

Thurston Climate Action Progress Report: 2022 Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec)

Buildings & Energy

Strategies

- B1. Reduce energy use in residential buildings.
- B2. Reduce energy use in existing commercial/ industrial buildings.
- B3. Reduce energy use across building types.
- B4. Reduce energy use in new buildings or redevelopment.
- B5. Increase the production of local renewable energy.
- B6. Convert to cleaner fuel sources.

Activities

Lacey:

- B1.2 Continued working with PSE to expand energy efficient rebates to community residents.
- B3.1 Connected local residents with resources and access to assist in making energy efficient decisions.
- B5.3 Began work to identify public buildings with capacity to support community solar programs.
- B5.5 Worked to conduct a SolSmart qualifications assessment.
- B5.8 Updated the City website to promote solar resources and information.
- B5.10 Worked with local non-profits to conduct a solar group purchase campaign.

Olympia:

- B1.4 Received first applications for the Rental Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund to rehabilitate rental-housing units for low-income renters. This revolving loan fund provides access to zero-percent, deferred-payment loans to eligible applicants. Eligible projects include energy efficiency improvements such as replacing heating equipment and windows. Staff expect to write the first loan in first quarter of 2023.
- B1.4 Continued work to develop a rental housing registration program in Olympia, which will likely include a basic energy performance audit or inspection.
- B4.4 Inventory of natural gas equipment in city-owned facilities is complete. Next steps are to evaluate the feasibility of retrofitting existing buildings to become all-electric by 2030 (Resolution M-2289).
- B6. Continued working the Habitat for Humanity to develop a heat pump group purchase campaign. Planning for campaign launch to occur in first quarter of 2023.
- B6. CivicSpark Fellow began research on strategies to decarbonize (improve efficiency and electrify), existing buildings in Olympia.

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Activities

Thurston County:

B2.3 LED replacement is ongoing as lamps need to be replaced. Two dorms at Thurston County Corrections Facility, about 85% of the lamps in Building 5 of the Courthouse Campus, and a portion of the employee parking lot lighting at Family and Juvenile Court. were retrofitted to LEDs. The new office for County Admin (leased at the "Atrium" building) has all LEDs. All traffic signals (13) in the County have been updated to LEDs. The County retrofitted all 70 street lights along Martin Way. In other locations, street lights are retrofitted with LEDs on an ongoing basis when lights go out.

B3. Ordinance No. 16184 (July 26, 2022) established the C-PACER Program for all eligible commercial properties within incorporated and unincorporated Thurston County. The County is finalizing its C-PACER administration process and will pilot test the program in January 2023.

B4.4 County facilities are upgraded to energy efficient HVAC systems on a regular basis. Efficient heat pumps were installed in the Emergency Services Center building in 2021.

B4.5 The County has streamlined its Land Use Permitting process through a Project Review Timeline, but has not yet developed incentives or streamlined permitting for green building. In prior years, the County conducted a stakeholder survey about barriers to green building as part of an initial effort to develop green building codes and standards.

B5.3 The County has received direction from Board of County Commissioners to incorporate solar into new buildings and major remodels where feasible; and will develop an RFP for solar energy procurement in Q1 of 2023.

B5.5 Interdepartmental County staff had an introductory call with SolSmart technical advisors in November and will be working on the scorecard in Q1 2023.

Tumwater:

B2.3 City of Tumwater completed the work to remove ballasts and replace ~900 light fixtures with LEDs at the Tumwater Timberland Library.

B5.3 The City of Tumwater completed the installation of solar on two Water infrastructure locations in December.

B5.5 The City met with SolSmart technical advisors and has drafted the Solar Statement required to begin SolSmart accreditation - it is on the agenda for Public Works Committee in early January 2023.

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Transportation & Land Use

Strategies

- T1. Set land use policies that support increased urban density and efficient transportation networks and reduce urban sprawl.
- T2. Increase efficiency of the transportation system.
- T3. Increase adoption of electric vehicles.
- T4. Increase the use of public transit.
- T5. Increase use of active forms of travel and more efficient commute modes.

