

*Land Use & Climate Change Advisory Committee*

## Potential Recommendation: New or Amended Growth Management Act Goal

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Encouraging more focused compact development in urban growth areas will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, a reduction in per capita vehicle miles traveled, help to reduce our state's dependence on foreign oil, and help to conserve resource lands.

**Idea:**

A new or amended goal could be added to the GMA in RCW 36.70A.020. All goals must be addressed by local governments fully planning under the GMA, however a new or amended goal would not require a new element be added to comprehensive plans and would not identify *how* the local government would address the goal.

**Intent of the Idea:**

A new or amended goal would provide notification to local governments and the public that comprehensive plans must provide consideration of climate change issues.

**Intended Outcome/Purpose:**

It would likely result in land use designations and development tools that would encourage compact development inside urban growth areas and greater protection of resource lands (such as forest and agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance) and rural areas.

**Draft Language:**

Including climate change specifically in the goals of the GMA could take the form of a new or amended goal. Suggested language for the Land Use and Climate Change Advisory Committee to consider is as follows:

New Goal: RCW 36.70A.020 (14) could be added.

Climate Change. Encourage the development of land use and transportation patterns that will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Amended Goal: RCW 36.70A.020 (10) could be amended as follows:

Environment. Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, the availability of water, and encourage the development of land use and transportation patterns that will result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Or add a new sentence at the end of the existing goal that states: Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases consistent with state greenhouse gas limits and adapt to the likely affects of climate change.