

GOAL 6



AIR, WATER AND
LAND RESOURCES
QUALITY

STATEWIDE PLANNING

GOAL 6:

To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water and land resources of the state.

CLATSOP COUNTY GOAL 6:

To maintain and improve the quality of the air, water and land resources of Clatsop County.

OVERVIEW

Goal 6 of the statewide land use planning program requires local comprehensive plans and implementing ordinances to be consistent with state and federal regulations on matters such as water and air pollution. At a federal level, the elements within Goal 6 generally correspond to the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. At a state level, Goal 6 covers many areas regulated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Coordination with partner agencies and citizens is critical to protecting air, water and land resources. The policies in this section define the responsibility of the County to work in partnership with others to achieve the highest level of air, water and land resource quality.

TABLE 1: GOAL 6 AGENCY PARTNERS

PARTNER AGENCY	AIR	WATER	LAND
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality	✓	✓	
Oregon Dept. of State Lands		✓	✓
Oregon Water Resources Department		✓	
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service)			✓
Clatsop County Soil and Water Conservation District		✓	✓
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		✓	✓
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife		✓	✓
Clatsop County Environmental Health Division		✓	✓

Goal 6 also requires local governments to consider protection of air, water and land resources from

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

pollution and pollutants when developing their comprehensive plans. Those pollutants include:

- Solid waste
- Water waste
- Noise
- Thermal pollution
- Air pollution
- Industry-related contaminants

Local governments should also designate areas suitable for use in controlling pollution from solid and water waste. The County must consider a variety of market, zoning and management tools in order to reduce or prevent noise, thermal and air pollution and contaminants from industry-related activities. Pollution control areas includes sites for waste water treatment plants, solid waste disposal sites and sludge disposal sites.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

OVERALL GOALS

- GOAL 1:** **Development in Clatsop County shall comply with all state and federal environmental standards.**
- Policy A:** Any development of land, or change in land use designation, shall not occur until it is assured that such change or development complies with applicable state and federal environmental standards.
- Policy B:** Waste discharges from any development, when combined with existing discharges from existing development, shall not result in a violation of state or federal environmental quality statutes, rules or standards.
- GOAL 2:** **The County shall encourage the maintenance of a high quality of air, water and land through the following actions:**
- Policy A:** The County shall encourage concentration of urban development inside Urban Growth Boundaries, as required by Statewide Planning Goal 14.
- Policy B:** Clatsop County shall encourage maintenance and improvement of pollution control facilities.
- Policy C:** Clatsop County shall cooperate with the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide an efficient transportation system. Methods to reduce congestion and air pollution should be explored.

GOAL 6: AIR, WATER AND LAND RESOURCES QUALITY

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

CLIMATE CHANGE

GOAL 1: Encourage the use of low impact, or nature-based, development techniques that support existing and future natural and beneficial functions

- Policy A:** Clatsop County should encourage septic tanks to be designed, placed, and maintained in order to eliminate discharges in areas subject to water inundation as a result of sea level rise.
- Policy B:** Clatsop County should encourage new development to limit removal of trees and plant new ones where they do not currently exist.
- Policy C:** Clatsop County should work with the Oregon Water Resources Department to ensure that well/surface water permits are issued and reviewed periodically with increased drought in mind.
- Policy D:** Clatsop County should encourage the use of rain water catchment systems in areas that will be affected by increased drought.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Policy A:** The County should continue to encourage the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other state agencies to monitor air quality, surface and groundwater quality, and land quality including waste disposal and erosion problems within Clatsop County.
- Policy B:** When evaluating proposals that would affect the quality of the air, water or land in the County, Clatsop County shall consider the impact on other resources important to the County's economy.
- Policy C:** Clatsop County should encourage the use of best practices in management of wood wastes as a means to enhance and maintain air, land and water quality.
- Policy D:** The County should work to maintain the quality of its estuarine waters through participation with CREST and other relevant regional efforts to support Total Maximum Daily Load reduction plans on 303d waters identified by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
- Policy E:** The County shall cooperate with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Transportation and other agencies in implementing best management practices to reduce non-point pollution.
- Policy F:** The County should encourage subdivisions adjacent to major arterials to develop designs to reduce noise, water run-off and air pollution impacts from

GOAL 6: AIR, WATER AND LAND RESOURCES QUALITY

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

adjacent roadways.

