

9/21/11

Decision: Approved

Sponsored By:

Executive Committee

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3 **GMPC MOTION NO. 11-1**  
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6 A MOTION recommending amendments to the King County  
7 Countywide Planning Policies to the King County Council; and  
8 adopting a Housing Target Work Plan to evaluate the  
9 methodology for allocating affordable housing targets to local  
10 jurisdictions and identify alternative approaches for consideration  
11 by the Growth Management Council.  
12

13 WHEREAS, the Countywide Planning Policies were initially adopted in 1992 and  
14 have not been comprehensively reviewed and revised since then; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, in 2008 the Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board adopted  
17 VISION 2040 and the Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs), calling for Countywide  
18 Planning Policies to be revised in a manner consistent with the MPPs; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, in 2010 the Growth Management Planning Council directed staff to  
21 develop recommendations for a major update of the Countywide Planning Policies to bring  
22 those policies into consistency with the Multicounty Planning Policies; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, staff from King County and the cities in King County have worked  
25 cooperatively to analyze and recommend new policies, including 2006-2031 housing and  
26 employment targets, for Growth Management Planning Council consideration:  
27

28 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Growth Management Planning  
29 Council of King County hereby recommends the policies, text, maps and tables of the 2011 King  
30 County Countywide Planning Policies, included with this motion as Attachment A, and the  
31 Housing Target Work Plan, included with this motion as Attachment B. The Interjurisdictional  
32 Staff Team is authorized to make technical changes to the policies, text, maps, and tables  
33 such as fixing grammatical errors, correcting spelling, or aligning policy references  
34 without changing the meaning.  
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38 Dow Constantine, Chair, Growth Management Planning Council  
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40 Attachment A: 2011 King County Countywide Planning Policies

41 Attachment B: Housing Target Work Plan

# **2011 King County Countywide Planning Policies**

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September 21, 2011

*Recommended by the Growth Management Planning Council to the King County Council*

**This document is included for reference only. It has been superseded by the 2012 King County Countywide Planning Policies dated June 6, 2012.**

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## VISION 2040 STATEMENT

The 2011 King County Countywide Planning Policies were prepared to address changes to the Growth Management Act, take into account the passage of 20 years since their initial adoption, and to specifically reflect the regional direction established in VISION 2040. While VISION 2040 is consistent with the overall growth management strategy of the 1992 King County Countywide Planning Policies, restructuring the Countywide Planning Policies—into the six chapters of Environment, Development Patterns, Housing, Economy, Transportation, and Public Facilities and Services—was done to match the structure of VISION 2040.

VISION 2040 presents a clear regional growth management strategy that applies within the four-county Puget Sound region. The 2011 King County Countywide Planning Policies support this strategy and provide direction at the county and jurisdiction level with appropriate specificity and detail needed to guide consistent and useable local comprehensive plans and regulations.

## VISION & FRAMEWORK

### *Vision for King County 2030*

It is the year 2030 and our county has changed significantly in the roughly 40 years that have elapsed since the first Countywide Planning Policies were adopted in 1992. In many ways this is a result of the successful public-private partnership that has supported a diversified, sustainable regional economy and has managed and accommodated growth while maintaining the quality of life and the natural environment throughout King County.

**King County in 2030 is characterized by:**

- **Protected Critical Areas. Effective stewardship of the environment has preserved and protected the critical areas in the County, including wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, and fish and wildlife conservation areas.**  
These critical areas continue to provide beneficial functions and values for reducing flooding, protecting water quality, supporting biodiversity, and enriching our quality of life for future generations as the as the region's population continues to grow.
- **Viable Rural Area. The Rural Area, established in 1992, is permanently protected with a clear boundary between Rural and Urban Areas.**  
The successful protection of these lands is due in large part to continued innovation within the Urban Growth Area to create new ways to use land efficiently and sustainably. In this way, there is minimal pressure to convert rural lands. The Rural Area is a viable option for those seeking a lifestyle contrast to the Urban Growth Area. The pressure to urbanize the Rural Area has also been lessened by market pressures to use the land for agriculture.
- **Bountiful Agricultural Areas and Productive Forest Lands.**  
More people are farming and a greater number of residents are benefiting from King County agricultural products, which can be purchased through a network of farmers markets and farm stands throughout the county. Since 2010, the increase in productive farming in the Agricultural Production District and in the Rural Area has accelerated as more residents seek locally grown food. Thriving markets now exist throughout the county for these products. The forests of the Pacific Northwest remain as some of the most productive in the world with large scale commercial forestry prevalent in the eastern half of the county.
- **Vibrant, diverse and compact urban communities.**  
Within the Urban Growth Area little undeveloped land now exists and urban infrastructure has been extended to fully serve the entire Urban Growth Area. Development activity is focused on redevelopment to create vibrant

neighborhoods where residents can walk, bicycle or use public transit for most of their needs. Improvements to the infrastructure now focus on maintaining existing capacity as opposed to extending the infrastructure into previously unserved areas. Because of the innovations developed in public and private partnerships, there is still ample capacity to accommodate the planned population and employment growth targets within the Urban Growth Area.

Much of the growth in employment and new housing occurs in the Urban Centers. These centers successfully provide a mixture of living, working, cultural, and recreational activities for all members of the community. All the centers are linked together by a high-capacity transit system, including light rail and high capacity bus transit. Transit stations and hubs are within walking distance to all parts of the center and the high capacity transit system facilitates people moving easily from one center to another. Within the collection of Urban Centers there is balance between jobs and housing. Each center has developed its own successful urban character and all are noted for their livability, vibrancy, healthy environment, design, and pedestrian focus.

Smaller concentrations of businesses are distributed throughout the Urban Growth Area to provide goods and services to surrounding residential areas. Most residents are within walking distance of commercial areas, fostering a healthy community through physical exercise and a sense of neighborhood. Local transit systems provide convenient connections to the Urban Centers and elsewhere within the Urban Growth Area.

Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers continue to thrive and function as important hubs of the regional economy. These areas too are well served by transportation systems that emphasize the efficient movement of people, goods and information to and within Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers as well as connecting to other regions.

The entire Urban Growth Area is characterized by superior urban design with an open space network that defines and separates, yet links, the various jurisdictions and central places. Countywide and regional facilities have been equitably dispersed—located where needed, sited unobtrusively—and have provided appropriate incentives and amenities to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Rural Cities have created unique urban environments within the Rural Area and provide commercial services and employment opportunities for their residents. These include retail, business, educational and social services for residents both of cities and the surrounding Rural Area while protecting and supporting the surrounding Rural Area and Resource Lands.

Federal, state and regional funds have been used to further this land use plan and to fund needed regional facilities while local resources focus on funding local and neighborhood facilities. The sharing of resources to accomplish common goals is done so that the regional plan can succeed and all can benefit.

The economy is vibrant, vital, and sustainable, and emphasizes diversity in the range of goods and information produced and the services provided. Regional cooperation has focused on economic development activities that have retained and expanded key industries such as aerospace, software, and biotechnology while using the resources of the region to attract new business clusters such as in renewable energy. Businesses continue to locate in our county because of the high quality of life; the preservation of the natural environment; the emphasis on providing a superior education; the predictability brought about by the management of growth and the effectiveness of public-private partnerships supporting these attributes.

Housing opportunities for all incomes and lifestyles exist throughout the county and with the balanced transportation system access to employment is convenient and reliable. Innovation in the development of a diverse range of housing types has been fundamental in accommodating population growth. The diversity of housing types has allowed residents to stay within their community as their housing needs change.

King County communities are extraordinarily diverse culturally and this has been embraced and celebrated by the residents of King County. The needs of residents are attended to by a social service system that emphasizes prevention but stands ready to respond to direct needs as well. There is a sense of social equity within our communities and all share equitably in the distribution of and access to parks, open space, and vibrant neighborhood centers.

The Urban Growth Area is completely located within cities, which are the primary providers of urban services. Where appropriate, sub-regional consortia have been created for certain services, and King County government is recognized as a significant provider of regional services as well as the coordinator of local services to the Rural Area and Resource Lands.

Residents and businesses have recognized that, over time, through clear and reasonable timelines and financing commitments, issues will be addressed. Residents and businesses trust in their local governments because the plans and promises made to manage growth starting in 1992 have been followed. Change is accepted and proceeds in an orderly fashion based on the locally adopted and embraced growth management plans.

## ***Framework***

The year 1991 was one of tremendous change for the management of growth in King County and this environment of change gave rise to the distinctive character of the 1992 Countywide Planning Policies. While the Countywide Planning Policies have been amended periodically to address specific issues or revisions required by the Growth Management Act, the first thorough update of the Countywide Planning Policies was completed in 2011 to ensure that the Countywide Planning Policies are consistent with VISION 2040, the Growth Management Act and changes that had occurred in the previous twenty years within King County. In addition for the 2011 update, the Growth Management Planning Council directed that the revised policies include countywide direction on three new policy areas: climate change, healthy communities



and social equity. Understanding the history of the 1992 policies is important in order to establish the context for the revised policies.

In 1991 five major conditions gave rise to the first Countywide Planning Policies and the process used in their development and adoption:

1. **In 1985, the King County Council adopted a Comprehensive Plan that for the first time established a clear boundary between Urban and Rural Areas and set forth standards to delineate a clear development character for each.**
2. **In 1991, the adoption of the Growth Management Act transformed the way that local jurisdictions looked at land use planning as well as how they interacted with neighboring jurisdictions.**

A fundamental requirement of the Growth Management Act was coordination between a shared countywide vision on how growth would be planned for and accommodated and how this would be implemented by local jurisdictions. In 1991, the Growth Management Act was amended to include the requirement that Countywide Planning Policies be adopted to describe this vision and how these relationships would be created. These provisions gave rise to the creation of the Growth Management Planning Council – an advisory group of elected officials from jurisdictions throughout the county charged with overseeing the preparation of the Countywide Planning Policies. Since the Growth Management Act was new and many jurisdictions had not created a comprehensive plan before, the Countywide Planning Policies became a guide for jurisdictions to follow in complying with the Growth Management Act in areas as diverse as critical area regulation to local growth targets.

3. **In 1991, the Puget Sound Council of Governments was dissolved and replaced with the Puget Sound Regional Council that initially had significantly reduced responsibilities for regional land use planning and coordination.**  
Without an effective regional body for land use planning, it was necessary for the Puget Sound counties to identify their own process and organization for developing the Countywide Planning Policies. In the case of King County, this was the Growth Management Planning Council. Subsequently, as its responsibilities were expanded over time, the Puget Sound Regional Council developed VISION 2040, the multi-county vision and planning policies that set the structure for these revised Countywide Planning Policies.
4. **By 1991, the Suburban Cities Association had changed from a loose coalition of cities outside of Seattle to a formal organization with the ability to represent constituent jurisdictions in regional forums.**

**5. Prior to the development of the Countywide Planning Policies, King County and METRO attempted and failed to win electoral support for merger.**

This defeat left jurisdictions with concerns about the relationship between city and county governments, and further confusion about the roles of governments in the Urban Growth Area.

Because of these conditions and the environment they fostered, jurisdictions in King County decided to go further than just meeting the specific statutory requirements for such policies. The 1992 King County Countywide Planning Policies provided direction for many issues related to growth management and established a policy structure for subsequent issue resolution.

Since their adoption, many of the initial Countywide Planning Policies have been codified into local regulations or carried out in regional or statewide arenas and no longer need to be included in them. Through amendments to the King County Charter and interlocal agreements, the relationship between county and city governments has been clearly defined and annexations and incorporations have brought most of the unincorporated urban area into the cities.

Other key actions that were required by the 1992 Countywide Planning Policies along with their current status are described below:

- Complete a fiscal and environmental review of the 1992 Countywide Planning Policies – completed and adopted in 1994;
- Establish housing and employment targets for each jurisdiction – completed in 1994 and periodically updated pursuant to the Countywide Planning Policies;
- Adopt local comprehensive plans pursuant to the Growth Management Act and Countywide Planning Policies – each jurisdiction within King County has an adopted plan that is periodically updated;
- Develop land use capacity and urban density evaluation program – developed and then superseded by the King County Buildable Lands Program as required by the Growth Management Act;
- Develop a growth management monitoring program – King County Benchmarks program established in 1994 and annually updated as described in policy FW-2; and
- Evaluate the need to change the Urban Growth Boundary and work to maintain a permanent Rural Area – established in 1994 and periodically reviewed as described in the Development Patterns chapter.

