



# VISION 2050 Actions

Each policy chapter in [VISION 2050](#) contains implementation actions for PSRC and local governments that contribute to achieving the regional vision. The actions have been compiled here for quick reference. More about VISION 2050 is available at <https://www.psrc.org/vision>.



Puget Sound Regional Council

## Regional Collaboration

### **RC-Action-1 Plan Updates**

PSRC will support efforts to update countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, and infrastructure and utility plans, including providing updated plan review and certification guidance.

### **RC-Action-2 Monitoring Program**

PSRC will track the implementation of VISION 2050 through monitoring and periodic evaluation.

### **RC-Action-3 Regional Equity Strategy**

PSRC, in coordination with member governments and community stakeholders, will develop and implement a regional equity strategy intended to make equity central to PSRC's work and to support the 2024 local comprehensive plan updates. The strategy could include components such as:

- Creating and maintaining tools and resources, including data and outreach, to better understand how regional and local policies and actions affect our region's residents, specifically as they relate to people of color and people with low incomes.
- Developing strategies and best practices for centering equity in regional and local planning work, including inclusive community engagement, monitoring, and actions to achieve equitable development outcomes and mitigate displacement of vulnerable communities
- Identifying implementation steps, including how to measure outcomes
- Identifying mechanisms to prioritize access to funding to address inequities
- Developing a plan and committing resources for an equity advisory group that can help provide feedback on and help implement the Regional Equity Strategy
- Developing and adopting an equity impact tool for evaluating PSRC decisions and community engagement

### **RC-Action-4 Outreach**

PSRC will develop an outreach program for VISION 2050 that is designed to communicate the goals and policies of VISION 2050 to member jurisdictions, regional stakeholders, the business community, and the public. This work program will have the following objectives:

- Build awareness of VISION 2050 among local jurisdictions in advance of the development of local comprehensive plans
- Raise awareness of PSRC and the desired outcomes of VISION 2050 to residents across the region
- Collaborate with residents who are historically underrepresented in the planning process to ensure all voices are heard in regional planning

### **RC-Action-5 Project Selection Criteria**

Incorporate criteria into regional infrastructure evaluation processes that would allow for the inclusion and funding of transportation projects, identified in a completed local or regional transportation study, that relate to and potentially benefit access to military installations and surrounding jurisdictions. Funding for such projects will be consistent with the goals and policies of VISION 2050, including support for regional centers and progress toward greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

### **RC-Action-6 Project Support for Puget Sound Recovery**

PSRC will develop a methodology within the regional transportation funding process that would support projects that contribute to the recovery of the health of Puget Sound and its watersheds.

### **RC-Action-7 Funding Sources**

PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will investigate existing and new funding sources for infrastructure, services, economic development, military-community compatibility, natural resource planning, and open space, to assist local governments with the implementation of VISION 2050. Explore options to develop incentives and innovative funding mechanisms, particularly in centers and transit station areas. Provide technical assistance to help local jurisdictions use existing and new funding sources.

### **RC-Action-8 Communicate VISION 2050 to State Agencies and the Legislature**

PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will relay the goals and objectives of VISION 2050 to state agencies and the Legislature, in order to promote changes in state law and funding to best advance VISION 2050.

### **RC-Action-9 Fiscal Sustainability**

PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will advocate to the state Legislature about the needs for counties (including unincorporated areas), cities, and other public agencies and service providers to remain fiscally sustainable and the fiscal challenges facing local governments, public agencies and service providers related to accommodating growth, maintaining aging infrastructure, and the annexation of urban areas.

## **Regional Growth Strategy**

### **RGS-Action-1 Urban Growth Area**

PSRC will report on urban growth area changes, annexation activity, and countywide coordination practices in each county.

### **RGS-Action-2 Track and Evaluate Growth**

PSRC will study, track, and evaluate growth and development occurring in the central Puget Sound region and in high-capacity transit station areas in terms of meeting the goals and objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy.

### **RGS-Action-3 Growth Targets**

PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will provide guidance and participate with countywide processes that set or modify local housing and employment targets. This effort will include consideration of the timing of Regional Growth Strategy implementation in relation to anticipated completion of regional transit investments and corresponding market responses. PSRC will also provide guidance on growth targets for designated regional centers and improving jobs-housing balance, and coordinate with member jurisdictions regarding buildable lands reporting.