- Policy G:** The County will continue to enforce performance standards for noise that are included in the industrial and commercial zones.
- Policy H:** The County will continue to enforce its “Dark Sky” ordinance.
- Policy I:** Clatsop County, in conjunction with the County’s public health department and appropriate state agencies, may work to increase public awareness of the indirect impacts of food waste on air, water and land resources quality.
- Policy J:** The County and franchise haulers should encourage composting of organic waste and provide educational materials regarding the need to separate food/organic waste from other solid waste materials.
- Policy K:** The County should develop public information to assist the public in understanding what state and federal agencies are responsible for regulating air, water and land resources quality.

ALTERNATIVE SITING POLICIES

- Policy A:** Clatsop County shall identify a future site or sites for the potential installation of a solid waste disposal site to accommodate a biodigester or other system for the temporary treatment and/or storage of septage.
- Policy B:** The County shall identify sites for the stockpiling and disposal of organic fill/waste that has been removed from other development sites.
- Policy C:** In order to increase recycling opportunities, the County shall work with franchise haulers to establish additional recycling centers in underserved or unserved areas of Clatsop County.
- Policy D:** The County, in partnership with franchise haulers, will continue to support, promote and expand recycling opportunities.

AIR QUALITY POLICIES

- Policy A:** In conjunction with the County’s Public Health department, Emergency Management and appropriate state agencies, the County should work to increase public awareness of the indirect hazards of wildfire. These include impacts from air and water pollution and the potential for an increase in landslide and flooding risks.
- Policy B:** Clatsop County should partner DEQ to provide and/or increase the number of air-monitoring sites within the county.

GOAL 6: AIR, WATER AND LAND RESOURCES QUALITY

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- Policy C:** Clatsop County should offer or enhance educational information regarding Firewise landscaping; hardening of buildings (metal roofs, spark arresters).
- Policy D:** The County should encourage the planting of more native trees, which store carbon and reduce land heating which is beneficial to the population.
- Policy E:** To facilitate the use of electric vehicles, the County should encourage the location of a public electric vehicle charging station or stations throughout all unincorporated areas of the County.

WATER QUALITY POLICIES

- Policy A:** Clatsop County should work with state legislators to increase funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to be used for below-market rate loans to assist low-income property owners repair or replace failing septic systems.
- Policy B:** In order to monitor and evaluate the cumulative impacts of development, the County shall establish a comprehensive set of development standards for stormwater management, which may include specific standards for residential, commercial, industrial, and other categories of development.
- Policy C:** In order to understand the impact of road run-off on salmon populations, the County should encourage DEQ to study the impacts of road run-off on salmon populations and to develop regulations to address those impacts.
- Policy D:** The County should develop educational outreach programs and partnerships to work with rural communities and private land owners regarding protections to drinking water sources and watersheds and ensure high-quality drinking water.
- Policy E:** Clatsop County should encourage the Oregon Department of Forestry to develop a method of creating fire breaks around domestic water sources/tributaries, which could be utilized to protect sources before the fires happen.
- Policy F:** The County should work with the Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality and State Lands to evaluate additional protections for the Clatsop Plains and Gnat Creek aquifers.
- Policy G:** The County will cooperate and coordinate with State and Federal Agencies to assure water quality standards are maintained or attained to support the beneficial use of all groundwater and surface water areas in the County.
- Policy H:** The County will coordinate its actions with water quality planning and implementation activities carried out by such state agencies as the Department of Environmental Quality, the Soil and Water Conservation

GOAL 6: AIR, WATER AND LAND RESOURCES QUALITY

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Commission, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Water Resources, the Oregon Health Authority, CREST, watershed associations, the Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District, and local entities with policy-relevant expertise.

- Policy I:** Where municipalities or water districts have identified possible conflicts between forest management practices and the maintenance of the integrity of their watershed, the County may encourage these entities to work with the forest land owners to voluntarily change practices, to address issues and to work with Northwest Region Forest Practices Committee in the development of amendments to the Oregon Forest Practices Act that may provide protection of state licensed water supply systems. The county may at its discretion support these municipalities or water districts in seeking amendments to the Oregon Forest Practices Act.
- Policy J:** Clatsop County may maintain a watershed map library, including small local watersheds essential for drinking water supply. Drinking watersheds and groundwater sources should be identified and added to the County's public GIS maps. Policies to protect those sources, including stream buffers, should be developed and implemented.
- Policy K:** Clatsop County may work with watershed associations and the Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District to promote management practices that enhance water retention in watersheds.
- Policy L:** The County should encourage the voluntary restoration of floodplains and upper watershed functions to maximize natural soil water retention.
- Policy M:** In partnership with private landowners and state and federal agencies, Clatsop County may monitor impacts to groundwater resources caused by climate change, and may develop strategies to mitigate those impacts.
- Policy N:** The County should partner with other stakeholders and establish education and outreach programs to raise awareness of the value and fragility of groundwater resources within Clatsop County, with special recognition of its importance for Clatsop Plains water supply.
- Policy O:** In partnership with private landowners and state and federal agencies, the County may directly monitor the cumulative impacts of pollution on groundwater and surface water. The County should ensure that development with the potential to pollute has obtained all required state and federal permits.
- Policy P:** The County may ask the State Water Resources Department to study the

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

watershed area of the Nehalem River. Upon completion of the study, the County should coordinate with the State to review the findings.

