

Community Advisory Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, July 2, 2024, 4 – 6 P.M.

Link to packet and presentations: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/board-county-commissioners/climate-change-response/thurston-climate-mitigation-collaborative-meetings>

CAW Members Present:

Stephen Bernath, Tierra Bonds, Courtney Cecale, Tom Crawford, Amita Devarajan, Rachel Hastings, Matthew Landers, Candace Penn, Kim Piper, Shannon Sipher, and Lauren Tamboer

CAW Members Absent:

Juan Haeckermann, Mackenzie McCall, and Wendy Moudy

Staff Present:

Dr. Pamela Braff (Olympia), Linsey Fields (Lacey), Rebecca Harvey (Thurston County) and Alyssa Jones Wood (Tumwater)

Dan Dickerman (ISC) and Rafiq ShaBazz Brinkley (ISC)

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome and Agenda Review	CAW Facilitator Dan Dickerman went over the meeting agenda.
2. Announcements	<p>Tom Crawford - TCAT has hired a new Executive Director Janet Nazy who is excited to work with TCMC on climate change</p> <p>Kim Piper – Olympia Master Builders recently held a signature drive to retract the mandate to end natural gas in Washington State. Kim wanted to make sure staff and other organizations were aware, as they are getting close to reaching the signature count required to be on the November ballot.</p> <p>Alyssa Jones Wood - Save the date for a Tumwater Climate Element Open House event at ASHHO Cultural Community Center (5757 Littlerock Rd SW in #4 in Tumwater) on August 14 from 7 to 9 pm (food provided, activities for youth). Tumwater will also have an online open house open 24/7 online launching the same day for those who can't make it in-person.</p>
3. CAW Agenda item request A. Staff Update on People's Economy Lab Presentation	Linsey Fields gave updates. They have contacted People's Economy Lab on doing a presentation and since they are a BIPOC led organization, staff wants to make sure that they provide compensation. The Staff Team also needs to make sure that their schedule

	aligns with CAW availability. They will update the CAW once we have that information.
<p>4. Housekeeping Items A. Debrief on CAW Letter</p>	<p>Linsey Fields led a debrief on the CAW Open Letter process, as well as a refresher on the roles of the CAW and Executive Committee.</p> <p>For the July Executive Committee Meeting, since the EC didn't receive the final letter until one hour before the meeting, there wasn't sufficient time for the EC to review. For future Executive Committee meetings, if an agenda item comes from the CAW, it must have consensus as laid out in our charter and all final materials must be given to Dan Dickerman at least one week out from the meeting, which is when he posts the public notice. If it doesn't meet this deadline then it will have to be pushed to the next Executive Committee meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Braff mentioned that she will speak to Chair Parshley about how to address the letter at the next Executive Committee meeting.</p> <p>Shannon Sipher also provided a summary of her experience at the June Executive Committee meeting, as a CAW rep, and her perspective on the Committee's response.</p> <p>The CAW held a Consensus Vote to adopt the CAW Open Letter to be an official Letter from the CAW: Consensus was not reached. Any future work on the letter will need to occur outside of CAW meetings, and will be conducted on behalf of individual CAW members.</p>
<p>5. Thurston County Comprehensive Plan GHG Reduction Sub-Element Policy Development</p>	<p>Presented by Rebecca Harvey.</p> <p>Thurston County, along with other jurisdictions, is in the process of updating their Comprehensive Plan, including developing a newly required climate change element.</p> <p>Thurston County's periodic update is due in June 2025.</p> <p>In addition to the general update, HB 1181, which was passed in 2023, added climate planning as a goal of the Growth Management Act. HB 1181 requires the development of a climate element that addresses both greenhouse gas emission reduction and resilience.</p> <p>In addition to compliance with HB 1181, Thurston County's planning team has identified several goals for the climate element, including that they be informed by data driven analysis and inclusive community engagement, integrated with other relevant plans</p>

including the TCMP, and impactful toward achieving County climate goals.

The County's Climate Element development process consists of 3 phases: 1) Foundational Analysis & Engagement (Spring/Summer 2024), 2) Draft GHG Reduction and Resilience policies (Summer/Fall 2024), and 3) Develop the Climate Element and integrate with other Comprehensive Plan elements (Fall 2024).

Next steps:

Draft policies for County staff review in July.

Thurston County staff will brief the Planning Commission on the Climate Element on 7/17, 8/21, and 9/18.

Members of the public can register for the meetings at <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning-commission>.

Visit Thurston2045.org to learn more about the Comprehensive Plan update process or submit a comment.

CAW members asked questions and gave comments on Comprehensive Plan Draft Policy review.

Q. What does net zero mean? What's the difference between net zero and absolute zero?

A. Net zero means that a target is met by a combination of direct reductions in greenhouse gas emissions as well as offsets.

