

The matrix below includes policies in the existing Environment Chapter in VISION 2040 and potential revisions, shown in legislative format, that represent draft changes based on feedback from the GMPB, RSC, and other stakeholders. The proposed revisions include a select set of revisions, new policies and actions, including:

- Policies to more strongly support the recovery of the Puget Sound
- Policies to support implementation of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan
- Policies to support and update regional work to address climate change
- Policies to support equitable environmental outcomes for people of color and people with low incomes

A complete draft of the VISION 2050 Environment chapter will be available for review in summer 2019. Staff will continue to work with the GMPB, RSC, and other stakeholders to further refine the draft updates to the Environment Chapter prior to adoption of VISION 2050 in 2020.

Goal	The region will care for the natural environment by protecting and restoring natural systems, conserving habitat, improving water quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, and addressing potential climate change impacts. The health of all residents and the economy is connected to the health of the environment. Planning at all levels should consider the impacts of land use, development, and transportation on the ecosystem.	Minor change	Modernizing language on climate change and recognizing the link between the environment and a healthy economy.	
Policy	Text	Type of Change	Reason for Proposed Update	Additional Notes
MPP-En-A	<u>Support and incentivize environmental stewardship on private and public lands to protect and enhance habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services.</u>	Substantive change	<b>Open Space</b> - Regional Open Space Conservation Plan ( <a href="https://www.psrc.org/open-space">https://www.psrc.org/open-space</a> ) recommendation and support for Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda ( <a href="http://www.psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_center.php">http://www.psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_center.php</a> )	
MPP-En-7	Mitigate noise <u>and light pollution</u> caused by <del>traffic</del> transportation, industries, public facilities, and other sources.	Substantive change	Recommendation by Regional Staff Committee to include light pollution to protect human and wildlife health and reduce energy consumption.	
MPP-En-8	Identify, preserve, and enhance significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries <u>through implementation and update of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan.</u>	Substantive change	<b>Open Space</b> - Recognize Regional Open Space Conservation Plan	

Policy	Text	Type of Change	Reason for Proposed Update	Additional Notes
MPP-En-12	<del>Preserve and restore native vegetation and tree canopy to protect habitat, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to the overall ecological function and where invasive species are a significant threat to native ecosystems.</del>	Substantive change	<b>Open Space</b> - Regional Open Space Conservation Plan focus on tree canopy	
MPP-En-B	<u>Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.</u>	Substantive change	<b>Open Space/Equity</b> - Regional Open Space Conservation Plan focus on access to open space, especially for underserved communities	
MPP-En-E	<u>Enhance urban tree canopy to support community resilience, mitigate the urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity.</u>	Substantive change	<b>Resilience/Health/Open Space</b> - Board recommendation (3/4/19) to include a policy on urban tree canopy to support resilience	
MPP-En-13	<del>Maintain and restore natural hydrological functions and water quality within the region's ecosystems and watersheds to recover the health of Puget Sound and, where feasible, restore them to a more natural state.</del>	Substantive change	<b>Puget Sound recovery</b> - Addition of water quality, more than hydrology needed. Board recommendation (3/4/19) to keep ecosystems in policy.	Will explain in the narrative that recovering Puget Sound includes protecting aquatic systems such as streams and aquifers.
MPP-En-C	<u>Reduce stormwater impacts from transportation and development through watershed planning, redevelopment and retrofit projects, and low-impact development.</u>	Substantive change	<b>Puget Sound Recovery</b> - Puget Sound Partnership and Regional Open Space Conservation Plan recommendations for stormwater pollution. Board recommendation (3/4/19) to include low-impact development in policy.	
MPP-En-20	<del>Support state, regional and local actions and continue to advance regional policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change impacts. Address the central Puget Sound region's contribution to climate change by, at a minimum, committing to comply with state initiatives and directives regarding climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gases. Jurisdictions and agencies should work to include an analysis of climate change impacts when conducting an environmental review process under the State Environmental Policy Act.</del>	Substantive change	<b>Climate Change</b> - Update to reflect current state context and support for multiple programs; deleting SEPA sentence since now a requirement, PSRC Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy: <a href="https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/rtp-appendix-climatechangeanalysis.pdf">https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/rtp-appendix-climatechangeanalysis.pdf</a> . The board is interested in continuing to update this policy.	The narrative will include a brief summary of actions to address climate change and point to the many policies in VISION 2050 that are climate related

