

Snohomish County Ad Hoc Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC)

Meeting Notes

**Thursday June 17, 2021
5pm-7pm**

Agenda

1. Roll-call (5 min)

Members in attendance:

- Tom Campbell
- Lisa Dulude
- Stan Gent
- Jeanine SanClemente
- Linda Lyshall
- Margaret Seaney
- Patrick Sisneros
- Suzy Oversvee
- Ian McCluskey

Guest speakers/ community in attendance:

- Leah Missik, Climate Solutions, Washington Policy Manager (transportation)
- Councilmember Megan Dunn
- Tom Teigen
- Janet Wright

2. Legislative Update from Climate Solutions (60 minutes for presentation followed by Q&A)

Presentation by Leah Missik on Washington state policies:

- 2021 was a huge leap forward
- Fewer bills, but with tremendous impact
- Culmination of years of hard-won efforts
- Critically supported by strong coalitions
 - Transportation - Clean Fuel Standard
 - Buildings - building electrification and remove historic preferences for fossil “natural” gas (fastest greenhouse gas sector)
 - Cross Sector - Climate Commitment Act
 - Environmental Justice - HEAL Act

Clean Fuel Standard - fourth session in a row in attempts to pass this policy.

First efforts began nearly a decade ago.

- Requires a 20% reduction in the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 2038.
- Creates a positive investment cycle for clean fuels

What do we get? (Clean Fuel Standard)

- Climate progress: 4+ million tons of greenhouse gas emissions eliminated from our top polluting sector
- Health benefits: cuts criteria pollutants that especially impact those who live by transportation corridors, with racial inequities in who suffer most.
- Strong local economy: green jobs, keep clean fuels at home, lower-cost transportation choices.
 - Will be expanding to other transportation options (i.e. price of electricity for EVs).

What does this mean for local communities?

- Local utilities will be significant credit generators, which will lead to investment options.
- 50% directed by the utility to transportation electrification projects; 60% of that to areas especially burdened by air pollution (environmental justice).
- The other 50% will go to projects from a menu developed by the state; likely to ferry electrification, EV incentives, and other types of projects.
- Fleet operators, especially transit agencies will generate credits for their own deployed EVs and public charger operators will also generate credits.
- Expanded access to public vehicle charging and reduced cost electric vehicles.

Leah - Both the CFS and climate commitment act went through the transportation committee. As a result, both had clauses in them that the laws would not be implemented or enforced until we get a transportation package.

Climate Commitment Act: The nation's second cap and invest system and the most ambitious by far

- First time such a policy was introduced in Washington was in 2009, two carbon price initiatives and multiples legislative proposals since
- Imposes a firm declining cap on GHG emissions. All levels below 1990: 45% by 2030, 70% by 2040, 95% by 2050.
- Provides for limited offsets under the cap, enacts a price ceiling and price floor mechanism
- Climate Commitment act is enforceable and aligns with International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) objectives.
- New air quality policies

What do we get?

- By 2037, over \$5 billion will go to eliminating our reliance on oil - a historic investment in mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and transportation electrification.
- Over \$2.8 billion will go to communities burdened by pollution and climate change including \$346 million for community groups
- “Overburdened community” defined as: “A geographic area where vulnerable populations face combines, multiple environmental harms and health impacts or risks due to exposure to environmental pollutants or contaminants through multiple pathways, which may result in significant
- More than \$800 million will go to projects sponsored by tribal nations, and an additional \$250 million will be allocated to relocating tribes threatened by sea level rise.
- Billions more will go to other carbon reduction projects, like building electrification, and climate resilience investments, like forest management, etc.

What does this mean for local communities?

Air Quality

- Monitoring network in 2023 in overburdened communities
- New emission standards to address disparities

Utilities

- Electricity costs should net to zero
- Natural gas utilities start with all free allowances that decline by 6.5% / yr through 2030.
- An increasing share must be sold with proceed returned to existing customers.

Substantial New Investments

- $\frac{2}{3}$ will go to transportation, primarily electrification and multimodal investments.

Other investments to building decarbonization, industrial emissions improvements, natural resource resilience and more

Building Electrification - Our buildings sector has the fastest emissions growth and the State Energy Strategy indicates electrification is the key strategy.

- **The legislature adopted a number of incremental steps:**
 - \$10 million in Clean Energy Fund grants for building electrification
 - Research resources to Commerce to continue building electrification analysis, including public utility beneficial electrification study
 - Orders the UTC to initiate the Future of Gas docket to evaluate building decarbonization/electrification pathways
 - Removed a historic preference for gas in state statute.

Heal Act - Environmental justice is now the law

“Environmental justice” means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies, Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental health impacts in laws bills and policies by prioritizing vulnerable populations and distributing benefits to eliminate harm.

- Required use of EJ Analyses for significant agency actions (rule making,, policy development, capital projects) focused on maximizing benefits and minimizing harms to overburdened communities.
- Permanent EJ Council & Interagency Workgroup
- Agencies directed to embed EJ in strategic plans and develop community engagement plans.
- Equitable distribution (40% goal) of state environmental investments.
- Heal Act is for state agencies.

