



Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Community Advisory Workgroup Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 | 4 – 6 PM

This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Please use the following link:

<https://pdx.zoom.us/j/86971694242>

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order (5 minutes)
2. Announcements (10 minutes)
 - a. Staff Announcements
 - b. CAW Member Announcements
3. Business Items
 - a. Presentation - Thurston County Tree Canopy Assessment
 - i. *Memo: Rural Tree Canopy Assessment*
 - b. Briefing – Energize Thurston
 - i. *Memo: Energize Thurston Update*
4. Upcoming Agendas (15 minutes)
 - a. Upcoming Agendas Review
 - i. *Attachment A: 2025 CAW Meeting Schedule*
 - b. Agenda Requests for upcoming CAW Meetings
 - c. Agenda Requests for upcoming EC Meetings
5. Adjourn

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Community Advisory Workgroup

FROM: Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Staff Team:
Rebecca Harvey, Thurston County

DATE: April 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Update on Thurston County Tree Canopy Assessment

Requested Action

Receive a presentation from Thurston County Community Planning staff on the new countywide tree canopy assessment data.

Purpose of this Action

To present preliminary data and maps showing the extent and composition of the County's forest resources, which will be used to set regional tree canopy targets and inform policies and actions to enhance tree protection in support of TCMP goals.

Background and Analysis

TCMP Carbon Sequestration and Tree Canopy Initiatives

The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (TCMP) includes carbon sequestration among the strategies and actions identified to meet the region's emission reduction targets. In February 2023, the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) delivered the *Carbon Sequestration White Paper* (CSWP) as a preliminary effort to quantify carbon sequestration potential of the region's forests, agricultural lands, and prairies; and to inform next steps for policies and programs to increase sequestration in the region. The CSWP estimated that rural areas account for 93% of carbon sequestration from forests and trees in Thurston County.

At the June 24, 2023 TCMC Annual Retreat and subsequent Executive Committee meeting, the TCMC selected Rural Tree Canopy Targets and State Forest Lands Management Advocacy as 2024 regional initiatives to advance carbon sequestration goals of the TCMP and CSWP. In January 2024, the Executive Committee took action on the State level by approving and signing a letter requesting the Board of Natural Resources to pause timber sales containing mature, structurally complex forests. But the TCMC has not yet engaged in Rural Tree Canopy Targets on the County level.

New Countywide Data

The Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) Department has completed analyses of the countywide tree canopy assessment data and has produced preliminary maps to share with the public. This analysis aims to better understand the County's forest resources, to

help identify forested areas at highest risk of conversion and opportunities for conservation and restoration. The assessment data will be used to set targets for tree canopy at the regional level, focusing on rural Thurston County. Established targets will be integrated into County's Comprehensive Plan Update with goals and policies to guide future programmatic actions to enhance tree protection.

Associate Planner Claire Swearingen and Community Planning Manager Derek Day will present the preliminary tree canopy maps to the CAW at the April 15, 2025 meeting. The maps will also be shared at the April 16, 2025 Thurston County Planning Commission meeting.

Decision Options

N/A – Briefing Only

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Community Advisory Workgroup

FROM: Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Staff Team:
Rebecca Harvey, Thurston County

DATE: April 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Update on 2025 Energize Thurston Campaign

Requested Action

Receive an update from TCMC staff on the progress of the 2025 Energize Thurston Campaign.

Purpose of this Action

To keep CAW members informed about the status of implementing this 2024-2025 TCMC regional initiative.

Background and Analysis

The [Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative \(TCMC\)](#) chose to implement a residential energy efficiency and electrification campaign as a priority regional initiative to tackle the County's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions: residential energy use. The TCMC Staff Team began to research, design and plan the campaign in early 2024, building on the successful Energize Olympia heat pump group purchase campaign. Once contracts were executed with campaign partner South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity, WA Department of Commerce for grant funding, and four competitively selected Installation Partners, Energize Thurston launched in March 2025.

[Energize Thurston](#) aims to reduce household energy costs and make homes more comfortable by providing community members access to efficient, all-electric heat pump heating & cooling systems and heat pump water heaters. Energize Thurston provides program-exclusive discounts, instant access to rebates, free educational workshops, streamlined installation, and customer support. It also provides a limited number of grant-funded, subsidized installations for income-qualified households.

At the time of writing this memo, Energize Thurston has held one in-person workshop in Tumwater on March 20 (68 attendees), one virtual workshop on March 24 (62 attendees), and posted the on-demand workshop recording on the website in English and Spanish. The program has thus far received 136 total applications: 120 for subsidized installations and 16 for self-funded installations. Additional workshops are scheduled for April 9 in Yelm, April 22 in Lacey, May 6 in Tenino, and May 27 in Olympia.

Decision Options

N/A – Briefing Only

UPCOMING MEETING AGENDAS (2025)

COMMUNITY ADVISORY WORKGROUP

Last Updated 4/2/2025

Background

The Community Advisory Workgroup (CAW) meets regularly to provide community perspectives and input on climate mitigation progress and priorities to the Jurisdiction Parties, Staff Team, and Executive Committee of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative (TCMC).

CAW Agendas are limited to two business items, and typically include the following types of agenda items:

- Information: informational presentations, where no feedback is requested.
- Discussion: items for discussion and feedback.
- Action: items for approval by Majority Vote or Consensus.

Upcoming Meetings

May 20, 2025

- a. Briefing – Review of Climate Bills in the 2025 Legislative Session (Pamela Braff/External Speaker TBD)
- b. Discussion – Preparation for Annual Retreat (EXP)

June 17, 2025 – Canceled due to Annual Retreat

July 15, 2025

- a. Discussion – Workforce Development and the TCMP (Tom Crawford)
- b. TBD

August 19, 2025

- a. Discussion – 2024 Annual Report (Linsey Fields)
- b. Briefing – Funding Sources for TCMP Implementation (Pamela Braff)

September 16, 2025

- a. Briefing – Energize Thurston Program Update (Rebecca Harvey)
- b. TBD

October 21, 2025 – Possible In- Person Meeting TBD

- a. Discussion – Relationship Building Activity TBD (EXP)
- b. Briefing – HES Implementation Update (Alyssa Jones Wood)

November 18, 2025

- a. Discussion – 2026 TCMC Community Advisory Workgroup Workplan (TBD)
- b. TBD

December 16, 2025

- a. Action (Majority Vote) – Approval of 2026 TCMC Community Advisory Workgroup Workplan (TBD)
- b. TBD

To Be Scheduled

- Briefing – Staff Capacity as Compared to Consultants for Planning and Implementation (TBD)