



The Opportunity



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The City of Renton’s vision is to be the “center of opportunity in the Puget Sound region, where families and businesses thrive.” Renton is realizing this vision in many ways. At the south end of Lake Washington, Renton is a hub to key transportation routes and offers high-performing schools, a green network of trails and parks, and urban amenities—making it a great place to live, work, learn, and play. Renton is home to globally recognized companies such as Boeing, PACCAR, and IKEA. Its strong economic base and diverse marketplace have also attracted “new economy” companies such as Parallels, Microscan, and Wizards of the Coast.

Renton’s leaders recognize that achieving its vision of building a sustainable and prosperous community over the long term hinges on the community’s ability to compete in the economy of the future. By necessity, that future will be more resource-efficient; rely on clean and renewable energy sources; and call on

governments, businesses, and citizens to minimize pollution and waste.

Renton has joined with regional and national governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create compact and thriving neighborhoods, and invest in clean mobility and energy efficiency. The City is now reviewing past successes and identifying opportunities to help Renton effectively compete in a clean economy.

In a clean economy, vitality, growth, and jobs derive from economic activity that is highly resource-efficient, applies renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, and minimizes the generation of waste and pollution.

A clean or green economy is an element of sustainable development, which considers the needs of future generations along with those of the present and heeds the “triple bottom-line” of economy, community, and environment.

Renton’s Vision

Renton is the center of opportunity in the Puget Sound region where families and businesses thrive.

The City of Renton—in partnership and communication with residents, businesses, and schools is dedicated to:

Providing a healthy, welcoming atmosphere where citizens choose to live, raise families, and take pride in their community.

Promoting planned growth and economic vitality.

Valuing our diversity of language, housing, culture, backgrounds and choices.

Creating a positive work environment.

Meeting service demands through innovation and commitment to excellence.

Renton can benefit from investments in a clean economy.

Lead and stay competitive. Renton can position itself as a clean economy leader to attract clean businesses and residents seeking efficient and future-oriented communities—creating local jobs and revenue.

Save money. Using less energy in homes, buildings, and vehicles means lower transportation and energy costs for residents, businesses, and governments—and more money to invest in the local economy and community.

Mitigate risk. Our region's relatively low energy prices stem from reliable hydropower. Scientists and economists predict that decreased snowpack and increased energy demand will lead to higher energy prices, especially for carbon-based fuels. Reducing energy needs will help Renton maintain reliability, adapt to a changing climate, and use our clean energy sources efficiently.

Leverage resources. Investments in energy efficiency and renewables will likely continue. Renton must compete effectively to bring federal, state, utility, and private funding for its community and economic development.

Building a clean economy is a vital element of the future economic landscape.

Businesses and governments alike are seeking new ways to mitigate loss of traditional manufacturing jobs, volatile energy prices, global climate change, and dependence on foreign oil.

Clean economy strategies seek to attract growing industries and create high-paying jobs—while conserving resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and minimizing waste and pollution.

Renton can benefit from a clean economy.

Our region brings valuable assets to help capture low-carbon, clean-energy sectors—including a prevalent green culture, supportive regional government policies, a significant natural resource base, and a strong base of manufacturing infrastructure and technical know-how. As Puget Sound moves toward a cleaner, more efficient economy, Renton can position itself to capitalize on these regional efforts and to attract clean jobs and industries, while conserving natural resources and reducing

greenhouse gas emissions. Prioritizing resource-efficient actions in city operations, programs, policies, and investments will help Renton lead and stay competitive, save money, mitigate risk, and leverage resources to benefit the Renton community.

Renton's clean economy strategy provides recommendations to integrate clean economy objectives into the City's practices, policies, and investments.

The strategy builds on what Renton is already doing and its place in the greater Seattle/Puget Sound region, coupled with competitive advantages that include its people and employees, green ethic, and local business leadership. Together, the recommended actions are designed to help Renton thrive in a more resource-efficient future; rely on clean and renewable energy sources; and move governments, businesses, and citizens alike to minimize pollution and waste.