Policy Q: The County should encourage the use of bioswales and open space to filter run-off on-site and to reduce or mitigate impacts from development.

Policy R: Clatsop County may encourage appropriate state agencies to monitor impacts on drinking water from windblown pollution and toxins from outside and inside Clatsop County.

Policy S: Clatsop County may provide letters of support or other assistance to the Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District, or other watershed councils that are applying for grants.

Policy T: The County may encourage the use of native vegetation and landscaping that reduces the need to use chemical fertilizers and irrigation, and may encourage the use of reclaimed gray water for irrigation purposes.

Policy U: The County shall explore different options to roadside spraying to limit levels of toxins that may enter the surface and groundwater systems.

Policy V: Clatsop County should partner with other stakeholders in the development of a voluntary acquisition program to acquire lands around drinking water sources/supplies.

Policy W: The County shall notify impacted watershed councils and districts of land use applications that are subject to a public hearing.

Policy X: The County should encourage retention and restoration of riparian native trees and shrubs, especially along drinking water source and temperature- and bacterial-impaired waterways.

Policy Y: Grading, excavation or filling in the riparian zone of rivers, streams, and creeks shall be controlled in order to prevent sedimentation of the water. Filling, grading, and excavation of lands shall be prohibited within stream buffers as identified in the comprehensive plan.

Policy Z: Clatsop County should encourage all landowners with independent water systems to register their systems with the appropriate government agencies so they may be identified and protected.

Policy AA: In all watersheds that drain into agricultural lands, siltation of sloughs and drainage systems can create problems for agricultural uses. The County should encourage all non-FPA-regulated activities to minimize siltation and erosion in areas upstream of agricultural lands.

GOAL 6: AIR, WATER AND LAND RESOURCES QUALITY

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Policy BB: Cleaning of sloughs and ditches and dike maintenance should be conducted under the supervision of the local diking districts and in cooperation with the Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District.

Policy CC: Clatsop County shall discourage draining and/or filling portions of lakes.

Policy DD: Clatsop County shall consider protection of the County's lakes from further degradation (eutrophication), and possible remedial actions to improve water quality.

Policy EE: Clatsop County shall restrict development or land uses located on land not regulated by the FPA that require channelization, excessive removal of streamside vegetation, alteration of stream banks, and filling into stream channels to maintain stream integrity.

Policy FF: Because of the economic importance of fish hatcheries and fisheries in general, Clatsop County shall discourage activities or developments that could be detrimental to the water quality.

Policy GG: The County shall continue to monitor water management and conservation plans of surrounding jurisdictions and special district for consistency with the county comprehensive plan.

LAND QUALITY POLICIES

Policy A: The County should work with appropriate other government agencies and partners to support housing and places to live for the unsheltered or inadequately-sheltered to help prevent pollution.

Policy B: Clatsop County shall develop programs to manage land conservation and development activities in a manner that accurately reflects the community's desires for a quality environment and a healthy economy and is consistent with state environmental quality statutes, rules, standards and implementation plans.

NOISE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS POLICIES

Policy A: To address quality of life issues associated with changes to work patterns and impacts from home occupations, the County should consider establishing noise and hazardous material storage and disposal standards for home occupations and bed and breakfast establishments.

IMPLEMENTING OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (OAR):

None

GOAL 6: AIR, WATER AND LAND RESOURCES QUALITY

ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2023 / ORDINANCE 23-06

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

COORDINATING AGENCIES:

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Oregon Water Resources Department
Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL)
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District

BACKGROUND REPORTS AND SUPPORTING DATA:

[Clean Air Act](#)

[Clean Water Act](#)

[Oregon Air Quality Monitoring Annual Report: 2019](#)

[Wildfire Smoke Trends and the Air Quality Index](#), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, July 2021

[Future Climate Projections Clatsop County](#), Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, February 2020

[2021 State Agency Climate Change Adaptation Framework](#)

[2018/2020 Integrated Report](#), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

[Goal 6 Background Report](#)