

# Climate Action Steering Committee

## Meeting #11 Agenda

February 28, 2022, 3-5 PM

In order to comply with the Governor's guidance to "Stay Home and Stay Healthy" and in keeping with the Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamation 20-05 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act issued on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2020, participation in this meeting will be through **remote access only**.

To register to attend the meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pi0jimAMTkSERXRp2-n7KA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pi0jimAMTkSERXRp2-n7KA)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**NOTE: Committee members will be pre-registered and will receive a separate link to join the meeting.**

	Estimated*
<b>1. OPENING</b>	20 min
1a Call to Order	
1b Introductions	
1c Approval of Agenda	
1d Approval of Previous Meeting Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attachment 1: January 24, 2022, Meeting Summary</li></ul>	
1e Opportunity for Public Comment	
During this portion of the meeting, members of the public may address the Committee regarding the Committee's business. Public comment for this meeting will be accepted in written and oral format.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Written comments:</b> The deadline for submitting written public comments is noon (12 pm PST) the Friday preceding the meeting, <b>February 25, 2022</b>. For written comments, please include your name and address, your comment, and email them to <a href="mailto:climate@trpc.org">climate@trpc.org</a>. Written comments received by the deadline will be provided to the Committee prior to the meeting.</li><li><b>Oral comments:</b> Please indicate that you wish to provide public comment when registering for the meeting. The Chair may limit oral public comments to two (2) minutes or less, depending on the meeting agenda and number of people wishing to comment. The Chair may allow for additional public comment to be taken at the end of the agenda for those who signed up at the beginning of the meeting and did not get an opportunity to speak during the allotted time.</li></ul>	
<b>2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS</b>	20 min
2a. <b>2022 Meeting Schedule, Long Term Governance Agreement Update</b> – all	<b>ACTION</b>
Staff will provide an update on the status of the Long-Term Governance Agreement, which was approved by the CASC at the January meeting. The CASC will confirm meeting dates and times for the next year of the agreement.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attachment 2: Proposed 2022 CASC Meeting Calendar</li></ul>	
2b. <b>State Building Code Council Comments</b> – Allison Osterberg, TRPC	<b>ACTION</b>
The State Building Code Council is considering updates to the commercial energy code that support actions in the TCMP. Staff will request approval of a comment letter to be sent on behalf of the committee.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attachment 3: Draft Comment Letter to Building Code Council</li></ul>	
<b>3. PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b> 50 min
3a. <b>Carbon Sequestration Background</b> – Allison Osterberg, TRPC	
The TCMP includes carbon sequestration among the strategies to achieve emissions reductions. This presentation will cover background information	

Climate Action Steering Committee

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*collected as part of the white paper under development by TRPC to provide a foundation for future policy discussions.*

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- 3a. **King County Forest Carbon Program** – Kathleen Farley Wolf, Forest Carbon Program Manager, King County  
*King County’s Forest Carbon Program is a component of the region’s Land Conservation Initiative. The program has multiple goals, including protecting tree canopy increasing community access to greenspaces, and it also includes both urban and rural carbon crediting projects.*

- Program Link:  
<https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/forestry/forest-carbon.aspx>

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3. **STANDING AGENDA ITEMS** **INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION** 30 min

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- 4a **Legislative Agenda – All**  
*Members will receive a status update on the 2022 legislative priorities.*

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- 4b. **Jurisdictional Information Sharing - All**  
*Members share progress on implementation of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan or other relevant topics.*

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4. **ADJOURN**

\*The times listed above are estimates. Items may not take the time allotted, and the meeting may adjourn early if all business has been completed.

**NOTE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA ONLINE MEETING:**

TRPC reserves the right to limit public participation to the public comment section of the agenda. A participant may be removed from the meeting if they engage in disruptive behavior which may include the following:

- Promoting or advertising commercial services, entities or products.
- Supporting or opposing political candidates or ballot propositions.
- Distributing obscene content.
- Engaging in illegal activity or encouragement of illegal activity.
- Promoting, fostering or perpetuating discrimination on the basis of creed, color, age, religion, gender, gender identification, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems.
- Threatening or intimidating language, containing cyber bullying.
- Otherwise engaging in disruptive behavior that is unrelated to the content of the meeting.

