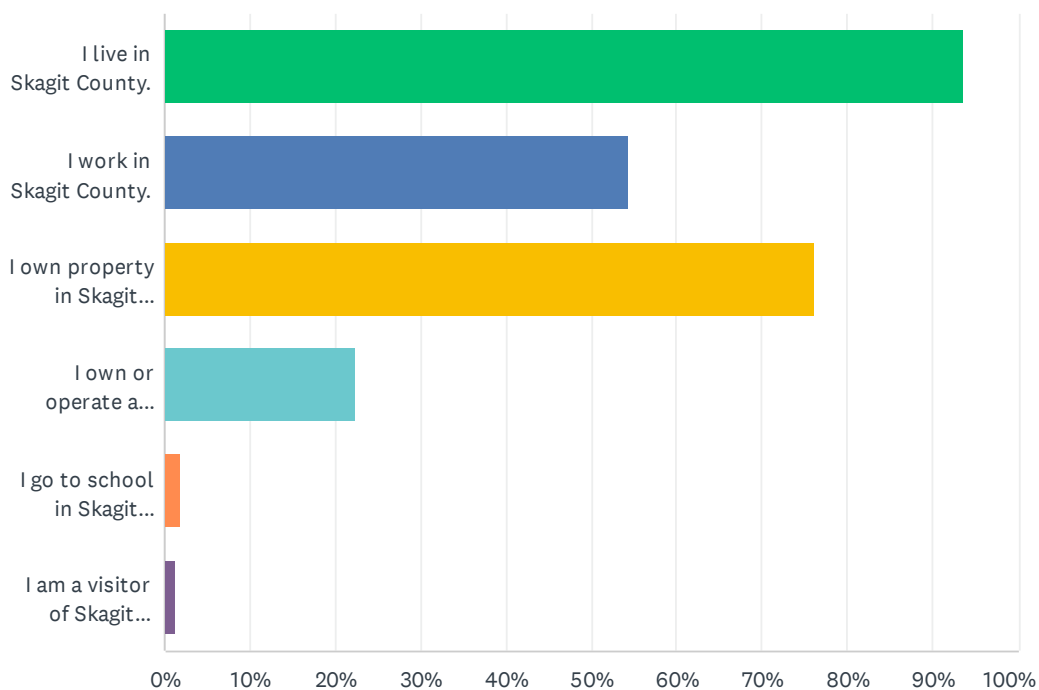
Answered: 714 Skipped: 3



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Preserving agricultural land	45.52% 325	19.89% 142	14.01% 100	9.80% 70	5.46% 39	5.32% 38	714	4.74
Community resilience and hazard mitigation	4.62% 33	11.48% 82	18.49% 132	23.95% 171	23.25% 166	18.21% 130	714	2.96
Transportation improvements	3.22% 23	8.96% 64	19.75% 141	26.47% 189	24.09% 172	17.51% 125	714	2.88
Improving housing supply and affordability	21.29% 152	15.97% 114	19.75% 141	15.69% 112	17.09% 122	10.22% 73	714	3.78
Economic growth and jobs	7.70% 55	17.37% 124	14.71% 105	13.31% 95	18.35% 131	28.57% 204	714	2.97
Environmental preservation	17.65% 126	26.33% 188	13.31% 95	10.78% 77	11.76% 84	20.17% 144	714	3.67

Q5 What best describes you? Select all that apply.

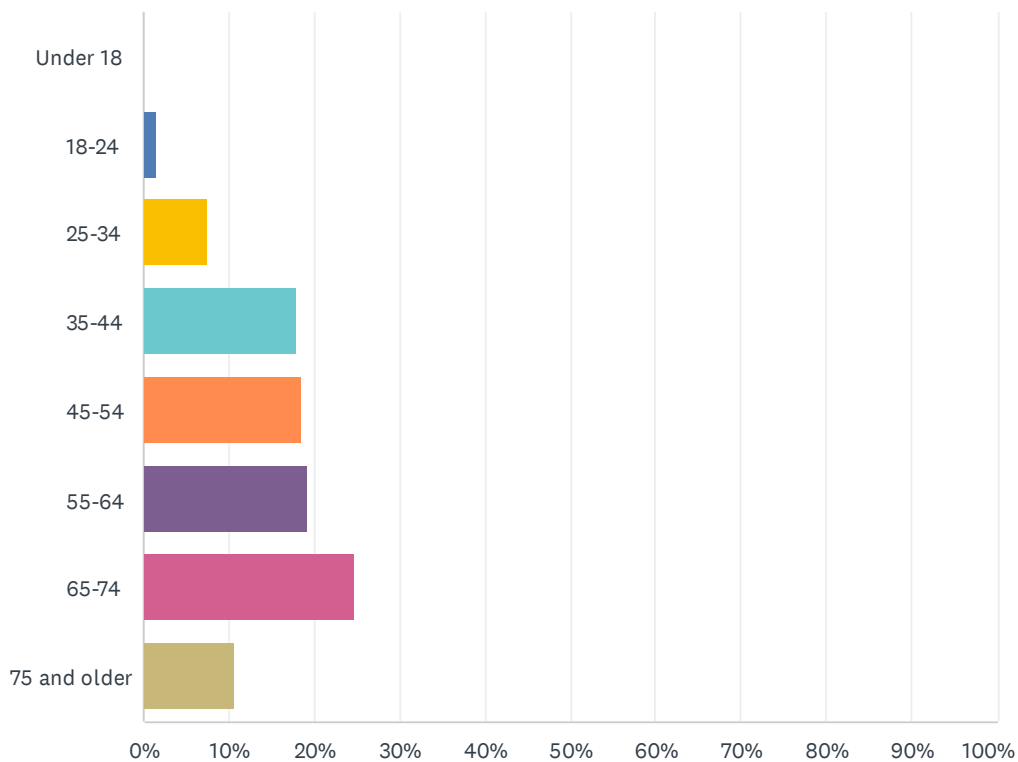
Answered: 717 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in Skagit County.	93.58%	671
I work in Skagit County.	54.39%	390
I own property in Skagit County.	76.15%	546
I own or operate a business in Skagit County.	22.45%	161
I go to school in Skagit County.	1.95%	14
I am a visitor of Skagit County.	1.26%	9
Total Respondents: 717		

Q6 How old are you?

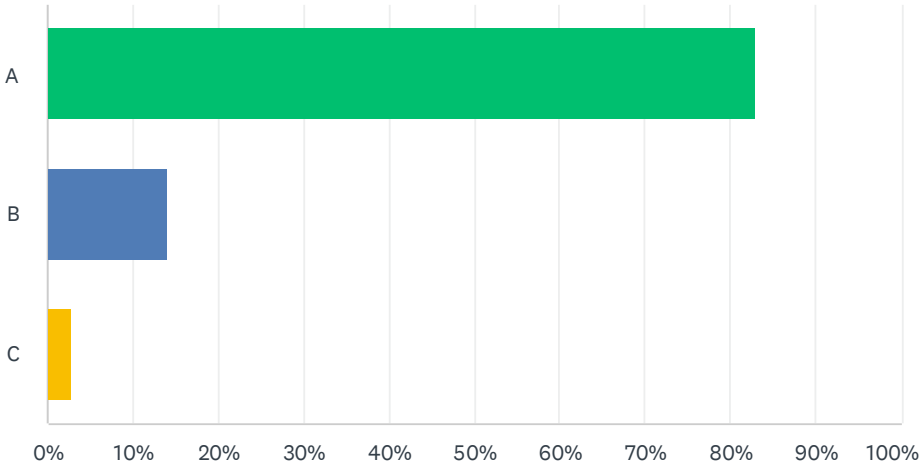
Answered: 710 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	1.55%	11
25-34	7.46%	53
35-44	17.89%	127
45-54	18.59%	132
55-64	19.15%	136
65-74	24.65%	175
75 and older	10.70%	76
TOTAL		710

Q7 Where do you live?

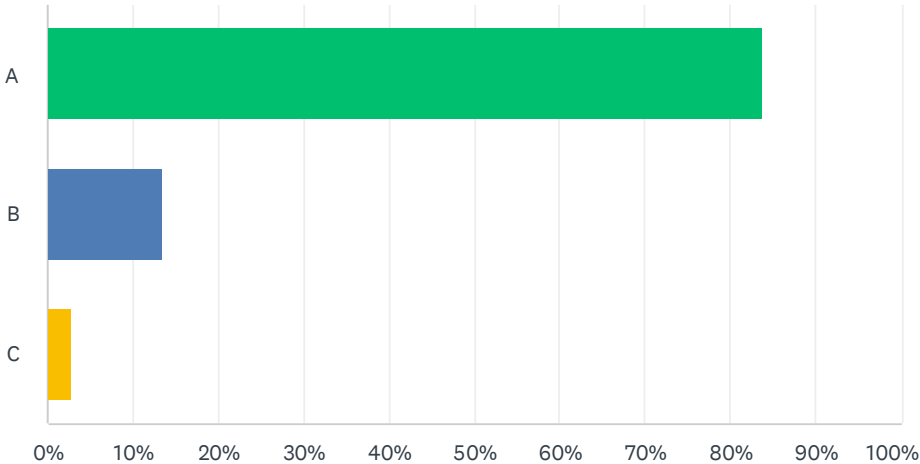
Answered: 700 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
A	83.00% 581
B	14.14% 99
C	2.86% 20
TOTAL	700

Q8 Where do you work?

Answered: 547 Skipped: 170



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
A	83.73% 458
B	13.53% 74
C	2.74% 15
TOTAL	547

Q9 If you would like to be added to the mailing list for project updates, please provide your email.

Answered: 304 Skipped: 413

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

Appendix B. Stakeholder List

Organization	Website	Contact
Agricultural Advisory Committee	Link to Website	Malia Agpawa
Skagit County Drainage and Irrigation Consortium		Jenna Friebel
Forestry Advisory Committee	Link to Website	Kendra Smith
Marine Resource Center	Link to Website	Tracy Alker
Skagit Habitat for Humanity	Link to Website	Tina Tate
Helping Hands Foodbank	Link to Website	Rebecca Skrinde
Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County	Link to Website	John Sternlicht
Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association	Link to Website	Wayne Crider
Skagit County Farmers		Tony Wisdom, Skagit Valley Farm Diane Szukovathy, Jello Mold Farm Jason Vander Kooy Harmony Dairy Amy Frye, Boldly Grown Farms

Appendix C. Stakeholder Interview Questions

Participants were provided these questions ahead of stakeholder interviews but were not asked to fill out the form and return them. The stakeholder interviews were structured in a discussion format to foster open and honest conversations.

Questions for the 2025 Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Land Use

1. What are your primary concerns regarding planning for population growth in Skagit County over the next 20 years?
2. What is Skagit County currently doing to manage growth that you hope will continue for the next 20 years?
3. What is Skagit County currently doing to manage its natural resources and working lands (forest and farmland) that you hope will continue for the next 20 years?
4. Can you think of any planning efforts or services that Skagit County should consider incorporating in the future to help improve your quality of life?

Housing

1. On a scale of 1-7 where 1 is *not at all*, 4 is *somewhat* and 7 is *extremely*, to what extent are you concerned about housing affordability in Skagit County?

Not at all Somewhat Extremely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. Washington State law requires Skagit County to allow zoning for affordable housing within the unincorporated areas of the County.
3. Where would you advise Skagit County to focus planning for additional housing, particularly affordable housing, located outside of our existing cities and towns?
4. Using that same 7-point scale, to what extent would you support Skagit County focusing multiple-family housing and affordable housing in the County's existing LAMRIDs (Limited Area of More Intensive Rural Development)? – e.g., within Clear Lake, Edison, Big Lake, and Alger.

