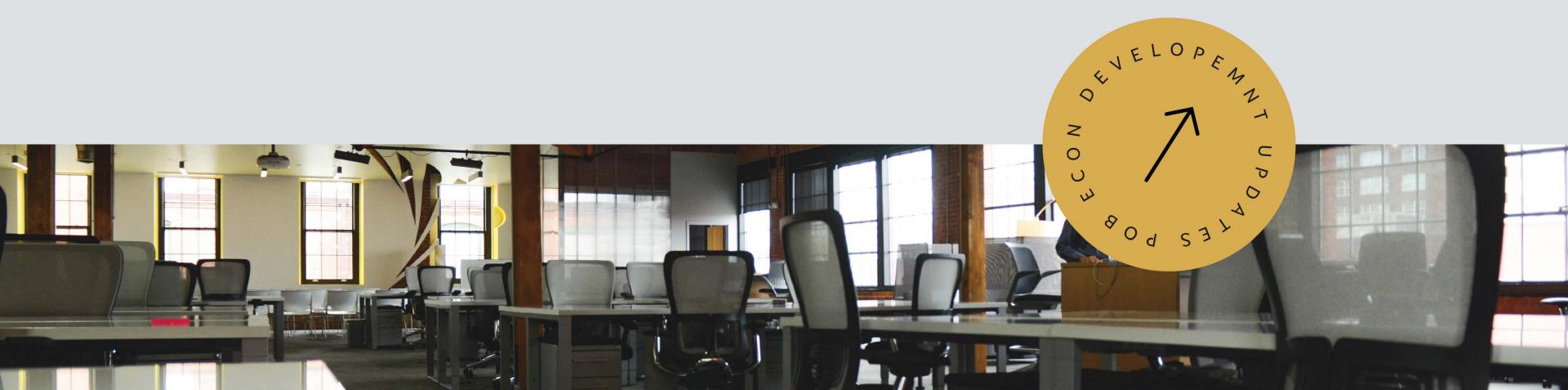


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



2023

Annual reporting to the Whatcom County Council by the Port of Bellingham's Economic Development Division



Agenda

The Port of Bellingham works for all of Whatcom County!

https://portofbellingham.com/154/Economic-Development

PORT OF BELLINGHAM EC DEV UPDATE PRESENTATION

ABOUT THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC **PARTNERSHIP AT THE PORT OF** BELLINGHAM

OUR TEAM

WHATCOM COUNTY CEDS GOALS

• OUR SERVICES & DELIVERABLES

CONTACT





About the Regional Economic Partnership

REP is the EcDev Division at the Port and is generously funded by Port of Bellingham, Whatcom County, City of Bellingham & WA State Dept of Commerce.

https://portofbellingham.com/154/Economic-Development

4 dynamic staff members employed by the Port of Bellingham and 1 dedicated consultant with overlapping yet unique skillsets:

- Don Goldberg, Director
- John Michener, Project Manager
 Jennifer Noveck, Research &
 Data Analytics Consultant
 Kori Olsen, Communications &
 EcDev Associate
- Gina Stark, Project Manager



Economic Development

What is ec dev?

A goal-oriented process that results in wealth creation and improved economic well-being and a high quality of life of a region, city, county, state, or country.

Economic development is the umbrella for business, community + other forms of development.

Business development is primarily concerned with business growth, productivity, and other business-specific outcomes and processes.

Community development is primarily concerned with empowering individuals and groups with skills and resources they need to effect change in their communities.

https://portofbellingham.com/154/Economic-Development

Business + Community Development





OUR NTENTONS

TO BE RESPONSIVE TO BE DYNAMIC

TO BE INCLUSIVE

OURCEDS/ISION

To have a resilient regional economy that has: a dynamic and inclusive business community, a commitment to living wage jobs and equity, and the physical, social, and economic infrastructure to support it.



TO DELIVER



Whatcom County CEDS 2022-2026

Build upon and strengthen Whatcom County's base economy.

WHATCOM

UPDATE

COUNTY COUNCIL

Develop and enhance critical infrastructure that promotes economic development + resiliency.

5

Develop a skilled workforce, expand educational attainment, + align employer needs with education programs + curriculum.

Cultivate an economy that values diversity, equity, + inclusion for all.

5

https://portofbellingham.com/1003/CEDS

Create a dynamic relationship between Whatcom County + Lower British Columbia, Skagit, Island, + San Juan Counties.

