

MEMORANDUM

TO: Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC)
FROM: Casey Mauck, Assistant Planner, TRPC
DATE: August 22, 2022
SUBJECT: Climate Advisory Workgroup Employee Eligibility

Requested Action

Provide clarification on the eligibility of ILA partner employees to serve on the Climate Advisory Workgroup. If allowed, consider approving the application of one additional CAW member.

Background

The Climate Advisory Workgroup will serve as the community stakeholder group supporting the Steering Committee in the implementation of local climate action. They will review the Annual Work Program, Annual Report, and other proposals under consideration by CASC.

In June, the Steering Committee appointed the following members. Members were appointed to one-year terms, with direction to staff to gather demographic information, incorporate equity and demographic questions into the application, and continue recruitment for the three vacant slots.

Permanent Members		
Slot	Affiliation	Name
1	Puget Sound Energy	Kelsey Hulse
2	Thurston Conservation District	Stephanie Bishop
3	Intercity Transit	Jessica Gould
4	Squaxin Island Tribe	Candace Penn
Slots Filled by Applicants		
Slot	Expertise	Name
5	Climate Mitigation, Environment, Growth Management Act, or Community Design	Justin Schmal
6	Climate Mitigation, Environment, Growth Management Act, or Community Design	Tom Crawford
7	Residential or Commercial Builder, Developer, or Realtor	Kim Piper
8	Nonprofit Housing Provider	Carly Colgan
9	Youth	Leila Chavez
10	Youth	Simone Ervin
10b	Youth (Alternate)	Hazel Stephens
11	Government Agencies	Mike Burnham
12	Education	Rachel Hastings
Vacant Slots		
Slot	Expertise	
13	Frontline Community Member	
14	Frontline Community Member	
15	Workforce Development, Agriculture, or Rural Residence	

Next Steps

Demographic Information

Staff requested demographic information from the 25 candidates who applied for membership in the group in June. The information was optional to submit, and 7 candidates returned completed forms. With such a low sample size, staff believe it is in the best interest of people's privacy to not share the aggregated group report.

Recruitment

Staff are moving forward with recruitment with an updated application which includes demographic information. As candidates apply for the remaining slots, applications will be brought to CASC meetings. The open slots will remain open until filled.

Terms

The Steering Committee approved the current roster with one-year terms for the non-permanent members. Staff will move forward with filling the three vacant slots, subject to appointment by the Steering Committee, and members will serve one-year terms. At the conclusion of the first term of all members, staff will request re-appointment of members who desire to serve an additional three-year term. The members who were appointed in June 2022 will be brought back for re-appointment at the June 2023 CASC meeting. Going forward, members will be appointed to three-year terms in accordance with the Climate Advisory Workgroup's norms approved by CASC.

Action Items

Employee Eligibility

One question that was not resolved in the June meeting was whether current employees of ILA members should be allowed to serve. Currently, only the City of Olympia does not allow employees to serve on the City's own advisory boards while all other jurisdictions allow it on a case-by-case basis. Olympia's legal counsel has confirmed that this policy would not apply to this Advisory Workgroup.

This decision will affect one current applicant, Linsey Fields, who would fill the slot left vacant for workforce development, agriculture, or rural residence. If the Steering Committee allows current employees to serve, the multijurisdictional staff team recommends that Linsey is appointed for the vacant slot.

Decision Options

Should current employees of ILA partners be eligible to serve in the workgroup?

- **Option A:** Allow current employees of ILA partners to serve and appoint Linsey Fields to the workgroup. **(Recommended)**
 - Opens the door for employees of ILA members to serve on a case-by-case basis, pending Steering Committee appointment
 - Allows the Steering Committee to not appoint employees that would have a conflict of interest
- **Option B:** Do not allow current employees of ILA partners to serve.
 - Prohibits some community members who may be interested in the project from serving in the group
 - Avoids the appearance of favoritism in the selection process
- **Option C:** Allow current employees of ILA partners to serve without appointing Linsey Fields to the workgroup.
 - Opens the door for employees to serve on a case-by-case basis, pending Steering Committee appointment
 - Allows the Steering Committee to not appoint employees that would have a conflict of interest

Attachments

- Linsey Field's CAW Application
- Updated CAW Application

Thurston Climate Advisory Workgroup Application

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Thurston Climate Advisory Workgroup.