Not at all Somewhat Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

5. Are there areas in Skagit County that should not be utilized for more intense housing development? If so, where?

Transportation

1. To what extent do you feel Skagit County is able to plan for and meet your transportation needs?

Not at all Somewhat Extremely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Please explain:

2. Thinking of transportation infrastructure and the needs in the unincorporated areas of Skagit County (outside of cities or towns) - What transportation options and opportunities would you like to see Skagit County aim for in the next 20 years?
3. Skagit County is required by State law to come up with ways to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled in the County.
4. What ideas do you have about how Skagit County can achieve this?

Climate Change

1. To what extent are you concerned about climate intensified hazards such as drought, sea level rise, wildfires, or increased frequency and severity of floods in Skagit County?

Not at all Somewhat Extremely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. Skagit County is required by State Law to plan for climate intensified natural hazards such as extreme temperatures, wildfires, increased flooding, sea level rise, etc.
3. Which of the climate change intensified natural hazards (*review list above*) do you feel Skagit County should focus on as the highest priority? Why?
4. Are there specific areas or populations in Skagit County that you believe will be more impacted by these hazards? If so, where/why?
5. Considering the various governmental services provided by Skagit County (Planning, Public Works, Public Health, Parks & Recreation, etc.), what specific actions can Skagit County take to enhance the preparedness and resilience of these services and the populations they serve in response to climate change-induced natural hazards?
6. What actions do you think Skagit County government should prioritize to enhance its preparedness and resiliency to changing climate?

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

Appendix D. Stakeholder Interview Discussion Boards

Stakeholder interview discussion boards start on the next page.

Marine Resource Center June 21, 2024 Comments Heard

Rural / Agriculture

Transitioning from agricultural land to developable land is having huge impacts on resources, water, and foundation.

There are different groups in the community, ethnic and religious, that don't fit a single identity because it's incompatible with their identity. There are people in the community that aren't having that accommodation that's generational going to live with them and family.

Housing

The cost and the amount of what is in high density is important to develop.

Action

The comprehensive plan should consider how to address the needs of the community that aren't having that accommodation that's generational going to live with them and family.

Transport.

High growth, it means for us should be thinking of transportation and growth concurrently as this is part of everything in the community.

There should be an emphasis on transportation and infrastructure and making sure that should be prioritized.

Equity

Equitable access to the waterfront. We want people to be able to lease and experience the water.

Public ownership of shoreline properties should be a priority.

Environment / Critical Areas

Water and wastewater require by increasing density.

Agricultural pollution, including water pollution, is very difficult to regulate and is harmful to the environment.

There are difficult and complex questions on building with water and water availability, so how can the county accommodate growth with these restrictions on development?

Sub water impacting infrastructure and improving the quality.

Shoreline master program is great but should be integrated with stormwater management.

We want the County to be a leader in shoreline establishment, green infrastructure, and water restoration and management.

What strategies could be done to help or diffuse water better around the Shorelands?

Capital Facilities / Utilities

Lots of discussion about how public utility projects could help protect the shoreline, groundwater, and prevent pollution of natural resources.

Climate / Hazard Mitigation

A large percent of the County is going to be impacted by things on the coast. How will this be comprehensively addressed using scientific data.

Coastal restoration and resilience is a concern especially with stress from development.

Very concerned about levees, erosion and dewatered flow. Areas of concern are Carlin Island Road, Evansville Road and Redstone Ridge. Hazardous is a huge concern in the area.

Regrading events, how well it be possible to understand conditions to grow and capacity to preserve.

Communications along the coast will be impacted in the predominant rain.

Effect on cultural resources due to climate change is another element that should be considered in planning.

Econ Development

Resilient the existing waterfront with multiple. There should be increased and encouraged for multiple water-based businesses.

Notes for Later

Actions

What goals should be in the comprehensive plan to be eligible for green or sustainable projects or other "brand" mitigation. How can we get funding?

Public works has already identified the best roads to help get funding for projects. Call them out in the comprehensive plan.

Single county level trust can be a partner in planning these roads in the future.

Single county should make a vulnerability map of properties with the most concerning hazards.

Identify the groups to coordinate with. Make coordination easier more opportunities.

Transition Ridge and the water restoration program are also changing as a result of climate change. How can they be coordinated over time? What are the impacts?

Could there be a transfer of development rights program?

There are a couple of groups, being in the county to form resilience groups. The county should encourage and support this. SDCG is involved with this. Public works has been involved with this so far.

The comprehensive plan should be done in such a way that it's respectful of tribal and treaty rights, and acknowledge this to avoid issues.

The CMP should be proactive in responding to climate.

Forestry Advisory Committee June 12, 2024 Comments Heard

Rural / Agriculture



Housing

In eastern Skagit county there is a huge decline in suburb and there is cheaper housing but the jobs are on the western side of the County. Concrete, Rockport, Mountbarn parts of this decline is from the forest service decline in management and milling.

The remote work has shifted the use of rural communities. The increase in rural communities is people with remote jobs. Now there is a huge disparity between the newcomers and the long-term residents in income and generational will occur.

Transport.



Environment / Critical Areas

Policies needs to support the industry.

Compatibility with adjacent uses for natural resource lands. Supporting natural resources is a really big deal.

Capital Facilities / Utilities

Updating bridges, there are several bridges that have restrictions for hauling which is disruptive to the industry. They have a list of roads.

HUGE CONCERN for loss of infrastructure. Once it is gone it makes a large problem for future timber industries to grow.

Hazard Mitigation



Econ Development

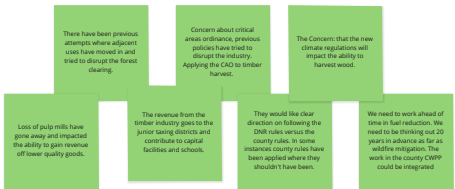
In eastern Skagit County there is a huge decline in schools and there is cheaper housing but the jobs are on the Western side of the County. Concrete, Rockport, Mountbarn parts of this decline is from the forest service decline in management and milling.

Could we support businesses in areas where people live. There is a sewer in Darrington that is losing employees and they can't afford housing and they can't afford the living wage.

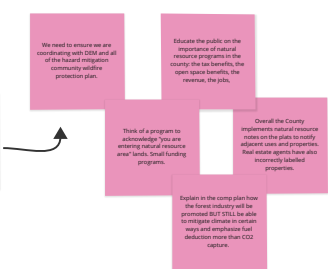
Notes for Later



Concerns



Action



Handwritten sticky notes from meeting

County administration

- **DPS coordinate w/DEM
- **DPS term valuation
- **Need CFP/FP term involvement/valuation
- **Policy support/signals statements

Notes

- *Public supporting actively managed forest lands
- **Tax, fuel reduction
- *DNR/USDA policies to avoid conflict avoidance
- **The DNR/USDA, stakeholders
- *Customer outreach to rural community goal
- **Forest types
- *Education about benefits of forestry
- **Fire and management/forest assets
- **How to get into a fire dump day

Comments

- **More of a public awareness
- **Fuel reduction
- **CWP reference
- **Infrastructure capability
- **High bridges (weight)
- **Expand on policies to meet forestry process demands

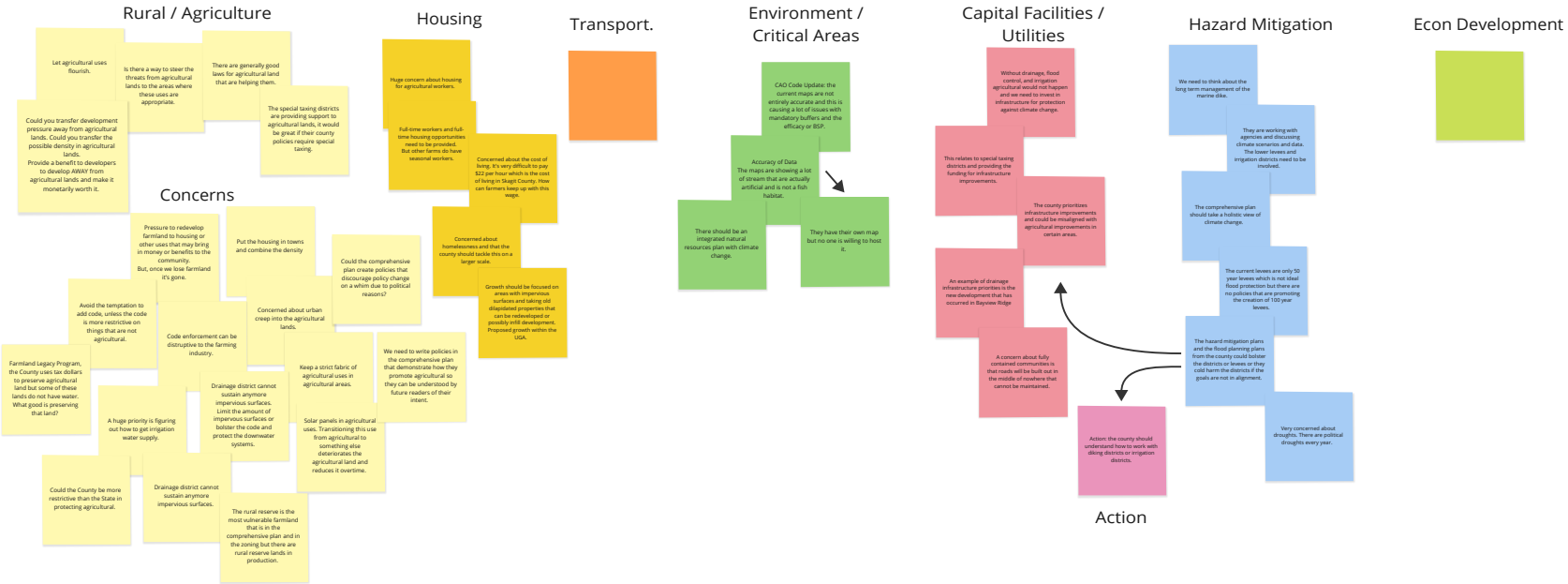
Notes

- **Normal costs for housing
- **Rural voice not as stable due to limited resources
- **Lack of types - rentals
- **Concerns from land/development regs
- **Infrastructure capability
- **Forest service not meeting standards
- **Bridges dumping cost of waste disposal

Notes

- **To be done problem to coordinate regulation meeting all structure
- **Notes
- **Unmanaged forest lands
- **Infrastructure, reduced for fire agents
- **Forest land management
- **Further involvement of forest agents
- **Increase ability to practice forestry

Farmer Stakeholder Interview Comments Heard



EDASC Stakeholder Interview Comments Heard

Rural / Agriculture

Developable land is hard to find for expanding businesses or housing especially in rural areas.

Businesses involved in some kind of food business, i.e. hospitality and breweries. Businesses should be to make a living on the farm land that they own.

Currently they are having a hard time making a living with the land that they own, need to not close off avenues for them

Business owners, particularly in the agricultural businesses have mostly been in the unincorporated county.

Housing in Bayview Ridge. This location has been discussed as a potential site.

Going to have to accept more density to preserve the beauty of the landscape.

The school district has some land where development could occur.

The Skagit Housing Consortium encourages group conversation, talks about NIMBY vs YIMBY.

Martha's Place is a model for addressing homelessness, but it does not address the issue of workforce housing. We need a range of housing projects that specifically target different housing problems.

Housing

If people can't live here, they can't work here. Need more multi family and rental properties for younger populations as well as everyone along the curve.

New housing projects should be located near work

There are not a lot of options; farmland is taken, flood plains are not great sites, doing it near the population centers and the work centers is where the focus is.

It is currently difficult for families to encourage their kids to grow up and live within the County.

The talk surrounding the self contained community and the gravel pit by the golf course inflicted fear of people coming from Seattle/CA coming and buying at the houses.

The unincorporated areas have potential for housing, not sure where but there is potential there.

The price point is a problem if you talk to the builders. They can't charge enough to make their money back.

There are people who don't want change, or people who don't want multi family housing because of the demographics of the lower income levels.

