



Puget Sound Regional Council

# VISION 2050 Equity-Related Policies and Actions

VISION 2050 includes policies and actions related to equity across plan chapters. This document compiles relevant policies and actions in each chapter for quick reference. Please note that VISION 2050 includes additional text, data, and definitions related to equity that are not summarized in this document. More about VISION 2050 is available at <https://www.psrc.org/vision>

## Regional Collaboration

### MPP-RC-1

Coordinate planning efforts among jurisdictions, agencies, federally recognized tribes, ports and adjacent regions, where there are common borders or related regional issues, to facilitate a common vision.

### MPP-RC-2

Prioritize services and access to opportunity for people of color, people with low incomes, and historically underserved communities to ensure all people can attain the resources and opportunities to improve quality of life and address past inequities.

### MPP-RC-3

Make reduction of health disparities and improvement of health outcomes across the region a priority when developing and carrying out regional, countywide, and local plans.

### MPP-RC-4

Coordinate with tribes in regional and local planning, recognizing the mutual benefits and potential for impacts between growth occurring within and outside tribal boundaries.

### 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, 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

## Regional Growth Strategy

### MPP-RGS-7

Provide additional housing capacity in Metropolitan Cities in response to rapid employment growth, particularly through increased zoning for middle density housing. Metropolitan Cities must review housing needs and existing density in response to evidence of high displacement risk and/or rapid increase in employment.

## Environment

### MPP-En-1

Develop and implement regionwide environmental strategies, coordinating among local jurisdictions, tribes, and countywide planning groups.

### MPP-En-4

Ensure that all residents of the region, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of a healthy environment.

### MPP-En-8

Reduce impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by noise, air pollution, or other environmental impacts.

### MPP-En-15

Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.

### 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

### MPP-CC-6

Address impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by climate change.

### MPP-CC-8

Increase resilience by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on water, land, infrastructure, health, and the economy. Prioritize actions to protect the most vulnerable populations.

#### 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.

## **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**

### **MPP-DP-2**

Reduce disparities in access to opportunity for the region's residents through inclusive community planning and targeted investments

that meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

### **MPP-DP-6**

Preserve significant regional historic, visual, and cultural resources, including public views, landmarks, archaeological sites, historic and cultural landscapes, and areas of special character.

### **MPP-DP-7**

Consider the potential impacts of development to culturally significant sites and tribal treaty fishing, hunting, and gathering grounds.

### **MPP-DP-8**

Conduct inclusive engagement to identify and address the diverse needs of the region's residents.

### **MPP-DP-16**

Address and integrate health and well-being into appropriate regional, countywide, and local planning practices and decision-making processes.

### **MPP-DP-18**

Address existing health disparities and improve health outcomes in all communities.

### **MPP-DP-23**

Evaluate planning in regional growth centers and high-capacity transit station areas for their potential physical, economic, and cultural displacement of marginalized residents and businesses. Use a range of strategies to mitigate displacement impacts.

### **MPP-DP-51**

Protect tribal reservation lands from encroachment by incompatible land uses and development both within reservation boundaries and on adjacent land.

### **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-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.

## Housing

### MPP-H-2

Provide a range of housing types and choices to meet the housing needs of all income levels and demographic groups within the region.

### MPP-H-3

Achieve and sustain – through preservation, rehabilitation, and new development – a sufficient supply of housing to meet the needs of low-income, moderate-income, middle-income, and special needs individuals and households that is equitably and rationally distributed throughout the region.

### MPP-H-4

Address the need for housing affordable to low- and very low-income households, recognizing that these critical needs will require significant public intervention through funding, collaboration, and jurisdictional action.

### MPP-H-5

Promote homeownership opportunities for low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income families and individuals while recognizing historic inequities in access to homeownership opportunities for communities of color.

### MPP-H-6

Develop and provide a range of housing choices for workers at all income levels throughout the region that is accessible to job centers and attainable to workers at anticipated wages.

### MPP-H-7

Expand the supply and range of housing at densities to maximize the benefits of transit investments, including affordable units, in growth centers and station areas throughout the region.

### MPP-H-8

Promote the development and preservation of long-term affordable housing options in walking distance to transit by implementing zoning, regulations, and incentives.

### MPP-H-9

Expand housing capacity for moderate density housing to bridge the gap between single-family and more intensive multifamily development and provide opportunities for more affordable ownership and rental housing that allows more people to live in neighborhoods across the region.

### MPP-H-11

Encourage interjurisdictional cooperative efforts and public-private partnerships to advance the provision of affordable and special needs housing.

### MPP-H-12

Identify potential physical, economic, and cultural displacement of low-income households and marginalized populations that may result from planning, public investments, private redevelopment, and market pressure. Use a range of strategies to mitigate displacement impacts to the extent feasible.

### 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-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.

### **Economy**

#### **MPP-Ec-7**

Foster a supportive environment for business startups, small businesses, locally owned and women- and minority-owned businesses to help them continue to prosper.

#### **MPP-Ec-10**

Ensure that the region has a high-quality education system that is accessible to all of the region's residents.

#### **MPP-Ec-12**

Identify potential physical, economic, and cultural displacement of existing businesses that may result from redevelopment and market pressure. Use a range of strategies to mitigate displacement impacts to the extent feasible.

#### **MPP-Ec-13**

Promote equity and access to opportunity in economic development policies and programs. Expand employment opportunity to improve the region's shared economic future.

#### **MPP-Ec-14**

Foster appropriate and targeted economic growth in areas with low and very low access to opportunity to improve access to opportunity for current and future residents of these areas.

#### **MPP-Ec-15**

Support and recognize the contributions of the region's culturally and ethnically diverse communities and Native Tribes, including helping the region continue to expand its international economy.

## **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.

## **Transportation**

### **MPP-T-9**

Implement transportation programs and projects that provide access to opportunities while preventing or mitigating negative impacts to people of color, people with low incomes, and people with special transportation needs.

### **MPP-T-10**

Ensure mobility choices for people with special transportation needs, including persons with disabilities, seniors, youth, and people with low incomes.

### **MPP-T-28**

Promote coordinated planning and effective management to optimize the region's aviation system in a manner that minimizes health, air quality, and noise impacts to communities, including historically marginalized communities. Consider demand management alternatives as future growth needs are analyzed, recognizing capacity constraints at existing facilities and the time and resources necessary to build new ones. Support the ongoing process of development of a new commercial aviation facility in Washington State.

## **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-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 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.

## **Public Services**

### **MPP-PS-2**

Promote affordability and equitable access of public services to all communities, especially the historically underserved. Prioritize investments to address disparities.

### **MPP-PS-16**

Plan for the provision of telecommunication infrastructure to provide access to residents and businesses in all communities, especially underserved areas.

### **MPP-PS-29**

Site or expand regional capital facilities in a manner that (1) reduces adverse social, environmental, and economic impacts on the host community, especially on historically marginalized communities, (2) equitably balances the location of new facilities away from disproportionately burdened communities, and (3) addresses regional planning objectives.