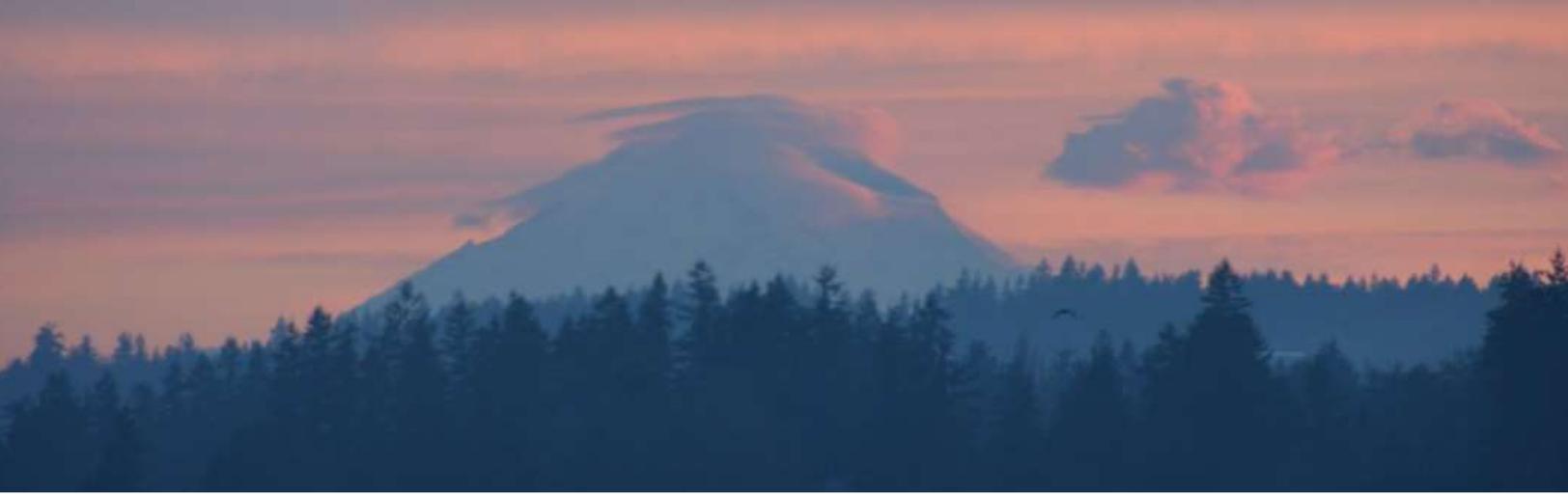




Element 7

# ENVIRONMENT





## **VISION**

**Protect Bremerton's natural environment by meeting the needs of today's citizens without compromising the needs of future generations.**



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## Environment Introduction

Bremerton has a vital interest in preserving its natural beauty and ensuring long-term environmental health. With vast marine shorelines, freshwater lakes, coastal bluffs, wetlands, a preserved watershed area, and scenic views of two mountain ranges, Bremerton is part of a complex ecosystem and provides a stunning natural setting for its residents and visitors. This natural setting is one of the most important amenities to Bremerton residents and visitors alike. While it is expected that Bremerton will increase in population over the next 20 years, it is imperative that the environmental resources be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Sustainability is a concept that addresses the problems and needs of the present, without compromising the needs of the future. In spirit, sustainability protects and adds natural beauty and function with growth. This Element provides a vision and commitment by the City of Bremerton to bring a sustainable approach to land use management.

This element of the Plan contains broad environmental goals and policies. Some of the Plan's other elements also include goals and policies addressing how environmental values specifically relate to the topics of those elements. For instance, the Land Use Element includes goals and policies governing development near environmental critical areas, and the Transportation Element addresses possible environmental impacts and improvements associated with transportation choices.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

PSRC's Vision 2040 stresses the need for agencies at all levels of government to seek ways to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. This includes: Efforts to maximize energy efficiency, increase renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, decrease vehicle miles traveled, improve the convenience and safety of multimodal transportation, protect the natural landscape and vegetation, and increase recycling and reduce waste.<sup>1</sup>

In an efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the anticipated impacts of climate change, PSRC has developed a set of reporting tools to assist countywide planning groups, local jurisdictions, and transit agencies as they work on climate change related updates and amendments to their policies and plans. These tools are designed to highlight key provisions that should be addressed as policy and plan updates. In regards to greenhouse gases, PSRC requires the following provisions:

- Policies and implementation actions to address federal and state clean air laws and the reduction of pollutants including GHGs. Incorporate the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's adopted growth management policies into the Comprehensive Plan.
- Include specific provisions to reduce GHG emissions; include provisions addressing adaptation to the effects of climate change.<sup>2</sup>
- Develop clean transportation programs and facilities, including actions to reduce pollution and GHG emissions from transportation.