**Framework Policies**

**Amendments.** While much has been accomplished, the Countywide Planning Policies were never intended to be static and will require amendment over time to reflect changed conditions. While the formal policy development is done by the Growth Management Planning

Council, ideas for new policies begin in a variety of areas including individual jurisdictions. Policy FW-1 below describes the process for amending the Countywide Planning Policies:

**FW-1** Maintain the currency of the Countywide Planning Policies through periodic review and amendment. Initiate and review all amendments at the Growth Management Planning Council through the process described below:

- a) Only the Growth Management Planning Council may propose amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies except for amendments to the Urban Growth Area that may also be proposed by King County in accordance with policies DP-15 and DP-16;
- b) Growth Management Planning Council recommends amendments to the King County Council for consideration, possible revision, and approval; proposed revisions by the King County Council that are of a substantive nature may be sent to the Growth Management Planning Council for their consideration and revised recommendation based on the proposed revision;
- c) A majority vote of the King County Council both constitutes approval of the amendments and ratification on behalf of the residents of Unincorporated King County.;
- d) After approval and ratification by the King County Council, amendments are forwarded to each city and town for ratification. Amendments cannot be modified during the city ratification process; and
- e) Amendments must be ratified within 90 days of King County approval and require affirmation by the county and cities and towns representing at least 70 percent of the county population and 30 percent of those jurisdictions. Ratification is either by an affirmative vote of the city's or town's council or by no action being taken within the ratification period.

**Monitoring.** Periodically evaluating the effectiveness of the Countywide Planning Policies is key to continuing their value to the region and local jurisdictions. In 1994 King County and cities established the current Benchmarks program to monitor and evaluate key regional indicators.

**FW-2** Monitor and benchmark the progress of the Countywide Planning Policies towards achieving the Regional Growth Strategy inclusive of the environment, development patterns, housing, the economy, transportation and the provision of public services. Identify corrective actions to be taken if progress toward benchmarks is not being achieved.

**Investment.** Key to ensuring the success of the Countywide Planning Policies is investment in regional infrastructure and programs. Balancing the use of limited available funds between regional and local needs is extremely complex.

**FW-3** Work collaboratively to identify and seek regional, state, and federal funding sources to invest in infrastructure, strategies, and programs to enable the full implementation of the Countywide Planning Policies. Balance needed regional investments with local needs when making funding determinations.

## ENVIRONMENT

**Overarching Goal:** *The quality of the natural environment in King County is restored and protected for future generations.*

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Local governments have a key role in shaping sustainable communities by integrating sustainable development and business practices with ecological, social, and economic concerns. Local governments also play a pivotal role in ensuring environmental justice by addressing environmental impacts on minority and low-income populations and by pursuing fairness in the application of policies and regulations.

**EN-1** Incorporate environmental protection and restoration efforts into local comprehensive plans to ensure that the quality of the natural environment and its contributions to human health and vitality are sustained now and for future generations.

**EN-2** Encourage low impact development approaches for managing stormwater, protecting water quality, minimizing flooding and erosion, protecting habitat, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**EN-3** Encourage the transition to a sustainable energy future by reducing demand through planning for efficiency and conservation and by meeting reduced needs from sustainable sources.

**EN-4** Identify and preserve regionally significant open space networks in both Urban and Rural Areas. Develop strategies and funding to protect lands that provide the following valuable functions:

- Physical or visual separation delineating growth boundaries or providing buffers between incompatible uses;
- Active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Wildlife habitat and migration corridors that preserve and enhance ecosystem resiliency in the face of urbanization and climate change;
- Preservation of ecologically sensitive, scenic or cultural resources;
- Urban green space, habitats, and ecosystems;
- Forest resources; and
- Food production potential.

**EN-5** Identify and mitigate unavoidable negative impacts of public actions that disproportionately affect people of color and low-income populations.

## **Earth and Habitat**

Healthy ecosystems and environments are vital to the sustainability of all plant and animal life, including humans. Protection of biodiversity in all its forms and across all landscapes is critical to continued prosperity and high quality of life in King County. The value of biodiversity to sustaining long-term productivity and both economic and ecological benefits is evident in fisheries, forestry, and agriculture. For ecosystems to be healthy and provide healthful benefits to people, local governments must prevent negative human impacts and work to ensure that this ecosystem remain diverse and productive over time. With the impending effects of climate change, maintaining biodiversity becomes even more critical to the preservation and resilience of resource-based activities and to many social and ecological systems. Protection of individual species, including Chinook salmon, also plays an important role in sustaining biodiversity and quality of life within the county. Since 2000, local governments, citizens, tribes, conservation districts, non-profit groups, and federal and state fisheries managers have cooperated to develop and implement watershed-based salmon conservation plans, known as Water Resource Inventory Area plans, to conserve and restore habitat for Chinook salmon today and for future generations.

**EN-6** Coordinate approaches and standards for defining and protecting critical areas especially where such areas and impacts to them cross jurisdictional boundaries.

**EN-7** Encourage basin-wide approaches to wetland protection, emphasizing preservation and enhancement of the highest quality wetlands and wetland systems.

**EN-8** Develop an integrated and comprehensive approach to managing fish and wildlife habitat conservation, especially protecting endangered, threatened, and sensitive species.

**EN-9** Implement salmon habitat protection and restoration priorities in approved Water Resource Inventory Area plans.

## **Flood Hazards**

Flooding is a natural process that affects human communities and natural environments in King County. Managing floodplain development and conserving aquatic habitats are the main challenges for areas affected by flooding. The King County Flood Control District exists to protect public health and safety, regional economic centers, public and private property and transportation corridors. Local governments also have responsibility for flood control within their boundaries.

**EN-10** Coordinate and fund flood hazard management efforts through the King County Flood Control District.

**EN-11** Work cooperatively to meet regulatory standards for floodplain development as these standards are updated for consistency with relevant federal requirements including those related to the Endangered Species Act.

**EN-12** Work cooperatively with the federal, state, and regional agencies and forums to develop regional levee maintenance standards that ensure public safety and protect habitat.

### ***Water Resources***

The flow and quality of water is impacted by water withdrawals, land development, stormwater management, and climate change. Since surface and ground waters do not respect political boundaries, cross-jurisdictional coordination of water is required to ensure its functions and uses are protected and sustained. The Puget Sound Partnership was created by the Washington State Legislature as the state agency with the responsibility for assuring the preservation and recovery of Puget Sound and the freshwater systems flowing into the Sound. King County plays a key role in these efforts because of its large population and its location in Central Puget Sound.

**EN-13** Collaborate with the Puget Sound Partnership to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda and to coordinate land use and transportation plans and actions for the benefit of Puget Sound and its watersheds.

**EN-14** Manage natural drainage systems to improve water quality and habitat functions, minimize erosion and sedimentation, protect public health, reduce flood risks, and moderate peak storm water runoff rates. Work cooperatively among local, regional, state, national and tribal jurisdictions to establish, monitor and enforce consistent standards for managing streams and wetlands throughout drainage basins.

**EN-15** Establish a multi-jurisdictional approach for funding and monitoring water quality, quantity, biological conditions, and outcome measures and for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of monitoring efforts.

### ***Air Quality and Climate Change***

Greenhouse gas emissions are resulting in a changing and increasingly variable climate. King County's snow-fed water supply is especially vulnerable to a changing climate. Additionally, the patterns of storm events and river and stream flow patterns are changing and our shorelines are susceptible to rising sea levels. Carbon dioxide reacts with seawater and reduces the water's pH, threatening the food web in Puget Sound. While local governments can individually work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, more significant emission reductions can only be

accomplished through countywide coordination of land use patterns and promotion of transportation systems that provide practical alternatives to single occupancy vehicles. Efficient energy consumption is both a mitigation and an adaptation strategy. Local governments can improve energy efficiency through the development of new infrastructure as well as the maintenance and updating of existing infrastructure.

**EN-16** Plan for land use patterns and transportation systems that minimize air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, including:

- Maintaining or exceeding existing standards for carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulates;
- Directing growth to Urban Centers and other mixed use/ high density locations that support mass transit, encourage non-motorized modes of travel and reduce trip lengths;
- Facilitating modes of travel other than single occupancy vehicles including transit, walking, bicycling, and carpooling;
- Incorporating energy-saving strategies in infrastructure planning and design;
- Encouraging new development to use low emission construction practices, low or zero net lifetime energy requirements and “green” building techniques; and
- Increasing the use of low emission vehicles, such as efficient electric-powered vehicles.

**EN-17** Establish a countywide greenhouse gas reduction target that meets or exceeds the statewide reduction requirement that is stated as the 2050 goal of a 50 percent reduction below 1990 levels.

**EN-18** Establish a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and measurement framework for use by all King County jurisdictions to efficiently and effectively measure progress toward countywide targets established pursuant to policy EN-17.

**EN-19** Promote energy efficiency, conservation methods and sustainable energy sources to support climate change reduction goals.

**EN-20** Plan and implement land use, transportation, and building practices that will greatly reduce consumption of fossil fuels.

**EN-21** Formulate and implement climate change adaptation strategies that address the impacts of climate change to public health and safety, the economy, public and private infrastructure, water resources, and habitat.

## DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

The policies in this chapter address the location, types, design and intensity of land uses that are desired in King County and its cities. They guide implementation of the vision for physical development within the county. The policies also provide a framework for how to focus improvements to transportation, public services, the environment, and affordable housing, as well as how to incorporate concerns about climate change and public health into planning for new growth. Development patterns policies are at the core of growth management efforts in King County; they further the goals of VISION 2040, and recognize the variety of local communities that will be taking action to achieve those goals.

***Overarching Goal:*** *Growth in King County occurs in a compact, centers-focused pattern that uses land and infrastructure efficiently and that protects Rural and Resource Lands.*

The Countywide Planning Policies designate land as Urban, Rural, or Resource. The Land Use Map in Appendix 1 shows the Urban Growth Area boundary and Urban, Rural, and Resource Lands within King County. Further sections of this chapter provide more detailed descriptions and guidance for planning within each of the three designations.

**DP-1** Designate all land within King County as either:

- Urban land within the Urban Growth Area, where new growth is focused and accommodated;
- Rural land, where farming, forestry, and other resource uses are protected, and very low-density residential uses, and small-scale non-residential uses are allowed; or
- Resource land, where permanent regionally significant agricultural, forestry, and mining lands are preserved.

### ***Urban Growth Area***

The Urban Growth Area encompasses all of the urban designated lands within King County. These lands include all cities as well as a portion of unincorporated King County. Consistent with the Growth Management Act and VISION 2040, urban lands are intended to be the focus of future growth that is compact, includes a mix of uses, and is well-served by public infrastructure. Urban lands also include a network of open space where ongoing maintenance is a local as well as a regional concern.

The pattern of growth within the Urban Growth Area implements the Regional Growth Strategy in VISION 2040 through allocation of targets to local jurisdictions. The targets create an obligation to plan and provide zoning for future potential growth, but do not obligate a jurisdiction to guarantee that a given number of housing units will be built or jobs added during the planning period.



Several additional elements in the Development Patterns chapter reinforce the vision and targeted growth pattern for the Urban Growth Area. Procedures and criteria for amending the Urban Growth Area boundary address a range of objectives and ensure that changes balance the needs for land to accommodate growth with the overarching goal of preventing sprawl within the county. A review and evaluation program provides feedback for the county and cities on the effectiveness of their efforts to accommodate and achieve the desired land use pattern. Joint planning facilitates the transition of governance of the Urban Growth Area from the county to cities, consistent with the Growth Management Act.

Urban form and development within the Urban Growth Area are important settings to provide people with choices to engage in more physical activity, eat healthy food, and minimize exposure to harmful environments and substances. In particular, the quality and safety of walking and biking routes children use to reach school is known to affect their health.

