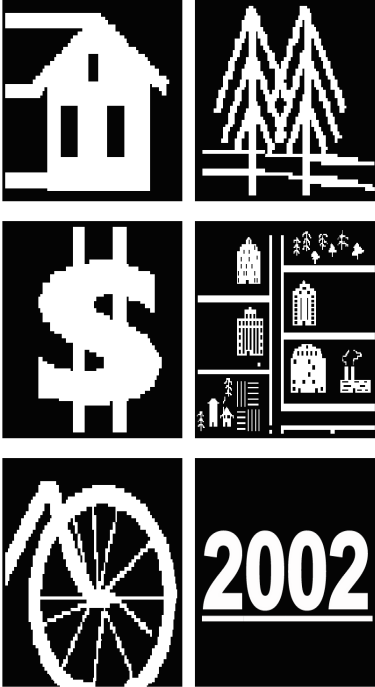


KING COUNTY
BENCHMARKS



2002 King County Benchmark Report

The 7th Annual Report on Progress
in Implementing the King County
Countywide Planning Policies

**Growth Management Planning Council
And Office of Budget
King County, Washington
October 2002**



Mission

The Growth Management Planning Council or its successor shall recommend to the Metropolitan King County Council a monitoring and benchmarks program to assess progress in meeting Countywide Planning Policies.

- a. The Growth Management Planning Council or its successor shall establish a growth management monitoring advisory committee which shall recommend information to be reported annually to serve as indicators and benchmarks for growth management policies. The annual reporting shall incorporate the economic development policy indicators developed by the Fiscal Impact Analysis and Economic Development Task Force and other indicators as adopted by the Growth Management Planning Council or its successor, and shall consider housing indicators specified in policy AH-5. King County shall report the adopted growth management benchmarks annually.
- b. The Growth Management Planning Council or its successor should conduct a comprehensive evaluation to assess implementation of the Countywide Planning Policies. The evaluation should be initiated as indicated by results of the monitoring program, but no earlier than five years after adoption of the Phase II Amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies. The evaluation shall include opportunities for public involvement.
- c. If the purposes of these Planning Policies are not being achieved as evidenced by results of benchmarks and monitoring reports, the Growth Management Planning Council or its successor will reconvene at the request of a party to discuss, evaluate and recommend actions to achieve the purposes of the Policies.

Metropolitan King County Countywide Planning Policies: Framework Policy 1; Step 6.

For information about the **Benchmark Report** or the Benchmark Program, please contact Rose Curran, Project Manager (206) 205-0715, FAX (206) 205-0719; e-mail: rose.curran@metrokc.gov. The Benchmark Program address is King County Office of Budget, Room 406, King County Courthouse, Seattle, WA 98104. 2002 Benchmark Report publication date: October 2002.

The **King County Countywide Planning Policies Benchmark Report** is a product of the Metropolitan King County Growth Management Planning Council. The **Report** is published annually by the King County Office of Budget. A companion to this **Report**, is the **King County Annual Growth Report**. Both reports are available on the Internet at [http:// www.metrokc.gov/exec/](http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/).

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The Benchmark System for the *Countywide Planning Policies*

Background

In 1990 the Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (GMA). For the first time in the State's history, all urban counties and their cities were required to develop and adopt comprehensive plans and regulations to implement the plans. To achieve an interjurisdictional coordinated countywide plan, GMA further required that King County and its 35 cities first develop framework policies, the King County *Countywide Planning Policies*, to guide the development of the jurisdictions' plans.

The *Countywide Planning Policies* (CPPs) define the countywide vision for the county and cities' plans. The policies were developed by the Growth Management Planning Council, a group of 15 elected officials, representing all King County citizens, adopted by the Metropolitan King County Council and ratified by the cities in 1994.

Purpose

The *Countywide Planning Policies* are primarily goals that, if properly implemented, should improve the quality of life in King County during the next twenty years.

When the members of the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) approved the policies, they expressed an interest in creating a system that would tell future decision makers whether or not the policies are achieving their intended outcomes. The 2002 Benchmark Report is the seventh annual document to monitor the CPPs.