3. Update from PDS on the Countywide Planning Policies (5 min)

Janet Wright - Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs)

- Draft CPPs working with SOAP committee
 - Passed recommendation on Draft CPPs
 - One CPP still under discussion, in June meeting voted to update their recommendation and add a new policy proposed by subgroup to facilitate annexation (county voted no)
 - Recommendation headed to steering committee.
- New policy proposed by subgroup (county voted no)
- June meeting for discussion and July voting on draft CPPs to get passed to county council
- Council briefing in August
 - Hearing in September with hopes to get them passed by the end of the year so cities, towns, and counties can update their comprehensive plans to align with Vision 2050.

4. Updates from committee members & working groups (20 min)

- a. Member and working group updates

Working Group #1 update

Ian McCluskey - Broke down carbon pricing into a few different goals - support for clean energy transition study, a green fleet policy, new policy for all fossil fuel equipment (natural gas equipment) to electric at the end of equipment’s life. Propose a telework plan.

Suzy Oversvee - Checking in with PUD about full electrification (incorporation based on available technology)

- b. Vacant CAAC seat – [please help spread the word to those who you think would be interested in applying](#)
- c. [Upcoming Healthy Forest Project events:](#)
 - i. **June 16, 6-8pm:** Forest Steward Training (online)
 - ii. **June 26, 10-Noon:** Volunteer event at Lake Stickney (invasive species removal)
 - iii. **July 10, 9-11am:** Volunteer event at Picnic Point Park (invasive species removal)

5. SOAP Update Framework (30 min)

- a. Lisa introduces the SOAP Update framework with draft Goals, Strategies, and Actions (presentation attached)
- b. Homework and next steps for CAAC members

Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) Update Engagement: Draft Goals, Strategies, and Action Items

- Lisa - We are currently in the Spring 2021, Summer 2021 areas of the SOAP Update Timeline
 - Spring 2021 - Data cohesion and analysis
 - Summer 2021 - Plan development and issue initial draft
- Term Definitions
 - Goal Area: Seven overarching priority areas for the 2020 SOAP Update
 - Goal*: High-level statement of intended outcomes
 - Strategy: Approach to achieve a goal
 - Action: Tool to achieve an associated strategy
 - Target*: Measurable variable to track progress and measure success
 - * In some cases, a Goal may also be a Target

SOAP vs. Community Climate Action Plan

SOAP addresses environmental sustainability for county government operations. What do we mean by county 'government operations'? In general, this.



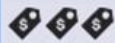





Process for Setting Goals & Actions

- Understand Baseline Emissions
- Strengthen Level of Commitment
- Seek Multi-Stakeholder Buy-In
- Establish Accountability Measures

- Set Goals and Reporting FREQUENCY
- SMART goals
 - Specific
 - Measureable
 - Assignable
 - Relevant
 - Time-based

Assessment of Draft Goals & Action Items

1. Review draft Goals
 - a. Input on additions/deletions
2. Review draft actions under each Goal
 - a. Please see page 15, Top Ten Actions to Reduce Government Operation Emissions, in the KC Guide to Climate Action Planning.
 - b. Input on additions/deletions
3. Use the key below to assess action items using the four categories.

Investment		= \$0 to \$100,000
		= \$100,000 to \$1,000,000
		= \$1,000,000+
Impact		= lower
		= average
		= higher
Equity		= equity benefit
Cost Savings		= cost savings benefit

GOAL (Greenhouse Gas Emissions): By 2050, achieve net carbon neutrality for county operations.

GHG 1 Strategy - Consistently reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet County operations reduction targets.

- GHG 1.1 Action - Benchmark, report, and monitor county GHG emissions biennially.
- GHG 1.2 Action - Develop a life cycle cost policy, including carbon pricing, for county government purchasing and decision-making.
- GHG 1.3 Action - When direct GHG reduction is not an option, purchase carbon off-sets (ideally with local additionally).

GOAL (Transportation and Mobility): By 2045, 100% of county fleet & transportation equipment will run on clean energy.

TM1 Strategy: Increase the amount of clean fuels consumed by county fleet vehicles and transportation equipment.

- TM1.1 Action - Develop a Green Fleet Policy, per Clean Energy Joint Resolution 19-006, to transition to clean vehicles, fuels and minimize environmental impacts in maintenance.
- TM1.2 Action - Develop a clean energy capital transition plan for ocounty vehicles, equipment, fueling infrastructure, and facilities.
- TM1.3 Action - Develop a standard life cycle cost analysis tool to evaluate the financial, environmental, and social impact of transportation equipment purchases. Train staff on how to use the LCCA tool.

TM2 Strategy: Minimize fuel consumption from employee work & commute trips

- TM2.1 Action - Continue to promote the employee SmartRide Program
- TM2.2 Action - Adopt a new 'telework' policy for county employees, where feasible to reduce emissions from commute trips.

TM3 Strategy: Minimize unnecessary community vehicle trips to county facilities.

- TM3.1 Action - Expand county digital business and customer service capabilities to reduce customer trips to county facilities.

6. Wrap-Up (5 min)

- Committee members would like to change back to a monthly meeting to review the new draft SOAP elements