***Goal Statement:*** *The Urban Growth Area accommodates growth consistent with the regional vision and growth targets through land use patterns and practices that create vibrant, healthy, and sustainable communities.*

### **Urban Lands**

**DP-2** Promote a pattern of compact development within the Urban Growth Area that includes housing at a range of urban densities, commercial and industrial development, and other urban facilities, including medical, governmental, institutional, and educational uses and parks and open space. The Urban Growth Area will include a mix of uses that are convenient to and support public transportation in order to reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicle travel for most daily activities.

**DP-3** Efficiently develop and use residential, commercial, and manufacturing land in the Urban Growth Area to create healthy and vibrant urban communities with a full range of urban services, and to protect the long-term viability of the Rural Area and Resource Lands. Promote the efficient use of land within the Urban Growth Area by using methods such as:

- Directing concentrations of housing and employment growth to designated centers;
- Encouraging compact development with a mix of compatible residential, commercial, and community activities;
- Maximizing the use of the existing capacity for housing and employment; and
- Coordinating plans for land use, transportation, capital facilities and services.

**DP-4** Concentrate housing and employment growth within the designated Urban Growth Area. Focus housing growth within countywide designated Urban Centers and locally designated local centers. Focus employment growth within countywide designated Urban and Manufacturing/Industrial Centers and within locally designated local centers.

**DP-5** Decrease greenhouse gas emissions through land use strategies that promote a mix of housing, employment, and services at densities sufficient to promote walking, bicycling, transit, and other alternatives to auto travel.

**DP-6** Plan for development patterns that promote public health by providing all residents with opportunities for safe and convenient daily physical activity, social connectivity, and protection from exposure to harmful substances and environments.

**DP-7** Plan for development patterns that promote safe and healthy routes to and from public schools.

**DP-8** Increase access to healthy food in communities throughout the Urban Growth Area by encouraging the location of healthy food purveyors, such as grocery stores and farmers markets, and community food gardens in proximity to residential uses and transit facilities.

**DP-9** Designate Urban Separators as permanent low-density incorporated and unincorporated areas within the Urban Growth Area. Urban Separators are intended to protect Resource Lands, the Rural Area, and environmentally sensitive areas, and create open space and wildlife corridors within and between communities while also providing public health, environmental, visual, and recreational benefits. Changes to Urban Separators are made pursuant to the Countywide Planning Policies amendment process described in policy FW-1. Designated Urban Separators within cities and unincorporated areas are shown in the Urban Separators Map in Appendix 3.

**DP 10** Discourage incompatible land uses from locating adjacent to general aviation airports throughout the county.

### **Growth Targets**

**DP-11** Allocate residential and employment growth to each city and unincorporated urban area in the county to:

- Accommodate the most recent 20-year population projection from the state Office of Financial Management and the most recent 20-year regional employment forecast from the Puget Sound Regional Council;
- Plan for a pattern of growth that is consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy contained in VISION 2040 including focused growth within cities with countywide designated centers and within other larger cities, limited development in the Rural Area, and protection of designated Resource Lands;
- Efficiently use existing zoned and future planned development capacity as well as the capacity of existing and planned infrastructure, including sewer and water systems;

- Promote a land use pattern that can be served by a connected network of public transportation services and facilities and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and amenities;
- Improve the jobs/housing balance within the region and the county;
- Promote sufficient opportunities for housing and employment development throughout the Urban Growth Area;
- Allocate growth to individual Potential Annexation Areas within the urban unincorporated area proportionate to its share of unincorporated capacity for housing and employment growth.

**DP-12** Update housing and employment targets periodically to provide jurisdictions with up-to-date growth allocations to be incorporated in state-mandated comprehensive plan updates. Adopt housing and employment growth targets in the Countywide Planning Policies pursuant to the procedure described in policy FW-1. Adjust targets administratively upon annexation of unincorporated Potential Annexation Areas by cities. Growth targets for the 2006-2031 planning period are shown in table DP-1.

**DP-13** Plan to accommodate housing and employment targets in all jurisdictions. This includes:

- Adopting comprehensive plans and zoning regulations that provide capacity for residential, commercial, and industrial uses that is sufficient to meet 20-year growth needs and is consistent with the desired growth pattern described in VISION 2040;
- Coordinating water, sewer, transportation and other infrastructure plans and investments among agencies, including special purpose districts; and
- Transferring and accommodating unincorporated area housing and employment targets as annexations occur.

Table DP-1: King County Jurisdiction Growth Targets 2006-2031					
		Net New Units 2006-2031		Net New Jobs 2006-2031	
		Housing Target	Potential Annexation Area Housing Target	Employment Target	Potential Annexation Area Emp Target
<b>Metropolitan Cities</b>					
	Bellevue	17,000	290	53,000	
	Seattle	86,000		146,700	
<b>Metropolitan Cities Subtotal</b>		<b>103,000</b>		<b>199,700</b>	
Core Cities	Auburn	9,620		19,350	
	Bothell	3,000	810	4,800	200
	Burien	4,440		4,960	
	Federal Way	8,100	2,390	12,300	290
	Kent	9,270	90	13,280	210
	Kirkland	8,570		20,850	
	Redmond	10,200	640	23,000	
	Renton	14,835	3,895	29,000	470
	SeaTac	5,800		25,300	
	Tukwila	4,800	50	15,500	2,050
<b>Core Cities Subtotal</b>		<b>78,638</b>		<b>168,340</b>	
Larger Cities	Des Moines	3,000		5,000	
	Issaquah	5,750	290	20,000	
	Kenmore	3,500		3,000	
	Maple Valley	1,800	1,060	2,000	
	Mercer Island	2,000		1,000	
	Sammamish	4,000	350	1,800	
	Shoreline	5,000		5,000	
	Woodinville	3,000		5,000	
<b>Larger Cities Subtotal</b>		<b>28,050</b>		<b>42,800</b>	
Small Cities	Algona	190		210	
	Beaux Arts	3		3	
	Black Diamond	1,900		1,050	
	Carnation	330		370	
	Clyde Hill	10		0	
	Covington	1,470		1,320	
	Duvall	1,140		840	
	Enumclaw	1,425		735	
	Hunts Point	1		0	
	Lake Forest Park	475		210	
	Medina	19		0	
	Milton	50	90	160	
	Newcastle	1,200		735	
	Normandy Park	120		65	
	North Bend	665		1,050	
	Pacific	285	135	370	
	Skykomish	10		0	
	Snoqualmie	1,615		1,050	
Yarrow Point	14		0		
<b>Small Cities Subtotal</b>		<b>10,922</b>		<b>8,168</b>	
Urban Unincorp	Potential Annexation Areas	10,090		3,220	
	North Highline	820		2,170	
	Bear Creek UPD	910		3,580	
	Unclaimed Urban Uninc.	650		90	
<b>Urban Incorporated Subtotal</b>		<b>12,470</b>		<b>9,060</b>	
<b>Urban Growth Area Total</b>		<b>233,077</b>		<b>428,068</b>	

### **Amendments to the Urban Growth Area**

**DP-14** Review the Urban Growth Area at least every ten years. In this review consider monitoring reports and other available data. As a result of this review, and based on the criteria established in policies DP-15 and DP-16, King County may propose and then the Growth Management Planning Council may recommend amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies and King County Comprehensive Plan that make changes to the Urban Growth Area boundary.

**DP-15** Allow amendment of the Urban Growth Area only when the following steps have been satisfied:

- a) The proposed expansion is under review by the County as part of an amendment process of the King County Comprehensive Plan;
- b) King County submits the proposal to the Growth Management Planning Council for the purposes of review and recommendation to the King County Council on the proposed amendment to the Urban Growth Area;
- c) The King County Council approves or denies the proposed amendment; and
- d) If approved by the King County Council, the proposed amendment is ratified by the cities following the procedures set forth in policy FW-1.

**DP-16** Allow expansion of the Urban Growth Area only if at least one of the following criteria is met:

- a) A countywide analysis determines that the current Urban Growth Area is insufficient in size and additional land is needed to accommodate the housing and employment growth targets, including institutional and other non-residential uses, and there are no other reasonable measures, such as increasing density or rezoning existing urban land, that would avoid the need to expand the Urban Growth Area; or
- b) A proposed expansion of the Urban Growth Area is accompanied by dedication of permanent open space to the King County Open Space System, where the acreage of the proposed open space
  - 1) is at least four times the acreage of the land added to the Urban Growth Area;
  - 2) is contiguous with the Urban Growth Area with at least a portion of the dedicated open space surrounding the proposed Urban Growth Area expansion; and
  - 3) Preserves high quality habitat, critical areas, or unique features that contribute to the band of permanent open space along the edge of the Urban Growth Area; or
- c) The area is currently a King County park being transferred to a city to be maintained as a park in perpetuity or is park land that has been owned by a city since 1994 and is less than thirty acres in size.

**DP-17** If expansion of the Urban Growth Area is warranted based on the criteria in DP-16(a) or DP-16(b), add land to the Urban Growth Area only if it meets all of the following criteria:

- a) Is adjacent to the existing Urban Growth Area and is no larger than necessary to promote compact development that accommodates anticipated growth needs;
- b) Can be efficiently provided with urban services and does not require supportive facilities located in the Rural Area;
- c) Follows topographical features that form natural boundaries, such as rivers and ridge lines and does not extend beyond natural boundaries, such as watersheds, that impede the provision of urban services;
- d) Is not currently designated as Resource Land;
- e) Is sufficiently free of environmental constraints to be able to support urban development without significant adverse environmental impacts, unless the area is designated as an Urban Separator by interlocal agreement between King County and the annexing city; and
- f) Is subject to an agreement between King County and the city or town adjacent to the area that the area will be added to the city's Potential Annexation Area. Upon ratification of the amendment, the Countywide Planning Policies will reflect both the Urban Growth Area change and Potential Annexation Area change.

**DP-18** Allow redesignation of Urban land currently within the Urban Growth Area to Rural land outside of the Urban Growth Area if the land is not needed to accommodate projected urban growth, is not served by public sewers, is contiguous with the Rural Area, and:

- a) Is not characterized by urban development;
- b) Is currently developed with a low density lot pattern that cannot be realistically redeveloped at an urban density; or
- c) Is characterized by environmentally sensitive areas making it inappropriate for higher density development.

### **Review and Evaluation Program**

**DP-19** Conduct a buildable lands program that meets or exceeds the review and evaluation requirements of the Growth Management Act. The purposes of the buildable lands program are:

- To collect and analyze data on development activity, land supply, and capacity for residential, commercial, and industrial land uses;
- To evaluate the consistency of actual development densities with current comprehensive plans; and
- To evaluate the sufficiency of land capacity to accommodate growth for the remainder of the planning period.

**DP-20** If necessary based on the findings of a periodic buildable lands evaluation report, adopt reasonable measures, other than expansion of the Urban Growth Area, to increase land capacity for housing and employment growth within the Urban Growth Area by making more efficient use of urban land consistent with current plans and targets.

### **Joint Planning and Annexation**

**DP-21** Coordinate the preparation of comprehensive plans among adjacent and other affected jurisdictions as a means to avoid or mitigate the potential cross-border impacts of urban development.

**DP-22** Designate Potential Annexation Areas in city comprehensive plans and adopt them in the Countywide Planning Policies. Ensure that Potential Annexation Areas do not overlap or leave unincorporated urban islands between cities.

**DP-23** Facilitate the annexation of unincorporated areas within the Urban Growth Area that are already urbanized and are within a city's Potential Annexation Area in order to provide urban services to those areas. Annexation is preferred over incorporation.

**DP-24** Allow cities to annex territory only within their designated Potential Annexation Area as shown in the Potential Annexation Areas Map in Appendix 2. Phase annexations to coincide with the ability of cities to coordinate the provision of a full range of urban services to areas to be annexed.

**DP-25** Within the North Highline unincorporated area, where Potential Annexation Areas overlapped prior to January 1, 2009, strive to establish alternative non-overlapping Potential Annexation Area boundaries through a process of negotiation. Absent a negotiated resolution, a city may file a Notice of Intent to Annex with the Boundary Review Board for King County for territory within its designated portion of a Potential Annexation Area overlap as shown in the Potential Annexation Areas Map in Appendix 2 and detailed in the city's comprehensive plan after the following steps have been taken:

- a) The city proposing annexation has, at least 30 days prior to filing a Notice of Intent to annex with the Boundary Review Board, contacted in writing the cities with the PAA overlap and the county to provide notification of the city's intent to annex and to request a meeting or formal mediation to discuss boundary alternatives, and;
- b) The cities with the Potential Annexation Area overlap and the county have either:
  - i) Agreed to meet but failed to develop a negotiated settlement to the overlap within 60 days of receipt of the notice, or
  - ii) Declined to meet or failed to respond in writing within 30 days of receipt of the notice.

