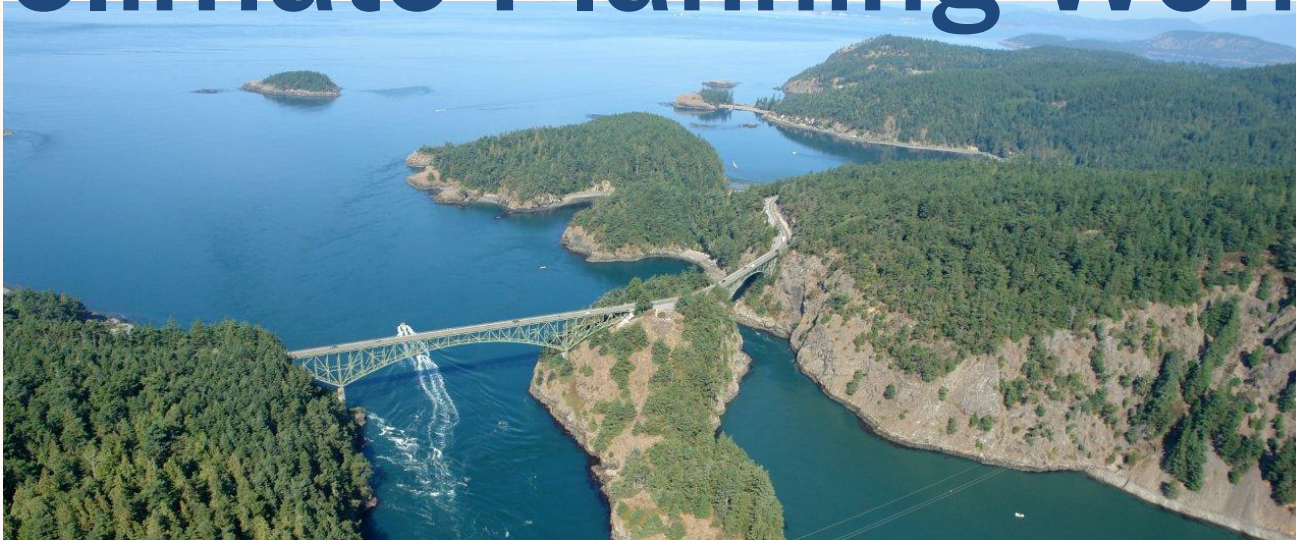


2025 Comprehensive Plan Update **Climate Planning Workshop**



Robby Eckroth
Senior Planner, Planning & Development Services
Skagit County

2025 Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update

- Required for cities and counties planning under Growth Management Act.
- Required every 10 years (previously 8 years).
- Skagit County's update is due June 30, 2025.



Source: Department of Commerce



Climate planning is a new goal of the Growth Management Act

New Climate Element

Adds two sub-elements:

- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction

Mandatory for 11 counties.

(Skagit County is County #11).

- Resilience

Mandatory for all fully planning jurisdictions.

Applicable counties and their cities	2025	2026	2029
○ Benton		X	
○ Clark	X		
○ Franklin		X	
○ King			X
○ Kitsap			X
○ Pierce			X
○ Skagit	X		
○ Snohomish			X
○ Spokane		X	
○ Thurston	X		
○ Whatcom	X		

Source: Department of Commerce



New Climate Goal

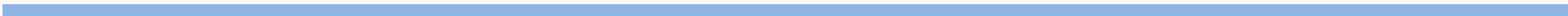
(RCW 36.70A.020(11))

Ensure that comprehensive plans and development regulations:

- Mitigate the effects of a changing climate.
- Support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled.
- Foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards.
- Protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety.
- Advance environmental justice.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Sub-Element

