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=bDM5Tk5oQzUrNnlVRmdGanRRQkcydz09
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: PSCCA/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\(^1\): 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

\(^1\) Research reference: KC’s Carbon Neutrality Plan for government operations
County GHG Reduction Target

1. **Paris Climate Agreement**\(^2\) (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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CO(_2)-eq Concentrations in 2100 (ppm CO(_2)-eq)(^1)</th>
<th>Subcategories</th>
<th>Relative position of the RCPs (^4)</th>
<th>Change in CO(_2)-eq emissions compared to 2010 (in %) (^a)</th>
<th>Likelihood of staying below a specific temperature level over the 21st century (relative to 1850-1900) (^{**})</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;430 (430 to 480)</td>
<td>Total range (^{**})</td>
<td>RCP2.6</td>
<td>–72 to –41</td>
<td>More unlikely than likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>450 (480 to 530)</td>
<td>No overshoot of 530 ppm CO(_2)-eq</td>
<td>–57 to –42</td>
<td>More likely than not</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 (530 to 580)</td>
<td>Overshoot of 530 ppm CO(_2)-eq</td>
<td>–5 to –25</td>
<td>Probably more unlikely than likely</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550 (580 to 650)</td>
<td>No overshoot of 650 ppm CO(_2)-eq</td>
<td>–47 to –19</td>
<td>About as likely as not</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 (650 to 720)</td>
<td>Overshoot of 650 ppm CO(_2)-eq</td>
<td>–16 to 7</td>
<td>Likely</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>720 to 1000 (^a)</td>
<td>Total range</td>
<td>RCP6.0</td>
<td>18 to 54</td>
<td>More likely than not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1000 (^a)</td>
<td>Total range</td>
<td>RCP8.5</td>
<td>52 to 95</td>
<td>More likely than not</td>
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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\(^3\) 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: PSCCA/PSRC Vision 2050 target: 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. See notes below.

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\(^2\) Paris Agreement Resources:
- [https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement](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](https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement)

\(^3\) 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.