

				FIRST DRAFT Proposed Policy Revision	
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Agriculture & Food Systems	CE 1.0 Goal	Climate	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.	Overarching goal for Agriculture & Food Systems sector. To note, many policies regarding agriculture are located in Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Lands.
Agriculture & Food Systems	CE 1.1	Climate	Climate resilience; Land use	Continue to support and secure funding to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses through the Conservation Futures taxing mechanism, federal and state grants, and private funding sources.	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.
Agriculture & Food Systems	CE 1.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Drought; Land use	Support WSU Skagit County extension program in providing educational opportunities 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.
Agriculture & Food Systems	CE 1.3	Climate	Climate resilience; Land use	Promote and support adequate, safe, and affordable supply of housing for farmworkers in urban growth areas 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.
Agriculture & Food Systems	CE 1.4	Climate	Climate resilience; Drought; Land use	Support the WSU Skagit County extension program and the Skagit County Conservation District in providing agricultural resilience resources and programs to support farmers in making informed business decisions in a changing climate.	Key implementers include the WSU Skagit County extension program and the Skagit County Conservation District.
Agriculture & Food Systems	CE 1.5	Climate	Climate resilience; Drought; Land use	Work with special purpose districts, the WSU Skagit County extension program, WSU NWREC, the Skagit County Conservation District, diking/drainage districts, and Skagit tribes to enhance flooding, sea level rise, and drought resilience within the agricultural sector, ensuring that farming practices, water management, habitat quality, 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.
Agriculture & Food Systems	CE 1.6	Climate	Climate resilience; Land Use; Sea-level rise; Ecosystems	Protect the +/-88,000 acres of remaining prime farmland in Skagit County. Success requires continued commitment to restrictive farmland zoning; continued farmland development right acquisition through the Farmland Legacy Program; support for an adequate water right necessary to sustain Skagit Agriculture; and	

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				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.	
Zoning & Development	CE 10.0 Goal	Climate	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.
Zoning & Development	CE 10.1	Climate	Climate resilience; Sea level rise	Work with regulatory agencies to develop regulations for elevating or setting back new and substantially improved structures located within mapped areas sea-level rise hazard areas 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 landowners to build support for new regulations.
Zoning & Development	CE 10.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Sea Level Rise; Extreme Precipitation	Consistent with State and Federal standards, plan and build facilities, utilities, and infrastructure projects to mitigate 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 long-term social, economic, and environmental risks.
Zoning & Development	CE 10.3	Climate	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

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					from sea level rise, extreme precipitation, and other changes that may already be impacting or will impact your community. A second step is to review existing plans that address floodplain planning, and identify any gaps or needs to better consider climate change. The Department of Ecology provides guidance for developing comprehensive flood hazard management plans that consider current and future conditions. Floodplain planning is likely most effective when conducted collaboratively with all jurisdictions within a river basin, including other counties, cities, and tribes.
Zoning & Development	CE 10.4	Climate	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). Skagit can ensure that permit applications for shoreline stabilization are thoroughly reviewed for a demonstration of need for stabilization, and that the least impacting appropriate alternative is selected. Skagit could develop internal resources for staff reviewing shoreline stabilization proposals to create consistency in review and transparency for applicants. Skagit could also promote the Shore Friendly program, which provides education and resources for private landowners to reduce shoreline armor and restore shoreline habitats.
Zoning & Development	CE 10.5	Climate	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

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								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 ensure that climate change is considered as capital facilities plans are prepared.
Zoning & Development	CE 10.6	Climate	Climate resilience; Wildfire; Extreme Heat; Extreme Precipitation			Establish development regulations that support and 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 infrastructure (cooling centers, tree canopy).	
Zoning & Development	CE 10.7	Climate	Climate resilience; Sea level rise			Protect and restore coastal ecosystems to increase the resilience of species, habitats, and communities to climate change.	As sea levels rise, valuable coastal habitat may be impacted. 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.	
Zoning & Development	CE 10.8	Climate	Climate resilience; Sea Level Rise; Extreme Precipitation			Ensure all residential and commercial development and accessory uses, 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. 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.	Adopted from SMP 6C-7.35 D and SMP 6C-15.72 and will be included in both the SMP and the Climate Element. Important to include climate projections in design processes. Combined two SMP policies that were similar for clarity.	
Buildings & Energy	CE 2.0 Goal	Climate	Climate resilience; Sea Level Rise; Extreme Precipitation			Enhance the resilience and reliability of energy infrastructure. Promote and support building designs that better withstand climate change impacts.	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	