### **RGS-Action-4 Rural Growth**

PSRC, together with its members and stakeholders, will explore and implement, as feasible, opportunities for local, regional and state-wide conservation programs to reduce development pressure in rural and resource areas to conserve valuable open space areas:

- Establishing a regional structure for Transfer and Purchase of Development Rights and open space markets
- Publishing a toolkit of open space conservation and other rural protection strategies
- Working to facilitate city and urban development consistent with VISION 2050 that reduces rural development pressure

### **RGS-Action-5 Regional Conservation Fund**

PSRC, in collaboration with its members and other partners, will explore and support the establishment of regional funding sources to acquire conservation easements in rural areas.

### **RGS-Action-6 Outreach**

PSRC will work with members to address ways the region can help communities understand and support increased growth within the urban growth area. VISION 2050's success is dependent on cities and counties welcoming new growth.

## Local Actions

### **RGS-Action-7 Regional Growth Strategy**

As counties and cities update their comprehensive plans in 2024 to accommodate growth targets and implement the Regional Growth Strategy, support the implementation of a full range of strategies, including zoning and development standards, incentives, infrastructure investments, housing tools, and economic development, to achieve a development pattern that aligns with VISION 2050 and to reduce rural growth rates over time and focus growth in cities.

### **RGS-Action-8 Plan for Jobs-Housing Balance**

Countywide planning groups will consider data on jobs-housing balance, especially recent and projected employment growth within Metropolitan and Core cities, to set housing growth targets that substantially improve jobs-housing balance consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy. Metropolitan and Core cities experiencing high job growth will take measures to provide additional housing capacity for a range of housing types and affordability levels to meet the needs of those workers as well as the needs of existing residents who may be at risk of displacement.

### **RGS-Action-9 Growth Targets**

Countywide planning groups will work to develop processes to reconcile any discrepancies between city and county adopted targets contained in local comprehensive plans.

## **Environment**

### **En-Action-1 Open Space Planning**

PSRC will work with member jurisdictions, resource agencies, tribes, military installations and service branches, and interest groups to implement conservation, restoration, stewardship, and other recommendations in the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan. PSRC will review and comment on alignment with the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan during the comprehensive plan certification process.

On a periodic basis, evaluate and update the plan.

### **En-Action-2 Watershed Planning Support**

PSRC and the Puget Sound Partnership will coordinate to support watershed planning to inform land use, transportation, and stormwater planning and projects that improve the health of Puget Sound.

### **En-Action-3 Watershed Planning**

Counties and cities, together with other jurisdictions in the watershed, will continue to participate in watershed planning to integrate land use, transportation, stormwater, and related disciplines across the watershed to improve the health of Puget Sound. Include planning for culvert removal and work with tribal, federal, state, and local governments in planning, funding, and implementation to ensure the effective and efficient use of funds to restore salmon habitat.

## Local Action

### **En-Action-4 Local Open Space Planning**

In the next periodic update to the comprehensive plan, counties and cities will create goals and policies that address local open space conservation and access needs as identified in the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan, prioritizing areas with higher racial and social inequities and rural and resource land facing development pressure. Counties and cities should work together to develop a long-term funding strategy and action plan to accelerate open space protection and enhancement.

## **Climate Change**

### **CC-Action-1 Greenhouse Gas Strategy**

PSRC will work with local governments and other key agencies and stakeholders to advance the development and implementation of the region's Greenhouse Gas Strategy to equitably achieve meaningful reductions of emissions toward achievement of the region's greenhouse gas reduction goals. The strategy will:

- Build on the Four-Part Strategy in the Regional Transportation Plan
- Address emissions from transportation, land use and development, and other sources of greenhouse gases
- Promote effective actions to reduce greenhouse gases, such as vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction, conversion to renewable energy systems in transportation and the built environment (e.g. electrification), and reduction in embedded carbon in new infrastructure and development
- Explore options for PSRC to further emission reductions in the aviation sector
- Be guided by principles of racial equity
- Include a measurement framework to inform the evaluation of transportation investments and local comprehensive plans
- Develop guidance and provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions to implement climate change strategies, including a guidebook of best practice policies and actions

Regular evaluation and monitoring will occur, at least every four years, as part of the development of the Regional Transportation Plan, with reports to PSRC policy boards.

