

SB 6469-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Supports city efforts to conserve, protect, improve, and expand Washington's urban forest in order to reduce storm water pollution in Puget Sound, flooding, energy consumption and greenhouse gases emission, air pollution, and storm impacts to utility infrastructure.

Provides for development of uniform criteria for a statewide community and urban forest inventory and assessment.

Limits grants or other forms of financial aid to cities and towns that are in compliance with this act.

Requires the department of community, trade, and economic development, with the advice of the evergreen cities partnership task force to develop the criteria for an evergreen cities recognition program whereby the state can recognize cities and counties, to be designated as evergreen cities, who are developing excellent urban forest management programs that include urban forestry inventories, assessments, plans, ordinances, maintenance programs, partnerships, and community involvement.

Creates a grant program and a competitive award program to provide financial assistance to cities, towns, and counties for the development, adoption, and implementation of evergreen cities management plans or ordinances.

Requires certain cities, towns, and counties, to adopt an evergreen cities forest management plan and related ordinances.

Authorizes local governments to accept voluntary donations.