

# Recommendations to the 2026 State Legislature



Puget Sound Regional Council

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) seeks to address regional growth through policies that advance affordable housing, connected transportation, sustainability and a strong economy.

We acknowledge the challenging economic conditions facing our state and region, compounded by federal-level uncertainty and declining state revenue. PSRC values the Legislature's continued partnership and commitment to working with local governments and elected officials to implement shared priorities.

## **Keep the Region Moving Safely**

A reliable, efficient transportation system is critical infrastructure to build a thriving region where people are connected to homes and jobs. All transportation investments should be planned and implemented with emphasis on safety to reduce deaths and serious injuries on the region's roadways.

- Sustain transportation investments to fully fund maintenance and preservation, ensure projects of regional significance are built, and provide tools to address local funding needs, the largest revenue gap for the region.
- Develop an alternative to the state gas tax through an equitable road usage charge or highway use fee system.
- Continue capital and workforce investment in the Washington State Ferries system to ensure reliable service.

## **Increase Housing Choices and Affordability**

Housing affordability continues to be a top concern of residents and local elected officials in communities in the region. We need to build 620,000 more homes by 2044 and 50% of these homes need to be affordable to people earning less than half of the Area Median Income.

- Invest in operating and capital subsidies to create affordable homes to meet local needs and create homeownership opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) households.
- Adopt policies to increase housing supply in coordination with local governments to ensure practical and effective implementation.
- Establish the Housing Futures Center at the University of Washington to provide timely analysis and data-driven research for policymakers to address urgent housing needs in our state.

## Significantly Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Enact legislation to respond to the urgent environmental, health, economic and equity threats of climate change through:

- Transit-focused land use.
- Multimodal transportation choices.
- Pricing the transportation system.
- Decarbonization of the transportation system, including freight, transit, ferries, passenger vehicles and fuels.

## Sustain a Strong Economy

- Invest in workforce development programs to support workers and meet the needs of employers and a growing economy, including electrification of the transportation system.
- Commit resources to critical infrastructure to support economic development, including broadband.
- Support clean energy industry technology like Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), offshore wind, fusion, hydrogen, and other emerging technologies.

For more information, please contact:

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Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth, transportation and economic development planning within King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. PSRC is composed of nearly 100 members, including the four counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies and Tribal governments within the region.

PSRC recommendations to the Washington State Legislature support implementation of regionally adopted policies and plans, including:

- [VISION 2050](#)
- [Regional Transportation Plan](#)
- [Regional Housing Strategy](#)
- [Comprehensive Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Regional Economic Strategy](#)

