

GOAL 9



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

STATEWIDE PLANNING

GOAL 9:

To provide adequate opportunities throughout the state for a variety of economic activities vital to the health, welfare, and prosperity of Oregon's citizens.

CLATSOP COUNTY GOAL

9:

To diversify and improve the economy of the state and Clatsop County.

OVERVIEW

Goal 9 – Economic Development, originally adopted by the Board of Clatsop County Commissioners on July 23, 1980, was amended by Ordinance 83-17 on September 30, 1983. This revision is the first since that 1983 amendment.

The county's original Goal 9 identified three major industries in the county in the following order: 1) forestry and wood products, 2) marine resources, and 3) the tourism industry, at the time a more recently recognized sector. The original document noted the county had suffered chronic economic problems since the mid-1950s and acknowledged community members least able to handle the crisis were the ones most vulnerable to it.

The goal identified areas of concern, including: dependence on harvest and exploitation of local natural resources; fragmented local economic planning; insufficient industrial land in rural areas; economic conflicts over resource use; development pressure on agricultural, forest, and marine lands uses; seasonality of major occupational opportunities; increased mechanization; low-income in non-manufacturing and non-resource based occupations; and a disproportionately high number of retired residents. New areas of concern add earthquake and tsunami risks to the list of potential economic development challenges, as well as access to affordable housing and childcare.

Forty years later, the goal remains the same, as do many of the challenges. Forestry and wood products sectors, while still paying well, employ significantly fewer people. Marine resource jobs, especially crab, pink shrimp, and salmon fishing, pay well but are hard to document due to the seasonal nature of the work. Processing plants, which pay less well, are bringing workers from outside the area to fill jobs that, likewise, are seasonal. The visitor industry continues to grow and also continues to pay less well than the other sectors.

Other sectors, however, have emerged and the

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

community's demographics have shifted. Oregon Employment Department reports indicate education and health services; arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services; and retail trade now account for 54% of the county's civilian employment.

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Goal: To diversify and improve the economy of the state and Clatsop County.

GENERAL POLICIES

POLICY A: Recognizing it may be advantageous for Clatsop County to explore an economic opportunities analysis, consistent with OAR 660-009-0015, in cooperation with the cities, the Port of Astoria, and other economic partners, the Board of Clatsop County Commissioners may consider convening a countywide economic development summit with other stakeholders, including the business and development companies and communities, to assess the current situation and identify ways forward.

1. Prior to the economic summit, the county should establish benchmarks for economic activity countywide, using a comparable counties database, to judge progress and to provide a basis for the summit.

POLICY B: The county's buildable lands inventory should be updated and constraints to development, such as natural hazards and wetlands, should be identified.

POLICY C: Telecommunications is a critical component of infrastructure and efforts to further develop broadband throughout the county shall be considered a priority.

POLICY D: Burgeoning economic sectors, including agriculture (agri-tourism, farm-to-table movement), should be recognized and supported.

POLICY E: The County should implement the recommendations from the Housing Strategies Report of January 2019 and should pursue immediate or short term actions that could improve the availability of affordable housing in the County.

POLICY F: Businesses, especially start-ups and those businesses that will diversify the county's economy, should be encouraged, and supported.

FOREST PRODUCTS POLICIES

GOAL 9: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2023 / ORDINANCE 23-06

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

POLICY A: The Forest Practices Act regulates forestry practices.

POLICY B: The County should encourage the continuation of the long-term supply of raw products necessary to provide material for County mills by the following:

1. Small woodlot owners should be provided financial incentives for maintaining forest land use and effective management practices. Both public and private sectors (especially local forest products industries) should examine long-range payment and contractual agreements with small woodlot owners to level existing tax inequities and diminish long-range cash flow problems. (Such contracts could include reseeded agreements and cost sharing proposals).
2. State and federal representatives should be asked to explore legislation to provide assistance and incentives to small woodlot owners to insure participation in effective management programs.
3. Reforestation of native species should be encouraged by public incentives, especially for long maturation species such as cedar.

POLICY C: The County may collaborate with private industry, the Port of Astoria, Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) and other economic organizations in their attempts to improve forest industry employment opportunities by:

1. Supporting the work of groups such as CEDR and the Economic Development Administration to encourage the location of small businesses in the County which provide season long employment in the forest industry. Small businesses which would more totally process wood products from currently wasted material should be especially encouraged.
2. Supporting public actions which:
 - a. encourage research and development of wood-waste fueled energy generation,
 - b. develop technology and products made primarily from non-commercial and underutilized tree species (especially alder), and
 - c. assist small scale equipment development (i.e. chippers, portable specialty saw mills, etc.) through streamlining of zoning regulations.
3. Considering all measures to encourage expanded local processing of locally grown wood fiber such as cross-laminated timber, and specialty manufacturing to minimize current dollar leakages, including low interest loans, grants, small business assistance programs, and maximum use of the community reinvestment act.

MARINE RESOURCES POLICIES

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

POLICY A: The County shall enhance and protect the marine resource environment through participation in the Columbia River estuary regional planning process.

