

Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan

Public Participation Plan Report

Updated November 2025

Version 2.0

This document will continue to be updated with engagement data until the Comprehensive Plan's final adoption in June 2026.



Continuous Public Participation

It is the goal of Kittitas County to provide continuous public participation to the community.

Visit the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan Project Website for engagement opportunities and project information.

<https://www.kittitascounty2026.com/>

Email comments to comments@kittitascounty2026.com

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Engagement Overview

This Engagement Report serves as a means of reporting back to the community and stakeholders regarding the outcomes and insights of the engagement efforts initiated as part of the County's Public Participation Program.

The primary purpose of this report is to:

Provide Results: This report summarizes the tactics and results from the public and stakeholder engagement activities conducted throughout the planning process. These results reflect community input and feedback on key issues, priorities, and concerns related to the county's future.

Foster Transparency: The report summarizes how the engagement activities were carried out and what was learned from the community's involvement. This fosters trust and accountability by showing that the public's voice is being heard and considered in shaping the county's long-term planning efforts.

Guide Decision-Making: By sharing the results of the engagement, the report informs the decision-making process. Public and stakeholder feedback helps shape policies, strategies, and actions that will guide the county's development, growth, and future planning.

Goals of Public Participation:

Encourage continued and inclusive participation

Build trust and transparency

Educate and inform the community

Address community needs and priorities

Strengthen community relationships

Summary of Engagement Events

Engagement Strategy	Location	Date	Data Collected	Number of Participants
Joint BOCC/PC Meeting	Ellensburg	December 15, 2025	Aligning BOCC/PC policy priorities with the implementation chapter.	3*
Public Comment Periods August to December 2025	County-Wide	November – December 2025	Allow for open and flexible communication with the community across the County. Provide early opportunity to share concerns regarding preliminary draft policies.	9
Planning Commission Meeting	Ellensburg	November 12, 2025	Discuss preliminary draft policies. Topics: environment, climate, resilience. 30-day comment period for public.	7
Stakeholder Interviews	Ellensburg	October 29, 2025	Discuss potential housing policy barriers and opportunities with key stakeholders.	2
Stakeholder Interviews	Ellensburg	October 29, 2025	Discussion potential climate, resiliency, and natural environment policy barriers and opportunities with key stakeholders.	8
Planning Commission Meeting	Ellensburg	October, 14, 2025	Discuss preliminary draft policies. Topics: transportation, capital facilities, utilities, parks and open space, economic development. 30-day comment period for public.	7
Pop-Up Event	Ellensburg	September 23, 2025	'Bite of the Burg' Event - General feedback from younger populations about future goals for the Community.	115

Planning Commission Meeting	Ellensburg	September 9, 2025	Discuss preliminary draft policies. Topics: land use, rural, housing, resource lands. 30-day comment period for public	7
Pop-Up Event	Easton	May 25, 2025	General feedback on Comprehensive Plan prior to policy drafting.	40
Community Survey	County-Wide	Spring 2025	Topic-specific feedback about the Comprehensive Plan prior to policy drafting.	82
Pop-Up Event	Ellensburg	May 17, 2025	General feedback on Comprehensive Plan prior to policy drafting.	50
Open House	Cle Elum	May 17, 2025	General feedback on Comprehensive Plan prior to policy drafting.	7
Open House	Easton	March 20, 2025	Early feedback about the vision for Easton Subarea Plan.	25
			Total	362*

*Planning Commission is only counted once and not per meeting, adding 7 people to the total.

*The Board of County Commissioners is only counted once and not per meeting, adding 3 to the total.

Project Website August to December 2025

Goals

- Provide opportunities for continued public participation
- Provide digital copies of documents from in-person meetings
- Help inform the public on schedule, process, and milestones

Summary

Meeting Date: May to December 2025

Comments submitted through the website: 9

Format: The project website was created to provide a reliable and easy method of continued public participation and project information. Between May to August 2025 the project website was used to outline the schedule, timeline, and background information of the project and also was used to advertise summer engagement opportunities prior to policy development and advertise the community-wide survey.

Between August to December 2025 the website was primarily used to advertise the Planning Commission meetings that were intended to review preliminary draft policies. Copies of the preliminary draft policies were also available for download on the project website and participants could email or fill out an online to submit any comments during this period.

The website was also used to provide preliminary draft copies of the Easton Subarea Plan. Copies of the Easton Subarea Plan were available on the website between November 1st to December 29th, 2025. Public comments on the preliminary draft subarea plan could be emailed to County staff, emailed to the project email, or submitted through the online form on the website.

Screenshots of the Project Website in December 2025

Engagement Opportunities Page


Kittitas County 2026 Comprehensive Plan

Project Overview Engagement Opportunities Climate Easton Subarea Plan Documents

Engagement Opportunities

Kittitas County is entering the plan drafting phase of the Comprehensive Plan update, which will take place over the next 4-5 months. Residents are encouraged to participate in upcoming engagement events to provide their input and learn more about the process.

Plan Drafting Schedule

Throughout the drafting phase, policy reviews will be organized by element. In **September**, the focus will be on land use, rural areas, and housing. In **October**, the elements under review will include transportation, parks, capital facilities, utilities, and economic development. Finally, in **November**, the emphasis will shift to environment and climate and resiliency.

Read the Draft Policies

Click the link below to review the draft policy:

- [November 2025 Draft Policy Review - Environment, Climate, and Resilience Element](#)
- [October 2025 Draft Policy Review - Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Capital Facilities, Utilities, and Economic Development Elements](#)
- [September 2025 Draft Policy Review - Land Use, Rural, Resource, Housing, Elements](#)

Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

The project team will present updates to the Board of County Commissioners periodically until the project's estimated close in June 2026. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed.

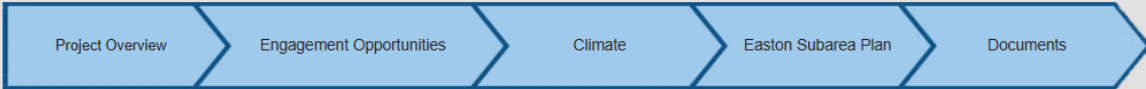
Visit the [Kittitas County BOCC website](#) for agendas and minutes of previous meetings.

[BOCC Facebook Page](#)

Easton Subarea Plan Page



Kittitas County 2026 Comprehensive Plan



Easton Sub Area Plan

Kittitas County and the Easton community are endeavoring to create a new subarea plan. The general boundary for the plan is anticipated to be the commercial land uses around Exit 71 on Highway 90.

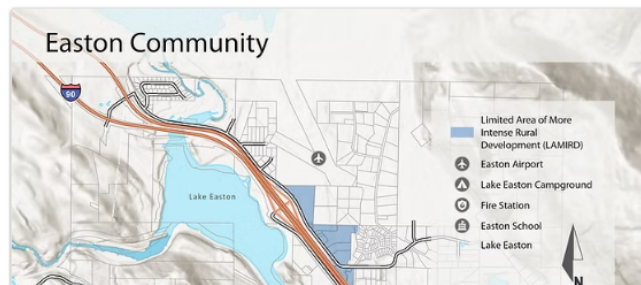
Preliminary Draft Easton Subarea Plan

The County is currently reviewing the Preliminary Draft Easton Subarea Plan. Full drafts of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan and Easton Subarea Plan will be released in 2026 with additional opportunities to provide public comment.

[Easton Subarea Plan V1.2.pdf](#)

Easton Subarea Plan Timeline

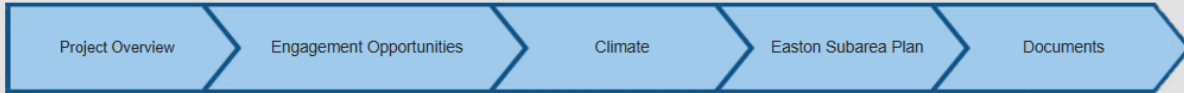
- **Spring 2025** – Kittitas County will engage with the community regarding the future vision for the area to ensure this plan focuses on a community-based approach to planning. The County will also collect data on existing conditions.
- **Summer 2025** – Kittitas County will review early engagement, data and future trends and establish a draft plan to present to the community for feedback.
- **Fall 2025** – The County will hold several meetings with the Easton community to review the draft plan. This is anticipated to take a few months to give the community time for review and provide feedback.



Documents Page



Kittitas County 2026 Comprehensive Plan



Documents

Final project documents will be added to this page as they are approved. To provide input on draft documents, email comments@kittitascounty2026.com.

[*Public Participation Plan and Project Charter - Approved - March 24, 2025 \(PDF\)*](#)

[*Housing for All Planning Tool \(HAPT\) Projections 2046 - Approved - April 15, 2025 \(PDF\)*](#)

[*Spring Engagement Open House Boards - May 2025*](#)

[*Kittitas County Housing Needs Assessment 2.3*](#)

[*Kittitas County Land Capacity Analysis 2.0*](#)

[*Kittitas County Summary of Climate Impacts, Risks, and Vulnerabilities 1.2*](#)

Kittitas County Community Development Services
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Ellensburg, WA 98926

Main Office: (509) 962-7506
cds@co.kittitas.wa.us

Project Contact:
Jeremy Johnston
Kittitas County Long Range Planner
jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us

[Kittitas County Community Development Services Website](#)

Joint BOCC/PC Workshop Meeting - December 15th, 2025

Goals

- Educate the PC, BOCC, and the public on Comprehensive Plan implementation
- Foster conversation between the Board of County Commissioners and the Planning Commission
- Prioritize policies for the implementation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

Summary

Meeting Date: December 15th, 2025

Attendees: 18

There were 3 Board of County Commissioners present and 7 Planning Commissioners present. 2 County staff members were also present. The Consultant had 3 people present to facilitate the conversation. The meeting was also open to the public.

Format:

The meeting was held at Teanaway Hall in the City of Ellensburg as part of the Planning Commissions regularly scheduled meetings. The consultant team and County staff presented the purpose of including an implementation component to the Comprehensive Plan, focusing on how to achieve the community's goals over the next 10 years and how the County can annually review goals and revise staff direction and budgets as needed.

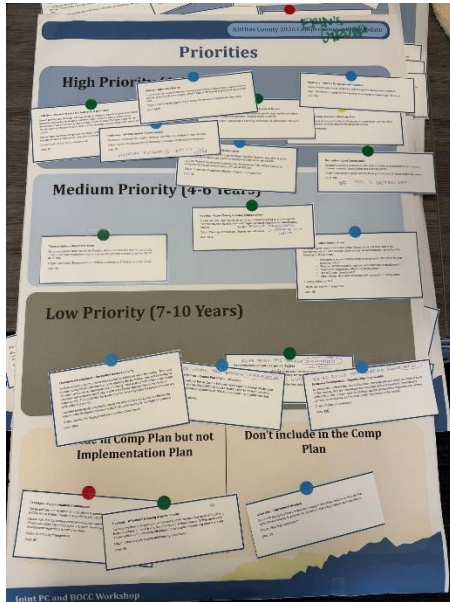
After the presentation the Planning Commissioners and the Board of County Commissioners were separated into three groups and invited to participate in a brainstorm activity with the project team, reviewing policies and prioritizing them from most important to least important.

Groups reviewed and discussed the goals and policies in the context of community needs and County capacity, then determined whether each policy should be included in the Comprehensive Plan and/or the implementation plan. Goals selected for implementation were prioritized by timeframe: high priority (1–3 years), medium priority (4–6 years), or low priority (7–10 years). Goals not suited for implementation were either placed in the Comprehensive Plan only or excluded entirely.

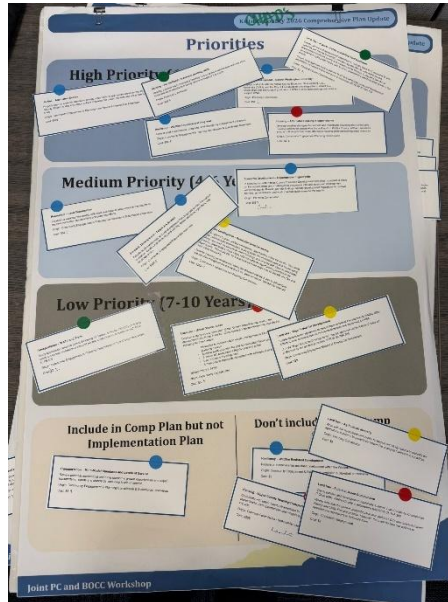
Each group concluded by reporting out their priorities, key discussion points, and any missing or additional considerations. Results from this exercise will inform development of the implementation chapter in the draft 2026 Comprehensive Plan.

Insights

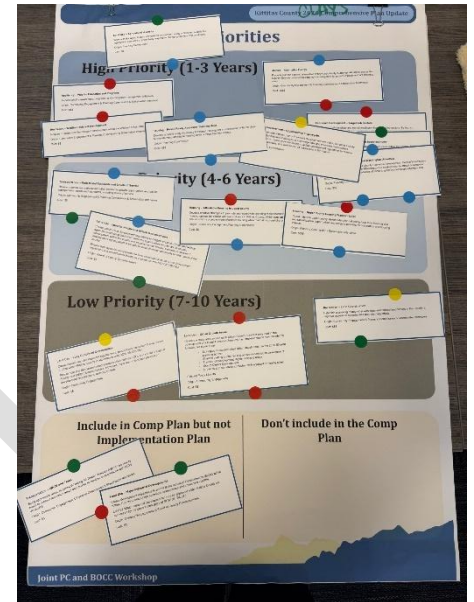
The activity boards provide insight into the priorities of each group.



Board 2



Board 1



Board 3

High Priorities

All three groups identified the following policies as “high priority”

- Properly plan for a permit alternative energy opportunity in appropriate areas across the County. Ensure codes encourage upfront mitigation for project impacts and are properly sited.
- Develop a permit ready Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) program in coordination with the cities to provide more affordable housing options throughout the county.
- Expand wildfire awareness, programs, and emergency management initiatives.

One or more groups listed the following “high priorities” listed

- Create policies and development regulations to mitigate impacts of state and federal agencies purchasing land which removes opportunities for jobs and economic development within the county and impacts county finance.
- Require or incentivize fire resistant development within the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Engage and work with the Kittitas County Economic Development, Central Washington University (CWU), and the City of Ellensburg on a strategy plan to attract businesses which align with and support graduates of CWU to grow economic development and support CWU.

Medium Priorities

At least two groups identified the following policies as “medium priority”

- Coordinate with upper county stakeholders for balancing long-term housing and recreation/tourism opportunities and mitigate potential transportation and housing.
- Review potential recreational and other economic growth opportunities and adjust transportation needs and standards, including levels of service.
- Actively build relationships and recruit employers from target job sectors like tourism, recreation, aviation manufacturing and training, timber industry, agriculture, and beverage sector.

Low Priorities

Two or more groups identified the following policies as low priority

- Work with the agricultural community to support and study options to diversify the agricultural economy to proactively respond to changing markets and conditions.
- Develop a study area around each Urban Growth Area that may lead to the development of a Rural Transition Zone overlay.

No Agreement

The following policies did not have strong agreement between two or more groups about the priority level

- Create development regulations to permit Major Industrial Developments (MIDs) within Kittitas County to encourage economic development.
- Economic Development policies:
 - Explore options to grow outdoor recreational opportunities within the county.
 - Complete a study on the opportunities and challenges to encourage jobs and economic development within the county.
- Work with the agricultural community to support and study options to diversify the agricultural economy to proactively respond to changing markets and conditions.
- Major Industrial Developments – explore development regulations to expand opportunities for MIDs.
- Establish a working relationship with state and federal landowners in the County to improve recreation opportunities and planning efforts.
- Study appropriate areas to permit Wheeling All-Terrain Vehicles (WATC) on county roads to connect recreation areas and access to services
- Develop creative strategies to promote and incentivize providing more affordable housing options for people who live and work in Kittitas County. Within rural

areas, ensure options promote more affordable housing while maintaining rural character.

No Priority

Two or more groups expressed that the following policies should not be considered for implementation chapter:

- Create policies and development regulations to permit Fully Contained Communities (FCCs) within Kittitas County.

Demographics

Name	Organization
Cory Wright	County Commissioner – District 1
Laura Osiadacz	County Commissioner – District 2
Brett Wachsmith	County Commissioner – District 3
Warren Taylor	Planning Commissioner – District 1
Joseph Pearson	Planning Commissioner – District 1
Bruce Coe	Planning Commissioner – District 2
Pat Deneen	Planning Commissioner – District 2
Scott Carlson	Planning Commissioner – District 3
Judith Jackson	Planning Commissioner – District 3
Bill Hinkle	Planning Commissioner – At-Large

Stakeholder Interviews: Agricultural Group

Goals

- Gather feedback from stakeholders to better inform the Comprehensive Plan
- Collect general feedback about existing conditions in the County

Summary

Meeting Date: December 10th, 2025

Attendees: 6

The County had 1 person present and the Consultant had two people present to help facilitate the conversation.

Comments received:

Format:

The Consultant posed questions to stakeholders about Kittitas' 20-year vision, their topic specific questions, and climate and resiliency. These questions were strategically used to spark conversation among stakeholders and gather insightful information.

These questions are as follows:

20-Year Vision Questions

1. What does your vision look like for Kittitas County in 20 years?
2. Based on your local knowledge, what are the biggest obstacles or barriers facing the County over the next 20 years?

Top-Specific Questions

The questions varied based on how the conversation progressed. Example questions are:

1. What does agriculture in Kittitas County currently look like?
2. Going beyond agriculture at this point, what are specific issues with housing or transportation that may play a factor in the next 20 years?
3. What are successful ways that you have seen these concerns get addressed?

Climate Resiliency Questions

1. As a representative in your organization, how would you characterize the risk your community faces to hazards exacerbated by climate change?

2. As a resident of the county, do you have thoughts on the climate exacerbated hazards?
3. What are the barriers you see facing agriculture?

Insights

20-Year Vision Themes

- Water availability and security are the most significant long-term barriers, exacerbated by prolonged drought, reduced snowpack, and uncertainty around water rights.
- Urban sprawl and development pressure on agricultural lands threaten farming and ranching viability, increase traffic conflicts, and strain infrastructure.
- Aging infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, water conveyance, power) is insufficient to support growth, agricultural operations, and heavier equipment.

Major Barriers

- Loss of reliance on senior water rights and increasing regulatory uncertainty from the State complicate long-term agricultural planning.
- Housing growth without adequate water planning poses risks to irrigation districts and future water supply.
- Power costs and availability are barriers, particularly for conservation practices like sprinkler irrigation.
- Transportation system limitations, including county roads and the I-90/106 interchange, are not designed for current or projected growth.

Pressing Issues

- Severe drought over the last three years has directly harmed agricultural production.
- Immediate need for increased water storage and groundwater recharge to capture floodwaters and stabilize supply.
- Traffic safety and road capacity issues, especially for agricultural equipment sharing roads with residential and commercial traffic.
- Rising taxes and costs (fuel, hay storage, water, power) impacting farm and ranch operations.
- State and federal forest management failures, contributing to wildfires, smoke, watershed degradation, and loss of affordable grazing leases.

Climate & Resiliency Concerns

- Extreme heat is reducing crop viability and may require long-term crop shifts.
- Drought and water scarcity threaten agriculture, fisheries, and compliance with endangered species regulations.
- Wildfire smoke degrades crop quality, especially hay, and impacts marketability.