Activities

Lacey:

T1.1, T1.4 Conducted a neighborhood multimodal commute and consumption preferences survey.

Olympia:

T1.1 Capital Mall Triangle Subarea Plan: The EIS scoping comment period closed in November and the 100+ comments are being used in the scoping for the EIS. Climate concerns were among the top three issues mentioned in the comments. Staff and the consultant team are currently working on developing the three plan alternatives for the EIS. Public engagement on these alternatives will begin in January.

T1.4 Neighborhood Centers Plan: Final report is being completed. Open House is tentatively scheduled for January 19, 2023. Scheduled to provide an update to the Council's Land Use and Environment Committee in February 2023.

T1.1 Parking Standards Update: Survey for residential parking standards closed in November. Staff is working to incorporate proposed code amendments into other parking code revisions. Public Hearing tentatively scheduled for March 2023.

T2.2 Continued design and right-of-way acquisition for Fones Road.

T2.2 Continued to work on upgrading signal controllers to add new Signal Performance Measures software. This software will improve traffic activity monitoring, such as traffic counting, vehicle arrival times, vehicle delay, and emergency vehicle activations in real time. This data will help us understand traffic flow along a corridor so that we can improve program signal timing adjustments for transit.

T2.17 Staff attended the Capitol Campus Advisory Committee meeting, including a presentation on the WSDOT Telework Impact Study.

T2.17 Submitted Commute Trip Reduction reports to Thurston Regional Planning Council outlining City's CTR program. These reports shared the City's new telework policy, introduced in March 2022.

T3.1/T3.5 Held focus group sessions to learn more about community perspectives regarding the feasibility and need for increased EV charging and EV-ready parking in Olympia. Staff is currently reviewing community feedback and will begin drafting an EV-ready parking ordinance in 2023. Staff is working to incorporate proposed code amendments into other parking code revisions.

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Activities

Olympia (cont.):

- T4.1 Began construction of State & East Bay intersection improvement, which includes replacing two pull-out bus stops with in-lane bus stops. This will improve transit's efficiency, making it more appealing.
- T4.15 Climate Actions E-news: Published an article (Ways to Reduce the Impact of your Commute), which encouraged use of fare-free transit and other alternatives to driving alone.
- T5.1 Continued to pursue permits for construction of 1-mile of shared use pathway through Grass Lake Park.
- T5.1 Continued to move the Fones Road project forward.
- T5.1 Continued to move the Boulevard Road Trail Crossing and Bike Corridor Ext. project forward.
- T5.1 Began construction on the State & East Bay project.

T5.1 Continued to move the 4th and Plum project forward.

T5.1 Pending WSDOT Ped/Bike Program grant for Downtown to Southeast Bike Corridor.

T5.1 Pending WSDOT SRTS Program grant for Westside Bike Corridor.

T5.4 Sept/Oct Five Things Utility Insert: included a 'Back to School Safety Tips' article that shared ways the community can support safer conditions for youth walking, biking, or taking the bus to school.

T5.4 Staff attended Healthy Kids Safe Streets meetings. The purpose of this network is to bring together organizations and individuals in Thurston County working together to increase the number of students and youths who can safely walk and roll for transportation. Topics discussed included transportation safety messaging, walk to school month, bike map distribution, school walk route maps, and traffic safety yard signs.

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Activities

Thurston County:

T1.9 Accessory dwelling units are now permitted throughout Thurston County, with the rural County being the final area to have regulations adopted in 2020. The UGAs have ADU regulations specific to each area and will undergo an update to align with each respective City code and ensure compliance with state law. The updates will happen following the adoption of the updated joint plan. The County's Comprehensive Plan references ADUs as one housing type needed to diversify the housing options throughout the County.

