



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Futurewise

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Organization's General Goals:

Futurewise works throughout Washington state to encourage healthy, equitable and opportunity-rich communities, and to protect our most valuable farmlands, forests and water resources through wise land use policies and practices.

Date of Award:	Level:
2022 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Futurewise.

8802 27th Ave NE
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FINAL REPORT TO TULALIP TRIBES FOR GRANT SEPTEMBER 2022 - AUGUST 2023

Code: Q3 2022 14.2

URL: www.futurewise.org

Number of people impacted: 833,540 (population of Snohomish County)

This is the final report for the grant given to Futurewise in September 2022 for work in Snohomish County, focusing on Snohomish County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update and other land use issues that impact water quality, climate change, wildlife habitat, housing affordability, food systems, salmon recovery, transportation, and racial equity.


Below are the goals and strategies of our grant request, with the outcomes accomplished during 2022-2023. Our work will also continue through 2024 on the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update with hearings scheduled with the Snohomish County Planning Commission in October and November 2023, and Snohomish County Council public hearings sometime mid-2024.

Goal 1: Ensure that Snohomish County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update includes new policies for saving and restoring urban tree canopy, and policies to help slow and mitigate the impacts from climate change.

Futurewise worked with League of Women Voters of Snohomish County on a strategy for educating and organizing the public on the proposed Urban Tree Canopy policies and refined the policies with Councilmember champion Megan Dunn. Futurewise organized action alerts to the Snohomish County Planning and Development Services on their urban tree canopy policy changes to the original proposed policies as part of the department's review of all the policy changes being proposed for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Futurewise organized three action alerts to Snohomish supporters to submit comments and feedback on the urban tree canopy policy changes. In total, 257 Snohomish residents submitted comments to county staff between October 2022 and June 2023 to advocate for improved tree policies.

Futurewise also submitted a detailed comment letter. Futurewise also coordinated with other citizen and environmental groups to generate additional public comments including the Snohomish Conservation District, Forterra, Puget Soundkeeper, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sno-Isle Group of Sierra Club, Pilchuck Audubon Society, Sno-King Watershed Council, Climate Alliance of Snohomish County, 350.org Everett, Clearwater Commons, Friends of North Creek Forest, The Delta Neighborhood Association in Everett, Snohomish County Climate Advocates, Livable Snohomish County, Interfaith Climate Action, Edmonds United Methodist Church Advocates for Justice-Environment, Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Congregation,



Snohomish Garden Club, The Clearwater School, Green Snohomish, Hilltop-Locust Community Group, Save the Edmonds Marsh, and various city mayors and council members.

Based on citizen comments, the Snohomish County Planning and Development Services (PDS) strengthened the staff recommended urban tree canopy policies including increasing the urban tree canopy from **30 percent to 38 percent of the urban growth areas**. PDS briefed the Planning Commission in June 2023.

The Planning Commission will hold a public open house in September and public hearings in October with deliberations in November 2023. The Planning Commission will then send their recommendations to the County Council. We anticipate County Council briefings to begin in early spring with hearings in the summer or early fall of 2024.


Goal 2: Ensure that Snohomish County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update concentrates growth in designated urban centers, directs growth away from the rural areas, connects new housing development with multi-modal transportation options, and prevents urban growth area expansions which deteriorate air and water quality.

Futurewise commented on all the new and amended policies proposed by Snohomish County PDS during December 2022 through May 2023, which included policy changes to all of the chapters of the comprehensive plan and several new chapters: Population and Employment; Economic Development Interjurisdictional Coordination; Land Use; Natural Environment; Parks and Recreation; Urban Core Subarea; Housing; Urban Tree Canopy Policies; Climate Change; Capital Facilities and Utilities; Transportation; Tribal Coordination.

We have also tracked the briefings about these policy changes to the Snohomish County Planning Commission, and will be organizing and commenting on all these proposed policy changes again during the Commissioners hearings in October 2023, as well as all the land use changes being proposed under the 3 growth scenarios: Alternative 1—the no-action alternative; Alternative 2—the medium growth alternative, supported by Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2050, Snohomish Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), the Growth Management Act (GMA) and Futurewise; and Alternative 3—the high growth alternative that would allow for urban growth area (UGA) expansions and will have more negative impacts on the environment and quality of life. Alternative 2 would allow for one UGA expansion of around 300 acres in the Southwest UGA (SWUGA). Alternative 3 would allow for a more and larger UGA expansion in the SWUGA, as well as large UGA expansions around Lake Stevens, Maltby, and Monroe, for a total of over 1200 acres.


Futurewise is supporting Alternative 2, but is advocating against the Southwest UGA expansion, as all proposed UGA expansions do not meet the criteria of the Growth Management Act, Vision 2050 or the county's Countywide Planning Policies. The county is expected to release to the public the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in August or September 2023.