In the following section, policies related to greenhouse gas emission and climate change have been included.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PSRC, Vision 2040

<sup>2</sup> While both the Governor and the Legislature have set targets to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035, and 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, no specific targets are required by cities at this time.

<sup>3</sup> PSRC Planning Requirements and Guidance. [http://www.psrc.org/assets/4535/Comp\\_Plan\\_Reporting\\_Tool.pdf?processed=true](http://www.psrc.org/assets/4535/Comp_Plan_Reporting_Tool.pdf?processed=true)

### Vision

*Protect Bremerton’s natural environment by meeting the needs of today’s citizens without compromising the needs of future generations.*

### Goals & Policies

The following goals and policies form the foundation of Bremerton’s strategy for the future for working for and with the environment. These goals and policies are to support the overall environmental vision stated above.

#### Environmental Goals

*E1. Stewardship: Provide stewardship by considering long-range implications of City policies on the environment, to conduct City operations in a manner that protects the environment, and to provide education on how the City, its businesses, and residents can improve the quality of the environment.*

*E2. Earth: Preserve and enhance vegetation and earth resources.*

*E3. Water: Protect water resources for present and future generations.*

*E4. Air: Ensure compliance with good federal, state, regional, and local air quality standards through coordinated, long-term strategies that address the many contributors to air pollution.*



### Environmental Policies

**Goal E1: Stewardship: Provide stewardship by considering long-range implications of City policies on the environment, to conduct City operations in a manner that protects the environment, and to provide education on how the City, its businesses, and residents can improve the quality of the environment.**

#### Implementing Policies for Goal E1 – Stewardship: Planning

*E1(A): Promote waste reduction and recycling measures throughout the community. Ensure that waste disposal occurs in an environmentally safe, efficient manner.*

*E1(B): Reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills by reducing the amount of waste generated and promoting recycling and reusing materials.*

- *Provide attractive, well-maintained recycling bins and garbage receptacles in public spaces that separate different types of waste.*
- *Ensure that all City departments practice recycling and attempt to reduce waste.*

*E1(C): Maintain and support City sponsored public events for yard waste collection.*

*E1(D): Use the brownfields approach and grants to identify and restore potentially environmentally degraded property.*

*E1(E): Encourage environmentally sensitive businesses and practices.*

- *Explore options to provide incentives to companies and facilities locating in Bremerton, and recognize existing facilities and companies that opt to use green building techniques or low impact development beyond what is required.*

*E1(F): Promote use of alternative energy.*

*E1(G): Support and explore the multijurisdictional efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, address climate change, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and other impacts of changing of global conditions.*

*E1(H): Maintain good federal, state, regional, and local air quality standards through coordinated, long-term strategies that address the many contributors to air pollution.*

*E1(I): Reduce the amount of airborne particulates through a street sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, covered loads of hauled materials, and other methods to reduce dust sources*

*E1(J): Coordinate planning of critical area and habitat with Kitsap County, Suquamish Tribe, and other local agencies.*

### Implementing Policies for Goal E1 – Stewardship: Development

*E1(K): Ensure code flexibility to enable and encourage environmentally sensitive development and use of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques and Best Management Practices (BMPs) where feasible.*

*E1(L): Use Best Available Science to preserve and enhance the functions and values of critical area through policies, regulations, programs and incentives.*

*E1(M): Utilize, where feasible, Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Low Impact Development (LID) technology in City projects and practices to achieve effective environmental stewardship.*

*E1(N): Encourage the use of sustainable building methods and materials (such as those specified under certification like LEED, Built Green, Salmon Safe, and Living Building Challenge) that may reduce impacts on the built and natural environment.*

*E1(O): Support the continued planting of Bremerton's urban forest, a diverse mix of native and non-native trees, shrubs and groundcovers, which line our streets and shade and beautify our homes, businesses, parks and natural areas.*

*E1(P): Reduce solid waste generation through salvage and reuse of building materials, including architecturally and historically significant materials.*

*E1(Q): Advocate for expansion of transit and encourage car-sharing, cycling and walking, to limit or reduce vehicle trips as a strategies for reducing vehicle-related air pollution.*

### Implementing Policies for Goal E1 – Stewardship: Education

*E1(R): Promote community awareness, responsibility, and participation in sustainability efforts through public outreach programs and other opportunities for change. Serve as a catalyst and facilitator for partnership to leverage change in the broader community.*

