

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING SUMMARY (DRAFT)

**Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 4 – 6 PM**

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

EC Members Present: Tumwater City Councilmember Eileen Swarthout (Chair), Olympia City Councilmember Robert Vanderpool, Thurston County Commissioner Emily Clouse (Vice Chair), Lacey City Councilmember Ryan Siu, and Thurston County Commissioner Tye Menser (alternate)

EC Members Absent: Olympia City Councilmember Dani Madrone (alternate), Tumwater City Councilmember Kelly VonHoltz (alternate) and Lacey City Councilmember Carolyn Cox (alternate).

CAW Representative: None

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

| Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                   | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| 1. Opening<br>1A. Call to Order<br>1B. Approval of Agenda<br>1C. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary<br><br>Attachment: July 28, 2025, Draft Meeting Summary | Executive Committee Chair Eileen Swarthout called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.<br><br>Vice Chair Emily Clouse motioned for approval of the agenda; the motion was seconded by Committee Member Ryan Siu. The motion carried unanimously.<br><br>Vice Chair Emily Clouse motioned for approval of the previous meeting summary for the February 23 <sup>rd</sup> meeting; the motion was seconded by Chair Eileen Swarthout. The motion carried unanimously. |
| 2. Public Comment                                                                                                                                             | No public comment was provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3. Announcements                                                                                                                                              | No announcements were made.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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| <p>4. Committee Business<br/>4A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair</p> <p><i>Decision</i></p> <p>Attachment: Officer Elections Memorandum</p>        | <p>Staff Team Member Alyssa Jones Wood gave an overview of the Chair and Vice Chair election process and term limits. Per the Executive 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 reminder given, she opened the floor to nominations.</p> <p>Chair Eileen Swarthout nominated Vice Chair Emily Clouse for Chair, and Clouse accepted the nomination.</p> <p>Committee Member Robert Vanderpool nominated Committee Member Ryan Siu for Vice Chair, and Siu accepted the nomination.</p> <p>With no other nominations for either position, Chair Swarthout called for a vote. By unanimous votes, Vice Chair Emily Clouse was elected Chair and Committee Member Ryan Siu was elected Vice Chair.</p>                                            |
| <p>4B. State Forest Land Management Advocacy</p> <p><i>Briefing</i></p> <p>Attachment: State Forest Lands Management Advocacy Update Memorandum</p> | <p>Staff Team Member Rebecca Harvey provided a brief background overview on the State Forest Lands Management Advocacy Regional Initiative. Commissioner Tye Menser then provided some more details, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explaining what “legacy forests” (a now less commonly used term) are – essentially mature and structurally complex forests (SCF) that were not clear cut and could become old growth forests with proper protections.</li> <li>• Describing the political and bureaucratic environment that temporarily halted any permitted timber cutting in SCF.</li> <li>• Connecting the ecological importance of SCF, the pause in timber harvesting in these areas that was lifted in 2020, and the 2024 letter sent to the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) by the TCMC Executive Committee advocating for pausing timber sales in Thurston County for parcels that met certain standards of forest maturity.</li> </ul> |

