

					FIRST DRAFT Proposed Policy Revision <i>This first draft is for early discussion with the Planning Commission and to collect early feedback from the public. The policies will undergo several rounds of revision before their estimated final adoption in June 2025</i>	
<u>Existing Goal - Number</u>	<u>Existing Policy Number</u>	<u>Existing Page Number</u>	Theme / Subheading	Existing Policy		Reasoning for Proposed Policy Change
New Goal			Economic Growth and Land Use		Establish a land use framework in Skagit County that supports diverse businesses, enhances natural resource industries.	This aligns with SCOGs CEDS.
	New Policy		Economic Growth and Land Use		Work with the cities to align comprehensive plans and future economic development opportunities through zoning and development regulations.	The County should continue to work with cities to find a balance between the rural natural resource lands and urban lands. As these lands provide support to one another.
	New Policy		Economic Growth and Land Use		Work with SCOG to align the County economic growth actions with regional actions and routinely participate to evaluate this relationship.	This aligns with SCOGs CEDS and supports public engagement data about creating a resiliency economy.
11B-3			Redevelopment Economic Growth and Land Use	Encourage the re-use of existing industrial sites that have potential for reuse or redevelopment.	No recommended change at this time.	This was moved from another section as it can be implemented through zoning and development regulations.
			Economic Growth and Land Use	Encourage sufficient sites for human and social services, and improved access to those services, to meet the needs of Skagit County employees and employers.	Coordinate with the cities to identify Encourage sufficient sites for human and social services, and improved access to those services, to meet the needs of Skagit County employees and employers.	This was moved from Access to services goal. The language was modified to be more actionable and measurable.
			Economic Growth and Land Use	Implement permitting procedures that are understandable, predictable and can be accomplished within time periods that meet or exceed statutory requirements. Procedures for permitting that require approvals of both the County and other jurisdictions should be consistent.	No recommended change at this time.	This was moved from the intergovernmental coordination goal.
			Economic Growth and Land Use		Continue to identify barriers for small businesses in land use regulations and establish strategies to mitigate or remove barriers.	This was created to support the goals in SCOGs CEDS for equitable small business support.
11A		314	Employment	Encourage the creation and retention of diverse employment opportunities.	Encourage the creation and retention of diverse employment opportunities.	This goal was turned into a policy and consolidated with the Quality of Life policies below.

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11A-1		314	Industry Industry Growth and Diversification	Encourage resource-based industries as a major part of Skagit County’s economy.	Encourage a mix of diverse non-resource-based industries that complement and enhance resource-based industries as a major part of Skagit County’s economy.	Reworded this to align with other agencies and established new policies to implement during the planning period.
	New Policy		Industry Growth and Diversification		Work with jurisdictions and agencies to identify appropriate areas for increased business diversity and explore options for implementation.	This policy aligns with SCOGs CEDS and could identify potential actions for Skagit County to implement during the planning period.
			Industry Growth and Diversification	Recognize the importance of the marine-based economy of Skagit County in the County’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.		This goal was moved from the Marine Industry goal.
			Industry Growth and Diversification	Strive to stimulate the economy of the upper Skagit Valley through protection of resource-based industry, compatible tourism, and community development strategies.		This goal was moved from the Resource based industry goal.
			Industry Growth and Diversification		Work with SCOG, jurisdictions, and organizations to identify new strategies to support other key industry sectors, like construction, advanced manufacturing, clean technology, energy, and health care.	This was created to support SCOGs CEDS and diversify key industry sectors.
11A-2		315	Living Wage Jobs	Encourage the creation and retention of living wage jobs to meet the needs and demands of Skagit County households.	Moved	This policy was consolidated with the Quality of Life policies
11A-3		315	Entrepreneurs	Encourage diverse job options and entrepreneurial opportunities for persons interested in full-time and part-time employment or desiring to own their own business.	Moved	This policy was consolidated with the Quality of Life policies
11A-4		315	Skill Building	Encourage educational opportunities for residents of all ages to develop and upgrade skills required for employment, advancement and entrepreneurship.	No recommended change at this time.	This goal aligns with the SCOG’s CEDs. This policy was consolidated with the Quality of Life policies
11A-4	11A-4.1	315	Skill Building	Encourage local business investments that provide economic and employment opportunities for all county residents.	No recommended change at this time.	

