

To learn how to provide public comment visit: <https://skagitcounty.net/2025cpa>
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Utilities	9A, New, 268	Environmental	Ensure the provision of high quality, cost effective and environmentally sensitive utility services in cooperation with public and private providers.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-1, 268	Systems Coordination	Coordinate and encourage timely, safe, and cost-effective planning and design of utility systems with providers and state and federal agencies.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-1.1, 268	Systems Coordination	Utility Agreements - Agreements between the county and utility system providers shall provide for the coordination between functional plans and capital facility plans; address the joint use of corridors, installations, and rights-of-way; ensure that development permit reviews address all affected utilities; and mitigate impacts of utility improvement projects.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-1.2, 268	Systems Coordination	Human Health and Power Facilities – In reviewing proposals for new power facilities, the county shall consider whether the latest conclusions of scientific research on extremely low frequency (ELF) electromagnetic fields (EMF) have been used to reduce exposure that might affect human health.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-2, 268	Consistency of Plans and Standards	Ensure the consistency, compatibility, and concurrency of utility functional plans through periodic review.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-2.1, 269	Consistency of Plans and Standards	Utility Facility Planning – Utility system plans shall be reviewed for consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan.	No recommended change.		

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Utilities	9A, 9A-2.2, 269	Consistency of Plans and Standards	Vegetation Management – The county shall use standards for vegetation management in public rights-of-way in approving utility providers’ proposals. Such standards shall be based on similar standards of the state Department of Transportation.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-2.3, 269	Consistency of Plans and Standards	Critical Areas – Any utility construction including maintenance and repair shall comply with county regulations including the Critical Areas Ordinance and vegetation management standards.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-3, 269	Utility Facility Siting	Site facilities consistent with the policies of the Land Use Element.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-3.1, 269	Utility Facility Siting	Siting at Critical Areas – The county shall ensure that utility facilities are not sited in designated critical areas unless feasible alternatives are unavailable, in which case suitable mitigation in accordance with the critical areas regulations shall be required.	No recommended change.		

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Utilities	9A, 9A-3.2, 269	Utility Facility Siting	Siting of Major Facilities - Outdoor installations of transfer and distribution stations providing electrical power, communications, and natural gas, should, where practicable, be located in industrial or commercially zoned areas. Stations should be reasonably compatible with surrounding uses. Where system design or economics necessitate location of such installations in residential or rural areas, installations shall be suitably screened or enclosed so as to eliminate or substantially reduce the visual impact. This may be achieved through appropriate setbacks and screening, such as, buildings, natural topography, landscaping, and vegetation.	No recommended change.	
Utilities	9A, 9A-3.3, 269	Utility Facility Siting	Land Use - Utility facilities may be permitted in all land use zones when and where utility franchises exist and if they are in compliance with this Comprehensive Plan and related codes and standards.	No recommended change.	
Utilities	9A, 9A-3.4, 270	Utility Facility Siting	Wireless Communications – Siting of wireless facilities shall minimize visual and noise impacts, through the utilization of existing sites and structures where possible, adequate setbacks, and appropriate landscape screening.	No recommended change.	
Utilities	9A, 9A-4, 270	Undergrounding	Encourage underground utility distribution lines to reduce visual and safety impacts of overhead lines where economically feasible.	No recommended change.	
Utilities	9A, 9A-4.1, 270	Undergrounding	Planning - Utility providers shall be encouraged to plan for underground installation of utility lines, and private developers shall be required to underground utilities as directed during permit review.	No recommended change.	

