

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

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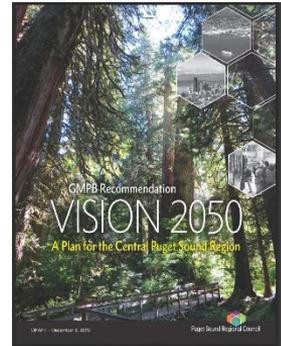
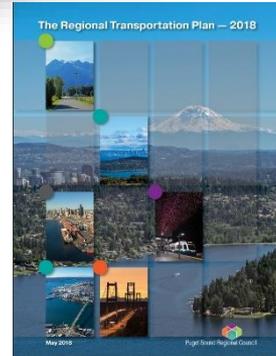
Who we are

- 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

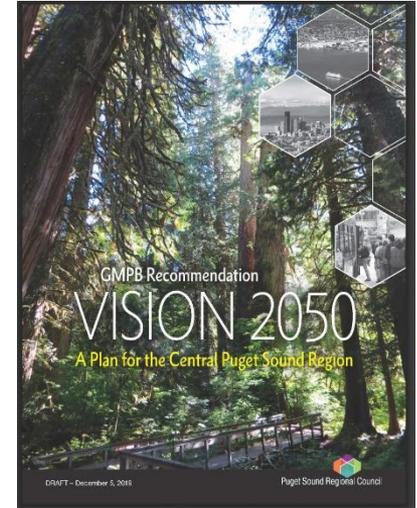
Analyses

- 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



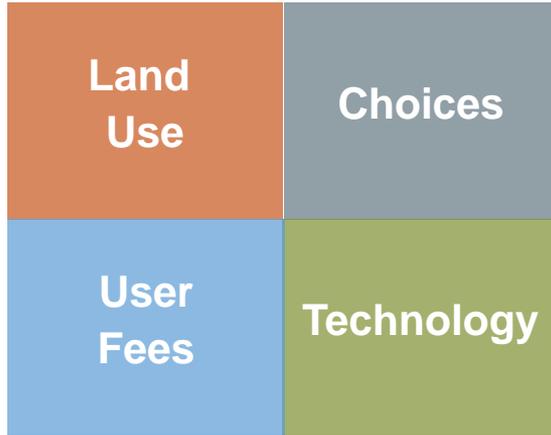
VISION 2050 and Climate

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



- 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, PM_{2.5}, NO_x, VOC, CO
- CO₂, PM_{2.5} 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