- Flooding events produce water that cannot currently be captured or reused, highlighting inadequate infrastructure.

Successes & Opportunities

- Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is viewed positively, with goals and benchmarks met or exceeded and strong stewardship outcomes.
- Agricultural clustering is widely supported as a key tool to preserve farmland while allowing limited, strategic development.
- Opportunity to expand water storage and groundwater recharge systems as a long-term resilience strategy.
- Growing recognition of water challenges across jurisdictions creates momentum for coordinated action.
- Potential tax relief or incentives (property, fuel, water, power) to support agricultural preservation and reduce pressure to sell land.
- County Comprehensive Plan seen as a key tool to build partnerships, coordinate solutions, and guide long-term agricultural and infrastructure planning.

Demographics

The table below shows who attended the meeting and the organization they represent.

Name	Organization
Keith Winter	Cattleman's Association
Brad Haberman	Rancher, Farmer, and life-long resident
Mark Hansen	City of Kittitas
Mark Charlton	Rancher, Farmer, Kittitas County Farm Bureau

2025 Preliminary Policy Review – Public Comments

Goals

- Allow for open and flexible communication with the community across the County.
- Provide early opportunity to share concerns regarding preliminary draft policies.

Summary

Format: Between September 2025 and December 2025, the project website posted preliminary draft policies once a month and provided anyone the opportunity to submit a comment online via the website portal or email comments into the project team at comments@kittitascounty2026.com.

Kittitas County 2026 Comprehensive Plan

Project Overview | Engagement Opportunities | Climate | Easton Subarea Plan | Documents

Engagement Opportunities

Kittitas County is entering the plan drafting phase of the Comprehensive Plan update, which will take place over the next 4-5 months. Residents are encouraged to participate in upcoming engagement events to provide their input and learn more about the process.

Plan Drafting Schedule

Throughout the drafting phase, policy reviews will be organized by element. In September, the focus will be on land use, rural areas, and housing. In October, the elements under review will include transportation, parks, capital facilities, utilities, and economic development. Finally, in November, the emphasis will shift to environment and climate and resiliency.

Read the Draft Policies

Click the link below to review the draft policy:

- [November 2025 Draft Policy Review - Environment, Climate, and Resilience Element](#)
- [October 2025 Draft Policy Review - Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Capital Facilities, Utilities, and Economic Development Elements](#)
- [September 2025 Draft Policy Review - Land Use, Rural, Resource, Housing, Elements](#)

Provide Comment on Draft Policies

The public is welcome to provide comments on the preliminary draft policies until December 5, 2025. Comments can be submitted via email to comments@kittitascounty2026.com or by completing the form below.

Submit a comment

Submit

Insights

The following comments were received from the online website form:

Comment #1: The commenter mentioned that the map used for the Easton open houses showed a pink dashed line around their property and requested clarification as to its meaning. The commentor expressed concern around labeling Exit 70 incorrectly as Exist 71. Finally, the commentor expressed strong interest in keeping properties zoned R5.

Comment #2: The commenter mentioned that the LAMIRD designations shown on the Easton Subarea Plan map were incorrect and requested clarification on the dashed lines depicted around their property. The commenter expressed concern about the plan's general boundary description, noting that Exit 71 was referenced incorrectly and that the LAMIRD area near Exit 70 should not be excluded. Finally, the commenter expressed strong interest in keeping properties zoned R5 and emphasized the need for the subarea plan to include the full Easton 98925 area and more detailed mapping of surrounding land uses and recreational assets.

Comment #3: The commenter mentioned that frequent winter road closures, caused by vehicles blocking all lanes, prevent emergency services from accessing the community and expressed concern that growth should not occur without fully disclosing this issue. The commenter expressed concern about the local school's long-term low performance, noting limited course offerings and lack of state accountability due to small class sizes. Finally, the commenter expressed strong interest in ensuring these issues are clearly disclosed and addressed in future planning.

Comment #4: The commenter mentioned that outreach for the Easton Subarea Plan should include a wider range of residents, noting that prior community meetings did not represent the full population. The commenter expressed concern about proposals for a public restroom in Downtown Easton, stating that such a facility is unnecessary, unsupported by many residents, and better suited to an area outside of town. Finally, the commenter expressed strong interest in addressing major issues such as winter freeway backups and associated EMS barriers, the suitability of certain land uses given Easton's heavy snowfall, avoiding taxpayer-funded sewer expansion, and correcting errors in the draft plan.

Comment #5: The commenter recommended school-related needs for the Kittitas County 20-year comprehensive plan, with a focus on the Upper County needs. The needs are broken up into categories, they are as follows:

1. Early Learning & Childcare Infrastructure

Upper County has limited licensed childcare capacity despite rapid residential growth. The plan should identify and zone for early learning facilities, incentivize childcare development, support

school–county partnerships for a future Early Learning Center, and treat childcare deserts as a school readiness and workforce issue.

2. Healthcare Access & Medicaid Services

Upper County lacks Medicaid-accepting providers, and the local clinic is significantly backlogged. The plan should prioritize recruitment of Medicaid providers, support development of a school-based or community clinic with mental health services, expand mobile/telehealth infrastructure, and address healthcare shortages as an equity gap.

3. Transportation & Mobility Services

There is minimal public transportation for families, youth, or seniors. This affects school attendance, activities, CTE internship access, and parent engagement. The plan should expand transit routes into Upper County, increase access to Ellensburg services, add transportation equity goals, and support school–county collaboration for youth mobility.

4. Safe Routes to School & Transportation Safety

Upper County schools sit near a major freeway with growing traffic. Safe routes are inadequate. The plan should expand school-zone boundaries, add speed controls, create ADA-compliant pedestrian pathways, improve crossings and lighting, and require traffic impact studies for new developments affecting school transportation.

5. Emergency Response & Safety Infrastructure

Development growth increases pressure on emergency response systems that also serve schools. The plan should improve emergency management coordination with schools, ensure adequate evacuation routes, and address wildfire response planning for school sites and outdoor activities. We anticipate the schools to be an emergency shelter, yet we have no materials or organization by the county or the sheriff.

6. Growth Management, Impact Fees, and Mitigation Requirements

New development is adding enrollment pressure without mechanisms to support school capacity. The county currently lacks impact fee or mitigation structures. The plan should adopt school impact fees, require meaningful developer mitigation, plan long-term for school capacity and land needs, and formally include the district in development review.

7. Housing Affordability & Workforce Stability

High housing costs undermine teacher and staff recruitment. The plan should encourage workforce housing near schools, mixed-income developments, affordable rental options, and public–private partnerships to support educator housing.

8. Community Recreation & Youth Services

Upper County has limited youth recreation infrastructure. The plan should support development of community recreation spaces, expand access to fields and gyms, and integrate school recreation needs into county recreation planning. Or, partner with the District to help put in the infrastructure to support youth and adult recreation.

9. Communications & Public Engagement in Upper County

Upper County has historically been underrepresented in county processes. The plan should include rural engagement strategies, ensure Upper County participation in annual reviews, and consider forming an advisory group for school-related impacts. Avoid continued E'burg meetings and commit to moving county meetings occasionally here, or, have county officials work to get onto the District board meetings and be more engaged in the work of schools trying to solve the job shortage, and economic vitality of the region.

10. County–School District Collaboration Requirements

The plan should formalize strong county–school coordination on enrollment projections tied to development, transportation modeling near schools, land-use decisions affecting safety or capacity, and emergency preparedness (including wildfire, winter storms, and reunification planning). We should be combining on hard to find employees like, mechanics, transportation directors, tech directors, Safety leads, so we each do not have to hire them, we partner on these expensive employees.

November Planning Commission

Summary is in progress and will be added to the next version of the engagement report.

Goals

-

Summary

Meeting Date:

Attendees:

Comments received:

Format:

Insights

DRAFT

Stakeholder Interviews: Housing Group

Goals

- Gather feedback from stakeholders to better inform the Comprehensive Plan
- Collect general feedback about existing conditions in the County

Summary of Meeting #1

Attendees: 2

The County and the Consultant had 2 staff each present as well.

Format:

Hybrid (in-person and WebEx)

The Consultant posed questions to stakeholders about Kittitas' 20-year vision, their topic specific questions, and climate and resiliency. These questions were strategically used to spark conversation among stakeholders and gather insightful information.

These questions are as follows:

20-Year Vision Questions

2. What does your vision look like for Kittitas County in 20 years?
3. Based on your local knowledge, what are the biggest obstacles or barriers facing the County over the next 20 years?

Top-Specific Questions

The questions varied based on how the conversation progressed. Example questions are:

2. What housing program or services are you currently offering?
3. What are the most pressing housing concerns within the county?
4. What are successful ways that you have seen these concerns get addressed?

Climate Resiliency Questions

2. As a representative in your organization, how would you characterize the risk your community faces to hazards exacerbated by climate change?
3. As a resident of the county, do you have thoughts on the climate exacerbated hazards?
4. What are the barriers you see facing housing?

Insights

20-Year Vision Themes

- Address mismatch between housing types and affordability; aging population needs suitable options.
- More social amenities for youth and families
- Preserve historic spaces for community identity.
- Integrate sustainability planning and climate policy evaluations
- Encourage renewable energy adoption (solar, potentially wind)
- Adjust transit centers near higher-density housing
- Address transportation gaps in the Upper and Eastern County
- Restore senior transit options.

Major Barriers

- Limited state resources for land and funding
- Infrastructure not keeping pace with growth
- Rising energy costs during climate events leading to evictions
- Lack of dedicated grant writer for housing and resiliency projects
- Market pressures driving up agricultural land values and housing costs

Pressing Issues

- Affordable housing development hindered by permitting and resource constraints
- Manufactured homes and trailers needed
- Balancing historic preservation with new development
- Transportation gaps affecting access to housing and services
- Climate hazards (wildfire smoke, extreme heat) impacting livability and energy affordability

Climate & Resiliency Concerns

- Increased smoke days and extreme heat affecting health and recreation
- Flooding risk countywide; need larger culverts for resiliency
- Energy burden during climate vents; limited assistance programs

- Weatherization support available but limited to certain home components

Successes & Opportunities

- Ellensburg advancing Housing Action Plan goals through small and medium projects
- HopeSource delivering large-scale housing projects
- Strong community interest in historic preservation and sustainability
- Potential for interagency collaboration and leveraging state resources
- Renewable energy partnerships and climate adaptation strategies emerging

Demographics

The table below shows who attended the meeting and the organization they represent.

Name	Organization
Lily Fry	City of Ellensburg – Housing
Susan Grindle	HopeSource

Summary of Meeting #2

Attendees: 2

Date: January 6, 2026

Format:

Online via Microsoft Teams

The Consultant posed questions to stakeholders about Kittitas' 20-year vision, their topic specific questions, and climate and resiliency. These questions were strategically used to spark conversation among stakeholders and gather insightful information.

These questions are as follows:

20-Year Vision Questions

3. What does your vision look like for Kittitas County in 20 years?
4. Based on your local knowledge, what are the biggest obstacles or barriers facing the County over the next 20 years?

Top-Specific Questions

The questions varied based on how the conversation progressed. Example questions are:

3. What housing program or services are you currently offering?
4. What are the most pressing housing concerns within the county?
5. What are successful ways that you have seen these concerns get addressed?

Climate Resiliency Questions

3. As a representative in your organization, how would you characterize the risk your community faces to hazards exacerbated by climate change?
4. As a resident of the county, do you have thoughts on the climate exacerbated hazards?
5. What are the barriers you see facing housing?

Insights

20-Year Vision Themes

- A more flexible, less prescriptive regulatory environment that supports a variety of housing types, including ADUs, cottages, starter homes, and renovations.
- A sustainable and skilled local construction workforce, supported by education, on-the-job training, and partnerships with institutions like CWU.
- Efficient, coordinated permitting and development processes with better inter-departmental collaboration at the County level.
- Housing affordability and choice across income levels, with reduced upfront development costs and innovative financing options
- A more connected region, with improved transportation options that reduce car dependency and support commuting across Central Washington.

Major Barriers

- High upfront infrastructure and permitting costs (water, roads, fire protection) required before construction can begin.
- Rigid codes and regulations (setbacks, road access, ADU requirements, energy codes) that limit flexibility and innovation.
- Workforce shortages driven by aging builders, lack of training pathways, and limited certification reciprocity.

- Limited trust and communication between builders and the County, especially between upper and lower county areas.

Pressing Issues

- Delays caused by poor inter-departmental coordination in the permitting process.
- Unbuildable lots and limited tools (e.g., TDR programs) to make them viable.
- Closure or reduced capacity of fire stations, affecting development feasibility and public safety.
- Continued car-dependent development patterns and limited regional transit options.

Climate and Resiliency Concerns

- Need to incentivize green building and energy efficiency, rather than relying solely on mandates.
- Tension between new energy and EV infrastructure requirements and supply-chain constraints that delay projects.
- Challenges related to wildfire risk, including sprinkler requirements and insurance feasibility.
- Recognition that existing housing stock may pose greater environmental and energy risks than new construction.
- Balancing development in areas with flooding or wildfire risks while acknowledging limited buildable land in the County.

Successes and Opportunities

- Strong interest in permit-ready, pre-check, and pre-approved plan programs to streamline development.
- Growing demand for smaller housing types, including cottages, ADUs, and starter homes.
- Existing regional transit connections (e.g., Ellensburg–Yakima bus) that could be expanded.
- Opportunities to partner with educational institutions and create task forces to support workforce development.

Demographics

The table below shows who attended the meeting and the organization they represent.

Name	Organization
Andi Hovitner	Home Builders Association

DRAFT

Stakeholder Interviews: Natural Resources, Climate and Resiliency Group

Goals

- Gather feedback from stakeholders to better inform the Comprehensive Plan
- Collect general feedback about existing conditions in the County

Summary

Attendees: 6

The County and the Consultant had 2 staff each present as well.

Format:

Hybrid (in-person and WebEx)

The Consultant posed questions to stakeholders about Kittitas' 20-year vision, their topic specific questions, and climate and resiliency. These questions were strategically used to spark conversation among stakeholders and gather insightful information.

These questions are as follows:

20-Year Vision Questions

1. What does your vision look like for Kittitas County in 20years?
2. Based on your local knowledge, what are the biggest obstacles or barriers facing the County over the next 20 years?

Top-Specific Questions

The questions varied based on how the conversation progressed. Example questions are:

1. What are the more pressing housing concerns as it relates to habitat conservation?
2. What's the highest concern for the community and of these hazards what are the impacts you are worried about?
3. What are successful ways that you have seen these concerns get addressed?

Climate Resiliency Questions

1. As a representative in your organization, how would you characterize the risk your community faces to hazards exacerbated by climate change?

2. As a resident of the county, do you have thoughts on the climate exacerbated hazards?
3. Is there an understanding of climate and the impacts to habitats? Have there been success stories?
4. What are the barriers you see facing climate resiliency?

Insights

20-Year Vision Themes

- Balance growth with habitat conservation, avoid sprawl
- Restore salmon and whitefish in the Yakima River
- Walkable communities connected to outdoor corridors
- Protect tribal rights and water resources.
- Maintain agricultural viability for environmental and economic benefits
- Improve interagency communication

Major Barriers

- Limited capacity for basic services and climate disaster response
- Wildfire risk in Upper County, development pressures in WUI zones
- Water scarcity and rights complexity
- Transportation congestion (I-90) and wildlife crossing needs

Pressing Issues

- Housing expansion into wildfire-prone zones
- Floodplain management to prevent incompatible development
- Green zone buildability and water availability
- Agricultural land fragmentation; orchard crop impacts
- Transportation: wildlife crossings, emergency access, low EV infrastructure

Climate & Resiliency Concerns

- Flood events: need larger culverts/bridges: habitat reconnection
- Wildfire: drought-stressed forests; need proactive emergency resources
- Extreme heat impacts on ecosystems.

- Drought: incentivize water banking, turf alternatives
- Invasive grasses increasing fire risk
- Coordination with Yakama Nation for climate adaptation

Successes & Opportunities

- County praised for flood improvements
- Strong community support for mitigation actions
- Need for climate education and dedicated grant writer
- Potential to mix traditional knowledge with science for adaptation strategies.

Demographics

The table below shows who attended the meeting and the organization they represent.

Name	Organization
John Marvin	Yakima Nation
Reese Lolley	Resource Conservation and Development Council
Anna Lael	Conservation District
Nicki Pasi	Mountain to Greenway Trust
Mitch Long	Kittitas Conservation Trust
Scott	WDFW

October Planning Commission

Goals

- Discuss preliminary draft policies about:
 - Transportation
 - Utilities
 - Capital Facilities
 - Parks, Recreation, Open Space
 - Economic Development

Summary

Attendees: 7 (Planning Commissioners)

Format: The Planning Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting to discuss preliminary draft policies for transportation, parks and recreation, capital facilities, utilities, and economic development elements. The project team submitted a memo to summarize discussion questions, a PowerPoint, and an exhibit of preliminary draft policies.

Each month, the same week of the Planning Commission meetings, Kittitas County announced a 30-day comment period for anyone from the public to review the preliminary drafts online. To share comments community members were able to go to the Planning Commission meeting in-person, email comments, or submit comments online through the project website.

Insights

Utilities

Commissioners expressed interest in developing policies and then regulations for Micro nuclear siting. Siting requires approval from regulatory bodies like the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (nrc.gov), which is developing new regulations for these new technologies. Explore getting ahead of this technology in terms of policy/code.

Transportation

Discussion regarding the allowance for wheeled all-terrain vehicles (WATVs) on some county roads. This is allowed under RCW 46.09.457 when a county has adopted an ordinance.

The Kittitas County Connector is run through HopeSource. The Planning Commission mentioned connections to Kittitas/Ellensburg.

Collaborate with the Public Works Department to review and refine multimodal transportation policies, ensuring they are appropriately scaled and primarily focused on Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). Explore opportunities to align these policies with recreational objectives, particularly those related to trail development. Additionally, consider integrating this requirement with proactive county policies to create a cohesive and forward-looking approach.

Economic Development

Consider goals around working with CWU and possibly Ellensburg and Economic Development groups to better develop programs which link CWU programs with industry and job opportunities. Are there ways to attract businesses which could utilize CWU students.

Fire Prevention and Fire Mitigation

Planning Commissioner written comment about including goals and policies for Fire Prevention which mentioned:

Reduce Wildfire Ignition & Structure Vulnerability

- Update WUI maps and hazard ratings.
- Require ignition-resistant construction and defensible space.
- Offer expedited permits and fee reductions for wildfire retrofits.
- Expand fuels mitigation programs and promote Firewise standards.

Improve Fire Protection & Emergency Response

- Coordinate with fire districts to improve Public Protection Classification (PPC) scores.
- Require adequate fire flow or alternatives in rural areas.
- Adopt access/egress standards for new development.
- Integrate evacuation planning and support mutual aid agreements.

Align Land Use & Capital Facilities with Wildfire Resilience

- Use hazard mapping to guide land use and densities.
- Incorporate fuels-reduction corridors and buffers.
- Fund water supply and emergency access projects.
- Encourage compact development patterns and require maintenance agreements.

