



Planning & Development Services

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Notice of Availability

Including written comment period, and public hearing

Proposal Information

Publish date: August 22, 2024

Proposal name: Skagit County 2024 Countywide Planning Policy Update

Documents available: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm>
(See under August 13th meeting materials)

Lead Agency: Skagit County Planning & Development Services

Contact Person: Robby Eckroth, AICP, Senior Planner

Public hearing Body: Skagit County Planning Commission

Public hearing Date: September 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Written comment

deadline: September 12, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Proposal Description

Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) are “a written policy statement or statements used solely for establishing a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted pursuant to this chapter.” CPPs are required for counties, in coordination with cities within their boundaries, planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to provide policies and guidance on how population growth and investment will be directed within a given county.

The following amendments are proposed to be consistent with new Growth Management Act requirements, specifically HB 1220 and HB 1181. The proposed CPP amendments will set the framework for the 2025 Skagit County Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update which is required to be consistent with Skagit County CPPs.

The Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) Technical Advisory Committee drafted CPPs to be considered by the SCOG Steering Committee. On, June 20, 2024, the SCOG Steering Committee forwarded amendments to member jurisdictions for public comment and to solicit input from city-town councils and Board of County Commissioners. Once public comment and input is received, the Steering Committee will provide a recommendation to the Board of County

Commissioners. The following amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies are to be considered:

1. **Housing** - Review and update the CCPs to address recent legislative changes, such as HB 1220. In addition, consider amending the CCP's to address the following housing topics:
 - a. Add policy language aimed at significantly increasing housing production within existing UGAs in areas with good access to transit, jobs, and services.
 - b. Add policy language addressing the siting of publicly funded or subsidized housing, including permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, shelters, and housing for populations with special needs.
 - c. Add policy language addressing coordination with publicly funded housing authorities.
2. **Climate** - Review and update the CCP's to address recent legislative changes, such as HB 1181. GMA Goal 14 was adopted in 2023 Section 14: Climate Change and Resiliency. This GMA goal requires that comprehensive plans address development regulations, and regional policies, plans and strategies under RCW 36.70A.201 and Chapter RCW 47.80 adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate, support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled; prepare for climate impact scenarios; foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural hazards; protect and enhance environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and advance environmental justice. Proposed revisions presented to the Countywide Planning policies in the linked document address these new legislative requirements under GMA goal 14.
3. **Land Capacity Analysis** - Skagit County GIS requirement to store data is proposed to be removed. SCOG is proposing collect land and housing capacity reports.

How to Comment

Option 1: Email comments are preferred and must be sent to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us with the proposal name ("Skagit County 2024 Countywide Planning Policy Update") in the subject line. Include your comments in the body of your email message rather than as attachments.

Option 2: Paper comments must be printed on 8½x11 paper and mailed or delivered to:

Skagit County Planning and Development Services
Comments on "Skagit County 2024 Countywide Planning Policy Update"
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon WA 98273

All comments must be received by the deadline referenced above and include your full name and mailing address. Comments not meeting these requirements will not be considered.

Option 3: You may also comment in person. If you wish to provide verbal testimony, please send an email to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us, with your name, phone number, and include a request to be added to the speakers list in the body of the email. Public hearing testimony is usually limited to three minutes, so written comments are preferred.

Anyone who plans to attend the public hearing and has special needs or disabilities should contact Planning and Development Services at (360) 416-1320 at least 96 hours before the hearing to discuss and arrange any special accommodations.