The county is way behind on housing and have been for 10 years. Have to make it happen by reducing costs for the builders, find a way for the public sector to share the risk and cost.

There are people in Skagit county that don't like density, but also don't like sprawl. If you don't like one, one can assume you would support the other

More housing at every level is necessary.

Transport.

Connecting people to where they work and where they recreate is the most important.

There are people who are trying to figure out what the best levers are. The legislators and the commissioners are involved in figuring out what the demand curve is for the next 20-30 years.

From a survey 3-4 years ago found that transportation was an issue pertaining to the workforce. The concern was around the hours of the different nodes of transportation.

Connecting the train to the bus is what people want. Taking people off the roads and using different nodes of transportation. This way support is given to the lower income population that can't afford gas, etc.

Transportation is an equity issue for the lower income population. In addition to the environmental benefits, they want to make sure that people can get to and from work.

Environment / Critical Areas

The county is protecting their farmland. Maybe protecting it too much, making it almost impossible to make money off their land.

Capital Facilities / Utilities

Broadband is much better than it was. The county jumpstarted it in 2015. The goal was to bring as many people to the county as we could.

An infrastructure problem is power. Businesses are finding that they don't have access to enough power. The county is currently working on that, they are bringing up these issues to the county and legislators.

Hazard Mitigation

In 2022 there was a huge flood that impacted the community, close to a million dollars was given to the community.

It is easier for businesses to reach out to FEMA but EDASC cannot speak to households.

Natural disasters such as cold spells can damage crops, burst pipes. Wildfires that affected the community also received relief.

Have been working with a diverse group when it comes to hazard mitigation. Businesses out in rural areas get affected the most.

Econ Development

Home businesses that EDASC interacts with are small or consulting businesses. There are more entrepreneurs now more than ever.

During the pandemic, a lot of work was done with public health. If you are not understanding the importance of public health in the economy then you are not paying attention.

People tend to criticize a solution if it doesn't fix every element of the problem.

The more childcare seats that are available the better, best to have them near where parents work.

A iff development has been talked about recently with the port.

Skagit Leadership works across disciplines. There is a tendency to address the problem for a long time before taking action. There are a lot of people who understand the issues but help is needed to move the process along.

The growth for Skagit County is not nearly as large as other counties. It is not explosive growth it is incremental growth. There is a want to prioritize the economy by ensuring that people can both work and live within the county.

Housing Groups June 12, 2024 Comments Heard

Rural / Agriculture



Housing

Transport.



Environment / Critical Areas



Capital Facilities / Utilities



Hazard Mitigation



Econ Development



Actions



There is a piece of land brought to Habitat for Humanity that could be donated by a church for housing but it's zoned for commercial. It's in the UGA but the city won't annex it because of sewer issues.

Bottleneck in housing, seniors living in homes, no lights, no utilities but they have no where to go. Lack of diversity of housing choices for seniors.

Habitat for humanity has a repair program which helps repair existing homes. A lot of the repairs will take place in the county. There are a lot of elderly, veteran, or other and in need of repair.

They want to add residential units in commercial buildings for their workforce housing.

Habitat for humanity wants multi-family. But large lots are hard to come by for them.

Their target population is 30-60% AMI. No one can afford those homes unless Habitat for Humanity is building.

They would like to look for land out in the county and take on septic, and wells, so they can do multi-family. Land ideal for this might be future annexation land.

Need affordable land for these housing projects.

There is a large gap from shelters to long term housing. There's few options in between the two.

Trend or shift that may help is increase in multi-generational housing with parents, kids, and grandparents. Getting the most use out of SF homes by keeping them full.

Large theme among people that there is not enough land but the cities will not allow new development in the UGA.

How can we build policy to support all of these things.

Sedro-woolley is working on a cottage ordinance

There's a huge gap in housing options. They need temporary housing options while affordable housing options get built. Some affordable housing projects takes up to 7 years for construction.

Voucher programs are being neglected by landlords because there was a risk of property damage without liability.

Actions

Could the county try and make the permitting process easier for affordable housing construction for Habitat for Humanity projects.

Maybe there are ways to incentivize smaller housing types in LAMMDs for first-time home buyers or for seniors that don't need large houses or can't live in them.

Could we incentivize cottage ordinances, small lot subdivisions for duplexes.

Demonstration programs can help incubate housing types and show the community new and innovative ways to create non-traditional housing types.

In Marblemount there is a huge worry about fire. There is a large area of low income populations and people are reliant on the food bank in these areas.

Hamilton areas deals with floods regularly. The food bank and other services help move people and haul off debris.

The groups in mobile homes that are displaced. There is a very high level of rotting, mold, and other hazards with these mobile home programs.

If mobile homes are in impacted areas and need to be removed how is that housing supply getting back into the community?

What mobile home improvements could be incentivized? How could this be in policy? These are a great housing gap option for small families or seniors.

Farmer Group June 11, 2024 Comments Heard

Rural / Agriculture

Farm diversity is a good thing but there seems to be a loss of diversity among farms.

SOME agritourism strategies are beneficial for future farming generations. How can we use agritourism to educate people about local farming.

Housing

Having a long term affordable housing option for workforce housing. They have 12 full-time employees.

There is a lack of supply and rental prices are not feasible.

Conway, Port of Skagit, Boughhill, Infil and density opportunities should be considered instead of developing low land that could be used for farming.

Community oriented housing options like courtyard housing could be compatible in rural.

Incentives for ADUs that could provide rental spaces.

Transport.

The biggest thing for transportation needs is larger regional transportation needs in and out of the County.

Making sure the County's future growth is going to align with the transit plans locally and regionally.

Roundabouts are useful as a traffic management tool.

Environment / Critical Areas



Capital Facilities / Utilities

Schools: how does the County work with the school districts? The County is responsible for integrating school district planning in the comprehensive plan however, these are not always aligned. The goal is to plan for growth and future goals.

Hazard Mitigation

Food security is a concern. Some local farmers have the capability to produce local self-sustaining food that isn't reliant on larger regional resources.

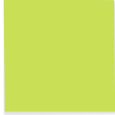
Very concerned about the impacts of climate change especially the variable and extreme weather events.

How can the county support agricultural uses amongst the new or increasing frequency of climate related hazards.

How can farmers keep their labor force safe during extreme heat.

Is the County prepared for evacuation and communication in the rural areas. How can this be paired with the Hazard Mitigation plan.

Econ Development



Concerns

Uses in LAMIBRDs need to provide neighborhood services to reduce vehicle miles travelled.

Investing in trades.

Permitting buildings and functions for agricultural business activities could be better. Example: taking three years to get a building permit complete.

Current procedures cater more to large farm production than small family farming.

Some of the current policies and procedures make it hard to start a small family farm.

What can the County do to assist first generation farmers or the next generation of farmers.

The single-family use is an accessory use but sometimes that isn't always the case.

Could there be tax incentives for living on the property that you're farming.

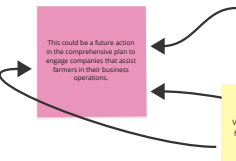
For the agritourism issue, the county could have done a better job creating multi-perspective stakeholder working groups.

We should engage partners like EDASC and the farm credit west who provide lending to farmers.

The restrictions on subdividing in the NLR is generally a good thing. But limiting the ability to subdivide can prevent smaller farms from acquiring land.

This could be a future action in the comprehensive plan to engage companies that assist farmers in their business operations.

Viva farms is an incubator farming group that helps get small farms off the ground.



Skagit County Builders Association July 10, 2024 Comments

Heard

Rural / Agriculture

One level around the USA gets approved to be farmed, it creates a barrier to ever allowing any more housing in USA regions.

Housing

The permitting process is the biggest factor in adding cost to the construction industry. Provide comprehensive alternatives to the building permit process.

The impact affordability programs should be explored to either raise or ease zoning.

Aspena more density can be provided to create more affordability in a price.

Provide housing options for people that don't consume the current zoning other temporary housing.

The lack of fully contained communities in Skagit County has limited the ability for real housing opportunities. This should be balanced with preservation of agricultural land.

There are too many barriers in the Cities to build the types of housing. Some cities have such difficult permitting processes that builders aren't work with them anymore.

There are too many barriers in the Cities to build the types of housing. Some cities have such difficult permitting processes that builders aren't work with them anymore.

We need children and housing for homeless populations.

Arise away from the Skagit Basin like Skayman have the possibility of building where you are not in the floodplain.

Hard areas do not have density to make it possible to build for housing.

Accessory dwelling units should be required as additional opportunities for housing the County.

Transport.

Skagit Transit has an agreement with local Transit which provides more opportunities for projects.

Some barriers to transit in Skagit are the extensive nature of bridges and transportation makes it difficult to increase the number of bus stops.

Building where transportation hubs are.

Environment / Critical Areas

You must balance development with preservation of natural resources and farmland.

Explaining and understanding buffers in a large barrier, it's difficult for builders to understand the full capabilities of or within critical areas.

Capital Facilities / Utilities

You have to grow water availability even though it's a question that already has a plan in it. This is a barrier to the process that could be removed.

Climate / Hazard Mitigation

Concern about wildfires.

Solar and electric should be promoted.

Future planning around transitioning homes to other forms of energy like solar and electric should be considered.

The County should consider possibilities and impacts if ranges occur.

Econ Development

Notes for Later

Agriculture Advisory Board June 12, 2024 Comments Heard

Rural / Agriculture

The ag NRL zone is not the most profitable but it helps ensure preservation. Keeping the 40 acre minimums on residential has preserved agricultural.

It is the strongest agricultural county in western Washington and what has kept it strong is the zoning regulations and making sure that the uses are what they should be in different zones.

Maintaining the infrastructure in Skagit for agricultural has been difficult.

The agricultural advisory board's role is maintain the status of strong agricultural industry for farmers.

Against development and expansion of LAMRDs.

Maintain agricultural land and property rights.

There is pressure to reduce the minimum lot size and increase the uses to outside of agriculture.

The agricultural industries feel like they are in a position of defense from other agencies coming in visioning "over" the values of the long standing agricultural communities.

There has been shoreline action recently that has restricted farmers from building new structures because of environmental concerns.

The Evison 2060 was made to plan for growth without compromising integrity and avoiding putting affordable housing in areas of floods. Look through the plan.

Suggest using accessory dwelling units

There is pressure for environmental protection, mitigation, the Eastern valley is seeing more pressure to mitigate issues on the West side of the County.

They have been talking about buffers, wetlands, critical areas, with different groups but the County may not be privy to that.

Pressure from solar companies to use their land for solar panels. They are offering a lot of money.

Pressure from the wind and energy industries.

There used to be a discussion of no net loss of agricultural acres and not converting agriculture acres.

There is a concern about accessory dwelling units already expanding density in agricultural lands and now it is by right to add another house.

There is currently a huge dialogue with the county and agricultural industry, about rights and environmental concerns but the County is only a participant and not a leader.

Selling off your acres to remove it from Ag NRL is not acceptable. Once we lose it we'll never come back.

Pressure to put more riparian areas that were originally agriculture lands.

HUGE Concern is that ag land is taken out of the "ag bucket" and moved to the mitigation or hazard "environmental bucket"

Housing

The evision 2060 plan was appropriate policy.

The 2020 rule keeps taking "20 percent" every 10 years into the agricultural land to grow to the same we can accommodate growth but your digging into agricultural land every 10 years.

Trailers are common

Younger generations simply cannot afford the rent.

The extended moratorium on evictions has created some issues and some people sold their houses.

Short-term rentals are a huge issue. Not short-term rental data. There is no short-term rental tax collected in the County.

Remote jobs are impacting the and increasing growth.

Concerns

No matter what, agriculture is very under valued in the community.

But more and more the chamber of commerce and the tourism industry are trying to get people to come here and live here. But there are huge benefits to tourism on the local community.

