

Economic Development

Vision Statement

The Plan includes a Vision Statement that is presented in its entirety within the Introduction of the Plan. The Vision Statement is an aspirational goal that the Plan aims to help bring to fruition through the goals, objectives, and policies of each element. The Vision of Snohomish County is:

We're all in this together: In 2044 Snohomish County is a resilient, vibrant, and inclusive place to live with a high-quality of life where all residents can thrive.

The Economic Development Element furthers the vision by planning for jobs, services, facilities, urban design, and other features that contribute to the ability to make a living wage, and the desire to want to live and work in Snohomish County. The Economic Development Element focuses on job creation and worker education, as well as equity. The Economic Development Element encourages economic and environmental resilience to climate change, natural disasters, public health disasters, and other shocks to the economy, and emphasizes creative placemaking to improve both neighborhood vibrancy and entrepreneurship.

~~((Snohomish County views economic development as an organizing principle of urban activity.))~~

People need to have living wage jobs and income to **afford** to live in a community. Economic development contributes to quality of life: services, facilities, jobs, urban design, and other features that make Snohomish County a place where people **want** to live, ~~((and))~~ work, and recreate.

A healthy economic environment requires a long-term vision of Snohomish County's future that is flexible enough to serve the community in periods of growth and recession and is open to periodic review and refinement.

Snohomish County has significant economic advantages and opportunities including: a superior deep water port, rail facilities, airports, and regional transportation nodes – all of which position the county competitively for national and international trade – renewable resources, leading edge industries, a highly skilled business management and labor force, a fertile environment for the development of businesses and industries in support of the region's advanced manufacturing and high-tech employers, and high quality of life that makes Snohomish County an attractive and desirable location.

~~((Although forecasts project significant future job growth in the service sector, traditional industrial and commercial development represent a substantial part of the economic future of Snohomish County.))~~ Forecasts by the Washington Employment Security Department project that in 2030 the top employing industries in Snohomish County by subcategory will be Health Services and Social Assistance, Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing, Accommodation and Food Services, and the top employing occupations by subcategory will be Sales and Related Occupations, Office and Administrative Support Occupations, and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (Labor Market Info: Projections, July 2022). This type of development requires substantially greater infrastructure availability and faces substantial scrutiny by the community due to its real or potential impacts on the environment. Finding ways to provide for and encourage this development while maintaining the quality of the environment, minimizing the impact on infrastructure, and avoiding pricing industrial and commercial development out of this market, is an important challenge.

Efforts to compile specific actions to further Snohomish County's economic development vision have been conducted, resulting in recommendations that focus on:

- Regulatory Reform - removing barriers that prevent businesses from getting things done;
- Taxes and Fee Structure - demonstrating and rationalizing the value of government services to people and business;
- Physical Infrastructure - implementing needed improvements; and
- Human Capital - education, training, and other human services.

The county has a good track record of cooperation on economic development with cities, including using the public facility district mechanism and establishing tourism promotion areas.

The county's efforts to focus on and enlist support for maintaining and enhancing agriculture also serve as a model for other sectors of the economy.

On January 1, 2023, Snohomish County established the Department of Economic Development to ensure the economic prosperity of our region through facilitation of collaborative public-private partnerships, promotion of a thriving economic climate, and encouraging the workforce to meet industry needs. Additionally, the Snohomish County Economic Development Initiative was launched in 2016 with a goal of: facilitating collaborative public private partnerships, promoting a thriving economic climate, and encouraging the workforce to meet industry needs. ~~The Office of Economic Development was established to coordinate county resources with other agencies and municipalities to further the goals, objectives, and policies of this chapter.~~

The Economic Development Element is closely tied to other (~~sections~~) elements of the (~~plan~~) Snohomish County Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan ("Plan"):

- Transportation and utilities providing the infrastructure to support economic development activities;
- Providing sufficient land zoned to accommodate a variety of employment needs and urban centers for higher density mixed use development;
- Opportunities for economic activities in resource land (agriculture, forestry, and mineral) as well as recreational and tourist pursuits in these lands;
- Affordable housing for a variety of workforce households;
- Human services, childcare services, and workforce training to improve workforce productivity; and
- A healthy natural environment draws tourism and recreation dollars to Snohomish County((-)
- Population and employment forecasts, including 2044 employment growth targets, which guide long-term planning and economic development strategies.

In addition to the comprehensive plan elements, the Consolidated Plan, prepared by Snohomish County for (~~HUD~~) Housing and Urban Development eligible activities, provides grants to build communities and support residents to participate in their communities.

The economy in Snohomish County relates closely to the Puget Sound Region, Washington State, and other states and nations around the world. These broader relationships play an ever-greater role in the county's economy, particularly as it relates to trade.

The goals, objectives and policies (~~describe~~) state how Snohomish County is working to facilitate the provision of jobs and the enhancement of a healthy economy.

[Insert Goals, Objectives, and Policies Here]
