

Memorandum

To: Christine Minney, County Council
Jamie Stephens, County Council
Cindy Wolf, County Council

CC: Mike Thomas, County Manager
Planning Commission

From: San Juan County Agricultural Resource Committee (ARC)

Date: January 27, 2021

Subject: Addressing Climate Change in the Comprehensive Plan

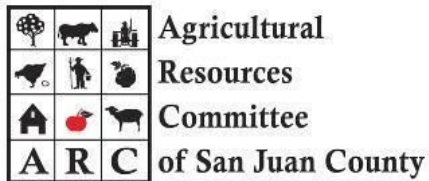
Background

The Agricultural Resource Committee (ARC) has been actively engaged with the Comprehensive Plan update since the beginning of the process. We supported the inclusion of a new stand alone section regarding Climate Change in the Vision Statement which was adopted on June 12, 2018 and reads:

Climate Change- *Our community sets an example with its approach to climate change. We prepare to address the negative effects in advance before they become a crisis. Our community encourages voluntary efforts and enacts incentives and regulations if necessary to reduce our carbon footprint.*

Recommendation

Recognizing the inclusion of Climate Change in the adopted vision statement, the impacts of climate change on agriculture and the role that agriculture can play in climate mitigation strategies, the SJC Agriculture Resource Committee recommends:



- Create a stand-alone section addressing Climate Change in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Create an advisory committee with representation from existing advisory committees (Water Resources, Marine Resources, Waste, ARC, etc.) and knowledgeable members of the public to provide support on development of Climate Change goals and policies.
- Facilitate inclusion of Climate Change in the Comprehensive Plan by utilizing existing material, such the climate change section in Whatcom County's [Comprehensive Plan](#) and '*Climate Change Adaptation through Local Comprehensive Planning: Guidance for Puget Sound Communities*' [LINK](#)

The ARC recognizes the work involved in tackling this important and complex issue. We are willing to provide assistance in development of goals and policies relevant to agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration,

On Behalf of the Agricultural Resource Committee,

Meike Meissner, ARC Chair

Faith Van De Putte, ARC Coordinator