



Sector Focus Groups

November/December 2019

Thurston Regional Planning Council organized a series of five Sector Focus Group Meetings between November 18 and December 9 to score communitywide climate mitigation actions based on criteria determined by the Steering Committee.

November 18 – Youth & Educator Focus Group Summary

This meeting was hosted by the Olympia School District. Prior to the meeting, a subset of student representatives reviewed the full action list, and selected a subset of 122 actions that they thought would be most relevant to youth and educators, that were stronger and more useful to discuss. The meeting participants then ranked each action for two criteria:

1. How effective do you think this action will be at reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
 - Scale of 1-5, where 1=not at all effective and 5=very effective
2. How effective do you think this action will be at providing other community benefits, other than greenhouse gas reductions? (Such as, benefits for the environment, social equity, economics, or adaptation)
 - Scale of 1-5, where 1=no co-benefits and 5=many co-benefits

Each action, and each criteria for each action, was ranked by four different people. The numeric ranks were totaled, and actions were posted on a wall in numeric order. Participants then had an opportunity to place up to three green dot stickers on actions they thought were a high priority, and three red dots on stickers they would be comfortable leaving out of the plan (see photo below). Finally, participants shared their observations about the activity, and their rationale for why they selected and prioritized certain actions, which included:

- There may be a disconnect between what we think will work and what will make a difference. Need to have information about what will be effective.
- Want to do all the actions. There will be political pushback, but it is past time to be taking action.
- There will need to be incentives for behavior change, but these actions are important.
- Liked actions related to bike and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure – these also support safety, and that can be a disincentive to biking more

- Liked the “lights out” action – it’s something simple we can do. Also liked the no-vehicle area – again, it’s an action that could be taken without a lot of construction, relatively easily, and there are many examples other places.
- It’s hard to pick a top 3, because they are all important.