Support countywide economic resiliency + recovery efforts.





Deliverables



• BR•E

Recruitment, business retention + expansion activities, export assistance, startups, + foreign investment assistance.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Work related to improving physical, economic, + social infrastructure that is currently inadequate to support the growth of existing businesses (+ recruitment).

CEDS GOAL #1

CEDS GOAL #2

https://portofbellingham.com/154/Economic-Development

• WORKFORCE • EDU

Work related to aligning workforce programs with employer needs.

CEDS GOAL #3





Deliverables



• CANADA

Recruitment, business retention + expansion activities, export assistance, startups, + foreign investment assistance.

• DEI

Work related to improving diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work with businesses and partners.

CEDS GOAL #4

CEDS GOAL #5

https://portofbellingham.com/154/Economic-Development

• **RESILIENCY**

Work related to strengthening the economy + protecting it from future disasters and downturns.

CEDS GOAL #6





BR+E in 2022

EXAMPLES OF RECRUITMENT

Corvus Energy Canature Kitchen Vicinity Motor Corp

Over 100 jobs will be brought to the region from these 3 companies alone

RETENTION

Over 120 businesses contacted + assisted

Working on issues related to site selection, permitting, infrastructure, worker housing, childcare, expansion, exports

RESOURCES

Restarted quarterly newsletter

Grant assistance for disaster and COVID-19 impacted businesses

Revolving Loan Fund



CEDS Goals 1, 2, 6: Cherry Point

ALCOA CLOSURE

Announced March 2023

Several rounds of negotiations + opportunities examined in 2021-2022

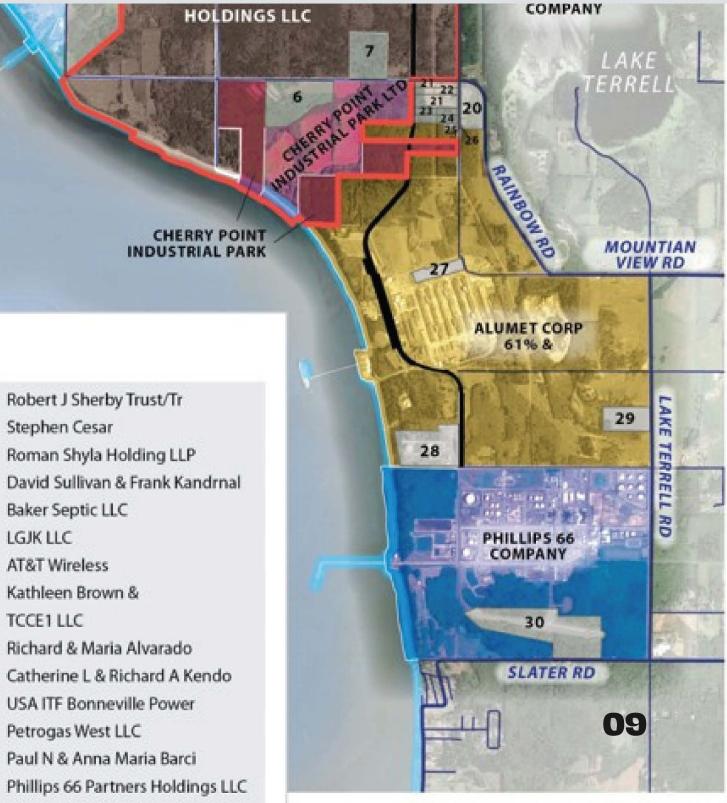
MANY OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing infrastructure needs

Solar + Hydrogen opportunities

Major investments by BP

KEY STUDY AREA Whatcom County 16 **Burlington Resources** 17 2 Puget Sound Energy/Elec 18 3 Williams Gas Pipeline Co LLC 19 4 5 Atlantic Richfield Co 20 Cherry Point Industries LLC LGJK LLC 21 6 Watts Family Partnership AT&T Wireless 22 **Campbell Land Corporation** 23 8 TCCE1 LLC TCCE1 LLC 9 24 Bay Breeze Properties LLC 10 25 Rubicon Property 1 LLC 11 26 Western Pacific Funding Corp 12 27 Daryl R & Krista Johnson 13 28 14 Blue Heron Properties LLC 29 Loyd H Bailey 1/2 & 15 30



