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Economic Development	11G-4, 11G-4.4, 323	Fiscal Impact	Consider as part of the County's budgeting process outside funding sources such as grants, as well as careful fiscal needs analyses in order to ensure that tax revenue generation is competitive with other jurisdictions.	No recommended change.		
Economic Development	11G-4, 11G-4.5, 323	Fiscal Impact	Support the work program of the Skagit Council of Governments to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy as least every three years to identify needs and solutions for transportation, human services, environmental protection, community development and other elements that support improvements to the local economy	No recommended change.		
Economic Development	11G-4, 11G-4.6, 323	Fiscal Impact	Implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to build local capacity for sustained economic development.	No recommended change.		
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought; Land use		Promote a resilient and sustainable agricultural sector by preserving farmland, supporting climate resilience efforts, and ensuring the well-being of farmworkers and farming communities.	Many policies regarding agriculture are located in Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Lands.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought; Land use		Support and secure funding to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses, and assist Skagit County farmers in transferring and accessing land.	Implementation of this policy could include ensuring robust state and local funding for voluntary agricultural conservation easements, as well as developing streamlined, creative, and low-cost loan financing in support of agricultural land protection and land access for new and beginning farmers	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought; Land use		Provide educational opportunities and financial incentives for farmers and landowners to adopt regenerative agricultural practices that enhance soil health and resilience.	Work with the agricultural community to set aside some portions of rural lands for (and encourage) development of regenerative agriculture farms.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought; Land use		Ensure an adequate, safe, and affordable supply of housing for farmworkers that addresses the unique needs of agricultural communities, prioritizing equitable access to healthy living environments, reducing environmental health risks, and promoting the well-being of farmworker families.	Additional policies related to farmworker housing in Chapter 7E. Rooted in principles of environmental justice and equity. Farmworkers disproportionately face housing challenges, environmental health risks, and inadequate living conditions. By ensuring a supply of safe, affordable housing, this policy aims to address these inequities while recognizing the essential role farmworkers play in the agricultural industry.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought; Land use		Develop agricultural resilience resources and programs and ensure they are coordinated, funded, and staffed to support farmers in making informed business decisions in a changing climate.	Key implementers include the Agricultural Advisory Board, Skagit County Farmers, Skagit County Drainage and irrigation District Consortium, and the	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought; Land use		Enhance flooding and drought resilience within the agricultural sector, ensuring that farming practices, water management, and economic stability are effectively supported during extreme events.	Overlaps with drainage policy included in Natural Resource Lands Policy 4A-5.6, but adds more overarching policies for extreme climate impacts.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought; Land use; Sea level rise; Flooding		Enhance community resilience by integrating climate change projections into land use, infrastructure planning, and development regulations, ensuring long-term safety from sea-level rise, flooding, wildfires, and other climate-exacerbated hazards while protecting natural ecosystems.	Overarching goal for the Zoning and Development sector.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Sea level rise		Develop regulations for elevating or setting back new and substantially improved structures to reduce the risk of damage caused by sea level rise.	Development along Washington's marine shorelines is vulnerable to flooding and erosion that may be exacerbated by sea level rise. Local governments can implement this policy by assessing sea level rise projections for their jurisdiction and also consider where erosion and landslides are already a risk. They can then review existing setback requirements and determine if additional regulations for setbacks or building elevations are needed to protect structures in the future, and implement these through their development code. Local governments may need to technical support to identify vulnerable areas and will need to work with	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Sea Level Rise; Extreme Precipitation		Plan and build facilities, utilities, and infrastructure projects to avoid or withstand flooding from rising sea levels and changing precipitation patterns.	Incorporating projected sea-level rise and inundation impacts into the planning and construction of public buildings will help reduce	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Extreme Precipitation		Consider climate change, including sea level rise, extreme precipitation, increased winter streamflow, and other impacts, in floodplain management planning by updating flood hazard zones according to most recent climate change projections and modeling.	