



Climate Advisory Workgroup Meeting Summary April 4, 2023, 4-6PM

Link to meeting materials: <https://www.trpc.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=715>

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome and Introductions	Members and staff introduced themselves.
2. Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (TCMP) Implementation Model Update	<p>Casey Mauck gave an update on the status of a new TCMP implementation model proposed by the staff team. The proposal was discussed at the workgroup’s March meeting, and includes a shift to more emphasis on staff-led climate action and an expanded role for the workgroup. The proposal was on the agenda for the March Steering Committee meeting but the Steering Committee opted to postpone the item and discuss it at a meeting on May 22nd.</p> <p>Members took an anonymous poll asking if they will still be interested in continuing with the workgroup if the meeting frequency increases from 4-6 meetings per year to 10-12 meetings per year. 75% of respondents indicated they would still be interested, and the remaining 25% indicated they were unlikely to continue with the group for reasons other than increased meeting frequency.</p>
3. 2022 Annual Report	<p>Mauck gave a brief overview of the 2022 Annual Report. This report provides an update on progress towards the targets included in the TCMP and highlights ongoing work by TCMP partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, community emissions are down 4% from the baseline year of 2015 to 2021, the last inventory year. • In buildings and energy, electricity and natural gas usage have both risen since 2015 and the only targets within this sector that we are on track to meet are industrial electricity and natural gas usage. Emissions are down in this sector from 2015, which may be due in large part to utilities like Puget Sound Energy reducing the amount of fossil fuels used to produce electricity. • In transportation and land use, emissions are down 9% since 2015 and vehicle miles travelled have also dropped 4%, putting us on track to reach the target of a 5% reduction in miles travelled by 2030. We are not on track to reach the TCMP land use targets around limiting development in rural areas and creating dense urban centers. • Emissions from water and waste have risen 26% since the baseline year; landfill waste per capita and wastewater treatment emissions have also risen.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In agriculture, forests, and prairies, agriculture emissions have risen since 2015 and the region’s ability to sequester or store carbon has decreased, meaning we are not on track to reach the 2050 sequestration target. <p>The annual report also includes a section called “Detailed Action Reporting” which includes text descriptions of the many actions TCMP partners were working on during 2022.</p> <p>A member asked how much of an impact electricity production has on carbon dioxide emissions. Electricity production has a large impact on emissions, as electricity emissions make up roughly 41% of total emissions. A member commented that it would be helpful to understand the impacts extreme weather events and weather changes are having on energy usage. A member commented that this report shows that we are not on track to meet our targets, and asked what the jurisdictions’ plan is to get on track.</p>
<p>4. Regional Initiatives Discussion</p>	<p>Rebecca Harvey gave an overview of the regional initiatives process and the workgroup’s role in it. The new proposal for TCMP implementation includes an annual regional initiatives process where the staff team, workgroup, and elected officials will generate a list of potential actions that could be adopted as a regional initiative for the next year. A regional initiative is an action that all four jurisdictions will work together on with the support of their elected officials. The staff team is coordinating and working together on a variety of actions outside the regional initiative, and this process does not limit their ability to partner on other projects. Potential regional initiatives will be discussed at an Annual Retreat with the staff team, elected officials, and workgroup, and the elected officials will meet after the retreat to potentially adopt a regional initiative. The objectives of this discussion were to gather all the regional initiative ideas brought up by CAW members and find consensus around a few ideas.</p> <p>Members broke into two groups to share the ideas they came up with and narrow down to top ideas. The full list of ideas is included below, though members will have a chance to edit this list before it is finalized. Members approached this task in different ways, with some members focusing on actions that could be done quickly while others wanted to look at the potential impact to emissions.</p> <p>Members returned to the full group to discuss the top ideas generated by the small groups. This list was then narrowed through an anonymous poll down to four top regional initiatives: A) energy audits to inspect homes and identify potential energy improvements; B) financial incentives for reducing energy usage such as property tax breaks; C) 20-minute neighborhoods where residents can access basic living needs in walkable environments; and D) transportation efficiency improvements to reduce emissions and idling while improving fuel efficiency. Members commented that it was hard to</p>



	choose actions without more information about each action’s impact on emissions, description of who would be affected, estimated time to implement, and other considerations.
5. Next Meeting and Questions	<p>Mauck went over upcoming meetings: a Steering Committee meeting on May 22nd to discuss and potentially approve the revised implementation approach; and an Annual Retreat that will be potentially held in June to discuss regional initiatives and jurisdiction updates. The retreat is proposed to be a half-day, and when the retreat is scheduled the workgroup members will be invited. Kim P volunteered to be the workgroup representative at the May 22nd Steering Committee meeting, and Amy T volunteered to be the alternate representative.</p> <p>A member commented to the Steering Committee that we know we are not on track to meet our targets, and there is not a plan identified to reach the targets. The jurisdictions must come up with a plan to meet our targets.</p>
6. Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.