**DP-26** Develop agreements between King County and cities with Potential Annexation Areas to apply city-compatible development standards that will guide land development prior to annexation.

**DP-27** Evaluate proposals to annex or incorporate unincorporated land based on the following criteria:

- a) Conformance with Countywide Planning Policies including the Urban Growth Area boundary;
- b) The ability of the annexing or incorporating jurisdiction to provide urban services at standards equal to or better than the current service providers; and
- c) Annexation or incorporation in a manner that will avoid creating unincorporated islands of development.

**DP-28** Resolve the issue of unincorporated road islands within or between cities. Roadways and shared streets within or between cities, but still under King County jurisdiction, should be annexed by adjacent cities.

## ***Centers***

A centers strategy is the linchpin for King County to achieve the regional land use vision as well as a range of other objectives, particularly providing a land use framework for an efficient and effective regional transit system. Countywide designation of Urban Centers and local designation of local centers provide for locations of mixed-use zoning, infrastructure, and concentrations of services and amenities to accommodate both housing and employment growth. Manufacturing/Industrial Centers preserve lands for family-wage jobs in basic industries and trade and provide areas where that employment may grow in the future.

**Goal Statement:** *King County grows in a manner that reinforces and expands upon a system of existing and planned central places within which concentrated residential communities and economic activities can flourish.*

## **Urban Centers**

**DP-29** Concentrate housing and employment growth within designated Urban Centers.

**DP-30** Designate Urban Centers in the Countywide Planning Policies where city-nominated locations meet the criteria in policies DP-31 and DP-32 and where the city's commitments will help ensure the success of the center. Urban Centers will be limited in number and located on existing or planned high capacity transit corridors to provide a framework for targeted private and public investments that support regional land use and transportation goals. The Land Use Map in Appendix 1 shows the locations of the designated Urban Centers.

**DP-31** Allow designation of new Urban Centers where the proposed Center:

- a) Encompasses an area up to one and a half square miles; and
- b) Has adopted zoning regulations and infrastructure plans that are adequate to accommodate:
  - i) A minimum of 15,000 jobs within one-half mile of an existing or planned high-capacity transit station;



- ii) At a minimum, an average of 50 employees per gross acre within the Urban Center; and
- iii) At a minimum, an average of 15 housing units per gross acre within the Urban Center.

**DP-32** Adopt a map and housing and employment growth targets in city comprehensive plans for each Urban Center, and adopt policies to promote and maintain quality of life in the Center through:

- A broad mix of land uses that foster both daytime and nighttime activities and opportunities for social interaction;
- A range of affordable and healthy housing choices;
- Historic preservation and adaptive reuse of historic places;
- Parks and public open spaces that are accessible and beneficial to all residents in the Urban Center;
- Strategies to increase tree canopy within the Urban Center and incorporate low-impact development measures to minimize stormwater runoff;
- Facilities to meet human service needs;
- Superior urban design which reflects the local community vision for compact urban development;
- Pedestrian and bicycle mobility, transit use, and linkages between these modes;
- Planning for complete streets to provide safe and inviting access to multiple travel modes, especially bicycle and pedestrian travel; and
- Parking management and other strategies that minimize trips made by single-occupant vehicle, especially during peak commute periods.

**DP-33** Form the land use foundation for a regional high-capacity transit system through the designation of a system of Urban Centers. Urban Centers should receive high priority for the location of transit service.

### **Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers**

**DP-34** Concentrate manufacturing and industrial employment within countywide designated Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers. The Land Use Map in Appendix 1 shows the locations of the designated Manufacturing/Industrial Centers.

**DP-35** Adopt in city comprehensive plans a map and employment growth targets for each Manufacturing/ Industrial Center and adopt policies and regulations for the Center to:

- Provide zoning and infrastructure adequate to accommodate a minimum of 10,000 jobs;
- Preserve and enhance sites that are appropriate for manufacturing or other industrial uses;

- Strictly limit residential uses and discourage land uses that are not compatible with manufacturing and industrial uses, such as by imposing low maximum size limits on offices and retail uses that are not accessory to an industrial use;
- Facilitate the mobility of employees by transit and the movement of goods by truck, rail, air or waterway, as appropriate;
- Provide for capital facility improvement projects which support the movement of goods and manufacturing/industrial operations;
- Ensure that utilities are available to serve the center;
- Avoid conflicts with adjacent land uses to ensure the continued viability of the land in the Manufacturing/ Industrial Center for manufacturing and industrial activities; and
- Attract and retain the types of businesses that will ensure economic growth and stability.

**DP-36** Minimize or mitigate potential health impacts of the activities in Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers on residential communities, schools, open space, and other public facilities.

**DP-37** Designate additional Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers in the Countywide Planning Policies pursuant to the procedures described in policy FW-1 based on nominations from cities and after determining that:

- a) the nominated locations meet the criteria set forth in policy DP-35 and the criteria established by the Puget Sound Regional Council for Regional Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers;
- b) the proposed center's location will promote a countywide system of Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers with the total number of centers representing a realistic growth strategy for the county; and
- c) the city's commitments will help ensure the success of the center.

### Local Centers

**DP-38** Identify in city comprehensive plans local centers, such as city or neighborhood centers, transit station areas, or other activity nodes, where housing, employment, and services are accommodated in a compact form and at sufficient densities to support transit service and to make efficient use of urban land.

### ***Urban Design and Historic Preservation***

The countywide vision includes elements of urban design and form intended to integrate urban development into existing built and natural environments in ways that enhance both the urban and natural settings. These elements include high quality design, context sensitive infill and

redevelopment, historic preservation, and the interdependence of urban and rural and agricultural lands and uses.

**Goal statement:** *The built environment in both urban and rural settings achieves a high degree of high quality design that recognizes and enhances, where appropriate, existing natural and urban settings.*

**DP-39** Develop neighborhood planning and design processes that encourage infill development, redevelopment, and reuse of existing buildings and that, where appropriate based on local plans, enhance the existing community character and mix of uses.

**DP-40** Promote a high quality of design and site planning in publicly-funded and private development throughout the Urban Growth Area.

**DP-41** Preserve significant historic, archeological, cultural, architectural, artistic, and environmental features, especially where growth could place these resources at risk. Where appropriate, designate individual features or areas for protection or restoration. Encourage land use patterns and adopt regulations that protect historic resources and sustain historic community character.

**DP-42** Design new development to create and protect systems of green infrastructure, such as urban forests, parks, green roofs, and natural drainage systems, in order to reduce climate-altering pollution and increase resilience of communities to climate change impacts.

**DP-43** Design communities, neighborhoods, and individual developments using techniques that reduce heat absorption, particularly in Urban Centers.

**DP-44** Adopt design standards or guidelines that foster infill development that is compatible with the existing or desired urban character.

### ***Rural Area and Resource Lands***

The Rural Area and Resource Lands encompass all areas outside of the Urban Growth Area and include Vashon Island in Puget Sound and the area just east of the Urban Growth Area all the way to the crest of the Cascade Mountains. The Rural Area is characterized by low density development with a focus on activities that are dependent on the land such as small scale farming and forestry. The Rural Area also provides important environmental and habitat functions and is critical for salmon recovery. The location of the Rural Area, between the Urban Growth Area and designated Resource Lands, helps to protect commercial agriculture and timber from incompatible uses. The Rural Area, outside of the Rural Cities, is to remain in unincorporated King County and is to be provided with a rural level of service.

## **Rural Area**

**Goal Statement:** *The Rural Area provides a variety of landscapes, maintains diverse low density communities, and supports rural economic activities based on sustainable stewardship of the land.*

**DP-45** Limit growth in the Rural Area to prevent sprawl and the overburdening of rural services, reduce the need for new rural infrastructure, maintain rural character, and protect the natural environment.

**DP-46** Limit residential development in the Rural Area to housing at low densities that are compatible with rural character and comply with the following density guidelines:

- a) One home per 20 acres where a pattern of large lots exists and to buffer Forest Protection Districts and Agricultural Districts;
- b) One home per 10 acres where the predominant lot size is less than 20 acres; or
- c) One home per five acres where the predominant lot size is less than 10 acres.
- d) Allow limited clustering within development sites to avoid development on environmentally critical lands or on productive forest or agricultural lands, but not to exceed the density guidelines cited in (a) through (c).

**DP-47** Limit the extension of urban infrastructure improvements through the Rural Area to only cases where it is necessary to serve the Urban Growth Area and where there are no other feasible alignments. Such limited extensions may be considered only if land use controls are in place to restrict uses appropriate for the Rural Area and only if access management controls are in place to prohibit tie-ins to the extended facilities.

**DP-48** Establish rural development standards to protect the natural environment by using seasonal and maximum clearing limits for vegetation, limits on the amount of impervious surface, surface water management standards that preserve natural drainage systems, water quality and groundwater recharge, and best management practices for resource-based activities.

**DP-49** Prevent or, if necessary, mitigate negative impacts of urban development to the adjacent Rural Area.

**DP-50** *Per action by the Growth Management Planning Council on September 21, 2011, this policy is being set aside until the School Siting Task Force has completed its work in February, 2012.*

**DP-51** Allow cities that own property in the Rural Area to enter into interlocal agreements with King County to allow the cities to provide services to the properties they own as long as the cities agree to not annex the property or serve it with sewers or any infrastructure at an urban level of service. The use of the property must be consistent with the rural land use policies in the Countywide Planning Policies and the King County Comprehensive Plan.

## **Resource Lands**

The Resource Lands are designated areas with long term commercial significance for agriculture, forestry, and mining, and are depicted in the Land Use Map in Appendix 1 as Forest Product Districts, Agricultural Production Districts, and Mineral Resource Lands. The use and designation of these lands are to be permanent, in accordance with the Growth Management Act. King County has maintained this base of agriculture and forest lands despite the rapid growth of the previous decades. The Resource Lands are to remain in unincorporated King County but their benefit and significance is felt throughout the county into the cities. Within cities, farmers markets are becoming important and sought after neighborhood amenities.

The forests of the Pacific Northwest are some of the most productive in the world and King County has retained two-thirds of the county in forest cover. Large scale forestry is a traditional land use in the eastern half of King County and remains a significant contributor to the rural economy. In addition, forests provide exceptional recreational opportunities, including downhill and cross-country skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and backpacking.

***Goal Statement:*** *Resource Lands are valuable assets of King County and are renowned for their productivity and sustainable management.*

**DP-52** Promote and support forestry, agriculture, mining and other resource-based industries outside of the Urban Growth Area as part of a diverse and sustainable regional economy.

**DP-53** Conserve commercial agricultural and forestry resource lands primarily for their long-term productive resource value and for the open space, scenic views, wildlife habitat, and critical area protection they provide. Limit the subdivision of land so that parcels remain large enough for commercial resource production.

**DP-54** Encourage best practices in agriculture and forestry operations for long-term protection of the natural resources.

**DP-55** Prohibit annexation of lands within designated Agricultural Production Districts or within Forest Production Districts by cities.

**DP-56** Retain the Lower Green River Agricultural Production District as a regionally designated resource that is to remain in unincorporated King County.

**DP-57** Discourage incompatible land uses adjacent to designated Resource Lands to prevent interference with their continued use for the production of agricultural, mining, or forest products.

**DP-58** Support local production and processing of food to reduce the need for long distance transport and to increase the reliability and security of local food. Promote activities and infrastructure, such as farmers markets, farm worker housing and agricultural processing facilities, that benefit both cities and farms by improving access to locally grown agricultural products.

**DP-59** Ensure that extractive industries maintain environmental quality and minimize negative impacts on adjacent lands.

**DP-60** Support institutional procurement policies that encourage purchases of locally grown food products.

**DP-61** Use a range of tools, including land use designations, development regulations, level-of-service standards, and transfer or purchase of development rights to preserve Rural and Resource Lands and focus urban development within the Urban Growth Area.

