

# **Snohomish County Ad Hoc Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC)**

## **MEETING NOTES**

**Thursday October 14, 2021  
5pm-7pm**

### **Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89865051667?pwd=L0hWUEtkMU9ETFRWUHNSMVJDaVFkUT09>

Meeting ID: 898 6505 1667

Passcode: 434132

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### **Agenda**

- 1. Roll-call (5 min)**
- 2. General Updates from Committee Members – (10 min)**
- 3. Overview of Executive’s Proposed Budget – (30 min)**
- 4. Clean Energy Transition – Next Steps (30 min)**
  - a. Ian/Carbon Working Group
- 5. SOAP – Overview of changes and Dept Input (40 min)**
- 6. Wrap-Up (5 min)**

### **Members in Attendance:**

Tom Campbell  
Lisa Dulude  
Stan Gent  
Linda Lyshall  
Carol McMahon  
Suzy Oversvee  
Jake Salvador  
Patrick Sisneros  
Jonathan Witte

### **Community members in attendance:**

Robert Knoll  
Eileen Canola

## **General Updates from Committee Members**

Tom - What investment opportunities exist for us as a committee? Generating money? Pipeline investments?

Linda - There is a lot of movement in the carbon credit market and the Pierce County Conservation District recently launched their credit (which deals with trees and forests), we are trying to do some form of credit market for agriculture. Just applied for a grant and will know at the end of the month if we get it. If we do receive it, part of the grant is developing the process of creating the credit. I would be interested in incorporating that somehow into our strategy

Suzy - Clean fuel standard is what the PUD is looking at. I'm not sure how the county is looking at carbon credits markets, but it could be a good way to secure financing.

Lisa - Grant opportunity announcement related to climate resilience projects through FEMA and the hazard mitigation program. It looks at a lot of different opportunities regarding resilience and equity (sea level rise and coastal hazards, extreme heat resilience - structural retrofits, flood mitigation, wildfires, and more). Application is due early November.

- Letter that the committee developed and sent to executive had some budget requests that did not get funded. One project was a comprehensive study on climate change vulnerability and risk across the county. That is one thing that could be funded through this grant opportunity.

Lisa - Flier for Snohomish County Healthy Forest celebration with Forterra Saturday 10/23 at Lord Hill Park.

## **Overview of Executive's Proposed Budget by Lisa Dulude**

Proposed funding for projects in Office of Sustainability and Energy:

\$30,000 for GHG emissions inventory for Snohomish county scope 1,2, and 3 emissions:  
Approved

\$250,000 for Professional Services contract for community wide climate action/envtl  
stewardship plan

\$80,000 for matching funds for emergent grant opportunities

\$400,000 for a clean energy transition fund (priority of CAAC) to give departments the funding  
(Not approved)

\$150,000 to develop the clean energy transition plan.

\$100,000 for C-PACER program/County is developing a C-PACER ordinance

Legislation passed a bill that says counties can opt in to develop their own ordinance for participation in commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency financing program. A way for commercial property owners to finance clean energy projects. Financing stays with the building rather than the owner. Tends to allow for bigger projects. Less risky investment.

Executive's budget address - \$36 million towards environmental stewardship  
-\$16m to county's conservation futures program.

\$4m to Land Conservation Initiative and large portion would go to Transfer of Development Rights program.

-Land Conservation Initiative concept - Our county needs a holistic assessment and strategy to find out where we want to invest our dollars while thinking of the conservation of land.

\$7m for surface water management for new culverts for fish passage and water restoration.

\$4.5 Food and Farm center proposed in McCollum Park

\$4.5 for Meadowdale park restoration for beach habitat, pedestrian access.

Linda - Where will the Land Conservation Initiative sit at the county?

Lisa - It will sit with me as well. We are asking for a project position for that. Still waiting to see if it will be approved. Instead of going out for professional services for somebody to start the Land Conservation Initiative.

Tom - As I remember the start of that was an assessment/study of properties that were important for conservation?

Lisa - Yes. The first step is to convene the Land Conservation Initiative working group. The working grouping would be with stakeholders across the county, to address the question what are we trying to conserve and why. Does the land we are trying to conserve meet a list of criteria that address multiple co-benefits for the community. Rather than just saving a place that just supports one area of focus (i.e. agriculture), maybe there is another location that adds more co-benefits.

Lisa - It would also be an assessment of the different mechanisms to conserve and accelerate preservation of that land. It could be expanding the Transfer of Development Rights program. It might look at different revenue mechanisms, like King County's forest carbon program.

In the \$4m for land conservation initiative is: Strategy, 2 Project Positions, \$250,000 to continue the Healthy Forest Project with Forterra.

