



Climate Action Steering Committee

Meeting #9 Summary

November 22, 2021, 3:00-5:00 PM

Link to packet and presentations: <https://www.trpc.org/966/Meeting-Materials>

Agenda Item	Notes
<p>1. Call to Order, Introductions, & Public Comments</p>	<p>Chair Parshley called the Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC) meeting to order at 3:01 pm.</p> <p>Steering Committee members, support staff from Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), staff from Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater, provided self-introductions.</p> <p>Chair Parshley requested approval of the agenda.</p> <p>Committee Member Pratt, moved, seconded by Committee Member Swarthout, to approve the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adopt the Climate Action Steering Committee agenda is approved. <p>Committee Member Swarthout, moved, seconded by Committee Member Pratt, to approve the October 25, 2021, meeting summary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adopt the Climate Action Steering Committee’s October 25, 2021, meeting summary is approved. <p>Chair Parshley called for comments from members of the public. There were 4 public comments. Brief summaries follow:</p> <p>Melinda Hughes: TCAT is restarting several action groups. They presented to MSRC to 210 attendees from across the state and at the E3 Conference. On the funding front, TCAT has received \$5,000 from the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound and are in Final technical review with EPA for a Climate Justice Grant, and hosting a funding event in December called 12 days of giving, connecting with other community organizations.</p> <p>Jeff Miller: He is working on waste resource to energy and resiliency projects and is looking to hear more about attracting new businesses to help support this climate mitigation plan. The next step is getting the businesses and entrepreneurs with new technologies to help resolve some of these issues, such as turning food waste resources into energy, wastewater treatment, bio methane. There are all kinds</p>



	<p>of little parts of the [emissions] wedge that can help reduce the bigger wedges, like transportation and energy. Attracting new businesses to help do the plan is an important next step.</p> <p>Thad Curtz: Commenting on the item in the 20-22 work plan about continuing work and hiring a consultant to work on a sequestration program. The sequestration estimates in the climate mitigation plan are basically place holders because the consultant used them to fill in gaps to reach the targets, rather than assessing what was feasible. He suggests the CASC have a serious conversation about what we are able to do with the resources we have before you continue to put more money into planning.</p> <p>Tom Crawford: TCAT supports the regional initiatives for residential energy efficiency and sequestration proposed in the work plan for 2022. These would be significant practical steps toward achieving a greenhouse gas reductions in our county. Also strongly supports the climate action steering committee and individual partners adopting and advocating for a climate action legislative agenda for each legislative session. Questions use of the term sustainable harvesting because it can be interpreted very loosely and allow for a cutting down trees. That wording might dilute the sequestration effectiveness of lands acquired for planting trees and other vegetation. Would like to see the CASC discuss the climate lens tools developed by the city of Olympia and would like to see other CASC jurisdictions consider adopting these tools for their own use</p> <p>Brian Burrow: Really Clean Energy is based in Spokane Washington and the company specializes in bringing net zero mission solutions to communities. He sees a lot of communities in in the same spot Thurston county is in with the mandates coming from the state and figuring out how we’re going to go about them and meet them on time and not drive up prices and not sacrifice resiliency. He is here to observe.</p>
<p>2a. Long Term Governance Agreement, 2022 Work Program – All Members</p>	<p>Members discussed the draft work program for 2022, which will be brought up for a decision along with the ILA and TRPC scope of work at the January meeting (December’s meeting is canceled). The draft work program includes both standing tasks that will recur every year (Oversight & Coordination Committees, Regional Priorities Process, Monitoring & Assessment, Public Outreach) and Regional Priorities – or specific work program items for tackling climate mitigation action. Members discussed the different proposed items and their different views on how much to invest in a regional program, above and beyond the standing coordination pieces. There was general support for maintaining a focus on energy efficiency and carbon</p>



	<p>sequestration, but not a consensus desire to set aside additional funding for those topics at this time. Staff may work to identify additional funding in these areas, or work within existing funds, such as those allocated by Thurston County for an energy efficiency program. The group supported keeping the Building Electrification cost estimate on the work program, though it will be funded through a separate ILA with the City of Olympia, and research into financing options for climate actions, including a shared fund. These items will be included in the updated Work Program that will be brought to the Committee in January for approval. Members want to be able to show success in order to sustain support from the public, so will want to focus on more communication tools in 2022.</p>
<p>3a. Legislative Agenda – All Members</p>	<p>Members discussed their priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Members like the idea of having their own list of legislative priorities, preferably limited to one page. Members discussed Pete Kmet’s proposal, which included funding asks for specific items. Shared priorities discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Building electrification- Funding for pilot studies and programs- Transportation, including support for electric vehicles (including infrastructure)- Funding for low-income energy retrofit programs-
<p>3b. Jurisdictional Information Sharing – All Members</p>	<p>Olympia (Pamela Braff) – Olympia is developing an interlocal agreement for the Building Electrification Cost Estimate. Olympia staff have completed their review of options for a proposed point of listing program and have shared with the multijurisdictional staff team for review.</p> <p>Lacey (Cynthia Pratt) – Lacey has been working on electric vehicle standards. Cynthia attended a workshop on electrifying everything, and will share slides. Another one on waste management also on slide.</p> <p>Tumwater (Eileen Swarthout) – Tumwater has installed sidewalks near Peter G Schmidt Elementary school.</p> <p>Thurston County (Tye Menser) – County approved its legislative priorities and included Climate change priorities.</p> <p>The committee acknowledged several people who contributed to climate work in 2021, including Jen Bass, an intern with TRPC who worked on the white paper. Two CASC members are moving on from their positions: Cynthia Pratt and Pete Kmet. Members gave thanks for all their hard work and contributions.</p>



	NO DECEMBER MEETING
4. Adjourn	Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.



Meeting Attendance

Steering Committee Present Online:

Lisa Parshley – City of Olympia, and Chair
Yen Huynh – City of Olympia alternate
Pamela Braff – City of Olympia staff
Cynthia Pratt – City of Lacey representative
Carolyn Cox – City of Lacey alternate
Ryan Andrews – City of Lacey staff

Eileen Swarthout – City of Tumwater representative
Pete Kmet – City of Tumwater alternate
Brad Medrud – City of Tumwater staff
Tye Menser, Thurston County representative
Jennica Machado, Thurston County staff

Public Present Online:

Thad Curtz
Tom Crawford
Jenn Bass
Jeffrey Miller
Melinda Hughes
Karen Messmer
Pamela Haight
Scott Morgan

Brian Burrow
Matt Perry
Ursula Euler
Aloha Kakou
Joe Hiss
Wendy Couture
Wayne Olsen

Staff Present:

Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner
Dorinda Merrill, Office Assistant III
Karen Parkhurst, Planning and Policy Director
Michael Ambrogi, Senior Planner

Next Meeting: January 24, 2022

Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Coordinator:

Allison Osterberg

osterbergA@trpc.org

360.956.7575 (main) or (360) 741-2513 (direct)

Link to project website: <https://www.trpc.org/Climate>

TRPC website: <https://www.trpc.org/>

*Meeting summary is prepared by Dorinda Merrill, Office Specialist III, Thurston Regional Planning Council
This summary is not verbatim. A recording of this meeting is available at <https://www.trpc.org/966/Meeting-Materials>.*