**DP-62** Use transfer of development rights to shift potential development from the Rural Area and Resource Lands into the Urban Growth Area, especially cities. Implement transfer of development rights within King County through a partnership between the county and cities that is designed to:

- Identify rural and resource sending sites that satisfy countywide conservation goals and are consistent with regionally coordinated transfer of development rights efforts;
- Preserve rural and resource lands of compelling interest countywide and to participating cities;
- Identify appropriate transfer of development rights receiving areas within cities;
- Identify incentives for city participation in regional transfer of development rights (i.e. county-to-city transfer of development rights);
- Develop interlocal agreements that allow rural and resource land development rights to be used in city receiving areas;
- Identify and secure opportunities to fund or finance infrastructure within city transfer of development rights receiving areas;
- *Per action by the Growth Management Planning Council on September 21, 2011, this "bullet" is being set aside pending further consideration;* and
- Be compatible with existing within-city transfer of development rights programs.

## HOUSING

The Countywide Planning Policies provide a framework for all jurisdictions to plan for and promote a range of affordable, accessible, and healthy housing choices for current and future residents. Meeting the county's affordable housing needs will require actions by a wide range of private for profit, non-profit and government entities, including substantial resources from federal, state, and local levels. As part of this effort, all jurisdictions share the responsibility to plan for and encourage a sufficient stock of housing that is affordable to households of all income levels and demographic groups. The housing policies in this chapter encompass a full range of public actions including assessment of needs, setting targets, establishing implementation actions, and monitoring outcomes. More detailed guidance is provided in Appendix 4.

***Overarching Goal:*** *The housing needs of all economic and demographic groups are met within all jurisdictions.*

### ***Housing Supply and Needs Analysis***

The Growth Management Act requires a housing inventory and needs analysis as part of the housing element of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan. Development of effective housing policies and programs requires adequate information on current and future conditions, local and countywide housing needs, and available resources. Assessing local housing needs includes reviewing the needs of a full range of income groups, among both current and expected future residents. The housing supply and needs analysis complements the affordable housing targets for each jurisdiction with a more comprehensive assessment to guide a full range of policies and regulations that influence housing. Further guidance on the elements of the assessment is provided in Appendix 4.

**H-1** Include in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan an inventory and analysis of housing needs of all economic and demographic segments of the population, including individuals and families. Include in the inventory, at a minimum, relevant characteristics of housing supply and housing need, especially the needs of very-low, low- and moderate-income households, and special needs populations in the county, and changing demographic needs of the community. Address in the analysis each jurisdiction's existing housing needs as well as its responsibility to accommodate a fair share of the projected future demand for affordable housing countywide over the planning period as expressed in the affordable housing targets described in policy H-2.

### ***Affordable Housing Targets***

Within King County, the most pressing unmet need for affordable housing is for households earning less than 80 percent of area median income. Households that fall below this threshold

include low-wage workers in services and other industries; persons on fixed incomes including many disabled and elderly residents; homeless individuals and families; and many other community members. The county and all cities share in the responsibility to increase the supply of housing that is affordable to these households. The Countywide Planning Policies assign Affordable Housing Targets to each jurisdiction in order to focus local plans, regulations, and programs on increasing housing choice and opportunity for households at the lower end of the income range, increasing the housing stock affordable to those households in areas of higher-cost housing, and increasing the range of housing choices and affordability levels in areas with existing concentrations of low-cost housing.

While neither the county nor the cities can guarantee that a given number of units at a given price level will be produced during the planning period, setting planning targets makes explicit the scope of the effort required in each jurisdiction. Progress toward affordable housing targets may be accomplished through the addition of newly constructed affordable units or existing units newly preserved or acquired and rehabilitated with a regulatory agreement for long-term affordability. Local governments may also achieve targets through the efforts of multijurisdictional organizations.

**H-2** Adopt in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan policies and strategies that accommodate at a minimum the affordable housing targets shown: in a) and b) below. Over time, progress toward achieving targets is measured as a percentage of overall housing growth within each jurisdiction and the county as a whole.

- a. Housing affordable to moderate income households, with incomes between 50 and 80 percent of the area median household income, which is equal to 16 percent of the jurisdiction's overall housing target; and
- b. Housing affordable to low-income and very-low-income households, with incomes at or below 50 percent of area median household income, as described in Appendix 4.

### ***Strategies to Meet Housing Needs***

VISION 2040 encourages local jurisdictions to adopt best housing practices and innovative techniques to advance the provision of affordable, healthy, sustainable, and safe housing for all residents. No single tool is likely to be sufficient to meet the full range of needs in a given jurisdiction, and the county and cities are encouraged to adopt a range of housing tools, supported by land use, transportation, and other policies, regulations, and investments. Sufficient capacity for housing to meet targeted needs, provided in a variety of unit types and sizes, is the foundation for implementing the housing policies. More detailed guidance on the range of strategies for promoting housing supply and affordability is contained in Appendix 4.

**H-3** Provide zoned residential capacity within each jurisdiction in the Urban Growth Area for a range of housing types and densities, sufficient to accommodate each jurisdiction's overall



housing targets, affordable housing targets, and, where applicable, its housing targets for designated Urban Centers.

**H-4** Adopt strategies, at the local and countywide levels, that promote housing supply, affordability, and diversity. At a minimum, these strategies should address the following areas:

- New housing that increases the overall supply and diversity of housing, including both rental and ownership housing suitable for a range of household types and sizes;
- New housing that is affordable to very-low, low-, and moderate-income households;
- Provision of housing that is suitable and affordable for households with special needs;
- Preservation of existing housing units, especially affordable housing units;
- Acquisition and rehabilitation of housing units for long-term affordability;
- Universal design and sustainable development of housing; and
- Increased housing supply, including affordable housing and special needs housing, within Urban Centers and in other areas planned for concentrations of mixed land uses.

**H-5** Plan for housing that is accessible to major employment centers and affordable to the workforce in them so people of all incomes can live near or within reasonable commuting distance of their places of work. Encourage housing production at a level that improves the balance of housing to employment throughout the county.

**H-6** Promote housing development, preservation, and affordability in coordination with transit, bicycle, and pedestrian plans and investments and in proximity to transit hubs and corridors, such as through transit oriented development and planning for mixed uses in transit station areas.

**H-7** Plan for residential neighborhoods that protect and promote the health and well-being of residents by supporting active living and healthy eating and reducing the risk of injury and exposure to environmental toxins.

**H-8** Adopt comprehensive plan policies that promote fair housing and plan for communities that include residents with a range of abilities, ages, races, incomes, and other diverse characteristics of the population of the county.

### ***Regional Cooperation***

Housing affordability is important to regional economic vitality and sustainability. Housing markets do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. For these reasons, multijurisdictional efforts for planning and adopting strategies to meet regional housing needs are an additional tool for identifying and meeting affordable housing needs. Collaborative efforts, supported by the work of Puget Sound Regional Council and other agencies, contribute to producing affordable

housing and coordinating equitable, sustainable development in the county and region. Where individual cities lack sufficient resources, collective efforts to fund or provide technical assistance for affordable housing development and programs can help to meet the housing needs identified in comprehensive plans.

**H-9** Collaborate in developing new countywide housing resources and programs, including funding, with a focus on meeting the affordable housing needs of very-low, low-, and moderate-income households. Support countywide affordable housing programs, contribute resources and other in-kind assistance to local affordable housing development, and support countywide partnership efforts that encourage equitable and sustainable development.

**H-10** Work cooperatively among jurisdictions to provide mutual support in meeting overall housing targets and affordable housing targets.

**H-11** Work cooperatively with the Puget Sound Regional Council and other agencies to identify ways to expand technical assistance to local jurisdictions in developing, implementing and monitoring the success of strategies that promote affordable housing that meets changing demographic needs. Collaborate in developing and implementing a housing strategy for the four-county central Puget Sound region.

### ***Measuring Results***

Maintaining timely and relevant data on housing markets and residential development allows the county and cities to evaluate the effectiveness of their housing strategies and to make appropriate changes to those strategies when and where needed. In assessing efforts to meet affordable housing targets, jurisdictions need to consider public actions taken to encourage development and preservation of very low-, low- and moderate-income housing, such as local funding, development code changes, and creation of new programs, as well as market and other factors that are beyond local government control. Further detail on monitoring procedures is contained in Appendix 4.

**H-12** Monitor housing supply and affordability, including progress toward achieving affordable housing targets, both countywide and within each jurisdiction. Local and countywide monitoring should encompass:

- Number and type of new housing units;
- Number of units lost to demolition, redevelopment, or conversion to non-residential use;
- Number of new units that are affordable to very-low, low-, and moderate-income households;
- Number of affordable units newly preserved and units acquired and rehabilitated with a regulatory agreement for long-term affordability for very-low, low-, and moderate-income households;

- Housing market trends including affordability of overall housing stock;
- Changes in zoned capacity for housing;
- The number and nature of fair housing complaints; and
- Housing development and market trends in Urban Centers.

**H-13** Report regularly on the results of the housing monitoring program and consider those data in evaluating progress in the county and cities toward achieving housing goals and targets, and in developing and updating countywide and local housing policies and strategies.

## ECONOMY

**Overarching Goal:** *People throughout King County have opportunities to prosper and enjoy a high quality of life through economic growth and job creation.*

The Countywide Planning Policies in the Economy Chapter support the economic growth and sustainability of King County's economy. A strong and healthy economy results in business development, job creation, and investment in our communities. The Economy Chapter reflects and supports the Regional Economic Strategy and VISION 2040's economic policies, which emphasize the economic value of business, people, and place.

The Regional Economic Strategy is the region's comprehensive economic development strategy and serves as the VISION 2040 economic functional plan. VISION 2040 integrates the Regional Economic Strategy with growth management, transportation, and environmental objectives to:

- support critical economic foundations, such as education, infrastructure, technology, and quality of life; and
- promote the region's specific industry clusters: aerospace, clean technology, information technology, life sciences, logistics and international trade, military, and tourism.

Each local community will have an individual focus on economic development, while the region's prosperity will benefit from coordination between local plans and the regional vision that take into account the county's and the region's overall plan for growth.

**EC-1** Coordinate local and countywide economic policies and strategies with VISION 2040 and the Regional Economic Strategy.

**EC-2** Support economic growth that accommodates employment growth targets (see table DP-1) through local land use plans, infrastructure development, and implementation of economic development strategies.

**EC-3** Identify and support industry clusters and subclusters within King County that are components of the Regional Economic Strategy or that may otherwise emerge as having significance to King County's economy.

**EC-4** Evaluate the performance of economic development policies and strategies in business development and job creation. Identify and track key economic metrics to help jurisdictions and the county as a whole evaluate the effectiveness of local and regional economic strategies.

## ***Business Development***

Business creation, retention, expansion, and recruitment are the foundations of a strong economy. The success of the economy in the county depends on opportunities for business growth. Our communities play a significant role through local government actions, such as by making regulations more predictable, by engaging in public-private partnerships, and by nurturing a business-supportive culture.

These policies also seek to integrate the concept of healthy communities as part of the county's economic objectives, by calling for support of the regional food economy, including production, processing, wholesaling and distribution of the region's agricultural food and food products.

**EC-5** Help businesses thrive through:

- Transparency, efficiency, and predictability of local regulations and policies;
- Communication and partnerships between businesses, government, schools, and research institutions; and
- Government contracts with local businesses.

**EC-6** Foster the retention and development of those businesses and industries that export their goods and services outside the region.

**EC-7** Promote an economic climate that is supportive of business formation, expansion, and retention and emphasizes the importance of small businesses in creating jobs.

**EC-8** Foster a broad range of public-private partnerships to implement economic development policies, programs and projects.

**EC-9** Identify and support the retention of key regional and local assets to the economy, such as major educational facilities, research institutions, health care facilities, manufacturing facilities, and port facilities.

**EC-10** Support the regional food economy including the production, processing, wholesaling, and distribution of the region's agricultural food and food products to all King County communities. Emphasize increasing access to those communities with limited presence of healthy food options.

## ***People***

People, through their training, knowledge, skills, and cultural background, add value to the region's economy. Additionally, creating an economy that provides opportunities for all helps alleviate problems of poverty and income disparity.

