



What will the Puget Sound region be like in 2050?

Policies set this year, in a plan called VISION 2050, will shape our lives for decades

In 30 years, will Puget Sound have cleaner air and water? Will it be easier or harder to travel? Will people have convenient and affordable places to live near great jobs? Will we be healthier or worse off? Though some outcomes are hard to predict, we have the opportunity right now to set regional policies that will influence the climate, health and livability of King, Kitsap, Snohomish and Pierce Counties for ourselves and future generations.

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is a body that brings elected officials from the Puget Sound region together to draft and adopt these policies in a plan called VISION 2050. If done right, VISION 2050 will put us on the right track. Here's what we want to see:

Smart land use and population growth

Focusing growth in urban areas and reducing growth in rural and urban unincorporated areas can help reduce air and water pollution, and make more efficient use of services like fire and utilities. We also want to see more walkable and transit-friendly neighborhoods built out in suburban areas.

Bold action on climate change

Wildfires, sea level rise, and flooding threaten our future, and how we plan our land use and transportation have significant effects on our contributions and response to climate change. VISION must include strong policies that help us curb emissions and reach our State and region's climate goals. All plans and actions should center equity.

Healthier people

If VISION 2050 focuses on building cities and neighborhoods near transit, we should see improved public health outcomes. Tracking our progress keeps us accountable, so we want to see a public-facing dashboard that tracks issues like displacement, climate, health disparities and equity. If we are failing to reach better outcomes PSRC should strengthen policies.

More open spaces

Conservation and creation of open space is core to VISION documents and policies; however, the region must make stronger commitments and take bolder action for their protection and equitable provision if we are to retain their benefits to our health, environment, economy, and quality of life.

Communities that stay in place

With growth comes pressure on low-income communities to move farther and farther from job centers and opportunities. A toolkit of anti-displacement policies should be developed so that cities can create and implement plans that help communities thrive in place. PSRC should identify funds to help put this into action.

Institutionalizing equity

Ensuring equity is embedded within policies and actions will help our region prosper. When groups experience lack of access to opportunity because of race or social class, everyone suffers. PSRC would benefit from an environmental justice advisory group to guide its efforts, as well as a more robust public engagement plan.