POLICY B: Clatsop County may encourage scientific research, including regarding ocean acidification, hypoxia, and domoic acid impacts to fisheries.

POLICY C: Clatsop County may encourage efforts towards organizing the numerous fishing interests in Clatsop County in conjunction with OSU's Sea Grant Program, Clatsop Community College and the Clatsop County Fisheries Project to develop methods to expand fishery activity in Clatsop County. Such activity could include:

1. establishment of model programs to utilize various fish species in different products, and
2. provision of technical assistance to local citizens interested in attempting commercial ventures derived from model programs.

POLICY D: The County, Port of Astoria, and CEDR should promote those public facilities and services required to increase the amount of seafood landed in Clatsop County. These activities could include:

1. Cataloging existing federal and state loan programs, production credits, and other program opportunities so that fishermen and local financial institutions are aware of benefits and utilization procedures
2. Encouraging resource agencies to continue developing information on the sustained yield of fisheries and recognize the importance of fresh water habitat.
3. Developing and expanding land based facilities in cooperation with fishery personnel, local businessmen, and port district staff, placing special attention on cold storage, landing facilities and moorage facilities.
4. Encouraging cooperation of local lending institutions and provision of technical assistance to assist local boat builders in expanding building facilities.

POLICY E: Fishing and maritime commerce contribute significantly to Clatsop County's economy. The potential effects and impacts, both harmful and beneficial, of wind or wave energy proposals on ocean fisheries and maritime commerce may be evaluated and considered when designing, locating and permitting these facilities. The County may consult the Oregon Territorial Sea Act and the OSU PacWav Project to provide input on the effect of wind or wave energy proposals on fishing and maritime commerce.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY POLICIES

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

POLICY A: The County Commission, in conjunction with the Fair Board, should attempt to promote year-round utilization of the facilities at the County Fairgrounds and encourage use of the Clatsop County Fairgrounds for conferences and additional events to attract attendees from outside the community and promote use of the fairgrounds as a regional venue for visiting events/festivals/exhibitions/trade shows.

POLICY B: The County may support efforts of local travel industry representatives and organizations to coordinate and promote off-season activities.

POLICY C: The County may support the efforts of Clatsop Community College, in coordination with local tourist and retail organizations, to provide programs and training for local businesses.

POLICY D: Clatsop County's desirability as a visitor destination depends in large part on the ocean. The potential effects and impacts, both harmful and beneficial, of wind or wave energy proposals on the hospitality industry should be evaluated and considered when designing, locating, and permitting these facilities.

POLICY E: Clatsop County, through the Arts Council of Clatsop County, recognizing that access to art and the well-being of the community are deeply connected and that the community's support of the arts is as essential as the arts' contribution to the community, may encourage the following:

1. The inclusion of art in public spaces;
2. The incorporation of art in public buildings;
3. Open-air art and music festivals or fairs in the shoulder seasons;
4. Walkable tours of art installations in well-maintained areas;
5. Interactive music and art installations in public spaces; and
6. Art reflecting the heritage of native peoples and settlers of the county be included.

HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES

POLICY A: The County should encourage local County-based industrial and commercial firms to cooperate with existing educational institutions to develop and utilize job training programs to hire local unemployed and underemployed individuals.

POLICY B: The County may work with partners to support employers providing family-wage jobs.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES POLICIES

GOAL 9: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ADOPTED JUNE 28, 2023 / ORDINANCE 23-06

CLATSOP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

POLICY A: Clatsop County should continue to delegate economic development processes to CEDR and Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District (Col-Pac).

POLICY B: The Port of Astoria's Strategic Business Plan 2019-2024 is adopted as a background report to Clatsop County's Goal 9, and Clatsop County may support key elements of the Port's plan, including:

1. Port of Astoria policies to maintain deep-draft terminal capabilities, leverage assets to support commercial fishing and cruise ships, and market the Port's airport industrial property.
2. Maximization of the use and income from the Port of Astoria's existing resources and facilities to support job and economic development opportunities.
3. Collaboration with the Port of Astoria on projects that would create new family-wage jobs as well as additional employment opportunities within Clatsop County.
4. Efforts to reestablish an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Business Oregon.
5. Opportunities to partner with the Port of Astoria on projects to identify and capitalize on emerging markets and shared economic development strategies.

POLICY C: Applications for destination resorts shall require an economic and fiscal impact assessment showing whether or not there are net benefits to the County as a whole for proposed destination resorts.

POLICY D: Conditions of approval for destination reports shall ensure that development is compatible with continued resource use of surrounding lands.

IMPLEMENTING OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (OAR):

[OAR 660-009](#) – Economic Development

COORDINATING STATE AGENCIES:

[Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development \(DLCD\)](#)
[Regional Solutions Center, North Coast](#)

OTHER PARTNERS:

[Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District](#)
[Clatsop Economic Development Resources \(CEDR\)](#)

BACKGROUND REPORTS AND SUPPORTING DATA:

[Goal 9 Background Report](#)