Q. What is the time frame that the County has for stakeholder engagement and public engagement?

A. all the way until the draft is finalized which will be next spring.

Rebecca presented the preliminary categories of GHG reduction policies that the County is considering using to structure the sub-element. Sectors required by commerce are buildings & energy, transportation, and zoning & development; the County is considering also including carbon sequestration. The CAW asked questions and gave comments on the categories and the addition of the carbon sequestration.

Q. I am curious about the electric vehicle infrastructure. Does that include potential expansion of public transit or is that only about private use electric vehicles?

A. Transit as well. The policies in that category could address all ways of reducing emissions in the

	<p>transportation sector, also including bicycle and pedestrian networks.</p> <p>Q. Infrastructure is one thing but actually helping people adopt electric vehicles, buy them, use them, and share them, whatever the case might be, is a different thing. And the two are connected.</p> <p>A. It certainly could be. These are high-level definitions.</p> <p>Comment: There is a lot of energy going towards data centers and cryptocurrency processing. I think it would be excellent if we started thinking about policy to address that.</p> <p>CAW members were asked to share their priorities /considerations/ challenges for reducing GHG in rural unincorporated Thurston County (Appendix A)</p>
<p>6. GHG Inventory Report A. Attachment 2: GHG Inventory Memo B. Attachment 3: GHG Inventory Report</p>	<p>Rebecca Harvey presented on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Report.</p> <p>Over the past year, Thurston County has been working with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability USA, to conduct a 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Thurston County.</p> <p>In 2022, the region’s greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 3.26 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e). 2022 emissions are approximately 6.6% higher than the 2015 baseline, but 5.8% lower than the peak in 2019. Emissions decreased in 2020 due to a reduction in on-road transportation during the Covid-19 Pandemic, but they increased again in 2021 and 2022. Much like the rest of the world, emissions are not on track to meet the 2030 and 2050 targets. However, per capita emissions have decreased since 2015.</p> <p>Next steps – The TCMC may consider conducting a contribution analysis to evaluate what is driving changes in emissions. The Staff Team is also recommending that future inventories be conducted every 3 years.</p> <p>Question and comments Q. Did work from home impact transportation emissions?</p> <p>A: Yes, the 2019-2020 reduction was largely due to an abrupt decrease in on-road transportation emissions (15.3%) as a result of people staying home during the pandemic.</p>

	<p>Q: Why might transportation emissions be different between the County and Department of Commerce emission inventories?</p> <p>A. Data sources and methods such as which specific emissions factors are used.</p> <p>Comment: I'm looking at a multi-state picture. For example, if a decision is made at some time in the future, take out the Snake River Dams and thinking about the huge increase of truck or rail traffic that would shift from Idaho into Washington. Not all of that may come in or through Thurston County, but we should watch this.</p>
<p>7. Next Steps & Adjourn A. Attachment 4: Future agenda review and CAW meeting schedule</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 P.M. PT</p>

Appendix A: Jamboard

BUILDINGS & ENERGY SECTOR

July 2, 2024
CAW meeting

Priorities/Considerations/Challenges for reducing GHG emissions in UNINCORPORATED/RURAL THURSTON COUNTY



TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

July 2, 2024
CAW meeting

Priorities/Considerations/Challenges for reducing GHG emissions in UNINCORPORATED/RURAL THURSTON COUNTY



ZONING & DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

July 2, 2024
CAW meeting

Priorities/Considerations/Challenges for reducing GHG emissions in UNINCORPORATED/RURAL THURSTON COUNTY



CARBON SEQUESTRATION SECTOR

July 2, 2024
CAW meeting

Priorities/Considerations/Challenges for reducing GHG emissions in UNINCORPORATED/RURAL THURSTON COUNTY

Create policies to protect and promote trees.

Don't presume forests are carbon negative, depending on how we grow them, trees can contribute carbon. Think about forest management and carbon seq. from a holistic perspective

prevent conversions from forestry/ag to non-resource development (ie conserve forest and ag lands)

Support farms that are decreasing emissions. Disincentive farmers of cows & pigs - tax?

Offsets for carbon emissions need to happen in the same geographic area that emissions are generated, and they should prioritize communities lacking greenspace

consider urban forestry in discussions. they may not sequester much, but well planned urban forest canopy could make a small difference

Partner with the land trusts, conservation district and other local orgs to expand forested habitat, to increase sequestration.

Individual property owners of properties not governed by critical areas, wetlands or shorelines have virtually no oversight or restriction. Help/support better st

consider forestry as a renewable resource

Work with TCD to actively promote restorative ag practices among local growers that promote sequestration while providing higher yields.

do not use carbon sequestration as an excuse for not reducing emissions elsewhere, it is ok to use it as an offset though

Think holistically. Rural communities in Washington are selling off Washington's cheap energy to data firms that are increasing our carbon footprint by insane amounts