Support Insurance Availability & Affordability

- Maintain a public dashboard tracking mitigation activities.

- Publish homeowner guidance on insurer-recognized mitigation.
- Encourage Firewise districts and advocate for incentives.

Ensure Equitable Risk Reduction & Preparedness

- Provide outreach to vulnerable communities.
- Target incentives and coordinate evacuation assistance.
- Integrate schools, hospitals, and employers into planning.
- Establish feedback loops to measure participation and adapt strategies.

Establish Localized Fire Water Transportation in Rural Communities

- Pilot programs for fire water lines in rural areas.
- Coordinate with Ecology for high-capacity wells.
- Pursue grants and partnerships for infrastructure.

Support Aerial Firefighting Capability

- Identify and enhance water-dipping sites for aerial firefighting.
- Prioritize sites near high-hazard zones.
- Set standards for impoundments and pursue funding.

Establish a Permanent Fire Insurance & Risk Reduction Committee

- Create a standing committee for strategic coordination.
- Committee to review effectiveness, pursue funding, and align planning with insurance and fire districts.

Recreation Element

The Planning Commission submitted written comments about enhanced goals and policies for the parks, recreation, and open space element which mentioned the following goals:

Access and Infrastructure for Diverse Recreation

- Develop and maintain a comprehensive, multi-modal recreational infrastructure system
- Ensure safe and equitable access for all residents and visitors
- Focus on self-directed and unstructured activities

Stewardship and Conservation of Natural Recreation Assets

- Protect and conserve the county's natural environment and critical areas
- Maintain aesthetic quality
- Ensure recreational activities are safe and ecologically compatible
- Preserve the rural character of Kittitas County

Promote Recreation-Based Economic Vitality

- Foster economic growth through recreation and tourism
- Utilize unique natural amenities
- Strengthen public and private partnerships
- Support a vision for an all-season, multi-option recreational destination

Recreational Short-Term Housing and Visitor Accommodation

- Provide regulatory framework for seasonal housing and resort accommodations
- Expand infrastructure capacity for short-term housing
- Recognize the importance of seasonal residences and destination resorts to the rural economy

Foster Health, Culture, and Community Connection

- Promote recreational areas and programs
- Enhance quality of life, health, and social connectivity
- Incorporate natural, environmental, cultural resources, and diverse interest

Create County Recreational Zones

- Establish various recreation “zones” throughout the county
- Focus types of recreation into appropriate zones (river, desert, agriculture, foothills, mid-mountain, high mountain)
- Create a Minimum of One Off-Road Vehicle Park
- Address increasing demand for off-road vehicle use

Meet the needs of both community and out-of-county visitors

- Establish Recreation Committee Coordination
- Form a committee to coordinate recreational planning and activities
- Collaborate with federal and state agencies (e.g., US Forest Service, Washington State Department of Natural Resources)

Demographics

No demographics were collected. Planning Commission members are residents in Kittitas County.

'Bite of the Burg' Pop-Up Event in Ellensburg

Goals

- Educate residents on the Comprehensive Plan process
- Collect general feedback about existing conditions in the County
- Advertise the community-wide survey
- Speak face-to-face with County staff and answer questions

Summary



Exhibit 1 Bite of Burg Community Development Tent

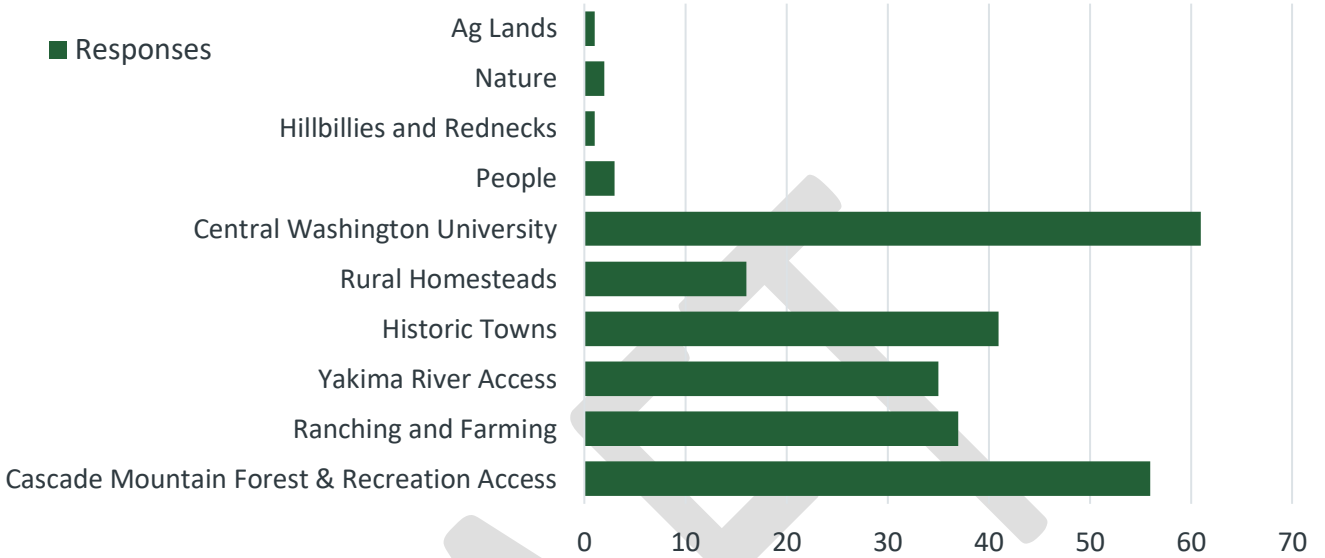
Attendees: 115

Comments received: 80 (approximate)

Format: Pop-up events are informal opportunities to educate the public and advertise the start of the periodic update process. Staff attended the event with posters and sticky notes to collect feedback.

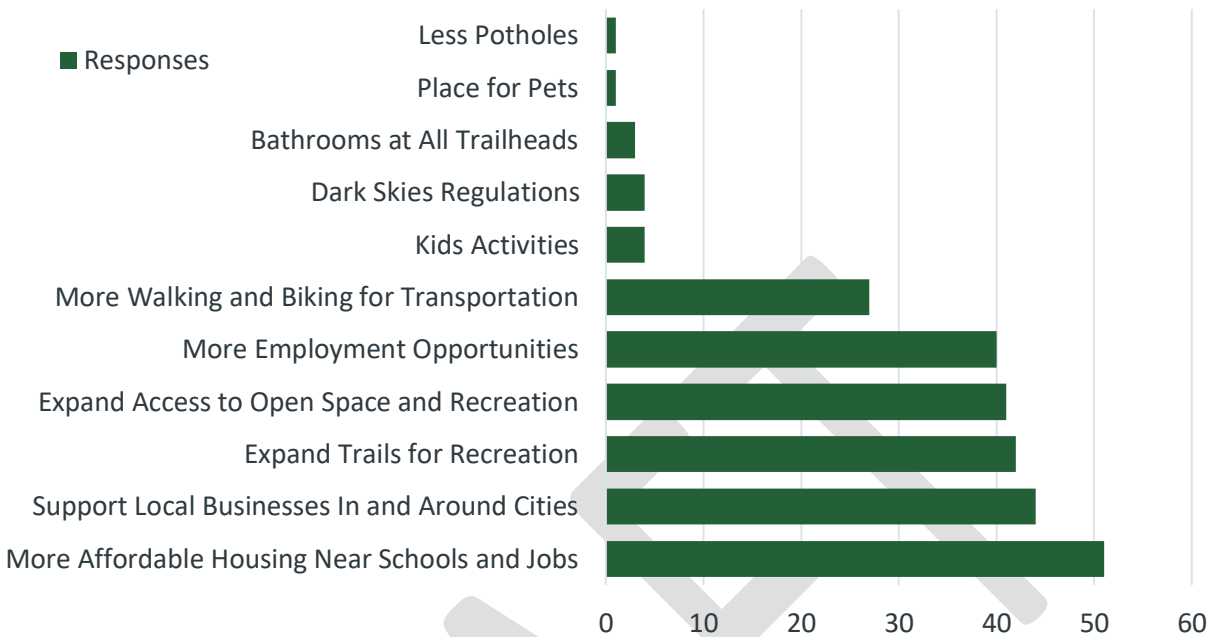
Insights

What makes Kittitas County Special?



Category	Responses
<i>Central Washington University</i>	61
<i>Cascade Mountain Forest & Recreation Access</i>	56
<i>Historic towns</i>	41
<i>Ranching and Farming</i>	37
<i>Yakima River Access</i>	35
<i>Rural Homesteads</i>	16
<i>People</i>	3
<i>Hillbillies and Rednecks (Write in response)</i>	1
<i>Nature</i>	2
<i>Ag Lands</i>	1

What would you like to see in Kittitas County in the future?



Category	Responses
<i>More Affordable Housing Near Schools and Jobs</i>	51
<i>Support Local Businesses In and Around Cities</i>	44
<i>Expand Trails for Recreation</i>	42
<i>Expand Access to Open Space and Recreation</i>	41
<i>More Employment Opportunities</i>	10
<i>More Walking and Biking for Transportation</i>	27
<i>Kids Activities (write in)</i>	4
<i>Dark Skies Regulations (write in)</i>	4
<i>Bathrooms at All Trailheads (write in)</i>	3
<i>Place for Pets (write in)</i>	1
<i>Less Potholes (write in)</i>	1

Demographics

Attendees were residents of the Ellensburg area with a high volume of college students from Central Washington University. No formal demographic data was collected.

September Planning Commission

Goals

- Discuss preliminary draft policies about:
 - Land Use
 - Rural
 - Resources Lands
 - Housing

Summary

Attendees: 7 (Planning Commissioners)

Format: The Planning Commission held their regularly scheduled meetings to discuss preliminary draft policies for land use, rural, resource lands, and housing elements. The project team submitted a memo to summarize discussion questions, a PowerPoint, and an exhibit of preliminary draft policies.

Each month, the same week of the Planning Commission meetings, Kittitas County announced a 30-day comment period for anyone from the public to review the preliminary drafts online. To share comments community members were able to go to the Planning Commission meeting in-person, email comments, or submit comments online through the project website.

Insights

Land Use

Coordinate with the Hospital District to ensure that medical services align with growth. This could include coordination with other cities and possibly expand to non-hospital medical services. Zoning and land use regulations should support the provision of medical services for the community.

Focus on providing greater job diversity for people living in the county, which can help offset housing costs.

Encourage light industrial jobs. Note that this might also apply to the rural element. Develop goals and policies for both elements, given that the types of jobs would differ.

Explore opportunities in policy for Major Industrial Developments (MIDs). MIDs must be consistent with Countywide Planning Policies.

Link goals and policies to other goals related to job diversification.

Include a goal or policy under another goal that promotes child care uses near where people work and live. Add language about incentives and review the code for opportunities.

Explore strategies to implement goals, including:

Incentives for jobs

Partnerships to build

Studies to determine economic options for jobs, identifying opportunities and barriers

Zoning and regulations to encourage new industries

Housing

Address Housing Costs in Upper County

Develop comprehensive policy options aimed at increasing access to living-wage housing for county residents, both for purchase and rental. These efforts may require strategic partnerships with municipalities in the upper county.

Promote Housing Affordability

Establish goals and policies that support housing affordability. Evaluate and implement measures that encourage the development of affordable housing, particularly within Urban Growth Areas (UGAs).

Advance Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Programs

Consider adopting a goal to implement a Permit-Ready ADU program. Initial policies should explore collaboration with cities to replicate successful models, such as the Kitsap program, which streamlined time and cost efficiencies. Policies should define program objectives, benefits, partnership development, funding strategies, and implementation steps. Additionally, review opportunities to reduce upfront costs for ADU development, including impact fees and utility connection charges, to ensure affordability.

Support Fee Simple Subdivisions

If not already addressed, incorporate policies that enable fee simple subdivisions as a means to promote homeownership. This approach is commonly applied to attached housing, which tends to be more affordable. Policy language should clearly link subdivision practices to affordability goals.

Rural Lands

Concerns that are mentioned in the land use and housing sections should be considered for potential impacts to rural areas or possible implementation opportunities in rural areas.

Demographics

No demographics were collected. Planning Commission members are residents in Kittitas County.

DRAFT

Easton Memorial Day Parade Pop-Up Event May 25, 2025

Goals

- Educate residents on the Comprehensive Plan process
- Collect general feedback about existing conditions in the County
- Advertise the community-wide survey
- Speak face-to-face with County staff and answer questions



Exhibit 2 Screenshot of event advertising from www.eastonmemorialdaycelebration.com

Summary

Attendees: 50 (approximate)

Comments received: Pop-event was educational

Format: Pop-up events are informal opportunities to educate the public and advertise the start of the periodic update process. Staff attended the event with posters and sticky notes to collect feedback. Staff encouraged residents to participate in the Community-wide survey.

Insights

Several conversations with community members focused on the importance of maintaining the small town feel of Easton and encouraging development that compliments this characteristic. A group of residents also stressed how Kittitas County should focus on lowering barriers to development, both in permit timeframes and costs.

Demographics

Attendees were residents of the Easton area. No formal demographic data was collected.

Community Side Survey May-July 2025

Goals

- Gather quantitative data from residents on current conditions in the County
- Understand future needs of the community

Summary

Responses: 88 (approximate)

Format: An online and paper community-wide survey was posted on the project website and advertised at the Ellensburg Farmers Market, Easton Memorial Day Parade, and Cle Elum Open House. All survey questions were optional, total responses to survey questions vary.

Survey Questions

Question #1 What do you value most about living and/or working in Kittitas County today? Ranking: 1 = most important, 6 = least important

Natural environment (forest, rivers, lakes)

Access to outdoor recreation

Diverse employment opportunities

Educational opportunities

Affordability

Rural and small-town lifestyle

Proximity to family and friends

Question #2 What should be the County's most important and least important priorities as the County grows over the next 20 years? 1= most important 6 = least important

Protecting natural resource lands (agricultural, mining, forest)

Protecting against natural hazards (drought, flooding, wildfire)

Supporting outdoor recreation and tourism

Supporting road and utility improvements

Expanding affordable housing options

Expanding job opportunities in rural areas

Question #3 As the County grows over the next 20 years, how important do you think each of the following is when planning for new housing?

Protecting rural lands

Making sure homes have access to nature

Keeping housing affordable

Offering different types of homes (like duplexes, triplexes, and apartments)

Building homes in different areas across the County

Question #4 How important are the following environmental issues as the County plans for the future?

Conservation of natural

resources (water, wildlife, forests)

Climate change mitigation to drought, wildfire, and other hazards

Waste management and recycling

Renewable energy sources (solar, wind, etc.)

Protection of water quality in rivers, lakes, and streams

Question #5 What transportation improvements should be prioritized in the county's future plans?

Expanding public transportation services in rural areas (buses, shuttles, etc.)

Improving road maintenance and expansion

Increasing bike lanes and pedestrian pathways

Enhancing infrastructure for electric vehicles (charging stations, etc.)

Question #6 Which economic industries do you believe are the most important for the County's future job growth and economic strength?

Farming and agriculture

Outdoor recreation and tourism

Education and public services

Forestry and timber products

Healthcare and social services

Renewable energy (wind, solar, bioenergy)

Technology and remote work opportunities

Mining and natural resource extraction

Retail and commercial services

Question #7 What community services should be prioritized in the county's future plans? (Select all that apply)

Hospitals and clinics

Schools and libraries

Public parks and recreation facilities

Support for elderly and low-income

Arts and cultural activities

Other (please specify)

Question #8 How concerned are you about any of the following natural hazards impacting you or others in Kittitas County?

Flooding

Drought

Reduced

Snowpack

Wildfire

Extreme

Heat

Question #9 Thinking about potential hazards in Kittitas County, how concerned are you about damage or impacts to the following community features?

Housing stock

Natural environment (forest, rivers, lakes)

Employment centers

Key industries (tourism and agriculture)

Community culture and history

Infrastructure (roads and utilities)

Question #10 How do you envision Kittitas County in 20 years? (Open Response)

Question #11 Do you have any additional comments or ideas to share that could help shape the future of Kittitas County? (Open Response)

Question #12 Age Group (Select one):

Under 18

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

Prefer not to answer

Question #13 Where do you live in Kittitas County? (Open response)

Question #14 How long have you lived in Kittitas County?

Less than 1 year

1-5 years

6-10 years

10+ years

Prefer not to answer

Question #15 Gender

Male

Female

Prefer not to answer

Other (please specify)

Question #16 What is your annual household income?

\$0 to \$19,999

\$20,000-\$49,999

\$50,000-\$89,999

\$90,000-\$129,999

\$130,000-\$149,000

\$150,000+

Prefer not to answer

Insights

Insights have been summarized by survey questions. All survey questions were optional, total responses to survey questions vary.

See the appendix for all write-in responses, and open-ended questions.

Survey Question 1

What do you value most about living and/or working in Kittitas County today?

Ranking: 1 = most important, 6 = least important

Response: Survey participants identified the natural environment as the most valued aspect of living in Kittitas County. Survey respondents ranked the natural environment as the most important aspect of living in Kittitas County. The rural and small-town lifestyle was identified as the second most valued feature, followed by access to outdoor recreation, affordability, and educational opportunities. Diverse employment opportunities were ranked as the least important factor.

Question listed 1-6 from most important to least important, but the question offered 7 options in total which may have changed some results.

Survey Question 2

What should be the County's most important and least important priorities as the County grows over the next 20 years? 1= most important 6 = least important.

Response: When asked about the county's highest priorities for the next 20 years, survey participants ranked the protection of natural resource lands as the top concern. This was followed by protecting against natural hazards, supporting outdoor recreation, improving roads, and expanding affordable housing options. Expanding job opportunities in rural areas was ranked as the lowest priority.

Survey Question 3

As the County grows over the next 20 years, how important do you think each of the following is when planning for new housing?

Response: When planning for new housing, survey participants ranked the protection of rural lands as the most important area of focus, with 47 respondents rating it as "very important." Ensuring that homes have access to nature was primarily rated as

“important” by 29 participants. This emphasis on nature was also reflected in responses related to housing affordability. Offering a variety of housing types was considered “very important” by most respondents. However, when asked about building homes in different areas across the county, the majority of participants expressed a neutral stance, with 22 selecting “neutral.”

Survey Question 4

How important are the following environmental issues as the County plans for the future?

Response: Conservation of natural resources was ranked as “very important” by 52 participants. Similarly, the protection of water quality in rivers, lakes, and streams was widely viewed as very important. Climate change mitigation—particularly in relation to droughts, wildfires, and other natural disasters—also received strong support, with 64% ranking it as “important” or “very important”. Waste management and recycling were generally considered “important,” by 34 participants. In contrast, renewable energy sources received mixed responses, with 58% of participants ranking them as “neutral,” “somewhat important,” or “not important at all.”

Survey Question 5

What transportation improvements should be prioritized in the county’s future plans?

Response: Road maintenance and expansion were ranked as “important” by the majority of survey participants. Expanding public transportation had mixed support, with 27 participants ranking it as “important.” In contrast, opinions were more divided regarding bike lanes and pedestrian infrastructure, with 43% of participants rating them as either “somewhat important” or “not important at all.” Additionally, enhancing infrastructure for electric vehicles was viewed as a low priority, with 50% of respondents ranking it as “not important at all.”

