

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING SUMMARY (DRAFT)

Monday, April 28, 2025, 4 – 6 PM

Link to packet and presentations: [Executive Committee Meetings - Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative](#)

EC Members Present: Tumwater City Councilmember Eileen Swarthout (Vice Chair), Olympia City Councilmember Robert Vanderpool, Thurston County Commissioner Emily Clouse, & Lacey City Councilmember Carolyn Cox (alternate).

EC Members Absent: Lacey City Councilmember Robin Vasquez, Olympia City Councilmember Kelly Green (alternate), Tumwater City Councilmember Kelly VonHoltz (alternate) & Thurston County Commissioner Tye Menser (alternate).

CAW Representative: Stephen Bernath

Staff Present: Rebecca Harvey (Thurston County), Alyssa Jones Wood (City of Tumwater), Pamela Braff (City of Olympia), Linsey Fields (City of Lacey), Julia Downing (Thurston County), Keren Bolter (EXP), & Eleanor Garrett (EXP).

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Opening 1A. Call to Order 1B. Approval of Agenda 1C. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary Attachment: January 27, 2025, Draft Meeting Summary	<p>Executive Committee Chair Eileen Swarthout called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.</p> <p>Committee Member Carolyn Cox motioned for approval of the agenda; the motion was seconded by Committee Members Emily Clouse and Robert Vanderpool. The motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Committee Member Emily Clouse motioned for approval of the previous meeting summary for the January 27th meeting; the motion was seconded by Committee Member Robert Vanderpool. The motion carried unanimously.</p>
2. Public Comment	Ben Silesky and Tom Crawford provided public comment.
3. Announcements	City of Tumwater Staff Alyssa Jones Wood introduced the new facilitators for the TCMC, Eleanor Garrett and Keren Bolter from the consulting firm EXP. EXP was the firm

	<p>selected through a competitive process to perform facilitation and administrative tasks for the TCMC.</p> <p>Committee Member Carolyn Cox led a discussion on the Thurston Regional Planning Council's plan to discuss removing concepts such as DEI and climate change from the Regional Transportation Plan. Committee Member Cox asked the other members of the Executive Committee whether they would be in support of speaking on this issue ahead of the decision scheduled for Friday May 2nd. Committee Member Emily Clouse expressed strong interest in voicing disagreement with this decision, noting that the County has remained firm on not removing DEI and climate change issues from policies. She indicated that she would be willing to provide public comment or to sign a letter. Committee Member Robert Vanderpool noted that the initial measure that was voted on by the Transportation Policy Board was not presented to them in a clear way and was not vetted by staff before the vote was taken. He was told that the measure would involve switching out some language rather than removing it altogether, and that he is not in support of this measure on Friday. Executive Committee Chair Eileen Swarthout was in agreement with the other members, noting that she does not think policy should be reactive, and agreeing that the language should not be changed. Committee Member Vanderpool added that his transportation staff let him know that this measure is not a simple language change but will have serious ramifications for the completion of ongoing projects. Committee Member Cox offered to draft a letter for the other Executive Committee Members to review and sign ahead of the Friday decision, contingent on approval from the City of Lacey's representative on the Executive Committee, Robin Vasquez.</p> <p>Facilitator Eleanor Garrett shared that EXP and the Staff Team are working on scheduling the TCMC's Annual Retreat and offered three potential dates for the Executive Committee Members to consider. Executive Committee Members shared their availability. EXP will take this information and work on finalizing the date.</p>
4. Committee Business 4A. Officer Elections	City of Tumwater Staff Alyssa Jones Wood reminded the Executive Committee members that per the Executive

