

**Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative
Retreat Summary - DRAFT
June 24, 2023, 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Link to packet and presentations: <https://www.trpc.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=731>

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome/Purpose for the Day	The facilitator, Karen Meyer, opened the retreat and asked the group to set agreements for the day. Agreements included sharing the discussion floor, listening with respect, limiting the use of acronyms, showing grace, and ensuring everyone’s ideas have value. Attendees broke into groups to conduct an icebreaker exercise.
2. Introductions	All attendees introduced themselves.
3. Jurisdiction Updates	Representatives from the Staff Team gave an overview of past, ongoing, and future climate work. The Staff Team plans to publish their respective climate work plans on August 1 st .
4. Regional Initiatives	<p>The Staff Team introduced a short list of regional initiatives and explained the process used to develop the list and move forward with one regional initiative each year.</p> <p>To create the short list of initiatives, the Staff Team compiled proposed regional initiatives from the Executive Committee (EC) and Community Advisory Workgroup (CAW), and evaluated the list to identify the best candidates for the regional initiative. The short list of initiatives included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residential Energy Audits 2. Home Energy Audit and Efficiency Campaign 3. Heat Pump Group Purchase Campaign 4. Regional Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Plan 5. Public Property EV Infrastructure Plan 6. Rural/Urban Forest Outreach and Education Program 7. Rural Tree Canopy Targets* 8. State Forest Lands Management Advocacy* 9. Communication and Outreach-CBSM Campaign <p>Attendees asked questions of the Staff Team to clarify the proposed initiatives and provide additional information to assist with prioritization. Attendees suggested that impact on greenhouse gas emissions be considered as a criterion for prioritization. The Staff Team responded that all initiatives on the short list are high-impact actions and exact emissions reductions depend on how they are implemented. The Staff Team clarified the difference between initiatives 1 and 2: Residential Energy Audits is a regulatory action while Home Energy Audit and Efficiency Campaign is a voluntary program.</p> <p><i>*Recommended to be advanced via Executive Committee advocacy with minimal Staff Team involvement.</i></p>

<p>5. Regional Initiatives Discussion</p>	<p>Attendees opted to discuss the initiatives as a full group rather than move to breakout groups. Attendees questioned if Puget Sound Energy conducts energy audits and provides incentives, and some attendees noted that PSE has ended its energy advisor program and now just has an online tool. Attendees asked which initiatives probably wouldn't happen without regional coordination, and staff answered Residential Energy Audits, the Regional EV Plan, and the Rural/Urban Forest Outreach and Education Program. Attendees asked the Staff Team to clarify what the Regional EV Plan would accomplish; this would allow jurisdictions to strategically locate charging infrastructure rather than the piecemeal process used now. Access to EV chargers also drives adoption, and a thorough charging network in the area would help increase local adoption. Attendees asked if the Regional EV Plan would address community charging as federal efforts focus on corridors. Staff answered that the plan would look at all regional charging needs. Staff from TRPC noted that Washington State is working on a tool to assess current and forecasted EV adoption rates and gaps in infrastructure, and attendees suggested working on this initiative after that work has concluded. An attendee asked the Staff Team which initiatives they believe have the highest potential emissions savings; most members answered Residential Energy Audits, though the Audit Outreach Campaign and Heat Pump Group Purchase Campaign may have more immediate savings during the campaigns.</p> <p>Attendees identified their top two initiatives, excluding initiatives 7 and 8 as they were not considered as the primary regional initiative. Top initiatives after this round included Residential Energy Audits, Home Energy Audit and Efficiency Campaign, Heat Pump Group Purchase Campaign, and Rural/Urban Forest Outreach and Education Program.</p> <p>Attendees went around the room and explained their choices. Several attendees noted a preference for initiative 2 over initiative 1 due to the financial incentives and stronger emphasis on equity. Others chose initiative 1 as it requires regional policymaker support and will affect many homes after adoption.</p> <p>The Staff Team clarified that the goal of the regional initiative is to set tangible objectives that can be completed within a year, though the project may continue after the calendar year.</p> <p>Attendees support combining initiatives 1 and 2 with the expectation that staff can explore costs, staffing needs, and a high-level concept of the campaign in the first year but may not conduct the campaign until future years.</p> <p>Attendees discussed initiatives 7 and 8, Rural Tree Canopy Targets and State Forest Lands Management Advocacy. Staff recommended that one or both of these initiatives are advanced via Executive Committee advocacy with</p>
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	<p>minimal staff involvement. Attendees clarified how this would look in practice: the Executive Committee would have a standing agenda item at their quarterly meetings to share information and potentially take collective action if appropriate. Attendees suggested that the Executive Committee advance both initiatives.</p>
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Meeting Attendance

Executive Committee:

Carolyn Cox (City of Lacey)
Eileen Swarhout (City of Tumwater)
Lisa Parshley (City of Olympia)
Tye Menser (Thurston County)

Community Advisory Workgroup:

Justin Schmal
Kim Piper
Kristine Rompa
Stephanie Bishop
Tom Crawford

Staff Team:

Alyssa Jones-Wood (City of Tumwater)
Grant Beck (City of Lacey)
Linsey Fields (City of Lacey)
Pamela Braff (City of Olympia)
Rebecca Harvey (Thurston County)

Others:

Casey Mauck (TRPC)
Karen Meyer (Athena Group)
Sara Wattenberg (Puget Sound Energy)

Present Online:

Rachel Hastings
Thad Curtz
Wayne Olsen

Link to project website: <https://www.trpc.org/Climate>

*Meeting summary is prepared by Casey Mauck, Associate Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council.
This summary is not verbatim.*