Adopted from NHMP Initiative #29 Important to manage the floodplain based on most recent and comprehensive projections of flood zones. Local governments plan for flooding through comprehensive flood hazard management planning, hazard mitigation planning, designating frequently flooded areas, and other land use policies. Plans and policies should consider and address projected changes in the frequency, intensity, and location of flooding due to climate change. A first step is to assess your community's vulnerability to flooding from sea level rise, extreme precipitation, and other changes that may already be impacting or will	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Sea level rise		Require that proposals for shoreline stabilization demonstrate a need, and require the use of soft shore stabilization methods to the extent practicable to protect sites from wave-driven erosion or flooding exacerbated by sea level rise.	The updated SMP may have more policies related to shoreline stabilization. It will be important to ensure these policies align. Shoreline stabilization including seawalls and bulkheads may not be necessary or effective in many situations. These types of structures also have negative impacts on coastal habitat. Landowners may have increasing interest in constructing shoreline stabilization to protect their property from erosion and flooding issues exacerbated by sea level rise. SMPs already require that new development should be designed and located where it will not require new shoreline stabilization over the lifespan of the structure (see WAC 173-26-231).	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Sea level rise		Consider future climate conditions during siting and design of capital facilities to help ensure they function as intended over their planned life cycle.	The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) includes a six-year capital improvement plan (CIP) and budget and a longer-range plan for capital investments. The CFP provides for the full implementation of the land use plan by showing how public facilities and services will be provided for in the community, at the population and intensities of development envisioned in the plan, and at adopted levels of service. Given that capital facilities represent significant public investments, it is prudent to ensure that facilities are designed and sited to be resilient to climate impacts. Early collaboration among planners, public works, and transportation staff can help	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Wildfire; Extreme Heat; Extreme Precipitation		Establish development regulations that incorporate best practices for reducing the risks and consequences of wildfire, extreme heat, flooding, and other climate-exacerbated hazards.	These regulations could focus on building codes that enhance natural ventilation, encourage green roofs, and create heat-resilient	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Sea level rise		Assess the sea level rise vulnerability of wetlands, aquatic vegetation, beaches and dunes, and other valuable natural assets and collaborate with landowners and partners to support resilience-building, as needed.	As sea levels rise, valuable coastal habitat will be lost unless there is space for it to migrate landward. Coastal wetlands and vegetation provide fish and wildlife habitat and protect infrastructure from waves and erosion. This policy will require collaboration with researchers, agencies, landowners, conservation entities, and others.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Sea Level Rise; Extreme Precipitation		All <u>residential and commercial development and accessory uses</u> , port and -water-related industrial facilities, equipment, and works should be located, designed, and maintained to avoid, or if necessary, withstand 100-year flood frequency flooding and/or storm tides or surges without becoming hazards and without the placement of flood hazard reduction measures or other hard structural shoreline stabilization. <u>Incorporate climate projections to account for anticipated changes in flood frequency, storm intensity, and sea-level rise. Ensure that designs and maintenance plans adapt to these projections to enhance long-term resilience against evolving climate impacts.</u>	Adopted from SMP 6C-7.35 D and SMP 6C-15.72. Important to include climate projections in design processes. Combined two SMP policies that were similar for clarity.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Sea Level Rise; Extreme Precipitation		Enhance the resilience and reliability of energy infrastructure and building designs to better withstand climate change impacts and prepare for future energy demand, ensuring long-term safety, stability, and reduced risk of damage.	Overarching goal for the Buildings & Energy sector. Energy Conservation policies, such as promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources is addressed in Utilities - Energy Conservation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Extreme Heat		All new policies and designs for commercial developments shall explicitly address climate resilience through best management practices, such as floodproofing, adaptation to sea-level rise, and the integration of green infrastructure.	Adopted from Shoreline Master Program 6C-5.3 Design and is Commerce Menu of Measure's High Priority Action. Development regulations that integrate best practices for extreme heat, such as building codes that enhance natural ventilation, encourage green roofs, and create heat-resilient infrastructure (cooling centers, tree canopy). Such measures help reduce building cooling costs and heat-related illnesses and deaths.