

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

**Tuesday September 22, 2020**

**5pm-7pm**

## **Zoom Meeting**

Time: Sep 22, 2020 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2599860611?pwd=bDM5Tk5oQzUrNnIVRmdGanRRQkcydz09>

Meeting ID: 259 986 0611

Passcode: 415145

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,2599860611#,,,,,0#,,415145# US (Tacoma)

## **Agenda**

- 1. Roll-call (5 min)**
- 2. Updates (5 min)**
- 3. Plan Scan Report Out (45 min)**
  - a. Report of findings/key-takeaways from members that reviewed a local government climate action plan
  - b. 'Plan Scan' findings and climate action planning
    - i. Draft timeline for SOAP 2020 and community CAP process (Lisa)
- 4. County Government GHG Reduction Targets – (20 min)**
  - a. Review of reduction target proposals from August meeting & recommended target (Lisa)
  - b. Committee discussion
  - c. Vote on gov't operations reduction target
- 5. County's Comprehensive Plan & Climate Change Update – (Tom, 20 min)**
- 6. Equity and Engaging Frontline Communities – (20 min)**
  - a. Start developing a list of community groups, members, stakeholders to engage, particularly BIPOC and frontline groups (with contacts, if feasible)
- 7. Wrap-Up (5 min)**

## Discussion Guide for Agenda Item #4a

### Review GHG reduction targets from August meeting:

- Proposal A: Carbon Neutrality by 2050
- Proposal B: 80% reduction by 2050
- Proposal C: PSSCA/PSRC Vision 2050 target: 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. *See Notes 1 and 2 below.*

#### *Notes on Target Setting:*

1. In PSRC's VISION 2050, the climate change goal references the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's GHG goals (50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050).
2. Many communities do not have GHG inventory data for 1990. Getting this data and/or modeling may be challenging. Unclear how GHG reduction outcomes match-up as IPCC chart uses a 2010 baseline and PSRC uses a 1990 baseline.

**Recommended GHG reduction goal for government operations:** OES staff is recommending Proposal A – carbon neutrality by 2050 for County government operations. This recommendation was developed by looking at both the global best available science (i.e. IPCC latest reports) to identify an appropriate goal, and the global direction/consensus on target setting via a temperature cap (i.e. Paris Climate Agreement). This proposed recommendation also evaluated the feasibility of carbon neutrality by 2050 based on the preliminary results of the 2018 GHG Inventory for Snohomish County government operations. As such, staff believes that this GHG reduction target is both feasible and meaningful with a focus on direct reduction in local GHGs.

**Approach<sup>1</sup>:** OES staff is researching best practices for an approach to achieve a carbon neutrality goal:

- Scope 1 and 2 GHGs (anticipated SnoCo baseline year 2000)
- Focus on direct emissions reduction, as opposed to an accounting or off-set approach
- Establish interim GHG emissions targets

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<sup>1</sup> Research reference: [KC's Carbon Neutrality Plan for government operations](#)

## County GHG Reduction Target

1. **Paris Climate Agreement**<sup>2</sup> (December 12, 2015)
  - The Paris Agreement central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius
2. **IPCC – 5th Assessment** (Climate Change 2014 - Synthesis Report Summary For Policymakers)
  - More unlikely than likely that a 41-72% reduction by 2050 will result in staying under 1.5 degrees C temperature increase

**Table SPM.1** | Key characteristics of the scenarios collected and assessed for WGIII AR5. For all parameters the 10th to 90th percentile of the scenarios is shown<sup>a</sup>. (Table 3.1)

CO <sub>2</sub> -eq Concentrations in 2100 (ppm CO <sub>2</sub> -eq) <sup>f</sup> Category label (conc. range)	Subcategories	Relative position of the RCPs <sup>d</sup>	Change in CO <sub>2</sub> -eq emissions compared to 2010 (in %) <sup>e</sup>		Likelihood of staying below a specific temperature level over the 21st century (relative to 1850–1900) <sup>a, g</sup>			
			2050	2100	1.5°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
<430	Only a limited number of individual model studies have explored levels below 430 ppm CO <sub>2</sub> -eq <sup>i</sup>							
450 (430 to 480)	Total range <sup>a, h</sup>	RCP2.6	-72 to -41	-118 to -78	More unlikely than likely	Likely	Likely	Likely
500 (480 to 530)	No overshoot of 530 ppm CO <sub>2</sub> -eq		-57 to -42	-107 to -73	Unlikely	More likely than not		
	Overshoot of 530 ppm CO <sub>2</sub> -eq		-55 to -25	-114 to -90		About as likely as not		
550 (530 to 580)	No overshoot of 580 ppm CO <sub>2</sub> -eq		-47 to -19	-81 to -59	Unlikely	More unlikely than likely <sup>i</sup>	Likely	Likely
	Overshoot of 580 ppm CO <sub>2</sub> -eq		-16 to 7	-183 to -86				
(580 to 650)	Total range	RCP4.5	-38 to 24	-134 to -50	Unlikely	Unlikely	More likely than not	Likely
(650 to 720)	Total range		-11 to 17	-54 to -21			More unlikely than likely	
(720 to 1000) <sup>b</sup>	Total range	RCP6.0	18 to 54	-7 to 72	Unlikely <sup>h</sup>	Unlikely <sup>h</sup>	Unlikely	More unlikely than likely
>1000 <sup>b</sup>	Total range	RCP8.5	52 to 95	74 to 178	Unlikely <sup>h</sup>	Unlikely <sup>h</sup>	Unlikely	More unlikely than likely

3. **Local government GHG targets - Findings from Plan Scan Review**
  - a. For reports released since Paris Agreement, there are two common targets: 1) 80% reduction by 2050 (baseline ~2005-2007, 2010), or 2) Carbon Neutral by 2050
  - b. For reports released prior to Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol targets<sup>3</sup> and/or the UN and EU's extension of the Kyoto Protocol (i.e. 20% below 2000 levels by 2020), are more common.
4. **Target Setting Discussion**
  - a. Proposal A: Carbon Neutrality by 2050
  - b. Proposal B: 80% reduction by 2050 (~2010 baseline)
  - c. Proposal C: PSSCA/PSRC Vision 2050 target: 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. *See notes below.*

<sup>2</sup> Paris Agreement Resources:

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>

<sup>3</sup> Kyoto Protocol: [5 per cent emission reduction compared to 1990 levels over the five year period 2008–2012 \(the first commitment period\).](#)

*Notes on Target Setting:*

- i. In PSRC's VISION 2050, the climate change goal references the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's GHG goals (50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050).
  - o Many communities do not have GHG inventory data for 1990. Getting this data and/or modeling may be challenging. Unclear how GHG reduction outcomes match-up as IPCC chart uses a 2010 baseline and PSRC uses a 1990 baseline.