The Climate Advisory Workgroup will act as a community stakeholder committee to support the implementation of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan. This plan was a joint effort of Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater to create greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals by 2030 and 2050. For more information, please visit: trpc.org/climate

Duties: Discuss the annual work program, annual report, and other proposals that the Climate Action Steering Committee are reviewing

Meetings: Up to six, two-hour meetings annually which will be held virtually or in-person in Olympia at TRPC. Meeting times and dates will be chosen after recruitment ends.

Terms: Three (3) years with the option to reapply (youth can serve shorter terms)

Compensation: Option to request \$50/meeting unless you are being paid by your employer to attend meetings

Please fill out the application below to the best of your ability and contact climate@trpc.org or (360) 956-7575 for translations, paper copies, or questions.

Name, Phone Number, and Email *

Linsey Fields, [REDACTED]

Why are you interested in serving on the Thurston Climate Advisory Workgroup? *

As a small farmer, Water Resource Specialist for Lacey, and rural citizen. I know the biggest and hardest hurdles for the climate emergency are effecting us right now. We are at the point of no return, and the most marginalized communities are on the front lines. We are already seeing the effects of climate change in vulnerable communities. Unless we act now, we will not be prepared for this crisis. I am passionate about protecting our earth and our communities and want to me apart of that process and planning. I am also a small farmer and want to ensure that our community has adequate access to food and clean water as we head into this next phase of the global climate crisis.

Do you have a background or expertise in any of the following areas? Expertise is not limited *
to formal work experience or education and can include life experience or interest. (Check all
that apply)

- Climate mitigation, environment, growth management, or community design advocates
- Environmental justice advocates or community members disproportionately affected by climate change, including people of color and people of low-income
- Local government agencies and utilities
- Residential or commercial developers, builders, realtors, property owners, or managers
- Nonprofit housing providers
- School district representatives
- Tribal member
- Youth (are you under the age of 18?)
- Other

Please describe your experience with the categories you selected. *

I am a Water Resource Specialist with the City of Lacey. I work in our water and stormwater utilities; as a communication and education liaison. In this role I work on the Regional Environmental Education Partnership which manages Thurston County Stream Team. In my capacity at Lacey we work with environmental justice principles, other jurisdictions, utilities, and community development. I also have my Masters in Public Administration, where a large part of my work focused on environmental justice, the climate crisis, growth management, and water rights.

Do you have any previous experience serving on a board, committee, or commission? If so, *
please describe your experience.

I have worked with different environmental committees including Water Conservation Coordination Committee, Shellfish Protection Districts, WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Committee, and Regional Environmental Education Partnership.

When are you generally available for meetings? (Check all that apply)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning (7am -12pm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon (12pm - 4pm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evening (4pm - 7pm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you believe you will be able to serve a full three-year term of 4-6 annual meetings? *Youth * representatives are allowed to serve one or two-year terms.

Yes, I do not see any issues committing to the full three year term. And am excited about the opportunity.

How did you hear about this workgroup? *

Through an email blast from Casey at Thurston Regional Planning Council

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trpc.org/climate

The workgroup currently has 2 slots open for frontline community members. Frontline communities are those that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change including communities of color, people of low-income, and people with disabilities. If you would like to be on the workgroup but are not part of a frontline community, please email climate@trpc.org to be notified when other slots open in the future.