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Buildings & Energy	CE 2.1	Climate	Climate resilience; Extreme Heat	Develop regulations that require commercial developments to 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.
Buildings & Energy	CE 2.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Wildfire	Work with energy providers 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.
Buildings & Energy	CE 2.3	Climate	Climate resilience; Wildfire	Require new residential subdivisions and commercial and industrial 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 underground.
Buildings & Energy	CE 2.4	Climate	GHG Reduction; Buildings & Energy	Identify areas in the County that are appropriate for siting renewable energy generation and storage facilities that prioritize protection of Natural Resource Lands.	With the recent demand for renewable energy and energy storage facilities, the County should assess where these facilities should be sited.
Community Health & Well-being	CE 3.0 Goal	Climate	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.	Overarching goal for Community Health & Well-being sector. See related policy 4B-2.11 (Wildfire Planning Program) in the existing Comprehensive plan. 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.
Community Health & Well-being	CE 3.1	Climate	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 high priority. See below:

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Community Health & Well-being	CE 3.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Emergency Management				<p>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 process for the public.</p> <p>Adopted from NHMP Initiative #8: Identify and designate emergency shelter structural and utility readiness for occupancy after a significant incident.</p> <p>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 smoke events, for example, such hubs could provide cool, filtered air and respiratory masks in neighborhoods with greater socioeconomic risk and prevalence of asthma and other respiratory conditions. Such hubs could also provide residents a place to receive basic medical care, charge electronic devices, and access the internet. To maintain power during outages and to provide steady-state services, such hubs could be outfitted with a solar and back-up battery storage system (energy system) that can serve as an island from the conventional grid.</p>
Community Health & Well-being	CE 3.3	Climate	Climate resilience; Emergency Management			<p>Promote and support resilience hubs — community-serving facilities that are designed to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution while enhancing quality of life.</p> <p>Continue to develop and support hazard planning policies identified in the Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.</p>	The NHMP will be updated in 2025.

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Community Health & Well-being	CE 3.4	Climate	Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts	Maintain and support a program to distribute cooling and/or air purifying units 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.
Community Health & Well-being	CE 3.5	Climate	Climate resilience; Extreme Heat	Work with Skagit County WSU extension and other organizations to support programs to educate and train employers and workers about working in extreme heat. Measures could include mandatory heat protection (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.
Community Health & Well-being	CE 3.6	Climate	Climate resilience; Wildfire	Create a comprehensive wildfire smoke resilience strategy by collaborating with local residents and organizations, 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 city or county, especially if the jurisdiction is far from a regulatory air quality monitor. Notification alerts, which should be accessible in different formats and languages, could warn residents and visitors when they should evacuate or head indoors (e.g., at home or a community resilience hub) to avoid wildfire smoke exposure.
Cultural Resources and Practices	CE 4.0 Goal	Climate	Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts	Promote climate resilience and equity through culturally sensitive outreach and education, and strengthen collaborative relationships with Tribal governments, local leaders, and non-profit groups that work with vulnerable communities to effectively manage climate change risks.	Overarching goal for Cultural Resources and Practices sector.
Cultural Resources and Practices	CE 4.1	Climate	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,

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					vision, and mobility differences) per the demographics and needs of community members.
Cultural Resources and Practices	CE 4.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts	Work with federally recognized tribal governments, federal and state agencies, and appropriate community leaders to identify and support 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 science to identify important resources and areas, assess their climate vulnerabilities, and develop a plan to protect and enhance their resilience to climate impacts.
Cultural Resources and Practices	CE 4.3	Climate	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.
Economic Development	CE 5.0 Goal	Climate	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.
Economic Development	CE 5.1	Climate	Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts	Support businesses and industries 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.
Economic Development	CE 5.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts	Define and identify frontline communities, including low-income communities, outdoor workers, and those employed in carbon-intensive industries, who may be disproportionately impacted by environmental and economic shifts.	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

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					communities. Examples of such green jobs could include solar panel and green roof installation and maintenance.
Economic Development	CE 5.3	Climate	Climate resilience; Socioeconomic Impacts	Support 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.	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 unions, businesses, and community-based organizations.
Land Use & Ecosystems	CE 6.0 Goal	Climate	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 for modified agricultural drainage policy.
Land Use & Ecosystems	CE 6.1	Climate	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 Menu of Measures. 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.
Land Use & Ecosystems	CE 6.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Ecosystems	Once modeling is available, incorporate hydrologic climate impact projections into the design of water-crossing structures such as culverts and bridges to support fish passage and habitat quality.	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.
Land Use & Ecosystems	CE 6.3	Climate	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	In the Skagit County watershed, streamflow is expected to increase in winter and decrease in summer and fall. Effective watershed restoration improves water quality,