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For TDD users, please use the state’s toll-free relay service, 711 and ask the operator to dial 360.956.7575.



## Climate Action Steering Committee Meeting #10 Summary January 24, 2022, 3:00-5:00 PM

Link to packet and presentations: <https://www.trpc.org/966/Meeting-Materials>

Agenda Item	Notes
<p>1. Call to Order, Introductions, &amp; Public Comments – All members</p>	<p>Chair Parshley called the Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC) meeting to order at 3:01 pm.</p> <p>Steering Committee members, support staff from Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), staff from Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater, provided self-introductions.</p> <p>Chair Parshley requested approval of the agenda.</p> <p>Committee Member Cox, moved, seconded by Committee Member Swarthout, to approve the agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion to adopt the Climate Action Steering Committee agenda is approved.</b></p> <p>Chair Parshley requested approval of the November 22, 2021 meeting summary.</p> <p>Committee Member Menser, moved, seconded by Committee Member Cox, to approve the November 22, 2021, meeting summary.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion to adopt the Climate Action Steering Committee’s October 25, 2021, meeting summary is approved.</b></p> <p>Chair Parshley called for comments from members of the public. There were 3 public comments. Brief summaries follow:</p> <p>Melinda Hughes: She congratulated the City of Olympia on passing a resolution to electrify the city. TCAT is hiring someone to work on equity and zoning codes, and has officially received a \$75,000 Climate Justice Grant from EPA and work will start in February.</p> <p>Tom Crawford: Tom is the board president for TCAT and will be sending out a follow-up document from workshops held last fall regarding countywide efforts toward energy efficiency in residential buildings. The document has outlines of 12-15 possible projects for the committee’s consideration.</p>



	<p>Timothy Leadingham: Timothy is an Olympia resident that sent in written comments to the committee regarding carbon sequestration. He is concerned about how the plan relies on additional carbon sequestration while the county is continuing to have net forest loss.</p> <p>Chair Parshley requested that Melinda Hughes send details on what the grant is hoping to achieve, and suggested that the grant could be presented at a future steering committee meeting.</p>
<p>2a. Long Term Governance Agreement, 2022 Work Program - All Members</p>	<p>Allison Osterberg discussed the long-term governance agreement details and timeline. The agreement includes three pieces under review: the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), Annual Work Program to achieve the goals of the ILA, and a TRPC Scope of Work to support items in the Annual Work Program. The 2022 Work Program includes several standing tasks and a set of regional priorities.</p> <p>Committee member Menser requested details on how the advisory workgroup will be formed, and Osterberg clarified that the group is contingent on the ILA and work program being approved. The steering committee will be responsible for deciding who the members should be, and meetings should start around the second quarter of the year.</p> <p>Lacey and Thurston County have passed the ILA and electrification cost study.</p> <p>Chair Parshley requested approval of the long-term governance agreement and 2022 work program.</p> <p>Committee Member Menser, moved, seconded by Committee Member Cox, to approve the long-term governance agreement and 2022 work program.</p> <p><b>Motion to approve the long-term governance agreement, 2022 work program, and scope of work for TRPC to perform tasks identified in the work program is approved.</b></p>
<p>2b. 2021 Annual Report – Allison Osterberg, TRPC</p>	<p>Allison Osterberg presented the 2021 annual report of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Implementation. The latest overall emissions inventory is from 2019, which predates COVID-19 and TCMP adoption. Overall emissions had increased approximately 15% since the baseline year of 2015. Energy usage has gone up in 2020, and vehicle miles traveled have decreased which was heavily influenced by COVID-19. The land use and solid waste goals are not being met.</p> <p>Community partner highlights include the Solarize Thurston program which helped households purchase solar panels, Olympia’s shift to</p>



