

Comprehensive Planning Framework Summary

Growth Management Act (GMA), Washington State Department of Commerce

The Growth Management Act (GMA) is a series of state statutes, first adopted in 1990, that requires fast-growing cities and counties to develop a comprehensive plan to manage their population growth. It is primarily codified under [Chapter 36.70A RCW](#), although it has been amended and added to in several other parts of the RCW. Under [RCW 36.70A.020](#), the GMA establishes a series of 13 goals that should act as the basis of all comprehensive plans.

The [Washington State Department of Commerce](#) is the primary state-level contact for GMA-related issues. They provide technical assistance to help local governments comply with the GMA and implement their comprehensive plans effectively.¹

The WA State Department of Commerce Periodic Update Checklist For Fully Planning Cities can be found online at <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/lzqh1lwfi2gn6drg964412r43tv780hh>.

VISION 2050, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) works with cities, counties and many others in the region to implement the regional growth strategy.² VISION 2050 is the region's plan for growth. By 2050, the region's population will reach 5.8 million people. The region's cities, counties, Tribes, ports, agencies, businesses, and communities have worked together to develop VISION 2050 to prepare for this growth and serve as a guide for sustaining a healthy environment, thriving communities and a strong economy.

VISION 2050's multicounty planning policies, actions, and regional growth strategy guide how and where the region grows through 2050. The plan informs updates to the Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Economic Strategy. VISION 2050 also sets the stage for updates to countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plans done by cities and counties. VISION 2050's multi-county planning policies (MPPs) serve many purposes. MPPs provide a framework for updating countywide planning policies. Cities and counties use MPPs as a guide when updating local comprehensive plans.³

PSRC's VISION 2050 can be found online at <https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/vision-2050-plan.pdf>.

¹ <https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/planning/general-planning-and-growth-management/growth-management-act>

² <https://www.psrc.org/our-work>

³ <https://www.psrc.org/planning-2050/vision-2050>

Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC)

The Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) was created to ensure planning between Pierce County and its cities and towns was accomplished in a coordinated, consistent manner. The Council is comprised of elected officials from Pierce County, each of its 23 cities and towns, and the Port of Tacoma. The primary responsibility of the PCRC is to ensure that the Growth Management Act requirements are coordinated within the County and the region.⁴

The Pierce County CPPs are intended to be consistent with the MPPs and are one of the primary mechanisms for VISION 2050 to be implemented at the local level. The Countywide Planning Policies are intended to be the consistent "theme" of growth management planning among Pierce County jurisdictions. The policies also establish processes and mechanisms designed to foster open communication and feedback among the jurisdictions. The Countywide Planning Policies are intended to be the consistent "theme" of growth management planning among Pierce County jurisdictions. The policies also establish processes and mechanisms designed to foster open communication and feedback among the jurisdictions.⁵

Pierce County's Countywide Planning Policies can be found online at

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/92170/Countywide-Planning-Policies-adopted-by-2022-29?bidId=>

⁴ <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/1781/Pierce-County-Regional-Council>

⁵ <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/92170/Countywide-Planning-Policies-adopted-by-2022-29?bidId=>