

Outlook

futurewise

BUILDING COMMUNITIES PROTECTING THE LAND

LAND USE AND GLOBAL WARMING An Environmental Community Legislative Priority

"We know today's choices about how we grow affect climate pollution for decades to come. That's why in Kirkland we've been working to plan for growth so that it reduces driving and creates more compact communities." Mayor James Lauinger, Kirkland

THE PRIORITIES FOR A HEALTHY WASHINGTON are the top four common proposals of the leading groups in the state advocating reforms for the better health of our communities and the people who live there through improved protection of our land, air and water. More than 20 environmental and faith groups will be working together this session to pass the Priorities.

This legislative session, Futurewise will spearhead the Local Solutions to Global Warming campaign, one of the statewide environmental community's four Priorities for a Healthy Washington!

Local Solutions to Global Warming

In order to achieve the State's global warming pollution reduction goals, responsible decisions need to be made to reduce driving and promote

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Thornton Place at Northgate by Lorig Associates and Mithun

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM KEEPS THINGS MOVING WITH TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Futurewise's Urban Development Program will be

Why is transit-oriented development so important?

Reducing global warming impacts. Data has shown that transit-oriented development results in 50% fewer car trips than traditional development patterns. When people have the option to walk, bike, or ride transit to access their jobs and community services, they drive less. And getting people out of their cars is integral to reducing our global warming impact.

Using resources efficiently. It has been shown that compact and walkable development results in less per capita water and energy consumption.

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launching a Transit-Oriented Development campaign for the Seattle region in 2008. Transit-oriented development is compact and walkable —creating mixed-use neighborhoods in which people can walk, bike, and ride transit to reach their jobs, services, and homes. Such neighborhoods treat the transit station as a center of public activity, and provide vibrant streetscapes to encourage walking and transit-use. There are tremendous benefits of transit-oriented development, for both environmental sustainability and community development.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR! I'd like to take a look back with you at our work in 2007. Futurewise had an amazing year and it's worth taking a moment to celebrate! Here are a few highlights . . .

Futurewise is working to build thriving communities as we plan for where a growing population will live and work and how we will all get around. We launched an Urban Development program this year. As part of our work to make cities great places to live, **we successfully prevented another elevated viaduct from being built on Seattle's waterfront.**

Our planning and legal programs continued to ensure that all around the state we are living up to the goals and standards set forth in the Growth Management Act. In 2007 alone, our planning and legal programs advised over 20 cities and counties as they updated their Comprehensive Plans and **because of our efforts over 200,000 acres of farmland and rural areas were protected.**

In the 2007 legislative session we successfully worked to expand Transfer of Development Rights programs aimed at purchasing development rights from landowners, and providing landowners a source of income while keeping more rural lands undeveloped.

Now that we've taken a moment to reflect, let's look ahead to 2008. Throughout this newsletter you will read about many of our priorities for the coming year but here's a quick overview.

First, we are working to address the impacts that land use decisions have on global warming. Decisions we make today will lock us into development patterns that will determine our global warming emissions for decades.

Second, we're continuing our Community Protection Campaign. Cities and counties are undertaking the first ever major updates to their Comprehensive Plans, Critical Areas Ordinances and Shoreline Master Programs. Right now is the best opportunity we'll have for years to make huge policy gains at the wholesale level in almost every county in Washington.

And third, through our Urban Development program, we're launching efforts to focus development around transportation options. We are also organizing a proactive agenda aimed at encouraging infill development, tackling affordability problems, improving transportation choices, and supporting parks and open space.

Aisling Kerins, Acting Executive Director

CLARK COUNTY ACTIVISTS FIGHT BACK



State
Senator Craig Pridemore spoke powerfully at this event about the need to protect Clark County.

For the past three years, Futurewise has worked with local partners on the update to the Clark County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This September the Clark County Commissioners adopted the County's twenty year growth plan. Unfortunately the plan creates the largest urban expansion in Washington State history by adding 12,023 acres into the urban growth area, essentially creating one huge urban mass from the Columbia River up to the city of La Center.

We worked with local farmers and our partners Clark County Natural Resources Council, Friends of Clark County, Sierra Club, Vancouver Audubon, and Fish First to encourage the Board of Commissioners to improve the plan by making it more affordable for local taxpayers and more protective of Clark County's farmland. Unfortunately, the Board passed the plan without making these changes.