T2.2 Public Works hired a new Engineering and Training staff position to advance transportation efficiency. The department is working with TRPC on a rural mobility study to evaluate congestion at intersections, particularly in urban-rural transition areas, and will apply results to help prioritize future capital improvements. GHG emission reduction is a criterion for evaluation of all new

transportation projects. The County has a policy to always consider roundabouts first unless there is a demonstrated need for signalized intersection. Recently completed roundabout projects include Mullen Rd and Carpenter Rd (2021) and Yelm Hwy and Meridian Rd (2022). US 12 Urban Improvements Phase 1 is currently in construction, and several other projects are in the design and planning phases.

T3.10 Two F150 Lightnings and one Chevy Bolt are on order, bringing the County fleet total to five BEVs and two PHEVs. Current focus is on assessing the suitability of the Lightnings and replacing the sedan fleet with BEVs as they come due. The County also plans to purchase a compact SUV in late 2023 to assess for suitability. A plan for fleet EVSE is in development. In addition, the County has reduced its total fleet size by 8% and fuel volume by 10% over the last 6 years.

T5.1 Enhancement of bike/ped infrastructure is one of the criteria used to prioritize all new County transportation projects, and most Public Works projects include bike/ped improvements. Specifically, the Martin Way ADA Improvements project (completed in 2022) improved curb ramps, sidewalks and push buttons at several intersections along Martin Way. The Pacific Avenue Safety Project (currently in construction) includes the installation of three mid-block crossings for bikes and peds. Several additional bike/ped improvement projects are in the planning stage. In addition, the County is responsible for maintaining 37.5 of the total 57 miles of shared-use pathway in Thurston County.

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Activities

Tumwater:

T1.3, T1.4, & T1.11 Ongoing GMA related work

T2.2 The City received grant funding for a project that will convert the X Street intersection at Capitol Blvd from a signalized intersection to a roundabout and for another project that will convert the northbound I-5 on/off ramps at Tumwater Boulevard from a partially stop controlled intersection to a roundabout. The City also applied for a Safe Routes to School grant which would install another roundabout - this is pending.

T3.2 The City began a project to install three Level 2 EV Charge ports at City Hall which will be free and available to the public.

T3.10 City staff have kicked off a project to use the Electrification Coalition's DRVE tool to do a Fleet Electrification Assessment which we plan to complete before the end of 2023. We also passed an internal Anti-Idle Policy for our existing ICE fleet vehicles in coordination with our unions and Green Team.

T3.15 The City updated its Commute Trip Reduction Policy to include financial incentives for employees to purchase or lease new or used electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

T4.15 Also as part of the City's update to our Commute Trip Reduction we explicitly included riding the bus as a method for getting a financial incentive, where we had previously only incentivized vanpooling, carpooling, and working remote.

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Water & Waste

Strategies

- W1. Increase the efficiency of water and wastewater infrastructure.
- W2. Reduce water consumption.
- W3. Reduce emissions from wastewater treatment operations.
- W4. Divert more solid waste from landfills.
- W6. Reduce consumption of carbon-intensive goods and services.

Activities

Olympia:

- W4. Ordinance has been drafted to address City compost procurement requirements of HB1799 and is being reviewed by legal. Most likely accepted in January of 2023.
- W4. The number of residential compost customers declined by 14 for a total of 9474 residential participants. The number of commercial compost customers declined by 3 businesses, for a total of 160 commercial participants. In 2023 we will switch to reporting tonnage collected instead of number of businesses and residents subscribing.
- W4.4 Waste ReSources completed 7 waste assessments city businesses this quarter. 27 waste assessments were completed this year.

Thurston County:

W2.2 The County reviews monthly water usage to prioritize capital improvements, although Covid has made this assessment difficult since buildings have not been fully occupied. The County will test a prototype water-saving shower head at the Correctional Facility (TCCF).

W4.4 The Public Works Department is aiming to fill open positions in Solid Waste Education & Outreach. With the added staff capacity, the department will expand its Waste Audit program (which has stalled as a result of Covid and lack of capacity). The program will target major businesses and work with the Chamber on outreach. The program includes a focus on reducing food waste. The department also provides education and resources on its Business Waste Reduction web page.

