

Kirkland Comprehensive Plan

Economic Development Element Goals and Policies Summary (adopted 2015)

The following is a summary of the existing goals and policies in the Economic Development Element chapter of the Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2015). The goals and policies reflect the priorities and role the City of Kirkland in the local economy. The Comprehensive Plan update will be looking at which of these may need to be updated for the next 20 years or horizon year of 2044.

The overarching economic strategy for Kirkland strives to provide:

- A sustainable and resilient economy
- A diverse tax base
- Access to job opportunities
- Goods and services for the community

To accomplish this, the [Economic Development Element](#) chapter:

- Encourages economic growth while maintaining attractive residential neighborhoods and a sustainable natural and built environment;
- Promotes a growing and diverse economy that has a variety of business sectors, living wage jobs, exports goods and services and encourages small, start up, locally owned companies;
- Promotes a positive business climate so businesses will grow and enhance Kirkland’s role in the Eastside and Puget Sound regional economy; and
- Supports economic growth focused in the Totem Lake Urban Center (Growth Center), Downtown (Greater Downtown Growth Center), and other commercial areas.

| <i>Existing Goal</i> | <i>Existing Policy</i> |
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| Goal ED-1: Promote a strong and diverse economy that provides a sustainable tax base and jobs | <i>Policy ED-1.1: Support activities that retain and expand existing businesses. Target recruitment activities toward new businesses that provide living wage jobs.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-1.2: Encourage a broad range of businesses that provide goods and services to the community.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-1.3: Strengthen Kirkland’s tax base to maintain long-term fiscal sustainability.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-1.4: Encourage clusters of complementary businesses that bring revenue and jobs into the community and export goods and services.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-1.5: Strive to maintain a balance of jobs and housing to enable residents to live near work.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-1.6: Promote Kirkland as a visitor, cultural, and entertainment destination.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-1.7: Encourage home-based businesses that are compatible with neighborhood character.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-1.8: Support locally developed enterprises by encouraging small start-up businesses.</i> |

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| Goal ED-2: Promote a positive business climate. | <i>Policy ED-2.1: Create and maintain a competitive tax environment.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-2.2: Foster a culture of creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-2.3: Make land use decisions that take into consideration the effects on businesses and the economic benefit to the community.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-2.4: Provide a regulatory environment that is predictable, fair, responsive, and timely.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-2.5: Support tools that encourage economic development.</i> Examples allowed by State statutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public/private development agreements; • Recruitment strategies that will result in new jobs; • Tax or fee deferrals, credits, or waivers; • County-sponsored industrial revenue bonds; • Participate in County, State or federally sponsored low interest loans or grants; • Installing infrastructure improvements; • Use of special taxing districts; • Expediting permitting and regulatory incentives; • Participation in regional Transfer of Development Rights or Landscape Conservation and Local- Infrastructure programs; • Legislative support for a form of tax increment and other economic development tools. |
| Goal ED-3: Strengthen commercial areas to provide local goods, services, and vibrant community gathering places to live, work, shop, and play. | <i>Policy ED-3.1: Encourage businesses to develop and operate in a manner that enhances the character of the community, minimizes impacts on surrounding development, and respects the natural environment.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-3.2: Encourage infill and redevelopment of commercial and industrial areas.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-3.3: Support businesses and organizations involved in the arts, cultural programs, historic preservation, and civic activities.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-3.4: Support businesses that encourage the health and well-being of all people by providing convenient access to healthy and locally grown food.</i> |
| Goal ED-4: Provide the infrastructure and public facilities to support economic activity and growth. | <i>Policy ED-4.1: Encourage construction and maintenance of infrastructure systems for utilities, transportation and telecommunications that optimize service delivery to the business community.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-4.2: Create strong multimodal circulation linkages to and within commercial areas.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-4.3: Support regional infrastructure initiatives that enhance economic development opportunities.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-4.4: Develop the Cross Kirkland Corridor to attract businesses and housing and provide a multimodal transportation facility connecting businesses and employees with local and regional employment centers.</i> |

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| Goal ED-5: Foster socially and environmentally responsible businesses. | <i>Policy ED-5.1: Encourage businesses that provide products and services that support resource conservation and environmental stewardship.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-5.2: Promote environmental responsible practices in business development and operations.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-5.3: Promote socially responsible practices in the private, public, and non-profit sectors.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-5.4: Help facilitate the environmental remediation of contaminated sites.</i> |
| Goal ED-6: Foster collaborative partnerships among community groups and regional organizations to create a prosperous Kirkland economy. | <i>Policy ED-6.1: Partner with businesses and community organizations to create a prosperous Kirkland economy.</i> |
| | <i>Policy ED-6.2: Work with businesses, schools, and other institutions to sustain a highly educated and skilled workforce through job training and education resources that lead to job opportunities, especially for disadvantaged populations.</i> |