



CLIMATE AND THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT: THE RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITIES AT RISK TO WILDFIRE

Climate change exacerbates the factors that create perfect fire conditions. Increased temperatures, changes in rain and snow patterns, shifting vegetation types, forest and vegetation management decisions, and the distribution of homes, structures, and people in our natural environment are heightening the potential for wildfire.

Community wildfire practitioners, land managers, residents, and policy-makers are using and considering tools to help minimize the risk of wildfire to communities, one being land use planning. Land use planning can help communities determine where to allow development, what types of building materials will help keep people safe, and what infrastructure is needed to safely respond when disasters strike.

HB 1099 [Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework](#) is working to address a myriad of natural resources issues through the Washington State Growth Management Act ([RCW 36.70a](#)).

The [Washington Environmental Council](#) and the [Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network](#) hosted a virtual event ([recording](#)) to introduce Washington residents and stakeholders to HB 1099 and share how the relationship to communities at risk to wildfire and shared the following resources with event participants.



RESOURCES

Navigating the Washington State Legislature Website

The [Washington State Legislature home page](#) is where you can find daily happenings, including:

- Tips on [how to participate in the process](#)
- [What to know when coming to the Legislature](#)
- [Bill Information](#)
- The [Washington State Legislature Calendar](#) (legislative session calendar, committee meeting agendas and schedules, floor reports and calendar for bill introductions).
- A searchable map to help you find [your legislative or congressional district](#), as well as view the [statewide district map](#) with members.

What's Happening?

HB 1099 Proposes to Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. This bill will affect cities and counties who will be updating their respective growth management plans in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act ([RCW 36.70a](#)).

- Current [Bill Information](#) and [Fiscal Note](#) estimating the fiscal impacts of the bill
- [Senate Housing and Local Government Hearing recording](#)
- [Comment on the Bill](#)
- To learn more about the Growth Management Act (GMA), the Municipal and Research Services Center provides an [overview of the GMA](#) in Washington State, including legal requirements and links to other helpful resources.

How do I Connect with My Legislator and Stay Informed?

Look up your [legislators' contact information!](#)

Know the contacts for the [Senate Ways and Means Committee](#). These committees make recommendations on all bills for raising revenue, and deal with bills with operating budget fiscal impacts.

[List of legislator social media handles](#)

Utilize the [WEC Evergreen Bill Tracker](#) to stay up-to-date on the legislative session.



WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

The Washington Environmental Council is a nonprofit, statewide advocacy organization that has been driving positive change to solve Washington's most critical environmental challenges since 1967. We mobilize the public to tackle tough environmental issues, bringing together and amplifying voices across the state. Together we have built healthier communities and strengthened environmental protections. Our mission is to protect, restore, and sustain Washington's environment for all. wecprotects.org / katie@wecprotects.org

WASHINGTON FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

WAFAC is a peer learning network that supports local action, connects people to resources, facilitates results, and informs and influences on-the-ground projects to help Washington better adapt to wildfire. We engage communities, agencies, and organizations, so together we develop and act on place-based strategies and priorities. WAFAC is stewarded by the [Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council](#), a statewide nonprofit based out of Yakima, Washington. fireadaptedwashington.org / hilary@washingtonrcd.org

TOOLS YOU CAN USE

Preparing to Engage with Elected Officials

- [Grassroots 101 - Storytelling](#) provides tips on how to use your story to create change in your communities and with elected officials. (*Washington Environmental Council*)
- [Tips on Being an Effective Advocate](#) (*Washington Environmental Council*)
- These [tips for engaging elected officials](#) and [this guide](#) to help you prepare your talking points for engaging in policy discussions (*Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network*)
- [Grassroots 101 - Calling Your Legislature](#) provides steps for preparing for your conversation with elected officials (*Washington Environmental Council*)

Testifying

- [Testifying at Hearings](#) (*Golf Course Superintendents Association of America*)
- [How to Testify at a Public Legislative Hearing](#) (*Death with Dignity*)
- [Public Testimony 101](#) (*Oregon Wild Ones*)

Fact Sheet for Nonprofits

This [Administrative Advocacy for Nonprofits Fact Sheet](#) outlines the types of tools (administrative advocacy and lobbying) that are designed to influence federal, state and local agency rules (*Boulder Advocacy - A Program of Alliance for Justice*)