



## Memorandum

December 20, 2023

TO: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive  
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director

RE: Interagency Agreement with the State / Climate Planning Grant

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### **Requested Action**

The Washington State Legislature passed [House Bill 1181](#) in 2023, amending the Growth Management Act (GMA). This bill requires certain local governments, including Whatcom County, to address climate response in their comprehensive plans and development regulations. The State has allocated \$800,000 to Whatcom County to comply with these new GMA climate planning requirements. This request is to enter into an Interagency Agreement to accept \$475,000 in Climate Planning Grant funds from the State. A grant application for the remaining \$325,000 will be submitted to the State at a future date.

### **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County will use these state funds in the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations update process to address:

1. Public Participation Plan and related public engagement;
2. Environmental Justice & Health Disparities Report;
3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory;
4. Local Emissions Trends and Projections Report;
5. Whatcom County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan background information;
6. Countywide Planning Policy amendments related to climate;
7. Comprehensive Plan Land Use, Transportation, Capital Facilities, Utilities, Parks and Recreation, and Environment element amendments;
8. Environmental Impact Statement (climate sections);
9. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Comprehensive Plan sub-element;
10. Development regulations to implement Comprehensive Plan policies related to climate; and
11. Report on Whatcom County Council priorities related to climate (Resolution 2022-036).

## **Funding Amount and Source**

Thank you for your review and consideration of the proposed Interagency Agreement between Whatcom County and the State Department of Commerce. We request that Council approve a motion on January 9, 2024 authorizing the County Executive to sign the Agreement that will provide \$475,000 in State Climate Planning Grant funding to the County.