Climate Change
Regional Planning and Analysis

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Joint Economic Development and Environment and Natural Resources Committees
Monday, March 22, 2021

Puget Sound Regional Council

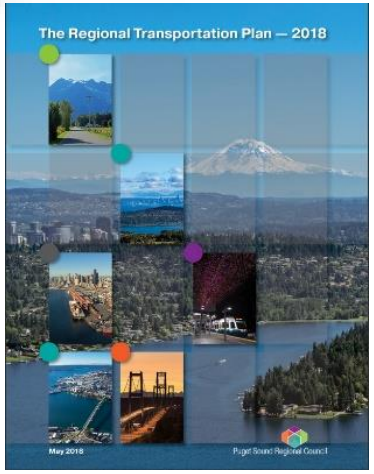
Puget Sound Regional Council

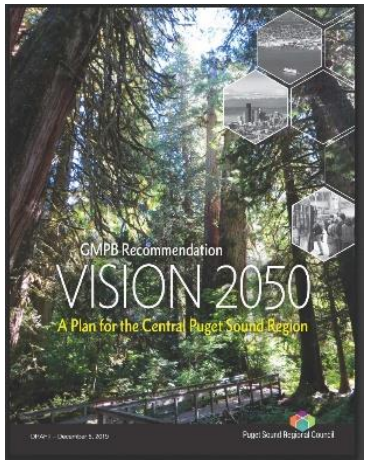
Who we are

- 4 counties, 82 cities and towns
- >4 million people, >2 million jobs

What we do

- Growth, economic, transportation planning
- Competitive distribution of federal transportation funds
- Regional data and forecasts
- Forum for regional issues





Overview of Climate Change Work Program

Policy Framework

- VISION 2050
- Regional Transportation Plan
- Project Selection

Partnerships

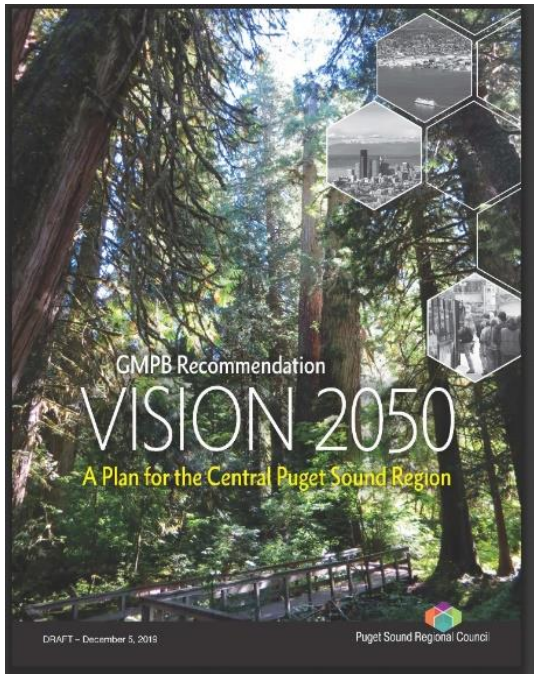
- GHG Inventory
- Local Agency Guidance
- Alternative Fueled Vehicles
- Preparedness / Resilience

Analyses

- Environmental Impact Statement – VISION, RTP
- Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy
- Project-Level Emissions

VISION 2050

- VISION 2050 is the region's plan for growth
  - Guide for sustaining a healthy environment, thriving communities and a strong economy
- Contains:
  - A Regional Growth Strategy
  - Goals, policies and actions
    - Multicounty planning policies covering:
      - Growth, Environment, Climate Change, Transportation, Economy, Housing, Development Patterns, Public Services
- Sets the stage for 2024 comprehensive plan updates



VISION 2050 and Climate

Climate Goal: *The region substantially reduces emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change in accordance with the goals of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050) and prepares for climate change impacts.*

- Policies and actions address reducing emissions and the impacts from climate change, across many sectors
- Commits to regular analysis and evaluations as part of the 4-year Regional Transportation Plan cycle
- Commits to development of a “climate wedge analysis” for full spectrum comparisons
- Discusses impacts from climate change and resilience needs and activities

Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy

Land Use	Choices
User Fees	Technology

- Adopted Regional Growth Strategy, as expressed in adopted jurisdictional targets
- Regional integrated transit network, Active Transportation Plan, projects & programs, as identified in the Regional Transportation Plan
- Regional Transportation Plan financial strategy, including express toll lanes, road usage charge, parking fees, certain facility tolls
- Fuel economy improvements, advancement of electrification, heavy duty vehicle improvements

Ongoing Work

- Continued work on GHG inventory / climate wedge analysis
- Regional Transportation Plan update underway
  - Continued monitoring and updating of the Four-Part GHG Strategy
  - Analysis of criteria pollutants and GHG emissions – key performance metric
- Regional Electric Vehicle Collaboration
  - Founded in partnership with partner agencies in 2019
  - Three events held to date; working to develop online clearinghouse – resources, best practices, guidance, data
- Local agency guidance

Project Selection Process

- Competitive processes to distribute Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funds
- Based on VISION 2050 and the Regional Transportation Plan
  - Policy focus = support for centers and the corridors that serve them
- Project evaluation criteria includes:
  - Supporting mobility, accessibility, safety, equity
  - Improving multiple modes or providing new modes, opportunities for active transportation
  - Emissions reduction included in all competitions

Project Selection Process

Air Quality / Climate Change criterion

- Evaluates the potential for each project to reduce emissions from:
  - Reducing trips
  - Reducing vehicle miles traveled
  - Improving travel flow / reducing vehicle idling
  - Converting vehicles to cleaner fuels

Project Selection Process

Application:

- PSRC staff estimate emissions reduction potential from every project
- Use data from applications and Project-Level Emissions Evaluation Tool
  - Specific and detailed questions on application depending on project type
- Pollutants analyzed =
  - CO2, PM2.5, NOx, VOC, CO
- CO2, PM2.5 used as “representative pollutants” in scoring process

Project Selection Process

Emissions Tools and Guidance:

- Development of a resource guide for project sponsors
  - Background and data on emissions reduction potential for a variety of project types, scales
  - Based on project-level emissions analyses, CMAQ reporting
- PSRC's Project-Level Emissions Evaluation Tool
  - First developed in the 1990s
  - Current version updated in 2016, based on extensive research and updated regional and MOVES inputs

Resilience Planning

- Founding member of the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative
  - Multi-agency regional coordination and collaboration on climate preparedness and resilience
- Pilot community / partnership with National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine under the Resilient America Roundtable Program (2016-2018)
- Research and analysis as part of Regional Transportation Plan
  - Regional hazards web map under development
- Local agency guidance

Thank you.

Kelly McGourty
Director of Transportation Planning
kmcgourty@psrc.org
(206) 971-3601