Survey Question 6

Which economic industries do you believe are the most important for the County’s future job growth and economic strength?

Response: Survey participants identified several industries as “very important” to the county’s future, including farming and agriculture, outdoor recreation and tourism, education and public services, and forestry and timber products. Retail and commercial services, healthcare, and technology/remote work were generally ranked as “important.” In contrast, mining and natural resource extraction, along with renewable energy, were viewed as lower priorities, with most participants rating them as either “not important at all” or “somewhat important.”

Survey Question 7

**What community services should be prioritized in the county's future plans?
(Select all that apply)**

Response: When asked to prioritize community services, hospitals and clinics were ranked the highest by 67% of respondents. Schools and public libraries, public parks and recreation facilities and support for the elderly and low-income were also highly ranked.

Participants were also invited to suggest additional priorities for consideration. These included:

- Support for diverse, equitable, and inclusive policies.
- Home energy audits and water usage audits.
- Email (internet service)
- Emergency services (fire, EMS, law enforcement)
- Youth centers
- Recreational facilities
- Historic preservation and interpretation
- Transparency in local government
- Retail stores for increased economic development
- Hunting and fishing opportunities

Survey Question 8

How concerned are you about any of the following natural hazards impacting you or others in Kittitas County?

Response: Wildfire was ranked as highest in concern, with 61% stating they are “very concerned. Participants also indicated they were “very concerned” about drought and reduced snowpack. Most participants indicated they were “somewhat concerned” about Flooding and extreme heat.

Survey Question 9

Thinking about potential hazards in Kittitas County, how concerned are you about damage or impacts to the following community features?

Response: When thinking about potential damage to community features in Kittitas County, most participants are “very concerned” about any impact on the natural environment. Most participants “neutral” about the housing stock, impacts on employment centers, and community culture/history. Respondents feel “somewhat concerned” about key industries such as tourism and agriculture and infrastructure such as roads and utilities.

Survey Question 10

How do you envision Kittitas County in 20 years?

Response: Respondents expressed concern about the loss of Kittitas County’s rural and small-town character, often comparing current development trends to those seen in King County and resort communities. Many comments identified increasing population, traffic, and housing pressures as threats to the county’s identity and natural resources.

Environmental protection was a recurring theme, with calls for stronger enforcement and sustainable growth. Participants envisioned expanded services such as healthcare, affordable housing, and support for local businesses. There was also interest in improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure and increasing housing options to meet future needs.

Overall, the community’s vision reflects a desire for balanced development that preserves the county’s heritage while enhancing livability and resilience.

Survey Question 11

Do you have any additional comments or ideas to share that could help shape the future of Kittitas County?

Response: A variety of responses highlighted a strong desire to preserve Kittitas County’s rural and small-town character. Many participants emphasized the need for diverse and affordable housing options, with some advocating for increased density within urban growth areas and others supporting walkable communities with multi-modal transportation infrastructure. Recreation development, community centers, and education were also frequently mentioned as priorities.

Specific concerns included the need for infrastructure and affordable housing in Easton, as well as access to grocery stores in both Easton and Cle Elum. Wildfire preparedness was a major issue, with respondents citing limited evacuation routes in upper Kittitas County and increased traffic on Highway 903 as potential challenges. Participants expressed a clear interest in proactive mitigation efforts to address these risks.

Demographics

Demographic data was optional as part of the community-wide survey, see results below.

Age Group (Select one):

Most survey participants were aged 65 and older. Most survey participation came from individuals 45 years and older, with 67% of responses coming from this age group. There were no survey responses from those aged 18-24.

Where do you live in Kittitas County?

- Ellensburg
- Cle Elum
- Kachess Lake

- Easton
- Roslyn
- Kittitas
- Snoqualmie Pass
- Badger Pocket

How long have you lived in Kittitas County?

Most participants (74%) indicated they have lived in Kittitas County for more than 10 years. Only 15% of respondents have lived in the county for 1-5 years.

Gender:

55% of participants identified themselves as female and 39% identified as male.

What is your annual household income?

Most survey respondents reported their income to be between \$90,000 to \$129,000. Only 25% of responses came from participants who reported household incomes below \$90,000.

Ellensburg Farmers Market Pop-Up Event May 17, 2025

Goals

- Educate residents on the Comprehensive Plan process
- Collect general feedback about existing conditions in the County
- Advertise the community-wide survey
- Speak face-to-face with County staff and answer questions





Summary

Attendees: 60

Comments Received: 80 (approximate)

Format: Informational boards and activities were available for residents to learn at their own pace. County staff were available to answer questions.

Station #1 Preservation

What parts of your community are important to protect as the County grows with more homes and jobs?

Station #2 Resources and Infrastructure

What resources, infrastructure, or services should be prioritized as the County grows over the next 20 years?

Station #3 Community Vision

What is your vision of the County or your community over the next 20 years?

Station #4 Climate and Resiliency

Are you concerned about wildfire or flooding impacting your community? What impacts are you concerned about?

Insights

Question 1

What parts of your community are important to protect as the County grows with more homes and jobs?

Response: Residents of Ellensburg often showed interest in protecting the agricultural industry by supporting farmers and "real agriculture". Housing also was often mentioned regarding low-income individuals and increased density. Residents have shown an increased interest in protecting environmental aspects of the community, including air and water quality, light pollution, and wildlife. Additionally, residents have expressed the importance of protecting local businesses, infrastructure for both bicycles and cars, and education.

Comments

- Air quality
- Infrastructure (Roads, water quality, affordable energy)
- Population increase means higher demand on grocery stores.
- Protect real agriculture.
- Protect dark skies and make people use smart lighting.
- Housing for low-income individuals.
- More dense housing.
- Central Washington University.
- Fund the schools.
- Wildlife resilience.
- The store Evolve.
- Bike paths connecting communities.
- Keep rural character by supporting the farmers.
- Community events.

Question 2

What resources, infrastructure, or services should be prioritized as the County grows over the next 20 years?

Summary: Of the 22 responses received, 8 referenced a desire to increase available recreational activities. Healthcare was also mentioned by residents, relating to mental health services and overall accessibility. Additionally, residents wrote about environmental protections, including camping regulations, and audits on existing interchanges for light pollution. Infrastructure accounted for 4 responses, communicating a want for a walkable downtown, public transit, and bike infrastructure.

Comments

More walking trails and parks similar to judge Ronald/Rogers Park.

Wildlife + natural resource protection and education.

Mental health services.

Prioritize healthcare system. Closer hospitals/healthcare accessibility.

Supportive housing (PSH for mental health).

Do a light audit of the west interchange to improve visibility and reduce light pollution.

Bicycle friendly routes and pathways countywide.

Walkable grocery and bike paths/routes through downtown neighborhoods.

Healthcare, DEI, resources for those who are financially disadvantaged.

Ice skating rink.

Public transit (dog friendly).

More minigolf near Ellensburg.

Kids activities more than just parks.

Senior recreation.

Activities for teens.

Safe bicycling in the canyon.

Forest services coordination.

Salmon LaSac Rd- intense usage and trash from campers. How to better regulate camping? Balance camping with natural resource needs. How to keep accessible with mitigating camping impacts (for Cabin Creek especially).

More bike lanes

Ninja warrior course.

Splash pad.

Family activities, field trips, classes for youth regarding our community. Also family activities, water park? Additional outdoor activities. We need to keep our families. Give them something for entertainment + wholesome activities.

Question 3

What is your vision of the County or your community over the next 20 years?

Summary: Residents communicated a want for increased density in housing and a welcoming of population growth. Additionally, residents mentioned increasing economic development and supporting local businesses. Bike paths and accessible infrastructure were also mentioned, along with an increase in recreational activities and development. Protections for agricultural land and drivability were also discussed. Lastly, residents have mentioned a vision that includes an increasingly welcoming culture that embraces diversity.

Comments

Bike path with connectivity to Yakima Canyon and all the parks.

More ADA parking spaces.

Welcoming community that emphasizes belonging for diverse people.

Family events: skating rink, outdoor ice skating in lower County. Rec center, outdoor waterpark, new pool, bowling, etc. Support families.

More parks/spaces for teens.

More dense housing and sidewalks.

Appropriate impact fees for development.

Growth is healthy.

Protect Ag lands.

High density housing.

Make parks green and inviting.

More kid accessible programs + recreation (gaming rooms, courts, etc.)

Somewhere for kids to hang out.

Baseball fields, Infrastructure and sports complex.

Local businesses.

Farm to table, rural feel, no big box stores.

Drivable.

Economic development to offset property tax burden.

Question 4

Are you concerned about wildfire or flooding impacting your community? What impacts are you concerned about?

Summary: Residents communicated a concern for flooding risk by Wilson Creek and Manastash Canyon. This coincided with a concern about litter along waterways which worsens pollution during flooding events. Residents in their responses mainly shared a concern for wildfires, including air quality and safety concerns in the summer months. Building code updates for developing fire-resilient homes was a suggested action, as well as classes for youth to increase awareness in preparation efforts.

Comments

Wilson Creek flooding in neighborhoods.

Pollution.

Smoke/air quality.

Fires making it difficult or unsafe to be outside during the summer/fall.

Flooding and fire in Manastash Canyon.

Classes for teen/youth to engage with wildlife and natural resources. Award system for involvement (free punch cards or something for trash pickup or other involvement).

Fire resilient homes (building codes?).

Wildfires hurt residents and animals alike.

Trash along waterways. Create a community wide cleanup weekend for kids, youth, and families to have fun, cleanup and be involved in land and wildlife awareness.

Demographics

Attendees were largely residents of the greater Ellensburg and unincorporated area around the city boundary. No formal demographic data was collected.

Cle Elum Open House May 17, 2025

Goals

- Educate residents on the Comprehensive Plan process
- Collect general feedback about existing conditions in the County
- Advertise the community-wide survey
- Speak face-to-face with County staff and answer questions



Summary

Attendees: 3

Comments Received: 15 (approximate)

Format: The open house was designed to both inform the community and gather input on future growth and development. Attendees learned about planning requirements under the Growth Management Act and about the periodic update process. Informational boards were available for attendees to read at their own pace, and County staff were available to speak face-to-face and answer questions. No formal presentation was provided attendees had the opportunity to review informational boards and ask questions to staff.

Station #1 Preservation

What parts of your community are important to protect as the County grows with more homes and jobs?

Station #2 Resources and Infrastructure

What resources, infrastructure, or services should be prioritized as the County grows over the next 20 years?

Station #3 Community Vision

What is your vision of the County or your community over the next 20 years?

Station #4 Climate and Resiliency

Are you concerned about wildfire or flooding impacting your community? What impacts are you concerned about?

Insights

Question 1

What parts of your community are important to protect as the County grows with more homes and jobs?

Summary: Participants communicated a desire for infrastructure improvements to accommodate "inevitable" growth in the area. Protection for affordable housing was mentioned in reference to multi-family developments and accessory dwelling units. Participants also mentioned protections for open spaces and public land.

Comments

Infrastructure- Growth is inevitable, but infrastructure needs to be in place before growth is approved.

Affordable housing (less than 500K) duplex, 4-plex, adu's.

Open land public spaces.

Question 2

What resources, infrastructure, or services should be prioritized as the County grows over the next 20 years?

Summary: Participants mentioned prioritizing the development of schools and grocery stores. Prioritizing pedestrian infrastructure was also communicated.

Comments

Schools, grocery stores, safe walking paths- Bullfrog Rd/903.

Question 3

What is your vision of the County or your community over the next 20 years?

Summary: Residents mentioned a want to limit growth within the area and keep the "small town rural feel". An increase in local businesses and education opportunities was also mentioned. Additionally, participants shared a desire for environmental protection, including visitation fees for surrounding lakes.

Comments

Grocery stores, school and education opportunities.

Path from Roslyn through Ronald to lake.

Visitation fees for lake to help clean up trash.

Keep small town rural feel, growth is difficult.

Question 4

Are you concerned about wildfire or flooding impacting your community? What impacts are you concerned about?

Summary: Participants expressed concern about flooding and wildfires in their community.

Comments

Yes, Realtor Association is working with OIC to find solutions.

Demographics

No formal demographic survey data was collected. Attendees were residents of Kittitas County.

Easton Open House March 20, 2025

The Easton open house is intended to capture first-hand experiences from residents about strengths and weaknesses of the area, and opportunities or priorities for the future.

Goals

- Educate on the process and purpose of a subarea plan
- Educate on the connection to comprehensive plan update and the Growth Management Act (GMA)
- Gather input to better understand the community desires and vision for growth





Summary

Attendees: 15

Comments Received: 40 (approximate)

Format: The open house for the Easton subarea plan was designed to both inform the community and gather input on future growth and development. Attendees learned about planning requirements under the Growth Management Act, shared their priorities for land use and community character, and contributed ideas for how Easton should evolve over time. The event helped shape a shared vision by combining technical planning information with local values and aspirations. No formal presentation was provided attendees had the opportunity to review informational boards and ask questions to staff.

Station #1: Project Background

Provide an overview of GMA, the subarea plan requirements and how it will function in Easton

Station #2: Use and compatibility

Current zoning and uses in Easton, gather comments and feedback about future uses

Station #3: Community character

Gather feedback on what the community values and how that should guide growth

Station #4: Community vision

Gather feedback on opportunities for growth and infrastructure improvements

Insights

At the open house staff collected the following feedback:

- There is some disagreement about what makes up the community of Easton and where the subarea plan “boundary” / study area should be.
- There is a desire for investment and economic development along Railroad Street.
- Many participants feel that pen space/outdoor recreation makes Easton unique.
- Infrastructure constraints around septic primarily are restricting growth.
- 1-90 is a physical separator that divides the community. There is a desire to overcome this divide but also utilize the interstate to drive in a negative way and also wanting to economic development.
- Want growth but also to preserve rural character of Easton with that growth.
- There may be additional capacity needed within certain services like fire/emergency response.
- There is a need for additional housing attainable at multiple affordability levels.

Public comments focused on preserving Easton’s rural character and natural resources while addressing key infrastructure and development needs.

Community priorities include: protecting affordability, recreational accessibility, and maintaining historic landmarks and creating a local-focused Main Street.

Significant needs identified include: improved septic systems, fire and emergency services, and building public amenities like restrooms.

The vision for Easton involves encouraging modest growth that balances local resident needs with recreation tourism, supporting small businesses, and building essential services and infrastructure. Long-term, the community wants to enhance economic vitality while maintaining Easton’s rural character.

Board #3 Comments

Protect affordability, water supply, ATV/dirtbike accessibility

Protect in Easton; Forest, water, rural culture, back country access, State Park, Railroad St (historic)

Important Landmarks – Easton State Park, Palouse to Cascade St. Park Trail

Landmarks – Historic Downtown Easton, Palouse to Cascade Trail

Preserve rural character with low-density housing, parks, recreational sport areas

Important landmarks are mostly gone

A quiet, quaint, modest, local-focused Main street. The historical buildings should not be neglected. Maintain them safely or demo. Find a safer-prettier way to remember the legacy

Development focused on Easton's outdoor resources- not just for Easton but also for the surrounding areas

R-5 Zoning

Board #4 Comments

Need a large scale septic system to move Easton forward

Need a sound buffer between I-90 and Easton

Need a public restroom in Easton Downtown Area

Need to re-do Rustic Villa Trailer Park for low income families

Non-connected roads on either side of freeway. Dangerous when freeway is jammed up. EMS cant get access

No boxes currently available at the Post Office. Need a new location

Need affordable single family homes in Easton to connect young, first time buyers to the school and community.

Develop a revitalization plan for Easton. What businesses will survive? How can we attract new business that meet our vision? Identify economic drivers, Build for recreational use-restrooms/ day park

I think this process of meetings are a real plus for Easton. Thank you

LAMIRD classification that supports the Easton vision of Rural/Recreation

A map with more detail

Missing Services – Seage disposal, police/fire/emergency services, water sources

Bike lane on Main street through Easton

Are there tax credits we can offer to attract businesses to Easton

Downtown- cottage industries, mom and pop shops, coffee shops, hair salon

A hub for recreational purposes. The “town” able to support and thrive from such

Next 20 years: Locals and long term residents. Less trash (literally @ recreation and on highways). No explosive tourism or 2nd/3rd home residents who don't love and care for the community.

How do we confirm housing stock and census data w/HAPT

Identify water needs

Identify where we can build affordable housing

Lets get Railroad St up and running...businesses, flowers, paint, etc. Railroad St could use a public restroom

Fire Station and Heli pad in North Easton

How much land is there for bringing in a manufacturing company to our area?

Expand fire and emergency services on north side of I-90

We lack fire services. How can we add that to the plan?

Growth in recreational businesses

Policy and regulations that support the Snoqualmie Pass sub area plan – Housing, lodging, services

Commercial land use policy that ensures the infrastructure is available. i.e. water and water rights

Designated walkable pedestrian trails

Hair salon, coffee shops, mom and pop shops, grocery store, restaurants

Pedestrian overpass from State Park to businesses on the north side of I-90.

Provide safe crossing and access

Next 20 years: A local road from Easton to Cle Elum to bypass summer traffic for basic needs access or clear traffic through Easton effectively

Demographics

Attendees were residents of the Easton area. No formal demographic information was collected.

Appendices

Photo Gallery

Photos of the boards used as public events to demonstrate public comments collected.

Community-Wide Survey May-July 2025

Full PDF of results and write-in responses.