	<p>requiring multimodal concurrency in development projects, and Thurston Conservation District’s technical assistance program.</p> <p>Most TCMP actions are in progress with only 29% that have not been started.</p> <p>Committee members expressed concern over the possibility that different jurisdictions are using different methods to measure forest cover. They requested TRPC staff work with the jurisdictions to ensure they are not using contradictory data. While there are different methods of assessing forest cover all find that Thurston County has around 50% cover.</p>
<p>3a. 2022 Legislative Session – Beth Doglio, Climate Solutions &amp; RMI</p>	<p>Former State Representative Doglio provided an overview of current state legislation relating to climate mitigation. Buildings are the fastest growing source of climate pollution state and nationwide, and thus the bills are focused around building decarbonization. The bills discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ HB 1770/SB 5669 – Gives local jurisdictions a choice between using the baseline state building code or a reach code and sets a goal of having new construction be net zero ready by 2034.</li><li>○ HB 1774/SB 5772 – Extends the Clean Buildings Act requirements to smaller commercial and multi-family buildings over a longer timeframe.</li><li>○ HB 1767/SB 5666 – Authorizes public utilities to incentivize electrification in a way beneficial to the utility and customers.</li><li>○ HB 1766/SB 5668 – Requires gas utilities to develop clean heat transition plans by January 2024.</li><li>○ HB 1280 – Requires electrification cost study for state-funded buildings.</li></ul> <p>Doglio also discussed possible state investment into weatherization. The proposed Weatherization Program would scale up low-income weatherization programs, use state investment to leverage federal funding, and invest in workforce development to prepare for future growth.</p> <p>Proposed state building code updates include requiring all commercial buildings to use electric heat pumps for space and water heating, and the comment period for the updates is ongoing until March 11<sup>th</sup>. Chair Parshley requested that the committee discuss submitting a regional letter of support for the legislation at the February meeting.</p>
<p>3b. Carbon Sequestration Background</p>	<p>Ran out of time – will be discussed a future meeting.</p>



<p>4a. Legislative Agenda – All members</p>	<p>Members discussed the draft 2022 legislative priorities document. Members will check-in about the positions of their jurisdictions on the priorities and relay it to other committee members over email before February 3<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p>After the meeting, members approved the legislative priorities with consensus via email on 1/31/2022.</p>
<p>4b. Jurisdictional Information Sharing – All Members</p>	<p>Thurston County (Tye Menser) – Several budget items went through including a full-time Climate Coordinator position that the county hopes to have filled by June 1<sup>st</sup>, a full time Public Works employee dedicated to achieving climate goals in the transportation sector, and another planner that will have half of their time dedicated to long-term climate issues.</p> <p>Lacey (Carolyn Cox) – Lacey has passed the long-term governance agreement and has a new planner that will be working with the committee occasionally.</p> <p>Tumwater (Eileen Swarthout) – Tumwater’s opening for a Sustainability Coordinator has now closed and they are hoping to have the employee in place by spring. Tumwater has been working with Lacey on discussions around improving EV infrastructure.</p> <p>Olympia (Lisa Parshley &amp; Pamela Braff) – Olympia passed a building electrification resolution with 5 action items including electrifying all newly constructed city-owned buildings and major renovations, and doing a fossil fuel evaluation for feasibility of retrofitting existing buildings to become all electric by 2030. The City is partnering with South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity to support using electric heat pumps in residential construction.</p>
<p>5. Adjourn</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.</p>



## Meeting Attendance

### Steering Committee Present Online:

Lisa Parshley – City of Olympia representative  
and Chair

Carolyn Cox – City of Lacey representative

Pamela Braff – City of Olympia staff

Brad Medrud – City of Tumwater staff

Eileen Swarthout – City of Tumwater  
representative

Tye Menser – Thurston County representative

Jennica Machado – Thurston County staff

Grant Beck – City of Tumwater Staff

### Public Present Online:

Wayne Olsen

Jerilyn Walley

Helen Wheatley

R Peggy Smith

Tom Crawford

Beth Doglio

Joel Carlson

Melinda Hughes

Paul Berendt

Timothy Leadingham

Dave Bradley

### Staff Present:

Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner

Dorinda Merrill, Office Assistant III

Karen Parkhurst, Planning and Policy Director

Michael Ambrogi, Senior Planner

Casey Mauck, Assistant Planner

**Next Meeting:** February 28, 2022

Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Coordinator:

Allison Osterberg

[osterbergA@trpc.org](mailto:osterbergA@trpc.org)

(360) 956-7575 (main) or (360) 741-2513 (direct)

Link to project website: <https://www.trpc.org/Climate>

TRPC website: <https://www.trpc.org/>

*Meeting summary is prepared by Casey Mauck, Assistant Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council*

*This summary is not verbatim. A recording of this meeting is available at <https://www.trpc.org/966/Meeting-Materials>.*

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC)  
FROM: Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner, TRPC  
DATE: February 22, 2022  
SUBJECT: Proposed 2022/2023 Meeting Calendar

## Requested Action

Review and approve the 2022/2023 Climate Action Steering Committee meeting dates.

