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## Utilities Chapter Relationship to Vision

Vision	Utilities Chapter Concepts
<p><b>County Government.</b> County government that is accountable and accessible; encourages citizen participation; seeks to operate as efficiently as possible; and works with citizens, governmental entities and tribal governments to meet collective needs fairly while respecting individual and property rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide regular updates of population and employment projections to enable utility providers to plan for future demand.</li> <li>▪ Coordinate data among the County and utility providers.</li> <li>▪ Coordinate provision of utilities with future development and improve mechanism to process development approvals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Environment.</b> Natural ecosystems – including interconnected wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, and water quality – that are rehabilitated, protected and enhanced and that allow for flexible and innovative development to meet environmental and growth goals. In developed areas, the growth pattern supports conservation of non-renewable energy and minimizes impacts on air quality and climate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimize environmental impacts of utility facilities by placing utility lines underground or placing above ground facilities in appropriate corridors and zones.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Housing.</b> Residential communities that are attractive, affordable, diverse, and livable supported by appropriate urban or rural services. A variety of housing choices are available, meeting a full range of resident income levels and preferences. Residents are able to walk between neighborhoods and to community destinations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Direct the County to facilitate coordinated land use, transportation and utility planning and development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Open Space.</b> An open space network – including greenbelts, wildlife habitat, forested areas, and active and passive parks – that is accessible, interconnected, provides opportunities for recreation and defines and distinguishes urban and rural areas.</p>	
<p><b>Urban Areas.</b> Healthy urban areas that are the region's centers for diverse employment and housing opportunities, all levels of education, and civic and cultural activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support efficient provision of utilities in urban areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rural Areas.</b> Rural areas and communities where unique historical characters, appearances, functions, and pioneering spirits are retained and enhanced. Natural resource activities, such as forestry, agriculture, and mining continue to contribute to the rural character and economy. Rural recreation opportunities are enhanced, including equestrian facilities, trails, and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Direct the County to facilitate coordinated land use, transportation and utility planning and development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultural Resources.</b> Historical and archaeological resources that are recognized and preserved for future generations.</p>	
<p><b>Economic Development.</b> A stable, prosperous and diversified economy that provides living wage jobs for residents, supported by adequate land for a range of employment uses and that encourages accomplishment of local economic development goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide regular updates of employment projections to enable utility providers to plan for future demand.</li> <li>▪ Coordinate provision of utilities with future development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Services and Facilities.</b> Public services and facilities – including, but not limited to, parks and recreation, law enforcement, fire protection, emergency preparedness, water/sewer, roads, transit, non-motorized facilities, ferries, stormwater management, education, library services, health and human services, energy, telecommunications, etc. – are provided in an efficient, high-quality and timely manner by the County and its partner agencies. Public services and facilities are monitored, maintained and enhanced to meet quality service standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage utility providers to protect the reliability of their systems.</li> <li>▪ Encourage utility providers to use new and improved technologies to enhance the quality and cost effectiveness of their services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transportation.</b> An efficient, flexible, and coordinated multi-modal transportation system – including roads, bridges and highways, ferries, transit, and non-motorized travel – that provides interconnectivity and mobility for county residents and supports our urban and rural land use pattern.</p>	



## Chapter 7. Utilities

### 7.1. Plan Context

The utilities discussed in this chapter include natural gas, electricity and telecommunications. Water, stormwater and wastewater utilities are discussed in Chapter 11 under Capital Facilities. Although not managed directly by the Kitsap County government, natural gas, electricity and telecommunications are subject to both state and federal regulations. State law regulates the rates, charges, services, facilities and practices of utilities. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regulates privately owned utility and transportation businesses to ensure that companies provide safe and reliable service to their customers at reasonable rates. WUTC mandates that utility facilities and services be provided on a uniform or nondiscriminatory basis to all customers and that cost of service is equitable. Any change to customer charges or service policies requires WUTC approval.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that comprehensive plans include a utilities element that consists of the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication lines, and natural gas lines. Kitsap's Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) call for all jurisdictions in the county to coordinate planning efforts, including provision of current and future utilities and to address future growth in a coherent manner that leads to more efficient delivery of services. Utility providers make improvements in response to consumer demand. However, private utilities are not subject to concurrency requirements. Other agencies that impose requirements on utilities include the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy, which regulate electricity service, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which regulates the telecommunications industry.