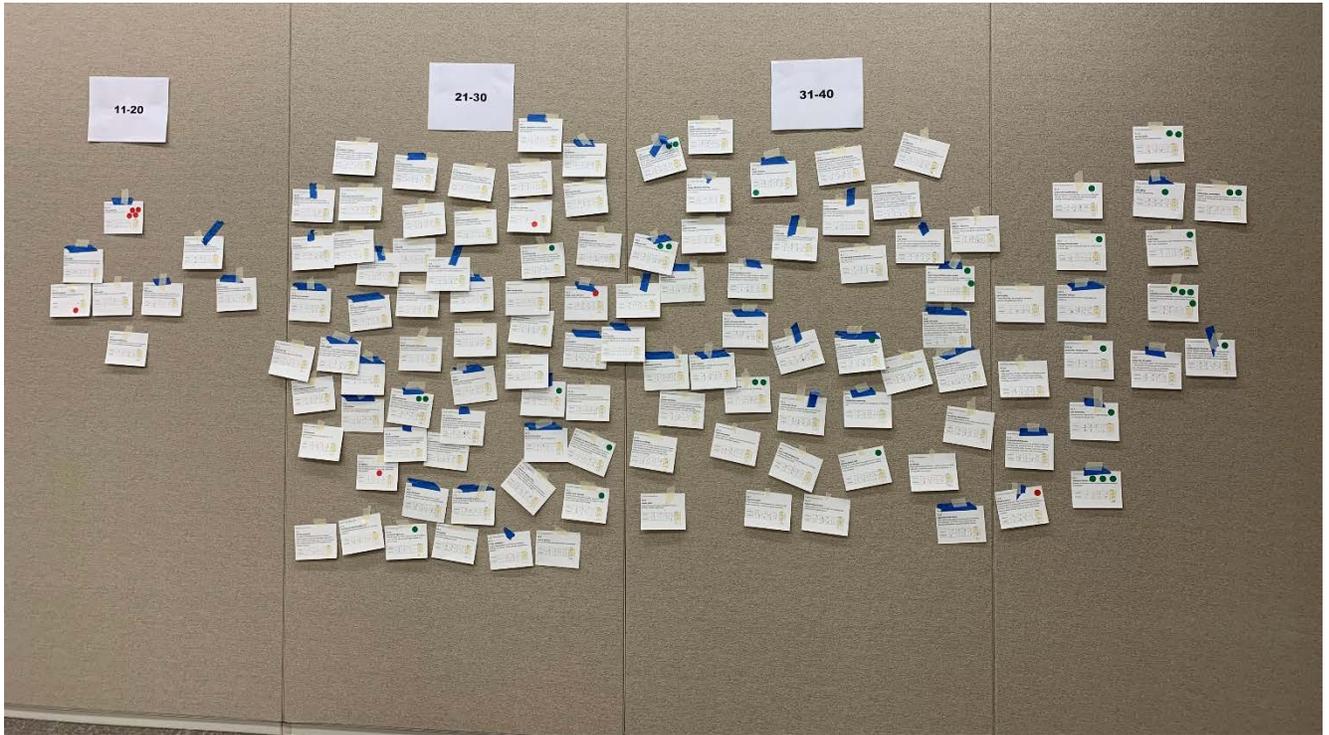


Figure 1. Image of Ranked Actions at Nov 18, 2019, Youth/Educator Focus Group Meeting hosted by Olympia School District.

- Likes actions that focused on incentives, and having EV charging stations at gas stations.
- Likes actions about bikes – it’s nice to have areas where no cars are allowed
- Likes the action about developing rail options to Seattle, and incentivizing the switch to solar power.
- Liked the rail to Seattle action, as well as the actions related to no-idling and promoting roundabouts. Also actions that support bikes and EV.
- We need to do it all. Hope we can really go for it and show bold leadership, and education for the community to unleash innovations.
- Liked that youth, who are our future, are here and informing the process. We are listening to you, and hope you feel heard.
- Appreciated that education is very important, but education actions need to be more specific.
- Actions to address changes to passenger vehicles, which make up a large proportion of inventory, are important/difficult to change behavior.

December 2-4 – Sector Focus Groups Summary

Four meetings with the same general format were held for subject matter experts in the following categories: Buildings and Energy, Transportation and Land Use, Water and Solid Waste, Agriculture and Forests. Prior to these meetings, all actions had been given a rank for greenhouse gas reduction potential. Each group reviewed the actions relevant to their sector for the following:

1. Review the “Greenhouse Gas Reduction potential” ranks and rationale provided by the consulting team.
2. Rank each action on a scale of 1-5 for “Control” and “Speed of Deployment.” A handout for the meeting specified how to apply this criteria.

Sector focus groups broke out into sub-groups of 4-7 attendees and were provided actions to review. Participants first individually reviewed and ranked 5-10 actions. After all participants had finished individual work, groups reconvened to review individual grades and agree on group scores. After small groups reached a consensus on their assigned actions, small groups calculated the numerical scores of the actions they assessed.

The Water, Agriculture, Forests, and Buildings and Energy groups completed this activity with enough time to then identify their individual preferences for actions – each participant had an opportunity to place up to three green dot stickers on actions they thought were a high priority, and three red dots on stickers they would be comfortable leaving out of the plan.

Comments on the actions are recorded in the Communitywide Actions List, dated 12/10/2019
Other general comments noted from individual meetings, include:

| Buildings & Energy |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hard to determine GHG reduction without methodology for emissions breakdown• Zoning requirement for energy efficiency and RE upgrades in new buildings• PSE investment in projects to meet SB(5293?) requirement• Boulder, CO has an energy efficiency requirement that would be useful to review• Concern that appliance requirements in new construction could limit multifamily housing development due to cost• Concerns about IgCC measure reliability |
| Transportation & Land Use |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many noted discrepancies with actions in strategy T1: Set land use policies that support efficient transportation networks, ie overlap, actions not properly defined.• T1.1 Urban infill, T1.5 clustered development, T1.8 neighborhood centers, etc too similar, need to be combined or reconceptualized• Concern about anti-idling focus, considered more productive and better application of resources to support electric vehicle conversion/ infrastructure |