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MPP-En-21	<del>Reduce the rate of building energy use per capita, both in building use and in transportation activities through green building and retrofit of existing buildings.</del>	Substantive change	<b>Climate Change</b> - Focus on building energy use	
MPP-En-D	<u>Reduce impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by air pollution and climate change.</u>	Substantive change	<b>Climate Change/Equity</b> - Recognition of disproportionate impacts. Board direction (3/4/19) to replace "address" with "reduce" to strengthen the policy.	
MPP-En-25	<u>Increase resiliency by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on regional water sources, land, infrastructure, health, and the economy. Prioritize actions to protect the most vulnerable populations.</u>	Substantive change	<b>Resiliency/Equity</b> - Adding concept of resilience and recognizing impacts to most vulnerable	Will define vulnerable in the narrative to indicate people with the least means to avoid harm
MPP-En-4	Ensure that all residents of the region, regardless of <u>race, social or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of</u> live in a healthy environment, <del>with minimal exposure to pollution.</del>	Minor change	<b>Equity</b> - Updating equity language. Board direction (3/4/19) to keep social. Regional Staff Committee direction to strengthen policy and not condone exposure to pollution.	
MPP-En-10	Preserve and enhance habitat to <u>support healthy wildlife and accelerate the recovery of salmon, orca, and other threatened and endangered species</u> <del>prevent species from inclusion on the Endangered Species List and to accelerate their removal from the list.</del>	Minor change	<b>Puget Sound Recovery</b> - Regional Staff Committee suggestion to specifically name salmon and orca	
MPP-En-15	Reduce the use of <u>toxic pesticides, and chemical fertilizers, and other products</u> to the extent feasible and identify alternatives that minimize risks to human health and the environment.	Minor change	<b>Puget Sound Recovery</b> - Update to be consistent with recommendations from Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda	
MPP-En-17	<u>Meet all federal and state air quality standards, and reduce emissions of air toxics and greenhouse gases.</u> <del>Maintain or do better than existing standards for carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulates.</del>	Minor change	<b>Air Quality</b> - Including all air pollutants	
MPP-En-18	<del>Reduce levels for air toxics, fine particulates, and greenhouse gases.</del>	Minor change	Streamlining, covered in MPP-En-17	
MPP-En-23	Reduce greenhouse gases by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources, <u>electrifying the vehicle fleet,</u> and <del>by</del> reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving alone.	Minor change	<b>Climate Change</b> - Add emphasis of electrification	

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MPP-En-24	<u>Protect and restore natural resources that sequester and store carbon such as forests, farmland, wetlands, estuaries, and urban tree canopy.</u> <del>Take positive actions to reduce carbons, such as increasing the number of trees in urban portions of the region.</del>	Minor change	<b>Climate Change</b> - Recommendation from climate research groups such as the Washington State Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce ( <a href="https://www.governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/workgroups-and-task-forces/carbon-emissions-reduction-taskforce-cert">https://www.governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/workgroups-and-task-forces/carbon-emissions-reduction-taskforce-cert</a> )	
MPP-En-1	Develop regionwide environmental strategies, coordinating among local jurisdictions and countywide planning groups.	No change		
MPP-En-2	Use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment at regional, countywide and local levels.	No change		
MPP-En-3	Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Reduce the impacts of transportation on air and water quality, and climate change.	No change		
MPP-En-5	Locate development in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features. Promote the use of innovative environmentally sensitive development practices, including design, materials, construction, and on-going maintenance.	No change		
MPP-En-6	Use the best information available at all levels of planning, especially scientific information, when establishing and implementing environmental standards established by any level of government.	No change		
MPP-En-9	Designate, protect, and enhance significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas through mechanisms, such as the review and comment of countywide planning policies and local plans and provisions.	No change		
MPP-En-11	Identify and protect wildlife corridors both inside and outside the urban growth area.	No change		

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MPP-En-14	Restore – where appropriate and possible – the region’s freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries to a natural condition for ecological function and value.	No change		
MPP-En-16	Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the region’s hydrological systems.	No change		
MPP-En-19	Continue efforts to reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.	No change		
MPP-En-22	Pursue the development of energy management technology as part of meeting the region’s energy needs.	No change		
Action	Text	Type of Change	Reason for Proposed Update	Additional Notes
En-Action-1	<u>PSRC will advance the implementation of the adopted Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy, including future versions, to achieve meaningful reductions of emissions throughout the region from transportation, land use and development.</u>	New action	<b>Climate Change</b> - supports the adopted Four-Part Strategy	
EN-Action-2	<u>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 partner agencies such as the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative.</u>	New action	<b>Climate Change/Resiliency</b>	
En-Action-3	<u>PSRC will work with member jurisdictions, resource agencies, tribes, and interest groups to implement conservation, restoration, stewardship, and other recommendations in the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan. On a periodic basis, evaluate and update the plan.</u>	New action	<b>Regional Open Space Conservation Plan</b> - Supports implementation of the open space plan	
En-Action-4	<u>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.</u>	New action	<b>Puget Sound Recovery</b> - Continue to partner with Puget Sound Partnership to address Puget Sound recovery	

Policy	Text	Type of Change	Reason for Proposed Update	Additional Notes
En-Action-5 (Countywide/w atershed)	<u>Counties and cities, together with other jurisdictions in the watershed, will participate in watershed planning to integrate land use, transportation, stormwater, and related disciplines across the watershed to improve the health of Puget Sound.</u>	New action	<b>Puget Sound Recovery</b> - local implementation of Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda, NPDES requirements, and WRIA work	
En-Action-6 (Local)	<u>Counties and cities will work to address open space conservation and access needs as identified in the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan in the next periodic update to comprehensive plans.</u>	New action	<b>Regional Open Space Conservation Plan</b> - local implementation of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan	
En-Action-7 (Local)	<u>Cities and counties will incorporate emission reduction policies and activities in their comprehensive planning, including to support the adopted regional Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy. Elements include supporting the adopted regional growth strategy, providing multimodal transportation choices, and encouraging a transition to a cleaner transportation system.</u>	New action	<b>Climate Change</b> - supports the adopted Four-Part Strategy	