

MEMORANDUM

TO: Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC)
FROM: Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council
DATE: October 18, 2021 (attachment updated 11/15/2021)
SUBJECT: 2022 Regional Climate Mitigation Work Program

Requested Action

Discuss and provide guidance on regional priorities to include in the 2022 Work Program.

Background

Under Task 2 of the Phase 3 Interlocal Agreement, the CASC is charged with reviewing options to develop an agreement for longer-term governance to support a coordinated regional approach to climate mitigation. As discussed in the September meeting, the draft ILA includes a requirement for the CASC to approve an Annual Work Program and budget to achieve the purpose and goals of the Agreement. That Work Program includes both standing items that occur each year—including oversight and coordination committees, monitoring and assessment, and public outreach—and a list of annual initiatives for tackling regional priorities from the strategies and actions included in the *Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan* (TCMP).

TRPC staff developed an initial proposal for a work program (attached), based on a review of the Implementation Strategy included in the *Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan*, ongoing work in Phase 3, and input from the Multijurisdictional Staff Team. Staff recommend regional priorities build on results of policy research commissioned in Phase 3 (white papers on residential energy efficiency and carbon sequestration program), and conducting foundational research in one or two new sector strategies to identify future work program items. Some items are included with placeholder budget amounts, pending the completion of the Phase 3 white papers.

In future years, under the provisions of the draft ILA, the Work Program would be developed with input from stakeholders in a Climate Advisory Workgroup.

Regional priorities approved by the Steering Committee to be part of the Work Program will be included in an updated budget for the November meeting, and for the CASC's approval.

Attachments:

- *DRAFT 2022 Regional Climate Mitigation Work Program (updated 11/15/2022)*

#	Task Title	Description	TCMP Actions Addressed	Lead	3-Year Cost Estimate	2022 Budget Request	Notes
Standing Tasks							
1	Oversight & Coordination Committees	Convene the Climate Action Steering Committee and Multijurisdictional Staff Team	G5 Strategy G5.5 – legislative agenda	TRPC	\$180,150	\$58,770	Based on 11/2/21 TRPC scope of work estimates.
2	Regional Priorities	Develop an annual list of regional initiatives to be included in the 2023 work program and oversee completion of those initiatives.	various	TRPC	\$286,910	\$68,790	Based on 11/2/21 TRPC scope of work estimates, but excludes Policy Research item (Item D - Financing Strategy) descibed below.
3	Monitoring & Assessment	Develop and maintain a monitoring and assessment program that tracks and reports on climate mitigation activities and outcomes.	G4.1 – emission inventory G4.2 – performance measures	TRPC	\$184,690	\$49,960	Based on 11/2/21 TRPC scope of work estimates.
4	Public Outreach	Coordinate public outreach activities, including by convening a Climate Advisory Workgroup.	G1 Strategy	TRPC	\$118,100	\$42,790	Based on 11/2/21 TRPC scope of work estimates.
Subtotal - Standing Tasks					\$769,850	\$220,310	

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2022 Regional Priorities - Staff Recommendations							
A	Energy Efficiency Program Design	Design and launch Phase 1 of a community-wide residential energy efficiency program, based on recommendations from policy white papers.	B1 strategies, B3.1 – energy education	TRPC or other	TBD	\$75,000	TRPC will develop a Request for Qualifications or Request for Proposals (RFQ/RFP) to secure vendors or consultants needed to accomplish scope based on recommendations from policy white papers. Alternatively, one partner could take the lead on this as the pilot group or CASC could designate an alternative lead. First year budget amount listed is a placeholder taken from past descriptions.
B	Building Electrification Cost Assessment	Develop a regional assessment of costs to build and operate all-electric housing, commercial development, and mixed-use development.	B6.1 – natural gas to electric conversions, B6.2 – electric appliances in new construction, B6.4 – natural gas transition	Olympia	\$30,475	\$0	Olympia will hire a consultant for this work. Cost to be shared by Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County. Results will be reported back to full Steering Committee.
C	Carbon Sequestration Program Design	Design and launch Phase 1 of a regional carbon sequestration program, based on recommendations from policy white paper.	A2.1 – regenerative agriculture, A5.1 – reforestation & afforestation program, A7.3 – prairie preservation	TRPC or other	TBD	\$75,000	TRPC will develop a Request for Qualifications or Request for Proposals (RFQ/RFP) to secure vendors or consultants needed to accomplish scope based on recommendations from policy white paper. Alternatively, one partner could take the lead on this as the pilot group or CASC could designate an alternative lead. Amount listed is a placeholder taken from past descriptions.

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D	Financing Strategy	Research options for creating a dedicated, shared regional fund for climate mitigation work.	various	TRPC	\$22,340	\$22,340	Amount equivalent to policy white paper in Phase 3 scope.
Subtotal - Regional Priorities					TBD	\$172,340	
TOTAL 2022 Climate Mitigation Work Program						\$392,650	
Per Partner - 2022 Climate Mitigation Work Program						\$98,163	
Regional Priorities - Other Options for Discussion/Future Work Programs							
	Commercial energy efficiency research	Research and recommendations for policies, incentives, and/or financing options to support energy efficiency improvements in commercial and industrial buildings. Similar to white paper for residential buildings in 2021 program.	B2 strategy B2.1 - commercial energy benchmarking & disclosure B2.8 - performance standard				Staff recommend maintaining focus on residential energy efficiency for another year before looking at commercial sector.
	Green building incentives	Research and recommendations for developing standard regional approaches to incentivize and track to support green building practices.	B3.5 - green building tracking B4.5 - permitting incentives B4.7 - land use incentives				Staff recommend maintaining focus on existing buildings for the next year. Recent changes to building and energy code have already increased requirements for new buildings, so additional incentives may be less pressing than a focus on retrofitting older buildings.
	Green public buildings model policy	Develop a model policy for local governments to demonstrate green building technologies and practices in facilities.	B4.4 - green public buildings				Staff recommend maintaining focus on existing buildings for the next year. Recent changes to building and energy code have already increased requirements for new buildings, and individual jurisdictions may tackle this through their own capital facilities planning.

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	Building electrification	Develop a regional policy or approach on building electrification.	B6.1 - natural gas to electric conversions B6.2 - electric appliances in new construction B6.4 - natural gas transition				Currently, there is not support for moving forward as a regional effort, but next steps could build on cost assessment or a model developed by an individual jurisdiction.
	Consumption-based emissions estimate	Develop an estimate of consumption-based emissions for the Thurston region.	G4.3 – other emission sources and sinks				Staff recommend not moving ahead with developing a detailed estimate at this time, as developing an estimate is expensive without a clear application, and additional tools may become available through ICLEI in the future that will complement the main sector-based inventory. See 11/15 memo to CASC for more details.