| Water & Waste |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions of control were hard to understand • Actions not descriptive enough, more info on program and role desired • Degrees of separation between control ranks hard to understand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ W4.1, 4.2, 4.5 • Raised concern about “mechanism” for funding/ not funding an action • Challenging to understand how a voluntary partner differs from an advocate in control ranking • Concern over Low/ High emission sector methodology |
| Agriculture & Forests |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System already in place for collecting food waste infrastructure • Concern over Low/ High emission sector methodology |

Sector Focus Group Participants

Youth & Educators – November 18, 2019

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ella Jimenez, Tumwater High School student - Alexis Nevy, Avanti High School student - Kurt Cross, Olympia School District – Capital Planning - Elyanna Calle, Timberline High School student - Lacy Nadeau, Black Hills High School student - Ruby Gruber, Olympia High School student - Kaylee Shen, Olympia High School student - Rebecca MH, Capital High School student - Richard Coate, Tumwater High School - Randy Weeks, Olympia High School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom St Clair, educator - Kristin Maring, educator - Abby Ruskey, TCAT/YECO and Athena Group - Susan McCleary, City of Olympia - Susan Clark, City of Olympia - Hilary Seidel, Olympia School District - Tom Crawford, Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) - Chris van Daalen, Northwest EcoBuilding Guild - That Curtz, citizen/TCAT - Allison Osterberg, TRPC - Sara Porter, TRPC |
|--|--|

Water & Waste – December 2, 2019

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amanda Romero, Thurston County - Frank Turner, citizen - Joe Hiss, citizen - Ron Jones, City of Olympia - Helen Wheatley, citizen - Wendy Steffensen, LOTT - Gary Franks, City of Olympia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eric Christensen, City of Olympia - Tom Crawford, TCAT - Art Starry, Thurston County Environmental Health - Les Tobias, TRPC - Allison Osterberg, TRPC |
|---|--|

Agriculture & Forests – December 2, 2019

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frank Turner, citizen - Marilyn Sitaker, The Evergreen State College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephanie Bishop, Thurston Conservation District - John Roush, City of Olympia |
|---|---|



- Loretta Seppanen, CFLT
- Patrick Shults, WSU Extension
- Joe Hiss, citizen
- Jessica Brandt, City of Lacey

Buildings & Energy – December 3, 2019

- Jonathan Kaplan, TCAT
- Kelsey Hulse, Puget Sound Energy
- Chris van Daalen, Northwest Ecobuilding Guild
- Owen Martin, The Artisans Group
- Mason Rolph, Olympia Community Solar
- Scott Morgan, The Evergreen State College
- Wayne Olsen, TCAT
- Tom Crawford, TCAT

Transportation & Land Use – December 4, 2019

- Karen Messmer, citizen
- David Ginther, City of Tumwater
- Jessica Gould, Intercity Transit
- Chris Hawkins, Thurston County
- Joe Hiss, citizen
- Gary Idleburg, WA Depart of Commerce
- Tom Crawford, TCAT
- Juan Valdez, citizen
- Michael Ambrogi, TRPC
- Allison Osterberg, TRPC
- Les Tobias, TRPC

- Phyllis Farrell, TCAT
- Lisa Ceazan, citizen
- Les Tobias, TRPC
- Allison Osterberg, TRPC

- Eli Cole, City of Olympia
- Joel Baxter, WA legislature
- Larry Merrell, City of Olympia
- Leonard Bauer, City of Olympia
- Aaron Sauerhoff, Olympia Planning Commission
- Jon Bay, citizen
- Joe Hiss, citizen
- Allison Osterberg, TRPC
- Les Tobias, TRPC