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11A-4	11A-4.2	315	Skill Building	Work cooperatively with local jurisdictions, the Skagit Council of Governments, the Economic Development Association of Skagit County, the ports of Skagit and Anacortes, and federal and state agencies to promote economic development and employment opportunities consistent with countywide economic development policies.		No recommended change at this time.
11A-4	11A-4.3	315	Skill Building	Accommodate home-based businesses that are compatible with the character of adjoining properties and neighborhoods.		No recommended change at this time.
11A-4	11A-4.4	315	Skill Building	Cooperate with education providers and employers to ensure the availability of facilities and programs necessary to meet the needs of K-12, college, vocational and continuing education levels.		No recommended change at this time.
11B		316	Economic Viability	Economic Viability: Promote the continued economic viability of Skagit County's natural resources and encourage related value-added production of agricultural, fishery, and forestry resources.	Moved	This goal was moved under the industry Growth and Diversification policies.
11B-1		316	Diversity	Complement Skagit County's natural resource industries by encouraging a diversified base of non-resource businesses and industries.	Complement Skagit County's natural resource industries by encouraging a diversified base of non-resource businesses and industries.	This has been consolidated with a goal about growth and diversification (see above) to align with SCOGs CEDS.
11B-2		316	Capacity	Plan for sufficient buildable industrial lands with access to infrastructure and services to meet the evolving needs of industry.	Plan for sufficient buildable industrial lands with access to infrastructure and services to meet the evolving needs of industry.	This goal is very repetitive of previous goals in the land use and capital facilities element. Land Use Goal 2A-5: Encourage commercial and industrial development to locate in well-defined centers within the Urban Growth Areas. Prohibit new zoning that furthers the continuation of strip commercial development.
11B-3		316	Redevelopment	Encourage the re-use of existing industrial sites that have potential for reuse or redevelopment.	Moved	This has been moved to the economic growth and land use section above.

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	New Goal		Infrastructure			Create a new, broader goal about infrastructure to support economic growth and identify different strategies through policies below.
11B-4		316	Infrastructure	Encourage low cost, easily accessible, state of the art telecommunications services throughout the county with linkages to nearby counties that are economically tied to Skagit County.	No recommended change at this time.	This goal has been changed to a policy and a broader goal about expanding infrastructure to support economic growth has been established.
			Infrastructure	Acknowledge economic development needs in formulating recommendations for improvements to transportation facilities and services.	No recommended change at this time.	This goal was moved from the transportation improvements goal 11F.
			Infrastructure	Work with ports, economic development organizations, cities, transportation providers, and agencies to provide the infrastructure necessary to facilitate a sustainable county economy.	No recommended change at this time.	This goal was moved from the infrastructure goal 11F-1.
11B-5		316	Recruitment	Promote business recruitment and development of firms that will diversify the local economy and compete effectively in local, national and international markets.	Coordinate with organizations and agencies Promote for business recruitment and development of firms retention that will diversify the local economy and compete effectively in local, national and international markets.	Improve the feasibility of the goal by describing what "promote" means.
11B-8					Maintain cooperative working relationships with local, tribal, regional, statewide, federal and international organizations that pursue economic development activities consistent with the goals and objectives of this economic development element.	This was moved from Goal 11B-8.
11B-6		317	Retention	Promote the retention and expansion of existing local businesses as a first priority while also promoting the start-up of new businesses particularly those providing living wage jobs.	Moved	This policy was moved to the quality of life policies.

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11B-7		317	Marine Industry	Recognize the importance of the marine-based economy of Skagit County in the County’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.	Moved	County please review this one. If there are no policies associated with this goal it should be removed.
11B-8		317	Resource Based Industry	Strive to stimulate the economy of the upper Skagit Valley through protection of resource-based industry, compatible tourism, and community development strategies.	Moved	County please review this one. If there are no policies associated with this goal it should be removed.
11B-8	11B-8.1	317	Upper Skagit Valley	Protect long term commercially significant natural resource industries and operations shall be protected from encroachment by incompatible uses.	No recommended changes at this time.	This is heavily covered in the natural resource lands chapter See guiding policies on page 120, 121, 122, and 129.
11B-8	11B-8.2	317	Upper Skagit Valley	In cooperation with the cities, ports, tribes, and users, conduct, and maintain an inventory of buildable lands suitable for urban and rural commercial and industrial development.	No recommended changes at this time.	
11B-8	11B-8.3	317	Upper Skagit Valley	Locate lands designated for industrial use where they will have ready access to appropriate infrastructure, environmental constraints will be minimized, and permitting can be expedited.	No recommended changes at this time.	
11B-8	11B-8.4	317	Upper Skagit Valley	Ensure lands designated as industrial accommodate a mix of uses and include public and private ownership consistent with market demands and trends.	No recommended changes at this time.	
11B-8	11B-8.5	317-318	Upper Skagit Valley	Maintain cooperative working relationships with local, tribal, regional, statewide, federal and international organizations that pursue economic development activities consistent with the goals and objectives of this economic development element.	Moved	This was moved to Goal 11B-5.
11B-8	11B-8.6	318	Upper Skagit Valley	Participate in seeking grant funding for the following: (a) Clean-up of contaminated sites; (b) Re-use and redevelopment of infill sites; (c) Improvement of infrastructure to support economic development; and	No recommended changes at this time.	