**EC-11** Work with schools and other institutions to increase graduation rates and sustain a highly-educated and skilled local workforce. This includes aligning job training and education offerings that are consistent with the skill needs of the region's industry clusters. Identify partnership and funding opportunities where appropriate.

**EC-12** Celebrate the cultural diversity of local communities as a means to enhance the county's global relationships.

**EC-13** Address the historic disparity in income and employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged populations, including minorities and women, by committing resources to human services; community development; housing; economic development; and public infrastructure.

### ***Places***

Economic activity in the county predominantly occurs within the Urban Growth Area, including Urban Centers and Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers. Continuing to guide local investments to these centers will help provide the support needed to sustain the economy and provide greater predictability to businesses about where capital improvements will be located. In addition to making productive use of urban land, economic activity adds to the culture and vitality of our local communities. Businesses create active, attractive places to live and visit, and make significant contributions to the arts. The Rural Area and Resource Lands are important for their contribution to the regional food network, mining, timber and craft industries, while Rural Cities are important for providing services to and being the economic centers for the surrounding Rural Area.

**EC-14** Foster economic and employment growth in designated Urban Centers and Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers through local investments, planning, and financial policies.

**EC-15** Make local investments to maintain and expand infrastructure and services that support local and regional economic development strategies. Focus investment where it encourages growth in designated centers and helps achieve employment targets.

**EC-16** Add to the vibrancy and sustainability of our communities and the health and well-being of all people through safe and convenient access to local services, neighborhood-oriented retail, purveyors of healthy food (e.g. grocery stores and farmers markets), and transportation choices.

**EC-17** Promote the natural environment as a key economic asset. Work cooperatively with local businesses to protect and restore the natural environment in a manner that is efficient and predictable and minimizes impacts on businesses.

**EC-18** Maintain an adequate supply of land within the Urban Growth Area to support economic development. Inventory, plan for, and monitor the land supply and development capacity for, manufacturing/ industrial, commercial and other employment uses that can accommodate the amount and types of economic activity anticipated during the planning period.

**EC-19** Support Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers by adopting industrial siting policies that limit the loss of industrial lands, maintain the region's economic diversity, and support family-wage jobs. Prohibit or strictly limit non-supporting or incompatible activities that can interfere with the retention or operation of industrial businesses, especially in Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers.

**EC-20** Facilitate redevelopment of contaminated sites through local, county and state financing and other strategies that assist with funding environmental remediation.

**EC-21** Encourage economic activity within Rural Cities that does not create adverse impacts to the surrounding Rural Area and Resource Lands and will not create the need to provide urban services and facilities to those areas.

## TRANSPORTATION

The Regional Growth Strategy adopted in VISION 2040 identifies a network of walkable, compact, and transit-oriented communities that are the focus of urban development, as well as industrial areas with major employment concentrations. In the Countywide Planning Policies, these communities include countywide designated Urban Centers and Manufacturing/Industrial Centers, and locally designated local centers. An essential component of the Regional Growth Strategy is an efficient transportation system that provides multiple options for moving people and goods into and among the various centers. Transportation system, in the context of this chapter, is defined as a comprehensive, integrated network of travel modes (e.g. airplanes, automobiles, bicycles, buses, feet, ferries, freighters, trains, trucks) and infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks, trails, streets, arterials, highways, waterways, railways, airports) for the movement of people and goods on a local, regional, national and global scale.

Goals and policies in this chapter build on the 1992 King County Countywide Planning Policies and the Multicounty Planning Policies in VISION 2040. Policies are organized into three sections:

- Supporting Growth – focusing on serving the region with a transportation system that furthers the regional growth strategy;
- Mobility – addressing the full range of travel modes necessary to move people and goods efficiently within the region and beyond; and
- System Operations – encompassing the design, maintenance and operation of the transportation system to provide for safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

***Overarching Goal:*** *The region is well served by an integrated, multi-modal transportation system that supports the regional vision for growth, efficiently moves people and goods, and is environmentally and functionally sustainable over the long term.*

### **Supporting Growth**

An effective transportation system is critical to achieving the Regional Growth Strategy and ensuring that centers are functional and appealing to the residents and businesses they are designed to attract. The policies in this section reinforce the critical relationship between development patterns and transportation and they are intended to guide transportation investments from all levels of government that effectively support local, county and regional plans to accommodate growth. Policies in this section take a multi-modal approach to serving growth, with additional emphasis on transit and non-motorized modes to support planned development in centers.

***Goal Statement:*** *Local and regional development of the transportation system is consistent with and furthers realization of the regional growth strategy.*



**T-1** Work cooperatively with the Puget Sound Regional Council, the state, and other relevant agencies to finance and develop a multi-modal transportation system that enhances regional mobility and reinforces the countywide vision for managing growth. Use VISION 2040 and *Transportation 2040* as the policy and funding framework for creating a system of Urban Centers and Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers linked by high-capacity transit, bus transit and an interconnected system of freeways and high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

**T-2** Avoid construction of major roads and capacity expansion on existing roads in the Rural Area and Resource Lands. Where increased roadway capacity is warranted to support safe and efficient travel through the Rural Area, appropriate rural development regulations and effective access management should be in place prior to authorizing such capacity expansion in order to make more efficient use of existing roadway capacity and prevent unplanned growth in the Rural Area.

**T-3** Increase the share of trips made countywide by modes other than driving alone through coordinated land use planning, public and private investment, and programs focused on centers and connecting corridors, consistent with locally adopted mode split goals.

**T-4** Develop station area plans for high capacity transit stations and transit hubs. Plans should reflect the unique characteristics and local vision for each station area including transit supportive land uses, transit rights-of-way, stations and related facilities, multi-modal linkages, and place-making elements.

**T-5** Support countywide growth management objectives by prioritizing transit service to areas where existing housing and employment densities support transit ridership and to Urban Centers and other areas planned for housing and employment densities that will support transit ridership. Address the mobility needs of transit-dependent populations in allocating transit service and provide at least a basic level of service throughout the Urban Growth Area.

**T-6** Foster transit ridership by designing transit facilities and services as well as non-motorized infrastructure so that they are integrated with public spaces and private developments to create an inviting public realm.

**T-7** Ensure state capital improvement policies and actions are consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy and support VISION 2040 and the Countywide Planning Policies.

**T-8** Prioritize regional and local funding to transportation investments that support adopted growth targets.

## ***Mobility***

Mobility is necessary to sustain personal quality of life and the regional economy. For individuals, mobility requires an effective transportation system that provides safe, reliable, and affordable travel options for people of all ages, incomes and abilities. While the majority of people continue to travel by personal automobile, there are growing segments of the population (e.g. elderly, teens, low income, minorities, and persons with disabilities) that rely on other modes of travel such as walking, bicycling, and public transportation to access employment, education and training, goods and services. According to the *2009 American Community Survey*, 8.7 percent of all households in King County had no vehicle available. For many minority populations, more than 20 percent of households in King County have no vehicle available to them. For certain minority groups (e.g. Asian-Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, and Native American) the percentage of households with no vehicle available is generally greater.

The movement of goods is also of vital importance to the local and regional economy. International trade is a significant source of employment and economic activity in terms of transporting freight, local consumption, and exporting of goods. The policies in this section are intended to address use and integration of the multiple modes necessary to move people and goods within and beyond the region. The importance of the roadway network, implicit in the policies of this section, is addressed more specifically in the System Operations section of this chapter.

***Goal Statement:*** *A well-integrated, multi-modal transportation system transports people and goods effectively and efficiently to destinations within the region and beyond.*

**T-9** Promote the mobility of people and goods through a multi-modal transportation system based on regional priorities consistent with VISION 2040 and local comprehensive plans.

**T-10** Support effective management of existing air, marine and rail transportation capacity and address future capacity needs in cooperation with responsible agencies, affected communities, and users.

**T-11** Develop and implement freight mobility strategies that strengthen King County's role as a major regional freight distribution hub, an international trade gateway, and a manufacturing area.

**T-12** Address the needs of non-driving populations in the development and management of local and regional transportation systems.

**T-13** Site and design transit stations and transit hubs to promote connectivity and access for pedestrian and bicycle patrons.

## **System Operations**

The design, management and operation of the transportation system are major factors that influence the region's growth and mobility. Policies in this section stress the need to make efficient use of the existing infrastructure, serve the broad needs of the users, address safety and public health issues, and design facilities that are a good fit for the surroundings. Implementation of the policies will require the use of a wide range of tools including, but not limited to:

- technologies such as intelligent transportation systems and alternative fuels;
- demand management programs for parking, commute trip reduction and congestion; and
- incentives, pricing systems and other strategies to encourage choices that serve a common good such as public health and environmental sustainability.

**Goal Statement:** *The regional transportation system is well-designed and managed to protect public investments, promote public health and safety, and achieve optimum efficiency.*

**T-14** Prioritize essential maintenance, preservation, and safety improvements of the existing transportation system to protect mobility and avoid more costly replacement projects.

**T-15** Design and operate transportation facilities in a manner that is compatible with and integrated into the natural and built environments in which they are located. Incorporate features such as natural drainage, native plantings, and local design themes that facilitate integration and compatibility.

**T-16** Protect the transportation system (e.g. roadway, rail, transit, air, and marine) against major disruptions by developing prevention and recovery strategies and by coordinating disaster response plans.

**T-17** Promote the use of tolling and other pricing strategies to effectively manage the transportation system, provide a stable and sustainable transportation funding source, and improve mobility.

**T-18** Develop a countywide monitoring system to determine how transportation investments are performing over time consistent with *Transportation 2040* recommendations.

**T-19** Design roads and streets, including retrofit projects, to accommodate a range of motorized and non-motorized travel modes in order to reduce injuries and fatalities and to encourage non-motorized travel. The design should include well-defined, safe and appealing spaces for pedestrians and bicyclists.

**T-20** Develop a transportation system that minimizes negative impacts to human health, including exposure to environmental toxins generated by vehicle emissions.

**T-21** Provide opportunities for an active, healthy lifestyle by integrating the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists in the local and regional transportation plans and systems.

**T-22** Plan and develop a countywide transportation system that reduces greenhouse gas emissions by advancing strategies that shorten trip length or replace vehicle trips to decrease vehicle miles traveled.

**T-23** Apply technologies, programs and other strategies that optimize the use of existing infrastructure in order to improve mobility, reduce congestion, increase energy-efficiency, and reduce the need for new infrastructure.

**T-24** Promote the expanded use of alternative fuel vehicles by the general public with measures such as converting public and private fleets, applying incentive programs, and providing for electric vehicle charging stations throughout the Urban Growth Area.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

**Overarching Goal:** *County residents in both Urban and Rural Areas have access to the public services needed in order to advance public health and safety, protect the environment, and carry out the regional vision.*

### **Urban and Rural Levels of Service**

The Growth Management Act directs jurisdictions and special purpose districts to provide public facilities and services to support development. The Growth Management Act distinguishes between urban and rural services and states that land within the Urban Growth Area should be provided with a full range of services necessary to sustain urban communities while land within the Rural Area should receive services to support a rural lifestyle. Certain services, such as sanitary sewers, are allowed only in the Urban Growth Area, except as otherwise authorized. The Growth Management Act also requires jurisdictions to determine which facilities are necessary to serve the desired growth pattern and how they will be financed, in order to ensure timely provision of adequate services and facilities.

**PF-1** Provide a full range of urban services in the Urban Growth Area to support the Regional Growth Strategy and adopted growth targets and limit the availability of services in the Rural Area consistent with VISION 2040.

### **Collaboration Among Jurisdictions**

More than 100 special purpose districts, including water, sewer, flood control, stormwater, fire, school and other districts, provide essential services to the residents of King County. While cities are the primary providers of services in the Urban Growth Area, in many parts of the county special purpose districts also provide essential services. Coordination and collaboration among all of these districts, the cities, King County, the tribes, and neighboring counties is key to providing efficient, high-quality and reliable services to support the Regional Growth Strategy.

**PF-2** Coordinate among jurisdictions and service providers to provide reliable and cost-effective services to the public.

**PF-3** Cities are the appropriate providers of services to the Urban Growth Area, either directly or by contract. Extend urban services through the use of special districts only where there are agreements with the city in whose Potential Annexation Area the extension is proposed. Within the Urban Growth Area, as time and conditions warrant, cities will assume local urban services provided by special service districts.