## Background

- Under Task 1 of the Interlocal Agreement on Climate Mitigation (Phase 4 ILA), partners agree to continue to convene a Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC) consisting of policymaker representatives on a monthly basis.
- Phase 3 was a 1-year agreement that extends into April, and includes the March 28 CASC meeting. Phase 4 ILA activities begin in April, and the Annual Work Program period runs from April 2022-March 2023.
- During Phase 3, CASC meetings have been scheduled for the **fourth Monday of the month, from 3-5 pm**. Staff are proposing to maintain this as the standing meeting time of the CASC, unless there are conflicts or concerns from Steering Committee members.
- The CASC could also opt to reschedule or cancel a meeting, such as the August meeting, to accommodate likely vacation schedules, or the November or December date, to accommodate holiday schedules.
- Meetings may be canceled at a later date, with public notice, if there is not sufficient content to warrant a meeting.

## Proposed 2022/2023 CASC Meeting Dates

All dates are Monday, from 3-5 pm.

- April 25, 2022
- May 23, 2022
- June 27, 2022
- July 25, 2022
- August 22, 2022
- September 26, 2022
- October 24, 2022
- November 28, 2022 – note that this is the Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday.
- **December 19, 2022** – note that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, as the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday falls on the observed Christmas holiday.
- January 23, 2023
- February 27, 2023
- March 27, 2023



# MEMORANDUM

TO: Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC)  
FROM: Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner, TRPC  
DATE: February 22, 2022  
SUBJECT: Comments to Washington State Building Code Council on Proposed Updates to Commercial Energy Code

## Requested Action

Approval of comment letter to be sent to State Building Code Council.

## Background

The Washington State Building Code Council (SBCC) is a state agency that provides independent analysis and objective advice to the legislature and the Governor's Office on state building code issues. The Council establishes the minimum building, mechanical, fire, plumbing and energy code requirements necessary to promote the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state of Washington, by reviewing, developing and adopting the state building code.

The State Building Code Council considers updates to codes on a three-year cycle to incorporate new information and technologies. The SBCC currently is considering changes to Commercial sections of the 2021 Washington State Energy Code (WSEC-C). Any approved changes will apply to new commercial buildings and new large multifamily buildings (four stories or taller) beginning on July 1, 2023.

The Zero Carbon Building Alliance advocacy group [Shift Zero has a summary of proposed changes](#) and [FAQs](#), with links to the individual proposals that are relevant to climate issues, which include:

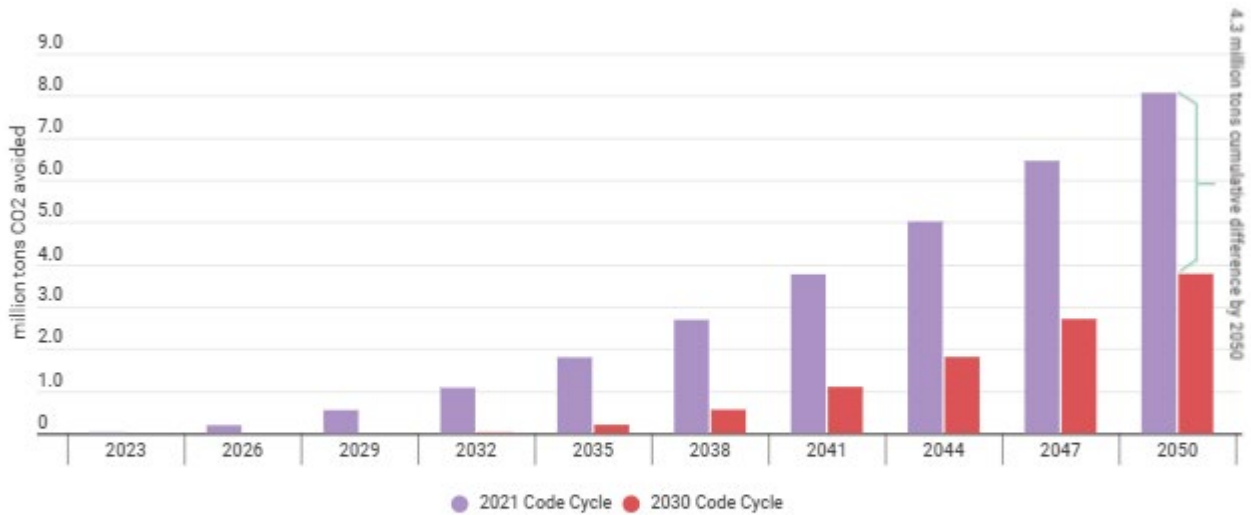
- **Increases energy efficiency requirements** for building envelopes.
- **Requires efficient electric heat pumps for space heating and water heating**, with some exceptions. These requirements do not apply to cooking stoves—new buildings will continue to be allowed to install gas cookstoves under the proposed amendment, but must also install an electrical circuit and outlet, so that future users of the building have the option to switch to an electric appliance.
- **Extends solar-readiness requirements** to applicable multifamily buildings.
- **Improves lighting efficiency.**
- Brings energy code into alignment with decarbonization pathway proposed in the 2021 State Energy Strategy developed by the Department of Commerce.

