Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative
Community Advisory Workgroup Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026| 4 – 6 PM
This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. See email for details.

AGENDA

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1. Welcome and Call to Order (5 minutes)
2. Announcements (10 minutes)
    a. Staff Announcements
    b. CAW Member Announcements
3. Upcoming Agendas & Committee Requests (15 minutes)
    a. Upcoming Agendas Review
    b. Agenda Requests for upcoming EC Meetings
    c. Requests to Form CAW Sub-Committees
4. Business Items
    a. Roles and Responsibilities
        i. *Memo: TCMC Roles and Responsibilities Discussion*
    b. Clean, Flexible, and Reliable Power with Microgrids
        i. *Memo: Presentation on Clean, Flexible and Reliable Power with Microgrids*
        ii. *Info Sheet: Energy Democracy and Microgrids*
5. Adjourn

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UPCOMING MEETING AGENDAS (2026)

COMMUNITY ADVISORY WORKGROUP

Last Updated 12/04/2025

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

January 20, 2026

a. Discussion: Roles and Responsibilities (Pamela Braff)
b. Discussion: Clean, Flexible, and Reliable Power with Microgrids (Tom Crawford)

Annual Retreat in March 2026

April 21, 2026

a. Briefing and Discussion: People-Centered Streets (Linsey Fields)

June 16, 2026

a. Briefing: Regional Activities and Data Related to Urban Tree Canopy & Green Corridors (Rebecca Harvey & Alyssa Jones Wood)

July 21, 2026

a. Briefing: VMT Gap Analysis (Alyssa Jones Wood)
b. Briefing: Home Energy Score (Pamela Braff)

October 20, 2026

a. Discussion: CAW 2027 Workplan (Eleanor Garrett)
b. Briefing: Strategies to Address Urban Sprawl and Reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (Alyssa Jones Wood)

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MEMORANDUM

TO:	Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Community Advisory Workgroup
FROM:	Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Staff Team: Pamela Braff, City of Olympia
DATE:	January 20, 2026
SUBJECT:	TCMC Roles and Responsibilities Discussion

Requested Action

Discuss roles and responsibilities of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative (TCMC) and other community partners to implement the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (TCMP).

Purpose of this Action

To ensure CAW members understand the roles and responsibilities of the TCMC and other public, private, and non-profit agencies in implementation of the TCMP.

Background and Analysis

During the 2025 TCMC Annual Retreat, several CAW members identified a need for greater clarity regarding the roles and responsibilities of the TCMC and its partners in implementing the TCMP and related climate actions.

This discussion is intended to address those questions by clarifying the respective roles of the TCMC bodies, including the CAW, Executive Committee (EC), Staff Team, and participating jurisdictions. The discussion will also outline the role of the TCMP supporting partners (i.e., Puget Sound Energy (PSE), LOTT Clean Water Alliance, Thurston Economic Development Council (EDC), Thurston Conservation District, and Intercity Transit) and external entities such as advocacy organizations, community service providers, and Washington State.

Engagement Questions

CAW members will be asked to brainstorm roles and responsibilities of various public, private, and non-profit organizations in implementing the TCMP. Staff will review and provide feedback to ensure accuracy throughout the discussion. The discussion will be facilitated through a collaborative Miro board, linked here.

Attachments

Miro Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO:	Thurston Climate Mitigation Collaborative Community Advisory Workgroup
FROM:	Tom Crawford
DATE:	January 20, 2026
SUBJECT:	Presentation on Clean, Flexible and Reliable Power with Microgrids

Requested Action

CAW members' participation and discussion on the potential for clean energy microgrids to increase collective action for energy democracy in Thurston County.

Purpose of this Action

This presentation will cover the advantages for establishing community-owned clean energy microgrids to serve residential and small local business customers. These advantages include flexibility, reliability during extreme weather, 100% clean energy, and community ownership of the means for producing energy. Accessibility for low income community members, along with financing options, including public financing, may also be discussed. The outcome will be a brainstormed list of possible next steps for CAW members to consider. CAW member Tom Crawford will share this presentation with Mason Rolf, President of Olympia Community Solar.

Background & Analysis

Building energy, including energy used in residential, commercial and industrial buildings, is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Thurston County. With decision making and financial limits preventing our current public and private institutions from achieving the necessary GHG reductions, new forms of community ownership, financing, and participatory planning and decision making are needed. Microgrids which rely on renewable energy and battery storage, and can be operated independently of the grid, provide an opportunity for collective, democratic action along with energy independence for local communities like ours.

Engagement Questions

1. What are the benefits of a neighborhood or community clean energy microgrid in Thurston County? How could low-income, working class residents benefit? How could this support TCMP implementation?
2. What non-governmental organizations or groups would be important to the success of this effort?
3. Do you know of a neighborhood or community that you think would be especially interested in establishing this kind of microgrid?
4. What do you see as next steps? What would you be willing to do? Possible next steps:

a. Develop a one page flyer promoting the idea.
b. Conduct further research on technical, financial and policy considerations, including possible obstacles; define solutions and work-arounds as needed.
c. Organize a community forum on clean energy microgrids.
d. Recruit organizational and individual participants.
e. Present to one or more local neighborhood organization(s) or HOA(s).
f. Other?

Attachments

One-pager on Energy Democracy and Microgrids.

Energy Democracy and Microgrids

January 9, 2026

Energy Democracy: A Vision for Social and Environmental Transformation

Energy democracy transcends simply replacing fossil fuels with renewables. It fundamentally merges environmental innovation with crucial social transformation. This movement advocates for energy as a public good, not just a commodity. It aims to shift from centralized, profit-driven energy systems towards community-controlled networks, fostering a more equitable energy landscape. Explore principles of environmental justice and equity.

This approach draws significantly from environmental justice advocacy, cooperative economic models, and participatory governance. Energy democracy champions distributed ownership, including community solar arrays, microgrids, and local wind farms, all managed through inclusive, democratic structures. Its principles span beyond environmental gains, deeply connecting with racial equity, bolstering local economies, and enhancing community resilience.

The movement's origins trace back to frontline environmental justice campaigns, often within communities of color, advocating for clean energy and local resource control. Social scientists and cooperatives played a vital role in developing this model, creating pathways for ordinary citizens to gain a direct stake in their energy system.

Understanding Microgrids: Localized, Intelligent Energy Systems

At their core, microgrids are self-contained groups of energy generators and consumers designed to function either alongside the larger utility grid or completely independently. Picture them as miniature power plants, capable of serving neighborhoods, university campuses, or even small towns. When the main utility grid is operating normally, microgrids collaborate, sharing and receiving power as a partner in the electricity supply network.

The true strength of microgrids emerges during grid disruptions. Should the main grid fail—perhaps due to a hurricane, a wildfire, or even a cyber-attack—the microgrid instinctively and seamlessly "islands" itself. This rapid disconnection ensures a stable power supply for its connected constituents, acting as a vital lifeline. For more, see: https://lydaweb.com/sustainable-off-grid-energy-guide

Source: Lydaweb: https://lydaweb.com/energy-democracy-citizen-renewable-power/