## **Utilities**

Utilities include infrastructure and services that provide water supply, sewage treatment and disposal, solid waste disposal, energy, and telecommunications. Providing these utilities in a cost-effective way is essential to maintaining the health and safety of King County residents and to implementing the regional growth strategy.

### **Water Supply**

Conservation and efficient use of water resources are vital to ensuring the reliability of the region's water supply, the availability of sufficient water supplies for future generations, and the environmental sustainability of the water supply system.

**PF-4** Develop plans for long-term water provision to support growth and to address the potential impacts of climate change on regional water resources.

**PF-5** Support efforts to ensure that all consumers have access to a safe, reliably maintained, and sustainable drinking water source that meets present and future needs.

**PF-6** Coordinate water supply among local jurisdictions, tribal governments, and water purveyors to provide reliable and cost-effective sources of water for all users, including residents, businesses, fire districts, and aquatic species.

**PF-7** Plan and locate water systems in the Rural Area that are appropriate for rural uses and densities and do not increase the development potential of the Rural Area.

**PF-8** Recognize and support agreements with water purveyors in adjacent cities and counties to promote effective conveyance of water supplies and to secure adequate supplies for emergencies.

**PF-9** Implement water conservation and efficiency efforts to protect natural resources, reduce environmental impacts, and support a sustainable long-term water supply to serve the growing population.

**PF-10** Encourage water reuse and reclamation, especially for high-volume non-potable water users such as parks, schools, and golf courses.

### **Sewage Treatment and Disposal**

Within the Urban Growth Area, connection to sanitary sewers is necessary to support the Regional Growth Strategy and to accommodate urban densities. Alternatives to the sanitary sewer system and the typical septic system are becoming more cost effective and therefore, more available. Alternative technology may be appropriate when it can perform as well or better than sewers in the Urban Growth Area. Septic systems are not considered to be alternative technology within the Urban Growth Area.

In the Rural Area and Resource Lands, which are characterized by low-density development, sewer service is not typically provided. In cases where public health is threatened, sewers can be provided in the Rural Area but only if connections are strictly limited. Alternative technology may be necessary to substitute for septic systems in the Rural Area.

**PF-11** Require all development in the Urban Growth Area to be served by a public sewer system except:

- a) single-family residences on existing individual lots that have no feasible access to sewers may utilize individual septic systems on an interim basis; or
- b) development served by alternative technology other than septic systems that:
  - provide equivalent performance to sewers;
  - provide the capacity to achieve planned densities; and
  - will not create a barrier to the extension of sewer service within the Urban Growth Area.

**PF-12** *Per action by the Growth Management Planning Council on September 21, 2011, this policy is being set aside until the School Siting Task Force has completed its work in February, 2012.*

### **Solid Waste**

King County and the entire Puget Sound region are recognized for successful efforts to collect recyclable waste. Continuing to reduce and reuse waste will require concerted and coordinated efforts well into the future. It is important to reduce the waste stream going into area landfills to extend the usable life of existing facilities and reduce the need for additional capacity.

**PF-13** Reduce the solid waste stream and encourage reuse and recycling.

### **Energy**

While King County consumers have access to electrical energy derived from hydropower, there are challenges for securing long-term reliable energy and for becoming more energy efficient.

**PF-14** Reduce the rate of energy consumption through efficiency and conservation as a means to lower energy costs and mitigate environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies.

**PF-15** Promote the use of renewable and alternative energy resources to help meet the county's long-term energy needs, reduce environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies, and increase community sustainability.

### **Telecommunications**

A telecommunications network throughout King County is essential to fostering broad economic vitality and equitable access to information, goods and services, and opportunities for social connection.

**PF-16** Plan for the provision of telecommunication infrastructure to serve growth and development in a manner consistent with the regional and countywide vision.

### **Human and Community Services**

Public services beyond physical infrastructure are also necessary to sustain the health and quality of life of all King County residents. In addition, these services play a role in distinguishing urban communities from rural communities and supporting the Regional Growth Strategy.

**PF-17** Provide human and community services to meet the needs of current and future residents in King County communities through coordinated planning, funding, and delivery of services by the county, cities, and other agencies.

**PF-18** *Per action by the Growth Management Planning Council on September 21, 2011, this policy is being set aside until the School Siting Task Force has completed its work in February, 2012.*

**PF-19** *Per action by the Growth Management Planning Council on September 21, 2011, this policy is being set aside until the School Siting Task Force has completed its work in February, 2012.*



**Siting Public Capital Facilities**

While essential to growth and development, regional capital facilities can disproportionately affect the communities in which they are located. It is important that all jurisdictions work collaboratively and consider environmental justice principles when siting these facilities to foster the development of healthy communities for all.

**PF-20** Site or expand public capital facilities of regional or statewide importance within the county in a way that equitably disperses impacts and benefits and supports the Countywide Planning Policies.

## **APPENDIX 1: LAND USE MAP**

The maps in these appendices are submitted under separate cover.

**APPENDIX 2: POTENTIAL ANNEXATION AREAS MAP**

### **APPENDIX 3: URBAN SEPARATORS MAPS**

Including:

- Urban Separators: North Overview
- Urban Separators: South Overview
- Urban Separators: Kirkland/ Willows

## APPENDIX 4: HOUSING TECHNICAL APPENDIX

### Affordable Housing Targets

As described in policy H-2, each jurisdiction is assigned a set of targets for future accommodation of affordable housing. The targets are for planning purposes. They are intended for use as broad quantitative guidance to the County and cities in: 1) establishing a mix of future land use and zoning designations sufficient to accommodate housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households and 2) implementing a range of regulations and programs designed to achieve the targets over the planning period. The methodology for establishing Affordable Housing Targets for each jurisdiction is summarized as follows:

1. **Moderate-Income Housing Targets.** Based on Census Bureau estimates<sup>1</sup>, which show that approximately 16 percent of households in King County have incomes between 50 percent and 80 percent of area median income, the target for housing units affordable to these moderate income households is 16 percent of each jurisdiction's overall housing growth target.
2. **Low-Income Housing Targets.** Census Bureau estimates<sup>1</sup> also indicate that the proportion of households in the county with incomes of 0 to 50 percent of area median income is currently about 24 percent. This includes a rising number of very-low-income households with incomes no more than 30 percent of area median income. While responsibility to provide for housing affordable to low-income households is shared among all jurisdictions, the targets are adjusted for each city in order to more widely distribute housing affordable to low-income households and to provide housing for low-wage workers near their workplaces.
3. **Adjustment to Low-Income Housing Targets.** The level at which each city must plan for housing affordable to low-income households is determined using a combination of two indexes:
  - a. The **Low Wage Job-Housing Balance Index** is based on data from the 2000 census and identifies cities with a high proportion of low-wage jobs and a low proportion of low-cost housing compared with the county as a whole. The index is calculated as follows: the percent of total county jobs located in the city that pay less than \$20,000 per year *divided by* the percent of total county rental units affordable at less than 50 percent of area median income. An index value greater than one suggests a greater need for housing for local workers earning low wages.
  - b. The **Low-Income Housing Index** is based on housing market data published in the King County Benchmark Report for 2009.<sup>2</sup> The index identifies cities with a relatively low proportion of rental units affordable to households with incomes less than 50 percent

<sup>1</sup> American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for 2005-2010.

<sup>2</sup> Due to data gaps, Benchmark data for 2008 were used for several cities.

of area median income compared with the county as a whole. It is calculated as follows: the percent of the county's rental units affordable at 50 percent of area median income *divided by* the percent of the city's rental units affordable at 50 percent of area median income. An index value greater than one suggests a greater need for low-income housing in that city.

- c. The **Combined Index** for each city incorporates the Low Wage Jobs-Housing Index weighted at 25 percent and the Low Income Housing Index weighted at 75 percent.

Table H-1 below shows how the Combined Index is applied to set the targets for housing affordable to low-income households.<sup>3</sup> Because unincorporated King County has a combined index of exactly one, and because it is made up of a variety of areas with different characteristics, the target for unincorporated King County is calculated separately.

Combined Index	Target for Percent of Housing Growth Target Affordable to Low-Income Households
Less than 0.9	20.5%
0.9 to 2	22.5%
Greater than 2	26.5%
Unincorporated King County	24.5%

<sup>3</sup> Note on data gaps. Sufficient data were not available for all cities to generate one or both indexes. Where one index could be calculated, the other index was given a neutral value of 1. Where neither index could be calculated, the city's combined index was set at 1.01 for cities in East County and .99 for cities in South County.

<b>Table H-2: King County Jurisdiction Affordable Housing Targets 2006-2031</b>			
		<b>Moderate Income Housing Targets</b> Percent of Housing Growth Target in Table DP-1	<b>Low Income Housing Targets</b> Percent of Housing Growth Target in Table DP-1
<b>Metropolitan Cities</b>			
	Bellevue	16%	26.5%
	Seattle	16%	22.5%
<b>Core Cities</b>			
	Auburn	16%	20.5%
	Bothell	16%	22.5%
	Burien	16%	20.5%
	Federal Way	16%	20.5%
	Kent	16%	20.5%
	Kirkland	16%	26.5%
	Redmond	16%	26.5%
	Renton	16%	20.5%
	SeaTac	16%	20.5%
	Tukwila	16%	22.5%
<b>Larger Cities</b>			
	Des Moines	16%	20.5%
	Issaquah	16%	26.5%
	Kenmore	16%	22.5%
	Maple Valley	16%	22.5%
	Mercer Island	16%	26.5%
	Sammamish	16%	26.5%
	Shoreline	16%	22.5%
	Woodinville	16%	26.5%
<b>Small Cities</b>			
	Algona	16%	22.5%
	Beaux Arts	16%	22.5%
	Black Diamond	16%	22.5%
	Carnation	16%	20.5%
	Clyde Hill	16%	22.5%
	Covington	16%	26.5%
	Duvall	16%	20.5%
	Enumclaw	16%	20.5%
	Hunts Point	16%	22.5%
	Lake Forest Park	16%	22.5%
	Medina	16%	26.5%
	Milton	16%	22.5%
	Newcastle	16%	22.5%
	Normandy Park	16%	20.5%
	North Bend	16%	26.5%
	Pacific	16%	20.5%
	Skykomish	16%	22.5%
Snoqualmie	16%	26.5%	
Yarrow Point	16%	22.5%	
<b>Urban Unincorporated King County</b>		16%	24.5%*

### **Housing Supply and Needs Analysis**

**Context:** As set forth in policy H-1, each jurisdiction must include in its comprehensive plan an inventory of the existing housing stock and an analysis of both existing housing needs and housing needs projected over the planning period. This policy reinforces requirements of the Growth Management Act for local Housing Elements. The housing supply and needs analysis is referred to in this appendix as the "Housing Analysis." As is noted in policy H-1, the Housing Analysis must consider local as well as countywide housing needs because each jurisdiction has a responsibility to accommodate a share of countywide affordable housing need as quantified in the affordable housing targets.

The purpose of this section of Appendix 4 is to provide further guidance to local jurisdictions on the subjects to be addressed in their Housing Analysis. Additional guidance on carrying out the Housing Analysis is found in the Puget Sound Regional Council's report, "Puget Sound Regional Council Guide to Developing an Effective Housing Element," and the Washington Administrative Code, particularly 365-196-410(2)(b) and (c).

### **Housing Supply**

Understanding the mix and affordability of existing housing is the first step toward identifying gaps in meeting future housing needs. Combined with the results of the needs analysis, these data can provide direction on appropriate goals and policies for both the housing and land use elements of a jurisdiction's comprehensive plan. A housing supply inventory should address the following:

- Total housing stock in the community;
- Types of structures in which units are located (e.g., single-family detached, duplex or other small multiplex, townhome, condominium, apartment, mobile home, accessory dwelling unit, group home, assisted living facility);
- Unit types and sizes (i.e., numbers of bedrooms per unit);
- Housing tenure (rental vs. ownership housing);
- Amount of housing at different price and rent levels, including housing receiving public subsidies;
- Housing condition (e.g. age, general condition of housing, areas of community with higher proportion of homes with deferred maintenance);
- Vacancy rates;
- Statistics on occupancy and overcrowding;
- Neighborhoods with unique housing conditions or amenities;
- Location of affordable housing within the community, including proximity of housing affordable to low and moderate income households to transit;
- Transportation costs as a component of overall cost burden for housing within the community;



- Housing supply, including housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households within designated Urban Centers and local centers;
- Capacity for additional housing, by type, under current plans and zoning; and
- Trends in redevelopment and reuse that have an impact on the supply of affordable housing in the community.

