

Terminology and Acronyms

A full glossary of terms can be found in the appendix.

Legal Terms

Growth Management Act (GMA) – The Growth Management Act is the State’s governing land use law. This act requires Counties to develop comprehensive plans to manage future population growth, along with many other statutes that regulate the County’s land use practices.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) – The Washington Administrative Code is a set of regulations associated with the State’s land use law in the GMA. These regulations are codified and administered by the State Legislature and provide additional information or context to the laws found in the GMA.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) – The States compilation of all permanent laws now in force.

Urban Growth Area (UGA) – These are areas designated for future urban growth. UGAs are regulated by State under the GMA.

Limited Area of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRD) – These are designated rural areas outside of cities and urban growth areas that characteristically have higher density and development than surrounding rural areas. There are three types of LAMIRDs recognized under the GMA and WAC with unique purposes and regulations.

Natural Resource Lands (NRL) – Referred to in this document as resource lands. These are areas designated for future forest, agriculture or mineral activities to support the State of Washington’s

strong natural resource industry. These are projected and regulated under by the State under the GMA.

Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) - A written policy statement or statements used solely for establishing a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted pursuant to this chapter. This framework shall ensure that city and county comprehensive plans are consistent as required in RCW 36.70A.100¹.

Comprehensive Plan Terms

Vision: Identifies the most important features or aspects of Lewis County that should be continued and improved within the next 10-20 years. The vision is meant to uphold a collective vision of the community to enhance residents and visitors’ quality of life.

Framework: Explains the methodology, approach, or intention of Lewis County when developing the 2025 goals and policies for each element.

Element: Discusses a different feature of the community and establishes goals and policies in that specific area. Although all the elements are required by state law to be consistent with each other and work together to support the future of Lewis County.

Existing Conditions: Relevant data used to inform the goals and policies in the element.

Goals and Policies: Future desired states to be achieved and the necessary actions or steps to achieve them.

¹ Revised Code of Washington, 36.70A.210 Countywide planning policies.
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.70A.210>

Development Regulations: Land use goals and policies will be implemented through the County’s accompanying development regulations. This is Title 17 Land Use and Development Regulations of the Lewis County Code. It is required that development regulations be updated with the Comprehensive Plan to be consisted with new and revised policies.

Implementation: Refers to the important milestones, projects, or actions to help Lewis County achieve the goals in each element. Identifies when potential policies or actions might occur and who is responsible.

Relevant Documents, Studies, and Plans

2024 Packwood Subarea Plan
2021 Shoreline Master Program
2023 Public Safety Radio System Engineering Study Report
2025 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan
2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan
2024 Economic Development Strategic Plan
2024-29 Transportation Improvement Plan
2023 Countywide Planning Policies

Map List

Map 1. Land Use Designations
Map 2. Critical Areas
Map 3. Transportation Network

Appendices

Land Capacity Analysis
Housing Needs Assessment
Community Engagement Summary Reports
Community Engagement Plan
Climate Memo A. County Assets and Evaluation
Climate Memo B. Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
Reconciled Population and Housing Allocation Recommendation
Population and Housing Allocations

Statewide and Regional Planning

It is required in the GMA that the Comprehensive Plan of each County and City shall be coordinated with and consistent with adjacent comprehensive plans².

Countywide Planning Policies

Countywide planning policies are policies used solely for establishing a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted³. The 2023 Countywide Planning Policies were reviewed prior to the development of this document to ensure consistency between the documents. The most recent version of Countywide Planning Policies can be found on the Lewis County website on the [adopted plans page](#).

Planned Growth Committee

The Planned Growth Committee (PGC) is made up of the Mayor, or their designee, from each city in Lewis County and the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. The PGC makes recommendations on population and housing allocations to the Lewis County Planning Commission before the Board of County Commissioners adopts the final numbers. This group is another method for continued coordination between cities and Lewis County during the planning period and the Periodic Update. Visit the [Lewis County's Boards and Commissions webpage](#) to see details about the Planned Growth Committee.

Statewide Planning

It is Lewis County's intent to uphold the statewide planning goals identified in the Growth Management Act⁴ through the Comprehensive Plan, as required by state law. There are fifteen unique planning goals identified to assist with the development of adoption of all comprehensive plans visit the revised code of Washington online to see the most recently adopted planning goals.