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Wildfire		Work with Puget Sound Energy to improve the safety and reliability of infrastructure vulnerable to climate change.	Energy utilities' infrastructure, such as transmission lines and gas plants, have been seen to start wildfires and are also impacted by wildfires, extreme heat, and other climate-exacerbated hazards. Recommendations could include removing tree limbs near power lines or burying lines, establishing redundancies, and creating small-scale energy generation systems.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Wildfire		Require new subdivisions and developments to bury electricity transmission lines and associated infrastructure to reduce damage from storms and wildfire ignition risks.	Energy utilities' infrastructure, such as transmission lines and gas plants, have been seen to start wildfires and are also impacted by wildfires, extreme heat, and other climate-exacerbated hazards. This policy could be implemented via development code changes that require developers of new subdivisions to bury place power lines and associated infrastructure.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Protect community health and well-being from the impacts of climate-exacerbated hazards and ensure that the most vulnerable residents do not bear disproportionate health impacts.	See related policies 7E-1.3 (Farmworker housing), 4B-2.11 (Wildfire Planning Program), Commerce noted that frontline communities identified creating places in a community to go to in emergencies such as for shelter & resources when there is a natural disaster as a top environmental justice priority.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Emergency preparedness		Expand and bolster efforts to reduce the negative impacts of natural hazards, such as appropriate hazard identification, warning, dissemination of relevant information and data, and public outreach.	In particular, improve notification process for effective climate preparedness. Adopted from NHMP Initiative #26 Action Update mentioning that this should be a high priority. See below:  INITIATIVE #26 – Conduct activities that support mitigation efforts to reduce the negative influence of natural hazards impacting Skagit County, such as appropriate hazard identification, warning, dissemination of relevant information and data, and public outreach. Action Update: After Nov 2021 floods this should be a high priority. We need to improve our notification	Align with County Vision

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Emergency Management		Develop resilience hubs — community-serving facilities that are designed to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution while enhancing quality of life.	Adopted from NHMP Initiative #8: Identify and designate emergency shelter structural and utility readiness for occupancy after a significant incident.  Resilience hubs — a concept developed by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network — are well-trusted, well-utilized community facilities that serve the needs of the community more broadly than temporary emergency shelters. Designed and managed by the community (e.g., a local non-profit or house of worship), resilience hubs can enhance social cohesion by providing residents a place to gather and access information and services at all times. During wildfire	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Emergency Management		Continue to develop and support hazard planning policies identified in the Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.	The NHMP will be updated in 2025.	Align with County Vision

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Develop and maintain a program to distribute cooling units and install heat pumps to protect against extreme heat, prioritizing households with residents most vulnerable to extreme temperature events (e.g., low-income seniors).	Commerce notes that a good model for establishing goals, funding, and eligibility criteria is the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Heat Response Program.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Extreme Heat		Protect outdoor workers exposed to extreme heat, such as mandatory heat protection measures (cooling breaks, shade, hydration) and stricter enforcement of work-rest cycles during heatwaves.	Implement policies to protect outdoor workers exposed to extreme heat, such as mandatory heat protection measures (cooling breaks, shade, hydration) and stricter enforcement of work-rest cycles during heatwaves.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Wildfire		Create a comprehensive wildfire smoke resilience strategy by collaborating with local residents, emergency management officials, and air quality agencies.	Comp Plan Forest Resource Lands has a parallel policy on Wildfire Planning Program (4B-2.11)  As wildfires become more frequent, the risk of fire damage to buildings, especially homes, is expected to rise significantly, particularly in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas where development meets undeveloped land. With much of Skagit County located within these WUI zones, the region faces a growing wildfire risk to both communities and infrastructure.  This policy could include the purchase and installation of low-cost air quality monitors at strategic sites across the	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Promote climate resilience and equity through culturally sensitive outreach and education, and strengthen collaborative relationships with Tribal governments to effectively manage climate change risks.	Overarching goal for Cultural Resources and Practices sector.