### **CC-Action-2 Resilience and Climate Preparedness**

PSRC will engage in regional resilience planning and climate preparedness, including development of a regional inventory of climate hazards, assistance to member organizations, and continued research and coordination with partners such as the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative and tribes. Climate resilience actions will focus on equitable outcomes, particularly for historically marginalized communities, at greater risk and with fewer resources.

## **Local Actions**

### **CC-Action-3 Policies and Actions to Address Climate Change**

Cities and counties will incorporate emissions reduction policies and actions that contribute meaningfully toward regional greenhouse gas

emission goals, along with equitable climate resiliency measures, in their comprehensive planning. Strategies include land uses that reduce vehicle miles traveled and promote transit, biking, and walking consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy, developing and implementing climate friendly building codes, investments in multimodal transportation choices, and steps to encourage a transition to cleaner transportation and energy systems.

### **CC-Action-4 Resilience**

Cities and counties will update land use plans for climate adaptation and resilience. Critical areas will be updated based on climate impacts from sea level rise, flooding, wildfire hazards, urban heat, and other hazards. The comprehensive plans will identify mitigation measures addressing these hazards including multimodal emergency and evacuation routes and prioritizing mitigation of climate impacts on highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.

## **Development Patterns**

### **DP-Action-1 Implement the Regional Centers Framework**

PSRC will study and evaluate existing regional growth centers and manufacturing/ industrial centers to assess their designation, distribution, interrelationships, characteristics, transportation efficiency, performance, and social equity. PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions and countywide planning bodies, will work to establish a common network of countywide centers.

### **DP-Action-2 Industrial Lands**

PSRC will update its inventory of industrial lands, evaluate supply and demand for industrial land across all industry sectors, research trends for industrial uses as technology and markets evolve, and identify strategies to preserve, protect, and enhance industrial lands, jobs, and businesses in the region in coordination with jurisdictions' efforts to support their industrial land base. In 2021, PSRC will convene a working group to review policy related to preserving industrial lands and employment.

### **DP-Action-3 Transit-Oriented Development**

PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will support member jurisdiction in the implementation of the Growing Transit Communities Strategy and compact, equitable development around high-capacity transit station areas. This action will include highlighting and promoting tools used to support equitable development in high-capacity transit station areas.

### **DP-Action-4 Densities in Transit Station Areas**

PSRC will work in collaboration with transit agencies and local government to develop guidance for transit-supportive densities in different types of high-capacity transit station areas.

### **DP-Action-5 Concurrency Best Practices**

PSRC will continue to develop guidance on innovative approaches to multimodal level-of-service standards and regional and local implementation strategies for local multimodal concurrency. PSRC, in coordination with member jurisdictions and WSDOT, will identify approaches in which local concurrency programs fully address growth targets, service needs, and level-of-service standards for state highways. PSRC will communicate to the Legislature the need for state highways to be addressed in local concurrency programs.

### **DP-Action-6 Coordinated Planning in Unincorporated Urban Areas**

PSRC will support communication with the state Legislature regarding necessary changes to state laws that hinder progress towards annexation and incorporation and opportunities for state and local incentives, organize forums to highlight annexation, incorporation, and joint planning best practices, and provide other resources that address the barriers to joint planning, annexation, and incorporation.

## **Local Actions**

### **DP-Action-7 Identification and Clean-Up of Underused Lands**

Local governments, in cooperation with state and/or federal regulatory agencies, will develop strategies for cleaning up brownfield and contaminated sites. Local jurisdictions should identify underused lands (such as environmentally contaminated land and surplus public lands) for future redevelopment or reuse.

### **DP-Action-8 Center Plans and Station Area Plans**

Each city or county with a designated regional center and/or light rail transit station area will develop a subarea plan for the designated regional growth center, station area(s), and/or manufacturing/industrial center. Cities and counties will plan for other forms of high-capacity transit stations, such as bus rapid transit and commuter rail, and countywide and local centers, through local comprehensive plans, subarea plans, neighborhood plans, or other planning tools. Jurisdictions may consider grouping station areas that are located in close proximity.