<p><i>Action</i></p> <p>Attachment: Officer Elections Memorandum</p>	<p>Committee Charter, there must be an election for Chair and Vice Chair every second quarter meeting of the year, resulting in the election of a Chair and a Vice Chair who will take office at the close of that meeting and hold that position for one year. With this information in mind, she opened the floor for nominations.</p> <p>Chair Eileen Swarthout nominated Committee Member Emily Clouse for Vice Chair, and Clouse accepted the nomination. With no other nominations, Chair Swarthout called for a vote; Committee Member Clouse was elected Vice Chair by unanimous vote.</p> <p>Committee Member Emily Clouse nominated Chair Eileen Swarthout for Chair, and Swarthout accepted the nomination. With no other nominations, Chair Swarthout called for a vote; Chair Swarthout was elected Chair by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>4B. Program Updates on the 2024 TCMC Regional Initiatives</p> <p><i>Briefing</i></p> <p>Attachment: 2024 Regional Initiatives Update Memorandum</p>	<p>Rebecca Harvey, the Staff Team member from Thurston County, provided a brief background reminder that the TCMC chose two regional initiatives in 2024, then presented updates on the first of these regional initiatives: the residential energy efficiency and electrification campaign. Julia Downing, Thurston County's Community Energy Fellow working on this program, joined her presentation to discuss outreach and engagement. Key points from their presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Energize Thurston campaign is a heat pump purchase program that provides exclusive benefits for Thurston County residents including financing and incentives, education and guidance, free site assessments and installation support, and a limited number of free or reduced-cost installations for income-qualified households. • Funding for the program stems almost entirely from the State Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program. City of Olympia also has federal funding from the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. • A variety of outreach methods have been used, including flyers, tabling, street banners, emails, and the Energize Thurston website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program workshops have been well attended. The program has received enough applications that low- and moderate-income (LMI) applications are now being waitlisted as funds have been fully utilized. The program continues to promote the self-funded pathway. • Installations are expected to continue through the end of June, after which the program will be evaluated and a continuation plan will be developed. <p>CAW Representative Stephen Bernath shared that he believes the program was well run and has been a success.</p> <p>City of Tumwater Staff Alyssa Jones Wood noted that the State’s HEAR program was only allocated \$30 million this year, a significant reduction from the prior year’s \$80 million, but staff are still looking at ways to fund the program’s continuation.</p> <p>Chair Eileen Swarthout asked for clarification on how savings work for the self-funded pathway, which is available to all Thurston County Residents. In the presentation, Rebecca Harvey had shared that participants could save up to \$5,000 through the program. Rebecca clarified how they had arrived at that number, through a combination of the negotiated discounts with the installers, Puget Sound Energy rebates, and a federal tax credit.</p> <p>Committee Member Emily Clouse asked if there was a timeline or a plan for continuing the program, specifically to ensure that the LMI applicants who have been waitlisted can be served. Rebecca Harvey confirmed that while there is not a set timeline given that the program is reliant on grant funding, they are looking for ways to keep the program going. Committee Member Clouse added that she appreciates that the program is waitlisting applicants as this highlights the demand for the program.</p> <p>Alyssa Jones Wood, the Staff Team member from the City of Tumwater, followed with a presentation about the</p>
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	<p>other regional initiative, the Home Energy Score (HES) model ordinance. Key points from her presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HES model ordinance has undergone a robust development process that included policy research, multiple rounds of engagement, and multiple drafts. • Currently, the HES policy is at the stage where each jurisdiction is considering adoption. Each jurisdiction is at a different stage of considering adoption. • While the initial goal was linear alignment, it is likely that each jurisdiction will be on its own timeline for adoption. This also means that developing the program to support the ordinance is delayed until decisions are made about adoption. <p>Committee Member Robert Vanderpool shared that the City of Olympia is moving forward. While there is not a specific timeline in place for adoption in Olympia, his jurisdiction would prefer to adopt the model ordinance at around the same time as other jurisdictions, in part because this would be the most cost effective route.</p> <p>Committee Member Emily Clouse clarified that the soonest that the City of Lacey will pass the ordinance is 2026, which was confirmed by Committee Member Carolyn Cox. Committee Member Clouse followed up by asking what that meant for the other jurisdictions' timelines. Alyssa Jones Wood suggested that there are multiple potential pathways forward, including having one jurisdiction lead development of the supporting program and potentially back-billing the other jurisdictions as they join. She acknowledged that the sooner jurisdictions solidify their timeline and their plan, the easier it will be to decide on how to move forward. She also reminded the committee that considering adoption was the last step of the agreement, and that no jurisdiction is required to adopt.</p> <p>CAW Representative Stephen Bernath asked a clarifying question on how differing rates of adoption would work, which was answered by Alyssa Jones Wood.</p>
