

For Immediate Release

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Washington State Legislature Passes HB 1181 to add Climate Planning to the Growth Management Act

Olympia, WA -- The Washington State Legislature has passed [HB 1181](#), a bill that integrates planning for climate change with planning for housing, transportation, and environmental justice.

First introduced in 2020, HB was sponsored by Rep. Davina Duerr in the House and Sen. Liz Lovelett in the Senate, and was request legislation for Governor Inslee in 2023.

“I introduced this bill three years ago because I believe that this legislation addresses the biggest challenges facing Washington communities: climate, housing and equity. HB 1181 will set our state on a path for an equitable, housed, and climate-resilient future.” – Prime sponsor Rep. Davina Duerr (D-1)

“HB 1181 is essential legislation for the resiliency and vibrancy of communities across the state. From wildfires to sea level rise, we must ensure that our cities and counties are planning for the impacts of climate change while addressing critical housing and transportation needs. This policy will help to undo historic harms while creating the blueprint for the livable, walkable neighborhoods Washingtonians need and deserve.” – Senate sponsor Sen. Liz Lovelett (D-40)

“Smart land use policy is one of our most powerful tools to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and protect communities from negative climate impacts like sea level rise. HB 1181 sets our communities up for success for decades to come.” — Co-sponsor Joe Fitzgibbon (D-34)

“One of the most important ways to protect communities from the impacts of climate change and to reduce overall emissions is to plan for it. Fully addressing climate change will require intentional and cooperative action at all levels of government. I’m appreciative of all the work done this session by our champions in the Legislature and our partners to get this bill to my desk. I look forward to signing it.” – Governor Jay Inslee

HB 1181 will:

- Ensure that Washington’s 8 largest counties are planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles miles traveled, which will be achieved, in part, through promoting new housing development in our communities served by transit.
- Ensure that all Washington communities are planning for climate hazards (like wildfires, drought, and sea-level rise) and ensuring community resiliency, especially among our most vulnerable populations.

- Embed a definition of environmental justice into the Growth Management Act

HB 1181 was supported by a broad coalition led by Futurewise that included housing advocates, environmental justice groups, labor unions, local governments, state agencies, tribal governments, and climate resiliency advocates. HB 1181 is the largest update to Washington's growth management framework in the 30+ years since the GMA was originally written.

“Futurewise has been the steward of the Growth Management Act for over 30 years and we’re thrilled to have partnered with our state climate leaders to update the GMA for the next generation. HB 1181 is forward-thinking legislation that ensures that we’re designing our communities for a climate-resilient, affordable and equitable future.” – Futurewise Executive Director Alex Brennan

HB 1181 now heads to Governor Inslee’s desk for signature.

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