

# Continuing Conversation

We live in a global economy. Much of what we consume is produced elsewhere and vice versa. But imagine a time in the not-so-distant future when more of the food we grow and products we make are consumed and recycled within the Thurston Region. Now imagine that more of our town centers, neighborhoods, and urban corridors support greater transportation and housing choices. Imagine that more of our entrepreneurs start companies and hire workers, and that more of our homegrown kids choose challenging and rewarding careers right where they started. Imagine that.

During the past three years, thousands of Thurston Region residents engaged in a frank conversation about how our tiny corner of the map should look, feel and function in 2035. Folks hoped, worried, discussed, disagreed, and found common ground. We all took time to imagine because we care deeply about this place we call home. The document you're reading is the result of that conversation — but it's also just the start of a new one.

*Creating Places — Preserving Spaces* articulates a clear vision for 2035, sets goals and targets, and recommends actions to achieve them. Success requires sustained commitment and collaboration on the part of everyone in the community. You, your friends, your neighbors — everyone. The conversation must continue around kitchen tables, council chambers, coffee shops — everywhere.

The Thurston Regional Planning Council will continue to convene community stakeholders, seek resources to implement sustainability actions, and share information about the region's progress. In the meantime, you can read *Creating Places — Preserving Spaces* and other Sustainable Thurston documents online at [www.sustainablethurston.org](http://www.sustainablethurston.org). We have the imagination and power to create a more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable future. Let's get to work.



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