
Sample State Planning Goals¹

LAND USE

- To promote orderly growth and development that recognizes the natural characteristics of the land, its suitability for use, and the availability of existing and proposed public and/or private services and facilities. R.I. Gen. Laws §45-22.2-3 (1995).
- To establish a land-use planning process and policy framework as a basis for all decisions and actions related to use of land and to assure an adequate factual base for such decisions. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 3.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- To provide a strong and diverse economy that provides satisfying and rewarding job opportunities and that maintains high environmental standards, and to expand economic opportunities in areas with high unemployment or low per capita incomes. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).
- Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, and encourage growth in areas of insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §36.70A.020 (1995).
- To provide adequate opportunities throughout the state for a variety of economic activities vital to the health, welfare, and prosperity of Oregon's citizens. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 16.

HOUSING

- Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §36.70A.020 (1995).
- To promote a balance of housing choices, for all income levels and age groups, and which recognizes the affordability of housing as the responsibility of each municipality and the state. R.I. Gen. Laws §45-22.2-3 (1995).
- To establish and maintain an adequate supply of decent and affordable housing in a suitable living environment for all citizens. Office of Policy and Management, *Conservation and Development: Policies Plan for Connecticut 1992-1997* (Hartford, CT: The Office, n.d.), 54.
- The public and private sectors shall increase the affordability and availability of housing for low-income and moderate-income persons, including citizens in rural areas, while at the same time encouraging self-sufficiency of the individual and

¹ State planning goals reprinted from Stuart Meck, FAICP, 2002, *Growing SmartSM Legislative Guidebook* (Chicago, IL: American Planning Association), 4-138-4-148.

- assuring environmental and structural quality and cost-effective operations. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(5)(a) (1991).
- Provide adequate housing at a reasonable cost. New Jersey State Planning Commission, *Communities of Place: The New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan* (Trenton, N.J.: The Commission, June 12, 1992), 10.

PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES, EXCLUDING TRANSPORTATION

- Florida shall protect the substantial investments in public facilities that already exist and shall plan for and finance new facilities to serve residents in a timely, orderly, and efficient manner. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(18)(a) (1991).
- Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §36.70A.020 (1995).
- To plan and develop a timely, orderly, and efficient arrangement of public facilities and services to serve as a framework for urban and rural development. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 18.

TRANSPORTATION

- To provide for safe, convenient, economic, and energy efficient transportation systems that respect the integrity of the natural environment, including public transport options and paths for pedestrians and bicyclers. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).
- To provide an integrated, efficient, and economical transportation system which provides mobility, convenience, and safety which meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled. Office of Policy and Management, *Conservation and Development: Policies Plan for Connecticut 1992-1997* (Hartford, CT: The Office, n.d.), 46.
- Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §36.70A.020 (1995).

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION, EXCLUDING AIR QUALITY

- To provide for the wise and efficient use of Vermont's natural resources and to facilitate the appropriate extraction of earth resources and the proper restoration and preservation of the aesthetic qualities of the area. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).
- To consider the use of resources and the consequences of growth and development for the region and the state, as well as the community in which it takes place. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).

AIR QUALITY

- Florida shall comply with all national air-quality standards by 1987, and by 1992 meet standards more stringent than 1985 standards. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(11)(a) (1991).
- To achieve and maintain a quality of air that is protective of public health and welfare and that allows attainment of economic and urban development goals.

Office of Policy and Management, *Conservation and Development: Policies Plan for Connecticut 1992-1997* (Hartford, Conn.: The Office, 1992), 91.

ENERGY

- To provide for sustainable and efficient use of energy and natural resources through least-cost planning techniques in order to provide a viable economy, a healthy environment, and a high quality of life. Office of Policy and Management, *Conservation and Development: Policies Plan for Connecticut 1992-1997* (Hartford, CT: The Office, 1992), 37.
- Florida shall reduce its energy requirements through enhanced conservation and efficiency measures in all end-use sectors, while, at the same time, promoting an increased use of renewable energy sources. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(12)(a) (1991).
- To encourage the efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy sources. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).

AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST LAND PRESERVATION

- To encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).
- To conserve forest lands by maintaining the forest land base and to protect the state's forest economy by making possible economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species as the leading use on forest land consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, and fish and wildlife resources and to provide for recreational opportunities and agriculture. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 7.
- To preserve and maintain agricultural lands. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 6.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

- To promote consistency of state actions and programs with municipal comprehensive plans, and provide for review procedures to ensure that state goals and policies are reflected in municipal comprehensive plans and state guide plans. R.I. Gen. Laws §45-22.2-3 (1995).
- Ensure sound and integrated planning statewide. New Jersey State Planning Commission, *Communities of Place: The New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan* (Trenton, N.J.: The Commission, June 12, 1992), 11.
- To establish a coordinated, comprehensive planning process and policy framework to guide decisions by municipalities, regional planning commissions, and state agencies. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).
- To encourage and assist municipalities to work creatively together to develop and implement plans. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).

URBANIZATION

- Revitalize the state's urban centers and areas. New Jersey State Planning Commission, *Communities of Place: The New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan* (Trenton, N.J.: The Commission, June 12, 1992), 7.

- To plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).
- Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §36.70A.020 (1995).
- Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §36.70A.020 (1995).
- To provide for an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 21.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- To encourage citizen participation at all levels of the planning process, and to assure that decisions shall be made by municipalities, regional planning commissions, and state agencies. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).
- To develop a citizen involvement program that insures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 1.
- The achievement of “[a] desired physical environment, characterized by beauty, cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, that enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people.” Haw. Rev. Stat. §226-4 (1995 Supp).

MISCELLANEOUS

Critical Areas

- Florida shall ensure that development and marine resource use and beach access improvements in coastal areas do not endanger public safety or important natural resources. Florida shall, through acquisition and access improvements, make available to the state's population additional beaches and marine environment, consistent with sound environmental planning. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(9)(a) (1991).
- Florida shall protect and acquire unique natural habitats and ecological systems, such as wetlands, tropical hardwood hammocks, palm hammocks, and virgin longleaf pine forests, and restore degraded natural systems to a functional condition. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(10)(a) (1991).
- To recognize and protect the unique environmental, economic, and social values of each estuary and associated wetlands; and to protect, maintain, where appropriate develop, and where appropriate restore, the long-term environmental, economic, and social values, diversity and benefits of Oregon's estuaries. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 26.
- To conserve, protect, where appropriate develop, and where appropriate restore, the resources and benefits of coastal beach and dune areas; and to reduce the hazard to human life and property from natural or man-induced actions associated

with these areas. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 33.

Downtown Revitalization

- In recognition of the importance of Florida's developing and redeveloping downtowns to the state's ability to use existing infrastructure [sic] and to accommodate growth in an orderly, efficient, and environmentally acceptable manner, Florida shall encourage the centralization of commercial, governmental, retail, residential and cultural activities within downtown areas. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(17)(a) (1995).

Education

- The creation of an educational environment intended to provide adequate skills and knowledge for students to develop their full potential, embrace the highest ideas and accomplishments, make a positive contribution to society, and promote the advancement of knowledge and human dignity. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201 (1995).
- To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302 (1995).

Families

- Florida shall strengthen the family and promote its economic independence. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201 (1991).

Historic Preservation

- Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §36.70A.020 (1995).
- To identify, protect, and preserve important natural and historic features of the Vermont landscape, including . . . important historic structures, sites, or districts, archaeological sites and archaeologically sensitive areas. Vt. Stat. Ann. §4302(D) (1995).

Natural Disasters and Hazards

- To protect life and property from natural disasters and hazards. Department of Land Conservation and Development, *Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, 1995 Edition* (Salem, Ore.: The Department, 1995), 11.
- Require local governments, in cooperation with regional and state agencies, to prepare advance plans for the safe evacuation of coastal residents. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(7)(b)24 (1995).
- Require local governments, in cooperation with regional and state agencies, to adopt plans and policies to protect public and private property from the effects of natural disasters. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201(7)(b)25 (1995).

Property Rights

- Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of land owners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §36.70A.020 (1995).

- Florida shall protect private property rights and recognize the existence of legitimate and often competing public and private interests in land use regulations and other government action. Fla. Stat. Ann. §187.201 (1991).

Examples of additional subjects of goals contained in statutes and plans nationwide, but not contained in the above categories include:

Connecticut: water (supply and management); food production; waste; natural and cultural resources

Florida: children; the elderly; health; public safety; water resources; hazardous and nonhazardous materials and waste; mining; cultural and historical resources; governmental efficiency; the economy; agriculture; tourism; employment; plan implementation

Oregon: open spaces; scenic and historic areas; natural resources; recreational needs; Willamette River Greenway; ocean resources

Rhode Island: resources; open space (recreational); innovative development regulations; data collection and dissemination; comprehensive plan consistency; subsidized housing

Vermont: recreation

Washington: permits; natural resource industries; open space and recreation; environment