There is a huge disparity in weighing the values of the community between growth and preservation.

Water group is expanding education aiming toward those who live in the city but the problem that was expressed is there are many groups that are trying to contravene the idea.

Transport.

There is one road up river and it gets choked down to an hourglass point but they do not want land taken away from Ag NRL for the sake.

Sedra Woodley only has one access from either way.

Environment / Critical Areas

Capital Facilities / Utilities

Hazard Mitigation

Econ Development

Handwritten Sticky Notes from Meeting

- *State law on evictions
- **Short Term Rentals
- **Transportation checkpoints on key roads
- **limited routes w/ more users
- **competing rd uses
- **farming activities/commuting

- *Acres out - none in
- **concerns about policy switch
- **conversion - solar
- **Concern about transparency of policy changes
- **AGNRL converting to mitigation for other uses
- **Regional cost of living
- **Housing

- Agropolis/Community**
- *Curriculum zoning
- **Strong Ag
- **Preserve
- **Balance strong protections

- Challenges**
- **Pressure to weaken zoning
- **Fish Passage/CC
- **Pressure from competing needs
- **Max. mitigation for West County
- **Development
- **Market loss
- **No net loss AgNRL

- Preserving County Action**
- **Policies starting priorities/presence
- **Process Transparency
- **Coordinate entities for more housing units
- **Proactive solutions
- **Educate about benefits of use AgNRL

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

Appendix E. June 2024 Open House Notices and Advertisements

To advertise for the June open houses, Skagit County issued a press release on June 13th, 2024. Notifications were uploaded to social media websites, like Facebook, and emails were sent out to survey respondents that requested to receive notifications about future Comprehensive Plan engagement opportunities. Advertisements for the open were distributed in both English and Spanish. Spanish translation services were available at all three events.



SKAGIT COUNTY 2025

Comprehensive Plan Update

Casas Abierta

20, 26, y 27 de Junio

**Anacortes Depot Arts and
Community Center**
Jueves, 20 de Junio
5:30PM-7:00PM
611 R Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221

**Sedro-Woolley Community
Center**
Miércoles, 26 de Junio
5:30PM-7:00PM
703 Pacific Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Concrete High School
Jueves, 27 de Junio
5:30PM-7:00PM
7830 S Superior Ave
Concrete, WA 98237

Skagit County los invita a el primer serio de exhibiciones públicos “Casas Abierta” para el actualizo 2025 del Plan Integral de Skagit County. El intento de las exhibiciones públicas es educar el público sobre el proceso del plan integral, cambios importantes en las leyes, y para coleccionar comentario del público sobre el desarrollo de nuevo políticos y metas en el plan integral. Visite este sitio web: www.skagitcounty.net/2025CPA por más información y para suscribirse a las actualizaciones progreso del Plan Integral.

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SKAGIT COUNTY 2025

Comprehensive Plan Update

Open Houses

June 20, 26, 27, 2024

Join us for the first series of open houses to learn about and contribute to Skagit County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Why Attend?

Learn: Find out about the comprehensive plan process and why it matters.

Updates: Hear about important changes in state law affecting the plan.

Contribute: Share your feedback to help shape the county's future goals and policies.

Open House Details:

Format: Walk-in with engagement activities and educational posters.

Experts: Skagit County staff and other experts will be available to answer your questions.

No Formal Presentation: Drop by anytime during the open houses.

How to Get Involved:

Visit the Website: Go to www.skagitcounty.net/2025CPA for more details.

Sign Up: Register on the website to receive updates about the comprehensive plan update project.

Your input is vital. Help us plan the future of Skagit County by attending the open houses and sharing your thoughts. We look forward to seeing you there!

<p>Anacortes Depot Arts & Community Center Thursday, June 20th 5:30PM-7:00PM 611 R Avenue Anacortes, WA</p>	<p>Sedro-Woolley Community Center Wednesday, June 26th 5:30PM-7:00PM 703 Pacific Street Sedro-Woolley, WA</p>	<p>Concrete High School Thursday, June 27th 5:30PM-7:00PM 7830 S Superior Ave Concrete, WA</p>
<p>Transit: Available upon request. Text 360-399-2552 stop 2332 on Route 409 or route 410.</p>	<p>Transit: Route 300, bus stop 5157, runs until ~ 7:30pm. Route 301 Burlington to Sedro-Woolley, bus stop 5157 runs until ~ 7:30pm.</p>	<p>Transit: Route 717 (flex route) runs until ~ 7:30pm. Route 70X Concrete to Mount Vernon runs to stop 5134. (8-minute walk to location).</p>
<p>Visit Skagit Transit website or call 360-757-4433</p>		

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ounty.net/Departments/Home/press/061324.htm



June 13, 2024

Skagit County to Host Series of Comprehensive Plan Update Open Houses

Skagit County Planning and Development Services will be hosting a series of open houses over the next three weeks as an opportunity for the community to learn about and contribute to Skagit County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update. The **Comprehensive Plan** serves as a vital roadmap for the future growth and development of Skagit County over the next twenty years and acts as a framework to guide the day-to-day land use decisions by elected officials and local government staff. During the open houses, community members can expect to hear more about the following topics:

- Revising development regulations relating to land use, natural resources lands, rural character, and environment, to ensure they are compliant with new state laws and reflect our community's priorities.
- Developing goals and policies to encourage housing affordable to all income levels.
- Updating transportation plans to support future road improvements and additional modes of transportation.
- Creating a community more resilient to climate exacerbated hazards and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Each open house is a walk-in style with engagement activities and educational posters. Skagit County staff and other experts will be available to answer questions on the Comprehensive Plan update process and how the community can be involved throughout the next year. The open houses will be taking place on the following dates and locations:

- Anacortes Depot and Community Arts Center, 611 R Avenue, Anacortes, WA on Thursday, June 20th from 5:30-7:00 PM
- Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA on Wednesday, June 26th from 5:30-7:00 PM
- Concrete High School, 7630 S Superior Ave., Concrete, WA on Thursday, June 27th at 5:30-7:00 PM

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to stay informed and participate actively in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update by visiting www.skagitcounty.net/2025CPA or emailing pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us.

Please note, there will be a second series of open houses focused on climate change this upcoming fall.

[Top](#) [Back](#) [Home](#)

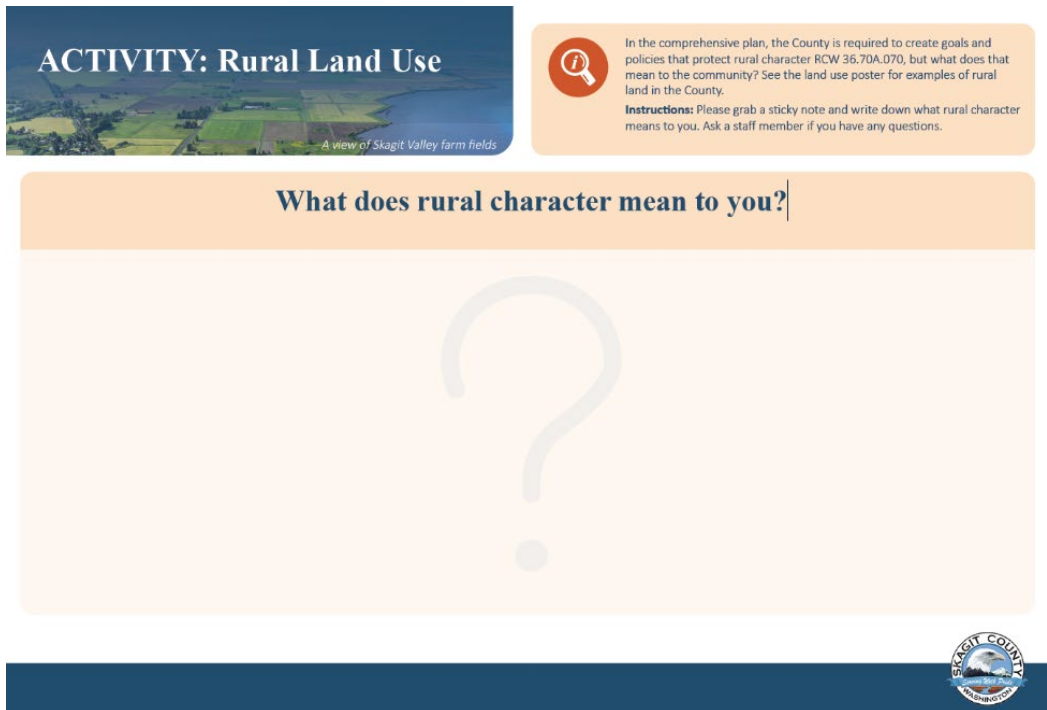
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Appendix F. June 2024 Open House Boards and Comments

Board Activity Question: What does rural character mean to you?



ACTIVITY: Rural Land Use

A view of Skagit Valley farm fields

In the comprehensive plan, the County is required to create goals and policies that protect rural character RCW 36.70A.070, but what does that mean to the community? See the land use poster for examples of rural land in the County.

Instructions: Please grab a sticky note and write down what rural character means to you. Ask a staff member if you have any questions.

What does rural character mean to you?

SKAGIT COUNTY
WASHINGTON

Want habitats for: eagles, ospreys, herons, pelicans, water birds, etc. Harbor seals – beaches to haul out on or safely leave a pup for hours a day.

No FCC.

Protect fish, forests, bird habitats, sustainable farming methods.

Greenbelts, parks, preservation of ag land.

Rural lands are conservation lands, farmlands, forest, wetlands. All should be preserved for their function in reducing GHG as they sequester carbon. Population growth should be restricted urban areas.”

Rural = sparse population and no development.

Protect the farmland. *Key

No urban sprawl. Preservation of open spaces. Protected habitats for wildlife.

Protect farm, fish, and forests.

Rural character: open spaces, scenic vistas, peace and quiet, native plants, happy animals, no smoke.

Animal habitat, forests, waterways, farmland, open space, acknowledgment of culture that supports and accompanies all these.

No sprawl. Protection of farmland.

If growth = residential housing, then clustered housing with 50-60% open space easements.

Green grass and trees. Walking areas.

Scenic beauty.

Open spaces, fields, forests, farming, elk, free flowing streams and rivers.

Don't take farmland for single-family residential development.

New homes that don't have to look 'modern' i.e., steel boxy boxes.

Have the county commissioners form a natural/conservation lands advisory committee to advise on non-commercial use of natural lands – forests for carbon sequestration, etc.

Rural character: no housing development, no non-agricultural enterprises or businesses. Agricultural activity – growing food, raising cattle, sheep, etc.

Environment – not rural; means intact forests, wetlands, and rivers where our water and air are filtered, animals thrive.

Urban/land use element. How do we catch up to density requirements in cities. Need enforcement or incentive to keep rural areas rural.

Planning inclusive of the “natural” environment that takes into account change in the climate in relation to existing resources and human habitation, use, and preservation.

Farmland, open space, protected areas, decreased density, decreased traffic.

Fewer houses on the landscape

“Rural character” means ag, but a lot more. It means protected habitat for the full variety of wildlife. It means having plenty of places people can walk/hike in natural areas (forests, fields, shorelines).

Close community

Save farmland for farming

Too many farmlands and acres are being converted to wildlife habitat such as elk and salmon.

New climate solutions allowed on all lands, i.e., storing bio char

Employment opportunities

Dar información sobre los pesticidas que utilizan los agricultores para sus siembras para proteger a los animales y personas que viven en esas áreas (Provide information about the pesticides that farmers use on their crops to protect the animals and people that live in those areas).

Let river take its natural course. It will eventually anyway.

Modification of existing zoning to allow for more viable housing solutions.

Caring for each other

Trees, green areas, less traffic, sense of community/connectedness

Open space; untouched conserved land for future generations; farmland preserved.

Zoning needs updated. Need more space for housing.