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Develop and implement culturally relevant outreach and educational programs to raise awareness of climate change impacts, ensuring equitable opportunities for all residents to participate in and shape climate-related policy decisions.	Best practice to ensure community is informed about climate change threats. Make the outreach and education materials available in different languages (e.g., Spanish) and formats (e.g., accessible for people with hearing, vision, and mobility differences) per the demographics and needs of community members.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Prioritize the conservation of culturally important consumptive and non-consumptive resources including foods, medicinal plants, and materials that could be adversely impacted by climate change.	Commerce Menu of Measures High Priority Action. Examples of culturally important resources include salmon and other marine resources, mollusks, berries, cedar bark, grasses, roots, game, and waterfowl. Work with appropriate partners (tribes, local communities) to integrate traditional ecological knowledge and Western science to identify important resources and areas, assess their climate vulnerabilities, and develop	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Strengthen and sustain government-to-government partnerships with Tribal governments to collaboratively address climate change impacts and protect traditional cultural properties that are at risk due to climate impacts.	Coordination with Tribal governments will be key to co-manage climate change risks. The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is one of the five largest employers in Skagit County, with over 250 employees in Tribal government and approximately 300 employees in its casino and other economic enterprises. Other Tribal communities in Skagit County include the Samish Indian Nation, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Foster economic resilience and sustainable growth by supporting businesses and workers in climate preparedness and resilience.	Overarching goal for Economic Development sector. Ensuring plans for business continuity is an important aspect of climate resilience.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Support businesses in climate preparedness; ensure economic recovery plans incorporate sustainable practices and continuity of operations.	Action examples could include updating building codes and offering tax incentives or grants to support businesses' installation of rooftop solar panels, batteries, and other on-site renewable energy generation and storage infrastructure that can provide back-up power during emergencies and support continuity of operations	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Define and prioritize frontline communities, including low-income communities, outdoor workers, and those employed in energy-intensive industries, who are disproportionately impacted by environmental and economic shifts. Ensure these communities have equitable access to green job opportunities.	Commerce Menu of Measures High Priority Action. Support organizations that are committed to building accessible on-ramps to living-wage green careers within frontline communities and leading specialized promotion of green industry sectors catered to frontline communities. Examples of such green jobs could include solar panel and green roof installation and maintenance.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts		Support partnerships with schools, technical institutions, labor unions, businesses, and community-based organizations to develop accessible training programs, apprenticeships, and career advancement pathways in living-wage low carbon industries, including renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, energy efficiency, and environmental restoration.	Question for Skagit County: Are there partners for green job creation (schools, labor unions, businesses, and community-based organizations) that you'd like to identify here?  : Commerce Menu of Measures High Priority Action. Support organizations that are committed to building accessible on-ramps to living-wage green careers within frontline communities and leading specialized promotion of green industry sectors catered to frontline communities. Examples of such green jobs could include solar panel and green roof installation and maintenance. Partners could include schools, labor	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Ecosystems		Protect and enhance natural ecosystems to support climate change resilience, carbon sequestration, and GHG emissions reduction.	Overarching goal for Land Use & Ecosystems sector. See Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Lands policy 4A-5.6 modified agricultural	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Ecosystems		Ensure the protection and restoration of streams, riparian zones, estuaries, wetlands, and floodplains to maintain healthy, climate-resilient watersheds.	Alignment with Commerce Climate Planning Guidance.  Commerce mentioned that frontline communities identified using land and plants to absorb carbon pollution and prioritizing this work in frontline communities as an environmental justice priority.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New	Climate resilience; Ecosystems		<p>Incorporate hydrologic climate impact projections into the design of water-crossing structures such as culverts and bridges to support fish passage and habitat quality.