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	<p>Alyssa Jones Wood asked that each Executive Committee member champion the ordinance on their respective governing boards.</p> <p>Chair Eileen Swarthout suggested that focusing on developing the enforcement aspect of the program could be an important next step. Committee Member Robert Vanderpool suggested that the enforcement aspect could simply be built into the forms required for listing a home through the regional multiple listing system (MLS), allowing the market to enforce itself.</p> <p>Chair Eileen Swarthout asked if it would be easier to wait for a statewide bill (HB 1015) to pass, though noted that this would cause major delays for the TCMC. Alyssa Jones Wood shared that the language developed for the Home Energy Score model ordinance has been shared with the State bill sponsor, which could mean State legislation, if passed, should match the local ordinances.</p> <p>City of Lacey Staff Linsey Fields shared that Lacey’s delayed timeline is based entirely on lack of staff time and resource allocation, especially with the Comprehensive Plan updates going on this year.</p> <p>City of Olympia Staff Pamela Braff shared that HB 1015 would have provided a consistent framework for HES disclosure requirements across all WA jurisdictions, but it would not require HES disclosure at time of listing. Local jurisdictions would still need to adopt a local ordinance and supporting program to implement an HES disclosure requirement, even if HB 1015 were passed by the legislature.</p>
<p>4C. Delay Implementation of the 2025 TCMC Regional Initiative</p> <p><i>Action</i></p> <p>Attachment: 2025 Regional Initiative Delay Memorandum</p>	<p>Pamela Braff, Staff Team member from the City of Olympia, gave a presentation with background information on the requested action before the Executive Committee to delay implementation of the 2025 TCMC Regional Initiative until 2026. Key points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional initiative selected for 2025 was 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 (VMT).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both 2024 regional initiatives involve work that has carried over into 2025, which is impacting staff capacity to begin work on an additional initiative this year. • Delaying the initiative would also lead to better alignment with the Comprehensive Plan updates, which would help inform the gap analysis and which will not be completed until December 2025. • The Executive Committee and the CAW were informed of the Staff Team’s recommendation for delay in January and February respectively, and while CAW members were frustrated by the delay, they are understanding of the rationale presented. <p>CAW representative Stephen Bernath shared that he wanted it noted that staff capacity limitations have been mentioned several times as reasons for work being delayed in moving forward. He wanted to encourage each jurisdiction to consider ways to develop more resources to bolster staff capacity whenever they go through their budgeting processes.</p> <p>Committee Member Emily Clouse shared that she is in support of delaying the initiative to preserve staff capacity but has some questions about the logistics of a delay, specifically how much money and time has already been spent on the gap analysis, and how funding allocations would be handled with a delay. Pamela Braff clarified that minimal work has been completed. She also shared that it would be up to each jurisdiction to either carry over or re-allocate the funds to the TCMC for 2026.</p> <p>Committee Member Clouse also suggested a future conversation to consider biennial initiatives rather than annual, which Pamela Braff acknowledged and expressed appreciation for. Committee Member Carolyn Cox also expressed support of this idea as a way to keep momentum going on projects.</p> <p>Chair Eileen Swarthout expressed the hope that delaying the regional initiative until 2026 would allow more</p>
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	<p>current data to be used in the gap analysis, especially from the Comprehensive Plans.</p> <p>Chair Swarthout laid out the three potential paths forward on this action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move to delay implementation of the 2025 Regional Initiative until 2026. 2. Do not move to delay implementation of the 2025 Regional Initiative until 2026. 3. Take other action. <p>Committee Member Emily Clouse moved to delay implementation of the 2025 Regional Initiative until 2026. Committee Member Carolyn Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.</p> <p>The 2025 Regional Initiative will be delayed until 2026.</p>
5. Standing Agenda Items 5A. CAW Updates	<p>The CAW representative Stephen Bernath and EXP facilitator Eleanor Garrett shared updates on the CAW, including the appointment of three new CAW members and an overview of the in-person CAW meeting meant to facilitate cohesion.</p>
5B. Jurisdiction Updates	<p>Thurston County Updates were provided by Committee Member Emily Clouse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the CAW recently spoke at a board work session to address the climate team and the County Commissioners. • The County was awarded a Washington Department of Commerce Clean Energy Community grant for a solar plus battery storage system at the public health and social services building. The funds for this project are not to exceed \$1,389,069. • Two fast EV chargers and two Level 2 EV chargers have been installed at the Agricultural Business and Innovation Park, and all 4 should be online within about a week. • The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 23rd and 26th for the updated County Comprehensive Plan. Public comments are still being accepted at Thurston2045.org.

