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Futurewise 2024 Impact Report

To all our Futurewise supporters, partners, volunteers and donors,

As 2024 comes to a close and we enter a period of big decisions and uncertainty in 2025, the work of Futurewise has never been more essential. The country is looking for models for how to build a more affordable and inclusive economy, tackle climate change, and restore faith in our ability to work across differences to solve shared problems. Washington State has an opportunity to be a leader and model on all these fronts. This year's impact report shows important role that Futurewise plays in these efforts.



We are building an economy that works for everyone, including those most struggling to get by. Housing and transportation are the two biggest household expenses. Futurewise is leading coalitions in Bellevue, Seattle, Spokane, and in the state legislature to reduce the cost of housing. We are ensuring that housing can be built close to jobs to maximize economic opportunity and in places that require less driving and less infrastructure to reduce transportation costs and lower taxes. We are also incorporating affordability, equitable development, and anti-displacement strategies into all our advocacy so that everyone benefits.

We are building climate resilient communities. The same policies that reduce housing, transportation, and infrastructure costs also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Over the last two decades, Washington State has led the nation in reducing vehicle miles traveled. We are building on that success with more mixed use, walkable neighborhoods, connected by transit. These same growth patterns help reduce energy use in buildings, and protect wetlands, forests, and farms that naturally sequester carbon. Through legal victories across the state, including a major State Supreme Court win, we are further helping protect these rural lands and preventing the development of new auto-dependent sprawl that locks people into using fossil fuels.

We are building places that connect people across differences. For too long, land use policies have been used to segregate and exclude by race and class. The more we live separately, and the more working-class people and people of color are denied access to communities of opportunity, the less we understand and empathize with what others need. Through the implementation of missing middle housing requirements and affirmatively furthering fair housing in comprehensive plans, Futurewise is breaking down these barriers and intentionally cultivating integrated neighborhoods. We are also entering partnerships to be more accountable to local communities, from Tribal governments on the Olympic Peninsula, to Latino community-based organizations in Casino Road in Everett, to rural activists in Ferry County.

I am inspired every day by our amazing staff, board, partners and supporters across the state. I hope that reading this report on our collective impacts in 2024 can also be inspiring to you. I don't know everything that 2025 will bring, but I know that we will rise to the challenge together.

Alex Brennan
Executive Director



Main Street in Downtown Spokane

2024 Legislative Agenda: Connecting Communities

We're continuing to build our power in Olympia, advocating for legislation that promotes vibrant, connected communities whether you live in the city, the suburbs or a rural town.

By the Numbers:

- 13,562 emails sent
- 6,000+ sign ins to bill hearings
- 1,100 volunteers activated
- 30 in-person lobbying meetings



Futurewise supporters at Lobby Day 2024

Advancing Transit-Oriented Development

Transit-oriented development (TOD) is a critical climate and housing intervention to make sure that people can get to where they need to be – whether that's a job, a childcare center, or the grocery store – without relying on a private vehicle. In 2024, our TOD bill HB 2160 fell *just* short of the finish line. We'll be back in 2025 to finish the job!

Journey of HB 2160:

House Housing → House Budget → House Rules → House Floor
Senate Local Gov't → Senate Ways & Means → ~~Senate Floor~~

Protecting Water in Rural Communities

Rural communities across Washington are facing the twin challenges of rising housing costs and limited water availability.

In 2024, Futurewise worked with legislators and rural constituents to defeat legislation that could have doubled population growth in rural areas already facing dwindling water supplies. In 2025, we'll be working with those same legislators to promote housing solutions for rural communities that meet our housing needs without jeopardizing water, fish and wildlife.

Continued Collaboration with Legislative Leaders

Each year in the legislature, Futurewise works on several marquee bills that make big policy changes. But critically, we continue our work with our legislative champions year after year to update legislation based on feedback from community members, local government, and state agencies. Here's a few examples of those bills from 2024:

- **HB 2071:** Updating the State Building Code for green building standards (sponsored by Rep. Davina Duerr)
- **HB 2321:** Modifying middle housing requirements (sponsored by Rep. Jessica Bateman)

2024 Legal Wins

Protecting Farms, Water and Habitat in Okanogan County:

Futurewise continues our multi-year effort in Okanogan County, where the County has repeatedly attempted to delay and dismiss our appeal of the comprehensive plan. This year, Futurewise secured a victory this year before Okanogan County Superior Court in determining standing to bring our appeal.

