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Budget Proviso for Climate Planning Joins Clean Fuels Standard, Cap & Trade as Washington Leads Nation in Climate Legislation

OLYMPIA – 2021 was a big year for climate legislation in Washington, as a budget proviso to lay the groundwork for climate planning in comprehensive plan updates, joins passage of the clean fuels standard and cap and trade in landmark climate legislation.

Environmental advocates hoped to add a climate element to the Growth Management Act through HB 1099, sponsored by Representative Davina Duerr (D-Bothell). HB 1099 would require Washington’s eight largest counties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and will ensure that all communities in the state are planning to mitigate hazards from climate change, like droughts, wildfires or sea level rise.

Although HB 1099 didn’t pass both houses this session (passing out of the House and passing through the Senate Local Government and Ways & Means committees, before dying in the Senate Transportation committee), a budget proviso included and funded in the final budget will ensure that the Department of Commerce will prepare to create the program to implement HB 1099 in 2021, laying the groundwork to pass the bill first thing in the 2022 session.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is clear that we have less than a decade to act on climate change to avoid catastrophic damage to communities and our environment. In 2021, four of Washington’s largest counties – King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap – will start their next comprehensive planning cycle, which locks in growth strategies for the next decade. The included budget proviso will lay the groundwork to ensure that these comprehensive plans will account for climate change, and most importantly, have strategies in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, the largest sector contributing to greenhouse gas emissions in Washington state.

Advocacy for HB 1099 was led by Futurewise, joined in a coalition of more than 70 partner organizations.

Alex Brennan, [Futurewise](https://www.futurewise.org/) Executive Director: Mr. Brennan can speak to Growth Management Act legislation and impacts for local city and county comprehensive plans. alex@futurewise.org 425-268-3803

Davina Duerr, bill sponsor, HB 1099: Rep. Duerr can speak to the specifics of the legislation. Davina.Duerr@wa.leg.gov 425-219-7945

Dr. Sarah Myhre, climate scientist, Rowan Institute Executive Director: Ms. Myhre can speak to climate science and the intersection of land use and climate change. sarahmyhre@gmail.com 808-381-9177

Paulo Nunes-Ueno, Front & Centered Transportation and Land-Use Policy Lead: Mr. Nunes-Ueno can speak to the racial equity and environmental justice impacts of land use policy. paulo@nunes-ueno.com
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