Now, with a bad plan adopted, the only way we can ensure Clark County is protected from costly and sprawling irresponsible development is to appeal the plan to the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board.

Our local friends and partners helped throw a house party in Vancouver in early December to help us in our efforts to appeal the County's decision. The event was a huge success thanks to the lively music from local singer-songwriter Tom May, delicious food provided by Val Alexander, and guest speaker, former County Commissioner and now State Senator Craig Pridemore. A special thank you to the Cornelius Family Foundation for their generous support, Jeanette Steinhauer and Friends of Clark County for their help with preparations, and the Vancouver Fire Fighters Union for sharing their hall with us. Together we raised over \$4,000 to kick off our legal fight against sprawling development and to ensure a proud legacy for future generations in Clark County.

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Furthermore, because compact development has a smaller footprint, it leaves additional land resources available for vital community amenities, such as parks and public spaces.

Building great communities and affordable lifestyles. When people live in mixed-use neighborhoods that are serviced by transit, with diverse shopping options and public amenities nearby, they have the option of not owning a car. These neighborhoods promote strong community development because they treat the streetscape as a public living space, where neighbors can meet for coffee or enjoy walks together.

Maximizing transit investments. With limited dollars available for transit expansions, it is critical to make those investments count! Transit-oriented development maximizes ridership potential by allowing the transit station to be a hub of public activity and providing a diverse stock of housing and jobs within a close walking distance of the station.

Why we need to do something now!

The Seattle region will see many new transit options begin service in the next three years, including the Link light rail line, five bus rapid transit lines, and an expanded Seattle streetcar network. By planning for transit-oriented development now around those future transit stations, we can maximize those investments and build great communities while we are at it! Over a million new residents are expected in the region in the next 20 years, and transit-oriented development lets us accommodate that growth without expanding into rural areas and increasing our greenhouse gas emissions. Futurewise is working on a thoughtful and comprehensive campaign to address local, regional and state policy changes to promote more transit-oriented development in our region!



AT THE CAPITOL

The 2008 legislative session is nearly upon us, and we will be working to advance a legislative agenda that supports good growth management and prevents rollbacks of community protections. This year we are focused on three priority areas—supporting working lands and farmers, reducing global warming pollution through responsible land use, making our cities more livable and sustainable.

**HERE'S A
LITTLE MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT THREE OF
OUR PRIORITIES
IN THE
LEGISLATURE**



Local Solutions to Global Warming

The choices made in today's local land use and zoning plans about where a growing population will live and work and how they will get around have a huge impact on global warming emissions for decades to come. By making good decisions about how our neighborhoods, cities and counties grow we can reduce global warming pollution.

Land use, at its heart, is a local issue and actions to address land use contributions to global warming must be taken at the state and local levels. Luckily Washington has already taken steps to manage growth and development through the adoption of the Growth Management Act (GMA). Local Solutions to Global Warming aims to use our existing land use infrastructure, GMA, to address land use impacts on global warming.

The state's Growth Management Act (GMA) recognizes the state's diversity from urban to rural and east to west – making it a great way to tackle global warming across the state while allowing for differences at the local level. Local governments must have the flexibility and control to determine how to reach the state's goal of reduced climate impact.

The bill adds a goal of reducing climate impacts from land use decisions and identifies global

warming reduction as an important aspect of comprehensive planning. Local Solutions to Global Warming would give directive to local governments to use existing tools—transfer of development rights, compact & transit oriented development, technologies increasing energy efficiency, etc.—to reduce their emissions. GMA planning cities with more than 30,000 people and counties with more than 50,000 people would be required to develop plans to hit climate emission reduction goals through their comprehensive planning, evaluate their current emissions and the impacts of potential future decisions and determine how best to reduce and mitigate those impacts.

The bill would give CTED resources to begin developing a modeling system to provide local governments with the ability to assess current and future carbon footprints. In order for this modeling system to be fully developed and distributed to local governments in time for the next Comprehensive Plan update cycle starting in 2011 (updates happen every seven years for these counties and cities), it's critical that we pass Local Solutions to Global Warming and begin developing these tools now.

Reforming Washington's Vesting Laws

To protect our communities from a legal loophole allowing irresponsible development, we are continuing our work to reform our vesting laws with the help of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). Vesting is when development laws "freeze" in relation to a particular permit to build. Vesting laws are aimed at assuring developers and other land owners a reasonable level of certainty in the rules they will have to abide by when they build. Washington's vesting law says that development laws "freeze" when an application for a development permit is filed, rather than when it's approved or construction starts — meaning that laws can be "frozen" months and even years before a project is approved, let alone built.