### **Clean Energy Transition - Carbon Working Group presentation by Stan Gent:**

New priorities:

- 1.) Develop telework policy within SOAP
- 2.) Fuel consuming equipment policy
- 3.) \$150,000 for professional services to develop a clean energy transition plan, including infrastructure needs, cost, and timeline for county facilities and
- 4.) County capital projects on carbon pricing

What is the fuel consuming equipment policy proposal?

- A new county ordinance that requires all fossil fuel consuming equipment affixed in county facilities to be replaced with an electric alternative at the end of the equipment's useful life.
- Work to get policy in place alongside the SOAP in 2023. Would assist the county in achieving their goals that they specify.

How will this policy work?

- The most likely way to achieve this policy would be to hire a consultant to:
  - Identify electric alternatives for all fuel consuming equipment
  - Estimate the total cost to transition each piece of equipment from fossil fuel to electric, including the building infrastructure
  - Identify financial mechanisms to help fund the soft costs
  - Finance through clean energy transition fund, green bond grants

How will this impact county operations?

- Departments and offices will need to plan for equipments replacement. This includes contingency plans for equipment if it fails, deal with financing if they are more expensive, could increase cost of operating.

### **Questions**

Tom - Have there been studies on the financial benefits to the life cycle analysis? Maybe upfront costs are higher but the long term benefits are worth it?

Stan - The policy concept is a way to get around life cycle decisions. Until there is a real cost of carbon on the table, we continue to go with the lowest life cycle cost decision possible. That low life cycle cost decision may still be a fossil fuel based energy system.

Suzy - The county council made a commitment to move towards clean energy in all county facilities by 2045. This is very much in support of that. This helps keep the county council and the executive moving forward to meeting that goal that was established a couple of years ago.

Stan - To give an example of what this may look like, The Edmonds Waterfront Center opened this year. Some residents worked with the design team to have gas powered utilities. We worked with them to introduce sustainable alternatives to their utilities, instead of having a fossil fuel connection to their building. Had electric utilities, solar panel roofs, and many other additional sustainable retrofits. I believe this should be a vision that the county holds as well.

Lisa - Relative to the development of the SOAP and the presentation, we will need to look into when we want this policy to start.

Stan - I think we can start with getting this committee on board with moving it forward. Then we can look at the best strategy for implementing the policy.

Stan - Patrick, is the Everett Community College campus a location that would be interested in looking into this for their building?

Patrick - Yes, we would be interested in this policy as well.

Linda - If you are asking the committee to endorse a policy, it would be helpful to send it to all committee members, give them an opportunity to review it, and then put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Stan - I agree that would help.

Tom - Yes I agree as well.

Tom - It seems like the county executive has already adopted the \$150,000 piece of this study, so it seems as if they have commitment. Maybe at the next meeting we can find out some more about the county executive, and if they adopted a policy, are we asking them to implement it sooner? Not saying that is the best move forward.

Stan - Tom I agree.

Lisa - The \$150,000 is to help the county's clean energy commitment by 2045. It would be used for hiring a mechanical engineer to look at county owned buildings and identify the useful life of utilities, as well as identify alternative energy utilities once life cycle has completed. Calculating future costs a main purpose of this funding.

Lisa - Tom I think it would be best to wait for implementation with respect to timing. It just needs some more work before we bring it to attention.

Lisa - Proposal from Linda to put it on the agenda for our next meeting.

Linda - It's more if Stan want to move it forward it is a suggestion for process.

Stan - It may take a little longer to get into a form that is appropriate to look at. As long as we keep it as a topic over the next few meetings, we will get it through the process Linda is suggestion.

### **SOAP - Overview of Changes and Dept Input**

- Mainly used for evaluation, potentially additions/modifications that the committee can consider in a future meeting.

October 13, 2021

Produced by Lisa Dulude

Combined SOAP comments on draft framework

Add a financing section to the report:

- Estimate the total cost of implementation
- Estimate cost for each action item, and roll-up into total implementation cost estimate for the Plan

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- Add an action item requiring conversion of fossil fuel consuming equipment in county owned buildings to move to carbon free, at end of useful life and/or when new or replacement equipment is purchased, starting in 2024
  - Purchase RECs as seed money for the clean energy fund
  - 1.2 – add 'social cost of carbon' and 'ecological services' to life cycle cost analysis
  - 1.3 – move up the timeframe for purchasing carbon off-sets
    - o Rephrase action to say "pursue a carbon offset policy for county operations and develop a working group"
    - o re-word to include forest carbon program
    - o investment level – change to 2 dollar bills
  - 1.4 new action item: evaluate our options for developing a local carbon-offset program in SnoCo
  - Address equity with any purchase of carbon off-sets
- Transportation & Mobility
- Collaborate with PUD on integration of electrification into county gov't transportation and mobility planning (Add new action item or add language to include with existing action item)
  - Advocate for more condensed and flexible work schedules