A complete inventory of the utility facilities including service areas, facility locations, existing capacity and planned improvements can be found in Volume II of this document.

## 7.2. Utility Goals and Policies

### Goal 1. Ensure utilities are provided in a timely manner to meet the needs of Kitsap County's future population.

- Policy UT-1 Facilitate planning for utility improvements by providing utility purveyors with population and employment projections on a regular basis.
- Policy UT-2 Encourage the designation and development of utility corridors and facilities in a manner consistent with the needs and resources of Kitsap County.
- Policy UT-3 Coordinate provision of utilities with future development by designating appropriate sites for utility facilities and ensuring their availability.
- Policy UT-4 Coordinate provision of utility services with planned development by improving mechanisms to process development permits and approvals in a fair and timely manner.
- Policy UT-5 Consider impacts and timing of future phases when permitting large utility projects.
- Policy UT-6 Ensure that development regulations allow timely development of utility facility additions and improvements.



### Goal 2. Ensure utility services are provided in an efficient and coordinated manner.

- Policy UT-7 Enhance efficiency of planning for utilities by facilitating coordination among Kitsap County, WUTC and utilities regulated by the WUTC during development of comprehensive utility plans.
- Policy UT-8 Coordinate collection, integration and maintenance of Geographic Information System (GIS) utility data among utility providers to ensure consistent and up-to-date information on facility locations and capacities.
- Policy UT-9 Enhance efficiency by coordinating the implementation of utility facility additions and improvements affecting multiple jurisdictions.
- Policy UT-10 Coordinate land use, transportation and utility planning and development.
- Policy UT-11 Encourage the joint use of utility corridors and sites, provided such joint use is consistent with applicable law and prudent utility practice.

Policy UT-12 Ensure that utility policies and regulations are consistent with, and complementary to, utility public service obligations.

Policy UT-13 Ensure that utilities are provided consistent with applicable rules, regulations, and prudent utility practice.

Policy UT-14 Ensure all chapters of the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan (and implementing development regulations) are consistent with, and do not otherwise impair the fulfillment of, public service obligations imposed upon the utility provider by federal and state law.



**Goal 3. Maintain and enhance utility service quality.**

Policy UT-15 Encourage utility providers to protect and enhance the performance, reliability and stability of their utility systems.

Policy UT-16 Encourage utilities to incorporate new and improved technologies to enhance the quality and cost effectiveness of their services consistent with the provider’s public service obligations.

**Goal 4. Minimize environmental impacts of utility facilities.**

Policy UT-17 Place utility facilities along public rights-of-way and encourage underground distribution lines in accordance with state rules and regulations.

Policy UT-18 Encourage siting of large, above ground utilities (e.g. antennas, towers) in industrial or commercial areas or along appropriate transportation and utility corridors.

Policy UT-19 Minimize the visual impact of utility facilities on view corridors, vistas and adjacent properties by developing design guidelines for cellular towers, antennas and other types of utility facilities.



**Goal 5. Support cost-effective energy conservation and promote energy conservation.**

Policy UT-20 Encourage and support development of renewable energy projects and technologies.

Policy UT-21 Support renewable energy incentives to businesses and groups for comprehensive renewable energy effort.

**Goal 6. Support the extension of fiber optic cable in Kitsap County.**

- Policy UT-22 Recognize broadband's influence and importance to economic diversification in the County.
- Policy UT-23 Encourage installation of broadband infrastructure in all new residential subdivisions, economic development projects, and state highway improvements.

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