Parks; farms; protected spaces; animals; clean

A sense of community. Let's get back to that!

Land for wildlife; protection of critical areas.

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Lack of pavement; green space; quiet/solitude; forests nearby; farming; wildlife habitat

Critical areas. Not enough. We need broader protection goal for rural.

Open space where people and wildlife are co-existing.

Agricultural use; forests; parks; natural areas; environmentally sensitive areas; open space; nurseries; low-density residential

Protecting the Earth. Less concrete; sustainable development

Respect for the land, people, and all creatures that share this incredible place on the planet. Believe in a shared ecosystem.

Low-density development. More farms, forests, undeveloped areas.

Community-controlled area with few governmental intrusions. Open space, farms, no strip malls

Healthy ecosystems and high-quality water

Open spaces, which means not having the crowds & congestion of the city.

Keep open spaces resource lands – ag, forestry, wetlands. Close wetlands. BANK

Open space; farmers getting to farm without government overreach; parks; trees

Land that is left untouched by communities

Human-inhabited buffer around wild places where wildlife and trees find refuge.

We care for all neighbors, especially those who suffer.

Where all people matter and are treated with respect.

Look at Germany – strict limits of town vs rural. They get it because they had to.

90% new growth in cities

Wetlands; native forests; wild rivers; trails; wildlife; Some comparable commerce (ag, tourism, forestry)

Los químicos de pesticidas de los agricultores (Agricultural pesticide chemicals)

Lots of open space

Ability to be spaced apart from other homes; have room to grow crops, raise animals

Roads that branch out like a tree, or its roots. Not like a grid. But you know? Without some good general and specialty stores nearby, it'll all wither on the vine.

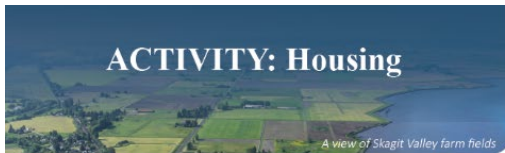
Important to protect existing farmland.

Keep farmlands. No more city enforcement.

Importance of public safety with rural homelessness. Need more resources.

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Board Activity Question: What housing issues are you seeing in Skagit County?



Housing issues may refer to anything related to your living situation. Examples of this may be housing affordability, available rental units, housing in proximity to amenities or jobs, and housing types.

Instructions: Please grab a sticky note and write down what rural character means to you. Ask a staff member if you have any questions.

What housing issues are you seeing in Skagit County?



Consider eliminating or restricting short-term (Airbnb, etc.) rentals so people who live and work here can afford housing.

Lack of affordable housing.

Public transit supporting dense housing.

No mandate on developers to include sufficient affordable housing.

No more mega-mansion enclaves.

Incentives for ADUs in city, where double lots may have high taxes. Tax forgiveness for owners works sometimes.

Need housing close to transit, groceries, and with green space and trees. Focus on low-income (which is middleclass at this point) and high-density. No sprawl. Preserve mature forests and trees.

Not enough senior living apartments.

Housing should be mixed. Let's not squeeze lower income all together and reinforce inequality.

Dense housing – more traffic congestion.

Affordable housing for essential workers while safeguarding rural lands.

Housing plenty! Use or re-use available i.e., Mt. Vernon, Sedro Woolley.

Mandates on developers to provide affordable housing and green space.

Interest in protecting rural natural resource land from expanded housing needs. Cities are better positioned to absorb housing density. Better for climate and transportation.

Regulate ADUs to protect trees, upkeep in neighborhoods. What will ramshackle ADUs look like in a decade?

The requirement to have apartments be tiny sq. ft. We need variety housing for seniors with no stairs, single level. Shouldn't be required to have buildings look 'modern.' Keep it 'local,' wood 'log cabin' rustic, not all steel.

Consolidate housing and new growth to existing towns and UGAs. Stop landscape fragmentations.

In Anacortes: Negative bias towards low-income housing, and towards Habitat for Humanity.

Concentrate residential development in cities – 90° urban residential growth. Discourage housing in flood plains and forests.

County should consider tiny homes attached to full facility homes as a good way to provide housing on rural land that is more affordable.

Lack of affordable and high-density housing.

What policies can ensure affordability?

Affordability especially for work force. Any way to limit the size of homes? Some of the McMansions are simply obscene. Enforce regulations for building/remodels/additions. R/T environmental protections.

Unhoused population needs cold weather protection. Currently none in Anacortes this last winter.

Need trees/green spaces near dense housing. Research shows this decreases crime and supports mental health.

Appreciative of the 1,200 sf ADU allowance. Has been a good size home for me as my family and I recently moved back.

Additional parks should be added along with increased density.

Affordability; complex permit processing; limited units in rural zones.

Don't need more building. Use what we have, i.e., old homes falling apart – build apartments.

Rent is too high for young people starting out.

The waitlist is long for those with low income.

Rent rising

No affordable rentals or new housing with "green" features

Rent too high – more than necessary for expenses

Need more apartments/duplexes, ADUs in cities.

Many apartment complexes seem to be perpetual poverty traps. Need to find a way to increase density while maintaining ownership. Townhouses? Or at least better-quality apartments with gyms, pools, etc.

Mas programas de Vivienda asequible (More affordable housing programs)

No housing available

Require all multi-family apartments to include 20% of units permanently affordable to people with poverty level incomes.

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Not enough housing. Not dense enough housing within UGAs. More ADUs and creative denser housing solutions.

Seniors are losing their households due to increases in costs. Unhoused seniors.

New housing impeding on forest/vulnerable areas. Prefer focusing on infill/density and preserving natural resources.

Two friends, both employed, can't find affordable rentals. One aged 52, one aged 67.

Buscar soluciones para mejorar el costo de Vivienda por que todo está muy caro y dejar de construir casas muy grandes en áreas naturales (Look for more solutions to improve the cost of housing because everything is very expensive and stop building very large houses in natural areas).

Need more diverse options for all! More affordable, more eviction prevention. Housing for essential workers – teachers & healthcare for example

Senior housing, handicapped accessible

No small rural acreage available for hobby farms, etc.

Affordable housing; lower rents; adequate public services; open space parks; community service; available parking; adequate walking/bike lanes.

No affordable rental for my kids! Skagit County should not be as expensive as Snohomish County.

Less government interference and easier permitting would allow more building.

Make middle- and lower-income neighborhoods livable. Parks, trees, trails.

Too many apartments. How will the schools and medical facilities handle the increase of populations. Who will fill all these new apartments?

Low income/affordable housing is not affordable.

Revisit card open space options. Need more employment opportunities.

20-minute neighborhoods anywhere there is clustered housing. "Villages" – especially in cities and towns.

Ignoring issues does not solve problems. What is being done?

Type of houses are limited.

I like the ideas of ADUs and infilling in cities. Provides affordable housing opportunities without extreme concentration.

More flexible zoning. Local ordinances to create diverse options. Think outside the box.

Antiquated Section 8 voucher process.

Employment opportunities do not cover housing costs. Need better paying jobs.

Limited low-income housing. High rent and taxes going up.

Not enough housing

Viviendas para familias de bajo recursos programas (Housing programs for low-income families)

Need more middle-income housing

More programs for mid-income, single-parent households

Costs too high with too many barriers

Lacking services in temp housing

We know what isn't working. Need to try new ways.

So many car campers – RVs, shacks, unsanitary housing, housing damaged by floods, needs weatherization and rehab. Rural homelessness.

Mi preocupación personal es a los precios de vivienda en general está muy caro y los dueños de los apartamentos suben muy seguido la renta pero nuestro salario sigue igual (My personal concern is that the cost of living in general is very expensive, the apartment owners raise the rent very often, but our salary remains the same.)

Rents are ridiculously high, supply is for too little, much housing appear to be of low quality. We need to make it easier to build multi-family housing in the towns and cities – higher density. No FCCs, which = sprawl.

Keep strict UGA boundaries. Force housing density.

Long waitlists for low-income. AMI does not match cost of living or housing.

Limited low-income housing options in the foreseeable future.

Lack of long-term low-income housing compared to wages and job opportunities in the area.

Types of housing is very limited

Middle housing

Too many apartments. No additional schools for the added kids.

Zero transitional housing options.

Multi-family housing options with one of a neighborhood model.

Need for more low-income and middle-income housing.

Too much high-density housing going in. Need affordable single-family.

Permit process is costly. Try to make it more efficient.

Places like Martha's Place in Sedro-Woolley

Your chart does not address the rise in cost of housing (rent/own)

Water rights; available parking for apartments and cottage housing

Tiny homes for veterans. Many have HUD vouchers but no place to go.

Different types of housing – transitional, shelters, tiny home villages, cottage housing, apartments with green space, town homes with courtyards

More housing vouchers

The market is just too high. Gotta ramp it down before it crashes. But people can't afford to live in houses, so however it comes down would be nice.

Homes for sale in upper valley are priced beyond what residents can afford and some are not even livable. To remove and build again is cost prohibitive and requires too much red tape.

Create a program that existed in Seattle, through the Seattle Senior Center in the '90s. They matched seniors who were not ready to go into assisted living yet with people who needed a

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lace to live and could provide services in exchange to stay with the senior (they screened both parties).

Use Anacortes Family Center to consult with on what they are doing. 90% success rate.

Sustainable; green; low-impact; high-plant material

Let's chat! Chuck – WOAWW (4##) 5##-4#### [censored]

There is low to no rental vacancy. Housing prices have skyrocketed.

We could use a variety of intentional tiny home villages that address different needs.

Board Activity Question: What improvements or additions would you like to see in our community's public facilities, such as roads, sidewalks, parks, sewer, water systems, or other government services, to better meet the needs of residents now and in the future?

Transportation and Capital Facilities Overview

The transportation, capital facilities, and utilities topics of a comprehensive plan are interconnected. Capital facilities are dependent on future expansion of transportation networks to adequately assess future costs of facilities required by state law.

What is a Capital Facility?

1. Streets, roads, highways, and sidewalks
2. Street and road lighting systems
3. Traffic signals
4. Domestic water systems
5. Storm and sanitary sewer systems
6. Parks and recreation facilities
7. Schools
8. Other Government Services

The transportation, capital facilities, and utilities elements include:

- a. An inventory of all facilities and services, and state-owned transportation facilities.
- b. Active transportation facilities and corridors that address and encourage enhanced community access and promote healthy lifestyles.
- c. A forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities.
- d. The proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities.
- e. The three elements must be consistent with the land use element and the land use assumptions to accommodate growth.

What improvements or additions would you like to see in our community's public facilities, such as roads, sidewalks, parks, sewer, water systems, or other government services, to better meet the needs of residents now and in the future?

Instructions: This is an open ended question. Please grab a sticky note and add your response to the board.

Need parallel but separated motor, bike, and walking routes throughout the county, especially in built-up areas.

Speed limits on trails. Silent e-bikes can create conflict.

Sidewalks needed on 12th & Oakes. Dangerous for walking and bikes.

Need more sidewalks.

Efforts to support more bicycle use around towns to decrease use of cars.

Bicycle roads connecting the cities.

How plan for low snowpack and water shortage?

Concurrency for infill.

An effort to increase use of public transportation and decrease dependency on personal cars (housing by transit or near shopping).

Shelters at every bus stop.

Sidewalks where there are none and fix the broken ones so easy to walk, use a wheelchair, etc. All areas should promote walking.

Safer pedestrian (bicycle) routes. Protect water supply especially with drought and sea-level rise. Increase water conservation (improve water monitoring with remote sensors).

Develop a transportation plan that addresses climate impacts, sea-level rise, increased flooding of roads, etc. How will this be addressed?

Map all the areas in the county vulnerable to climate change and sea-level rise, floods, landslides, alluvial fans, wildfire. Then map all the roads in those vulnerable areas and develop a plan for how those roads can be changed so transportation will be possible even when disaster happens.

