

## The Cascade Agenda

The Central Cascades' population is projected to double within the next 100 years—that's enough people to create 18 new cities the size of Tacoma. Increased development pressures could destroy our region's quality of life. The Cascade Agenda provides a market-based, non-regulatory approach for this region to accommodate growth; conserve our working and natural landscapes; and fairly compensate resource landowners, while maintaining a thriving economy.

## Why We Care About Cities

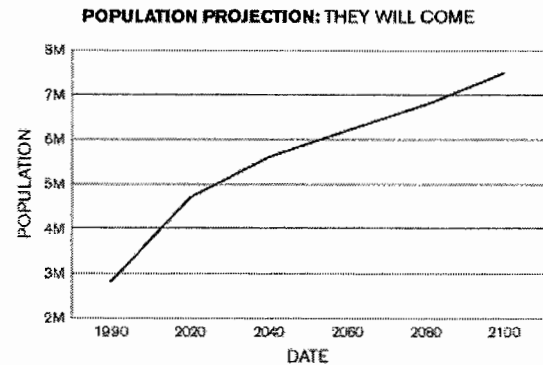
We recognize the relationship between the creation of great communities and the conservation of our region's landscapes. Maintaining our quality of life in the face of dramatic population increases requires a conservation approach that revitalizes our cities while sustaining our working and natural landscapes. Cities can be vital economic hubs that afford residents a high quality of life with good jobs, housing choices, trails and parks, and by doing so can save our regions natural and working lands. Simply put, if our cities and towns fail, our region will fail. To meet this challenge, Cascade Land Conservancy has launched the Cascade Agenda Cities program.

## What is a Cascade Agenda City?

Cascade Agenda Cities are attractive, vibrant and livable. They are both economically and environmentally sustainable, helping to preserve our region's spectacular natural landscape by providing attractive places that are magnets for growth. Cascade Agenda Cities engage their citizens in planning for the future. They provide housing choices and mobility to all residents, along with a world class park system and vibrant public places, creating a desirable place for people of all income levels to live, work and raise their families. Cascade Agenda Cities plan for, invest in and maintain:

- *Regional Quality of Life* – Act as a regional leader in securing quality of life by accepting transferred development rights to accommodate population and conserve nearby forests, farms and natural areas
- *Vibrant Public Spaces* – Well designed and properly cared for parks, streetscapes, plazas, buildings and neighborhoods that knit the city, and its people, together.
- *Green Infrastructure and High Performance Buildings* – Innovative solutions that incorporate natural systems and resource efficiency into the built environment
- *Transportation Choices* – Mobility options provide a connected, multi-modal network throughout the city
- *Affordable Housing* – A variety of housing choices near transit and jobs for all residents
- *Successful Business* – Investment in local businesses to serve the needs of a growing city
- *Local Food Production* – Link the city's consumers with the region's farmers to cost-effectively provide a source of healthy local produce
- *Cultural Richness* – A broad spectrum of cultural experiences and amenities including museums, theatre, and music are available to all
- *Parks and Recreation* – Acquire, maintain, and steward a network of public open spaces including parks, trails, and natural areas
- *Resource Conservation* – Manage water, air, and energy resources wisely and reduce sources of greenhouse gases and other pollutants

**S**imply put, a Cascade Agenda City is taking the steps to make a desirable place for people of all income levels to live, work and raise their families.



The population of the region will increase dramatically over the next 100 years, whether low or high rates of growth are used.

## Benefits of becoming a Cascade Agenda City

- *Economic Development* – Designation as an “Cascade Agenda City” ensures the city will plan for its future and maintain a high quality of life – a strong attractant to quality businesses and their employees
- *Increased tax base* – Building a well-planned, compact, and vibrant city creates a strong and sustainable tax base
- *Higher quality of life* – The Cascade Agenda Cities program gives decision-makers a context in which to make decisions that will benefit the community and maintain a high quality of life for all citizens 40, 60, even 100 years out
- *A more vibrant, robust city* – The Cascade Agenda Cities program will help your city to define and fulfill your community’s vision for its future.
- *Leveraging regional resources and public-private partnerships* – The Cascade Agenda Cities program will bring together people and resources in a coherent framework for so that your community an even better place to visit, live, work and play.

## How to Become a Cascade Agenda City

1. *Establish local grassroots and political leadership* – organize advocates for the Cascade Agenda who can promote appropriate strategies with city government
2. *Develop a vision for the future* – what are your city’s goals as you look 100 years forward?
3. *Create a plan for action* – work with CLC staff to develop specific strategies that the city will employ to make the Cascade Agenda a reality in their jurisdiction. This action plan should include benchmarks and a timeline for completion.
4. *Adopt a resolution implementing the Action Plan* – official statement of city’s intent to follow through on the action plan
5. *Submit Application* – After implementation of the action plan is underway, the city can submit an application for designation as a Cascade Agenda City. The Cascade Agenda Cities Work Group reviews the application, works with city staff to make refinements, and advances a recommendation to the Cascade Agenda Implementation Team for endorsement of the city’s efforts.
6. *Biennial Review Process* – CLC staff will review the city’s progress in reaching their benchmarks on a biennial basis. At the discretion of the staff, work group, and implementation team, Cascade Agenda City designation will be renewed if the city meets its benchmarks.

## Cascade Agenda Cities Program: What we do

The Cascade Agenda Cities Program promotes a vision for great cities, connects decision makers to needed resources, and supports policies that advance the Cascade Agenda. The Cascade Agenda Cities Program is committed to assisting cities in our region in launching efforts to become a Cascade Agenda City. We offer services to these cities aimed at increasing quality of life and meeting urban redevelopment, land conservation, and community planning goals. We can assist elected officials and city staff grappling with the difficult issues surrounding intensifying urban development, provision of parks and open space, and seeing innovative projects to completion. We will work with prospective cities to fund and create locally appropriate programs that advance the Cascade Agenda.