### **Housing Needs**

The housing needs part of the Housing Analysis should include demographic data related to existing population and demographic trends that could impact future housing demand (e.g. aging of population). This information should be evaluated in combination with the housing supply part of the Housing Analysis in order to assess housing gaps, both current and future. This information can then inform goals, policies, and strategies in the comprehensive plan update.

A comprehensive housing needs analysis should address the following population, household, and community characteristics:

- Household sizes and types
- Age distribution of population
- Ethnic and racial diversity
- Household income, including the following income groupings:
  - 30 percent of area median income or lower (very-low-income),
  - Above 30 percent to 50 percent of area median income (low-income)
  - Above 50 percent to 80 percent of area median income (moderate-income)
  - Above 80 percent to 100 percent of area median income
  - Above 100 percent to 120 percent of area median income
- Above 120 percent of median income
- Housing Targets and Affordable Housing Targets included in the Countywide Planning Policies
- “Cost-burdened” households that lack a sufficient supply of suitable, affordable housing. Such households pay more than thirty percent of household income toward housing costs. “Severely-cost-burdened” households pay more than fifty percent of household income toward housing costs. Cost-burdened households may be households with very-low, low- or moderate-incomes, single parent households, homeless individuals and households, seniors, persons with disabilities, or other people with special housing needs.
- Trends that may substantially impact housing need during the planning period. For example, the impact that a projected increase in senior population would have on demand for specialized senior housing, including housing affordable to low- and moderate-income seniors and retrofitted single family homes to enable seniors to age in place.

- Housing demand related to job growth, with consideration of current and future jobs-housing balance as well as the affordable housing needs of the local and subregional workforce.
- Housing needs, including for low- and moderate-income households, within designated Urban Centers and local centers.

#### **Note on Adjusting for Household Size**

As currently calculated, the affordable housing targets do not incorporate differences in household size. However, the reality is that differently-sized households have different housing needs (i.e., unit size, number of bedrooms) with different cost levels. A more accurate approach to setting and monitoring housing objectives would make adjustments to reflect current and future household sizes and also unit sizes in new development. Accounting for the household size factor in providing affordable units could better inform local policies and programs as well as future updates of the countywide planning policies and affordable housing targets.

#### **Implementation Strategies**

As stated in policy H-4, local jurisdictions will need to employ a range of strategies for promoting housing supply and housing affordability. The Puget Sound Regional Council's Housing Innovations Program Housing Toolkit presents a range of strategies. The strategies are identified as being generally applicable to single family development, multifamily development, ownership housing, rental housing, market rate projects, and subsidized projects. Strategies marked as a "Featured Tool" are recommended as being highly effective tools for promoting affordable and diverse housing in the development markets for which they are identified.

## GLOSSARY

**Affordable Housing:** Housing that is affordable at 30 percent or less of a household's monthly income. This is a general term that may include housing affordable to a wide range of income levels.

**Agricultural Production District:** A requirement of the Growth Management Act for cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, agricultural lands that are not characterized by urban growth, have soils suitable for agriculture, and that have long-term significance for commercial farming. The King County Comprehensive Plan designates Agricultural Production Districts where the principal land use should be agriculture.

**Area Median Income:** The annual household income for the Seattle-Bellevue, WA Metro Area as published on approximately an annual basis by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Buildable Lands Program:** A requirement of the Growth Management Act for certain counties in western Washington to report on a regular basis the amount of residential and commercial development that has occurred, the densities of that development, and an estimate of each jurisdiction's ability to accommodate its growth target based on the amount of development that existing zoning would allow.

**Climate Change:** The variation in the earth's global climate over time. It describes changes in the variability or average state of the atmosphere. Climate change may result from natural factors or processes (such as change in ocean circulation) or from human activities that change the atmosphere's composition (such as burning fossil fuels or deforestation.)

*Climate Change Adaptation* refers to actions taken to adapt to unavoidable impacts as a result of climate change.

*Climate Change Mitigation* refers to actions taken to reduce the future effects of climate change.

**Comprehensive Plan:** A plan prepared by a local government following the requirements of the Washington Growth Management Act, containing policies to guide local actions regarding land use, transportation, housing, utilities, capital facilities, and economic development in ways that will accommodate at least the adopted 20-year targets for housing and employment growth.

**Environmental Justice:** The fair distribution of costs and benefits, based on a consideration for social equity. Environmental justice is concerned with the right of all people to enjoy a safe, clean, and healthy environment, and with fairness across income, ethnic, and racial groups in the siting and operation of infrastructure, facilities, or other large land uses.

**Forest Production District.** A requirement of the Growth Management Act for cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, forest lands that are not characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber. The King County Comprehensive Plan designates Forest Production Districts where the primary use should be commercial forestry.

**Growth Management Act:** State law (RCW 36.70A) that requires local governments to prepare comprehensive plans (including land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities and utilities) to accommodate 20 years of expected growth. Other provisions of the Growth Management Act require developing and adopting countywide planning policies to guide local comprehensive planning in a coordinated and consistent manner.

**Greenhouse Gas:** Components of the atmosphere that contribute to global warming, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Human activities have added to the levels of most of these naturally occurring gases.

**Healthy Housing:** Housing that protects all residents from exposure to harmful substances and environments, reduces the risk of injury, provides opportunities for safe and convenient daily physical activity, and assures access to healthy food and social connectivity.

**High-capacity Transit:** Various types of transit systems, such as light rail and bus rapid transit, operating on fixed guideway or dedicated right-of-way designed to carry a large number of riders at higher speeds.

**Industry Clusters:** Specific economic segments that are the focus of the Regional Economic Strategy. As of June 2011, the identified regional industry clusters included: aerospace, clean technology, information technology, life sciences, logistics and international trade, military, and tourism.

**King County Open Space System:** A regional system of *county-owned* parks, trails, natural areas, working agricultural and forest resource lands, and flood hazard management lands.

**Low-Income Households:** Households earning between 31 percent and 50 percent of the Area Median Income for their household size.

**Manufacturing/ Industrial Centers:** Designated locations within King County cities meeting criteria detailed in policies DP 35-37.

**Mixed-Use Development:** A building or buildings constructed as a single project which contains more than one use, typically including housing plus retail and/or office uses.

**Moderate-Income Households:** Households earning between 51 percent and 80 percent of the Area Median Income for their household size.

**Potential Annexation Area:** A portion of the unincorporated urban area in King County that a city has identified it will annex at some future date. See Appendix 2: Interim Potential Annexation Areas Map.

**Purchase of Development Rights:** Programs that buy and then extinguish development rights on a property to restrict development and limit uses exclusively for open space or resource-based activities such as farming and forestry. Covenants run with the land in perpetuity so that the property is protected from development regardless of ownership.

**Regional Growth Strategy:** The strategy defined in VISION 2040 that was developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council to help guide growth in the four-county region that includes King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties. VISION 2040 directs most of the region's forecasted growth into designated Urban Areas, and concentrates growth within those areas in designated centers planned for a mix of uses and connection by high-capacity transit

**Resource Lands:** Designated areas within King County that have long-term significance for agricultural, forestry, or mining. See Appendix 1: Land Use Map.

**Rural Area:** Designated area outside the Urban Growth Area that is characterized by small-scale farming and forestry and low-density residential development. See Appendix 1: Land Use Map.

**Rural Cities:** Cities that are surrounded by Rural Area or Resource Lands. Rural Cities are part of the Urban Growth Area.

**Stormwater Management:** An infrastructure system that collects runoff from storms and redirects it from streets and other surfaces into facilities that store and release it – usually back into natural waterways.

**Sustainable Development:** Methods of accommodating new population and employment that protect the natural environment while preserving the ability to accommodate future generations.

**Transfer of Development Rights:** Ability to transfer allowable density, in the form of permitted building lots or structures, from one property (the "sending site") to another (the "receiving site") in conjunction with conservation of all or part of the sending site as open space or working farm or forest.

**Transportation 2040:** A 30-year action plan for transportation investments in the central Puget Sound region intended to support implementation of VISION 2040.

**Transportation Demand Management:** Various strategies and policies (e.g. incentives, regulations) designed to reduce or redistribute travel by single-occupancy vehicles in order to make more efficient use of existing facility capacity.

**Transportation System:** A comprehensive, integrated network of travel modes (e.g. airplanes, automobiles, bicycles, buses, feet, ferries, freighters, trains, trucks) and infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks, trails, streets, arterials, highways, waterways, railways, airports) for the movement of people and goods on a local, regional, national and global scale.

**Universal Design:** A system of design that helps ensure that buildings and public spaces are accessible to people with or without disabilities.

**Urban Centers:** Designated locations within King County cities meeting criteria detailed in Development Pattern chapter policies 31-32.

**Urban Growth Area:** The designated portion of King County that encompasses all of the cities as well as other urban land where the large majority of the county's future residential and employment growth is intend to occur. See Appendix 1: Land Use Map.

**Very Low-Income Households:** Households earning 30 percent of the Area Median Income or less for their household size.

**VISION 2040:** The integrated, long-range vision for managing growth and maintaining a healthy region—including the counties of King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish. It contains an environmental framework a numeric regional growth strategy, the Multicounty Policies, and implementation actions and measures to monitor progress.

**Water Resource Inventory Area:** Major watershed basins in Washington identified for water-related planning purposes.

**Workforce Housing:** Housing that is affordable to households with one or more workers. Creating workforce housing in a jurisdiction implies consideration of the wide range of income levels that characterize working households, from one person working at minimum wage to two or more workers earning the average county wage or above. There is a particular need for workforce housing that is reasonably close to regional and sub-regional job centers and/or easily accessible by public transportation.

September 21, 2011

Approved by Growth Management Planning Council

### **Housing Target Work Plan**

#### **Goal of the Work Plan:**

The Growth Management Planning Council will lead a cooperative effort to evaluate the methodology for allocating affordable housing targets to local jurisdictions and identify alternative approaches for consideration as a replacement for the interim methodology and targets contained in Policy H-2.

#### **Description:**

Staff work on the methodology will be undertaken as a collaborative effort involving staff from King County, interested cities, and representatives of other relevant agencies. Growth Management Planning Council staff will lead the effort, which will commence during summer 2011. Staff will present an initial report to GMPC at its first meeting in 2012, and a draft recommendation is due to the Growth Management Planning Council in June 2012. The Growth Management Planning Council will take action to replace the interim affordable housing target methodology contained in Policy H-2 in September, 2012.

A. This process includes the following subtasks:

To be completed by the technical staff group:

- Data collection and analysis consistent with the factors listed in Subsection B
- Research on comparative best practices

To be completed by Interjurisdictional Staff Team with advice from technical staff:

- Development and presentation of alternatives
- Recommendation of a replacement methodology and new affordable housing targets

B. This evaluation should consider the following substantive factors:

1. Countywide and local affordable housing needs of low- and moderate-income households
2. Number of jobs by wage level and location
3. Transportation costs in different areas of the county
4. Existing stock of market rate and subsidized housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households, including its distribution within the county
5. Action taken by cities and other agencies and outcomes achieved in creating and preserving low and moderate income housing units since 1995
6. Housing market conditions in different areas of the county
7. The distribution of public funding for subsidized housing
8. Range of tools and resources available to make progress toward the targets and the extent to which jurisdictions have used the full range of tools and resources available

C. Any replacement for the current affordable housing methodology should:

1. Meet projected need for affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households
2. Represent a fair share distribution of the responsibility to accommodate that need throughout the county
3. Be rationally derived based on the factors identified in Subsection B
4. Implement a stated intent of Policy H-2 to increase the housing stock affordable to low- and moderate-income households, especially in areas of the county with higher housing costs, while increasing the range of housing choices in areas of the county characterized by concentrations of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households.
5. Be easy to understand by policy makers, local staff, and the public
6. Be feasible to monitor progress toward targets over time