

Snapshot: Regional Climate Mitigation Plan

Fall 2018



Thurston County, Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater, Wash. are working with the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) to develop a climate mitigation plan with actions to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. The project includes two phases.

PHASE 1

Phase 1, completed during 2018, assessed the implementation status of local climate policies and actions to reduce communitywide (public-sector and private-sector) emissions. Phase 1 also recommended that the jurisdictions adopt a common emissions baseline and science-based targets to guide Phase 2: Reduce communitywide emissions 45% below 2015 levels by 2030 and 85% below 2015 levels by 2050.

The mitigation plan builds on previous climate work:

- Conducted annual emissions inventories for the participating jurisdictions (Thurston Climate Action Team);
- Developed actions during previous planning work (e.g., Lacey’s CR2 strategy and TRPC’s Sustainable Thurston plan) that could be expanded or enhanced in Phase 2;
- Assessed countywide energy consumption and emissions data in “energy map” and “carbon wedge” analyses in 2017 (TPRC and consultants); and,
- Prepared regional climate vulnerability and risk assessments and community engagement materials for the companion *Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan* that TRPC adopted in early 2018 (www.trpc.org/climate).

PHASE 2

Phase 2 — which will begin in early 2019 and take about 18 months to complete — focuses on mitigation action analysis, implementation, and accountability to ensure that participating jurisdictions hit the shared emissions targets. Key Phase 2 deliverables include:

- A regional **Public Engagement Strategy** to help residents understand climate change impacts, elicit input on potential action ideas, and promote implementation efforts;
- A **list of communitywide actions** to reduce public- and private-sector emissions. A Consultant Team will qualitatively and quantitatively assess such actions and help identify funding sources, leads, partners, and implementation timeframes.
- An **Implementation Strategy** for each participating jurisdiction. Policymakers and staff will inform development of their jurisdiction’s Implementation Strategy, which will include a mix of actions that all four jurisdictions will take, actions that a single or subset of jurisdictions will implement, and actions that need to be implemented by other public and private interests.
- A **Carbon Wedge Analysis**, or other analytical tool, that measures the cumulative impact of the recommended actions to ensure they’re sufficient to hit the shared emissions targets.*
- **Metrics** to gauge accountability and periodically track progress implementing actions.

BENEFITS

- Helps ensure each jurisdiction does its part to keep the global average temperature from rising 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2100
- Coordinates public-sector implementation of actions across the county and supports accountability
- Educates residents about climate risks and responses, and catalyzes private-sector action implementation
- Quantifies the speed and scale of actions necessary to hit the shared 2030 and 2050 emissions targets
- Helps local governments speak with a unified voice when engaging with Puget Sound Energy, Legislature, etc.

For more information, please visit www.trpc.org/climate.

***Note: The mitigation plan focuses on production-based emissions only and does not include consumption-based emissions.**