

GOALS AND POLICIES

The following goals and policies provide the pathway how the City can realize its economic development vision that as a vibrant community with a strong and sustainable economy that celebrates and empowers its diversity, supports economic prosperity for all residents, and sustains a foundation for businesses of all sizes.

GOAL ED-1 A Vibrant, Diverse, and Resilient Economy

Policy ED-1.1 Continue to strengthen and balance economic and workforce development with strategic housing growth in Tukwila to ensure an adaptable and diverse economic base that leverages Tukwila’s many assets and ensures the City’s financial stability.

Policy ED-1.2 Attract and retain office, research, and development, advanced technology and manufacturing, aerospace, food manufacturing, and life sciences businesses, including those that provide services for export.¹

Policy ED-1.3 Encourage commercial and mixed-use development that provides a range of job opportunities throughout the city and county to create a closer balance between the locations of jobs and housing.²

Policy ED-1.4 Maintain support for and strengthen Tukwila’s robust retail, hospitality, and experiential sectors.

Policy ED-1.5 Evaluate the performance of economic development policies and strategies in developing businesses and creating middle-wage jobs.³

Policy ED-1.6 Make local investments to maintain and expand infrastructure and services that support local and regional economic development strategies. Focus investment where it encourages growth in designated centers and helps achieve employment targets.⁴

Policy ED-1.7 Promote the local workforce through priority hire programs that create middle-wage employment opportunities, encouraging workforce development partnerships, and identifying pipeline education or training opportunities.⁵

Regional Economy

¹ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-6

² King County Countywide Policy K_EC-26

³ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-4

⁴ King County Countywide Policy K_EC-18

⁵ Combined King County Countywide Policy K_EC-13, and PSRC Consistency tool: Economy. “...Expand access to economic opportunities through actions such as adopting a priority hire ordinance, encouraging workforce development partnerships, and identifying pipeline education or training opportunities...”).

Comprehensive Plan

Policy ED-1.8 Coordinate local and countywide economic policies and strategies with VISION 2050 and the Regional Economic Strategy. Emphasize support for those industry clusters that are integral to that strategy.⁶

Policy ED-1.9 Prioritize growth of a diversity of middle-wage jobs and prevent the loss of such jobs from the region.⁷

Regional Centers

Policy ED-1.10 Concentrate economic and employment growth in designated regional, countywide, and local centers through local investments, planning, and financial policies.⁸

Policy ED-1.11 Support economic growth that, along with land use planning and infrastructure development, facilitates Tukwila meeting its designated regional growth targets.

Policy ED-1.12 Work to reduce the risk of industrial displacement through a variety of anti-displacement strategies.⁹

Partnerships

Policy ED-1.13 Collaborate with the private sector to leverage catalytic development sites.

Policy ED-1.14 Build and maintain relationships with property owners and businesses.

Site Selection and Development

Policy ED-1.15 Facilitate redevelopment of contaminated sites through local, county, and state financing and other strategies that assist with planning, site design, and funding for environmental remediation.¹⁰

Policy ED-1.16 Continue working to achieve the vision in the Tukwila International Boulevard District and Southcenter District, emphasizing walkability, placemaking, and community gathering opportunities.

GOAL ED-2 A Safe, Desirable, and Healthy Community with a Positive Identity

Policy ED-2.1 Enhance Tukwila’s public safety perceptions and sense of place and support a positive identity as a city in which to “Live, Work, Stay and Play” – a community of choice for businesses, residents and visitors with outstanding transportation, quality housing, fun experiences, amenities, and supportive services.

Policy ED-2.2 Improve perceptions of public safety through crime reduction, visible enforcement, improved communications, and messaging.

⁶ King County Countywide Policy K_EC-1 and K_EC-3.

⁷ King County Countywide Policy K_EC-2, in part

⁸ King County Countywide Policy K_EC-17; this policy requires a strategy

⁹ PSRC MIC Consistency Tool: Economy, Guidance; this policy requires a strategy

¹⁰ King County Countywide Policy K_EC-24

Policy ED-2.3 Invest in placemaking efforts that stimulate and instill community pride, improve quality of life, and welcome visitors.

Policy ED-2.4 Promote positive aspects of the Tukwila community to the region.

Policy ED-2.5 Add to the vibrancy and sustainability of our communities and community health and well-being by ensuring the provision of safe and convenient access to local services, neighborhood-oriented retail, purveyors of healthy food (e.g., grocery stores and farmers markets), and sufficient transportation choices.¹¹

Policy ED-2.6 Promote Tukwila’s natural environment as a key economic asset and work to improve access to it as an economic driver. Work cooperatively with local businesses to protect and restore the natural environment in a manner that is equitable, efficient, predictable, and complements economic prosperity.¹²

GOAL ED-3 Prosperity and Opportunity for Businesses, Workers, and Residents

Policy ED-3.1 Expand avenues of durable economic success for workers, entrepreneurs, business owners, and residents in Tukwila, including workforce development, with a focus on shared prosperity, opportunity, and social responsibility for local communities.

Policy ED-3.2 Promote the local workforce through priority hire programs that create middle-wage employment opportunities in historically disadvantaged communities.¹³

Policy ED-3.3 Direct investments to community and economic development initiatives that elevate equitable economic opportunity for those communities most marginalized and impacted by disinvestment and economic disruptions¹⁴.

