

Criteria Selection

Draft for August 29 Steering Committee Meeting

August 21, 2019

Background

The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan will include a list of communitywide actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the adopted emissions reduction target. The full list of actions (developed with input from the Climate Advisory Workgroup (CAW), Steering Committee, and the public) will be evaluated by the consultant team to help identify the most promising actions. Their evaluation will involve estimating how actions meet certain criteria – these criteria could include effectiveness, estimated cost, support for co-benefits, and/or feasibility.

- At the July 18 Climate Advisory Workgroup meeting, members reviewed an initial list of criteria, and suggested modifications and additional criteria through August 5th.
- **August 29: The Steering Committee will review the draft list of potential criteria and Workgroup feedback at their August meeting (see table below).**
- Early September: TRPC will send out a survey to Workgroup members to indicate their top preferences for criteria that should be considered in the evaluation.
- October 4: Criteria selection results will be reviewed at the October Advisory Workgroup meeting, alongside the draft list of actions developed over the summer. TRPC will request a recommendation from the Workgroup on preferred criteria to bring to the Steering Committee.
- October 24: The Steering Committee will review the Workgroup's recommendation on criteria at their October meeting and make an initial determination on which criteria to develop for the analysis.
- Late fall/winter: The consultant team will apply the criteria in their analysis of actions, and the Workgroup will review the results. Criteria may be adjusted, based on the group's feedback.
- Criteria choices can be reevaluated in the future as the plan is implemented, reviewed, and updated.



Keep in mind: not everything that is important can be quantified, and not everything that can be quantified is important. The Workgroup and Steering Committee will use the analysis as one tool in developing a Climate Mitigation Plan, but can also consider other factors to make the strongest plan.

candidate criterion	definition	units of measurement	comments
GHG reduction potential	The annual quantity of GHG emissions an action will avoid or sequester as of 2030.	metric tons of CO ₂ -equivalent	
direct cost	Spending required of the implementing entity, in order to achieve the gross GHG reduction potential.	net present value of all spending through Dec. 31 2030	
total cost	Direct cost plus any additional spending required by other entities to respond to the action that reduces GHGs. May include financial benefits as well as costs.	net present value of all spending through Dec. 31 2030	
speed of deployment	Minimum time possible between decision to recommend an action, and achievement of the annual GHG reduction potential.	years	2019-08-02 AS: Time for completion (may be part of speed of deployment) – How long will it take, from start to finish, to complete the full suite of actions needed to achieve the gross GHG potential?
readiness	Ease of implementation. Overlaps with speed of deployment . Inversely proportional to the number of coordinating parties required for implementation.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	Added by CAW 2019-07-18.
track record	Has the proposed action been proven effective in environments comparable to Thurston County? Is the action supported by credible evidence or experts? Is there credible documentation of success for similar actions?	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	Suggested 2019-08-02 by AS

Abbreviations & Definitions

Action: a proposed activity that will be evaluated for its ability to contribute to the vision and goals of the TCMP

CAW – Climate Advisory Workgroup

CO₂ – carbon dioxide

FTE – full-time equivalent (*e.g.* a job that employs someone 40 hours/week)

GHG – greenhouse gas

nominal – represented by a set of values or categories with no particular order or rank (*e.g.* Yes, No)

ordinal – represented by a set of values that express order or rank (*e.g.* low, medium, high)

TCMP – Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan

candidate criterion	definition	units of measurement	comments
educational value	Degree to which the action increases public awareness of greenhouse gas emissions sources, climate change adaptation requirements, or climate change generally.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	Added by CAW 2019-07-18.
social equity	Increases equal distribution of or access to housing, financial incentives, open space, economic opportunity, or other resources, among disadvantaged or marginalized communities.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	
quality of life impacts	Benefits to the health, comfort, and happiness experienced by residents of Thurston County, that are not incorporated in other co-benefits criteria.	<i>nominal criterion</i>	
employment	Increases to jobs available in Thurston County.	FTE jobs	CAW: Do we need another “economic benefits” criterion? 2019-08-02 SM: I don’t believe that jobs should be the lead measure [of economic benefits]. We could arguably add jobs and help with global impacts by shipping windmills through the Port, and still not change our local energy context.
economic benefits	Strengthens local economy, reduces external dependencies, improves community resilience, maximizes benefits without externalizing costs.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	Added by CAW 2019-07-18. Wording suggested 2019-08-02 by SM.
clean air	Reductions in conventional air pollutants.	<i>nominal criterion</i>	

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nontoxicity	Reductions in toxic emissions.	<i>nominal criterion</i>	
ecosystem health	Habitat preservation or creation; water quality benefits; water flow benefits.	<i>nominal criterion</i>	Added by CAW 2019-07-18.
adaptation value	Degree to which the mitigation action provides adaptation values identified in the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	
political feasibility	Champion agency or organization exists. Community is likely to accept or perform the work needed to complete the action. Absence of opposition.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	
control	One or more of the four project partners can likely influence the implementing party(ies), or can create the necessary regulatory structure. Absence of legal barriers.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	
sustainability	Are resources needed and available to sustain the action into the future? Does it seem likely they can and will be made available?	<i>nominal criterion</i>	Suggested 2019-08-02 by AS
funding resource	Appropriate funds, funders or lenders available for the action as described. May be partial (<i>e.g.</i> for only one project stage).	<i>nominal criterion</i>	
measurability	A precise GHG reduction can be computed from a quantifiable activity metric.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	

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