*E1(S): Encourage environmental stewardship for the care and planting of trees through well-considered outreach and educational materials, along with City incentives.*

*E1(T): Educate citizens about sources of pollution.*

- *Provide information to the public regarding the negative impact to water quality from the use of pesticides and herbicides. Encourage a reduction in the use of pesticides and herbicides.*

### Goal E2: Earth: Preserve and enhance vegetation and earth resources.

#### Implementing Policies for Goal E2:

*E2(A): Preserve environmental quality by taking into account the land's suitability for development, and directing intense development away from critical areas and soils with good infiltration potential for stormwater management.*

*E2(B): Encourage conservation of critical areas and nonrenewable resources.*

*E2(C): Ensure that development review includes evaluating potential negative impacts on habitat and avoids impacts, including off-site impacts. For those circumstances where avoidance is not possible and if mitigation is determined to be necessary, a detailed description should be considered related to what efforts were taken to avoid impact to the extent possible.*

*E2(D): Preserve the integrity of riparian corridors and steep slopes through the preservation of native plants and the replacement of invasive, non-native plants with native and drought tolerant plants.*

*E2(E): Preserve and enhance trees, native vegetation, and integrate suitable native plants in urban landscape development.*

*E2(F): Maintain and improve the City's tree canopy. Consider proper vegetation selection, taking into consideration potential conflicts, such as sidewalks and overhead utilities.*

*E2(G): During development review strive to preserve existing healthy and safe trees on private, commercial, and public property.*

*E2(H): Adopt lighting standards to prevent light pollution.*

*E2(I): Manage the City Utility Lands for multiple purposes including protecting water processes and forest habitat.*

*E2(I): Limit clearing, grading and soil disturbance outside of the building footprint or newly developed residential and commercial sites, especially those sites with sensitive features. Reduce compaction and restore infiltration capacity on already cleared sites whenever feasible.*



### **Goal E3: Water: Protect water resources for present and future generations.**

#### **Implementing Policies for Goal E3:**

*E3(A): Preserve and protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas through regulation, acquisitions, incentives, and other techniques, including considering regional initiatives such as the Chico Creek basin project and other salmon recovery plans.*

*E3(B): Preserve and protect natural surface water storage sites, such as wetlands, aquifers, streams, and water bodies as these are critical features that regulate surface flows and recharge groundwater.*

*E3(C): Participate in regional species protection efforts, including salmon habitat enhancement and restoration. Identify, prioritize, and eliminate physical barriers and other impediments to anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat.*

*E3(D): Manage aquatic and riparian habitats to preserve and enhance their natural functions and processes, which provide fish and wildlife habitat and protect water quality.*

*E3(E): Conserve and protect groundwater resources, headwater wetlands and priority habitat areas.*

*E3(F): Promote alternatives to traditional storm water practices for new construction and require onsite stormwater management using Low Impact Development (LID) techniques and Best Management Practices (BMPs) where feasible.*

*E3(G): Conserve and protect groundwater resources.*

- *Provide for well-head protection where appropriate.*
- *Protect aquifer recharge areas, especially those used to provide public water supplies.*
- *Coordinate measures to protect groundwater resources by using watershed plans and planning efforts.*

*E3(H): Apply Bremerton's Shoreline Master Program goals and policies to development and redevelopment within the shoreline jurisdiction.*

*E3(I): Encourage restoration of degraded shoreline areas in coordination with shoreline redevelopment and the City's voluntary shoreline restoration.*

*E3(J): Coordinate with Kitsap Public Health District to abate environmental pollution from failing septic systems within City limits.*

*E3(K): Incorporate findings and science from joint watershed planning efforts.*

*E3(L): Educate the public on best management practices regarding use of pesticides and fertilizers to prevent run-off of chemicals and pollution of water bodies.*

# Environment

## Vision, Goals & Policies

**Goal E4: Air: Ensure compliance with good federal, state, regional, and local air quality standards through coordinated, long-term strategies that address the many contributors to air pollution.**

### **Implementing Policies for Goal E4:**

*E4(A): Maintain high air quality through land use and transportation planning and management.*

*E4(B): Advocate for expansion of transit and encourage car-sharing, cycling and walking, to limit or reduce vehicle trips as a strategies for reducing vehicle-related air pollution.*

*E4(C): Continue the city's commute trip reduction (CTR) program and work with Bremerton's employers to encourage their participation in CTR.*

*E4(D): Reduce the amount of airborne particulates through a street sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, covered loads of hauled materials, and other methods to reduce dust sources.*

*E4(E): Support and explore the multijurisdictional efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, address climate change, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and other impacts of changing of global conditions.*

