

Chapter 3

COUNTY-WIDE PLANNING POLICIES

In 1991, the State Legislature amended the GMA to require that counties adopt countywide planning policies in cooperation with their municipalities. The purpose of these policies is to establish a coordinated, county-wide framework within which to develop comprehensive plans. The County-Wide Planning Policies must *guide* the subsequent adoption of comprehensive plans without overly constraining with excessive detail. The County-Wide Planning Policies shall, at a minimum:

1. implement RCW 36.70A.110
2. promote contiguous and orderly development and provision of urban services to such development
3. provide for public capital facilities of a county-wide or state nature
4. provide for county-wide transportation facilities
5. consider the need for affordable housing
6. provide for joint county and city, town planning within urban growth areas
7. provide for economic development and employment
8. analyze fiscal impact.

To develop county-wide planning policies, Pierce County and its municipalities entered into an Interlocal Agreement. The Agreement provided for a Steering Committee, which received support from consultants and a Growth Management Coordinating Subcommittee. The Steering Committee promulgated the County-Wide Planning Policies for Pierce County, and a 60% majority or more of the affected local governments ratified them. The County-Wide Planning Policies in Pierce County have been amended from time to time, the most recent update took place in April 2005.

COUNTY-WIDE PLANNING POLICIES

The Policies are organized in a manner similar to the goals established by GMA, as follows:

- Affordable Housing
- Agricultural Lands
- Economic Development and Employment
- Education
- Fiscal Impact
- Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Preservation
- Natural Resources, Open Space, and Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Lands
- Siting of Public Capital Facilities of a County-Wide or State-Wide Nature
- Transportation Facilities and Strategies
- Urban Growth Areas
- Buildable Lands
- Amendments and Transition

This Comprehensive Plan follows the adopted and revised County-Wide Planning Policies for Pierce County. Copies of the County-Wide Planning Policies can be found at Eatonville Town Hall, the Pierce County Department of Planning and Land Services, and the Pierce County Library.