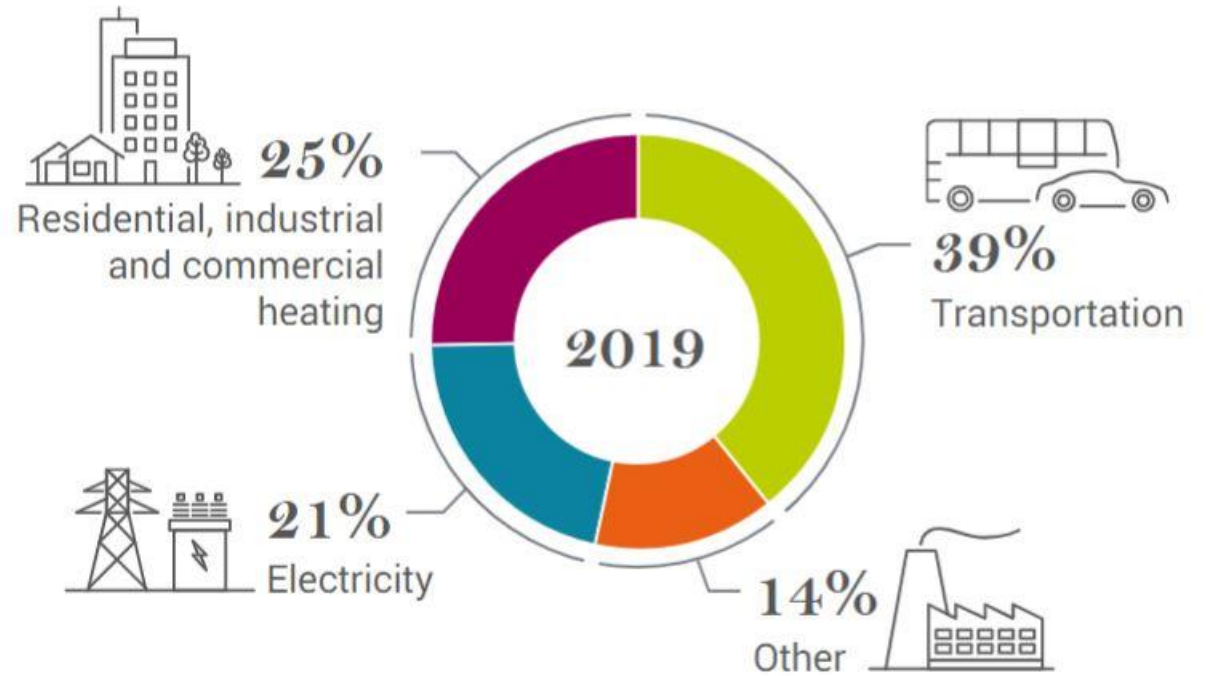


Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction sub-element (mitigation)

Definition –

GHG Emissions Mitigation

Actions taken to reduce or eliminate the greenhouse gases (present and future) in order to reduce the rate and extent of climate change damage.



Washington greenhouse gases

Department of Ecology-Statewide Emission Inventory 2019



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction sub-element (mitigation)

How to achieve GHG emission reductions?

Evaluations, inventories and goals & policies

Pathway 1

Select GHG reduction measures

Develop GHG reduction goals and policies based directly on measures in Section 5

Pathway 2

GHG emission estimates

Develop GHG reduction goals and policies using Ecology framework and sample measures in Section 5

Pathway 3

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) study/evaluation

Develop specific VMT/GHG reduction goals and policies. Only transportation emission sources are evaluated.

Pathway 4

Emission inventories

Develop GHG reduction goals and policies based on emission inventory modeling results.

Integrate goals and policies into comprehensive plan

Source: Department of Commerce Climate Element Planning Guidance

Note: Section 5 are the climate measures in the Commerce Climate Element Planning Guidance.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Example Goals and Policies (Snohomish County)

- Decarbonizing County facilities and fleets.
- Supporting expansion of EV infrastructure.
- Improving County's multimodal access to school, social services, grocery, medical, dental, and other community or neighborhood services.
- Enhancing tree canopy, wetlands, estuaries, and forested areas.
- Coordinating with special purpose districts to help meet regional GHG emissions reduction target.