While developers and other land owners should be assured a reasonable level of certainty in the rules after investing substantial sums in the development process, Washington's exceptionally liberal vesting rules mean that updated laws developed by local governments, with citizen participation, can be sidestepped. Laws change for a reason, and local

governments are currently hamstrung from applying new and improved laws to permit applications because of Washington's extreme vesting laws.

To that end we should continue to allow projects to vest upon filing of a permit application except for at certain times such as when a local government is in the process of updating a zoning or development law, when an appeal is ongoing, and when the project being considered is a large project on which the public should have an opportunity to meaningfully comment. In these situations, a project would vest at the time of permit issuance rather than at the time the permit application is completed.

This solution strikes a fair balance between certainty and the public's interest by having new and improved laws apply to permits up to the point the permit is granted.

Commitment to the Ruckelshaus Center

Last year with the passage of SSB 5248, we committed to a process to resolve the longstanding issues regarding critical areas ordinances (CAO) on agricultural land.

We're joined at the Ruckelshaus Policy Consensus Center with others in the conservation, agricultural, tribal and governmental communities. The Ruckelshaus Center has already started preliminary fact-finding about a wide variety of agriculture and critical area issues. After the fact-finding is complete, the stakeholders will work together through the Ruckelshaus Center to develop the best path toward reaching our common goals—protecting both Washington's environment and our working farms.

Finding a lasting solution to this longstanding debate is a very worthy goal, and one to which Futurewise is committed.

FUTUREWISE ANNOUNCES URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Futurewise is assembling an Advisory Council to provide guidance to the Urban Development Program. Advisory Council members will represent diverse interests that relate to urban development—including architecture and design, housing and affordability, transit and transportation, planning and development, and conservation and sustainability—so that program campaigns and policy positions can be informed by many varied perspectives. The Council will be co-chaired by Futurewise Board Members Greg Smith and Roberta Lewandowski.

Advisory Council Co-Chair Greg Smith



Greg Smith is Principal of Urban Visions, a Seattle-based firm committed to sustainable development and first-class design to create dense and exhilarating urban communities. A fifth-generation Seattleite, Greg has over 25 years of experience in real estate and development, including extensive work in Seattle's Downtown, South Downtown and Waterfront. Greg lives in downtown Seattle near Pike Place Market where he walks to work.

"Our urban areas should be vibrant, exciting and sustainable. Our Advisory Council will be a resource in creating more opportunities for developing great urban places."

Advisory Council Co-Chair Roberta Lewandowski



Roberta Lewandowski has 30 years of planning experience, including 16 years as Planning Director for the City of Redmond, and 10 years as a planner in growth management and economic development for King County. She worked on the original passage of the Growth Management Act and worked on GMA implementation as President of the Washington State City Planning Directors Association. Currently, Roberta is active in city and regional planning throughout the state.

"A major part of Futurewise's mission is building great communities—places that are walkable, neighborly, accessible. We are looking forward to working with our Advisory Council to help advance such communities throughout the state."



Spotlight on good urban development

The Thornton Place project at Northgate, currently under development, is a great example of infill transit-oriented development. The project converts an underused parking lot to a mixed-use development that includes nearly 400 apartments and condominiums serviced by several bus lines and a possible future light rail station. King County Metro will share a portion of the underground parking with the adjacent cinema – an innovative and efficient way to optimize parking. The project targets LEED Silver Certification, and includes over three acres of restored greenspace along Thornton Creek, creating a green pedestrian corridor that bisects the development and an adjacent senior housing facility. Making the project pencil involved collaboration between the city, county, developer and private investors—demonstrating the importance of public-private partnerships.



Thornton Place incorporates over three acres of restored greenspace including a pedestrian walkway.

By Lorig Associates and Mithun

SENATOR CHRIS MARR LEADING THE WAY ON REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING



When we started working on the details of our **Local Solutions to Global Warming** bill, we knew we needed someone who understood not only the environmental urgency of taking on global warming, but also had the courage and leadership to act now. That's why we are so happy to be working with Senator Chris Marr of the 6th District in Spokane.

