Utilities, Facilities & Services

Aspiration

Foster equitable, efficient, accessible and resilient utilities, facilities and services networks that protect public health, sustain environmental quality, support economic development and facilitate new housing.

Goals

Goal 1. Maintain reliable public water and wastewater systems that protect public health and support compact, planned growth.

Goal 2. Increase access to safe, affordable and efficient solid waste and materials management services.

Goal 3. Evolve electric generation and distribution systems to expand clean energy and strengthen grid resilience.

Goal 4. Expand modern, affordable communication networks to serve all communities.

Goal 5. Incentivize accessible, high-quality educational and childcare facilities that support community and economic needs.

Goal 6. Diversify community-serving facilities to meet evolving community needs.

Goal 7. Maintain healthy regional air quality through coordinated planning and emission reduction.

Goal 8. Increase food security and access to nutritious, affordable and locally available food.

Goal 9. Expand access to comprehensive health care, mental health services and public health infrastructure to support community well-being.

Goal 10. Maintain adequate emergency medical, fire and rescue services.

Goal 11. Expand access to housing-supportive infrastructure to enable new and infill housing development.

Goal 12. Maintain stormwater and drainage infrastructure to protect water quality, reduce flooding risks and support climate-resilient development.

Goal 13. Transform regional planning, capital investment, and utility governance to promote long-term financial sustainability and equitable service delivery.

Goal 14. Transform land use and infrastructure planning to advance health equity and environmental quality.

Intent Summaries

Goal 1.   Maintain reliable public water and wastewater systems that protect public health and support compact, planned growth.
Intent Summary: Reliable water and wastewater systems are fundamental to public health, environmental protection and planned community development. This goal emphasizes ongoing investment, asset management and regulatory compliance to ensure systems function safely and efficiently. By maintaining high-quality infrastructure in growth areas, the region can direct development to appropriate locations, safeguard water resources and reinforce compact settlement patterns.

Goal 2.   Increase access to safe, affordable and efficient solid waste and materials management services.
Intent Summary: Effective materials management reduces pollution, lowers costs for households and businesses and supports statewide waste-reduction goals. This goal focuses on expanding access to convenient and affordable disposal, recycling and composting options while modernizing facilities and strengthening regional collaboration. By improving the reach and efficiency of solid waste services, the region can reduce environmental impacts and support a more sustainable circular economy.

Goal 3.   Evolve electric generation and distribution systems to expand clean energy and strengthen grid resilience.
Intent Summary: A modern, resilient energy system is essential for community safety, economic stability and climate adaptation. This goal advances the transition to clean energy, grid modernization and infrastructure hardening to reduce outages and better withstand extreme weather. By integrating distributed generation, storage and smart-grid technologies, the region can ensure reliable, affordable power while meeting long-term climate and energy goals.

Goal 4.   Expand modern, affordable communication networks to serve all communities.
Intent Summary: Universal access to high-quality communications infrastructure underpins economic opportunity, education, health care and emergency response. This goal highlights the need for widespread broadband deployment, equitable service pricing and network resilience. By strengthening digital connectivity, the region can close service gaps, support remote work and learning and enhance the reliability of critical communications during emergencies.

Goal 5.   Incentivize accessible, high-quality educational and childcare facilities that support community and economic needs.
Intent Summary: Strong educational and childcare systems are essential to family well-being, workforce development and participation and regional prosperity. This goal emphasizes improving the quality, accessibility and long-term viability of facilities that serve children and learners of all ages. By investing in modern, safe and well-distributed facilities, the region can support

employers, strengthen communities and ensure that residents have equitable access to the educational services they need.

Goal 6.   Diversify community-serving facilities to meet evolving community needs.
Intent Summary: Community-serving facilities—such as libraries, senior centers, cultural spaces and recreation assets—play a vital role in social connection and quality of life. This goal focuses on adapting and expanding facilities to meet demographic shifts, emerging service needs and new community expectations. By supporting diverse, flexible and accessible spaces, the region can strengthen civic life and ensure that services remain relevant for all residents.

Goal 7.   Maintain healthy regional air quality through coordinated planning and emission reduction.
Intent Summary: Healthy air is fundamental to public health, environmental integrity and regional livability. This goal prioritizes reducing emissions from transportation, heating and industrial activities through coordinated planning and the adoption of cleaner technologies. By complying with national standards and addressing local pollution sources, the region can protect vulnerable residents and support long-term environmental quality.

Goal 8.   Increase food security and access to nutritious, affordable and locally available food.
Intent Summary: A resilient food system improves public health, strengthens local agriculture and ensures that all residents can meet basic nutritional needs. This goal emphasizes expanding access to affordable foods, supporting local producers and improving distribution systems. By reducing barriers to healthy food and bolstering community-based programs, the region can enhance food security and support vibrant local economies.

Goal 9.   Expand access to comprehensive health care, mental health services and public health infrastructure to support community well-being.
Intent Summary: Accessible, high-quality health care is essential to community stability and individual well-being. This goal prioritizes improving the reach, affordability and coordination of medical, behavioral health and public health services. By strengthening service networks, the region can improve health outcomes and ensure residents receive the care they need.

Goal 10. Maintain adequate emergency medical, fire and rescue services.
Intent Summary: Emergency services are a cornerstone of public safety and community resilience. This goal focuses on sustaining reliable, well-resourced emergency response systems supported by trained volunteers and professionals. By strengthening service capacity, modernizing equipment and improving regional coordination, communities can respond effectively to emergencies and protect lives.

Goal 11. Expand access to housing-supportive infrastructure to enable new and infill housing development.

Intent Summary: Infrastructure availability strongly influences where and how new homes can be built. This goal emphasizes improving access to water, wastewater, broadband, transportation and energy systems in areas planned for growth. By reducing infrastructure constraints and supporting infill development, the region can expand housing options, improve affordability and reinforce compact land use patterns.

Goal 12. Maintain stormwater and drainage infrastructure to protect water quality, reduce flooding risks and support climate-resilient development.
Intent Summary: Effective stormwater systems reduce flood risk, safeguard surface waters and protect public and private property. This goal prioritizes infrastructure upgrades, green stormwater practices and planning approaches that account for more intense rainfall. By integrating climate resilience into design and maintenance, the region can reduce damage from extreme weather and support sustainable development patterns.

Goal 13. Transform regional planning, capital investment and utility governance to promote long-term financial sustainability and equitable service delivery.
Intent Summary: Strong governance and coordinated investment ensure that utilities and facilities remain financially viable and accessible across all communities. This goal highlights the need for modernized planning processes, shared services and equitable funding mechanisms. By transforming how decisions are made and resources allocated, the region can deliver services more efficiently and fairly over the long term.

Goal 14. Transform land use and infrastructure planning to advance health equity and environmental quality.
Intent Summary: The built environment influences health outcomes, environmental quality and community opportunity. This goal emphasizes integrating health equity, environmental justice and climate considerations into local and regional planning. By aligning land use decisions with public health goals, the region can create safer, healthier and more inclusive communities for all residents.