

framework for the future



2016

future
wise

OUR VISION

We all want to live in a great community – one where people have access to jobs, housing and effective transportation; a place where people are healthy with clean air and water, safe streets and plenty of green spaces; a community where our unique places, cultural traditions, and critical natural resources are preserved and leveraged to ensure a better quality of life for everyone.

Futurewise is here to make that vision a reality. Through data analysis and research, Futurewise helps governments, businesses, non-profits, community organizations, and social service agencies identify and solve their communities' toughest challenges. We listen and learn from the people who are most impacted by planning and policy decisions. We work with communities to develop and advocate for plans, policies and investments that create long-term impacts and achieve healthier outcomes. And we convene the right partners to make things happen and create real change.

OUR GOALS

Over the next twenty years, our state will face an over 25% increase in population. This growth will place more pressure on limited land, strain our shorelines, rivers and streams, exacerbate economic, health and equity challenges, and increase impacts of climate change. If we approach this growth collaboratively and with foresight, our environment, our economy and our communities will thrive.

At Futurewise, we are keeping our eye on a long-term agenda of creating sustainable, equitable communities and protecting our state's most critical natural resources. We don't underestimate the work ahead, nor are we intimidated by how long it will take or how difficult it will be to accomplish. We will continue to work in every corner of the state to:

- 1. Concentrate Growth in Existing Cities**
- 2. Create Great Cities with Access to Housing, Transit, Jobs and Basic Services**
- 3. Make it Easier for People To Get To Where They Need To Go**
- 4. Ensure Clean Healthy Water and Protect Critical Fish and Wildlife Habitat**
- 5. Protect Working Farms and Forests**
- 6. Encourage Economic Development**

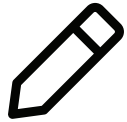
HOW WE WORK



We bring information and people together to ask and answer big questions and find solutions to the tough problems our communities face.



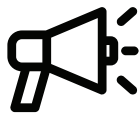
We engage people on the challenges and opportunities in their community to build the capacity and commitment for healthier communities.



We leverage partners to design and plan communities to achieve better outcomes.



We develop policies that when implemented will create healthier more equitable and sustainable communities.



We push for policy and project strategies that will create a better future for communities.



When the stakes are too high, we will protect the health and environmental well-being of our communities.

GREAT COMMUNITIES

Creating Healthier and More Equitable Communities

For 25 years, communities have developed localized, state-required plans to address housing, transportation, and economic development and protect natural resource lands. These plans set forth a framework for where jobs and housing should go to reduce traffic congestion, prevent sprawl, and protect critical natural resources.

Turning that vision into reality requires that we engage communities in planning, zoning and projects. Over the last two years, Futurewise has been helping shape King, Pierce and Snohomish counties' plans and the cities within to improve health, equity and access. Our recent Health and Equity Report for Seattle and our work with Seattle last year on the first ever Equity Analysis will lead the way for other communities. Our upcoming Climate Equity Atlas will take our previous work a step further with an examination of the local impacts of climate change and community resilience.

50 Ways to Make Seattle More Affordable

The economic boom for Seattle is positive but it also poses serious challenges in terms of housing new residents and our region's most vulnerable. We need housing for all the people that make up our city. Working with a coalition of partners, we have moved towards solutions that get at a more economically strong and socially equitable city. Our 2015 Affordable Housing Strategy Report included over 50 recommendations to make Seattle more affordable, most of which were adopted in the City's Housing and Livability Agenda strategy. We are now working to pass key legislation, including increasing funding for the Housing Trust Fund to securing a Preservation Tax Exemption and Real Estate Excise Tax legislation for affordable housing.

**Our Goal:
Create Great
Communities
with Housing,
Transit, Jobs
and Essential
Services**





Shaping Great Neighborhoods:

Over the next 20 years, a quarter of a million more people will call Seattle home. The neighborhoods around downtown will receive much of this growth. As part of the Yesler Community Collaborative, Futurewise is working in First Hill, Yesler, Little Saigon, International District, and Pioneer Square to protect what makes them great, from affordable housing and small businesses to arts and cultural facilities, while ensuring more public spaces and environmental investments. We're helping shape a plan for these neighborhoods to ensure that new transit and increased density provide a strong foundation for these neighborhoods and make them a model in environmental, economic, and social well-being.

TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL

Shaping Communities Near Transit

One of the best places to concentrate population growth is around major transit hubs. With the expansion of Sound Transit, street cars, and bus rapid transit in the Puget Sound Region, we see incredible potential. Housing, businesses and public spaces designed and built around these hubs create great places to live and work. Over the last five years, Futurewise has worked throughout King and Snohomish counties in cities like Seattle, Kent, Bellevue, Shoreline, and Everett to focus smart development around transit hubs. Looking forward, we will be working with Sound Transit and communities with transit hubs to adopt stronger, more effective transit-oriented development policies, which will result in increased density, affordable housing and ridership.



A Regional Transit Network Takes Shape

The Puget Sound Region is on the move with the build out of ST 2 LINK Light Rail well underway. As we celebrate the track that has been laid, we are focused on the expansion of light rail that will truly connect the Puget Sound region. In 2015, we helped secure authorization for ST3 to go to voters, and we helped develop and pass legislation that enables more affordable housing to be built near light rail stations, making it easier for people with limited resources to get to where they need to go. Now, we are hard at work with our partners to secure passage of Sound Transit 3 in 2016.

