

Community Advisory Workgroup

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

CAW Members Present: Courtney Cecale, Tom Crawford, Juan Haeckerman, Rachel Hastings, Ashley Houston, Matthew Landers, Lorenzo Larios, Kim Piper, Shannon Sipher, and Lauren Tamboer.

CAW Members Absent: Alec Anderson (excused), Stephen Bernath (excused), and Tierra Bonds.

Staff Members Present: Pamela Braff (City of Olympia), Linsey Fields (City of Lacey), and Rebecca Harvey (Thurston County)

Guest Presenters: Mason Rolph, Olympia Community Solar

Facilitators: Eleanor Garrett (EXP)

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome and Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:12 pm.
2. Announcements a. Staff Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thurston County: the Home Energy Score Model Ordinance is moving forward in the approval process. There will be a public hearing held on February 17th where members of the public can provide testimony.City of Lacey: 24 homes were able to convert from gas heating to heat pumps under the 2025 Matching Rebate ProgramGeneral TCMC: the Department of Energy (DOE) funded fellowship position that has been providing support to Energize Thurston will be ending in February. The City of Olympia has received approval to hire a program support specialist for the TCMC to replace this role.
b. CAW Member Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tom Crawford: TCAT is organizing to have people provide testimony at Thurston County's February 17th public hearing on the HES model ordinance. TCAT will also be organizing to have people speak at any other jurisdictions' public hearings on the model ordinance when they move forward.
3. Upcoming Agendas	No comments and no agenda requests.
4. Business Items a. Clean, Flexible, and Reliable Power with Microgrids <i>Speakers: Tom Crawford (CAW Member) & Mason</i>	CAW Member Tom Crawford provided a brief overview on the concepts of community solar and energy democracy, providing some examples of how other jurisdictions have altered how they approach energy production and distribution before introducing guest speaker Mason Rolph, the president of Olympia Community Solar.

<p><i>Rolph (Guest Speaker – Olympia Community Solar)</i></p>	<p>Olympia Community Solar focuses on stewarding a clean and equitable energy transition through education, development support, feasibility studies, and various funding programs including grant management. Mason reviewed some examples of projects in the region before going into an overview of microgrids. He reviewed how microgrids can work, including concepts like islanding (disconnecting from the grid and relying solely on a solar + storage system) and net metering.</p> <p>CAW members engaged Mason in a discussion following his presentation, clarifying how solar panels and microgrids could be more substantively integrated across the region and discussing how solar power would interact with existing power sources.</p>
<p>b. Roles & Responsibilities <i>Speaker: Pamela Braff (City of Olympia)</i></p>	<p>City of Olympia staff Pamela Braff led a discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the different TCMC bodies and supporting partners. CAW members used a virtual whiteboard to brainstorm their ideas while also discussing what some of the different responsibilities are currently and would be ideally.</p>
<p>5. Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.</p>