

BLIGHTED PROPERTIES

East Whatcom County is an unincorporated region of Whatcom County that has been historically underserved by the Whatcom County Council. Our community has been struggling with a growing number of blighted, distressed and abandoned properties which are causing health and safety concerns. We are experiencing an increase in garbage dumping, abandoned junk cars and other scrap metal.

The dilapidated, blighted properties in East Whatcom County are bringing down neighborhood property values, attracting illegal drug activity, vandalism, squatting, increased rodent problems, and overall, negatively affecting community health and safety.

RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS: Blight Reduction Program:

1. The Whatcom County Council needs to pass new laws that allow for foreclosure on Blighted, Distressed and Abandoned properties when the homeowner has failed to correct the problem after a designated period. The County Executive will confiscate the property and sell it at market value.
2. Establish a special task force consisting of representatives from the County Executives office, County Attorneys office, Health Department, Code Enforcement, Sheriffs Department and 4 - 6 residents who live in East Whatcom County.
3. The task force will develop procedures to communicate with residents that their property is in violation of Whatcom County property codes and the specific time to act before their property is fined, condemned or confiscated and sold. They can also provide resource assistance when needed.

If you have any questions or concerns contact;

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