



MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Executive Committee

FROM: Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Staff Team:
 Linsey Fields, City of Lacey
 Pamela Braff, City of Olympia
 Alyssa Jones Wood, City of Tumwater
 Rebecca Harvey, Thurston County

DATE: June 24, 2024

SUBJECT: 2025 Regional Initiative Selection

Requested Action

Review and select the 2025 Regional Initiative (Step 2 of Figure 1).

Selection of a Regional Initiative



FIGURE 1. SELECTION OF A REGIONAL INITIATIVE.

Background

The 2023 TCMC Regional Implementation Guidance outlines the process to establish an annual Regional Initiative (Figure 1). To complete Step 1 in the process, the Staff Team solicited Regional Initiative proposals from the Community Advisory Workgroup (CAW) at their [March 5, 2024 meeting](#). The CAW reached a consensus to propose the following Regional Initiative priorities:

- Walkable Communities/20-minute Neighborhoods/Housing Density;
- Education around waste and composting in schools;
- Energy efficiency/Public Housing Modeling;
- Accessible public transportation/Increase transit use/Multi-modal transit options; and
- Strategic look at resources available to program- especially local revenue/property tax/funding proposal.

To further complete Step 1 in the process, the Staff Team requested 2025 Regional Initiative proposals from the Executive Committee (EC). Additional proposals from the EC members included:

- Retrofit homes to reduce energy consumption. Figure out who emits the most and how to target them with technical assistance and incentives;
- Economic alternatives to reduce housing costs while addressing energy efficiency;
- GIS-based assessment for 20-minute walk neighborhoods to identify gaps for future neighborhood centers;
- Increase transit routes (e.g., to Black Hills High School and Highway 99)
- Recycling and composting – help the County and Ecology get the word out about organic management requirements for businesses; and
- Social and behavior change campaign.

To complete Step 2 of the process the Staff Team compiled both the CAW and EC proposals and proposed recommendations which was provided to CAW and EC members at the [2024 Annual Retreat](#) agenda. The goal at the Retreat was to build consensus around one 2025 Regional Initiative. At the end of the Retreat, the TCMC narrowed the selection down to two top priority TCMP strategies:

- Strategy T1: Set land use policies that support increased urban density and efficient transportation networks and reduce urban sprawl; and
- Strategy B1: Reduce energy use in existing residential buildings

However, the Retreat did not result in a consensus on which of these two strategies to advance as the 2025 Regional Initiative.

At the June 4, 2024 CAW meeting, the Staff Team encouraged more discussion about the 2025 Regional Initiative by utilizing a table to compare the options (Attachment A). The table provides more specific information on what the 2025 Regional Initiative options might produce as deliverables, the pros/cons of each choice, why each initiative is important, and what the jurisdictions and/or TCMC are already doing to advance the correlated strategy in the TCMP.

Specifically, the two Regional Initiative options provided by the Staff Team are as follows:

1. A Gap Analysis of regional and jurisdictional plans and policies that aim to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the Transportation Sector by reducing vehicle miles traveled (Strategy T1); or
2. Review and analysis of home energy assessment and disclosure programs for multifamily and manufactured homes, with an emphasis on expanding the Home Energy Score Ordinance/Program to include these additional housing types (Strategy B1).

By the end of that meeting, the majority of the CAW members present (eight out of eleven) preferred the Regional Initiative 1. The remaining three out of eleven members preferred Regional Initiative 2. As a result, the Staff Team proposes that the EC select the Regional Initiative 1 as the 2025 Regional Initiative. Following a decision by the EC, the Staff Team will progress to Step 3 of the process and begin developing a project plan.

Decision Options

- Option 1: Select 2025 Regional Initiative 1 (Staff Team Recommendation).
- Option 2: Select 2025 Regional Initiative 2.
- Option 3: Do not select a 2025 Regional Initiative.

Attachments

- Attachment A: 2025 Regional Initiative Options Table