



Climate Action Steering Committee

Meeting #12 Summary

March 28, 2022, 3:00-5:00 PM

Link to packet and presentations: <https://www.trpc.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=597>

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Call to Order, Introductions, & Public Comments – All members	Chair Parshley called the Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC) meeting to order at 3:01 pm. Steering Committee members, support staff from Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), and staff from Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater provided self-introductions. Chair Parshley requested approval of the agenda. Committee Member Cox, moved, seconded by Committee Member Menser, to approve the agenda. Motion to adopt the Climate Action Steering Committee agenda is approved. Chair Parshley requested approval of the February 28, 2022, meeting summary. Committee Member Menser, moved, seconded by Committee Member Cox, to approve the February 28, 2022, meeting summary. Motion to adopt the Climate Action Steering Committee's February 28, 2022, meeting summary is approved. Chair Parshley called for comments from members of the public. There were 3 public comments. Brief summaries follow: Tom Crawford: Tom is excited to move to phase 4 of the project and see the formation of the advisory workgroup. Tom shared a reading from Earth Keeper by N. Scott Momaday. Timothy Leadingham: Timothy emphasized the importance of considering climate issues in all planning and comprehensive plan efforts. Every thousand acres lost in forest will add 5% to total countywide emissions, and the city of Lacey in particular has been losing some urban forest cover. Business as usual will not work and forest clearing must be considered as an emissions source.



	Jeff Miller: Jeff congratulated the committee on moving to the next phase and starting to look for innovative solutions. There is a significant amount of growth and excitement around this project and hopefully it will help draw businesses to the area.
2a. Phase 3 Closeout and Next Steps – All members	Allison Osterberg spoke about the closeout of phase 3 of the TCMP. The phase 4 interlocal agreement has received signatures from all parties and phase 3 is coming to an end. The contract goes until April, and items left include the white papers which should be released soon. There will probably be a little bit of funding left (approximately \$15-20k) in the phase 3 budget and CASC will need to decide what to do with this. Options include extending the contract and identifying an item to spend the funding on or refunding the money to the partners. Chair Parshley suggested that the money is kept in the group to be spent on future climate actions. Osterberg clarified that the original scope for phase 3 included four white papers rather than two, which contributed to extra funding. Commissioner Menser suggested that the contract is extended a year to keep the money available for phase 4 actions. Commissioners Cox and Swarthout concurred. Chair Parshley requested a motion to develop an amendment for extending the phase 3 contract for one year. Committee Member Cox, moved, seconded by Committee Member Swarthout, to develop an amendment for extending the phase 3 contract for one year. • Motion to develop an amendment for extending the phase 3 contract for one year is approved.
2b. Advisory Workgroup Recruitment Process – All members	Casey Mauck provided an overview of the decision points CASC will have in determining the composition, recruitment process, and expectations for the Climate Advisory Workgroup. The workgroup will serve as an advisory body to the steering committee. Committee members expressed desire for a workgroup with a majority of pre-assigned expertise areas or organizations, and a few spots left for open applications. They elected to have staff review applications and provide a recommendation to CASC to appoint members. They discussed whether workgroup members should have term limits, with one suggestion for a limit of two three-year terms and another with members only allowed to serve two terms before reapplying. All agreed that there should be some process for



	members to be compensated when appropriate, depending on impact to the overall budget. Staff will bring back a refined set of options for the committee to decide on at the April meeting.
3a. Buildings Background – Allison Osterberg, TRPC	Osterberg gave an overview of greenhouse gas emissions that come from buildings and energy use. The built environment made up 62% of countywide emissions in 2019. Within the built environment, electricity made up 79% of emissions. Strategies and actions around buildings & energy are focused around reducing energy use in new and existing buildings, and increasing the production and use of cleaner fuel sources. Since the baseline year of 2015, electricity and natural gas use have both risen.
3b. Building Decarbonization – Duane Jonlin, City of Seattle; Ray Allshouse, City of Shoreline	Duane Jonlin, Energy Code Advisor for the City of Seattle, and Ray Allshouse, Building Official for the City of Shoreline, provided an overview of their experiences with the energy code. Seattle has adopted their own energy code on top of the state energy code, and Jonlin spoke about strategies to adopt a stronger code and increase efficiency in commercial buildings. Regulatory tools can be the most effective tool to create change, though there are other options such as training, education, and incentives that can be used. Challenges to increasing energy efficiency in new and existing buildings include the popularity of natural gas, resistance from business, and opposition from conservative groups, developers, and the fossil fuel industry. While cost can seem prohibitive to making energy efficiency improvements, the long-term cost of doing nothing is higher due to the impacts of climate change and higher energy bills.
4a. Legislative Agenda – All members	Chair Parshley requested a summary of the legislative session at the April meeting. Allison Osterberg shared that HB 1770, which would allow a residential reach code, did not pass.
4b. Jurisdictional Information Sharing – All Members	Eileen Swarthout (City of Tumwater) – Tumwater is working on updating their tree and landscaping ordinance. A new staff member has been hired to work on climate projects and has not started yet. Carolyn Cox (City of Lacey) – Lacey has been working on their tree ordinance and is currently discussing whether to relax some tree protections in their development regulations. Tye Menser (Thurston County) – The county is in the process of hiring a climate coordinator. Public health staff has presented data on the



	impact of gas-powered appliances on indoor air quality and public health. Commission member Menser attended the youth climate strike and enjoyed the event, but was concerned that youth reported only one action of the TCMP has been completed when work on many actions is underway. Pamela Braff (City of Olympia) – Olympia and Thurston County applied for a DNR grant to conduct an urban canopy assessment. Olympia applied for and were approved to have an AmeriCorps CivicSpark fellow help with climate work.
5. Adjourn	Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.



Meeting Attendance

Steering Committee Present Online:

Lisa Parshley – City of Olympia representative and Chair
Carolyn Cox – City of Lacey representative
Eileen Swarthout – City of Tumwater representative
Tye Menser – Thurston County representative

Brad Medrud – City of Tumwater staff
Grant Beck – City of Tumwater staff
Jennica Machado – Thurston County staff
Pamela Braff – City of Olympia staff

Public Present Online:

Brandon Capps
Jeff Miller
Joseph Hiss
Karen Messmer
Matt Perry

Melinda Hughes
Timothy Leadingham
Tom Crawford
Wayne Olsen

TRPC Staff Present Online:

Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner
Casey Mauck, Assistant Planner
Karen Parkhurst, Planning & Policy Director

Next Meeting: April 25, 2022

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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/Calendar.aspx?EID=597>