Local Partner: Methow Valley Citizens Council

Preserving Farmland in Ferry County: After more than a decade of appeals, Futurewise was successful in ensuring that Ferry County properly designated nearly 90,000 of agricultural lands, protecting farms from sprawl and development.

Local Partner: Concerned Friends of Ferry County

Balancing Renewable Energy with Farmland Conservation:

Futurewise advocated for new ordinance in King County allowing battery energy storage systems in most county zones to store renewable emergency while protecting King County's scarce farmland.

As a former Growth Management Hearings Board member, I always knew that Futurewise's appeals would be well-written and clearly argued. Futurewise has a long-track record of successfully winning cases. For decades, Futurewise has helped neighbors and citizen groups defend and strengthen Washington's Growth Management Act. Our state would look far different than it does today if it had not been for Futurewise's excellent legal and advocacy work on behalf of Washingtonians.

Nina Carter

Director, Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office (retired)
Board Member, Growth Management Hearings Board (retired)



King County farm at the foothill of Mt. Si

Victory at the Washington State Supreme Court!

In our first case before the Washington State Supreme Court since 2017, Futurewise secured a landmark victory protecting farmland from speculation and development!

The Washington State Supreme Court ruled in September 2024 that King County's Adult Beverage Ordinance violated the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the Growth Management Act (GMA). This ruling upholds farmland and rural area protection in King County and sets precedent for future preservation statewide.

Futurewise partnered with Friends of Sammamish Valley on the appeal. This year's victory will support farm incubators like 21 Acres, Viva Farms, and the Black Farmers Collective in training and resourcing the next generation of farmers, and reaffirms Futurewise as a leading legal voice in protecting farmland and rural areas from development.

Tribal Engagement on the Olympic Peninsula

Futurewise's Port Angeles office is working with local tribes on fish habitat restoration, comprehensive plan engagement, and the planning and implementation of a week-long community watershed event.

For the past five years, Futurewise has collaborated with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the City of Port Angeles, and the broader community to develop a vision for daylighting Lower Valley Creek and creating a trail system up into Olympic National Park. This creek that flows under the streets of downtown Port Angeles, once supported abundant runs of treaty protected salmon that can no longer access important upstream habitat due to barrier culverts. In 2024, we released the [GreenLink Port Angeles Master Plan for Valley Creek](#), a blueprint for restoration that outlines a multi-benefit project to restore fish passage and habitat and provide green stormwater infrastructure that increases community resilience to climate change and access to greenspace while helping stimulate economic revitalization.

In 2024, Futurewise received a grant from the Washington Department of Commerce to support tribal participation in the Clallam and Jefferson County comprehensive plan updates to be adopted in 2025. In addition to working with tribal leadership and staff to ensure their perspectives and concerns are considered and incorporated throughout the process, Futurewise will be conducting outreach to gather community feedback and public comments on comprehensive planning.

Equitable Development in Everett

We're working with Connect Casino Road to fight displacement of communities of color in Everett's Casino Road neighborhood. Futurewise provides critical technical assistance to ensure that community members have their voices heard in the planning process.

We began our partnership in an effort to promote equitable transit-oriented development alongside the Everett Link Light Rail Extension and are continuing our work together on the upcoming comprehensive plan update.

Futurewise's support was critical for our young organization without experience in displacement prevention, advocacy and strategic engagement with elected officials and key stakeholders. Together we amplified the voices of the most ethnically-diverse, marginalized and economically-disadvantaged communities in South Everett. The positive outcomes achieved through our partnership would not have been possible without their guidance and advice.

Alvaro Guillen
Connect Casino Road



Community members at a comprehensive plan listening session in Everett

Stronger Together

Across Washington state, Futurewise excels in building powerful coalitions of unlikely allies. Futurewise provides the backbone staffing, facilitation, and technical support for these coalitions to succeed. With our partners, we're successfully advocating for housing abundance and affordability in Washington's largest cities.