² Revised Code of Washington, 36.70A.100 Comprehensive Plans – Must be coordinated., 2024, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.70A.100>

³ Revised Code of Washington, 36.70A.210 Countywide planning policies., 2024, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.70A.210>

⁴ Revised code of Washington, 36.70A.020 Planning Goals., 2024, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.70A.020>

Climate and Resiliency

Context

As of 2025, the Climate and Resiliency Element is the first ever in the history of Lewis County to be included in the Comprehensive Plan. Legislation signed into law in 2023 ([HB1181](#)) added a climate goal to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and requires local comprehensive plans to have a climate element. Climate elements must maximize economic, environmental, and social co-benefits and prioritize environmental justice in order to avoid worsening environmental health disparities. A climate element can take the form of a single comprehensive plan chapter or be integrated into several chapters/elements such as housing, transportation, and land use. [Washington Department of Commerce, 2024](#)

HB 1181 revised [RCW 36.70A.070](#) to require a climate change element and resiliency sub-element for certain Washington Counties which includes Lewis County.

Relationship to Other Elements

Climate change related goals, policies, and strategies are found throughout the other chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. Goals and policies that are specifically related to Climate and Resiliency, rather than incidentally related, appear in this chapter.

Climate and Resiliency Process

The goals and policies in this element and discussed throughout the Comprehensive Plan relating to climate and resiliency were developed through a process of data collection, analysis, and community engagement. The data collection and analysis are summarized in this element, but further details can be found in the Appendix. The community engagement relating to this element can be found in the Appendix.

The process to develop climate and resiliency element and sub-element for Lewis County can be summarized in the following steps the analysis and results for each step are included in the Appendix.

1. **Explore Climate Impacts** – Lewis County reviewed best available science, as directed by the Washington Department of Commerce to identify priority climate hazards. During this step, Lewis County reviewed all County-owned assets against all potential climate hazards Lewis County may face to identify which assets were likely to be impacted by certain hazards.
2. **Audit Plan and Policies** – Lewis County reviewed the goals and policies from the 2021 Comprehensive Plan to find ways to efficiently integrate climate related planning into existing actions and priorities for Lewis County.
3. **Assess Vulnerability and Risk** – Based on the results from step 1, Lewis County took a subset of county-owned assets to assess the vulnerability and risk of each asset. Assets with a high vulnerability and risk will require sooner action and likely higher need of resources to prepare Lewis County for impacts from climate hazards, like flooding.

The results from all three steps played a key role in the policies developed and integrated into the plan.

Existing Conditions

Based on the review of best available science, analysis recommended by the State, and community engagement data, the following climate hazards were identified as priorities to address in goals and policies:

- Flooding
- Extreme precipitation
- Wildfire
- Reduced snowpack/avalanche

The assets analyzed for the 2025 periodic update are summarized in the following list:

- General Government (Buildings)
- Utility Substations
- Radio Communications
- Energy Facilities
- Historic Buildings and Sites
- Airports
- Fiber Optics
- Fire Stations
- Shorelines
- Civic Centers
- County Roads
- Bridges
- Railways
- Solid Waste Infrastructure
- Wastewater Infrastructure
- Water Supply
- Education Institutions

Assets most vulnerable to priority climate hazards are fire stations, airports, county roads, bridges, railways, and civic centers. Assets are most likely to be impacted by hazards from increased flooding and wildfire frequency. Assets are in wildfire interface zones where there is an increased exposure to wildfire conditions i.e., fuel loads, resulting in wildfire events. Risk of flooding and wildfire hazards are expected to impact communities Countywide.

Climate and Resiliency Goals and Policies Framework

The goals and policies are organized by topics that accomplish the following:

- Respond to community engagement data. Improving public safety and mitigating natural hazards were the top two priorities identified in the first community survey.

- Establish actions to protect Lewis County assets with high vulnerability.
- Establish actions to mitigate impacts or adapt Lewis County from priority climate hazards.
- Assist Lewis County in accomplishing future vision and goals while mitigating impacts from climate hazards.

The goals and policies in this element address the following topics:

- Hazard Ready Design
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Emergency Preparedness
 - Evacuation Systems
- Public Health and Wellbeing

Goals and policies integrated throughout the document:

- Resilient Economic Activities
- Critical Areas and Flooding
- Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation

CLIMATE AND RESILIENCY GOALS AND POLICIES

Hazard Ready Design

Ensure that buildings and utilities are designed and built sustainably to reduce environmental impacts and remain resilient to extreme weather and other hazards worsened by climate change.