I-5 traffic. Getting on I-5 in Burlington is sometimes very slow going north and south.

Community spaces that are not shopping.

Walker, biker friendly traffic separation.

Planning for sea-level rise/increased flooding.

Community pool: Olympic size, HS swim meets, lap swimming. Parking for trails: Tommy Thompson, Tribal meeting center. Parking lot on Tommy Thompson Trail near RV park by Fidalgo Bay Rd.

More sidewalks. Skagit Transit to east county past Concrete

More parks. More sidewalks to encourage walking.

Serve Bayview with sanitary sewer

Trails for hikes

Creating flood water storage for drought use. Reservoirs, aquifer recharge, etc.

More kid activities

Need updated fairgrounds with better amenities. Centrally located in county.

Safe biking lanes and walking for urban and rural commuters.

Need more schools in McGarigle

Consider green infrastructure to mitigate flood TSLR & clean water. Important as utilities.

More stops in Skagit Transit routes (Sedro-Woolley)

Long-term camping areas

Greatly increase the acreage in the county parks system. Skagit has 2,200 acres; Whatcom has 16,000 acres; Snohomish has over 10,000 acres. Parks & park acreage should also grow with population.

Water system that does not require chloramines.

Better ways to prevent backflow (enhanced air gaps?). More alternative transportation. Transport alternatives in face of disaster (bridge down).

Mas clinicas de atencion sobre salud mental y fisico (More mental and physical health care clinics)

Paved bike/hiking trails between Mt. Vernon, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley. Paved!

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

More crosswalks clearly marked with lights in school zones. Sedro-Woolley High School, Central Elementary

Mas oficinas de welfer (More welfare assistance offices)

Need to centralize emergency services

What's the plan & cost to increase infrastructure like sewage treatment for all the new houses?

Ayudar más a las escuelas para que tengan más recursos para formar mejores ciudadanos (help schools get more resources to form better citizens)

Many people now have ebikes. They can be a realistic means of commuting to work locally. We need a more comprehensive system of bike lanes and paved bike trails to encourage this form of "green" commuting.

Se necesita mas escuelas porque hay mucha sobre poblucion en los edificios escolares (more schools are needed because there is a lot of overcrowding in existing school buildings)

Some of the income from the lottery and sale of cannabis should be used for roads & schools. We could use more bike lanes as we improve our roads!

Necesitamos mas escuelas para todos los grados (We need more schools for all grades)

More parks (natural areas – not soccer fields) near dense neighborhoods

More trails and multi-use paths. Rail-to-trail projects!

More bike trails; more hike trails; more walk trails; more waterfront parks!!!!

Protect our water intake sources via conservation

Increase transit & trail connections to parks (county, state, and other areas for public access)

Government managed/sponsored shelter/housing facilities

Improve public transit to reduce auto dependance. Improve regionally significant biking trails & infrastructure to encourage use.

Electric taxis. Low cost & subsidized running known routes.

Centralized facilities for social services. Easier access to broad scope of service.

All new apartments. Need charging stations.

Plan to move roads inland. Managed retreat.

We need charging stations upriver.

In the 1920s when Clear Lake was a happening place, there were 3 types of public transportation there, 20x a day. Improved public transit helps economic growth & opportunity.

Allow for/encourage composting toilets to reduce water use and positive sewage use. Encourage grey water use/water capture.

More redundancy for Hwy 20. Landslides in a few key places can strand a lot of people by making roads impassable.

Build an elk crossing bridge over Hwy 20.

Bus service is needed in Marble Mount, even though not many people upriver, service is still needed.

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Recycling pick-up

Slow traffic on Hwy 20 through Concrete. More sidewalks, better roads, and use of materials to repave in county.

More public transportation past Concrete

Please provide recycling pick-up. I do not have garbage pick-up because I have to bring recycle items to transfer station. I would pay for garbage pick-up if recycle pick-up were also provided.

See the Concrete Herald issues, May & June. Letters from Mike Brondi about budget shortfalls.

Do NOT build elk bridge over Hwy 20. It will not work! No way to funnel them to that location. Huge waste of money!!

Thank you for the East County Resource Center.

Please repair rails to trails, washout near Concrete.

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Board Activity Question: What should we do about climate change in Skagit County?



Climate Element Overview
A view of South Fidalgo Island



The new Climate element and sub-elements of the comprehensive plan will be discussed in greater detail at the end of the summer and into fall 2024. We encourage you to sign up for online to receive updates on the project. Go to <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> or use the QR code on the introduction poster.

New Climate Element (HB 1181)

House Bill (HB) 1181 updates the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) and requires cities and counties to integrate climate action and resilience policies into their comprehensive plan updates. These policies will reduce cities' and counties' contributions to climate change, improve preparedness for climate-related impacts and emergencies, maximize other benefits to communities (such as improvements to air quality and health), and integrate with other planning documents such as housing, transportation, and land use.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

Climate change is caused by the greenhouse gas effect, in which greenhouse gases, or GHGs, trap heat from the sun. They are called greenhouse gases because they act similarly to the roof of a greenhouse – they trap heat as if they are a roof and increase the temperature of the planet. GHGs from human activities have been collecting in the atmosphere since the 1800s and are warming the climate more each year. Globally, average temperatures have risen by about 2 degrees Fahrenheit since the 1880s.

GHG emissions mainly come from burning fossil fuels like natural gas and gasoline to power our buildings and vehicles. Based on estimates of how many GHG emissions are coming from different sectors in the county (such as buildings, transportation, and waste), the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Sub-Element will aim to reduce Skagit County's contributions to climate change.

Its policies will:

1. Reduce overall GHG emissions within cities and towns
2. Reduce per-person driving miles
3. Prioritize actions that benefit overburdened communities

What should we do about climate change in Skagit County?



Instructions: This is an open ended question. Please grab a sticky note and add your response to the board.



Get the Shoreline Master Plan included in the new GMA Plan.

Talk much more openly about the current and predicted impacts of climate change and lead efforts to help community members build resiliency to change and respond.

Refineries – but not oil. Other products?

Address sea level rise in Shoreline Management Plan now.

We build more housing for seniors, so they move out of their 4-bedroom house. No new housing needed.

Overreach in demands concerns me. I don't believe we affect nature/climate like the government wants us to believe.

Say NO to Initiative 2117.

Do not promote false dichotomy of economy vs environment. Not planning for and trying to minimize climate change is our most costly (and futile) choice.

Create Conservation Advisory Committee to advocate for environment and natural resources and climate resilience.

Use Skagit Climate Consortium – great resource right here! Emphasize less consumerism, being more thoughtful about it.

Consult with Skagit Climate Science Consortium which has local expertise and data.

When will you know the damage from electricity?!

Move as quickly as possible to move to non-fossil fuel energy sources, thoughtfully planning a transition to mitigate harm.

Increase tax on gasoline

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Plant more native trees, shrubs, & wildflowers. Stop mowing lawns with gas mowers. Ban leaf blowers.

Electric public vehicles

Talleres educativos sobre cambio climático (Educational workshops on climate change)

Review zoning, allowing commercial composting. Need more.

Go electric. Offer incentives to remove lawns, install solar.

Reforestar mas, limpiar los lagos, ríos y áreas públicos. Poner información para educar a la gente sobre el medio ambiente (More Reforesting, clean lakes, rivers, and public areas by providing information to educate people about the environment)

Create a Climate Citizen's Advisory Committee and educate the community

Housing for middle income folks. More public transit.

Grow trees

Who is on the "Climate Policy Advisory Team"?? Get the Skagit Climate Science Consortium involved now.

Require heat and cold amelioration in urban areas. Shade trees along streets and around housing. Good design with insulation. Solar power!

Expand renewable energy of hydroelectric power

Protect healthy forests. Implement conservation easements to maintain forest lands.

Paneles solares para apartamentos (Solar panels for apartments)

Protect our water quality, stop runoff pollution flowing into Skagit River and streams

Plan for sea level rise! Include language in Shoreline program to require hearing examiner and public review. Listen to scientists, including when planning riparian buffers. Use 2100 projections of sea level rise to adapt buildings/structures. Protect aquatic vegetation.

Lo que aria o ya lo estoy haciendo mis hijos y yo es tomar baños más cortos para ahorrar agua y cuidar q' las luses de casa no se usen están apagadas (What my children and I would do or already to is take shorter baths to save water and make sure the house lights are not turned on.)

Get rid of hard armoring

Stop clearcut without replanting!

Require solar on all new builds. Otherwise, where will all new needed electricity generate from?

Go electric. No fossil fuels (methane gas or oil).

Make sure urban areas are good places to live to encourage density. Plan for livable communities; walkable. Improve public transit and thoughtful regional biking trails.

Increase availability of public transportation. Increase and improve the network of bike trails. Encourage development in UGAs in the form of walkable neighborhoods – stores, services, all within ready walking distance of housing.

Electrify county buildings and transportation.

Community solar. Make it easy!

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Safe and connected bike lanes/paths to encourage alternatives to cars!

Plant trees. Stop indiscriminate cutting. Replant conifers.

Listen to the scientists

The county should be protecting the sole source aquifer and managing new wells on Guemes Island. It is not acceptable the 40 residences have lost their wells to seawater intrusion.

Consult the Tribes! They know how to steward our land and water.

Support community solar projects; promote tiny home community living – small footprints; support our local organic farmers; let's talk compost!

Encourage towns to be more reliant on solar power

Encourage the tribes to participate and bring their solutions to the table. Make them essential stakeholders if they are willing.

Electric vehicle charging stations

Board Activity Question: What actions do you think Skagit County government should prioritize to enhance its preparedness and resiliency to changing climate?

Resiliency Sub Element Overview
A view of Skagit Valley farm fields

What actions do you think Skagit County government should prioritize to enhance its preparedness and resiliency to changing climate?

Climate Resiliency
The new resiliency sub-element focuses goals and policies on improving climate preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Continue reading to learn more or ask a staff member.

Skagit County is already experiencing impacts from climate change, such as rising temperatures, increasing smoky days and risk of wildfire, and more intense storms and flooding. These impacts have negative effects on community health and infrastructure. For example, hot days can worsen heart and lung conditions, especially for communities like elderly people, children, and people who work outdoors. The Climate Resiliency Sub-Element will measure community vulnerability to different climate impacts, then set forward policies to improve the ability of Skagit County's communities and infrastructure to withstand and adapt to climate-related impacts.

Challenges we will likely face from climate change:

- **Extreme heat:** Warmer temperatures, especially during the summer, where hot days will feel even hotter.
- **Wildfire risk:** Drier conditions and water supply shortages will increase future wildfire risk and associated health impacts.
- **More frequent flooding:** More intense winter storms will make wet days even wetter, increasing risks of extreme flooding and landslides.
- **Threats to water supply and security:** Less snowpack will limit water supply and security, harming residents and local habitats.

View of South Fidalgo Island

SKAGIT COUNTY
WASHINGTON

Instructions: This is an open ended question. Please grab a sticky note and add your response to the board.

Shoreline management without use of armory which only causes increased erosion in adjacent areas.

No further development in the Skagit flood plain.

A solid Shoreline Master Plan based on science and goal of protection.

Consult with Skagit Climate Science Consortium for solid scientific local data on the impacts of climate change in Skagit County. Base County decisions on their data.

Set back dikes, restore lost wetlands, plant more trees, stop fragmentation of landscape.

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Disaster preparedness (bridges functional).

Ban greenhouse gas in all ways possible as quickly as possible. This should be core to all of the planning.

Responsiveness to impact on lower income. Awareness of inequities.

More trees, more enforcement of setbacks. Where is the SMP – started in 2010, it is needed, based on science! Enforce/limit armoring to regs soft/not hard.

Earthquakes of 9+ stemming from subduction zone off the Pacific Coast is more of a threat than cyclical changes in climate.

Forest management, climate, encroachment from development, manage fire.

Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; increase in electrification.

Support Climate Commitment Act.

Water quality and runoff

Green = salination of soils

Avoid development on landslide prone slopes

Solar is not cost effective (I have solar). Allow small scale nuclear plant. Don't close off use of natural gas. We need bridge fuel.

Avoid development in areas forecast for flooding & sea level rise

Update the Shoreline Master Plan to take into account sea level rise by 2028

Wildfire preparedness and risk reduction

Emphasis of green infrastructure such as healthy streams, open space, & healthy forests to buffer the impacts of climate change, especially heat.

Program of buy outs and TDR programs for identified areas prone to climate impacts

Write a Climate Action Framework. Comp Plan will not be detailed enough to make targeted change.

Map hazard areas and be strict about compliance. Currently people still getting permits in hazard areas.

Education: communities, schools, county/city, priority education regarding climate change. Everyone/every neighborhood required to learn about and be prepared for wildfire evacuation and for neighborhood and home preparedness.

Green dots natural hazard such as landslide risk with increased winter rains.

Use only green energy. Allow solar & wind & geothermal

First, create a map (with public input) of all areas at risk from sea level rise. Then, prepare a prioritized list of actions to take (e.g., moving roads, incentivizing shoreline residents to move inland, etc.)

God controls the climate. This is an agenda I don't participate in.

Taller educativo sobre cambio climático (educational workshop over climate change)

Completely update the county's open space concept plan to take into account climate & flooding, sea level rise

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

Reforzar presas y bordes de ríos para tener mejor protección para las familias que viven cerca de esos áreas (reinforce dams and river edges to have greater protection for families who live near these areas)

Backflow in sewer & water contamination

Leaders must act to reduce warming. Reduce use of fossil fuels.

Implementar talleres sobre conservación de la naturaleza (implement workshops about nature conservation)

Stop allowing development in areas that will not be resilient. High costs long term.

Incentivize people moving out of high-risk areas

Identify opportunities to work with changing natural landscapes instead of against them. Use best available science to guide decision making.

Plan for extreme weather. Emergency shelters for heat dome and freezing temps.

Better land management; better research into effects of land changes in our most rural areas; better public transportation for the same areas; more restorative farms.

Avoid steep slopes and erosion hazard areas. Control tree cutting and removal.

Offer incentives to homeowners to remove turf lawn and plant native plants & trees.

Focus 90% of new growth in cities

Elevate land conservation besides agriculture and working forests in the comp plan

Aser más talleres con información de cómo Podemos evitar el desperdicio de agua (do more workshops with information on how we can avoid wasting water)

Form an Environmental & Sustainability Committee. Nothing like this exists yet.

Climate has been changing forever. Just like the weather, you have to live with it.

Leadership must act for the county and inform the public about how others can act.

Leadership must educate and inform the public about why climate policy is necessary.

Help the county to transition move to renewable electricity

Avoid urban development in flood plains and flood maps. Habitat protections.

Have a conservation subdivision mechanism so people can keep home or move it but sell and to government or conservation orgs.

County leadership must lead on effective climate policy.

Revise regulations to prohibit additional development in areas vulnerable to sea level rise (and tsunamis). Actively plan and promote planting of trees in towns & cities for shade and cooling and in rural areas for carbon sequestration.

Climate protection is a pay now or pay much more later issue.

If you think paying to protect climate now, wait till we have to pay later.

Set policy to reduce fossil fuels. Set aside/protect areas of most risk of flooding. Don't let people build in flood plain/alluvial fans.

Preserve green areas, forest land. Plant native plants. Plant more trees.

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Consider habitat restoration as a response to mitigate shoreline SLR.

Leadership must act to mitigate consequences of warming. All consequences.

Do not allow hard armoring on shorelines.

Extreme heat and extreme cold. Last winter our temps dropped to -1° F. The previous record was 9° F

Consulting with the local tribes on solutions to climate change.

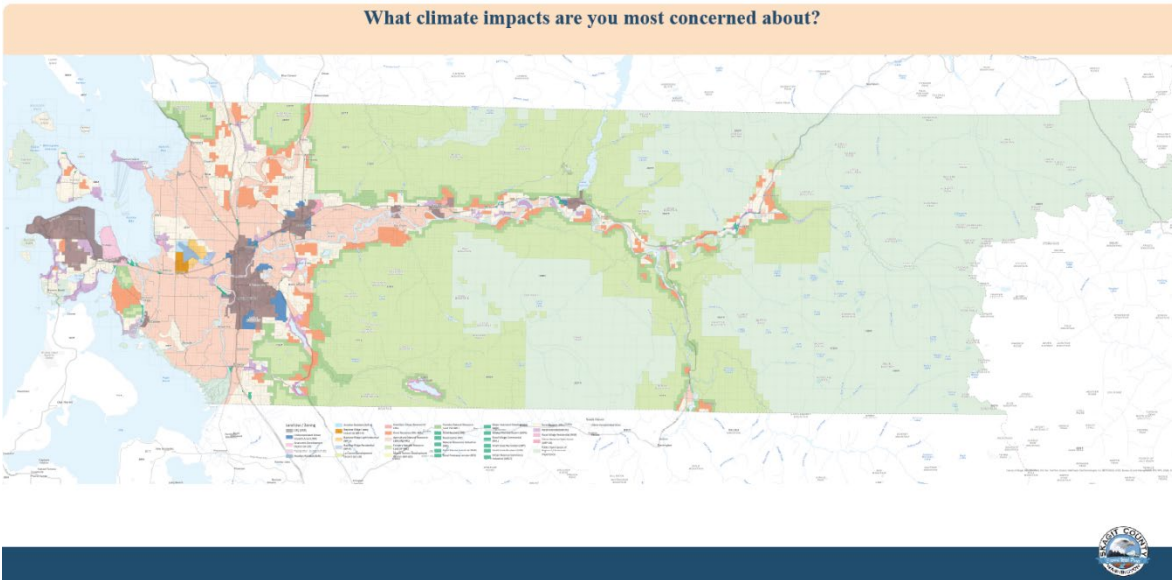
This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

Board Activity Question: What climate impacts are you most concerned about?



Instructions: Using the provided map, mark your experiences with different climate impacts using colored dots:

- Red Dot: for areas where you have experienced extreme heat.
- Yellow Dot: for areas where you have experienced wildfire or wildfire smoke.
- Blue Dot: for areas where you have experienced flooding impacts.
- Green Dot: for areas where you have experienced other climate impacts.



Increases in cost of living due to increasing need to mitigate climate effects.

Loss of quality of life. Increase in wildfire/smoke, heat, drought.

I'm most concerned about the impacts of rising heat and landscape degradation due to development and drought driving degradation of the ecosystem to the point it cannot recover.

Increases in erosion of shoreline and landslides.

Shoreline management challenges.

In Skagit specifically – sea level rise, saltwater intrusion into wells, drought, heat, wildfire, impact on pollinators.+

Warming the water.

As climate changes and things get harder, fear will increase. Can we prepare community resilience and fight tendency to “hunker down” with guns?

Use common sense in requirements; many changes we see are just part of nature and always changing.

Water supply in summer, reduced snowpack melt, in-stream flows

Local wildfire hazard

Fire and drowned wetlands

Losing trees and vegetation

Wildfires ruining every last summer of my life

Harm to agriculture

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Displaced wildlife and loss of birds due to fires and extreme heat

Flooding

Loss of trees!!

Paying later will be much more expensive than paying now if we don't act now.

Wildfire

GHG, emissions, pollution, air quality

Loss of trees, landslides, wildfires

Water too much at times and too little (drought) at times

Estamos teniendo gran impacto de calor y creo q la contaminación la a disminuido y estas cosas creo que nos causan mas enfermedades (We are having a great heat impact and I think that pollution has increased I think cause more diseases)

Health consequences of heat/smoke

Air quality

Risk of forest fire

Sea level rise; drier vegetation leads to fire; drought; pressure on wildlife & habitat; growing food

Reciclar el plástico, el carton, el vidrio, la ropa usada (Recycle plastic, cardboard, glass, used clothes)

No more coal or oil trains, air pollution, fire, & explosives, please

Higher food costs due to crop damage, less water

Sea level rise – response and prevention

Sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, melting glaciers, drought, wildfires, loss of farmland, loss of tidal marshlands, flooding, death of species

Para la deforestación y el uso inadecuado de productos nocivos para el medio ambiente (For deforestation and inappropriate use of harmful products for the environment)

Flooding

Floods

Tree canopy

SLR & flooding will drastically impact large areas of the county. Forests are already stressed – will need thoughtful, ecologically minded management.

La contaminación por gas de efecto invernadero (Pollution due to the greenhouse gas effects)

Loss of biodiversity in this incredible place

Heat dome, wildfire smoke, loss of trees, drought,

Heat, flooding, & wildfires

Wildfire, drought

Extreme cold & winter weather in east county & no shelter/poor housing for many

This is a living document and will be updated throughout the 2024-2025 Comprehensive Plan process when new engagement activities occur. Please visit the project website at <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa> for more information.

Sembrar mas arboles (Plant more trees)

Proteccion de los animals (Animal protection)

Changes in plant & animal phenologies, e.g., leading to lack of traditional food sources during bird migration and breeding, and reproductive failure

Sea level rise, saltwater intrusion onto farmland. Protecting farmland and farm workers.

We should keep our dams!

Heat, wildfire/smoke, reduced snowpack/drought

Salmon – they need cooler waters. Plant shade trees to help.

Plastic pollution; “forever” chemicals. Biodegradable packaging/products would be nice to encourage.

Flooding & land slides blocking access to roads/communities in Cape Horn/Cedar Grove.

Concerned about electric cars and disposal of used batteries; pollution caused by getting component parts, etc.

Rubber preservative on vehicle tires. As tires wear, this chemical goes into the streams (from rainwater). It confuses the salmon’s directionality, and they can’t figure out which way to go!

Board Activity Question: Other questions/comments

Concerned about farm conversion to residential use.

No resource extraction near sensitive areas.

Are there going to be changes to critical area maps – ensure availability.

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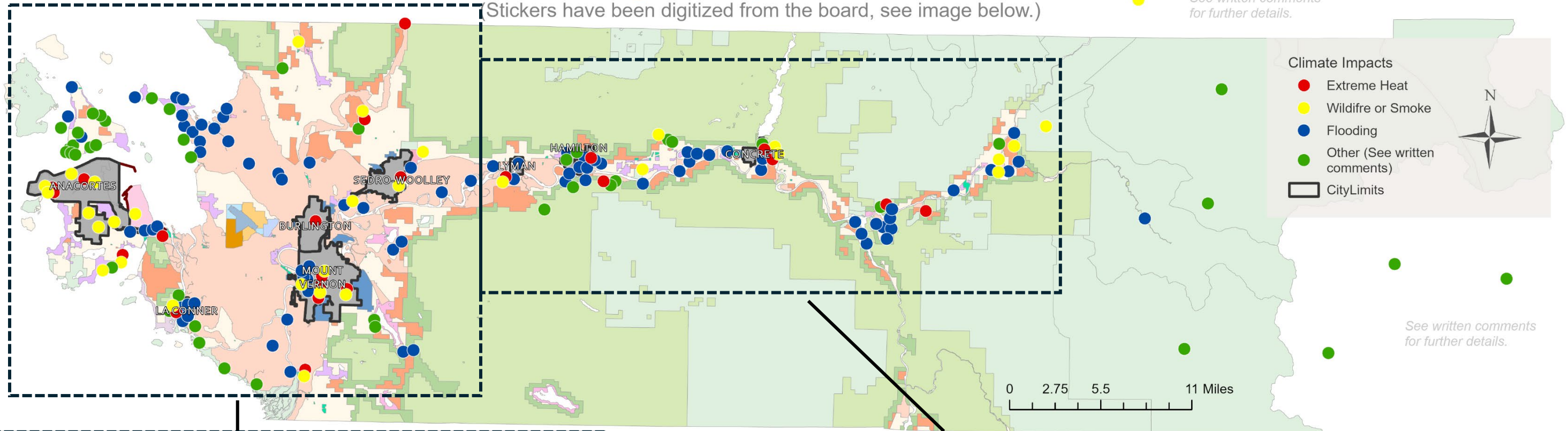
Appendix G: June 2024 Open House Map Activity Sticker Response

Large format map on next page.