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				(d) Strategic investment in business recruitment and expansion.		
11C		318	Destination	Support Skagit County as a visitor destination by preserving and enhancing the unique qualities of both rural areas and urban communities.	Support Skagit County as a visitor destination by preserving and enhancing the unique qualities of both rural areas and urban communities.	This policy is very similar to the Tourism Attraction policies below. Since there are no associated policies with this, recommend removing.
11C-1		318	Visitor Opportunities	Promote visitor opportunities that do not negatively impact the rural lifestyles of Skagit County residents, critical areas, or long-term commercial significance of natural resources.	No recommended changes at this time.	County please review. If there are no policies associated with this goal, consider removing or adding policies.
11C-2		318	Tourism Attraction	Promote the county's excellent regional location, lodging and retail opportunities and local public transportation options as attractions for tourism.	No recommended changes at this time.	
11C-2	11C-2.1	318-319	Tourism Attraction	Encourage the establishment and maintenance of a countywide convention and visitors' bureau. The bureau would support city efforts to develop and market visitor services and promote of the county's regional location, amenities, and services.	No recommended changes at this time.	
11C-2	11C-2.2	319	Tourism Attraction	Through adopted parks, transportation, and community plans, implement strategic efforts to develop and maintain scenic open space and cultural and heritage resources that are attractive to residents and visitors alike.	No recommended changes at this time.	
11C-2	11C-2.3	319	Tourism Attraction	Site visitor facilities at locations that can be served with necessary public infrastructure and are compatible with surrounding uses.	No recommended changes at this time.	
11C-2	11C-2.4	319	Tourism Attraction	Ensure that plans for rural area visitor facilities and services do not conflict with rural lifestyles, critical areas, and the long-term commercial significance of natural resources, and are coordinated with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.	No recommended changes at this time.	

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11D		319	Service Support	Support a full range of human and social services necessary to encourage a strong local economy.	Moved	This has been consolidated with the quality of life policies 11E.
11D-1		319	Human Service Opportunities	Encourage the linkage of job creation needs and opportunities with human and social services including health care, education, transportation, employment assistance, and welfare.	Moved	This has been consolidated with the quality of life policies 11E.
11D-2		319	Access to Services	Encourage sufficient sites for human and social services, and improved access to those services, to meet the needs of Skagit County employees and employers.	Moved	This has been moved to the economic growth and land use goals 11E.
11D-3		320	Facilities	Support development and maintenance of human and social service facilities through funding decisions and land use codes.	Moved	This was moved to the quality of life policies 11E.
11E		320	Quality of Life	Encourage economic development that supports sustainable natural resource industry, protects valued open space and environmental quality and enhances Skagit County's overall quality of life.	Encourage economic development that supports all aspects of quality of life, including living wages, education, human services, housing, and transportation. sustainable natural resource industry, protects valued open space and environmental quality and enhances Skagit County's overall quality of life.	This goal aligns with SCOGs CEDS. This goal was revised to cover how economic development can support all aspects of residents quality of life.
11D-1			Quality of Life	Encourage the linkage of job creation needs and opportunities with human and social services including health care, education, transportation, employment assistance, and welfare.	Identify Encourage the linkages of job creation needs and opportunities with human and social services including, health care, education, transportation, employment	This goal was changed to a policy and was moved from the Human Service Opportunities goal. Language was