(High Priority) Develop or modify design standards to integrate exterior building features that reduce the impacts of climate change and increase resilience.

Adopt fire-resilience standards for new and redeveloped sites in high-risk wildfire areas.

Design buildings for passive survivability to ensure that they will stay at a safe temperature for occupants if the power goes out.

Work with energy utilities to improve the safety and reliability of infrastructure vulnerable to climate change.

Require new subdivisions to bury electricity transmission lines and associated infrastructure to reduce damage from storms and wildfire ignition risks.

Design buildings for passive survivability to ensure that they will stay at a safe temperature for occupants if the power goes out.

Historic and Cultural Resources

Ensure that cultural resources and practices throughout the County. Including significant historic sites and culturally important traditional foods and natural resources are resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and other natural hazards worsened by climate change.

Create and implement culturally contextualized outreach and education initiatives and materials that will inform the community about near-term and longer-term climate change threats and build resilience.

LEWIS COUNTY: Comprehensive Plan Climate and Resiliency Element

Protect significant historic sites prone to floods or other hazards worsened by climate change.

Establish and maintain government-to-government relations with Native American tribes for the preservation of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties that are vulnerable to climate impacts.

Emergency Preparedness

(High Priority) Enhance emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to mitigate risks and impacts associated with extreme weather and other hazards worsened by climate change.

Prioritize operational and infrastructure upgrades to public safety radio systems that consider risks exacerbated by climate change.

Consider the development of a long-term public safety communications strategy or plan that addresses climate change and resiliency measures.

Map transportation infrastructure that is vulnerable to repeated floods, landslides, and other natural hazards, and designate alternative travel routes for critical transportation corridors when roads must be closed.

Create distribution sites throughout the county utilizing the island map and CERT team placement.

Develop and implement notification alerts within the community to reduce risk exposure to wildfire smoke and particulate matter.

Factor climate impacts into the planning of operations and coordination of preparedness, response, and recovery activities among first responders and partners, including public health, law enforcement, fire, school, and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel.

Incorporate post-wildfire debris flow and flooding hazard information into critical area delineation in fire-prone communities.

Identify funding mechanisms and design standards to upgrade buildings with sheltering capabilities.

Consider climate hazards during development and redevelopment of critical public facilities in critical areas with sheltering and emergency response capabilities.

Update airport master plans to assess hazard impacts exacerbated by climate change and incorporate resiliency measures for emergency response operations, facilities upgrades, and other services reliant upon County airports.

Create evacuation plans and outreach materials to help residents plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer.

Study supply chain planning implementation strategies and implement in Lewis County.

Establish new secondary location with equipment for Emergency Operation Center.

Work with Public Health and other departments within the county to establish an emergency sheltering plan during disasters for housed individuals.

Evacuation Systems

Ensure that the local transportation system — including infrastructure, routes, and travel modes — is able to withstand and recover quickly from the impacts of extreme weather events and other hazards exacerbated by climate change.

Map transportation infrastructure that is vulnerable to repeated floods, landslides, and other natural hazards, and designate alternative travel routes for critical transportation corridors when roads must be closed.

Identify critical junction points for alternative routing for emergency evacuation.

Reduce stormwater impacts from transportation and development through watershed planning, redevelopment and retrofit projects, and low-impact development.

(High Priority) Incorporate hydrologic climate impacts into the design of water-crossing structures (i.e., climate-smart culverts and bridges).

Create evacuation plans and outreach materials to help residents plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer.

Public Health and Well-Being

Explore a Lewis County governmental emergency fund to be utilized during a disaster should it not meet Federal Declaration for funding.

Evaluate areas with potential for permanent flooding and extreme heat and implement measures that protect public health from arthropod disease vectors and zoonotic disease reservoirs due to climate change.

Protect community health and well-being from the impacts of climate-exacerbated hazards — prioritizing focus on overburdened communities — and ensure that the most vulnerable residents do not bear disproportionate health impacts.

Link climate adaptation strategies with social equity and public health strategies.

Evaluate and implement habitat reduction and population control for arthropod disease vectors (e.g., mosquitos and ticks) and zoonotic disease reservoirs (e.g., rodents) using integrated pest-management methods.

