Smart growth on the Oregon Coast:
Addressing Impacts of climate change

Laren Woolley, Panelist

Costal Shores Specialist
Oregon Coastal Management Program
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

What I will Cover:

- Smart Growth Principles in Oregon
- Smart Growth Challenges on the Oregon Coast
- Companion Strategies for Climate Change

Oregon Land Use and OCMP Connection

- The Oregon Land Use Program - **Partnership** with local governments.
- Local governments adopt land use plans and codes **consistent with statewide planning goals.**
- Local plans and codes are **included in** Oregon Coastal Management Program.
- Even federal actions and permits must be **consistent with local plans and codes**

Smart Growth Principles (General)

Smart growth principles are embedded in the Oregon land use program

Oregon COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

TGM TRANSPORTATION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Smart Growth Principle: Compact Design

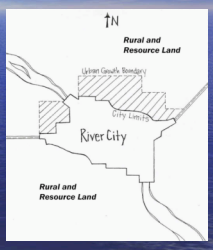
Key Oregon Tool: Goal 14: Urban Growth Boundaries

Local governments adopt UGB via comprehensive plans and codes:

- identifies land that may be urbanized over 20 year planning period;
- tied to population forecasts, efficiency, and public facility planning requirements.

A UGB is intended to

- reduce sprawl;
- limit areas considered for development;
- preserve environmental amenities;
- reduce need for shoreline protective structures along the coastline.



Smart Growth Principles: Provide Housing & Transportation Choices

Key Oregon Tools: Goal 10, Housing; Goal 12, Transportation

Provide a range of needed housing types/efficient lot sizes

Enhance transportation options

- Require connectivity
- Allow skinny streets
- Consider transportation impacts in LU change
- Provide multi-mode alternatives

Strong transportation – land use connection via DLCD-ODOT Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) Program

- reduce vehicle trips (and resultant carbon)
- encourage multi modes and mixed use development
- create more walkable communities
- reduce opportunities for commercial strip development,
- enforce main-streets and downtowns
- encourage overall strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Smart Growth Principle: Preserve Open Space and Critical Environmental Areas

Key Oregon Tools: Goal 3 Agricultural Lands; Goal 4 Forest Lands; Goal 5 Natural Resources; Goal 16 Estuarine Resources; Goal 17 Coastal Shorelands; Goal 18 Beaches and Dunes

Goals 3 and 4:
- Protect farm and forest lands as top priority
- Retain open space (sequestration), and
- Limit development outside of urban areas

Goal 5
- Inventory and protect natural resources and open space

Goals 16, 17, 18:
- Protect estuarine habitats, coastal shoreland marshes, wildlife habitat, and coastal headlands
- Protect urban working waterfronts
- Encourage water-dependent uses
- Protect existing public access to or along coastal waters

In addition: Avoiding Coastal hazards and Planning for Climate Change is "smart"

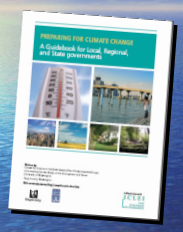
Coastal Hazard Planning Tools

- Oregon DOGAMI Ocean Shore Erosion Maps
- DLCD overlay model code
- Goal 18 rule on SPS (seawalls, etc)
- Riparian and wetland protection requirements (Goal 5/17) – protects environmentally sensitive areas
- Climate change outreach – "Climate Ready Communities"
- FEMA remapping

Ongoing Coastal Climate Change/adaptation planning work - Examples:

- DLCD Interim Statewide Strategy for Climate Change (building on Statewide Land Use Planning Program)
- Adaptation planning – pilot in Neskowin/Tillamook County
- New handbook in prep from TGM ("Cool Planning: A Handbook on Local Strategies to Slow Climate Change"

Adaptation planning – Neskowin/Tillamook County example



- Project is consistent with the Washington Climate Impact Group/ King Co. guidebook "Preparing for Climate Change;"
- Involves DOGAMI, OPRD, OSU, OSU Extension, and USGS;
- Using DOGAMI coastal hazard risk-zone maps;
- Will conduct vulnerability/risk assessment effort as core component;
- Aim: policies, action items and implementation strategies to be included within the county land use plan and implementing codes.

Challenges and optimism:

Examples of some additional challenges:

- accelerated population influx due in part to more desirable coastal climate;
- Water scarcity: longer summer dry period with more intense winter storms;
- Increased coastal erosion and increasing wave heights/storm surges on ocean shore;
- Maintaining "smart growth principles" as communities seek to relocate key facilities (i.e., schools, hospitals, critical facilities) to safer locations for tsunamis but potentially away from the core community areas.

As we plan and grow "smart" we can:

- Be more efficient and prepare for increase populations on our coast;
- Plan for water conservation and storage to address impacts of climate change on coastal water supplies;
- Utilize our existing land use planning frameworks to build and refocus efforts to slowing climate change drivers and planning for adaptation;
- Flexibility: We must be able to make changes to our programs and processes as we go.

Thank You!

Laren Woolley, Costal Shores Specialist
Oregon Coastal management Program
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

Email: laren.woolley@state.or.us
DLCD Website: http://www.lcd.state.or.us/