Futurewise also organized and sent out an action alert on the Land Use policy changes to inform PDS to our opposition to urban growth area (UGA) expansion requests in the Alternative 3 proposed land use plan. This action alert generated 52 emails to PDS from Snohomish residents





opposing the proposed UGA expansion and advocating to concentrate future growth in existing cities and UGAS.



addition to opposing UGA expansions, we will be organizing and advocating for better protection of fish and wildlife habitats, better protection for water quality, managing surface and ground water consistent with the instream flow rules, reducing greenhouse gas pollution, and adapting to the changes caused by global warming. We are also advocating for more affordable housing and transit-oriented development.

Per PDS, the tentative timeline going forward for the 2024 comprehensive plan update is:

September 2023—public open house with planning commission

October 2023—Public hearings with the Planning Commission

November 2023—Planning Commission Deliberations and recommendation to County Council

March 2024—Transmittal of adopting ordinances to County Council.

April 2024—Briefings with the County Council

May 2024—Final Environmental Impact Statement with preferred alternative

Summer 2024—County Council public hearings

September 2024—Adoption of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

In 2024, PDS also has an calendar of land use legislation for consideration by the Planning Commission and adoption by the County Council, some of which Futurewise will be tracking, which include: amendments to the county's Critical Areas Regulations, amendments to Housing Regulations as required by changes in state law, a new mixed-use zone for the Urban Core Subarea Plan Element, and amendments to the Water Code necessary to protect surface and ground water resources.

It will be critical for Futurewise to be engaged throughout this process to advocate for a growth alternative that promotes housing affordability, protects critical areas, and fights climate change.

Futurewise will continue to work with our partners this fall advocating against UGA expansions and supporting Alternative 2 which is supported by the GMA, Vision 2050, and the county's CPPs to the Snohomish County Planning Commission. We are already scheduling meetings with each of the five county council members and the county executive for December, after the planning commission makes their recommendations, to start advocating for 2024 comprehensive plan and development regulation update that addresses the goals of this grant.

Goal 3: Work with the Snohomish County Executive, Council Members, staff, the public, and other organizations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and mitigate climate impacts on communities and habitats, such as higher stream temperatures.

Futurewise commented on the new climate change element of the comprehensive plan and coordinated our comments with other organizations and individuals. Overall, the climate change element includes good policies which we supported. We also encouraged strengthening policies



where needed. We also commented on climate related policies in other chapters such as land use, transportation, and the natural environment chapters.

In 2021, 2022, and 2023, Futurewise advocated for passage of a state bill that would add climate change planning to the Growth Management Act. Under this bill, large counties, including Snohomish County, would be required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation (primarily achieved by connecting new housing with multi-modal transportation options). Counties would also be required to plan for adverse climate impacts like sea level rise and floods. This bill passed in 2023, but Snohomish County will not have to comply with most of its requirements until 2029. However, global warming will not wait until 2029, and we will continue to advocate for addressing global warming pollution and adaptation as part of this comprehensive plan update.

We will continue to connect with our local partners which supported the bill in the legislature, such as Livable Snohomish County, as well as individual grassroots supporters to build an advocacy campaign to support adding climate to the Snohomish County 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. We will also recruit additional organizations and individuals to support this effort. Kristin will continue to organize these groups and individuals to submit public comment to the county planners, Planning Commission, and the County Council. In response to our comments, PDS did strengthen some climate policies, but more work is needed.

Our anticipated outcome will be that the Snohomish County Council and Council Executive will adopt policies and regulations that will help reduce greenhouse gas pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change including mitigating impacts on streams, rivers, lakes, and salmon habitat.

The largest generator of greenhouse gas pollution in Snohomish County and Washington State is transportation. Related to our work on the comprehensive plan is opposition to development regulation changes that will increase growth in rural areas and on resource lands. In September 2023, the Snohomish County Planning Commission will have a public hearing on the remand from the Growth Management Hearings Board on the Detached ADU Ordinance that was adopted in 2022 and which Futurewise appealed because of the increases in carbon pollution and adverse impacts on farmland, forest land, and rural areas. The Growth Management Hearings Board agreed with Futurewise that these regulations failed to protect agricultural lands and allowed increased growth in the rural violating Vision 2050.

For these same reasons, Futurewise opposed changes to the Rural Cluster Subdivision regulations that would have increased rural growth. Our action alert generated 73 emails to the Planning Commission in opposition to the proposed regulation. The Snohomish County Planning Commission agreed with Futurewise that the proposed changes promoted by the development community would increase rural growth and recommended against approving those regulation amendments. Snohomish County Council has not yet taken up the issue. If they do, Futurewise will continue to work to prevent increasing growth in rural areas.





Conclusion

Futurewise is grateful for the continued support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for supporting our advocacy in Snohomish County to advance livable communities and protect the county's rural areas, and fish and wildlife habitat from sprawl. We look forward to continued collaboration.

Thank you,

Alex Brennan
Executive Director