What climate impacts are you most concerned about?

(Stickers have been digitized from the board, see image below.)

See written comments for further details.

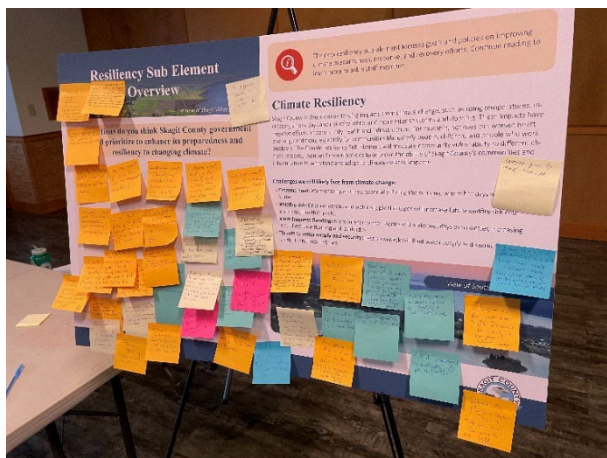
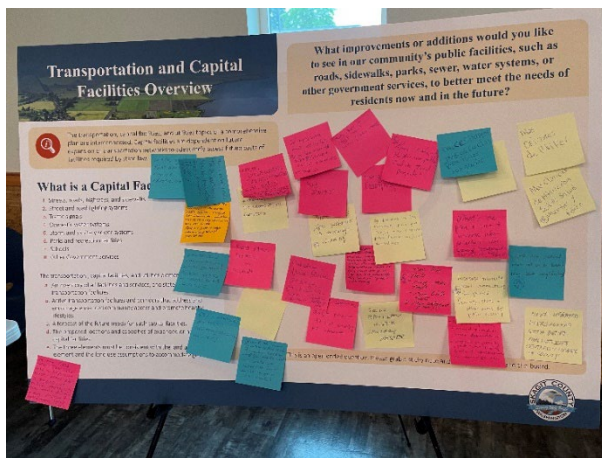
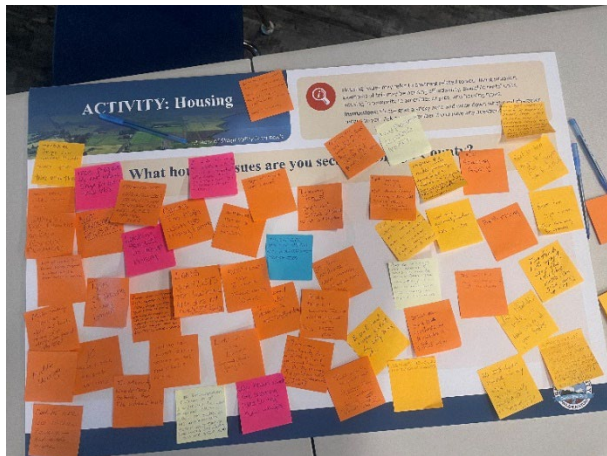
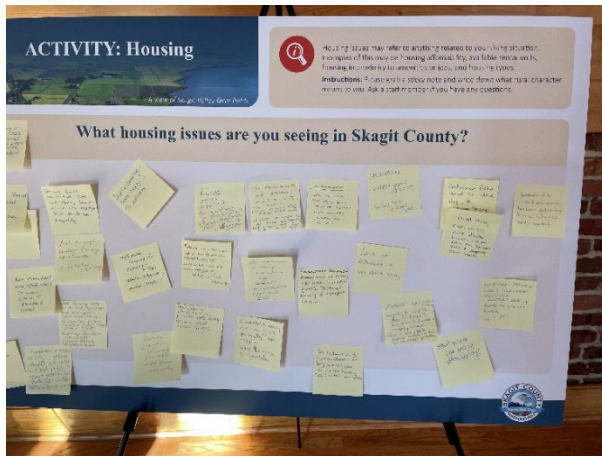
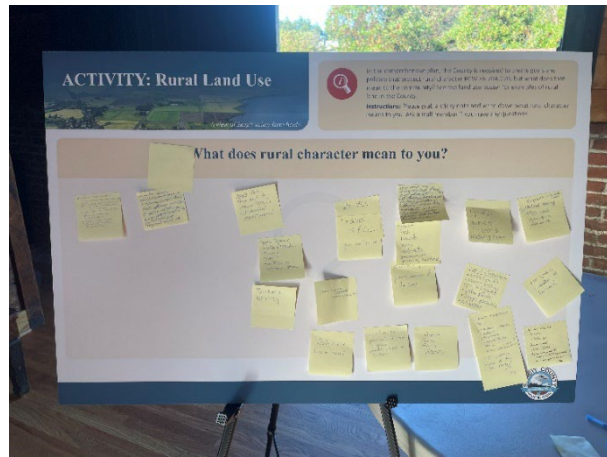
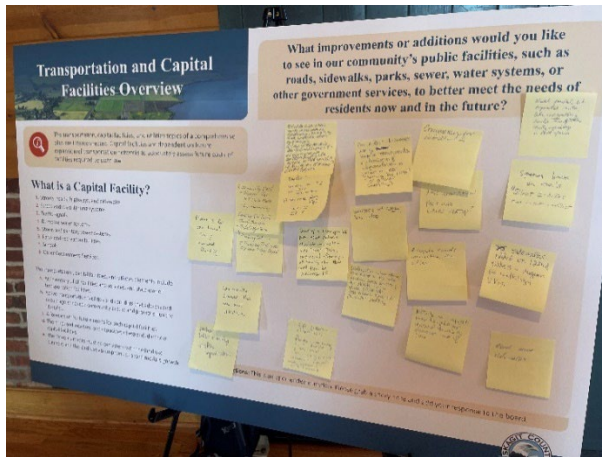


See written comments for further details.



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Appendix H: June 2024 Open House Photo Gallery



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Appendix I: June 2024 Open House Demographic Responses (Anonymous)

Scanned demographic surveys start on next page.

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - **Woman**
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - **White or Caucasian**
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

PUT ME TO WORK!

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say

AND OR INCLUDE COMMENTS → QUALITATIVE DATA
USING QUALTRICS, I'M PROFICIENT W/ SPSS, EXCEL,
STATVIEW, STATPRO, SURVEY MONKEY,
QUALTRICS, I'M A BIT RUSTY
BUT WOULD PICK IT UP EASILY!



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

1953

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say

MS & PhD

dr.robind_mittelstaedt@gmail.com

ROBIN MITTELSTAEDT
740-438-1357
FAMILY HAS BEEN IN ANACORTES SINCE 1902 & ON GUESTS @ 9 GENERATIONS

YOU SHOULD ASK ABOUT INCOME. THERE IS A HUGE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE WEALTHY, WITH AUCH HOMES AND MID & LOW-INCOME

I HAVE A PhD IN STATISTICS & RESEARCH TAUGHT THESE SUBJECTS FOR 25 YRS. I WOULD LOVE ANALYSIS & PRESENTATION. AND ON FRONT



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



SKAGIT COUNTY 2025

Comprehensive Plan Update

Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say





Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code

98221

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98273

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say

Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221
2. What is your gender?
- Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
- White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98238

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say





Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 9822
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="radio"/> White or Caucasian• Black or African American• Latino, Latina, or Latinx• Asian or Asian American• Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arab American• Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander• Multiracial• Other• I prefer not to say
--	---



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
 - After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 - Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
 - After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 - Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
 - After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 - Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98237
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98273

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98225

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98237
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98237
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say





Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98237

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
 - After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 - Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98237
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - **Woman**
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - **White or Caucasian**
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say







Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
 - After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 - Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98257

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Demographics Information Survey Second Page



SKAGIT COUNTY 2025
Comprehensive Plan Update

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code _____
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98274

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman

- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



SKAGIT COUNTY 2025
Comprehensive Plan Update

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98235

2. What is your gender?

Man

Woman

A different gender

Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

White or Caucasian

Black or African American

Latino, Latina, or Latinx

Asian or Asian American

Native American, American

Indian, or Alaska Native

Arab American

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific

Islander

Multiracial

Other

I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284

2. What is your gender?

Man

Woman

A different gender

Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

White or Caucasian

Black or African American

Latino, Latina, or Latinx

Asian or Asian American

Native American, American

Indian, or Alaska Native

Arab American

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific

Islander

Multiracial

Other

I prefer not to say



SKAGIT COUNTY 2025

Comprehensive Plan Update

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say





Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98252

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**
Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98232

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say





Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code _____
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98274

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman

- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98229 (Alger area not B'ham)
2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

• <u>White or Caucasian</u>	• Arab American
• <u>Black or African American</u>	• Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
• Latino, Latina, or Latinx	• Multiracial
• Asian or Asian American	• Other
• Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native	• I prefer not to say



4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say





Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284

2. What is your gender?

Man

Woman

A different gender

Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

White or Caucasian

Black or African American

Latino, Latina, or Latinx

Asian or Asian American

Native American, American

Indian, or Alaska Native

Arab American

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific

Islander

Multiracial

Other

I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284

• Man

• Woman

• A different gender

• Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

• White or Caucasian

• Black or African American

• Latino, Latina, or Latinx

• Asian or Asian American

• Native American, American

Indian, or Alaska Native

• Arab American

• Native Hawaiian or other Pacific

Islander

• Multiracial

• Other

• I prefer not to say



4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

98274

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman

- A different gender
- prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

White or Caucasian

- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code
2. What is your gender?

98224

- Woman
 Man
 A different gender
 Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
 Black or African American
 Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 Asian or Asian American
 Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 Arab American
 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 Multiracial
 Other
 I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98257

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98221

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

- 1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98257
- 2. What is your gender?
 - Man
 - Woman
 - A different gender
 - Prefer not to say
- 3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?
 - White or Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
 - Arab American
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Multiracial
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98274

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman

- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98273

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284

2. What is your gender?

• Man

• Woman

• A different gender

• Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

• White or Caucasian

• Black or African American

• Latino, Latina, or Latinx

• Asian or Asian American

• Native American, American

Indian, or Alaska Native

• Arab American

• Native Hawaiian or other Pacific

Islander

• Multiracial

• Other

• I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- ~~1980-1989~~
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- ~~Advanced degree~~
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98224

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say





Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98274

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say



SKAGIT COUNTY 2025
Comprehensive Plan Update

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code

98284

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman

- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?
- After 2000
 - 1990-2000
 - 1980-1989
 - 1970-1979
 - 1960-1969
 - 1950-1959
 - Before 1950
 - I prefer not to say
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- Some high school
 - High school graduate
 - Some college/2-year degree
 - 4-year degree
 - Advanced degree
 - Other
 - I prefer not to say

Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey (This is double sided!)

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code 98284

2. What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Demographics Information Survey Second Page

4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say



Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Demographics Information Survey **(This is double sided!)**

Please fill in or circle your responses.

1. Where do you live? ZIP Code

98233

2. What is ~~your~~ gender?

Man

- Woman
- A different gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the following best represents your race and/or ethnic heritage?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Latino, Latina, or Latinx
- Asian or Asian American
- Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native
- Arab American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multiracial
- Other
- I prefer not to say



4. In what decade were you born?

- After 2000
- 1990-2000
- 1980-1989
- 1970-1979
- 1960-1969
- 1950-1959
- Before 1950
- I prefer not to say

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Some college/2-year degree
- 4-year degree
- Advanced degree
- Other
- I prefer not to say