



**HB 1099** sponsored by Rep. Duerr and Rep. Fitzgibbon

## **A bill to protect Washington's communities from climate change impacts**

### **In 2021, Washington state legislators have the opportunity to protect our communities through a climate-focused update to the Growth Management Act.**

Thirty years ago, Washington state passed the Growth Management Act to help our cities and counties accommodate rapid growth, while protecting what makes the Evergreen state a great place to live: vibrant cities, working farms and forests, healthy rivers and mountains, and a beautiful rural landscape.

Today, residents are calling for updates to our approach to development. HB 1099 answers the need for a new, comprehensive climate solution to build more resilient communities, from flood protection to transit, clean water to wildfire prevention. This update to the Growth Management Act will protect our community and natural resources as the climate changes.

### **Why now?**

From wildfires and drought to flooding and sea level rise, we know that we need to take action in the next 10 years to secure a climate-resilient future for Washingtonians from Aberdeen to Walla Walla and the many rural towns and big cities we are proud to call home. But right now, Washington's biggest counties aren't planning adequately for climate change.

By passing HB 1099, state legislators can ensure that our cities reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, and protect communities and natural resources from the accelerating impacts of a changing climate. This update will support Washington's biggest counties as they plan for a resilient future.



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## **Here's what the update will do:**

### **Improve city and county land use and transportation planning**

Cities and counties will upgrade their land use and transportation planning to reduce emissions, and build more livable communities that don't rely exclusively on private car transportation.

#### **The benefits**

Transportation accounts for 40% of Washington state greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. That's why reducing vehicles miles traveled (VMT) is such an important strategy to achieve emissions reductions.

Cities and towns play a crucial role by creating vibrant accessible neighborhoods that provide parks, jobs, schools, and restaurants that don't require long drives, or driving at all. In particular, encouraging walkable, bikeable, transit-accessible neighborhoods benefits communities and families while reducing carbon emissions.

### **Address and reduce the impacts of climate change through resilient and natural hazard planning**

Communities across the state can mitigate and protect against the impacts of a changing climate, including planning for protection from wildfires, drought, landslides, flooding, sea level rise and the heat island effect.

#### **The benefits**

As we reduce emissions, we must also plan for resilience by protecting lands that buffer our communities against the worst effects of climate change. Cities and counties can use smart planning to reduce and prevent the impacts of wildfire, drought, sea level rise and flooding on our communities, including by identifying "hot spots" where these disasters are more likely in the coming years.

### **Leading the way to a prosperous future**

Futurewise supports updates to the Growth Management Act because they will position Washington for success. Washington has a long history of leading the way, with innovative policy solutions that transform challenges into opportunities. Updating how we develop is not just good for business, but good for families, communities, and the natural resources we all depend on.

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