



# SEATTLE FOUNDATION

the heart & science of philanthropy

## ENVIRONMENT

### VISION

*All Greater Seattle residents benefit from, and participate in, development of a healthy environment.*

Surrounded by magnificent natural beauty, Seattle has long been a national leader in protecting the environment. With as many as a quarter of a million people moving to Seattle over the next 20 years, efforts to account for this growth must balance impacts to our built and natural environment, especially in communities that have been left out of environmental planning and policy making for generations.

Too often residents in our lowest-income neighborhoods experience higher levels of pollution, greater risk of severe health problems, longer commute times and limited access to healthy foods and open space. Mindfully integrating equity into our environmental investments is necessary to ensure all residents benefit from Greater Seattle's environmental progress.

Working collaboratively with many stakeholders—developers, conservationists, farmers, tribes, industry, community organizations—and amplifying the voice of residents when designing solutions, we will turn the tide on climate change and manage our region's growth in a way that is environmentally sustainable, economically viable and benefits all communities.



### Working Toward a Healthy Community

Seattle Foundation established the Healthy Community Framework to delineate the essential elements of a thriving community, and focus

philanthropy where it can have the greatest impact. Built on eight elements, the framework acknowledges the complex and interwoven nature of the challenges and assets in our community and allows philanthropists to consider more strategic investments in the causes they care about most.

■ For each element, we provide a vision for change, high-level context and analysis, recommended priorities, and proven actionable approaches to effective giving informed by research, data, community insight and technical expertise. These are designed to stimulate thinking and generate new approaches to making Greater Seattle a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

# 3 Priorities for Impact

**1** Promote equitable climate change solutions by building a strong, representative movement that is inclusive of frontline communities and mainstream organizations.

## APPROACHES

- Invest in organizations cultivating and strengthening environmental and community leadership among people of color
- Bolster bridge-building between communities-of-color-led organizations and mainstream environmental policy organizations
- Research the impacts of climate change in the region, including community-based participatory research
- Promote broad-based public understanding of climate change and related impacts on frontline communities

**2** Create a healthy and inclusive environmental landscape by ensuring all communities have access to and benefit from greenspace and waterways.

## APPROACHES

- Support organizations and partnerships working to maintain and protect the environmental health of the region (forest health, key waterways, conservation and restoration)
- Advance community engagement and policy approaches to protect greenspace, waterways and native habitats
- Encourage collaboration between diverse organizations working to increase understanding around the value of a vibrant environmental landscape

**3** Ensure equitable and sustainable urban growth that balances changing demographics, costs of living and sprawl.

## APPROACHES

- Build affordable housing in dense, opportunity-rich areas with access to public transit
- Strengthen public transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, reducing reliance on personal cars, increasing mobility and access to resources for low-income people and families
- Empower community-led solutions and urban sustainability practices (energy efficiency, retrofitting, community water systems, etc.)
- Promote urban farming and access to healthy, culturally relevant food options