

Criteria Selection

October 24 Steering Committee Meeting

October 17, 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 reviewed the draft list of potential criteria and Workgroup feedback. Steering Committee members noted some criteria they thought were important, identified with an asterisk (*) in the attached table.
- September: TRPC sent out a survey to Workgroup members to indicate their top preferences for criteria that should be considered in the evaluation, indicated with an (X) in the attached table.
- October 4: The Advisory Workgroup discussed criteria and developed a recommendation on preferred criteria to bring to the Steering Committee, indicated with a plus (+) in the attached table.
- **October 24: The Steering Committee will review the Workgroup’s recommendation on criteria and make an initial determination on which criteria to develop for the analysis of actions.**
- 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	Steering Committee preferred	CAW survey	CAW 10/4 Recommendation
GHG reduction potential	The annual quantity of GHG emissions an action will avoid or sequester as of 2030.	metric tons of CO ₂ -equivalent	*	X	+
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			
cost avoidance	Degree to which action reduces future costs, such as damages or lifecycle costs	??	Added by SC 8/29		
speed of deployment	Minimum time possible between decision to recommend an action, and achievement of the annual GHG reduction potential.	years		X	+
readiness	Ease of implementation. Overlaps with speed of deployment . Inversely proportional to the number of coordinating parties required for implementation.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>			+

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	Steering Committee preferred	CAW survey	CAW 10/4 Recommendation
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>	*		
educational value for behavior change	Degree to which the action <u>educates residents in ways that inspire them to adopt behaviors that help achieve emissions reduction targets</u> increases public awareness of greenhouse gas emissions sources, climate change adaptation requirements, or climate change generally.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	*		+ – with edit to criteria definition
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>			+

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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>		X	
employment	Increases to jobs available in Thurston County.	FTE jobs			
economic benefits	Strengthens local economy, reduces external dependencies, improves community resilience, maximizes benefits without externalizing costs.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>		X	
clean air	Reductions in conventional air pollutants.	<i>nominal criterion</i>			
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>		X	
adaptation value	Degree to which the mitigation action provides adaptation values identified in the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>			

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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 builds capacity	Does the action help create or strengthen the infrastructure and resources needed to sustain the action into the future?	<i>nominal criterion</i>			+ – with edit to criteria name and definition
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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