</p>	<p>Alignment with Commerce Climate Menu of Measures High Priority Action. Climate change scientists have noted changes in Pacific Northwest hydrology, including reductions in the size of glaciers, less snowpack, and earlier peak stream flow in many rivers. These trends are expected to continue, along with increasing flood size, and decreasing summer low flows. Typically, the size of water-crossing structures like culverts and bridges is based on stream width. As the size of floods increases, so will stream width. Culverts and bridges built to accommodate higher stream flows are less likely to fail and block fish, which reduces future maintenance and repair costs.</p>	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Flooding		Minimize stream sedimentation from extreme precipitation events and flooding by implementing watershed restoration plans that identify susceptible streams and vulnerable areas, restore streambanks, and enhance stream health through collaborative efforts with public and private partners.	In the Skagit County watershed, streamflow is expected to increase in winter and decrease in summer and fall. Effective watershed restoration improves water quality, reduces erosion, and enhances the resilience of streams to extreme weather events. By focusing on habitat complexity and ecological function, this policy aims to promote healthier watersheds that can better support diverse wildlife and plant communities.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Wildfire		Increase tree canopy and forest acreage and health, including in urban areas, to enhance ecosystem health, carbon sequestration, and improve air quality.	Reduces urban heat island effect, increases biodiversity, increases carbon sequestration, and improves health and well-being by improving air quality. Aligned to Commerce Menu of Measures.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		GHG reduction; Land Use		Limit tree loss and support low-carbon and sustainable forest, agriculture, and livestock management.	Implementing this policy requires coordination on landscape-level management across jurisdictions and with private landowners. Local land use codes should increase scrutiny and review over tree removal in certain areas by prioritizing retention of healthy trees and tree canopy. Requirements should focus on balancing the tradeoffs between the retention of existing healthy trees, the planting of new trees in locations that better support tree health and maintain or increase tree canopy, and the efficient and strategic use of limited developable land. Use an equity framework to prioritize low-canopy and low-income neighborhoods. Also, ensure	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		GHG reduction; Land Use		Protect and manage natural lands (forests, grasslands, wetlands) to maintain or increase their carbon concentrations and avoid conversion of carbon-rich ecosystems.	Important policy to align to reducing GHG emissions from conversion of land use.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		GHG reduction; Land Use		Align with Conservation Futures, Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), and Open Space Program strategies of the Climate Commitment Act to maximize conservation and carbon sequestration efforts.	Commerce notes that TDR, Conservation Futures, and Open Space Program strategies can foster carbon sequestration. It is a longer term (+ 5 years) assistance to GHG reduction.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		GHG reduction; Climate Resilience; Land Use		Promote transportation resilience to climate impacts and reduce vehicle miles traveled while prioritizing benefits for overburdened communities.	Overarching goal for the Transportation sector. Transportation Chapter 8A in the Comp Plan addresses many of the policies related to reduction of VMT, incorporation of equity.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		GHG reduction; Transportation		Facilitate the expansion of employer commute trip reduction (CTR) programs to include both large and small businesses across various jurisdictions.	Travel Demand Management (TDM) is a Commerce Menu of Measures High Priority Action. According to Commerce, Commute trip reduction (CTR) programs and strategies are required for large employers (100+ employees). These programs can and should be scaled to fit smaller businesses in different jurisdictions and circumstances. Facilitate participation in the employer commute trip reduction program and expand the program beyond large employers. Provide workers with flexible work schedules and guaranteed rides home. CTR should be an integral part of expanding existing demand management programs. Encourage major employers to establish	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New	Climate resilience; Extreme Precipitation		<p>Map transportation infrastructure that is vulnerable to repeated floods, landslides, and other natural hazards, and designate alternative travel routes for critical transportation corridors when roads must be closed. Strengthen the resilience of public transportation systems against heatwaves and extreme precipitation by implementing proactive measures that prevent delays, reduce disruptions, and minimize the risk of community isolation.</p>	<p>Ensures resiliency of public transit systems to climate-exacerbated hazards, in alignment with Commerce Climate Planning for Resiliency. Mapping transportation infrastructure would include all hazards as identified by local, state, and other known resources. This could include integrating this "lifeline" transportation route map into the jurisdiction's emergency operations plan. Integrating this information into the comprehensive plan, the transportation plan, an evacuation plan, a natural hazards mitigation plan, and other plans would help boost local resilience capacity. Update infrastructure map periodically using updated climate modeling. The Vulnerability Assessment</p>	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		GHG reduction; Transportation		Facilitate the transition to EVs through expansion of reliable EV charging infrastructure and public education on options and available rebates and incentives.	