### **DP-Action-9 Mode Split Goals for Centers**

Each city with a designated regional growth center and/or manufacturing/industrial center will establish mode split goals for these centers and identify strategies to encourage transportation demand management and alternatives to driving alone.

## Housing

### **H-Action-1 Regional Housing Strategy**

PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, state agencies, housing interest groups, housing professionals, advocacy and community groups, and other stakeholders will develop a comprehensive regional housing strategy to support the 2024 local comprehensive plan update. The housing strategy will provide the framework for regional housing assistance (see H-Action-2, below) and shall include the following components:

- In the near term, a regional housing needs assessment to identify current and future housing needs to support the regional vision and to make significant progress towards jobs/housing balance and quantify the need for affordable housing that will eliminate cost burden and racial disproportionality in cost burden for all economic segments of the population, including those earning at or below 80 percent of Area Median Income throughout the region. This will provide necessary structure and focus to regional affordable housing discussions
- Strategies and best practices to promote and accelerate: housing supply, the preservation and expansion of market rate and subsidized affordable housing, housing in centers and in proximity to transit, jobs-housing balance, and the development of moderate-density housing options
- Coordination with other regional and local housing efforts

### **H-Action-2 Regional Housing Assistance**

PSRC, in coordination with subregional, county, and local housing efforts, will assist implementation of regional housing policy and local jurisdiction and agency work. Assistance shall include the following components:

- Guidance for developing local housing targets (including affordable housing targets), model housing policies, and best housing practices

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- Technical assistance, including new and strengthened tools, to support local jurisdictions in developing effective housing strategies, action plans, and programs
- Collection and analysis of regional housing data, including types and uses of housing and effectiveness of zoning, regulations, and incentives to achieve desired outcomes
- Technical assistance in support of effective local actions to address displacement, including data on displacement risk and a toolbox of local policies and actions

### **H-Action-3 State Support and Coordination**

PSRC will monitor and support as appropriate members' efforts to seek new funding and legislative support for housing; and will coordinate with state agencies to implement regional housing policy.

## Local Actions

### **H-Action-4 Local Housing Needs**

Counties and cities will conduct a housing needs analysis and evaluate the effectiveness of local housing policies and strategies to achieve housing targets and affordability goals to support updates to local comprehensive plans. Analysis of housing opportunities with access to jobs and transportation options will aid review of total household costs.

### **H-Action-5 Affordable Housing Incentives**

As counties and cities plan for and create additional housing capacity consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy, evaluate and adopt techniques such as inclusionary or incentive zoning to provide affordability.

### **H-Action-6 Displacement**

Metropolitan Cities, Core Cities, and High Capacity Transit Communities will develop and implement strategies to address displacement in conjunction with the populations identified of being at risk of displacement including residents and neighborhood-based small business owners.

### **H-Action-7 Housing Choice**

Counties and cities will update regulations and strategies to reduce barriers to the development and preservation of moderate density housing to address the need for housing between single-family and more intensive multifamily development, consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy.

### **H-Action-8 Housing Production**

Counties and cities will review and amend, where appropriate and consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy, development standards and regulations to reduce barriers to the development of housing by providing flexibility and minimizing additional costs.

## **Economy**

### **Ec-Action-1 Regional Economic Strategy**

PSRC and the Economic Development District will coordinate economic development efforts to strengthen the region's industries, economic foundations and to implement the Regional Economic Strategy. Update the Regional Economic Strategy periodically.

### **Ec-Action-2 Regional Support for Local Government Economic Development Planning**

PSRC will support county and local jurisdictions through technical assistance and economic data with special emphasis on smaller jurisdictions, in their efforts to develop economic development elements as part of their expected 2024 comprehensive plan updates to support the Regional Growth Strategy. PSRC will also provide guidance on local planning to address commercial displacement.

### **Ec-Action-3 Regional Economic Data**

PSRC and the Economic Development District, in collaboration with county economic development councils and other partners, will maintain regional economic data and develop regionwide and subarea forecasts.

### **Ec-Action-4 Job Growth Distribution**

Identify regional roles in achieving the desired allocation of new jobs as reflected in the Regional Growth Strategy.