Duties: Discuss and provide recommendations on the annual work program, annual report, and other proposals that the Climate Action Steering Committee are reviewing

Meetings: Up to six, two-hour meetings annually which will be held virtually or in-person in Olympia at TRPC. Meeting times and dates will be chosen after recruitment ends. Meetings may occur on Monday evenings.

Terms: Three (3) years with the option to reapply (youth can serve shorter terms)

Compensation: Option to receive \$50/meeting unless you are being paid by your employer to attend meetings

Please fill out the application below to the best of your ability and contact climate@trpc.org or (360) 956-7575 for translations, paper copies, or questions. The positions will remain open until filled.

* Required

1. Name *

2. Phone Number *

3. Email *

4. Why are you interested in serving on the Thurston Climate Advisory Workgroup? *

5. What is your connection to the Thurston region (live, work, recreate, etc)? *

6. Do you have a background or expertise in any of the following areas? Expertise is * not limited to formal work experience or education and can include life experience. (Check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- Affordable housing
- Climate mitigation
- Climate or environmental justice
- Government agencies and utilities
- Growth management or community design
- K-12 or higher education
- Residential or commercial development, construction, real estate, or property management
- Tribal member
- Youth (are you under the age of 18?)
- Other
- None

7. Please describe your experience with the categories you selected. *

8. What is your experience living, working, and interacting with frontline * communities? Frontline communities are those that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, and include communities of color, people of low-income, and people with disabilities.

9. Do you have any previous experience serving on a board, committee, or commission? If so, please describe your experience. *

10. Do you believe you will be able to serve a full three-year term of 4-6 annual meetings? *Youth representatives are allowed to serve one or two-year terms. *

11. How did you hear about this workgroup? *

12. When are you generally available for meetings? (Check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning (7am -12pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon (12pm - 4pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evening (4pm - 7pm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Demographic Questions

The following information is optional to submit, but will help us know if we have reached a diverse applicant pool that represents all members of the community. We will not report out individual responses but instead will provide a general summary of all responses (for example, how the demographics of applicants compares with the population of Thurston County). Information about your race, ethnicity, age, income, and/or gender that is provided voluntarily through this form may be used to monitor Thurston Regional Planning Council's Title VI program.

Please note that forms are subject to public disclosure under the Public Records Act 42.56 RCW. **If a public records request is made requesting these forms, TRPC is required to provide the entire forms.** Please reach out to climate@trpc.org or call (360) 741-2517 if you would like more information on how this information will be used.

13. Where do you live? *

Mark only one oval.

- Bucoda
- Chehalis Reservation
- Lacey
- Nisqually Reservation
- Olympia
- Rainier
- Tenino
- Tumwater
- Yelm
- Unincorporated Thurston County
- I don't live in Thurston County
- Prefer not to answer

14. What is your current housing situation? *

Mark only one oval.

- Experiencing Houselessness
- Own
- Rent
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

15. What is your gender? *

Mark only one oval.

- Female
- Male
- Non-Binary
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

16. What is your race/ethnicity? Check all that apply. *

Check all that apply.

- American Indian / Alaskan Native / Indigenous
- Asian / Southeast Asian
- Black / African American
- Hispanic / Latinx
- Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern / North African
- White
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

17. What is your age? *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-14
- 15-24
- 25-39
- 40-54
- 55-69
- 70-84
- 85 or older
- Prefer not to answer

18. Do you have a disability, chronic illness, neurodivergence, or mental illness? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Prefer not to answer

19. What is your annual household income? *

Mark only one oval.

- \$14,999 or less
- \$15,000 - \$24,999
- \$25,000 - \$34,999
- \$35,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 or more
- Unsure
- Prefer not to answer

20. Are you a veteran or active-duty military member? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

21. What is your sexual orientation? *

Mark only one oval.

- Asexual / Aromantic
- Bisexual / Pansexual
- Gay / Lesbian
- Heterosexual / Straight
- Queer
- Unsure / Questioning
- Prefer not to answer

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