Workforce Development and Partnerships

Policy ED-3.4 Improve awareness of, and access to, education and workforce development resources.

Policy ED-3.5 Facilitate connections between employers and education and workforce development institutions, seeking to increase graduation rates and develop a highly educated and skilled local workforce. Align and prioritize workforce development efforts with Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; immigrant and refugees; and other marginalized communities.¹⁵

¹¹ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-19 (Edited from original)

¹² King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-20

¹³ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-13

¹⁴ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-16

¹⁵ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-12; the PC (at their 9/28/23 mtg) wanted us to revisit this second sentence. See minutes.

- Policy ED-3.6** Act as a resource to residents and workers connecting them to workforce development organizations.
- Policy ED-3.7** Encourage private, public, and non-profit sectors to incorporate environmental stewardship and social responsibility into their practices. Encourage development of established and emerging industries, technologies and services that promote environmental sustainability, especially those addressing climate change and resilience.¹⁶
- GOAL ED-4 A Supportive Environment for Business and Entrepreneurs**
- Policy ED-4.1** Maintain a strong, supportive environment for local, independent, small, and micro-businesses and the entrepreneurial ecosystem to ensure they continue to flourish in Tukwila while attracting new business activities to the City.
- Policy ED-4.2** Where possible, ease regulations that challenge small businesses.
- Policy ED-4.3** Ensure that business and entrepreneurial resources are available to those with least access, including people of color, immigrants, and refugees.¹⁷
- Policy ED-4.4** Ensure that Tukwila projects an ‘open for business’ culture, and help businesses thrive through:
- Transparency, efficiency, and predictability of local regulations and policies;
 - Communication and partnerships between business, government, schools, civic and community organizations, and research institutions; and
 - Government contracts with local businesses.¹⁸
- Policy ED-4.5** Foster a broad range of public-private partnerships to implement economic development policies, programs, and projects, including partnerships with community groups. Ensure such partnerships share decision-making power with and spread benefits to community groups.¹⁹
- Policy ED-4.6** Use partnerships to foster connections between employers, local vocational and educational programs, and community needs.²⁰
- Policy ED-4.7** Identify, support, and leverage key regional and local assets to the economy, including assets that are unique to our region's position as an international gateway, such as major airports, seaports, educational facilities, research institutions, health care facilities, long-haul trucking facilities, and manufacturing facilities.²¹

¹⁶ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-21

¹⁷ Change recommended during City staff equity review.

¹⁸ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-5

¹⁹ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-8

²⁰ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-9

²¹ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-10

- Policy ED-4.8** Support the regional food economy including the production, processing, wholesaling, and distribution of the region’s agricultural food and food products to all King County communities. Emphasize improving access for communities with limited healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food options.²²
- Policy ED-4.9** Develop and implement systems that provide a financial safety net during economic downturns and recovery. Direct resources in ways that reduce inequities and build economic resiliency for those communities most negatively impacted by asset poverty.²³
- GOAL ED-5 A Community that Values Diversity and Access to Opportunity²⁴**
- Policy ED-5.1** Foster a business community in Tukwila that welcomes and empowers residential and business diversity in all its forms while capturing increased market share and building resilience to economic shocks.
- Policy ED-5.2** Seek to understand the dynamics, needs, and relationships within communities, and where possible, provide crucial technical support and regulatory relief where feasible for small businesses owned by those with least access, including people of color, immigrants, and refugees.²⁵
- Policy ED-5.3** Highlight the dynamic diversity of local communities as a means to enhance social capital, neighborhood cohesion, the county’s global relationships, and support for cultural and arts institutions.²⁶
- Policy ED-5.4** Promote business diversity by signaling public sector support and ensure public investment decisions protect culturally significant economic assets and advance the business interests of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; immigrant and refugees; and other marginalized communities.²⁷
- Policy ED-5.5** Eliminate and correct for historical and ongoing disparities in income, employment, and wealth by building opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; women; and other intersecting marginalized identities.²⁸

²² King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-11

²³ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-27

²⁴ This change was modified to reflect the City’s emphasis on “inclusion” rather than “equity”: equity is being described more as creating opportunity for, and directing resources to, those with least access. We are addressing what equity looks like when applied.

²⁵ Policy/Strategy 5B from recently adopted Tukwila Economic Development Strategy.

²⁶ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-14; modified by City Staff equity review

²⁷ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-28

²⁸ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-15

Policy ED-5.6 Promote an economic climate that is supportive of business formation, expansion, and retention, and that emphasizes the importance of small businesses, locally owned businesses, women-owned businesses, and businesses with Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; immigrant and refugee; LGBTQIA+; disabled; and women-owned or -led businesses, in creating jobs.²⁹

Policy ED-5.7 Stabilize and prevent the economic displacement of small, culturally relevant businesses and business clusters during periods of growth, contraction, and redevelopment. Mitigate displacement risks through monitoring and adaptive responses.³⁰

RELATED INFORMATION

King County Countywide Planning Policies (2022)

Vision 2050 (2021)

Economic Development Element strategy (*when available*)

²⁹ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-7

³⁰ King County Countywide Planning Policy K_EC-29