- Provide employee drop-in stations and utilize space we already have for working and for vehicle parking/pick-up
- Provide drop-in locations for community and businesses to reduce drive time/trips to the campus in Everett (for example – need a county service location in NE part of county)

## **Energy and Water**

1.4: Add a new action item for an internal cost of carbon/fee to fund the clean energy fund (duplicate from GHG section – pick one spot or reference here)

EW 2.3 – propose taxing ourselves for RECs as seed money for the clean energy fund (this is a duplicate from GHG section – pick one spot or reference here)

EW 3

add “facility” before water in the strategy

EW 3.2 – change to “identify and implement” opportunities

EW 3.3. - add action to consider composting toilets

add an action to commit to energy upgrades at Fairgrounds

Rangers have some all electric weed-eaters and line trimmers (this could be a success area to highlight)

## **Consumption, Materials, and Waste**

1.4: add new action item that we intend to quantify and show we are documenting it

Add a new action item to capture GHGs from closed Cathcart landfill

CMW 1 – consider total generation; establish specific reduction targets for county facilities

- Get water bottle refill stations

CMW 2 – add a new action item to get C&D recycling in bid spec documents

- Add an action item for bid, spec, contracting language under this strategy
- Roads and bridges: asphalt in place recycling? Depends on project – add language to road specs
- Green roads: look to for specs: cold in place, haul routes, clear and grub
- Roads recycles road and bridge project materials when they can
- Document added costs and added benefits

CMW 3 – add standards for construction specs for new construction/ require C&D recycling in our Purchasing bids, specs, and contracts

Note: JaNae had this at campus she worked at before (use general conditions and specs)

3.1 – look at purchasing materials and the top materials purchased

CMW 4 – add a new action to ban the sale of single use plastics from internal cafes and canteens, and add water bottle filling stations

add to vending contracts to use only cans and not bottles

-janitorial contracts and cleaning materials – refill and recycle

Green Building

GB 2.1 – change to “low carbon standard”

- need to do easy, streamline specs for these products

GB 3.1 – same comment as 2.1

GB 3 – add to standards specs and make sure its in contractor specs from the beginning

## **Open Space**

goal is long

change ‘local species’ to ‘flora and fauna’

1.2 – see if SCD and/or WSU Extension could write these plans

1.3

- add “invasive ‘plant’ species”
- doesn’t like the term ‘actively manage invasive species’ b/c too much labor to achieve
- tone down the ‘actively manage’ term
- add/broaden strategies: add “implement salmon recovery plans”, and “implement derelict boat plans”
- new strategy: utilize county-owned land to further water quality and salmon recovery efforts
- utilize county-owned land to further water quality and salmon recovery efforts
- conservation futures – add equity and multiple benefit
- include public benefit rating system

2.1 – should we do a tree inventory as a baseline? Look at GIS based tools and other tools

- don’t forget to add a specific on target to plant and re-revegetate of county owned property (e.g. what % can we commit to trees and vegetation, set targets e.g. 80X50
- native and successional species/preference for native species that are adaptable to higher levels of drought
- link to salmon bearing stream and TMDL
- add another action item to plant trees and prioritize plant trees/based on co-benefits
- include an action item to address maintenance for trees/ forested areas, as well as irrigation and care

OS 2 – change to ‘trees and vegetation’

OS 3.2 – add rainwater for non-potable uses.

OS 3.3 –

- adjust terminology so that we are not locked into only native vegetation, but rather native vegetation is the preference (e.g. primarily plant native vegetation)
- OS 3.3. – change to water smart landscaping (xero scape)
- Note: fix two typos

OS 4 – add parking lots and pervious technologies



OS 4 – add protection and enhancements of wetlands for county-owned wetlands (how many acres are in county ownership?) and could wetland acquisition be a county carbon offset strategy?

- OS 4.1 – Parks also found issues/reluctance from a maintenance perspective

OS 6 – add bioswales in county owned ROWs

### **Adaptation and Resiliency**

Add action item to enhance partnership with DEM on climate adaptation and resiliency

Add action item to 'promote the use of existing climate resiliency tool' that PW is using

AR 2.1 – add equity

AR 2.1 – change to “continuity” instead of “continuance”

AR 5 – add equity component – resiliency that is critical to county operations and add as a community shelter or gathering space during emergency in underserved communities

- Motion from committee to support the SOAP Update

AR 5 – new construction yes

Updated SOAP still in progress