



HB 1099 sponsored by Rep. Duerr and Rep. Fitzgibbon

A bill to ensure Washington cities and counties are planning for climate resilient communities while reducing our contributions to the climate crisis.

In 2021, Washington state legislators had the opportunity to ensure that our communities are planning for the impacts of climate change through an update to the Growth Management Act. They didn't take it.

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 also embed a definition for environmental justice into the GMA.

We have already waited too long to comprehensively address climate change, which is why we are committed to get HB1099 over the finish line in 2022.



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Here's what the update will do:

Improve city and county land use and transportation planning to reduce emissions.

Cities and counties will upgrade their land use and transportation planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build more livable and connected 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.

Commerce is already laying the groundwork:

Through a budget proviso passed last session, the Department of Commerce has been funded to start developing the program that cities and counties will use to implement the greenhouse gas reduction requirements in HB1099. Specifically, Commerce is developing a list of actions that cities will be able to choose from to meet their reduction targets. While the investment in this work is promising, we still need to ensure that HB 1099 is signed into law in 2022 so that counties and cities updating their comprehensive plans in 2024 have time to implement the new requirements.