Before entering the Senate, Marr worked at Ford Motor Company and founded a chain of automobile dealerships where he helped lead the way for the environmental community's Clean Cars bill in 2005. As a car dealer and businessman, Marr's support for the bill helped to reassure the legislature that passing tougher vehicle emission standards wouldn't hurt Washington businesses or consumers.

In addition to being a successful business person, Senator Marr is a former chair of the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Washington State Transportation Commission (the governing board of the Washington State Department of Transportation). It's because of his diverse leadership experience with the business, transportation and environmental communities that Senator Marr is able to see the bigger picture when it comes to global warming and is a ready to lead the charge.

"The **Local Solutions** bill digs to the root of global warming here in Washington. If we can reduce our dependency on driving by creating more compact and livable communities, we'll make huge strides in significantly reducing our greenhouse gas emissions."

Taking on global warming is more than meeting the challenge of our generation for Senator Marr; it's about a moral obligation to his two children.

"We know what we need to do to confront global warming here in Washington. And we have to do it, even if it's hard, because it's the right thing to do. It's the responsible way to make sure we're proud of the legacy that we'll leave to our children and grandchildren."

And as if the moral imperative were not enough, the impending economic consequences of climate change demand timely action involving all levels of government. Senator Marr said he believes that helping to reduce the impact of global warming on the cost of doing business in the State of Washington is one of the paramount fiduciary responsibilities for policymakers.

Senator Marr is currently the vice chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and is Assistant Floor Leader. He lives in Spokane with his wife of thirty years.

Futurewise is looking forward to continuing our work with Sen. Marr this legislative session and wish to thank him for his leadership.

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more efficient, livable communities. The choices made in local land use and zoning plans about where a growing population will live and work and how they will get around have a huge impact on global warming emissions. Local Solutions to Global Warming would add a goal of reducing climate pollution to the Growth Management Act and identify reducing global warming as an important aspect of comprehensive planning.

We will also work with the coalition to pass the other three Priorities:

Washington Climate Action and Green Jobs

Our State has set goals to reduce global warming pollution, and now we must move forward to meet those goals. The Washington Climate Action bill creates a structure and timeline for implementing the state's global warming pollution reduction goals through responsible limits on all major sources of these emissions in the state. It will allow Washington to capitalize on accelerated investments in clean energy technologies and businesses by establishing a program to prepare Washington workers for good jobs in the clean energy economy.

Evergreen Cities

Healthy urban forests enhance quality of life for people, reduce stormwater runoff, decrease air pollution and provide habitat for birds and wildlife. The Evergreen Cities bill restores, retains and establishes more trees and forests in our communities by creating statewide performance standards for tree retention and urban forest canopy, and requiring local tree ordinances and forest management plans to meet these standards. The bill will also leverage partnerships with volunteers to steward the urban forests and provide funding for cities' and counties' forest plans.

Local Farms - Healthy Kids

This effort will help preserve Washington's farms and get nutritious locally-grown food to the kids and families that need it most. By getting more Washington fresh fruits and vegetables into our schools, institutions and food banks, we can improve children's health and create new and thriving markets for our farmers. The Local Farms – Healthy Kids bill will: ease state food procurement restrictions, establish a "Farm To School" program, and jumpstart efforts to make local produce available to low-income people through schools, food banks and farmers markets.

JOIN US IN OLYMPIA!

We're heading down to Olympia to advocate for action on climate change, better transportation choices, and a cleaner environment. Join us for one or both of these events and learn more about the issues, meet with legislators, attend hearings, and be a professional lobbyist for a day!

We hope you'll join us for a day of good old fashioned politics and take this opportunity to let your elected officials know how you feel. A face-to-face meeting is always the most effective way to influence your legislators.

Priorities for a Healthy Washington Lobby Day

WHEN: Wednesday, January 23, 2008
WHERE: The United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia
Have a question? Want to sign up? Contact Rein Attemann at 206-382-7007 or rattemann@pugetsound.org

Transportation Advocacy Day

WHEN: Tuesday January 29, 2008
WHERE: The United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Avenue SE, Olympia
Have a question? Want to sign up? Contact Shefali Ranganathan at 206.329.2336 or shefali@transportationchoices.org

Spring Into Action!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

ANNUAL AUCTION & DINNER SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008

It's time to gear up for our biggest event of the year, the annual Futurewise Dinner & Auction on **Saturday, May 3rd, 2008**. Guests who enjoyed last year's Cinco De Mayo production will once again be thrilled to hear that we will be revisiting Seattle Center's Fisher Pavilion for our venue, boasting a spacious layout and crisp acoustics.

over \$5000 on sixteen delectable desserts including a Macrina Hazelnut Rum Torte and Green Tea Cheesecake, proving that our bidders have an insatiable sweet tooth.