Collaborate with tribal governments, water districts, and interagency departments to update water system plans by evaluating vulnerability

and risk to existing systems and proposing upgrades for climate change resiliency.

Collaborate with property owners, school districts, and medical agencies to enhance resiliency of schools and hospitals as emergency shelters by addressing climate hazards and impacts, especially from flooding and wildfire.

Address the social and mental health needs of displaced populations following disasters.

Ensure that all community members have equitable access to evacuation routes and shelters in the event that residents are displaced by climate-exacerbated weather events.

Protect the health and well-being of outdoor workers exposed to wildfire smoke, flooding, extreme heat, and other climate-exacerbated hazards.

Prioritize at-risk community members for actions that mitigate wildfire smoke, including providing personal protective equipment and filter fans or incentivizing infrastructure updates (e.g., HVAC updates and MERV 13 filters for air intake) for facilities that serve high-risk populations.

Glossary

Active Transportation / Active Modes Describes human scaled and often person powered ways of getting around, such as walking, bicycling, or rolling a wheelchair. [Washington Department of Transportation Active Transportation Plan, 2024](#)

Adaptation The process of adjusting to new (climate) conditions in order to reduce risks to valued assets. [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Affordable Housing Residential housing whose monthly costs, including utilities other than telephone, do not exceed thirty percent of the monthly income of a household whose income is:

(a) For rental housing, 60 percent of the median household income adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development; or

(b) For owner-occupied housing, 80 percent of the median household income adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Assets People, resources, ecosystems, infrastructure, and the services they provide. Assets are the tangible and intangible things people or communities value. [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Climate the usual weather of a place. [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#)

Climate Resilience the ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities. [RCW 70A.65.010](#)

Climate Stressor A condition, event, or trend related to climate variability and change that can exacerbate hazards. [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Co-benefits The ancillary or additional benefits of policies that are implemented with a primary goal, such as climate change mitigation — acknowledging that most policies designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions also have other, often at least equally important, benefits (for example, energy savings, economic benefits, air quality benefits, public health benefits). Also referred to as "multiple benefits." [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

Community Wildfire Protection (Plan) A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a comprehensive wildfire safety plan developed by the local citizens and state and federal agencies. [Washington Department of Natural Resources](#)

Concurrency (Regulatory) Concurrency requires jurisdictions or a developer to provide any transportation improvements or programs required to reduce demand and meet an established transportation level-of-service within six years of the completion of a development. [RCW 36.70A.070 \(6\)\(b\)](#)

Critical Areas the following areas and ecosystems: (a) Wetlands; (b) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; (c) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; (d) frequently flooded areas; and (e) geologically hazardous areas. "Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas" does not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Critical Infrastructure Systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital that the incapacity or destruction of such may have a debilitating impact on the security, economy, public health or safety,

environment, or any combination of these matters, across any local, state, tribal and federal jurisdiction. [FEMA](#)

Electric Vehicle (EV) An EV is defined as a vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery and is capable of being charged from an external source. [U.S. Department of Energy](#)

Emergency Housing Temporary indoor accommodations for individuals or families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless that is intended to address the basic health, food, clothing, and personal hygiene needs of individuals or families. Emergency housing may or may not require occupants to enter into a lease or an occupancy agreement. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Emergency Shelter A facility that provides a temporary shelter for individuals or families who are currently homeless. Emergency shelter may not require occupants to enter into a lease or an occupancy agreement. Emergency shelter facilities may include day and warming centers that do not provide overnight accommodations. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Exposure The presence of people, assets, and ecosystems in places where they could be adversely affected by hazards. [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Green Infrastructure Green infrastructure means a wide array of natural assets and built structures within an urban growth area boundary, including parks and other areas with protected tree canopy, and management practices at multiple scales that manage wet weather and that maintain and restore natural hydrology by storing, infiltrating, evapotranspiring, and harvesting and using stormwater. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Growth Management Act The Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) is a series of state statutes, first adopted in 1990, that

requires fast-growing cities and counties to develop a comprehensive plan to manage their population growth. [Municipal Research and Services Center](#)

Hazard An event or condition that may cause injury, illness, or death to people or damage to assets. [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Hazard Mitigation Any sustainable action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from future disasters. [FEMA](#)

Levels of Service (LOS) an established minimum capacity of public facilities or services that must be provided per unit of demand or other appropriate measure of need. Level of service standards are synonymous with locally established minimum standards. [WAC 365-196-210](#)

Long-Term Commercial Significance the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of the land. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Multi-modal Multi-modal transportation includes public transportation, rail and waterways, bicycle and pedestrian. Multimodal access supports the needs of all users whether they choose to walk, bike, use transit or drive. It means more connections and more choices. [WSDOT](#)

Multi-modal Levels of Service (MMLoS) Standards for all locally owned arterials, locally and regionally operated transit routes that serve urban growth areas, state-owned or operated transit routes that serve urban areas if the department of transportation has prepared such standards, and active transportation facilities to serve as a gauge to judge performance of the system and success in

helping to achieve the goals of this chapter consistent with environmental justice.