HEARTLAND

мнатеом COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE



CEDS GOALS 1, 5, + 6

Commission as partners

Disaster grant support

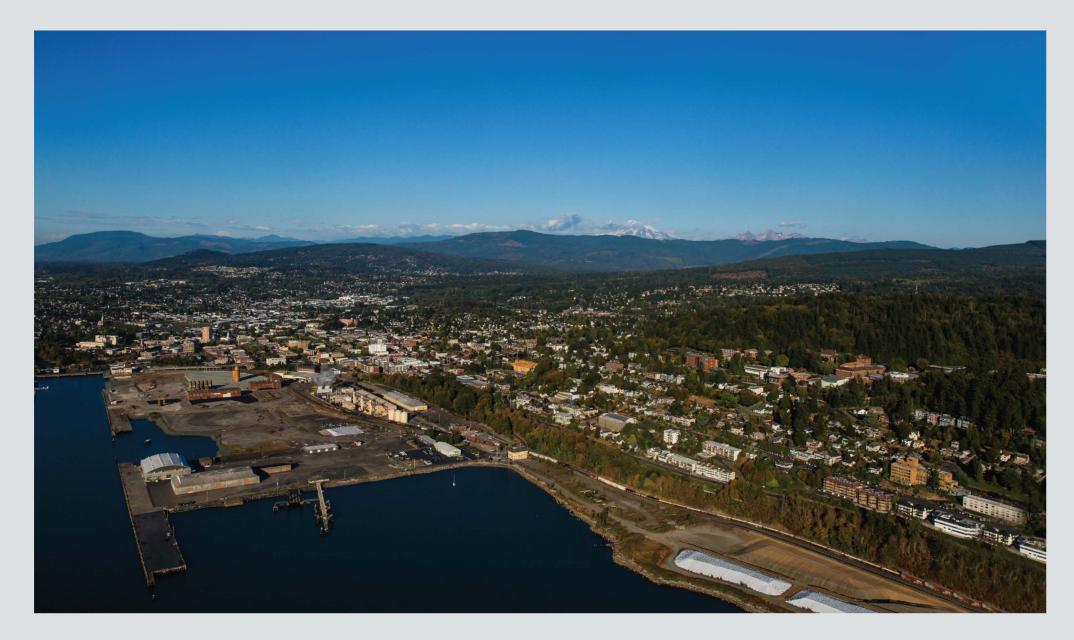
Agriculture

- **Research lab progress with WSU + Berry**

 - **20** small farms in Whatcom directly aided by the NW Disaster Grant
 - Addressing ongoing climate impacts, mitigation + resiliency
 - Addressing ongoing market impacts