Cle-Elum Open House Sign-In Sheet

Scanned PDF

Easton Open House May 2025 Sign-In Sheet

Scanned PDF

Easton Public Comments Submitted via Email

PDF

Public Comments Submitted via Website Form

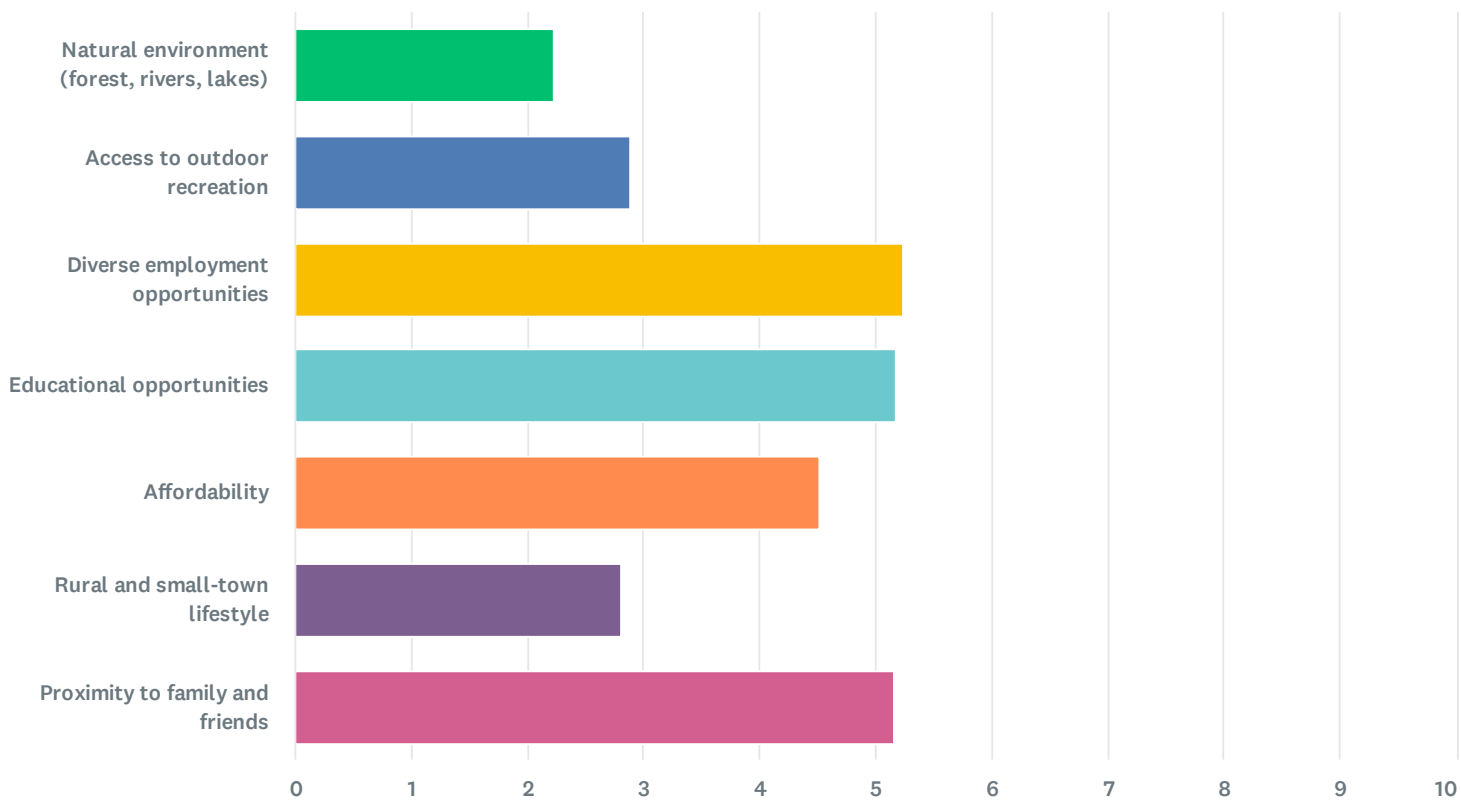
PDF - Excel

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q1

88 responses

What do you value most about living and/or working in Kittitas County today? Ranking: 1 = most important, 6 = least important



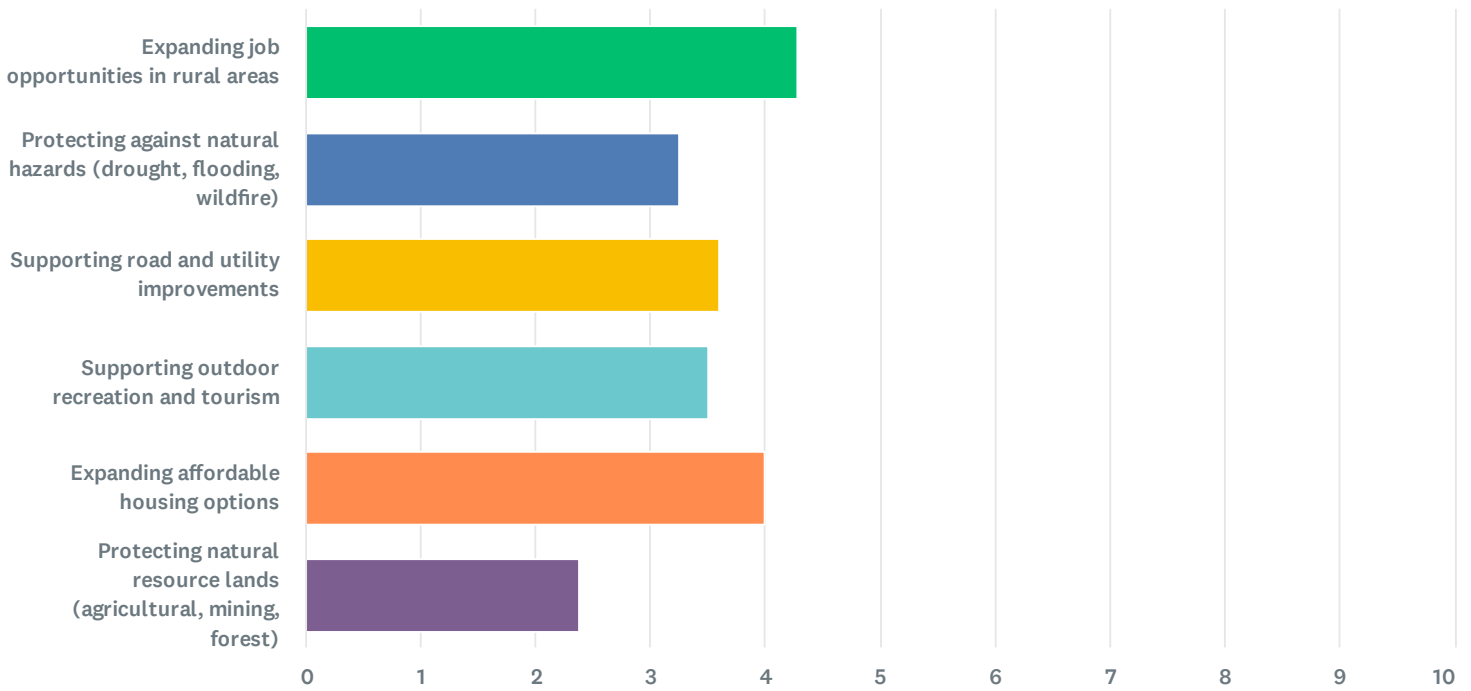
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Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q2

87 responses

What should be the County's most important and least important priorities as the County grows over the next 20 years? 1= most important 6 = least important



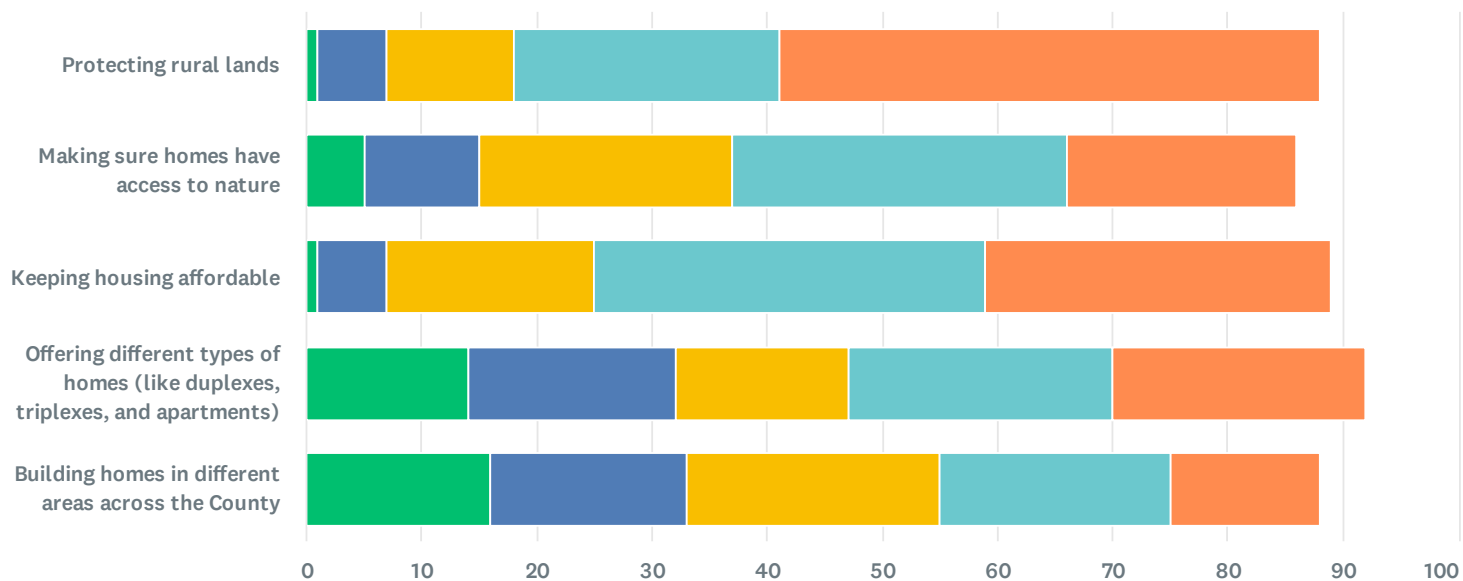
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Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q3

88 responses

As the County grows over the next 20 years, how important do you think each of the following is when planning for new housing?



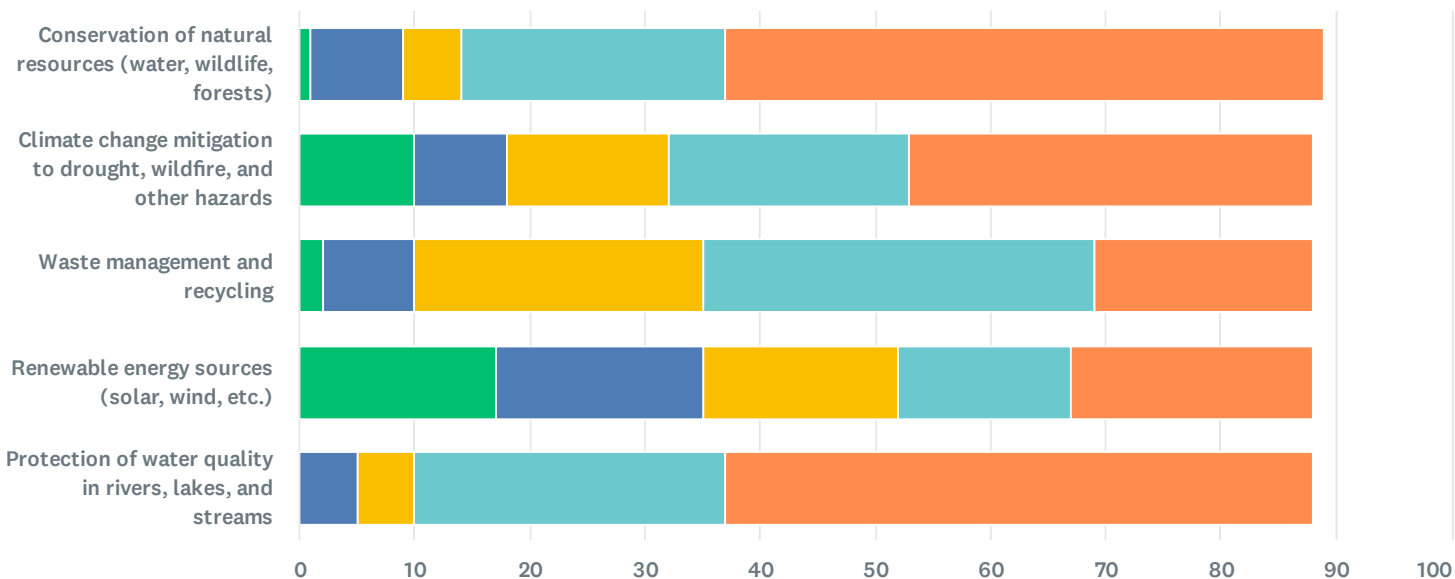
- Not important at all
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q4

88 responses

How important are the following environmental issues as the County plans for the future?



- Not important at all
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

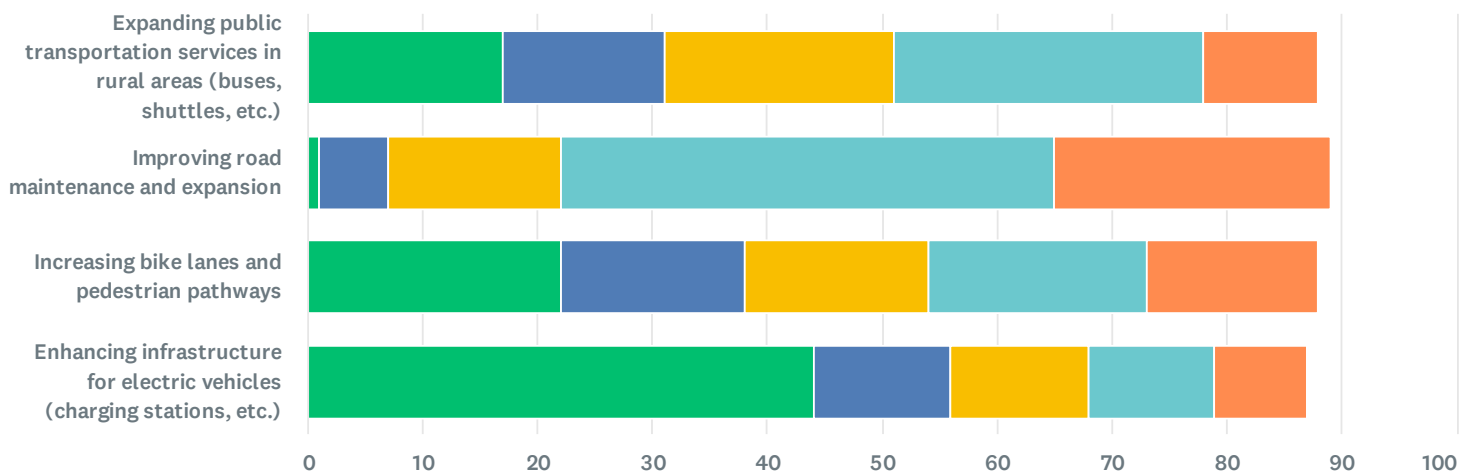
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	ecosystem and biodiversity preservation is essential; environmental pollution and poisoning is extremely harmful and causing both an unprecented occurrence of cancers, like colon and breast cancers at early ages, with an epidemic from under 40's Yr olds. The healthcare system in the US is not prepared for this early onset cancer epidemic. Kit Cty is sorely underserved for mental and physical wellness.	6/24/2025 3:45 PM
2	I have trouble finding these questions to be in good faith. For example I strongly support protecting water quality, but I do not support the restricting well use, etc.	6/19/2025 8:23 AM
3	I think there should be a moratorium on development to protect our groundwater levels, keep our forests green and keep the arid climate at Bay.	6/7/2025 1:13 PM
4	Protect property owners rights	5/24/2025 6:37 PM
5	maintaining open space for farming, ag and forest work	5/19/2025 4:29 PM
6	Forests resilient to fire and pest complexes	5/16/2025 9:53 PM
7	Curb truck stops areas which are a drain on our community and resources	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
8	Preserving a viable agricultural economy and resource lands	5/14/2025 9:06 PM
9	Letting the community speak and actually hear them. Giving the county a voice, not just the city residents	5/14/2025 6:56 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q5

88 responses

What transportation improvements should be prioritized in the county's future plans?



- Not important at all
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

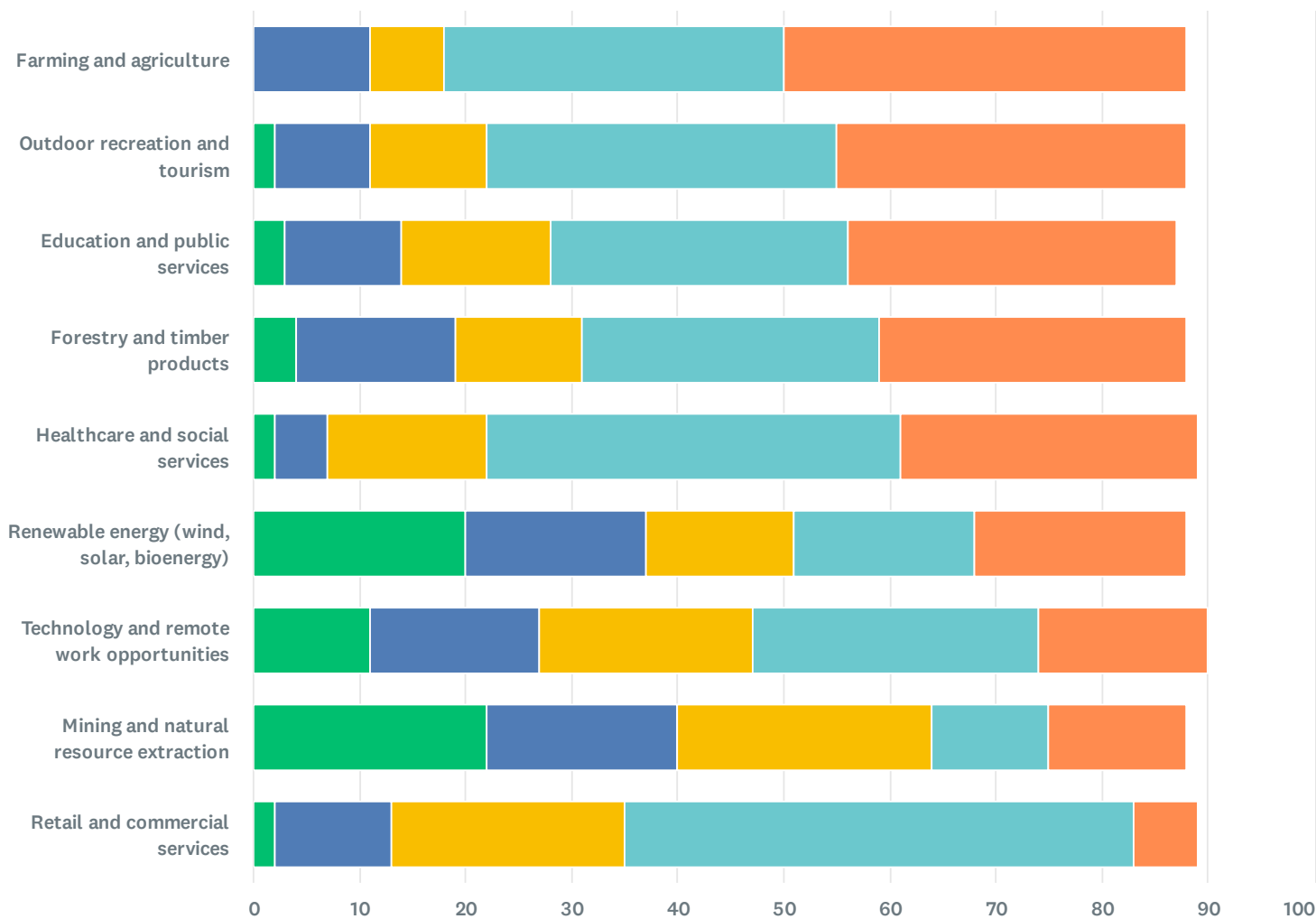
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	ride share, so important and EASY along I90 corridor, in particular. Vehicles and fuel at all time highs. Much better off road opportunities to go on bikes between towns;	6/24/2025 3:45 PM
2	I would like to see a bike business loops through each town off of the john wayne/iron horse trail. But I don't want to turn into a road bike haven	6/19/2025 8:23 AM
3	I think in our small town community we should expand on our bicycle and environmentally friendly modes of transportation. We should protect our bicyclists and encourage the children and able-bodied people to use their bicycles and environmentally safe and friendly vehicles.	6/7/2025 1:13 PM
4	Stop wasting tax dollars on "social and DEI" efforts	5/19/2025 1:30 PM
5	Repair and maintenance of existing bike/ped lanes	5/19/2025 8:14 AM
6	Improving downtown parking	5/18/2025 11:50 PM
7	rail to puget sound	5/15/2025 3:15 PM
8	Downtown parking!	5/14/2025 6:56 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q6

88 responses

Which economic industries do you believe are the most important for the County's future job growth and economic strength?