If proposed changes are not approved in this cycle, the next opportunities for changes to the state energy code will be for codes that would likely go into effect in 2026 or 2029. The [Rocky Mountain Institute \(RMI\) did a recent analysis](#) comparing the potential emissions savings from changes made in the current update cycle compared with waiting until the state's overall target of 2031:

SOURCE: [ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE](#), 2022

## The Cost of Waiting

Cumulative Emissions Savings  
from All-Electric Space and Water Heating Proposals



Source: Emissions impacts are based on RMI analysis using the NREL's Cambium model, EIA CBECS (2012), and EIA commercial gas demand.

Share

made with infogram

### WA Commercial Building Electrification - Emissions Infogram

#### Connection to Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and 2022 TCMP Work Program

Energy use in commercial buildings accounts for a quarter (25 percent) of total greenhouse gas emissions in the Thurston region, according to the most recent greenhouse gas inventory, and about 15 percent of those emissions are due to natural gas use. The Built Environment as a whole—including residential, commercial, and industrial energy use—accounts for 62 percent of countywide emissions.

A plank of the framework adopted in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan is to shift more appliances, heaters, and vehicles to electricity. Under the requirements of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), electricity will increasingly come from clean energy sources, leaving natural gas use as the largest source of emissions in buildings.

In the Implementation Strategy for the TCMP, jurisdictions agreed that several relevant actions should be part of the region's Legislative Agenda, including building on changes in the state building and energy code to support a faster shift toward greater efficiency and electrification of new construction. The consensus among jurisdictions was that

these actions would be most efficient and effective through changes made at the state level, through the state Energy Code, rather than by individual jurisdictions:

- **B6.2, electric appliances in new construction** – Update codes to require electric appliances in new construction
- **B6.4, natural gas transition** – Phase out new natural gas connections in new buildings over time
- **G5.2, solar-ready building code** – State-level amendments to state building code requiring solar-ready construction

At the January 24, 2022 meeting, the Climate Action Steering Committee discussed sending a comment letter to the State Building Code Council supporting the proposed changes. Staff drafted the attached letter for review by committee members.

Separately, as part of the 2022 Work Program, CASC members are collaborating on a [building electrification cost assessment](#) that will provide information on the potential costs and cost savings of building electrification in Thurston County. A [similar assessment done by RMI for Seattle](#) found significant cost savings for all-electric homes compared to new homes relying on mixed fuels. The building electrification cost assessment will shed light on how such policies will apply to Thurston County’s specific market and real estate conditions. This information can help partners prepare for a shift to building electrification, by understanding who may be impacted and how to minimize any negative impacts, whether the policy direction is coming via the state building and energy codes or through a local policy.