Seattle: Complete Communities Coalition

In spring 2024, the City of Seattle released a draft of the comprehensive plan update that fell short of what Seattle needs to thrive in the coming decades. Futurewise and the Complete Communities Coalition organized over 60 businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations to sign a letter to the mayor asking for a more ambitious update. In October, the City released an updated draft that took steps toward addressing community concerns; the CCC will continue our advocacy in 2025.

Bellevue: Eastside Housing Roundtable

Since 2021, Futurewise has convened the Eastside Housing Roundtable, a coalition of major employers, nonprofit housing providers and community organizations in East King County. In response to advocacy from the EHR, the City of Bellevue increased the housing capacity in their preferred growth strategy from 27,000 to 92,000 new homes.

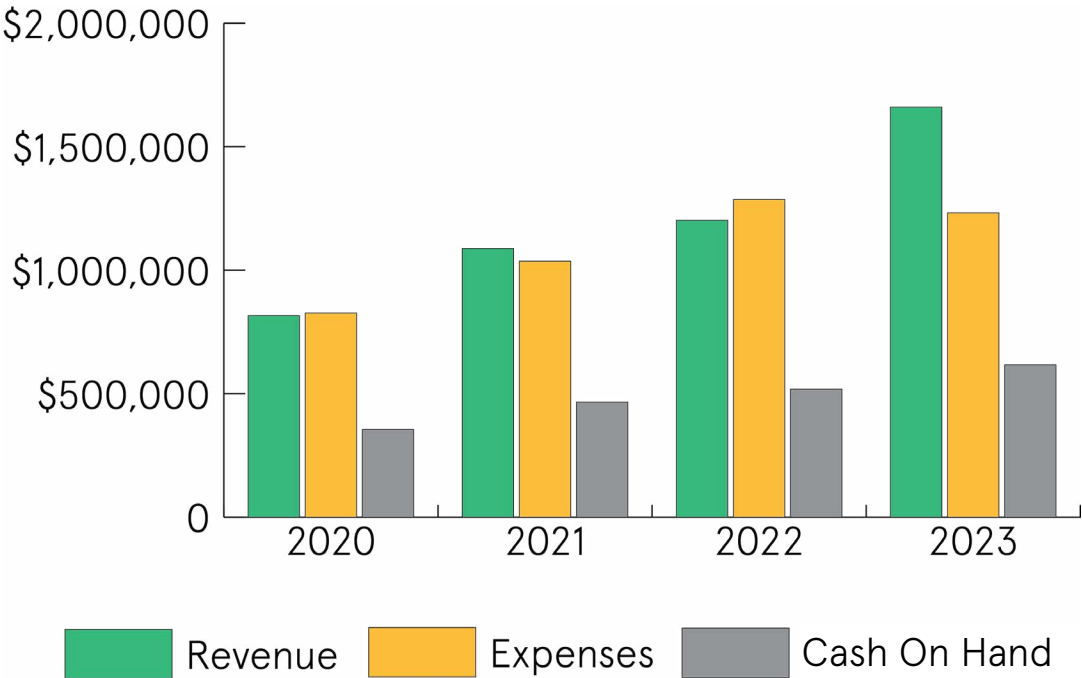
Spokane: Shaping Spokane Together

In Spokane, Futurewise leads a coalition of nonprofit partners with a shared commitment to improving housing affordability in the Lilac City. Futurewise is leading the effort to adopt housing abundance policies like the missing middle housing ordinance as well other housing affordability measures, like increasing the availability of accessible units and investing in proactive rental assistance to keep people in their homes.

