



Countywide Planning Policies

Environment



Overview

The Environment chapter of the **Countywide Planning Policies** (CPPs) guides cities and King County in assessing and updating their comprehensive plans to protect the natural environment and mitigate existing and future climate change and other environmental impacts.

Policy updates in this chapter center equity and social justice, seeking to strategically rectify past and present environmental impacts to frontline communities by prioritizing these communities while pursuing environmental restoration, protection, and mitigation goals.

Policy Changes

The Environment chapter update addresses planning for climate change mitigation and resilience, using best available science, and establishing more robust greenhouse gas emission and carbon sequestration targets to achieve carbon neutrality and limit global temperature increases.

Proposed policies center equity and social justice by prioritizing mitigation, preservation, and enhancement efforts where vulnerable frontline community members, disproportionately affected by environmental impacts, live.

The update informs development practices to support healthier air, water, and land. It also addresses clean energy production and the management of impacts from fossil fuel facilities.

The preservation, conservation, and restoration of the natural environment are primary functions of this chapter and updates ensure that this work continues to help achieve a more sustainable future.

Impacts of Policy Changes

- Protecting and restoring natural resources that sequester and store carbon.
- Addressing fossil fuel facilities to protect public health, safety, and welfare; and to protect the natural ecosystem to reduce climate change.
- Prioritizing efforts such as tree planting to enhance canopy where little to none exists, restoring degraded critical areas, reducing pollution, and providing greater access to open space where Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, low income, and frontline community members live.
- Mitigating the effects of local climate impacts by utilizing countywide greenhouse gas reduction goals set by the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C).

We Need Your Input!

If you would like to provide public comment, have questions about the CPPs or growth management, or want to get involved, please send an email to gmpc@kingcounty.gov or contact Ben Larson by calling (206) 263-9560.

What are the Countywide Planning Policies?

The Countywide Planning Policies or CPPs are a series of policies that address growth management issues in King County. The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) brings together elected officials from King County and the cities and jurisdictions within it to develop the CPPs.

The CPPs provide a countywide vision and serve as a framework for King County and every city in King County to develop its own comprehensive plan, which must be consistent with the CPPs and [VISION 2050](#).

For more on CPPs, Comprehensive Plans, and other growth management related information, please visit the King County Regional Planning page by clicking [this link](#).