Meeting Attendance

Workgroup Members:

Amy Tousley
Hazel Stephens
Jessica Gould
Justin Schmal
Kim Piper
Rachel Hastings
Stephanie Bishop
Tierra Bonds
Tom Crawford

Staff:

Allison Osterberg, Thurston Regional Planning Council
Casey Mauck, Thurston Regional Planning Council
Alyssa Jones-Wood, City of Tumwater
Grant Beck, City of Lacey
Rebecca Harvey, Thurston County

Climate Advisory Workgroup Coordinator:

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

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

This summary is not verbatim. Meeting materials can be seen here:

<https://www.trpc.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=715>

Short Name	Details and Considerations	Originator(s)	TCMP ID
Full Group Priority – These actions were identified as top priorities among the full CAW at their meeting April 4.			
Energy Audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to be consistent, simple, and straightforward Could be sooner than time of sale or listing, such as during improvement permits Incentivize providing this beyond time of sale How can we retain the data for this program over time? Who gathers and manages this data? Consider the costs to homeowners Consider equity and unintended consequences such as increasing the cost of housing Builds on work City of Olympia has already done Work with financial institutions to develop mortgage products that incorporate audited energy efficiency recommendations Deliverable would be ordinances passed by the 4 TCMP partners with procedures and funding for implementation 	Kim P, Tom C, Stephanie B	B1.2
Financial Incentives for Reducing Energy Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include all kinds of property owners (residential/commercial/industrial) but focus on housing Ensure costs are not passed on to the consumers Break down or differentiate targets to specific types of landlords/homeowners Consider the role of builders, developers, and property owners Could come through property tax breaks or other upfront incentives Connect this with resources and education Jurisdictions should work together to create these incentives 	Kim P, Jessica G	B1.4, B1.5
20-Minute Neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connects well with other actions Need lots of public outreach and community buy-in up front Need to consider externalities such as land use changes when planning neighborhoods 	Rachel H, Justin S, Jessica G	T1.4

Regional Initiatives

Climate Advisory Workgroup, April 2023

Draft for CAW Review

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has co-benefits such as increased housing supply • Vision of success: dense, urban centers where walking, biking, and using transit are the first and best options 		
Transportation Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doesn't require behavior change of drivers • Consider unintended consequences – avoid incentivizing trips or mileage • Do not disadvantage cyclists and pedestrians 	Justin S	T2.2
Small Group Priority – These actions were identified as priorities within the two smaller breakout groups at the April 4 meeting, in addition to the initiatives noted above.			
Telework/Flex Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has co-benefits beyond climate • Important to also consider building utilization efficiency – could spaces be consolidated? • This action has momentum that could be capitalized on 	Tierra B	T2.17
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatever actions are taken, consider them through an equity lens • Could be regional outreach programs • Consider a program for housing cost-burdened folks • Alignment with some aspects of the Regional Clean Energy Program, proposed by Tom, and discussed below 	Amy T, Tom C	
Individual Ideas – Additional ideas proposed by individual CAW members, but not identified by the group as priorities.			
Waste Less Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dovetails with recently passed state legislation • Could capitalize on momentum for this idea • Has many co-benefits 	Stephanie B	W4.10
Social Cost of Carbon		Rachel H	G4.6
Eco-Districts		Rachel H	T1.3
Permitting Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for quick action 	Stephanie B	B4.5
Mode-Shift Targets and Car-Free Areas		Rachel H	T5.11
Residential Conversion from Natural Gas to Electric		Justin S, Tom C	B6.1

Regional Initiatives

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Draft for CAW Review

Regional Clean Energy Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, fund, and launch a regional clean energy program for residential energy efficiency and electrification projects focused on households using fossil fuels for space or water heating • Include 2 components: energy concierge program for public outreach, education, and technical assistance; and a nonprofit housing support program to help existing groups increase capacity and funding to assist cost-burdened households with electrification and weatherization • Important to have outreach and information to connect folks with the incentives that are available to them • Deliverable should be a contract in place with an existing nonprofit that conducts energy concierge and electrification/weatherization efforts and has staff 	Tom C	B3.1, B6.1
Electric/Alternative Fuel School Buses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for efficiencies across all school districts • Increase aerodynamics to improve efficiency • Look for potential bus conversions to reduce waste 	Hazel S	
Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require a certain number of EV charging stations in new development (residential and commercial) • Adopt revised state building code requirements for EV-ready infrastructure • Create a simple and consistent residential charging station permitting process to reduce costs and time to develop and provide support to get state and federal incentives • Deliverables would be ordinances passed by the 4 TCMP partner and procedures and assistance to get folks through the permitting process and connect them with incentives 	Tom C	T3.1, T3.5, T3.7
Waste Reduction Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize consumers and producers • Incentivize more recycling of packaging materials and other recyclables such as cans and bottles 	Hazel S	
Middle-Density Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline permitting to support greater density in urban areas • Vision of success: dense, urban centers where walking, biking, and using transit are the first and best options 	Kim P, Jessica G	T1.2, T1.9

Regional Initiatives

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Draft for CAW Review

Tree Canopy Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at development regulations for site design and development approval • May be opportunities during comprehensive plan updates 	Amy T	A6.9
Boater Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize reduced speed limits • Incentivize reduced fuel use • Identify non-motorized boating areas to protect wildlife and reduce fuel use • Require education programs for all boaters that include safety and environmental impacts such auditory impacts and emissions 	Hazel S	
Food Security		Amy T	
Coordinated Long Term Planning-Future Infill and Urban Sprawl Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision of success includes higher density, which would enable Intercity Transit to provide faster, more frequent, more affordable service that gets people where they want to go 	Jessica G	T1.1
Fareless System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the system we've got going now! 	Jessica G	T4.4