The purpose of creating a benchmark system is to provide the GMPC, other policy makers and the public with a method for evaluating jurisdictions' progress in implementing the *Countywide Planning Policies*. The system for the Benchmark Report was established by stating the desired outcomes of the CPPs; selecting relevant Indicators for each outcome, and then identifying quantifiable levels of achievement, or targets, for some of the Indicators.

Why a Benchmark Report for the Countywide Planning Policies?

Generally, the Indicators that the Benchmark Committee has produced should be used as the GMPC originally intended: to enable future decision makers to determine whether or not the *Countywide Planning Policies* are being implemented in a way which achieves their intended outcomes.

The Benchmark System, which includes these Indicators, should also provide early warning if the policies are not having their desired effects. In that case, the system should provide sufficient information to enable policy-makers to determine whether different actions to implement the policies are needed, or whether minor or major revisions to the policies are required. More specifically, the Benchmark System should be used to help the jurisdictions of King County establish priorities, take joint actions, and direct resources to solve problems identified in the *Countywide Planning Policies*.

In this year's publication, some of the Indicators have been omitted. In several cases, there is not yet any reliable trend data available for that Indicator. Sometimes this reflects a lack of funding to collect the necessary information; in other cases, current data is being developed, but there is no data for comparison to the past. There are several other indicators which have been left out this year because there is no significant change in the data from one year to the next (e.g. indicators which depend solely on decennial census information). These omissions do not necessarily mean that the Indicator is less important or meaningful. However, in one or two cases, the Indicators themselves may need to be reevaluated.

Table of Contents

Page Number

Mission..... ii
Growth Management Planning Council Membershipiii
The Benchmark System iv



Economic Development 1
Indicators:
 #1 Real wages per worker 2
 #2 Personal and median household income: King County compared to the United States..... 3
 #3 Percentage of population below the poverty level..... 4
 #4 New businesses created..... 5
 #5 New jobs created by employment sector..... 6
 #6 Employment in industries that export from the region..... 8
 #7 Educational background of adult population 9
 #8 High school graduation rate 10
 Data Sources and Policy Rationale for Economic Development Indicators 11



Environment..... 13
Indicators:
 #9 Land cover changes in urban and rural areas over time 14
Map: Land Cover in Tri-County Region: 1991 and 1999..... 15
 #10 Air quality 17
 #11 Energy consumption 20
 #12 Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per year 21
 #13 Surface water and groundwater quality..... 22
Map: Tri-County Watersheds and Major Streams 26
 #14 Water consumption..... 27
 #15 Change in groundwater levels 28
 #18 Change in number of salmon..... 31
 #20 Pounds of waste disposed and recycled per capita..... 34
 Data Sources and Policy Rationale for Environmental Indicators 35



Affordable Housing 37
Background: 2001 H.U.D. Median Income Levels by Household Size 38
Indicators:
 #21 Supply and demand for affordable housing 39
 #22 Percent of income paid for housing 40

HOUSING



Affordable Housing, continued

Indicators:

#24 Home purchase affordability gap for buyers 41
 #26 Apartment vacancy rate 43
 #27 Trend of housing costs vs. income 45
 #29 Percent of housing affordable to low-income households 46
 Data Sources and Policy Rationale for Affordable Housing Indicators 47
Maps: Affordable Housing in King County 48

LAND USE



Land Use 49

Indicators:

#30 New housing units in Urban Areas and Rural/Resource Areas, and in Urban Centers... 50
 #31 Employment in Urban and Rural/Resource Areas, Urban Centers..... 53
 #32 New housing units built through redevelopment 54
 #33 Ratio of land consumption to population growth 55
 #34 Ratio of achieved density to allowed density of residential development..... 55
 #35 Ratio of land capacity to 20-year job and household targets..... 56
 #37 Acres of urban parks and open space 59
 #38 Ratio of jobs to housing in Central Puget Sound and King County subregions 60
 #40 Number and average size of farms 61
 Data Sources and Policy Rationale for Land Use Indicators..... 62

TRANSPORTATION



Transportation 63

Indicators:

#41 Percent of residents who commute one way within 30 minutes 64
 #42 Transit trips per person..... 65
 #43 Percent of residents who use alternatives to the single occupant vehicle..... 66
 #44 Ability of goods and services to move efficiently and cost effectively..... 67

Appendix

Acknowledgments..... 69
 List of Outcomes and Indicators 70