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					assistance and welfare, and establish strategies to preserve and enhance these opportunities.	modified to be more actionable and measurable.	
11E	11E-1.1	320	Quality of Life	Encourage businesses to recycle, use, or manufacture products made from recycled materials and use innovative processes that conserve natural resources and protect or enhance environmental quality.	Encourage Identify strategies and incentives to encourage businesses to recycle, use, or manufacture products made from recycled materials and use innovative processes that conserve natural resources and protect or enhance environmental quality.	This was moved from another goal and made into a policy, the language was modified to be more actionable and measurable.	
11E	11E-1.2	320	Quality of Life	As appropriate, use the community planning process to address conflicts between development and environmental objectives. These processes shall involve participants representing all interests and viewpoints.	No recommended change at this time.	This was moved from another section.	
			Quality of Life	Encourage diverse job options and entrepreneurial opportunities for persons interested in full-time and part-time employment or desiring to own their own business.	No recommended change at this time.	This was moved from another goal and made into a policy.	
			Quality of Life	Encourage the creation and retention of diverse employment opportunities.	No recommended change at this time.	This was moved from the employment goal.	
			Quality of Life	Support development and maintenance of human and social service facilities through funding decisions and land use codes.	No recommended change at this time.	This was moved from the facilities goal.	
			Quality of Life	Promote the retention and expansion of existing local businesses as a first priority while also promoting the start-up of new businesses particularly those providing living wage jobs.	Work with SCOG and other organizations to identify living wage job markets and business and develop strategies for recruitment and retention. Promote the retention and expansion of existing local businesses as a first priority while also promoting the start-up of new businesses particularly those providing living wage jobs.	This was moved from the retention goal. Language was modified to be more actionable and measurable.	
11F		321	Transportation Improvements	Acknowledge economic development needs in formulating recommendations for improvements to transportation facilities and services.	Moved	This was moved under the infrastructure goals and policies.	

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11F-1		321	Infrastructure	Work with ports, economic development organizations, cities, transportation providers, and agencies to provide the infrastructure necessary to facilitate a sustainable county economy.	Moved	This was moved under the infrastructure goals and policies.
11F-2		321	Marine Economy	Recognize the importance of the marine-based economy of Skagit County in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).	Moved	This goal was moved to the industry growth and diversification policies.
11F-3		321	Ports	Support the economic and job-creating activities of the port districts to ensure their long-term viability.	No recommended change at this time.	
11F-3	11F-3.1	321	Ports	Encourage the Washington State Ferry System to maintain ferry services from Anacortes to the San Juan Islands and Vancouver Island, B.C., in order to provide for commerce and tourist trade in and through Skagit County.	No recommended change at this time.	
11F-3	11F-3.2	321	Ports	Support the Port of Skagit in its economic development activities across the County, particularly at the Skagit Regional Airport and North Cascades Gateway Center (the former Northern State Hospital campus) areas, and the Port of Anacortes in its efforts to more fully utilize its deep draft marine terminal for trade, commerce and related economic development.	No recommended change at this time.	
11F-3	11F-3.3	322	Ports	Strive to keep Highway 20 open to eastern Washington throughout the year, if economically feasible, in order to stimulate the economy of the economically distressed upper Skagit Valley.	No recommended change at this time.	
11G		322	Public-Private Partnership	Foster a public-private cooperative partnership involving government and tribal organizations through the Skagit Council of Governments, and private stakeholders through the Economic Development Association of Skagit County, to support diverse business operations and investments throughout Skagit County.	No recommended change at this time.	Skagit County consider adding some policies for actions. This will need to be coordinate with.
11G-1		322	Public Investment	Encourage public investments aimed at maintaining a high quality of life and attracting business investment.	Encourage public investments aimed at maintaining a high quality of life and attracting business investment.	This goal has no associated policies and is not specific enough to identify actions.

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11G-2		322	Anticipate Change	Recognize the need for flexibility in promoting economic development to be responsive to unforeseen or changing economic conditions and community expectations.	Recognize the need for flexibility in promoting economic development to be responsive to unforeseen or changing economic conditions and community expectations.	If there are no policies associated with this goal, consider removing.
11G-3		322	Intergovernmental Coordination	Implement permitting procedures that are understandable, predictable and can be accomplished within time periods that meet or exceed statutory requirements. Procedures for permitting that require approvals of both the County and other jurisdictions should be consistent.	Moved	This was moved to the Economic Growth and Land Use section
11G-4		323	Fiscal Impact	Encourage economic development that creates a net positive fiscal impact for Skagit County.	No recommended change at this time.	
11G-4	11G-4.1	323	Fiscal Impact	Link County capital facility planning and programming to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to sustain a high quality of life and attract business investment.	No recommended change at this time.	
11G-4	11G-4.2	323	Fiscal Impact	Monitor and evaluate constraints to economic development caused by regulations and permitting procedures and implement revisions, if necessary, as part of annual or periodic comprehensive plan and development regulation updates. Coordinate with other (federal and state) permitting agencies to simplify procedures.	No recommended change at this time.	
11G-4	11G-4.3	323	Fiscal Impact	Maintain a growth management indicators monitoring program to measure progress in economic development initiatives in coordination with the Skagit Council of Governments and the Economic Development Association of Skagit County. The indicators program report should be updated at least every 3 ½ years to coincide with the periodic GMA update schedule.	No recommended change at this time.	
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	No recommended change at this time.	

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				tax revenue generation is competitive with other jurisdictions.		
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 location economy	No recommended change at this time.	
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 at this time.	