Overburdened Communities A geographic area where vulnerable populations face combined, multiple environmental harms and health impacts, and includes, but is not limited to, highly impacted communities as defined in RCW 19.405.020. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Permanent Supportive Housing Subsidized, leased housing with no limit on length of stay that prioritizes people who need comprehensive support services to retain tenancy and utilizes admissions practices designed to use lower barriers to entry than would be typical for other subsidized or unsubsidized rental housing, especially related to rental history, criminal history, and personal behaviors. Permanent supportive housing is paired with on-site or off-site voluntary services designed to support a person living with a complex and disabling behavioral health or physical health condition who was experiencing homelessness or was at imminent risk of homelessness prior to moving into housing to retain their housing and be a successful tenant in a housing arrangement, improve residents' health status, and connect the resident of the housing with community-based health care, treatment, or employment services. Permanent supportive housing is subject to all of the rights and responsibilities defined in chapter 59.18 RCW. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Public Facilities include streets, roads, highways, sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals, domestic water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and recreational facilities, and schools. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Public Services include streets, roads, highways, sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals, domestic water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and recreational facilities, and schools. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

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Roadway Functional Classification A grouping of highways, roads, and streets by the character of service they provide and use for transportation planning purposes. [Washington Department of Transportation Website, 2024](#)

Resource Lands / Natural Resource Lands

- (a) Agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products;
- (b) Forestlands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber;
- (c) Mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals; and
- (d) Critical areas.

Risk The potential for negative consequences where something of value is at stake. In the context of the assessment of climate impacts, the term risk is often used to refer to the potential for adverse consequences of a climate-related hazard. Risk can be assessed by multiplying the probability of a hazard by the magnitude of the negative consequence or loss. [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Sensitivity The degree to which a system, population, or resource is or might be affected by hazards. [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Transportation System Transportation system means all infrastructure and services for all forms of transportation within a geographical area, irrespective of the responsible jurisdiction or transportation provider. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Transportation demand management (TDM), or simply demand management, is

defined a set of strategies aimed at maximizing traveler choices. Managing demand is about providing travelers, regardless of whether they drive alone, with travel choices, such as work location, route, time of travel and mode. In the broadest sense, demand management is defined as providing travelers with effective choices to improve travel reliability. [U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

Urban Governmental Services / Urban Services include those public services and public facilities at an intensity historically and typically provided in cities, specifically including storm and sanitary sewer systems, domestic water systems, street cleaning services, fire and police protection services, public transit services, and other public utilities associated with urban areas and normally not associated with rural areas. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Urban Growth Area Each county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall designate an urban growth area or areas within which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature. Each city that is located in such a county shall be included within an urban growth area. An urban growth area may include more than a single city. An urban growth area may include territory that is located outside of a city only if such territory already is characterized by urban growth whether or not the urban growth area includes a city, or is adjacent to territory already characterized by urban growth, or is a designated new fully contained community as defined by RCW 36.70A.350. [RCW 36.70A.110](#)

Vulnerability The propensity or predisposition of assets to be adversely affected by hazards. Vulnerability encompasses exposure, sensitivity, potential impacts, and adaptive capacity. [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#)

Vulnerable Populations Vulnerable populations are groups that are more likely to be at higher risk for poor health outcomes in response to environmental harms, due to: adverse socioeconomic
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factors such as unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, limited access to nutritious food and adequate health care, linguistic isolation, and other factors that negatively affect health outcomes and increase vulnerability to the effects of environmental harms; and, sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization. Vulnerable populations include but are not limited to: racial and ethnic minorities; low-income populations; and, populations disproportionately impacted by environmental harms. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Wildland-urban interface means the geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland vegetative fuels. [RCW 36.70A.030](#)