Volunteers

We are also looking for volunteers to help with set-up, check-in, auction runners, raffle sales, item pick-up, and clean-up. It's a fun way to meet new people and see what goes on behind the scenes. Many shifts are available and all training will be provided. If you are able to give a few hours a week in our downtown office, we could use your help with auction procurement and auction planning. This would be a great stint for a student interested in an internship and intro into fundraising 101.

Event Tickets

Tickets can be reserved by calling (206) 343-0681 ext 119. General admission begins at \$85 and a table for ten is \$850. Additional levels of sponsorship support with preferred seating for ten are also available.



Auction Item Donations

We are currently accepting donations of tangible items, gift certificates and services. If you have tickets to an event, have a vacation home, make art, pottery or offer classes of any nature, we would love to hear from you. Your item will be included in our auction catalog which will be distributed to 400 guests. If you love to bake, the much anticipated dessert frenzy will benefit from your talents. Last year we raised

You can make an item donation, sign up to volunteer or make ticket inquiries by contacting Outreach and Membership Coordinator Chieu Van at chieu@futurewise.org or 206-343-0681 ext 119.



Snohomish County Fall Feast Fundraiser a Huge Success!!!

Thanks to everyone who took a night out of their busy lives to support the work of Snohomish County Futurewise and the Smart Growth program of Pilchuck Audubon Society. With attendance of 85 people, we raised well over \$6200 to support Kristin Kelly, director of these two programs.

We also want to thank all the chefs and restaurants who donated to the evening's success. The night was filled with an array of delicious food from 11 chefs. Chef Martin Misich of The Repp (formerly Sebastians), in the City of Snohomish, won Top Chef for his Grilled Garlic Honey Prawn or Chili Marinated Scallop. Evergreen Cellars in Snohomish did an excellent job of pairing wines with each dish.

To "top" it all off, we heard from some of our elected leaders including State Representative Hans Dunshee, State Senator Steve Hobbs, newly elected County Council member Mike Cooper, Snohomish County City Council member Melody Clemans, newly elected Snohomish City Council member (and host of the event) Karen Guzak, Pilchuck Audubon Society President Mike Blackbird, and Futurewise Board Member Dave Bricklin.

And the winner is...

**CHEF MARTIN
MISICH OF THE
REPP FOR
HIS GRILLED
GARLIC HONEY
PRAWN OR CHILI
MARINATED
SCALLOP**



The other entries included:

Chef Chuck Gibbs, Chuck's Seafood Grotto in Snohomish, Prawns Alla Grotto

Chef Sondra McCutchen, Cabbage Patch in Snohomish, Assorted dessert tarts

Smashed Tomatoes in Everett, Smoked Salmon Caprese and Stuffed Mushrooms

Chef Jerri Quinby, Collector's Choice in Snohomish, Hot Crab and Artichoke Dip

Chef Jim Taranto, Nana Carmella's in Monroe, Signature House Salad

Wendy Valentine, Savory Autumn Harvest Tartlets and Pesto Parmesan Crustinis

Chef Kristy Kelly, Kristy's Cuisine, Mediterranean Shepherd's Pie With Marinated Green Beans

Chef Gyda Harris, Sisters of Snohomish, Shredded Beef Taco Bites with Verdes Salsa

Chefs Joy Kelly and Marcie Lovelett, Marinated Grilled Chicken Skewers with Dipping Sauces

Chef Jan Nelson, Sweet and Tangy Broccoli Salad

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Futurewise is looking for a few good volunteers! We have many opportunities available and will work to match your interests with our needs. Right now we are seeking a committed volunteer to assist with our auction. Ideally, candidates will be available on a consistent basis through May 3, 2008. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Chieu Van, Membership & Outreach Coordinator at Chieu@futurewise.org or 206-343-0681x119.



"Volunteering at Futurewise is really fun. You get to meet new people and it feels good to be helping such a great organization", said volunteer David Hirsh.

Help create a better future

**OTHER
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES
AT
FUTUREWISE**

Auction Intern

General Office Support

Cooperating Attorneys

Event Support

Grassroots Organizing

Data Entry

for Washington!

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