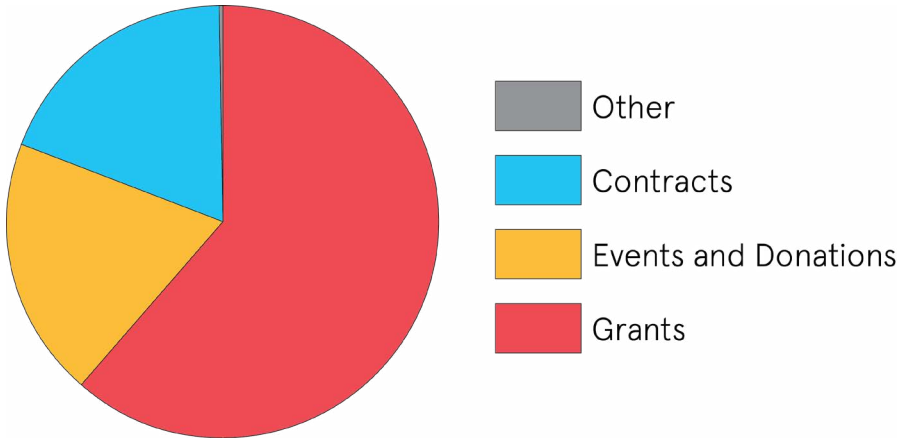


Futurewise supporters join a walking tour in West Seattle to explore the impact of the comprehensive plan update in their neighborhood

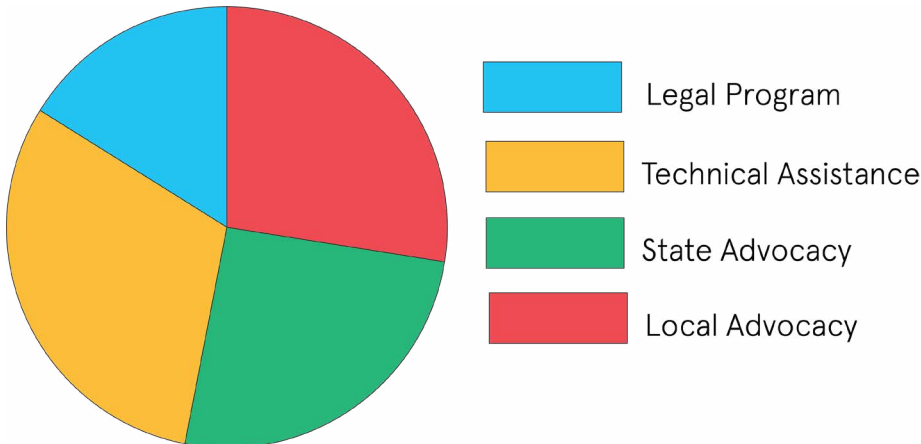
2023 Audited Financials



2023 Revenue Sources by Category



2023 Expenses by Category



Futurewise Board

- Maricela Sanchez (2018), PRESIDENT** | Kadlec Regional Medical Center Prosser, WA
- Angela Compton (2020), VICE-PRESIDENT and TREASURER** | King County | Seattle, WA
- Janae Huber (2021), SECRETARY** | WA Arts Commission | Olympia, WA
- Andrew Grant Houston (2020), LEGISLATIVE CMTY CHAIR** | House Cosmopolitan | Seattle, WA
- Mark Wainwright (2022), EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CMTY CHAIR** | Wainwright Insight | Seattle, WA
- Anthony Gill (2023), LEGAL CMTY CHAIR** | City of Bellevue | Spokane/Seattle, WA
- Alex Shannon (2023)** | WSP | Seattle, WA
- Charmi Ajmera (2024)** | WA Dept of Public Health | Seattle, WA
- Ginger Wireman (2018)** | WA Department of Ecology | Richland, WA
- Randy Lewis (2024)** | City of Tacoma (retired) | Tacoma, WA
- Rian Watt (2022)** | Economic Opportunity Institute | Seattle, WA
- Ron Davis (2022)** | Consultant | Seattle, WA
- Sarah Myhre (2019)** | Glaser Progress Foundation | Seattle, WA
- Tianna Martinez (2024)** | WA Dept of Social and Health Services | Orting, WA
- Veronika Meiers (2024)** | Strategy Northwest | Dayton, WA

Futurewise Staff

- Alex Brennan**, Executive Director
- Kate Brunette Kreuzer**, Director of External Affairs
- Marcella Buser**, State Organizer
- Brooke Frickelton**, Deputy Legal Director
- Michelle Pappas**, Spokane Program Manager
- Jazmine Smith**, Director of Local Advocacy
- Susannah Spock**, Water, Fish & Wildlife Program Manager
- Tim Trohimovich**, Director of Planning & Law



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