Our Goal: Make It Easier for People to Get to Where They Need to Go

The background image shows a cyclist in a blue jacket and orange helmet riding away from the camera on a bridge. In the background, there are cars and a yellow bus with "Hybrid-Electric" written on its side. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter.

Investing in Washington State's Transportation

For far too long, there hasn't been reliable and adequate funding to maintain existing infrastructure, with little investment in transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. In 2015, Futurewise worked tirelessly in Olympia and helped lead the adoption of Washington's largest ever transportation package, which provides critical funding to fix failing infrastructure and expand the range of transportation choices statewide. We're now working to secure a more sustainable long-term financing source for to keep Washington on the move.

FARMS and FORESTS

Ensuring the Foundation of a Strong Agricultural Industry

The agricultural industry is one of our state's leading industries. Protecting prime agricultural land is not only critical to our economy but also to ensuring local food sources. With our state's population growing rapidly and with climate change presenting a very real threat to our nation's food sources, it is critical we protect our state's farmlands and farm economy. Through Futurewise's work in 2015, we protected over 19,000 acres of prime agricultural lands, maintaining and enhancing the long-term health and economy of Washington State.

Strengthening Spokane's Regional Food System

Spokane County's food system supports our working farms, employs hundreds of thousands of people, feeds our local communities and helps reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We are working in Spokane to develop a Regional Food System Plan that will strengthen the agricultural economy, preserve farmlands, and increase the consumption of healthy local foods.

Making Smart Choices in the Methow Valley

Nestled in the foothills of the North Cascade mountain range and along the Columbia River, the Methow Valley is one of our most beautiful, treasured places. From farmlands, forests, mountains and rivers, the Methow Valley reminds us of what we all love most about the Northwest. For the last two summers, the Methow Valley has been hit hard with wildfires and droughts. Working with the community, Futurewise prevented the loss of thousands of acres of farmlands, protected already strained water resources, and reduced the damage to lives and property from future wildfires.

**Our Goal:
Protect
Working
Farms and
Forests**





Growing Our Local Food Economy

Pierce County's rapidly growing population is farming's friend and foe. At the landscape level, its climate and soil present ideal conditions for successful agriculture, and its proximity to urban centers present ideal conditions for boosting local food sales. Its location near rapidly growing urban centers also present its greatest threat. To achieve a balance, Futurewise, the County and other local partners are developing a comprehensive suite of strategies that will prevent urban sprawl, prevent the fragmentation of agricultural lands, and grow the agricultural economy in Pierce County.

WATER, FISH and WILDLIFE HABITAT

Managing Stormwater, Stormwater, Everywhere

Pollutant loads and excessive flows associated with stormwater cause harm to fish and their habitat in local creeks, rivers, lakes and Puget Sound itself. We are working with communities around the state to increase implementation of green infrastructure or other approaches. In 2016, Futurewise launched its Green Stormwater Infrastructure Lay of the Land Report, which included a suite of recommendations for helping local governments implement green infrastructure and other techniques for managing stormwater runoff and flows.

Protecting the Engine of the Economy and Ecology

The Pacific Ocean is critical to the health and well-being of our state and our Washington coastal communities who depend on it. For two years, Futurewise has been working with coastal communities as they develop plans that will ensure the long-term health of their marine ecosystem and the rivers that flow into it. Our work to protect and restore our coastal and marine habitats to health will create huge benefits for producing seafood, supporting coastal economies and cultures, and making the coastal ecosystem more resilient and adaptable to climate change.

Reducing Dripping and Driving

Each year, millions of pounds of oil and petroleum-related pollution enters the Puget Sound, representing more than half of the toxic pollution entering the Sound and one of the greatest single threats to its health. Since 2013, Futurewise along with King and Pierce Counties, Department of Ecology, and other community partners has been running an award-winning “Don’t Drip and Drive” campaign. Through the project, thousands of vehicle-owners have fixed their vehicle leaks, reducing the amount of oil and other petroleum-related products that pollute our Sound and other water bodies.



**Our Goal:
Ensure Clean
Healthy Water
and Protect
Critical Fish
and Wildlife
Habitat**

The background of the page is a photograph of a beach. In the foreground, there are large, weathered pieces of driftwood on a pebbly shore. The water is visible in the middle ground, and a forested hill is in the background under a blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Tearing Down The Bulkheads

The Puget Sound's shorelines are among the most valuable, fragile, and dynamic of our natural resources and provide habitat for herring, surf smelt, salmon, and many other species. Bulkheads and other hardened structures along the water stop the natural processes of the shoreline. Futurewise has launched a new "Shore Friendly" project with the Kitsap County, WSU Extension and Washington Sea Grant to promote voluntary removal of bulkheads by waterfront homeowners where erosion risks are low. The innovative project provides education, incentives, and technical tools to homeowners to help remove unnecessary bulkheads or install soft-shore protection.

GET INVOLVED



donate

Your contribution provides the resources that make smart, dynamic, and cutting-edge work possible for stronger communities



give monthly

Consistent support means that we can plan ahead and be ready to implement the right solutions as new challenges arise



benefactor program

Lead the movement for livability and sustainability with an annual commitment of \$1,000 or more to support our vital work



other ways to give

Stock gifts, workplace giving, planned giving and volunteer support all make an impact. For details, contact caitlyn@futurewise.org.

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