W4.10 Public Works maintains the Waste Less Food Program web page and will expand outreach and engagement (schools, community events, social media, etc) in 2023 once positions are filled. The department also sponsors the Thurston County Master Recycler Composter Program, in partnership with WSU Extension, which trains volunteers to promote the Waste Less Food Program, staff compost demonstration sites, and provide other assistance to the community.

Tumwater:

W1.1, W2.2 The City continues to work with our Energy Service Company on moving towards an Investment Grade Audit of our facilities and infrastructure. In Q4 we received benchmarking results for our larger and lowest performing buildings.

W4.10 The City piloted composting at City events at our Falls Fest event on October 1.

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Agriculture, Forests, & Prairies

Strategies

- A1. Reduce emissions from agricultural practices.
- A2. Support agricultural practices that sequester carbon.
- A5. Manage forests and other ecosystems to sequester carbon.
- A6. Reduce emissions from the urban landscape.

Activities

Olympia:

- A5.1 Habitat Stewardship program completed tree plantings during fall 2022 planting season.
- A6.5 Tree Canopy Assessment in progress.
- A6.9 Habitat stewardship work including control of invasive/nuisance vegetation threatening tree health.

Thurston County:

A5.1 Healthy Forest Project (Development Code Docket A-25) is currently underway. The County is updating the Forest Lands Conversion Ordinance and completing a detailed geospatial analysis to better understand the extent and composition of the county's forest resources (grant-funded project in partnership with City of Olympia).

A6.9 After the tree canopy assessment, next steps in the Healthy Forests Project will be to update County tree planting standards and review forest conservation programs (2023); and update urban forest management provisions for the north county cities' urban growth areas as part of the Joint Code Update projects (2023-2024).

A7.3 The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was federally approved in July 2022, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in November. HCP permitting will begin in January 2023.

Tumwater:

A2.1 Tumwater FRESH program has been practicing more regenerative agriculture and teaches low till/no till, tarping, deep compost mulching, and cover cropping. These practices are always discussed in the context of climate change and keeping carbon in the soil.

A6.5 We held a meeting with the Tree Board and internal staff in November to assess progress on the implementation of our Urban Forestry Management Plan and provided a workplan for 2023 and 2024.

A6.9 The City kicked off a community engagement process and Ordinance revision for TMC 16.08 Tree & Vegetation Protection. We've also kicked off (internally) a revision to our Street Tree Plan and Ordinance and Landscape Ordinance.

A7.3 The City and Port staff are currently reviewing the revised complete draft of the HCP to send back to the consultant in December. The intent is to have a complete public draft of the HCP issued in early 2023 with the NEPA/SEPA process to follow.

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Cross-cutting

Strategies

G1. Conduct education and outreach across climate mitigation areas.

G4. Enhance monitoring and evaluation of climate mitigation measures and outcomes.

G5. Advocate for climate-mitigating state and federal policy.

Activities

Tumwater:

G4.1 The City completed its 2021 City Operations Emission Inventory with the help of volunteer Dave Bradley. This information was included in our annual Green Team report and is published on our website.

G4.2 Staff re-worked internal goals and performance measures related to sustainability to include some new metrics and goals to better align with the full suite of Strategic Priorities from City Council.

Regional:

G4.1 TRPC completed the [2021 Thurston Region Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) and presented the information to the Steering Committee and Advisory Workgroup. The inventory includes several new emissions sources.

Climate mitigation activities not tied to a sector, strategy, or action in TCMP

Olympia:

Climate and Equity Framework: Completed staff training and launch of new climate and equity frameworks. Beginning in 2023, all staff reports presented to City Council and Committees will include an analysis of climate mitigation and equity considerations.

Staffing: Began recruitment for two new climate program positions (Climate Program Specialist and Buildings and Energy Program Manager).