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|                                                                                                                    | <p>Commissioner Menser then outlined the current decision-making environment around SCF and timber sales, including the “Forest Forward” commissioner order which aims to protect mature forests, but mismatches SCF that advocates want to see protected and the land actually mapped for exclusion from timber sales. SCF decisions are also being influenced by the recently failed Ecosystem Services Bill designed to give legislative authority to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to sell “ecosystem services” in the form of carbon credits and offsets, as well as a King County SEPA court case that disallows land decisions that make other uses impossible (i.e. timber harvest reducing capacity for carbon sequestration).</p> <p>In January 2026, the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) submitted a proposal to the BNR aiming to preclude a handful of lands from timber sales while opening up sales of other parcels that are less valuable from an SCF-perspective. This proposal was ultimately rejected.</p> <p>Following this presentation, the TCMC committee members discussed how the EC and the EC members within their respective governments could help Thurston County advocate for protecting SCF.</p> |
| <p>4C. Energize Thurston</p> <p><i>Briefing</i></p> <p>Attachment: Energize Thurston Program Update Memorandum</p> | <p>Staff Team Member Julia Downing provided an overview of the Energize Thurston program, describing the program, going over the prior year’s program outcomes, and discussing the 2026 program. The 2025 program had two pathways: an income-qualified pathway which provided 80-100% cost coverage, and a self-funded pathway that offered a group discount. Full details on the outcomes of the 2025 program can be found in this <a href="#">campaign evaluation report</a>. 139 participants were waitlisted in 2025, over 100 of which are still interested in being included in the 2026 campaign.</p> <p>While the 2025 campaign operated under an installer model in which 4 installation partners were selected through a competitive bidding process, the 2026 campaign will operate under a distributor model, where equipment distributors are selected through the competitive bidding process, allowing a broader network</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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|                                                                                                                               | <p>of installers that offer the group purchase discount and removing limits on specific equipment that qualifies.</p> <p>The 2026 campaign has received funding through the WSU Community Energy Efficiency Program, the PSE Residential Decarbonization Grant Program, and the CDBG program (Olympia only). The Energize Thurston team also applied for Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) funding and is waiting to hear back. Over the summer, the program will roll out outreach and marketing and then move on to opening the self-funded pathway and working on waitlist installations before opening any remaining funding to new LMI applicants.</p> <p>The EC had no questions for Julia.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>4D. Home Energy Score</p> <p><i>Briefing</i></p> <p>Attachment: Home Energy Score Policy and Program Update Memorandum</p> | <p>Staff Team Member Rebecca Harvey provided an overview of the Home Energy Score (HES) Ordinance. Development of a HES model ordinance was selected as a regional initiative in 2023, and after a year of policy research and stakeholder engagement the TCMC EC recommended approval of the model ordinance in January 2025. The jurisdictions held work sessions on the model ordinance throughout 2025, and following County-led engagement in early 2026 both Thurston County and the City of Olympia adopted the ordinance by April of 2026. The City of Tumwater has continued to hold work sessions, and the City of Lacey has the HES adoption process on the schedule for 2027.</p> <p>The County ordinance will go into effect in March of 2027 and the City of Olympia ordinance in May of 2027. The Staff Team is working on program development to support the ordinance, which involves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting: obtaining a service provider to support implementation</li> <li>2. Stakeholder Engagement: including with the Thurston County Realtors Association, Olympia Master Builders, and Puget Sound Energy</li> <li>3. Administrative Process Development: both centralized (county-led) and jurisdiction-specific</li> <li>4. Workforce Development: preparing HES assessors</li> <li>5. Communications Plan: education and awareness-focused</li> </ol> |

