



2022 Legislative Priorities - DRAFT

Who We Are

Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater are working together to address the causes of climate change. The four jurisdictions have adopted shared goals to reduce locally generated greenhouse gas emissions and a regional framework for achieving these goals, described in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan. It is clear we cannot achieve these goals without significant policy and financial assistance from the state. We need your support on the following elements of the regional plan.

Buildings & Energy

- Direct the State Energy Office to create energy benchmarks for categories of buildings and climatic regions so prospective purchasers, tenants and investors can make informed decisions. **(HB 1774/SB 5722)**
- Allow jurisdictions to adopt local standards that reach beyond state minimum code requirements for energy use in new building construction to support a faster shift toward greater efficiency and electrification. **(HB 1770/SB 5669)**
- Provide funding to improve the energy efficiency of existing low-income housing units. (\$2 million request)
- Pass statewide deadlines for phasing out use of natural gas in all new residential construction and new commercial/industrial non-process uses. **(HB 1766/SB 5668)**
- Fund a pilot program to convert from gas/oil to electric heat and appliances in 100 existing low-income housing units (\$2 million request).

Agriculture & Forests

- Provide funding to acquire community forest land to be managed for sustainable harvesting and carbon sequestration. (\$10 million request)
- Fund the Sustainable Farms and Fields grant program through the Washington State Conservation Commission to increase carbon sequestration on agricultural lands.
- Provide funding for prairie preservation called for in Habitat Conservation Plans to enable development to occur within urban growth areas while preserving existing prairie land outside of urban areas for endangered species and carbon sequestration. (\$10 million request)

Summary of Funding Requests (for Thurston County - managed by TRPC)

- Energy efficiency - \$2 million
- Electric conversion - \$2 million
- Prairie acquisition - \$10 million
- Forest acquisition - \$10 million
- TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST: \$24M