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Utilities	9A, 9A-4.2, 270	Undergrounding	Implementation - Existing overhead utilities shall utilize joint support structures at such time as the system is upgraded if the cost to place lines underground is not reasonable for the rate payer under the rate structure set by state and federal regulation. If a situation exists where underground existing overhead utilities is desired and is technically feasible, a Local Improvement District or some other financial arrangement will be used to have the beneficiaries bear the cost, rather than the general rate payer.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-4.3, 270	Undergrounding	Design - Provisions for future undergrounding of other utilities should be made in the design of initial utility undergrounding projects.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-5, 270	Energy Conservation, GHG	Encourage conservation of energy resources, including the reduction of energy consumption in county facilities.	Encourage conservation of energy resources, including the reduction of energy consumption in county facilities, by prioritizing the use of renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies.	This update emphasizes the need for conservation through renewable energy and efficiency technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimize reliance on non-renewable resources. Aligned to Commerce Menu of Measures 81, 230.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Utilities	9A, 9A-5.1, 270	Energy Conservation, GHG	Non-renewable Resources - Generating energy from non-renewable resources may be acceptable if proven to be economically feasible and environmentally sound.	Non-renewable Resources —Generating energy from non-renewable resources, such as natural gas, should be phased out where possible, and the county shall prioritize the transition to renewable energy sources in both new and existing buildings. may be acceptable if proven to be economically feasible and environmentally sound.	Phasing out natural gas and prioritizing renewable energy is in line with the state's decarbonization goals. Replacing natural gas power and heat systems with electric heat pumps can make the facilities carbon-neutral and reduce GHG emissions. Burning natural gas produces fewer GHG emissions than burning oil, but natural gas is still a fossil fuel that contributes to climate change. Aligned to Commerce Menu of Measures 259, 230.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Utilities	9A, 9A-5.2, 270-271	Energy Conservation, GHG	Conservation Methods - Energy conservation should conserve energy resources, minimize air pollution, and delay the need for additional electrical power generating facilities. This may be achieved through methods including, but not limited to: education of the public; insulation and weatherization as specified by building codes; and use of energy-efficient systems.	Conservation Methods- Energy conservation should conserve energy resources, minimize reduce air pollution, and delay the need for additional electrical power generating facilities. This may be achieved through methods including, but not limited to: education of the public; insulation and weatherization as specified by building codes; and use of renewable energy, conservation, and efficient technologies and practices.- efficient systems . The county shall conduct culturally responsive public outreach to encourage participation in energy efficiency programs, such as the Community Energy Challenge, to support these efforts.	Incorporates the focus on adaptive reuse of buildings, prioritization of weatherization for emissions reduction and resilience, and the emphasis on equity. Prioritizes the adaptive reuse of buildings, recognizing the emission reduction benefits of retaining existing buildings. Skagit currently participates in the Community Energy Challenge, an energy efficiency program to encourage residential and commercial energy efficiency retrofits, and to boost local economic development in the construction sector Aligns to Commerce Menu of Measures 84, 489, and 160. Replaced "efficient systems" to be more descriptive to help better understand what	Growth Management Act Consistency, Address Public Comment
Utilities	9A, 9A-5.3, 271	Energy Conservation, GHG	Technology Solutions - Residential, commercial, and industrial development shall be encouraged to use energy-efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive technologies and resources in new construction.	Technology Solutions- Encourage residential, commercial, and industrial development shall be encouraged to use energy-efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive technologies and resources materials in new construction and retrofits, including prioritizing lower-carbon building	This update includes the priority of using lower-carbon building materials and incentivizing retrofits for improved energy efficiency.	Growth Management Act Consistency

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Utilities	9A, 9A-5.4, 271	Energy Conservation, GHG	Alternative Energy Resources - The county shall encourage the use of alternative energy resources in the design and construction of new development.	Alternative Energy Resources —The county shall encourage prioritization of the use of renewable and low-carbon alternative energy resources, net-zero greenhouse gas emission features in the design, construction, and retrofit of new and existing developments (i.e., residential and commercial structures) such as through programs like C-PACER that provide accessible financing for clean energy projects and Home Repair and Weatherization Programs.	This update emphasizes maximizing renewable energy and the use of programs to finance these improvements. Added further details about the type of programs that could be used for implementation.	Growth Management Act Consistency, Address Public Comment
Utilities	9A, 9A-5.5, 271	Energy Conservation, GHG	Co-generation - Commercial and industrial facilities shall be encouraged to incorporate co-generation whenever possible, if economically feasible and environmentally sound.	Co-generation — Encourage commercial and industrial facilities shall be encouraged to incorporate support the transition to low-carbon systems, including incorporation of co-generation systems whenever possible, if economically feasible and environmentally sound . In parallel, support the transition of high-carbon emitting sectors, including oil refining and industrial gas manufacturing, to low-carbon processes or industries.	Expanded to include supporting the transition to low-carbon industrial process strategies. Working to lower industrial process emissions will greatly reduce Skagit's overall GHG emissions. These industrial process emissions made up 20% of Skagit County's 2022 communitywide emissions.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Utilities	9A, 9A-5.6, 271	Energy Conservation, GHG	Solar Energy - The use of solar energy for water and space heating should be encouraged and ordinances shall be developed to protect solar access.	Solar Energy —The maximization of renewable energy sources shall be encouraged for the supply of electricity and heat for new and existing buildings use of solar energy for water and space heating shall should be encouraged and incentivized . Where needed, ordinances shall be developed to protect solar access, and the preservation and weatherization of housing shall be prioritized, particularly in high-density and overburdened communities, to enhance energy resiliency and equity.	Adds an equity component, ensuring that solar energy benefits are prioritized in vulnerable communities. Aligns to Commerce Menu of Measures 489 and 160. Removed the description of ordinances relating to solar access to allow more flexibility for the County to	Growth Management Act Consistency, Address Public Comment