- Not important at all
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Remote workers bring resources to our state and county funds. :)	6/24/2025 3:45 PM
2	I don't want excess central planning from the county in this area beyond current zoning rules	6/19/2025 8:23 AM
3	Keep other big box stores out.	6/12/2025 12:46 PM
4	This community would do well to encourage remote job opportunities. The housing industry is far too expensive for our restaurant service jobs and hospitality jobs. If we are to how is our people, we either have to encourage better paying jobs, or lower cost housing.	6/7/2025 1:13 PM
5	I do not think Education and public services should have been put in same category.	5/24/2025 6:37 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

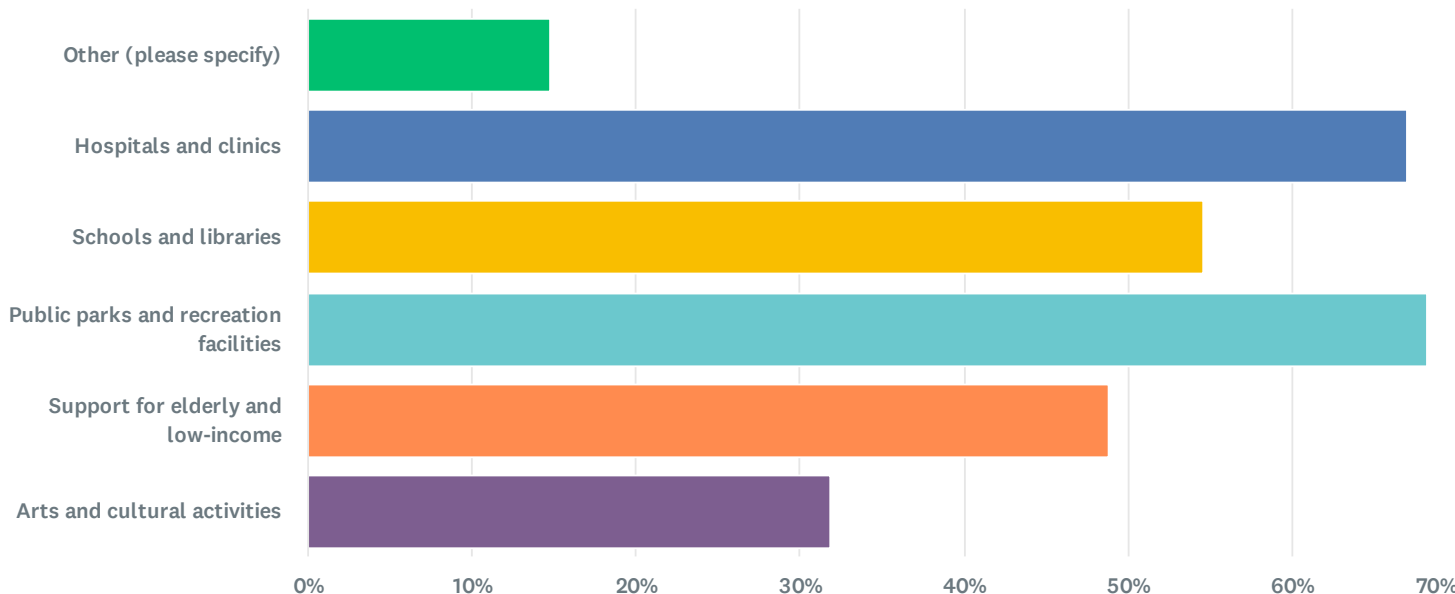
	Educating children or young adults vastly different than feeding drug attic hobos.	
6	Bioenrgy from forest biomass	5/16/2025 9:53 PM
7	consolidate small schools	5/15/2025 3:15 PM
8	Trucking and intra-/inter-state transportation	5/14/2025 9:06 PM
9	People like our county because we are small and support small businesses	5/14/2025 6:56 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q7

88 responses

What community services should be prioritized in the county's future plans? (Select all that apply)



RESPONSES (0)

WORD CLOUD

TAGS (0)

? Filter: by tag ▼ by sentiment ▼

No responses yet

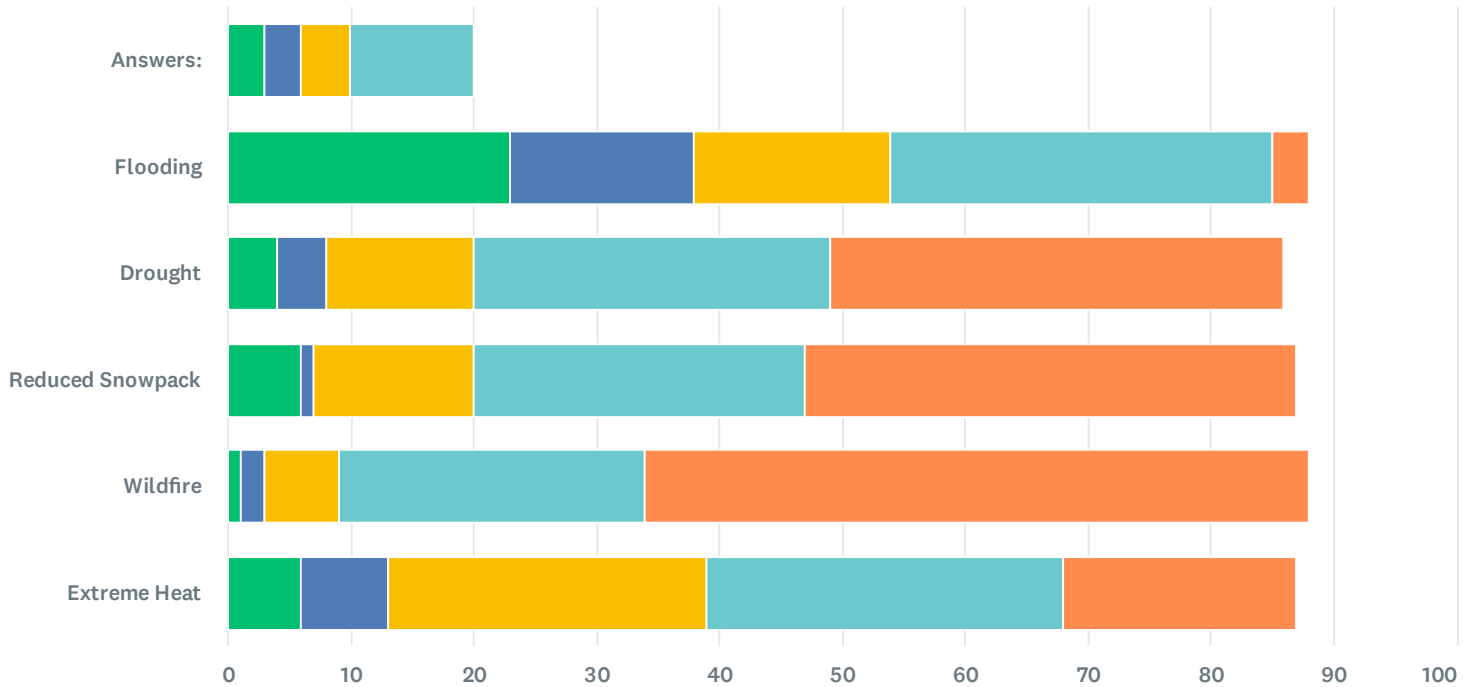
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	wellness opportunities, not needing to go out of county for therapists that are needed to keep you alive through long-term illnesses, like cancer, and cptds from domestic abuse	6/24/2025 3:45 PM
2	The county needs to earn the trust of the people before it builds a perfect future	6/19/2025 8:23 AM
3	Maybe this comes under "cultural activites": support for diverse, equitable, and inclusive policies.	6/12/2025 12:46 PM
4	Home energy audits & water usage audits to optimize draw on system	6/9/2025 11:20 AM
5	Email and fire.	5/24/2025 6:37 PM
6	Emergency services: Fire, EMS, law enforcement	5/16/2025 9:53 PM
7	youth centers	5/15/2025 3:15 PM
8	Activities for kids	5/15/2025 4:15 AM
9	Historic preservation and interpretation	5/14/2025 9:06 PM
10	If knowing where our money is going towards	5/14/2025 7:02 PM
11	Clean up of low income trailer courts, NO homeless housing.	5/14/2025 6:56 PM
12	Retail stores for more jobs and taxes for the county	5/14/2025 3:51 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q8

88 responses

How concerned are you about any of the following natural hazards impacting you or others in Kittitas County?



- Not concerned at all
- Somewhat not concerned
- Neutral
- Somewhat concerned
- Very concerned

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Pollution from degrading tires; Catastrophic loss of other species like birds and insects	6/24/2025 3:45 PM
2	These risks a always present. There is no downward trend in snowpack. https://blogger.googleusercontent.com/img/b/R29vZ2xl/AVvXsEhFAv4PovYiicKifJnfwil02c2boqLhkjLjtb-xKVyq2VyyqZ_dVrvbK3qLeEgU6x6lCABOTnFiLVtVkn9pbe8e_cQKWkdNdcM-jY1sG50pbgmWYCps7GMF3xD-KbnsVYGiO0Hj7WYzXy4M/s640/swe.pnw.april.1984-2020.trend.png	6/19/2025 8:23 AM
3	I don't want our county to become overdeveloped, encouraging massive wildfires like Southern california. I think we should put a moratorium on permitting more development in the upper Kittitas County to protect our environment and stabilize the impact we're having on our natural environment.	6/7/2025 1:13 PM
4	Smoke	5/19/2025 5:50 PM
5	We are in the highest category for wildfire risk due to crushing the logging & mining industries. The Spotted Owl conspiracy destroyed our area and has put our unmanaged forests (overgrown) at EXTREME wildfire risk. Just like Paradise, CA...one road in and one road out with NO EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANNING OR ROUTES! Now we are totally dependent on tourism. Now we are forced to sell our precious land to developers to destroy the ecosystem, wildlife and native lands.	5/19/2025 1:30 PM
6	Reduced snowpack? What are you going to do??	5/15/2025 11:18 AM
7	Falling groundwater table - very concerned; Influx from Puget Sound Region - very concerned	5/14/2025 9:06 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

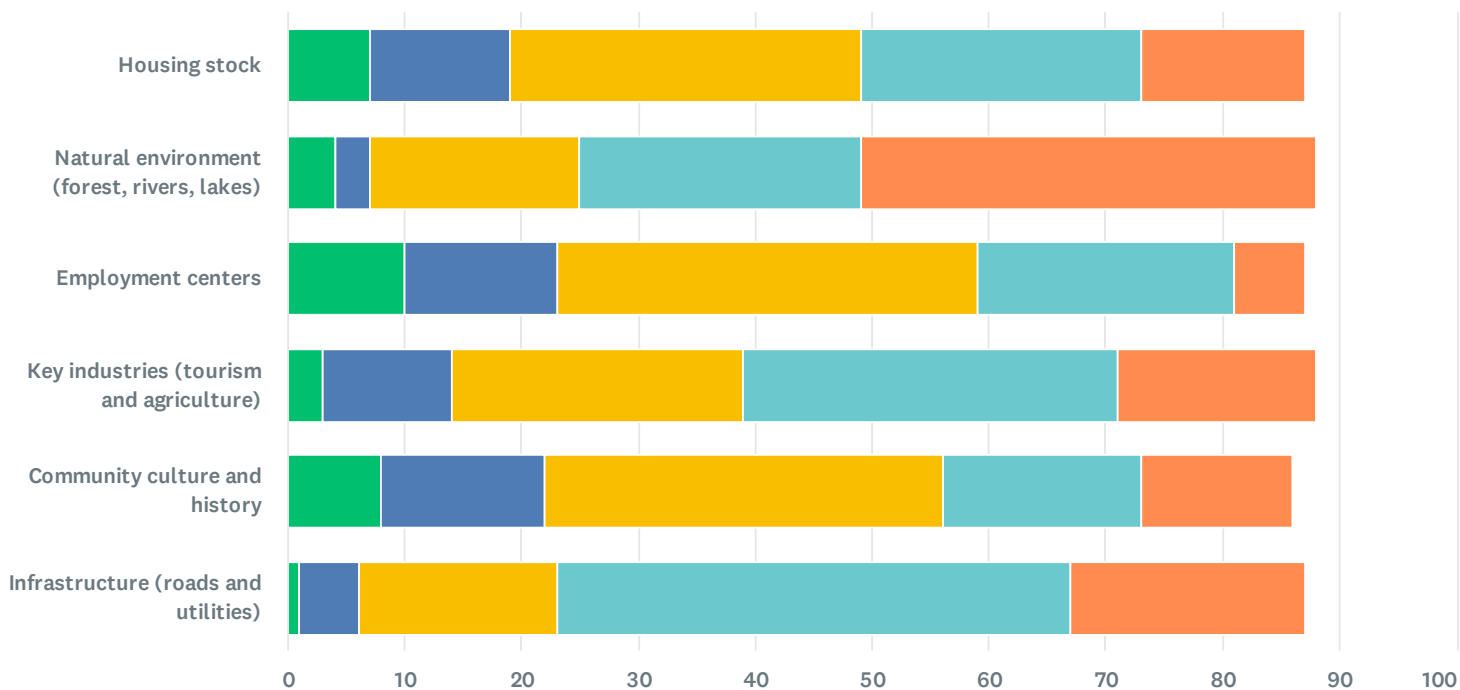
8	Neighborhoods taking away irrigation water needed for farms.	5/14/2025 6:56 PM
9	Stop Spraying our skies with poison calling it climate change!	5/14/2025 3:40 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q9

88 responses

Thinking about potential hazards in Kittitas County, how concerned are you about damage or impacts to the following community features?



- Not concerned at all
- Somewhat not concerned
- Neutral
- Somewhat concerned
- Very concerned

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	community and fish health severally impacted from PFAS, degrading tire chemicals, etc. We need to stop allowing these chemicals to exist in our country, and county.	6/24/2025 3:45 PM
2	Agriculture, human health	5/19/2025 5:50 PM
3	This is a poorly worded question. Most of these are not "natural hazards"	5/15/2025 11:18 AM
4	Left Housing stock blank as I don't know what that means.	5/15/2025 12:12 AM
5	This question was not phrased in a meaningful manner	5/14/2025 9:06 PM
6	Culture and history are not the same. Preserve Ellensburg History.	5/14/2025 6:56 PM

Q10 How do you envision Kittitas County in 20 years?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 16

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I'm hoping that the rural nature will be preserved, with growth focused in concentrated areas. I'd like the county to prioritize protection of lands and natural resources. I think that the demand for renewable energy projects in the county will increase. I'd like to see the solar zoning plan be revisited. The current zoning prioritizes protecting ranching and agricultural lands on the valley floor, and this is causing projects like the Schnebly Coulee project to be proposed and approved on key shrub steppe land. I'd like to see renewable energy projects expand in the county, but not at the expense of key habitat that once we lose it is gone. Projects on land already used for agriculture/ranching could be used for solar and returned to its current use in the the future.	8/3/2025 3:26 PM
2	Kittitas County needs more for it's residents to do. Why are we not letting other stores in here or fun activities for kids? Keep our local dollars here and bring in a costco, walmart, winco, bowling alley, water park, splash pads.	7/16/2025 2:24 PM
3	I'd like to see the county retain it's rural character but modernize in a way that allows for residents to have economic opportunities and a good quality of life. Our public lands and natural areas are one of our greatest assets. I hope that we will invest in growing and managing our outdoor recreation economy to provide more recreation opportunities and also to protect these areas. We need more investment in and support of outdoor recreation planning and management.	7/16/2025 12:37 PM
4	Smart growth minimizing housing in agricultural zones. Better access and infrastructure to public lands and recreation. More formal camping areas to reduce pressure and damaged in dispersed areas. More funding to maintain those facilities.	7/8/2025 12:08 PM
5	I envision Kittitas County as a thriving, balanced community that has successfully maintained its robust agricultural economy while thoughtfully managing growth. The county continues to be a regional leader in agricultural production, with working farms and ranches providing essential jobs, food security, and a deep connection to our heritage. Strategic planning and strong land-use policies have slowed or halted development in the rural areas surrounding Ellensburg and Kittitas, protecting critical farmland and open spaces from urban sprawl. By preserving these agricultural lands, Kittitas County has safeguarded not only its economy but also its identity—ensuring future generations can continue to farm, raise livestock, and steward the land. Our community has invested in local food systems, agricultural education, and water conservation practices, reinforcing a resilient rural way of life that respects both tradition and innovation.	6/26/2025 9:07 AM
6	Leader in the Snow sports lifestyle evolution, due to world class terrain and top athletes. And, the new CWU program that keeps talent local while training them for careers in the Snow sports industry. Small, historical towns persist, with addition of thoughtful longterm additional housing. No more unhoused primary and secondary students in Kit Cty. No more I90 delays due to volume issues, a network of high speed electric trains will modernize us. (Milwaukee Road, revisited lol?!)	6/24/2025 3:45 PM
7	University town and also an agricultural center with ranching and hay growing being maintained. Upper County I see as a bedroom community for Seattle but also providing access to recreational activities such as skiing, hiking, climbing, fishing, etc	6/20/2025 4:53 PM
8	I would hope to see a county that largely leaves people alone and lets the towns and residents make the future. If the county wants to loosen water restrictions, loosen zoning, stop shaking down new builds for fees, and maybe widen some shoulders on the road - that would be great. I would also envision the county split into separate Upper and Lower Kittitas county. Maybe plow the roads.	6/19/2025 8:23 AM
9	I would like to see Kittitas County move to renewable energy sources and grid enhancement that can provide enough clean energy for moderate growth. Clean air and water and rich soil would be high priorities. Regenerative and hydroponic farming would be greatly increased. The county would have effective policies for reducing climate fires. Stricter regulations during fire	6/12/2025 12:46 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

season may be necessary. People would be able to find decent, affordable housing. Down town areas would prosper without more chains and big box stores. Accessible and affordable educational and health opportunities would increase. Music and art would flourish. This may sound Utopian, but this is what I would like to see.