### Next Steps

The schedule for the State Building Code Council public review is:

- **February 25 and March 11:** Two public hearings, both 10am-4pm
- **March 11:** Written comments deadline
- **March 18:** SBCC meeting to review comments
- **April 22:** SBCC to approved changes to Commercial Energy Code
- **Summer and Fall:** SBCC will review proposed changes to the residential energy code (WSEC-R)
- **July 1, 2023:** Commercial and Residential Energy Codes go into effect

### Decision Options

- **Option A:** Approve comment letter as drafted.
  - Addresses priority strategies and actions identified in the TCMP as part of the Legislative Agenda
  - Does not allow partners additional time to understand impacts of changes to the local community, including through results of the building electrification cost assessment
- **Option B:** Approve comment letter with changes, as suggested by discussion and agreement of the Climate Action Steering Committee
  - Addresses priority strategies and actions identified in the TCMP as part of the Legislative Agenda, with greater input from Steering Committee members

- Does not allow partners additional time to understand impacts of changes to the local community, including through results of the building electrification cost assessment
- **Option C:** Do not send comment letter on behalf of the CASC. Individual jurisdictions may still opt to send in their own comments within the public comment period.
  - Allows partners to receive results of the building electrification cost assessment to better understand potentials costs and benefits before advocating for specific proposals
  - Delays regional action on several priority strategies and actions in the TCMP until the next Energy Code review cycle.

**Attachments and Resources:**

- Attachment 1: Draft Comment Letter to State Building Code Council
- Link: [Washington State Building Code Council](#)
  - [Proposed Rule Making, 2021 Washington State Energy Code](#)
- Link: [Shift Zero Overview of Proposed changes to Washington State Energy Code](#)
- Link: [Rocky Mountain Institute analysis of carbon emissions and cost savings from Washington State Energy Code changes](#)

**MEMBERS****City of Lacey**

Carolyn Cox  
Robin Vazquez

**City of Olympia**

Lisa Parshley  
Yến Huỳnh

**Thurston County**

Tye Menser  
Carolina Mejia

**City of Tumwater**

Eileen Swarhout  
Charlie Schneider

February 28, 2022

Washington State Building Code Council  
1500 Jefferson St SE  
Olympia, WA 98504

To Members of the State Building Code Council:

As the chair of the Thurston Climate Action Steering Committee, I am writing to express our support for proposed updates to the Washington State Commercial Energy Code that accelerate a transition away from reliance on fossil fuels in commercial and multifamily buildings. These include requirements that new construction include electric heat pumps and water heaters.

The Thurston Climate Action Steering Committee includes policymakers from the communities of Thurston County, Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater who are working together to address the causes of climate change. Collectively, we represent more than 300,000 residents in one of the fastest growing areas of the state. In 2020, we completed the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, a regional framework for climate action that identifies strategies and actions to reduce locally generated greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy use in buildings is the largest source of emissions in our region, accounting for almost two-thirds (62%) of our carbon footprint. In developing our climate plan, we found that requiring electric appliances in new construction through the state building and energy codes is among the most efficient and effective ways to reduce emissions from this sector. Changes to the state code ensure that community members across our region will have consistent access to technologies that not only reduce emissions, but that have public health benefits and reduced costs over their lifecycle. This change is especially important for commercial and multifamily buildings, where tenants often have less control over appliance decisions, though they are most likely to benefit from the cost savings and health benefits of building decarbonization.

**We especially support the adoption of a state building energy code that requires that use of efficient electric heat pumps for space and water heating in new commercial and large multifamily buildings.** It is important that these changes to code be put in place now, rather than waiting for a future code review cycle, as any delay will extend our community's reliance on fossil fuels in ways that we will need to retrofit or offset at some time in the future to meet our climate goals. The solutions exist to make our buildings healthier and more resilient, and now is the time to accelerate their adoption.

2411 Chandler Court SW  
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[www.trpc.org](http://www.trpc.org)

Washington Building Code Council

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February 28, 2022

Thank you for your consideration of comments and the expertise that you bring to this review. We urge you to move forward the amendments, which will be to the benefit of communities like ours and across the state of Washington.

Sincerely,

Lisa Parshley, Olympia City Council  
Chair, Thurston Climate Action Steering Committee

Tye Menser, Thurston County Board of Commissioners  
Vice Chair, Thurston Climate Action Steering Committee

Carolyn Cox, Lacey City Council  
Thurston County Climate Action Steering Committee

Eileen Swarthout, Tumwater City Council  
Thurston Climate Action Steering Committee