## **Local Action**

### **Ec-Action-5 Economic Development Elements**

Cities and counties will update (or adopt) their economic development element – tailored to meet the jurisdiction's unique needs and leveraging public investments – as specified in the Growth Management Act, when conducting the expected 2024 comprehensive plan update.

## **Transportation**

### **T-Action-1 Regional Transportation Plan**

PSRC will update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to be consistent with federal and state requirements and the goals and policies of VISION 2050. The RTP will incorporate the Regional Growth Strategy and plan for a sustainable multimodal transportation system for 2050. The plan will identify how the system will be maintained and efficiently operated, with strategic capacity investments, to provide safe and equitable access to housing, jobs, and other opportunities, as well as improved mobility for freight and goods delivery. Specific elements of the RTP include the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and continued updates to the regional integrated transit network (including high capacity transit, local transit, auto and passenger ferries), the Active Transportation Plan, regional freight network, aviation planning and other important system components.

### **T-Action-2 Funding**

PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will advocate for new funding tools to address the gap in local funding identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.



### **T-Action-3 Transportation Technology and Changing Mobility**

PSRC will continue to conduct research and analysis on the potential impacts from emerging technologies and changes in mobility patterns, including ongoing improvements to PSRC modeling and analytical tools. PSRC will build relationships among a diverse set of stakeholders and facilitate discussions to assist member organizations to become prepared for these changes in transportation mobility and to address consequences to and from local decision making. Outcomes could include guidance, best practices and future policies.

### **T-Action-4 Electric Vehicles**

PSRC will work with partner agencies on regional collaboration to support electric vehicles and associated infrastructure issues. PSRC will engage with partners on distribution of best practices for local governments.

### **T-Action-5 Changing Technology**

PSRC will conduct research and analysis on the potential impacts from emerging technologies which impact housing, land use, job distribution, or other applicable topics. PSRC will serve as a resource to assist local jurisdictions in preparing for these changes.

### **T-Action-6 Freight Mobility**

PSRC will continue to conduct research, data collection and analysis of the growth and impacts of freight and goods movement and delivery, including updating baseline inventories and identification of mobility and other issues. PSRC will continue collaboration with stakeholders to address key freight issues as part of the next RTP update.

### **T-Action-7 Climate**

PSRC will continue to monitor and advance the implementation of the adopted Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy - or future versions thereof - to achieve meaningful reductions of emissions throughout the region from transportation and land use. This will include ongoing collaboration with a variety of partners on each element, for example regional

coordination on electric vehicle infrastructure, roadway pricing, transit-oriented development and others. This will also include continued development of regional analyses and research of additional options for reducing emissions.

### **T-Action-8 Aviation Capacity**

PSRC will continue to conduct research and analysis of the region's aviation system to assess future capacity needs, issues, challenges, and community impacts to help ensure that the system can accommodate future growth while minimizing community impacts, including historically marginalized communities, and to set the stage for future planning efforts. PSRC will work in cooperation with the state, which will play a lead role in addressing future aviation capacity needs.

## **Local Action**

### **T-Action-9 VISION 2050 Implementation**

Counties and cities, with guidance and assistance from PSRC, will update local plans to support implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan and address the Regional Growth Strategy, including addressing changes related to technology, freight and delivery, and the needs of all users.

## **Public Services**

### **PS-Action-1 Utility and Service District Planning**

PSRC will work with electrical utilities, water providers, special purpose districts, and other utilities to facilitate coordinated efforts to develop long-range plans that comply with the Growth Management Act and implement VISION 2050.

### **PS-Action-2 Facilities Siting and Design**

PSRC will facilitate cooperative efforts with special purpose districts and local jurisdictions to site and design facilities that enhance local communities in accordance with growth management goals and VISION 2050.

**PS-Action-3 School Siting**

PSRC will initiate and support discussions with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to facilitate updates that modernize school siting standards, especially those related to site area requirements. Updates should work to align school siting standards with the goals of the Growth Management Act and facilitate school districts' ability to better meet urban capacity needs.

**PS-Action-4 Regional Support for School Siting Best Practices**

PSRC will research and develop guidance on innovative methods to update regulations and local plans to develop a regional approach to school siting and to assist local jurisdictions and school districts in siting new schools in urbanized areas.