10	A County that protects natural resources and supports all of its residents. Energy independent through renewables.	6/9/2025 11:54 AM
11	A vision for Kittitas County of the future could be a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable space where everyone has opportunities to flourish. This includes a focus on social equity, environmental responsibility, and technological advancements that benefit all members and recognizes that climate migration from other places will put more strain on Kittitas County.	6/9/2025 11:20 AM
12	25% increase in population with 100% of energy & transportation from renewable sources; exponential increase in bike, e-bike & public transportation; full reservoirs and exponential increase in regenerative agriculture practices and hydroponic farming year around	6/8/2025 7:02 PM
13	I think we should put a halt to development at this time. This place is becoming inundated by developers, impacting our natural groundwater, making it more arid by cutting all the trees, and people are encroaching on our natural wildlife. All these things are going to end up harming our community ultimately unless we recognize limits to development.	6/7/2025 1:13 PM
14	wish it would not have to absorb king county population, but if it must, expand development areas, don't just focus on Bullfrog => North (Roslyn to Salmon la Sac) Focus on Easton, Snoq Pass	6/1/2025 8:19 PM
15	Hopefully we have designed the expansion of housing well. Retain livestock ranches, farms & keep open spaces. Utilize property in downtown areas for apartments to revitalize the areas. Hopefully Cle Elum & Roslyn maintain the small town feel. Easton needs to be a focus! It is a dying area.	5/25/2025 3:10 PM
16	Upper country recreational opportunities and water conservation and lake protection (no lowering of water level) will be a critically important way to secure future attraction of people to both visit and live in the county.	5/24/2025 10:37 PM
17	A libertarian paradise where the government sticks to the core functions of keeping a modern society running. They do not promote social change or meddling in the fabrics of society that are none of their damn business	5/24/2025 6:37 PM
18	Suburbia	5/23/2025 12:26 PM
19	I hope that the county is able to manage growth to become a more complex economy while maintaining the natural resources and recreation access that make it special. Population and tourism pressures will require more active management and creativity.	5/21/2025 1:03 PM
20	As a place for options with regards to employment and shopping that don't require leaving the County.	5/20/2025 12:01 PM
21	Crowded with high property taxes	5/19/2025 8:29 PM
22	Ideally? Pretty similar to today, but with greater protection in place for open space, affordable housing/solutions to homelessness, and greater retention of healthcare providers.	5/19/2025 5:50 PM
23	Too crowded	5/19/2025 4:29 PM
24	No comment	5/19/2025 3:43 PM
25	Root development toward existing communities. Large lot low density sprawl, including ranchettes on the outskirts of town, is not a sustainable land development pattern.	5/19/2025 1:52 PM
26	We need more housing options for all different income levels. We need to open up the rural areas to build more than 1 home per lot like all the middle housing types and let the market dictate where the growth happens based on jobs, employment, retail, Healthcare and etc.	5/19/2025 1:34 PM
27	Over developed. The playground for the rich! Looking like Aspen, Colorado where the elite are the only ones who can afford to live here, they destroy the environment with their carbon footprint (cars, boats, battery charging stations, private jets, lack of respect for native lands, wildlife, conservation of resources and greed). THE SERVICE INDUSTRY WILL NOT EXIST DUE TO COST OF HOUSING!	5/19/2025 1:30 PM

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28	If light rail gets extended from King County to Ellensburg, I believe the influx of tax base, new housing, and "suburb mindset" will create both huge growth and loads of conflict, but ultimately it would be so amazingly awesome for the I-90 corridor and the entire county. If light rail doesn't make it here, I believe the communities that embrace tourism and infrastructure for retirees will thrive, and those that resist change will lose tax base and fail.	5/19/2025 8:14 AM
29	I hope that it is still a small town feel, agriculture and farms abound and are supported and easily passed down to future generations and not sold to other countries. Great police force (cars and equipment, and training) and fire fighter support(trucks,equipment, and training), and the hospital taken care of(ambulance, helicopter, good qualified doctors. Roads paved and snow removal working at top performance, good working order and current infrastructure, fire protection (good up keep of clearing deadwood, irrigation, water reservoirs, fire helicopters, trucks, etc). Keeping the tradition of the rodeo and small business. Keeping electricity and water standards working at peak performance.	5/18/2025 11:50 PM
30	Too many people and time to find a replacement for Cle Elum and why we came 30 years ago.	5/18/2025 10:23 AM
31	Happy, healthy, and well cared for with good planning of proper of infrastructure, etc.	5/18/2025 8:15 AM
32	Protecting the farm lands and protecting cattle farmers and their land. Less housing development	5/17/2025 7:50 PM
33	Very much the same as a t is now with more population/housing in the cities/UGA.	5/17/2025 7:45 PM
34	If we dont get affordable housing, there wont be jobs. People can't afford the homes now. Too many overpriced housing	5/17/2025 7:15 PM
35	Thank you for asking about the arts!	5/17/2025 11:11 AM
36	Many of the issues that have over run much of Yakima (gang activity, homelessness, etc.) have begun taking a foothold in Ellensburg. If focus on placement of the homeless rather than addressing the cause continues, I believe Ellensburg will be unrecognizable from the community I was raised and want to raise my children	5/17/2025 11:00 AM
37	Floundering due to leadership unable to let go of "small-town" Kittitas County while population rises and infrastructure is unable to keep up.	5/17/2025 6:38 AM
38	I believe we should consolidate land use planning jurisdictions and hire an expert firm to	5/16/2025 9:53 PM
39	Growth in all regiona	5/15/2025 10:55 PM
40	bedroom community to Seattle	5/15/2025 3:15 PM
41	Totally different from how it is now. In the 15 years I have lived in kittitas county the change has been staggering. I don't see it slowing down anytime soon. Growth is inevitable. I just hope we can grow in a way that keeps our way of life.	5/15/2025 12:52 PM
42	More European from a landuse perspective. Tighter density and preserved open space. We all live here for the open space.	5/15/2025 11:18 AM
43	I sure hope it does not look like Issaquah or North Bend, but I'm afraid we are headed that direction.	5/15/2025 9:34 AM
44	Kittitas county has the opportunity to expand resources in an innovative way by encouraging businesses to our area, increasing cottage businesses not more resort type building projects. I envision more outdoor type businesses, more oversight to protect our current residents. Increasing the number of apartments and affordable housing including work force housing to the area. We need to plan and encourage a larger industry or two coming to the area to support the aging tax base. More enforcement protection of our natural resources, lakes, rivers, land. This is lacking at this time. A more welcoming environment than the "generational" attitudes which currently exist.	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
45	I hope it continues to remain a small town, rural environment but has better resources where residents can stay within the county when it comes to spending and activities for kids... like Wenatchee.	5/15/2025 4:15 AM
46	Going back to its roots and traditions. More of a close knit town.	5/15/2025 2:22 AM
47	Slightly bigger though hoping it's going to level out.	5/15/2025 12:12 AM
48	Unfortunately upper county will be overrun with McMansions and second homes and people	5/14/2025 9:47 PM

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	won't be able to afford to live here.	
49	I am disappointed that Kittitas County's best days are behind us if we do not protect our rural lands. The influx of persons and wealth from Puget Sound is destroying our most valuable resources and rural character, and pricing out the long-term committed stewards of the county. This is not a place I will want to call home or even live in in 20 years if this rapid change continues	5/14/2025 9:06 PM
50	I would like to see the county safe our rural, small town feel but offer more things for teens, families and children in our area. Preserving our outdoor areas are key!	5/14/2025 8:15 PM
51	Preservation of rural life and outdoor recreation.	5/14/2025 7:59 PM
52	No water left in upper kittitas county	5/14/2025 7:45 PM
53	Not big enough to support all the people flooding in right now.	5/14/2025 7:18 PM
54	We need to strengthen our roads and infrastructure to support tourism. Ellensburg needs tourism in order to keep this small town financially viable. We need to provide tourist activities to bring in outsiders who will enjoy themselves and support our town. I'd like us to be a other Leavenworth.	5/14/2025 7:17 PM
55	I see us becoming Seattle, and that is frustrating! Keep the homeless and drugs away from Kittitas County. Stop letting homes be built on farming land.	5/14/2025 7:02 PM
56	I would like it to stay the same, small town close knit, small businesses, I grew up here. But it's changing, our liberal college has a huge impact as well as the DEI forcing everyone to be "equal." It's just making things terrible for everyone. People need to earn their place and earn respect - don't just give it to them. Because then it means nothing and then they expect everything.	5/14/2025 6:56 PM
57	Dying	5/14/2025 6:43 PM
58	I would like it to remain a rural and family area with protection for our natural resources. I would like to see retail services available for our community as well as tourists.	5/14/2025 5:18 PM
59	A safe community, clean streets and parks, neighborly people, thriving small town	5/14/2025 4:50 PM
60	A shit show of west side idiots ruining our county.	5/14/2025 3:51 PM
61	Over populated and lost rural lifestyle	5/14/2025 3:45 PM
62	It will likely be a wreck due to mismanagement and poor leadership. RINOs taking King County bribe money to allow liberal idiots to drive our future instead of listening to the residents.	5/14/2025 3:40 PM
63	Growth needs to slow to maintain the small town feel. Growth also needs to slow - where is all the water coming from? With droughts every year we're running out of water to support everyone	5/14/2025 3:37 PM
64	Becoming more affordable and continuing to grow reasonably	5/14/2025 3:32 PM
65	Return to its agricultural roots. Prioritize the small town community. No "west side" ideologies.	5/14/2025 3:29 PM
66	Not Seattle	5/14/2025 3:22 PM
67	I do not want this, but this county will become more of a welfare homeless destination. Sadly. Left wing city council.	5/14/2025 2:53 PM
68	Better roads, utilities, options for fire insurance. Access for everyone to the woods, which includes motorsports. It's inevitable that we must grow, but it needs to be at a healthy pace.	5/14/2025 9:11 AM
69	A recreational hot spot	5/10/2025 11:21 AM
70	Population and traffic increase as people are priced out of King County and move to a more affordable location.	5/10/2025 6:08 AM
71	Crowded, but a great place to live. Infrastructure and services healthy.	5/9/2025 1:45 PM
72	I would like to see the county return to its rural identity and not turn into a westside metropolis.	5/9/2025 9:08 AM

Q11 Do you have any additional comments or ideas to share that could help shape the future of Kittitas County?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 33

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Kittitas County is not just a tourist town. We need more for our residents that are here and work here.	7/16/2025 2:24 PM
2	Allow the use of lodging tax funds (I know we have, and continue to generate, a lot) to fund the development and management of more recreation opportunities in the county. Building a greater outdoor recreation economy is critical to a future where we both retain the character of our area and provide jobs, opportunities, and a better quality of life for our residents.	7/16/2025 12:37 PM
3	etter access and infrastructure to public lands and recreation. More formal camping areas to reduce pressure and damaged in dispersed areas. More funding to maintain those facilities.	7/8/2025 12:08 PM
4	Ensure that those who move to or visit Kittitas County contribute their fair share toward the costs of their environmental and infrastructure impacts, so that the financial burden does not fall on local taxpayers.	6/26/2025 9:07 AM
5	Kittitas County really needs to have more healthcare and wellness opportunities available, It is brutal and almost impossible to find actual providers, let alone ones taking new clients. Easton would be an excellent location for a non profit facility dedicated to arts, etc. like Bainbridge ISland's BARN: Bainbridge Artistic Resource Network https://bainbridgebarn.org/ Incredible resource that bridges major gaps in our current Kit Cty community. Thanks for keeping the future bright.	6/24/2025 3:45 PM
6	Preserve our rural areas with agriculture and outdoor activities and ranching being supported as well as the University. Don't become a Yakima sprawling everywhere. Have planned growth. Light industry not big distribution center. Not Moses Lske or Yakima.	6/20/2025 4:53 PM
7	The first two sections of this survey force respondents to rank items that they might consider equally important. The one about protecting resources includes mining. I am generally not in favor of mining. And do we have much mining anyway?	6/12/2025 12:46 PM
8	Keep the County rural. Housing and industries should be confined to urban growth areas.	6/9/2025 11:54 AM
9	Diverse housing types and increase housing density near public transportation or bike lanes will go a long way to improve affordability and stretch infrastructure investments.	6/9/2025 11:20 AM
10	Housing shortage improved by reducing number of unoccupied homes (i.e. disincentivize vacation homes) and increase high density walkable neighborhoods	6/8/2025 7:02 PM
11	I think we should get that community Center built because all these little developments have their own pools but most of the people who live in this community do not have access to a cool pool. I think we should consider limiting the recreation center to a swimming pool facility, rather than an elaborate expensive recreation facility that people won't vote for because it cost too much.	6/7/2025 1:13 PM
12	Insane to insert more high density housing along Hwy 903, the ONE road out in the event of forrest fire	6/1/2025 8:19 PM
13	Tap into the coal miner theme & expand on it! Add more history signs & expand Roslyn museum! The cemetery there is fascinating. Need an ice rink, ymca in the plan. I would love to volunteer.	5/25/2025 3:10 PM
14	Hi Jeremy: we met at Easton's Memorial Day parade, thanks for being there. I'm a year round resident of Easton, but am not a developer or downtown Easton land owner. Just someone who would like the town to come to life. Perhaps this planning process can facilitate that. To me, Easton is a dying town, and perhaps the issues which affect Easton could apply to other areas in Kittitas. Currently, Easton has almost no infrastructure which could support a population. No grocery store, one restaurant trying to start up, a single gas station, a dead Main Street. How	5/24/2025 9:32 PM

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to change that? My suggestion would be affordable housing. If Downtown Easton, on either side of the freeway, was zoned for high-ish density housing (say town houses), then the grocery stores, restaurants and other amenities would follow. And because of the location of the school, any restaurants need to be 500 feet away to get a liquor license, so maybe toward the end of the "downtown" close to exit 70 could be zoned for restaurants and bars. Property owners in town have been holding onto property for decades, and maybe this rezoning would make their properties worth enough to sell. A win-win for the owner and developer. My vision for Easton would be Roslyn: a thriving downtown with a fly fishing shop, mountain bike shop, brewpub, restaurants, book store, etc. Easton has the advantage of being the west-most town in the county, so affordable housing could attract workers from snoqualmie, north bend, issaquah, etc. But to me it seems we need to first get people into the town, hence the priority on affordable housing. Cops, teachers, construction workers all need somewhere to live, why not Easton. Gordon Brandt gbrandt@comcast.net

15	I am like a lot of my Easton neighbors, a political refugee from the west side of the state. I came here to get away from the nonsense. Central Washington should stand against the bureaucratic overreach of small minded petty functionaries that want to run other peoples life's.	5/24/2025 6:37 PM
16	I think increasing density is an important tool to maintain and improve quality of life	5/21/2025 1:03 PM
17	Do away with full-time County Commissioners and move back to a model that would include a County manager and part-time volunteer commissioners to help weed out corruption and better represent the people of Kittitas County.	5/20/2025 12:01 PM
18	There are places in the county that have a strong emotional value as well as serving as open space, wildlife habitat and migration corridors, and sometimes flood retention. When those lands are privately held, it is absolutely within the rights of the landowner to seek the greatest financial return on their investment, which will nearly always be development. In order to preserve these lands for public benefit, we (county residents and government) need to be prepared to purchase the land or the development rights. I know there are concerns about lost tax revenue, but I think those can be balanced against the loss of the other values of the land.	5/19/2025 5:50 PM
19	No comment	5/19/2025 3:43 PM
20	See item 10	5/19/2025 1:34 PM
21	<p>We have the opportunity and responsibility to prevent "Paradise 2.0" I am a concerned citizen who has lived and owned property in the Cle Elum area for 20 years. I lost a home to the Taylor Bridge Fire, which has intensified my commitment and involvement in helping to build a better future design for our community. Let's plan to avoid being Paradise 2.0!</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/20/last-day-in-paradise-california-deadliest-fire-untold-story-survivors My goal with this letter is to encourage strategic, cutting-edge, comprehensive, sustainable and integrated planning to create a safe, healthy Upper Kittitas County specifically related to Growth Management. It is incumbent on our leadership to ensure that our community is safe and stable enough for the unprecedented growth the experts are predicting for Upper Kittitas County. According to the local experts, we are currently maxed out and "at risk" in each of the following infrastructure categories when facing a quadrupling our population over the next 10 years: • Water • Sewer • Fire • EMS/Hospital • Police • Road systems (Upper Kittitas County is a tragedy waiting to happen! There are no emergency (secondary) evacuation routes for the existing upper county developments from Suncadia northward to Salmon Le Sac. And yet, 4 new developers are near construction phase for an estimated build-out count of an additional 2500 units with no emergency evacuation routes. Recommendation: We need coordinated community planning to help us avoid a serious tragedy like Paradise, CA. Planning Coordination to design and ensure a healthy, safe community in all the following areas: Regional fire services—development essential Regional planning council—elected to serve the community for current and future generations specific to: Road systems—multiple evacuation routes & wide enough for fire equipment Fire services—enough equipment & infrastructure and staff to support population forecast EMS—enough equipment and staff to support population forecast Valuable Lessons Learned from: Paradise California "Camp Fire" 2018 Here's how Paradise ignored warnings and became a deathtrap: Paradise Fire: Warnings and predictions ignored A Los Angeles Times investigation found that Paradise ignored repeated warnings of the risk its residents faced, crafted no plan to evacuate the area all at once, entrusted public alerts to a system vulnerable to fire, and did not sound citywide orders to In the aftermath of the Camp fire — 86 dead, more than 13,900 homes destroyed, and Paradise decimated — local and state officials said the tragedy was unforeseen and unavoidable, an "unprecedented" monster of fire. Paradise "Camp Fire" was predicted by early planners but ultimately allowed by aggressive developers</p>	5/19/2025 1:30 PM

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Paradise mobile home park post Camp Fire 2018 video The 2005 state fire management plan for the ridge, developed in consultation with some of those same Paradise planners: “Heavy fuel loads, steep terrain, poor access and light flashy fuels create severe fire hazards. The increased population in this area creates a high potential for catastrophic life and property loss.” Coordinated Planning could have prevented Paradise tragedy: Developers started with what had been gold mine trails and then apple orchard roads to pave a street system that maximized buildable space the way blood vessels branch into capillaries. In the aftermath of the Camp fire — 86 dead, more than 13,900 homes destroyed, and Paradise decimated — local and state officials said the tragedy was unforeseen and unavoidable, an “unprecedented” monster of fire. In truth, the destruction was utterly predictable, and the community’s struggles to deal with the fire were the result of lessons forgotten and warnings ignored. Summary: Forest fire is an impending threat for Cle Elum, WA with the similarities it has to Paradise, CA. • Dead end road system • Dry (desert) climate • Mainly volunteer fire departments in Upper County • Hi-density residential developments in overgrown and unmanaged forests Solutions to minimize risk: Develop and implement Upper County Emergency Evacuation Plan/System Secondary road evacuation routes (mandatory prior to each new development approval) Coordinate planning that utilized all lessons learned from similar Paradise, CA that was predicted 20 years prior to 2018 tragedy. Effectively manage new community development that meets needs and takes into consideration the risks of the Cle Elum area Thank you for taking my experience and personal comments into consideration as you make city planning recommendations for our community.

