

Criteria for Analysis

Approved by Steering Committee, October 24, 2019

Approved Criteria

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 will be evaluated to help identify the most promising actions by estimating how actions meet certain criteria that represent community values for the plan.

On October 24, 2019, the Steering Committee approved the following criteria to use in the initial analysis of actions:

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
GHG REDUCTION POTENTIAL	The annual quantity of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) an action will avoid or sequester as of 2030.
SPEED OF DEPLOYMENT	Minimum time possible between decision to recommend an action, and achievement of the annual GHG reduction potential.
CONTROL	One or more of the four project partners can likely influence the implementing party(ies), or can create the necessary regulatory structure.
CO-BENEFITS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ECOSYSTEM HEALTH <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL EQUITY <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMIC BENEFIT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER 	Supports one or more of the regional goals (aside from #9 – carbon neutrality)

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. The Steering Committee will consider cost at a later stage of the analysis.

Background

Over the summer and fall of 2019, the Workgroup and Steering Committee reviewed various options for criteria, with the goal of narrowing a list of more than 20 potential criteria to no more than five to fit within the project budget and schedule.

- *July 18:* Climate Advisory Workgroup 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 input, and provided initial feedback to develop a list of 21 potential criteria.
- *September:* TRPC sent out a survey to Workgroup members to indicate their top preferences for criteria that should be considered in the evaluation. The top five results are indicated with an (X) in the attached table.
- *October 4:* The 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 reviewed the Workgroup's recommendation on criteria, as well as feedback from the public survey, and decided which criteria to develop for the initial analysis of actions, indicated with an asterisk (*) in the attached table.
- *Late fall/winter:* The Workgroup will meet as smaller sector-specific Focus Groups to assign initial, qualitative values of criteria to the action list. The consultant team will develop quantitative values for the highest priority actions.
- *January 2020:* Initial analysis results will be presented to the Steering Committee and Workgroup. 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.

candidate criterion	definition	units of measurement	CAW survey	CAW 10/4 Recommendation	Steering Committee 10/24 Decision
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	+	*
speed of deployment	Minimum time possible between decision to recommend an action, and achievement of the annual GHG reduction potential.	years	X	+	*
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>			*
economic benefits	Strengthens local economy, reduces external dependencies, improves community resilience, maximizes benefits without externalizing costs.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>	X		* - as part of co-benefits
ecosystem health	Habitat preservation or creation; water quality benefits; water flow benefits.	<i>nominal criterion</i>	X		* - as part of co-benefits

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	CAW survey	CAW 10/4 Recommendation	Steering Committee 10/24 Decision
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>		+	* - as part of co-benefits
adaptation value	Degree to which the mitigation action provides adaptation values identified in the Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>			* - as part of co-benefits
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>		+	
clean air	Reductions in conventional air pollutants.	<i>nominal criterion</i>			
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			
educational value for behavior change	Degree to which the action educates residents in ways that inspire them to adopt behaviors that help achieve emissions reduction targets.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>		+	

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employment	Increases to jobs available in Thurston County.	FTE jobs			
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>		+	
nontoxicity	Reductions in toxic emissions.	<i>nominal 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>			
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		

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readiness	Ease of implementation. Overlaps with speed of deployment . Inversely proportional to the number of coordinating parties required for implementation.	<i>ordinal criterion</i>		+	
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			
track record	Has the proposed action been proven effective in environments comparable to Thurston County? Is there credible documentation of success for similar actions?	<i>ordinal criterion</i>			

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