

# How Local Entities are Adapting to Climate Change

A few examples of how local governments around the Puget Sound region have begun to integrate climate change information into their plans, regulations, and projects.



## HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

- > **Snohomish County** has developed a qualitative assessment of climate change impacts on natural hazard risks. This serves as a basis for evaluating how risk will change in the future, and will ultimately be used to inform emergency management planning.

## SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- > **The City of Bellingham's flood management policy** advises the City to use sea level rise data as a guide for shoreline development.
- > **The City of Olympia's shoreline development policy** advises the City to address the impacts of sea level rise as it plans for the rebuild of Percival Landing and other shoreline improvements, and to develop minimum flood protection strategies.
- > **Port Angeles' Geologically Hazardous Areas Regulation** requires development adjacent to marine bluffs submit a geotechnical report that evaluates erosion rates over at least 75 years and includes consideration of sea level rise and future storm events.

## REGULATIONS

- > **King County's Critical Area Ordinance** requires the City to provide notice to developers within shoreline jurisdictions of sea level rise impacts and recommend that the applicant voluntarily consider setting the development further back than is legally mandated.
- > **The City of Ocean Shores' zoning** has put a moratorium on new development or redevelopment in some areas due to continuing pattern of beach erosion.
- > **Jefferson County's seawater intrusion protection zones** requires that building permit applicants in high risk zones conduct a hydrogeologic assessment to demonstrate that their water use will not degrade water quality in the aquifer.
- > **The City of Olympia's Sea Level Rise Flood Damage Reduction Municipal Code** requires all new construction to be floodproofed to an elevation of at least 16 feet. Locating electrical, heating, plumbing and other equipment below the 16 feet elevation is not allowed.

## PROJECT DESIGN

- > **The Washington Department of Transportation** conducted a pilot study to assess how flood studies could inform transportation asset management. This study is an example of the Federal Highway Administration's policy to integrate climate and extreme weather risks into its planning, operations, and programs.
- > **The City of Anacortes's new water treatment plant** design seeks to protect against higher risk of flooding by raising all critical electrical equipment out of the 100 year floodplain, floodproofing below 40 foot elevation, and designing ring dikes for flood protection.

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