22	Kittitas must invest in electric vehicle charging (and hydrogen if that takes off), as well as multi-use pathways, bike/ped infrastructure, and parks to attract new residents. This includes quality skateboard parks, paved pump tracks, mountain bike trails with parking, and other features that will attract families.	5/19/2025 8:14 AM
23	DEI should not be apart of any chapter, plan, or wording in this comprehensive plan. This will affect the care of all of our federally funded roads, infrastructure and services. Equal opportunity laws and Civil Rights Act helps safe guard us.	5/18/2025 11:50 PM
24	Take note when a box is already full. There is such a thing as maximum capacity.	5/18/2025 10:23 AM
25	Stop allowing King County to influence the choices the council makes for our community. Take the voice of the people seriously and listen to the people who put you in office and remember that you're there because of them.	5/17/2025 7:50 PM
26	Insurance stability, infrastructure development and affordable housing via ADU and multi-family living (density) is going to be the basis to help Kittitas County thrive.	5/17/2025 7:45 PM
27	We need better infrastructure, we need another grocery store around Cle Elum.	5/17/2025 7:15 PM
28	Thank you for asking about addressing climate change.	5/17/2025 11:11 AM
29	Improving our parks and county facilities improves tourism opportunities. The county can better support cities/townships in their efforts to improve parks/facilities.	5/17/2025 6:38 AM
30	Upper County needs a master plan to shape our future land use planning. We are boxed in with ridges to the north and south, Easton Hill to the west and Elk Heights to the east, with 3 rivers, a RR, and a interstate— we don't have a lot of choices and it's time to transition from developer driven land use planning. We do not have the option to build any new roads— future development has to be consistent with existing routes. And we must stop approving development without secondary access! Cle Elum Ridge at build out, for example, will be a nightmare during level 3 Evac notice. Fire is inevitable on Cle Elum Ridge.	5/16/2025 9:53 PM
31	We need to focus on infrastructure and limit the amount of housing going in until it is in place.	5/16/2025 6:47 AM
32	Managing Snoqualmie pass roads, taxes, recreational spaces as well as services for the massive amounts of people that come in the winter is really needed. Folks come to be outside in the snow but the community can't handle it and the resort is not accountable for its impact while taking profits.	5/15/2025 10:55 PM
33	create living wage jobs, schools with less than 15 graduates should be consolidated with larger schools to provide equal learning opportunities, such as Easton	5/15/2025 3:15 PM
34	Children are the future so I hope we will keep them in mind as we prepare for growth.	5/15/2025 12:52 PM
35	Act as one county. Get over the lower/upper issues.	5/15/2025 11:18 AM

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36	Diversify housing stock but keep it "neighborhood" friendly. Walkable streets/sidewalks, green space, etc.	5/15/2025 9:34 AM
37	Kittitas County is doing the best they (commissioners, staff, community advocates) can with the resources they currently have at their disposal. There needs to be a more integrated approach with service leaders, economic leaders and the community to all head in one direction. We are very sperate in our communication and understanding of issues and how they affect different areas of the county. This is especially true in different areas of the county, which have vastly different areas of pain. Example: lower county issues compared to upper county and the Pass. I would like to see the structure of the commissioners change, where they all take responsibility for the whole county and take on areas that suit their respective backgrounds. More objective decisions to help the area as a whole. More of an innovative approach to issues vs this is always the way it has been done. That attitude is only going to stifle growth of the area and depress our economy further. We need to increase revenue, either by taxes, industry incentives and stop encouraging large development for the wealthy. Ederra's marketing material states that they are bringing middle class home prices to the area...\$800K. That is not middle class prices. If the county wants to encouraging that type of development then recognize that this area is a resort community and start charging taxes, fees and monitoring the area as such. I would like to see the economic development group have resources and teeth. Pair down the group and move forward. If these changes aren't made now this area is certainly going to be a resort town like Jackson Hole, Sun Valley and the like with very few full time residence and a completely different look and vibe, not in twenty years but five, ten years. It is already happening. Kittitas county is a wonderful place, with a diverse landscape but our leaders (and residence) need to recognize the opportunities and stop trying to "wish" for the old days.	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
38	Stop approving mega developments locals can't afford homes in. We need homes local people can afford, not millionaires vacation homes	5/14/2025 9:47 PM
39	Kittitas County is not adequately protecting the farmlands and agricultural base. Turning our scenic views and prime farmland over to electrical generation is impairing our future.	5/14/2025 9:06 PM
40	Please don't turn us in to an electric hub in the state. Keep our land and area how it's always been.	5/14/2025 8:15 PM
41	None	5/14/2025 7:59 PM
42	No	5/14/2025 7:45 PM
43	How will we support all these people moving into the county? Town is constantly busy. It takes forever now to get through town and trying to pull out of any business on Main Street takes forever. There are no places to shop for affordable clothing for children and adults. With all the taxes and housing prices my children will not be able to afford to live here which is sad for me as I was born and raised in this valley and my family has been here since the 1950's.	5/14/2025 7:18 PM
44	Disband DEI and close down Helen house. These things foster racism and exclusivity. They are not helpful here in our town nor wanted. Before these things appeared - before 2020- things were great. Get rid of the wokeism in our school. Actually give the public school children a proper education like they used to receive.	5/14/2025 6:56 PM
45	no revenue. Therefore never improve. Levies will kill it. Need wealth tax. Too many pie in sky ideas.	5/14/2025 6:43 PM
46	Manage and prioritize tax payer funds properly and stop adding new taxes or levys	5/14/2025 4:50 PM
47	No	5/14/2025 3:51 PM
48	Listen to your neighbors! Stop trying to impress Olympia and implement the will of the people who elected you! Stop Spraying our skies with poison and calling it climate change. Stand for your community like we elected you to do!	5/14/2025 3:40 PM
49	Remove DEI from the comprehensive plan. Stop building low income housing and then moving in people from out of the area. Slow building growth to focus on resource conservation.	5/14/2025 3:37 PM
50	build more parks and add parking downtown. Also, keep up with road maintenance	5/14/2025 3:32 PM
51	Have balls. Say no to Olympia	5/14/2025 3:22 PM
52	Industrial and commercial activities need TJ have the ability to increase/thrive in the rural area	5/10/2025 11:21 AM

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even though GMA may limit it. Highway interchanges need to be assessed and zoned appropriately. 2. The understanding that over 70% of Kittitas county is in public land ownership along with topography therefore reducing actual developable land. This requires a review of lands in the individual valleys where development can be achieved along with natural resources protected.

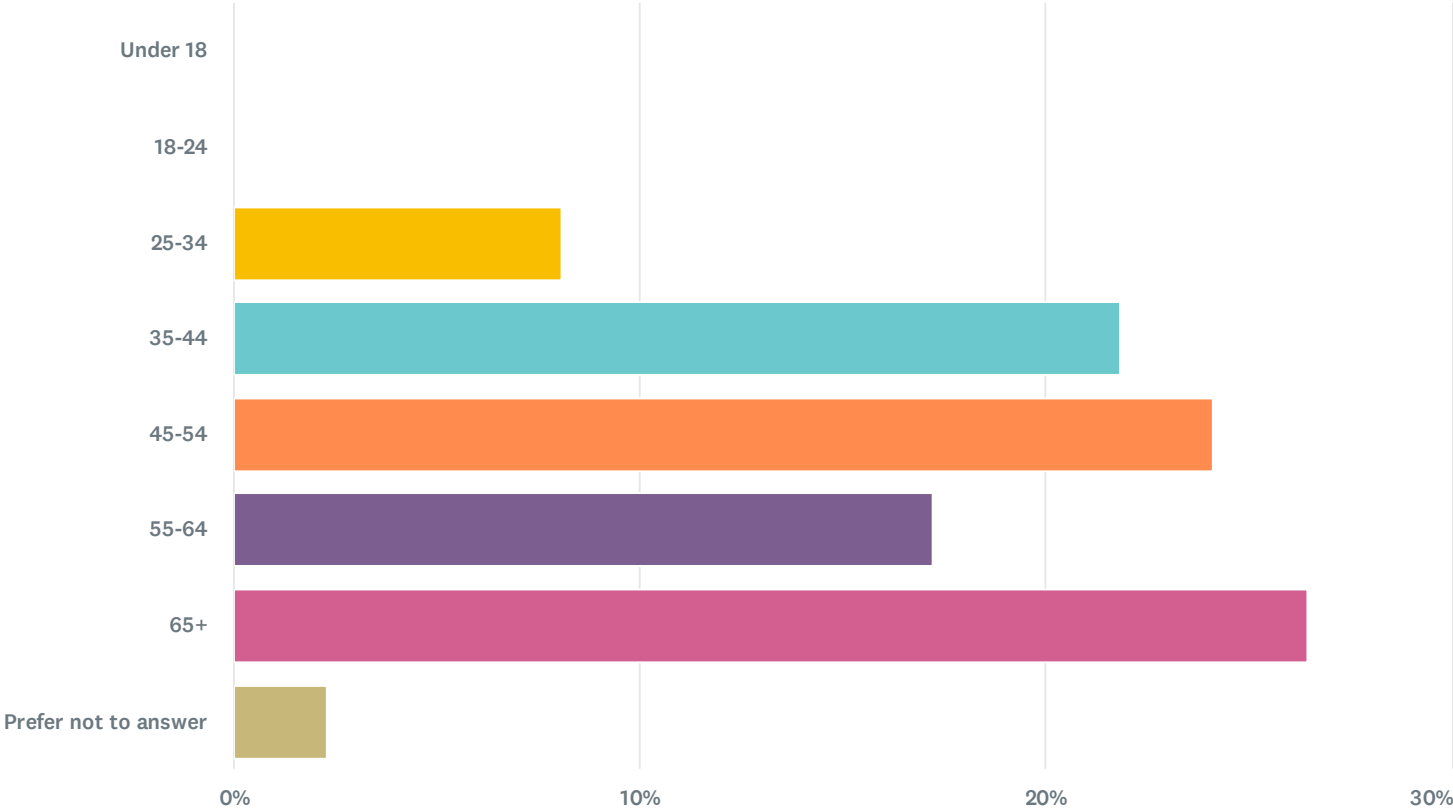
53	Easton needs a sewer system if it is to grow. We can not expand commercially with septic systems only.	5/10/2025 6:08 AM
54	Community is more important than autonomy. We need to be a welcoming community that cares for all.	5/9/2025 1:45 PM
55	No	5/9/2025 9:08 AM

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Q12

87 responses

Age Group (Select one):



Q13 Where do you live in Kittitas County?

Answered: 86 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Ellensburg	8/3/2025 3:26 PM
2	Ellensburg	7/16/2025 2:25 PM
3	Ellensburg	7/16/2025 12:37 PM
4	West of Ellensburg - Hwy 97	6/26/2025 9:07 AM
5	Hyak	6/24/2025 3:46 PM
6	In the county; rural area	6/20/2025 4:54 PM
7	Upper	6/19/2025 8:23 AM
8	Ellensburg	6/12/2025 12:47 PM
9	Downtown Ellensburg	6/9/2025 11:56 AM
10	Cle Elum	6/9/2025 11:20 AM
11	Cle Elum	6/8/2025 7:14 PM
12	Cle Elum	6/8/2025 7:02 PM
13	Cle Elum	6/7/2025 1:14 PM
14	Upper County	6/1/2025 8:20 PM
15	Exit 62	5/25/2025 3:10 PM
16	Lake Kachess	5/24/2025 10:38 PM
17	Easton	5/24/2025 9:33 PM
18	Easton	5/24/2025 6:37 PM
19	98926	5/23/2025 12:26 PM
20	Ellensburg	5/21/2025 1:03 PM
21	Ellensburg	5/21/2025 12:39 PM
22	Near the airport	5/20/2025 12:02 PM
23	West side	5/19/2025 8:30 PM
24	North of Ellensburg	5/19/2025 5:51 PM
25	Ellensburg	5/19/2025 5:14 PM
26	Upper County	5/19/2025 4:30 PM
27	Cle Elum	5/19/2025 3:44 PM
28	Ellensburg	5/19/2025 3:03 PM
29	Near the college	5/19/2025 2:47 PM
30	Ellensburg	5/19/2025 2:32 PM
31	Ellensburg	5/19/2025 1:52 PM
32	County	5/19/2025 1:47 PM
33	Roslyn	5/19/2025 1:35 PM

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34	Cle Elum	5/19/2025 1:31 PM
35	Ellensburg	5/19/2025 8:15 AM
36	Ellensburg, city limits	5/18/2025 11:51 PM
37	Upper county hoping to move.	5/18/2025 10:24 AM
38	Cle Elum	5/18/2025 8:16 AM
39	Kittitas	5/17/2025 9:04 PM
40	Lower County	5/17/2025 7:50 PM
41	Nelson Siding	5/17/2025 7:45 PM
42	EASTON	5/17/2025 7:15 PM
43	Edge of town	5/17/2025 11:11 AM
44	Ellensburg	5/17/2025 11:01 AM
45	Ellensburg	5/17/2025 6:39 AM
46	Cle Elum	5/16/2025 9:54 PM
47	Ellensburg	5/16/2025 6:48 AM
48	Snoqualmie Pass	5/15/2025 10:55 PM
49	County	5/15/2025 6:19 PM
50	EASTON	5/15/2025 3:16 PM
51	Snoqualmie Pass	5/15/2025 12:53 PM
52	Roslyn	5/15/2025 11:18 AM
53	Ellensburg	5/15/2025 9:35 AM
54	upper county	5/15/2025 8:19 AM
55	Near Ellensburg (outside city limits)	5/15/2025 4:16 AM
56	Snoqualmie Pass	5/15/2025 3:08 AM
57	About 10 miles out of town	5/15/2025 2:23 AM
58	North East	5/15/2025 12:13 AM
59	Easton	5/14/2025 9:47 PM
60	Badger Pocket	5/14/2025 9:07 PM
61	Ellensburg	5/14/2025 8:16 PM
62	Kittitas	5/14/2025 8:01 PM
63	Easton	5/14/2025 7:47 PM
64	Snoqualmie pass	5/14/2025 7:46 PM
65	Vantage Hwy east of Kittitas	5/14/2025 7:19 PM
66	North of town	5/14/2025 7:18 PM
67	Roslyn	5/14/2025 7:13 PM
68	Off of number 6 rd	5/14/2025 7:03 PM
69	Badger Pocket	5/14/2025 6:57 PM
70	Eburg	5/14/2025 6:44 PM
71	Easton	5/14/2025 5:19 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

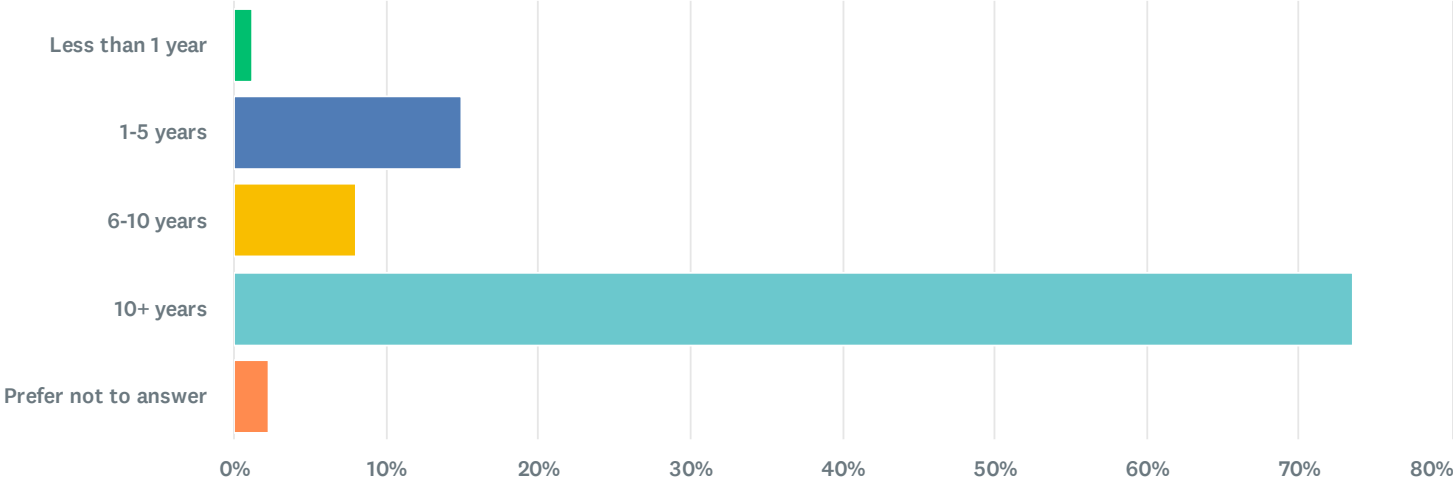
72	Ellensburg	5/14/2025 4:50 PM
73	House	5/14/2025 3:51 PM
74	East	5/14/2025 3:46 PM
75	UKC	5/14/2025 3:41 PM
76	Ellensburg	5/14/2025 3:37 PM
77	Ellensburg outskirts	5/14/2025 3:33 PM
78	Ellensburg	5/14/2025 3:33 PM
79	Kittitas	5/14/2025 3:22 PM
80	Ellensburg	5/14/2025 2:53 PM
81	Easton	5/14/2025 9:59 AM
82	Cle elum	5/14/2025 9:12 AM
83	Rural area of Kittitas County	5/10/2025 11:22 AM
84	Easton	5/10/2025 6:09 AM
85	Ellensburg	5/9/2025 1:45 PM
86	Ellensburg	5/9/2025 9:09 AM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q14

87 responses

How long have you lived in Kittitas County?

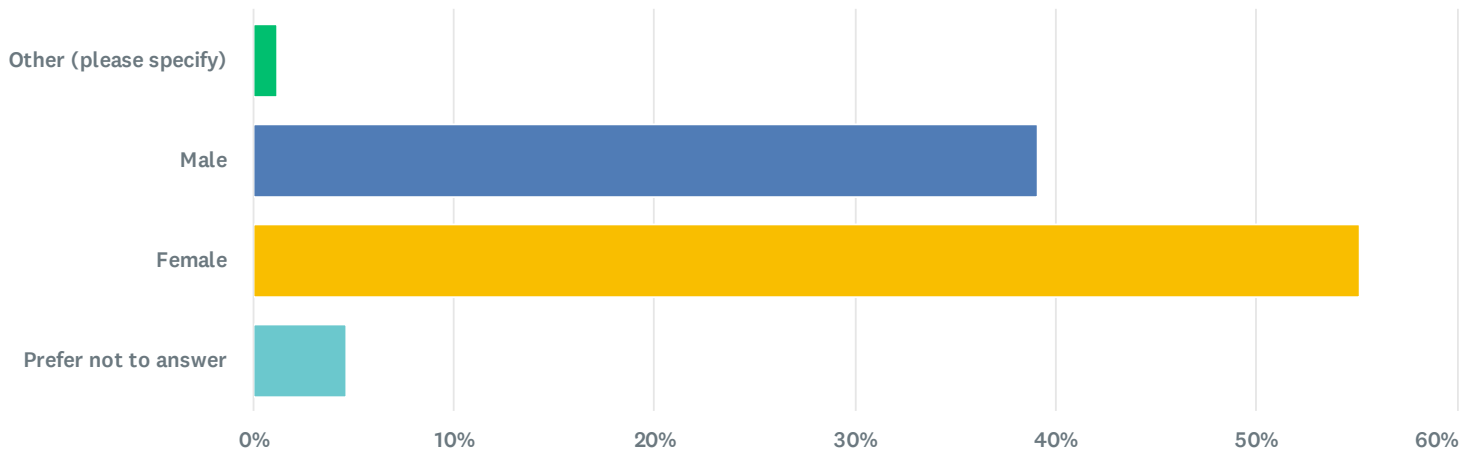


Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q15

87 responses

Gender



RESPONSES (0)

WORD CLOUD

TAGS (0)

Filter: by tag by sentiment

No responses yet

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Sorry, don't say anymore due to all the data hacking out there. It's an unnecessary data point.	6/24/2025 3:46 PM

Survey 1: Crafting Kittitas' Future

Q16

87 responses

What is your annual household income?