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Utilities	9A, 9A-5.7, 271	Energy Conservation, GHG	Design – The county should work with builders and developers through incentive programs to seek and implement alternative energy resources in building and site design, and land use.	Design —The county should shall work with builders and developers to through incentive programs to seek and implement integrate renewable and energy efficiency resources alternative energy resources into building and site design, and land use such as through incentive programs, green building certification programs, and C-PACER financing programs.	This version emphasizes the county's active role in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency through both certification and financing programs like C-PACER, aligning with broader sustainability goals. Aligns to Commerce Menu of Measures 230 and 160.	Growth Management Act Consistency
Utilities	9A, 9A-6, 271	Solid Waste Management, GHG	Protect environmental quality and public health in Skagit County through effective practices, education, regulations, and economic incentives.	Promote effective solid waste management through waste reduction and recycling initiatives. Protect environmental quality and public health in Skagit County through effective practices, education, regulations, and economic incentives.	The previous goal didn't effectively capture the underlying policies of solid waste management.	Administrative Cleanup
Utilities	9A, 9A-6.1, 271	Solid Waste Management	Waste Reduction - The county shall endeavor to reduce per capita waste production by changing consumer and industrial practices.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-6.2, 271	Solid Waste Management	Recycling - The county shall encourage recycling.	Recycling - The county shall encourage recycling. Maintain countywide recycling program.	Active verb, and the Countywide Planning Policies 12.13 should be observed assuming a countywide recycling program exists.	Consistency with Countywide Planning Policies
Utilities	9A, 9A-6.2, New	Solid Waste Management, GHG		Divert food waste from landfill to compost or anaerobic digestion.	Supportive of composting goal from CAP (2010).	Growth Management Act Consistency
Utilities	9A, 9A-7, 272	Sanitary Sewer	Encourage public sewer services in Urban Growth Areas and limit them in the rural area.	No recommended change.		

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Utilities	9A, 9A-7.1, 272	Sanitary Sewer	Rural Community Systems – Community-, and other innovative sewage treatment systems in Conservation and Reserve Development (CaRD) land developments and limited areas of more intensive rural developments (LAMIRDS) - or to address rural public health problems - should be considered on a case by case basis.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-8, 273	Water	Influence the development and use of the water resources of Skagit County in a manner that is consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies and the Comprehensive Plan.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-8.1, 273	Water	Cooperation with water districts and other water providers shall be extended to support them in their responsibility to provide a reliable service to assure an adequate quality and quantity of potable water and high quality water supply within their service areas.	No recommended change.		

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Utilities	9A, 9A-8.2, 273-274	Water	<p>Water supply infrastructure expansion shall be designed to meet local needs and urban or rural levels of service standards, and comply with this Comprehensive Plan's land use densities.</p> <p>(a) Urban Water Service shall mean service provided by a water system(s) that has been designed to provide service throughout the designated urban growth area. The water service shall be designed to meet the water supply needs of the residential, commercial, industrial, and other water needs as defined by the Skagit County or City Comprehensive Plan, the Coordinated Water System Plan, and the designated water utility's Water System Plan.</p> <p>(i) The Utility's Water System Plan shall document a plan to meet urban water service using the design criteria outlined in Section 4 and on Table 4-1 of the Coordinated Water System Plan and in accordance with the schedule required by this Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>(b) Rural Water Service shall mean water service provided by an individual well, a stand alone public water system, or extension of a water system from within an urban growth area that is designed to provide rural water service. The water service shall be designed to meet the rural water supply needs of the rural area users as defined by this Comprehensive Plan, the Coordinated Water System Plan, any designated water purveyor's Water System Plan (where</p>	No recommended change.	
Utilities	9A, 9A-8.3, 274	Water	<p>Interlocal agreements shall be developed with the cities, towns, and water suppliers in the coordination of water service to urban growth areas.</p> <p>(a) The Skagit County Public Utility District #1, the cities, the Swinomish Tribal Community, and the County shall meet and enter into an interlocal agreement that provides for an increasing local and/or tribal government role in the of public water within their designated jurisdictional growth areas.</p>	No recommended change.	