	<p>City of Olympia Updates were provided by Committee Member Robert Vanderpool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2024, the Olympia Fire Department received a solar grant from the Department of Commerce to install 320 solar panels at Fire Station 1. Once complete, this project will produce a total of 122,268 kWh of clean energy per year for the facility. The project is on track to begin installation by June 2025 and complete all work by July 31, 2025. • Earlier this year, the City started working to develop a Priority Based Budget. Priority based budgeting reorganizes budgets by focusing on service areas and outcomes rather than individual line items and expenditure categories. This approach to budgeting will make it easier to tell the story of how the City's investments advance the work of the community's vision. As a part of this work, staff will be scoring the climate alignment of all city programs and services. This will help the City better understand and communicate how our investments support climate action. • Work is continuing to update the Climate Element for the Olympia's Comprehensive Plan update. Staff published the final draft of the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment in February and expect to publish the first full draft of the Climate Chapter for public comment in early June. For more information on the climate chapter, visit olympiawa.gov/climate2045. • • City of Lacey Updates were provided by Committee Member Carolyn Cox and Staff Team Linsey Fields: • The City of Lacey is currently developing its updated Comprehensive Plan. The Climate Element was the first section to be reviewed and was the subject of a recent work session. A public draft should be ready by July. • EV Charging station access is being expanded. There is a new fast charger at City Hall and new
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	<p>chargers at the regional athletic complex and the Lacey Community Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City recently broke ground on the new Greg Cuoio Park which should be opening in the early Fall. • The City will be putting forth a ballot initiative in the August primary that would create a Metropolitan Park District that would allow up to a \$0.45 per \$1000 assessed value property tax. • The City is holding an Earth Day event on May 3rd at Woodland Creek Community Park, conducting a park cleanup. <p>City of Tumwater Updates were provided by Staff Team Alyssa Jones Wood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City is continuing to develop its Climate Element and the City's first bike and pedestrian plan that will be incorporated into the Transportation Element. The Climate Element will go before City Council on July 22nd. • The solar plus storage feasibility study for both of the City's fire stations is near complete and the City will be actively seeking grant funding for construction at the Library, City Hall, and main fire stations at a minimum. The North End Fire station will require a new roof before solar panels can be added. • The City is making progress towards fleet electrification, with installation of 8 level 2 chargers almost complete. These will be adequate to support the next 2 years of electric vehicle purchases but additional chargers will be needed in the future. • The City has hired its first urban forester. • The City worked with the TCAT's EV Action Group to organize an EV car show at the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce Screen Business Awards earlier this month. • The City Council approved a resolution to pursue maintenance and monitoring of the Davis Meeker Gary Oak Tree rather than removal as had been previously suggested.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway to develop a food system plan for Tumwater, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
6. Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 5:57.

Meeting summary was prepared by the consultant (EXP) and TCMC Staff Team. This summary is not verbatim.