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|                                                        | <p>6. Implementation and Monitoring Plan: establishing roles and responsibilities, standard operating procedures, timelines, and reporting standards</p> <p>7. HES Program Launch</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>5. Standing Agenda Items</p> <p>5A. CAW Updates</p> | <p>CAW Facilitator Eleanor Garrett shared updates on the CAW. At their most recent meeting, the CAW held a discussion on people-centered streets and transportation planning, with transportation planners from the TCMC jurisdictions sharing how they approach planning and leading the discussion. A sub-group of CAW members have also formed a sub-committee to advocate for and support implementation of the Home Energy Score (HES) program, beginning with a letter of support for the program directed to the jurisdictions that have yet to adopt.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>5B. Jurisdiction Updates</p>                        | <p>Thurston County Updates were provided by Vice Chair Clouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurston County won the Green Business Municipality of the Year Award in recognition of the county's work in clean energy, waste reduction, watershed protection, and climate planning.</li> <li>• The Solid Waste Division hosted its third compost giveaway on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the county fairgrounds, in partnership with Brady Trucking who donated 40 cubic yards of finished compost.</li> <li>• The Solid Waste Division held its 4th annual or 4th Fix-It Fair on April 15th in partnership with the Lacey Makerspace</li> <li>• On May 5th, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2026-2027 official Comprehensive Plan amendment and development code dockets. This includes programmatic actions and policies to implement the Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan.</li> <li>• The Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) team is making progress on the Nisqually Watershed Plan, which lays the foundation for cross-jurisdictional collaboration on long-range environmental planning, stormwater management, and other future climate-related initiatives.</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CPED Water Resources Monitoring Team published the 2025 Thurston County Water Year Report.</li> <li>• The county is conducting an outreach campaign about water conservation in response to the statewide drought that has been declared for the 4th year in a row. This campaign focuses on what residents can do to conserve water and what the county is doing to actively monitor rainfall and lake levels.</li> <li>• The County is working on the Critical Areas Ordinance update, a required 10-year update under the Growth Management Act.</li> <li>• CPED is working to finalize the Working Lands Conservation Strategy, developed in partnership with tribes and regional land trusts and aiming to coordinate and strengthen the county's existing conservation efforts by developing an actionable strategy to incentivize habitat protection and restoration on working farms and forest lands.</li> </ul> <p>City of Olympia Updates were provided by Committee member Robert Vanderpool and Staff Team Member Linsey Fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City passed the Home Energy Score ordinance</li> <li>• The City's climate program has launched a pilot program on extreme heat and wildfire smoke preparedness with the Lewis Mason Thurston Area Agency on Aging. This program has an educational and outreach component, as well as a subsidized portable heat pump and air filtration program for older adults who are homebound and at higher health risk during heat and smoke events.</li> <li>• The City has been conditionally awarded a \$50,000 youth climate fund grant to support 10 micro-grants to Olympia youth (ages 15-24) to implement community projects that advance the city's climate goals. Applications will open in Summer 2026.</li> </ul> <p>City of Lacey Updates were provided by Committee Member Ryan Siu:</p> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City has a new air monitoring system in place as of April 2026.</li> <li>• The City is also piloting the extreme heat and wildfire smoke preparedness in partnership with the Lewis Mason Thurston Area Agency on Aging</li> <li>• The City has 53 applications for the employee e-bike lease to ownership program and has distributed 15 bikes so far.</li> <li>• The City will be posting an RFQ for an Urban Forestry Management Plan update.</li> <li>• The City will be posting an RFQ for a vulnerability and risk assessment for sea level rise</li> <li>• Four additional chargers were installed through Puget Sound Energy at City Hall.</li> </ul> <p>City of Tumwater updates were provided by Staff Team Member Alyssa Liu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City is also working with the Lewis Mason Thurston Area Agency on Aging on an extreme heat and wildfire smoke preparedness program, but does not have funding for a subsidized portable heat pump program and so is focused on education and outreach, ensuring that materials are translated into all languages spoken in Tumwater by populations served by the Agency.</li> <li>• The City had its first Bike Anywhere Day relief station and served 15 people</li> <li>• The City was awarded a grant from Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) to install EV charging at multifamily housing sites, following the program roadmap established by the City of Olympia</li> <li>• The Director of Planning has issued Zoning Determination Letter establishing that data centers are not allowed in Tumwater, based on the recommendations of a staff report</li> <li>• The City is working on a vulnerability assessment focused on identifying all hazards and assets, including communities that are at risk from climate hazards</li> <li>• The City's Urban Forester has developed a tree canopy equity program that distributes trees in neighborhoods that have less canopy, lower income, and higher ambient air temperature,</li> </ul> |
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|            | <p>targeting 2 neighborhoods over the course of two years. This program is 100% grant funded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On May 26<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission and Tree Board will hold a joint meeting to discuss revising the City tree code. The Planning Commission will also be discussion regulating Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in the city</li> </ul> |
| 6. Adjourn | The meeting was adjourned at 5:58.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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