



# Comprehensive Plan Policy or Development Regulation Amendment Suggestion

Planning & Development Services · 1800 Continental Place · Mount Vernon WA 98273  
voice 360-416-1320 · www.skagitcounty.net/planning

PL15-0386

NU-3

Per RCW 36.70A.470(2), this form is intended for use by any interested person, including applicants, citizens, hearing examiners, and staff of other agencies, to suggest amendments to Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan policies or its development regulations, which are contained in Skagit County Code Title 14. Please do not combine multiple unrelated Comprehensive Plan policy or development regulation amendments on a single form. This form is for policy or development regulation amendments; use the Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment Request form for changes to the land use/zoning map.

RECEIVED  
JUL 31 2015

## Submitted By

SKAGIT COUNTY  
PDS

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## Proposal Description

Please answer all of the questions below that are applicable to your suggestion.

1. Describe your proposed amendment.
2. Describe the reasons your proposed amendment is needed or important.
3. If you are suggesting revision to a particular section of the Comprehensive Plan, please identify which section(s):
4. If you are suggesting revision to the Comprehensive Plan, would the revision create inconsistencies with existing sections of the Comprehensive Plan? If so, please list those sections:
5. If you are suggesting revision to the Comprehensive Plan, would the revision require corresponding amendments to the County's development regulations?
6. If you are suggesting revision to a particular section of Skagit County Code Title 14, please identify which section(s).  
14.16.320 (3) (h) & (i) These administrative uses need to become special uses - (4)
7. If you are suggesting this development regulation amendment as a result of a particular project or permit application, please identify which project or application:
8. If you are suggesting specific language as part of your amendment, please attach that specific language. Specific language is not required.  
Sample siting standards from the SC 2004 Solid Waste Plan are attached.

9. Describe why existing Comprehensive Plan policies should not continue to be in effect or why they no longer apply.
10. Describe how the amendment complies with the Comprehensive Plan's community vision statements, goals, objectives, and policy directives.
11. Describe the anticipated impacts to be caused by the change, including geographic area affected and issues presented.
12. Describe how adopted functional plans and Capital Facilities Plans support the change.  
*This change would agree with the SC Solid Waste Management Plan siting standards. P10 is severely limiting any landfills*
13. Describe any public review of the request that has already occurred. *after 1989 Model Toxics Act.*

## Notices

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**Fees.** No fees are required for a policy or code change suggestion, per SCC 14.08.020(6).

**Docketing.** SCC Chapter 14.08 governs the process for docketing of Comprehensive Plan amendments; suggestions for changes to the development regulations are docketed following the same process. Docketing of a suggestion is procedural only and does not constitute a decision by the Board of County Commissioners as to whether the amendment will ultimately be approved. Amendments are usually concluded by the end of the year following the request. State law generally prohibits the County from amending its Comprehensive Plan more than once per year.

**Submission deadline.** Suggestions must be received by the last business day of July for docketing. Suggestions received after that date will not be considered until the following year's docket.

**How to Submit.** Submit your suggestion via email (preferred) to [pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us) or to Planning & Development Services at the address above.



Skagit County  
Comprehensive  
Solid Waste  
Management  
Plan

Final Draft  
September 2004

### Summary of Siting Factors

Based on the above discussion of siting factors, it can be concluded that only limited portions of Skagit County would be available for siting a new solid waste disposal facility such as a landfill or incinerator. A more detailed analysis of siting factors is not being provided at this time due to the unlikely possibility of siting such a disposal facility in the County. The above siting factors and the following brief discussion of the siting process could be used, however, to provide guidance for other types of solid waste handling or treatment facilities, such as transfer stations, composting plants, and recycling facilities.

#### **2.3.2 Solid Waste Landfill Siting Process**

Any new facilities developed in the future will have to meet the State and local standards current at that time. State standards include the Solid Waste Handling Standards (Chapter 173-350 WAC) and the Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (Ch. 173-351 WAC). Local standards include the County Code (especially Chapters 12.16 and 12.18), municipal codes, the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan (SC 1997), and zoning codes.

The siting process for disposal facilities could include the following steps:

1. Site Identification: For a public disposal facility, the process of identifying sites may include soliciting nominations from citizens and interested parties, identification of major landholders and City/County properties, and other activities to initially identify as many sites as practical. For a private site, the site selection process may consist primarily of an inventory of sites currently owned or available for purchase.
2. Broad Site Screening: The second step typically involves evaluating potential sites for “fatal flaws”, such as unsuitable neighboring land use, distance from the point of waste generation, site size, steep slopes, floodplain area, wetlands, surface water or shorelines. For a public site, the goal should be to retain up to 12 sites after this step is completed. For a private facility or other cases where there may be only a few sites to begin with, only one or two sites need to survive this evaluation.
3. Detailed Site Ranking: After sites with fatal flaws have been eliminated, the remaining sites should be evaluated against more detailed criteria such as the availability of utilities (water, sewer, electricity), traffic impacts and road access, and other factors affecting the ability to develop and use the site. For a public effort, no more than four sites should remain after this step is completed.
4. Detailed Site Evaluation: The final step in evaluating potential sites involves a detailed investigation to assess environmental impacts, in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). This step should result in the recommendation of a preferred site.
5. Siting Decision: Finally, the decision to proceed with a recommended site should be based on environmental, engineering, financial and political factors, and then more detailed plans can be developed and the permitting process can begin.