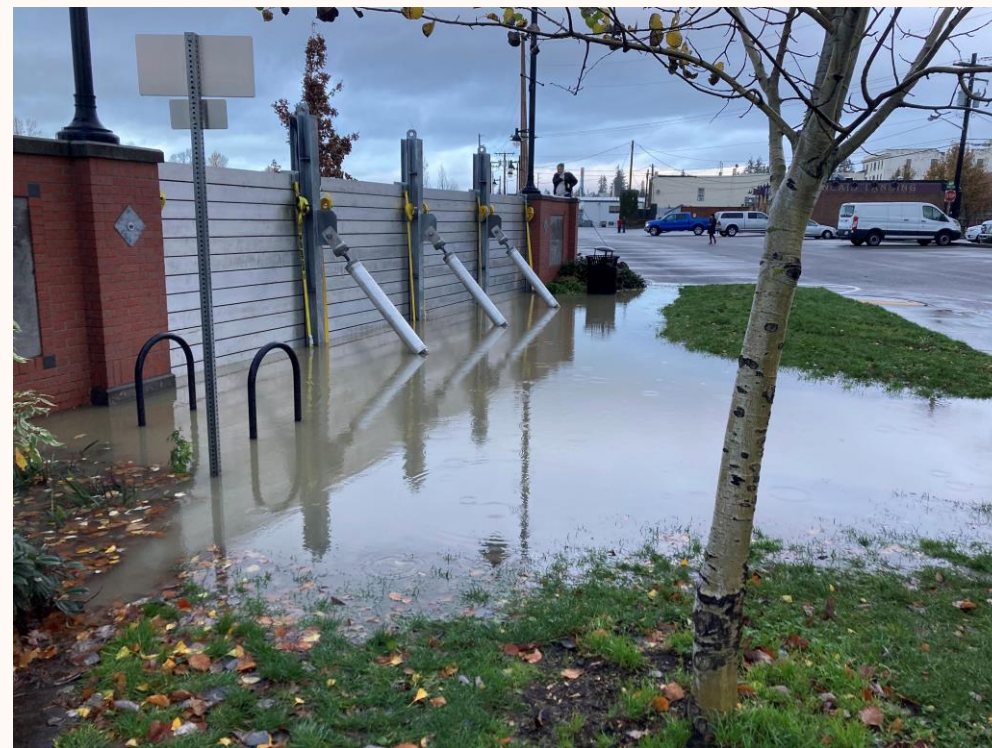
Resilience Sub-Element



Resilience Sub-element

Climate Resilience (RCW 70A.65.010):

“The ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities.”



Resilience Sub-element



Source: Department of Commerce Climate Element Planning Guidance



Resilience Sub-element

Step 1: Explore Climate Impacts

CLIMATE MAPPING FOR A RESILIENT WASHINGTON

Select Visualization

View maps of climate data at the resolution of the data. View county-level climate data on graphs and tables.



Select County

Select a Washington County here or by clicking on map.

Skagit

Select Climate Indicator

Filter the long list of indicators below by selecting a sector or a hazard category for the shown indicators.

Filter by Sector

Show All

Filter by Hazard

Sea Level Rise

Climate Indicator



Source: [University of Washington Climate Mapping Webtool](#)



Resilience Sub-element

Step 1: Explore Climate Impacts

Identify Community Assets:

Assets include places, natural resources, agriculture and food systems, infrastructure, community groups, and services.



Resilience Sub-element

Step 1: Explore Climate Impacts

- Pair Assets and Hazards.
- Describe exposure and consequences.



Resilience Sub-element

Step 2: Audit Plans and Policies

- Review plans for policy gaps and opportunities to address local climate hazards identified in Step 1.
- Audit plans, such as Comprehensive Plan and County Hazards Mitigation Plan, and identify existing measures.

Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan



A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PLAN DEVELOPED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL
GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTIONS WITHIN SKAGIT COUNTY AS WELL AS THE
SWINOMISH INDIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITY AND THE UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE

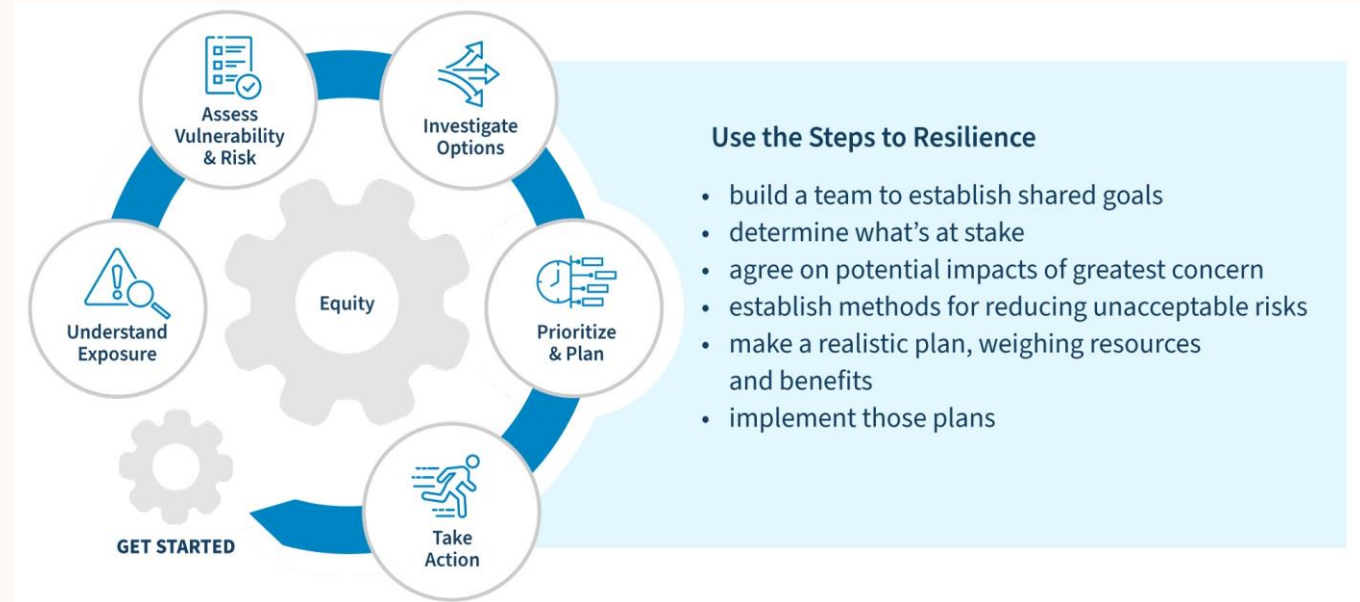
Prepared by Skagit County Department of Emergency Management
September 2003



Resilience Sub-element

Step 3: Assess Vulnerability & Risk

- Assess County's assets' exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity using the US Climate Resilience Toolkit framework.



Source: [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)
Graphic by Anna Eshelman, NOAA



Resilience Sub-element

Step 4: Pursue Pathways

- Choose one or a combination of pathways to select goals and policies to address relevant climate hazards and impacts.
- Pathways include:
 - Adopting or adapting existing goals and policies.
 - Developing new goals or policies.
 - Updating hazard mitigation plan and adopting it, by reference, in comprehensive plan.



Resilience Sub-element

Step 5: Integrate Goals & Policies

One goal and supportive policy for each climate exacerbated hazard that's relevant to Skagit County.

- Aligns FEMA and HB 1181 requirements.
- Enables climate element to be a single or multiple chapters (integrate climate goals and policies into other elements).



Resilience Sub-element

Example Goal and Policies (Port Angeles)

GOAL: To protect and enhance the area's unique physical features, its natural, historical, archaeological, and cultural amenities, and the overall environment.

- **Policy #1:** Protect infrastructure along waterfronts, including roads, pedestrian paths, bikeways, and structures.
- **Policy #2:** Evaluate risks of future building on coastal bluffs for sea level rise impacts.
- **Policy #3:** Review all new development for climate change impacts and adaptation to sea level rise through the SEPA process.



Questions?