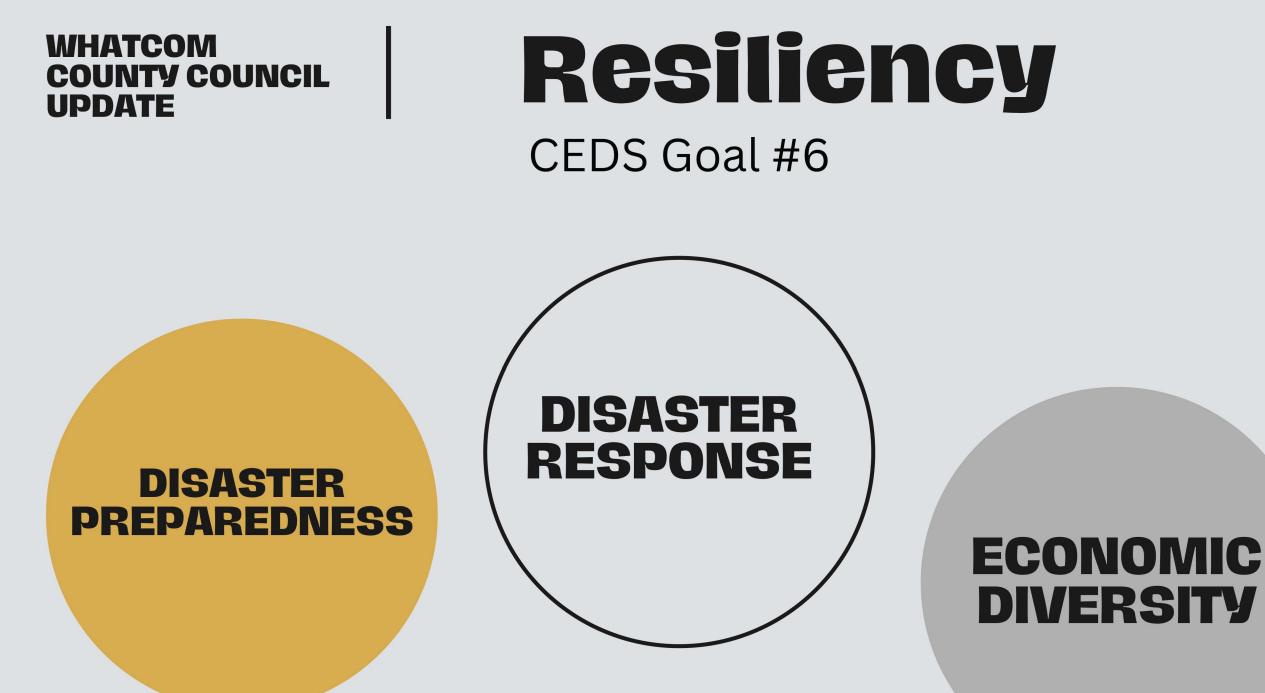


- Fisherman's Pavilion
- Dockside Market
- Shipping Terminal Reactivation
- New pending marine trades apprenticeship
- Maritime Blue, cluster industry + innovation events, resources for entrepreneurs
- Corvus Energy



Marine Trades CEDS Goals 1-6





Partners are critical to this work:

Health Dept, Emergency Management, WWU SBDC, WCF, Sustainable Connections, Bellingham Regional Chamber, County, Cities, Tribes

SUSTAINABLE. **BUSINESSES**



CEDS Goals #1 + 6 CEDS Goals #1 + 6 Small Business Grants

In partnership with the WA State Dept of Commerce, WWU SBDC, Sustainable Connections, the Community Foundation, Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism, Sherriff's Dept, Emergency Management



• WORKING WA 5

Additional relief to small business experiencing ongoing losses due to COVID-19 + related closures.

DISASTER GRANTS

70 businesses in Whatcom County will receive over \$5 million in direct aid as a result of the Nooksack River Flood of 2021

HOSPITALITY GRANTS

Retail, restaurants, lodging, and other hospitality industry businesses are eligible for additional money. \$100 million in ARPA dollars set aside by the Legislature. Deadline April 6.



Infrastructure

CEDS Goal #1 + 2

• EDI

Changed rules to support county-wide impacts, infrastructure that supports affordable housing

• **BROADBAND**

Partnering with County and PUD#1

Three fully funded projects to provide service to: E. Nooksack/Mosquito Lake (currently under construction), N. Lynden, and N. Ferndale to <u>2000 homes</u>

In partnership with PUD#1 and WSU, developing a Digital Equity Plan to inform and secure future funding

• HOUSING

WEDA Workforce Housing Workgroup

WCBCC Housing Solutions Memo to Council

City of Anacortes presentation to Small Cities

Supporting inclusive zoning changes

• GIS DATABASE

Whatcom County Infrastructure, Utilities + Resiliency Database (previously called the I-5 Corridor Infrastructure Database)

In 2022-2023 we added: Everson, Nooksack, Sumas and the Columbia Valley

Database is currently in use for a Brownfields-Affordable Housing study funded by Ecology

Open House for all users coming in June/July 2023

• CHILDCARE

Supporting partners, businesses, and WCBCC on their work related to creating more quality childcare slots.



Border **Reopened!**

CEDS Goal #1 + 2



- CANADIAN BUSINESS
- MANY INTERESTED IN **WAREHOUSE OR US HQ**

 RETAIL + TOURISM **SEEING REBOUNDS**

• LONGER BORDER WAITS

• 1 MILLION NEXUS **APPLICATIONS** BACKLOG



2023-2024

Mhat's Next?

Continue to focus on CEDS Goals

- Cherry Point
- Broadband
- Housing
- On site BR+E visits
- Building resiliency for potential downturns

• Workforce

Labor shortage

- Innovation focused efforts for ag, marine trades
- Whatcom Skill Center, promoting partner programs that provide alternatives to 4 year degrees
- Supporting 4 colleges on skills alignment, degree + program coordination







Connect Nith Us! The Port of Bellingham's Economic Development Division serves all of Whatcom County! Contact us with questions or help related to business assistance, site selection, infrastructure, export assistance, and much more!

If we cannot be of assistance, we will refer you to a Team Whatcom partner.



360-676-2500

EconDev@portofbellingham.com

https://portofbellingham.com/1 54/Economic-Development