Commerce noted that frontline communities identified making it easier to not need a car, as well as reducing fossil-fuel vehicle miles by switching to electric vehicles and installing charging stations near residences, as an environmental justice priority. Skagit County can reduce GHG emissions by making ownership and use of electric vehicles convenient and affordable.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		GHG reduction; Transportation		Prioritize, develop, and maintain mobility hubs in strategically accessible, multimodal available locations with a focus on overburdened communities experiencing a scarcity of transportation alternatives.	Alignment to Commerce Climate Menu of Measures. Mobility hubs are centralized locations where people can access multiple transportation modes (e.g., bike share, transit, and micromobility devices). The development of mobility hubs may be an incremental upgrade of sites as opportunities arise such as: new or refurbishment of middle and multifamily housing plus commercial development; upgrade of rail, trolley, bus or rapid-bus route stops; utility service work; introduction of electric vehicle infrastructure.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		GHG reduction; Transportation		Establish and maintain a GHG Inventory Management Plan which should include identifying an inventory update interval, managing data quality, reviewing and testing inventory assumption and limitations and sharing results with the broader community.	it is recommended by Commerce to establish an inventory management plan to continuing monitoring progress toward GHG emissions reductions. This will help the County address state requirements for GHG reductions moving forward.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		GHG reduction; Solid Waste		Enhance waste management practices to align with Skagit County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	Overarching goal for the Waste Management sector. Many policies exist in the Solid Waste Management sector of the Utilities chapter and in Skagit County's Waste Management Plan.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		GHG reduction; Solid Waste		Support implementation of the Skagit County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, including initiatives focused on waste prevention and diversion.	Many initiatives in the Waste Management Plan address waste management, including waste reduction, public education, recycling, composting, and waste collection expansion.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		GHG reduction; Solid Waste		Strengthen waste management engagement and education policy by developing targeted campaigns for recycling material with highest GHG reduction impact (e.g., paper, metal, food waste) in culturally contextualized outreach and education initiatives and materials.	Commerce notes that frontline communities identified reducing material consumption and reuse as a top environmental justice priority.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought		Build long-term water security in Skagit County by developing and implementing a comprehensive drought resilience strategy, assessing climate impacts on key water infrastructure, and promoting sustainable water conservation practices.	Overarching goal for Water Resources sector.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought		Develop and implement a comprehensive drought resilience strategy that factors in projected climate impacts and sets action levels for different drought stages. This may include identifying a plan to construct new water-storage systems to provide back-up water supplies during droughts.	Development of a plan would require convening many different stakeholders, including lower- and fixed-income community members likely to be disproportionately burdened by water pricing shocks, as well as community members whose livelihood depends on natural resources impacted by drought (e.g., agricultural sector). Meaningful engagement with overburdened communities is important for equitable planning and decision making in advance of drought, and effective outreach during drought. This policy has many social, economic, and environmental co-benefits: For lower-income community members, spikes	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Climate and New		Climate resilience; Wildfire; Drought		Assess and implement resilience strategies to reduce the vulnerability of Skagit's aquifers, wastewater systems, and septic systems to saltwater intrusion, flooding from rising sea levels, and changing groundwater tables.	Collect and analyze data from the municipal level (e.g., utilities) and potentially from regional and state levels. Evaluate the long-term adequacy of water delivery infrastructure to ensure that changes in hydrological patterns (e.g., increases in flooding frequency or reduction of late-summer water availability associated with climate change) can be anticipated and managed effectively.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Climate and New		Climate resilience; Drought; Built Environment		Promote water conservation practices such as rainwater catchment, onsite retention, water reuse, and gray water treatment to conserve water resources.	This policy would support water conservation and build resilience to droughts exacerbated by climate change.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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