

# Vision, Principles & Goals

Thurston Regional Planning Council

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## *Vision Statement*

The Thurston County region — through sustained leadership and collaboration on adaptation strategies and actions — will remain resilient in the face of climate change impacts during the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. The region’s stakeholders will think in terms of multiple generations and connected built and natural systems, as well as view local and regional decisions through the lens of social, economic and environmental sustainability.

## *Guiding Principles*

The core values that will shape the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan’s development and outcomes — are as follows:

- Increase resiliency through achievable, flexible — and, where possible, measurable and replicable — adaptation strategies and actions that will help the region prepare for and cope with climate change impacts;
- Identify and leverage climate change adaptation strategies and actions with mitigation co-benefits, such as reducing, capturing and storing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Utilize sound scientific research, scenarios modeling, economic analysis and other tools to analyze regional and local climate change vulnerabilities, risks and solutions;
- Incorporate and complement work produced by others, including the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region, Sustainable Thurston, Thurston Thrives, and Olympia sea-level rise analyses;
- Consider the impacts of climate change and adaptation recommendations on the region’s economy, environment and society; this includes all people — especially the community’s most vulnerable residents — as well as plants, animals and other natural resources that provide important ecosystem services;
- Recognize and strive to protect local indigenous tribes’ community health and well-being, including natural resources security and self-determination;
- Seek broad community input, as well as educate residents about climate change and inspire them to take action.

## ***Regional Goals***

The Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan's risk assessment will evaluate how climate change stressors and risks will affect the ability to achieve its regional goals. To that end, the project team proposes that the adaptation plan integrate relevant priority goals (*below*) of Sustainable Thurston. TRPC policymakers adopted the sustainability plan in 2013 and subsequently integrated its elements into a variety of local policies and projects, including Thurston Thrives and the County-Wide Planning Policies. Sustainable Thurston's 12 priority goals are:

**Goal 1:** Create vibrant centers, corridors and neighborhoods while accommodating growth;

**Goal 2:** Preserve environmentally sensitive lands, farmlands, forest lands, prairies, and rural lands, and develop compact urban areas;

**Goal 3:** Create a robust economy through sustainable practices;

**Goal 4:** Protect and improve water quality, including groundwater, rivers, streams, lakes and Puget Sound;

**Goal 5:** Plan and act toward zero waste in the region;

**Goal 6:** Ensure that residents have the resources to meet their daily needs;

**Goal 7:** Support a local food system to increase community resilience, health and economic prosperity;

**Goal 8:** Ensure that the region's water supply sustains people in perpetuity while protecting the environment;

**Goal 9:** Move toward a carbon-neutral community;

**Goal 10:** Maintain air quality standards;

**Goal 11:** Provide opportunities for everyone in the Thurston Region to learn about and practice sustainability;

**Goal 12:** Make strategic investments to advance sustainability regionally.