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Utilities	9A, 9A-8.4, 274	Water	Water supply development and service shall be consistent with all related plans, including but not limited to, the Coordinated Water Systems Plan, the Anacortes-FidalgoIsland Coordinated Water System Plan, this Comprehensive Plan, and related purveyor plans as they are developed.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-8.5, 274	Water	New capital facilities for water-system compliance with state and federal safe-drinking-water rules, and water treatment standards shall be based on rural area densities and a level of service that is consistent with the existing character of the environment.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-8.6, 275	Water	Skagit County shall enforce all county, state and federal laws regarding potable water, well head protection and the installation of water systems.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-8.7, 275	Water	Connection to a public water system should be encouraged in those areas affected by the Skagit River Basin Instream Resources Protection Program Rule (WAC 173-503) or other low flow areas.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-8.8, 275	Water	Limitations on uses and densities should be maintained within areas affected by the Skagit River Basin Instream Resources Protection Program Rule (WAC 173-503) and any other designated low flow stream corridors where necessary to limit individual wells and protect base flows.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-8.9, 275	Water	The Coordinated Water Systems Plan should be reviewed to ensure consistency with the adopted Comprehensive Plan.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9A, 9A-8.10, 275	Water	Water conservation measures shall be incorporated into water supply development and service plans as a method of addressing future water needs.	No recommended change.		

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Utilities	9B, New, 275	Stormwater	Protect and enhance natural hydrologic features and functions by: maintaining water quality and fish and wildlife habitat; incorporating natural drainage patterns into measures to protect the public from health and safety hazards and property damage; maintaining a sustainable groundwater discharge/recharge budget; and by promoting beneficial uses as well as water resource education and planning efforts.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1, 275	Risk Avoidance	Reduce risks to public health and safety and the loss of, or damage to public and private property.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.1, 275	Risk Avoidance	Solutions: Nonstructural storm water measures should be preferred over structural measures.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.2, 276	Risk Avoidance	Priority: Protection of existing development should take preference over the protection of undeveloped lands.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.3, 276	Risk Avoidance	Planning: Strategies for surface water management should balance engineering, economic, environmental and social factors in relationship to stated comprehensive planning goals and policies.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.4, 276	Risk Avoidance	Community Awareness: The county shall promote community awareness of the importance of water quality and flood hazard protection through education and outreach in conjunction with planning for water programs.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.5, 276	Risk Avoidance	Stormwater Management Program Plan: The County shall continue to implement its stormwater management program and required compliance reports.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.6, 276	Risk Avoidance	Structural Flood Protection: Dikes, levees, and other structural flood protection facilities should be designed to allow fish passage, protect flows in riparian zones, and complement or enhance the surrounding landscape.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.7, 276	Risk Avoidance	Habitat: Flood protection measures should not result in a long-term net loss of-, or damage to, fish and wildlife resources, and wherever possible, should result in increased di habitat.	No recommended change.		

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Utilities	9B, 9B-1.8, 276	Risk Avoidance	Natural Drainage: Natural drainage shall be preferred over the use of pipelines or enclosed detention systems, where possible.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.9, 276	Risk Avoidance	Best Management Practices: Storm water runoff from impervious surfaces should be treated by utilizing best management practices (treatment BMPs) before the storm water is allowed to enter the natural drainage system, infiltrate into the ground or enter Puget Sound. Examples of treatment BMPs are, but not limited to: detention ponds, oil/water separators, biofiltration swales and constructed wetlands.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	9B, 9B-1.10, 276	Risk Avoidance	Coordination of Regulations: The county shall work with other jurisdictions and agencies toward standardization and monitoring of regulations that affect storm water management.	No recommended change.		
Utilities	New	Risk Avoidance		Participate in and develop an integrated strategic investment plan in partnership with Skagit tribes and diking/drainage districts to holistically address sea level rise, habitat enhancement, and farmland preservation on the Skagit/Samish Delta downstream of the Wild & Scenic portion of the Skagit River.		
Capital Facilities	10A, 10A-1.4, 289	Public Facilities	Ensure that adequate public facilities are provided to accommodate the needs of Skagit County citizens for the next 20 years by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining level of service standards for capital facilities; providing consistency among functional plans; ensuring timely provision and financing of facility improvements; and taking advantage of revenue sources such as impact mitigation, grants, and loans. 	Ensure that adequate public facilities are provided to accommodate the needs of Skagit County citizens for the next 20 years by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining level of service standards for capital facilities; ensuring compatibility of development adjacent to public facilities providing consistency among functional plans; ensuring timely provision and financing of facility improvements; and taking advantage of revenue sources such as impact 	CPP 12.11: Future development of land adjacent to existing and proposed schools and other public facilities shall be compatible with such uses.	Consistency with Countywide Planning Policies

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Disclaimer: This document is meant to help readers understand how policies have been recommended to change and provides a general understanding how the policy has changed, and serves no other purpose. Some policies may appear different in the Comprehensive Document on the Website due to error in exporting to the document from this matrix or otherwise. If you see a difference in policies from this matrix compared to the Comprehensive plan use the above email to let staff know. The Comprehensive Plan document is the final and official version of policies that will be adopted.