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				streambanks, and enhance stream health through collaborative efforts with public and private partners.	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.
Land Use & Ecosystems	CE 6.4	Climate	Climate resilience; Wildfire	Work to increase tree canopy and forest acreage and health, including in urban areas, to enhance ecosystem health, carbon sequestration, and improve air quality.	This policy could reduce the urban heat island effect, increase biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration, and improve health and well-being by improving air quality. Aligned to Commerce Menu of Measures.
Land Use & Ecosystems	CE 6.5	Climate	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 the forest master plan facilitates ecologically appropriate management across different ownership types and jurisdictional boundaries.
Land Use & Ecosystems	CE 6.6	Climate	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.
Land Use & Ecosystems	CE 6.7	Climate	GHG reduction; Land Use	Align with Conservation Futures 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.
	CE 7.0 Goal	Climate	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.

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Transportation	CE 7.1	Climate	GHG reduction; Transportation	Support 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 satellite offices, as well as remote and telework programs.
Transportation	CE 7.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Extreme Precipitation	Map and prioritize 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.	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.
Transportation	CE 7.3	Climate	GHG reduction; Transportation	Encourage and support the transition to EVs through expansion of reliable EV charging infrastructure throughout Skagit County, prioritizing high-traffic areas with little existing infrastructure. Provide 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.
Transportation	CE 7.4	Climate	GHG reduction; Transportation	Support community 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

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[Link to existing comprehensive plan here.](#)

Date Exported: October 15, 2024

Email pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us with the proposal name "Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan Draft Policies" in the subject line. Include your comments in the body of your email.

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Transportation	CE 7.5	Climate	GHG reduction; Transportation	Seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants from County-owned vehicles, equipment, and machinery, where feasible, using clean fuel technologies including but not limited to bio-blend fuels or converting to electric or hydrogen power.	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. The County will explore the feasibility of transitioning the use of fossil fuels to using clean fuel technologies for County-owned vehicles, equipment, and machinery, where feasible.
Waste Management	CE 8.0 Goal	Climate	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.
Waste Management	CE 8.1	Climate	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.
Waste Management	CE 8.2	Climate	GHG reduction; Solid Waste	Strengthen waste management engagement and education policy by developing targeted campaigns for reducing, recycling, reusing, and composting 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.
Water Resources	CE 9.0 Goal	Climate	Climate resilience; Drought	Support long-term water security needs through integrated natural resource management planning and implementation.	Overarching goal for Water Resources sector.
Water Resources	CE 9.1	Climate	Climate resilience; Drought	Encourage and support public and private water purveyors to prepare for climate related drought by planning and funding appropriate capital facility upgrades.	This policy has many social, economic, and environmental co-benefits: For lower-income community members, spikes in water pricing following emergency measures can impact a household’s ability to pay for other necessary goods such as healthy food and medicine. Planning for drought has the benefit of preparing people mentally for a drought period, activating important resources to support the negative effects of drought on mental health, and potentially helping to reduce potential for community conflicts over water. Preparing for drought has the benefit of establishing norms and agreements in advance of drought, which can reduce the costs to both water providers and the community members they serve by avoiding the

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					inefficiencies of setting up emergency water infrastructure and delaying or avoiding provision of emergency water to a community. Preparing for drought and developing broad partnerships in the course of planning also helps develop communication and outreach channels through which community members most highly impacted by drought may be reached.
Water Resources	CE 9.2	Climate	Climate resilience; Wildfire; Drought	Assess and implement resilience strategies to reduce the vulnerability of Skagit's aquifers, wastewater systems, and septic systems to seawater 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. Aligns with the Saltwater Intrusion Policy in Chapter 5.
Water Resources	CE 9.3	Climate	Climate resilience; Drought; Built Environment	Support water conservation practices such as rainwater catchment, onsite retention, and water reuse to conserve water resources.	This policy would support water conservation and build resilience to droughts exacerbated by climate change.
Water Resources	CE 9.4	Climate	Climate resilience; Drought; Agriculture	Support and advocate for an adequate uninterrupted water right for Skagit Agriculture at a point of withdrawal downstream of the Wild and Scenic portion of the Skagit River.	

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