



Meeting Agenda

City Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

Study Session

1. ROLL CALL

2. BUSINESS ITEM

2.A [19-0053](#) Regional Climate Mitigation Plan Update

Attachments: [Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Fact Sheet](#)
[Early Action - Strategies](#)
[Early Actions](#)

3. ADJOURNMENT

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City Council

Regional Climate Mitigation Plan Update

Agenda Date: 12/10/2019
Agenda Item Number: 2.A
File Number: 19-0053

Type: study session **Version:** 1 **Status:** Study Session

Title

Regional Climate Mitigation Plan Update

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive an update on the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan and provide feedback on proposed early actions.

Report

Issue:

Whether to receive an update on the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, including a recommended list of early actions for implementation by City staff prior to completion of the Regional Plan.

Staff Contact:

Rich Hoey, P.E., Public Works Director, 360.753.8495

Susan Clark, Water Resources Planning and Engineering Supervisor, Public Works, 360.753.8321

Presenters:

Rich Hoey, P.E., Public Works Director

Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council

Susan Clark, Water Resources Planning and Engineering Supervisor

Background and Analysis:

Regional Climate Mitigation Planning

In April 2018, Thurston County, Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) signed an Interlocal Agreement to complete Phase I of a regional Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, with TRPC leading the effort. Phase I work resulted in the following regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets:

- 45% below 2015 levels by 2030
- 85% below 2015 levels by 2050

In November 2018, Olympia and the other regional jurisdictions approved a Phase II Interlocal

Agreement addressing the development of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (TCMP).

To date, the regional planning process accomplishments include:

- Steering Committee formed and seven meetings held (Councilmembers Lisa Parshley and Nathaniel Jones represent Olympia)
- Consultant team selected
- Climate Advisory Committee formed and three meetings held
- Public Engagement Strategy approved and initial community outreach completed
- Review of Thurston County Communitywide Greenhouse Gas Inventory completed

A fact sheet on the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan is attached, and the project manager from the Thurston Regional Planning Council will provide additional project details.

Need for Early Actions

During review of the Phase II Interlocal Agreement, City Council asked staff to identify the early actions the City could take while work on the TCMP occurs. City Council and community members expressed a sense of urgency in working on the climate crisis. During mitigation planning meetings, various project stakeholders and community members have also voiced requests for jurisdictions to implement early actions.

Early Actions Development Approach

In response to City Council's request, the City's Executive Team formed an internal Climate Action Workgroup (Workgroup). Public Works staff are leading the Workgroup with representatives from Parks, Community Planning and Development (CP&D), Administrative Services and Communications Services. Over the course of the last several months, the Workgroup developed a list of 130+ potential early actions, including early action recommendations received from Olympia Community Solar and Thurston Climate Action Team.

The Workgroup then prioritized the list of potential early actions based upon the expected level of effort involved in implementation and the likelihood the early action would assist the City to meet its early action goals. Those actions that were larger in scale, and required more resources, analysis and public involvement were deferred to the regional planning process.

The resulting list of recommended early actions reflect the efforts that staff can support within existing resources between now and the end of 2020. On a parallel track, staff will also continue to support the regional development of the TCMP.

As outlined in the attached document "Early Action-Strategies," Olympia's early actions are focused on building the foundation for climate action across City operations and are organized under six themes:

- Establish a framework for climate-focused decisions
- Set the foundation for a solar and green building community
- Create a City staff culture of climate awareness
- Green City facilities and fleet
- Build the foundation for climate friendly infrastructure

- Build and leverage partnerships

Staff is prepared to discuss the full list of recommended Early Actions and progress made to implement the actions since August in more detail at the Study Session on December 10.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

During mitigation planning meetings, various project stakeholders and community members have requested that the participating jurisdictions implement early actions.

Olympia Community Solar and Thurston Climate Action Team provided recommended early actions to consider. During the August 21, 2019, Finance Committee early climate action briefing, stakeholder support for implementation of the early actions was voiced.

Options:

None at this time. Briefing only.

Financial Impact:

None at this time. Additional efforts beyond the list of proposed early actions would likely require resources for additional staff and/or consultant support.

Attachments:

Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Fact Sheet
Early Action - Strategies
Early Actions

Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan

Let's decide together how to save energy, act on climate change, and build a stronger community.

Climate change is already affecting our communities. Impacts like hotter summers, wildfire smoke, and flooding endanger our homes and affect public health and local business. Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater are working with the Thurston Regional Planning Council to craft a strategic roadmap for reducing climate-polluting greenhouse gases while maintaining—and even improving—our quality of life.

WHY WE ARE ACTING NOW

Climate scientists project that by the 2080s, we can expect:



More days
above 90 °F



Double the
area burned by
wildfire in WA



5 more days of
the heaviest rain
experienced today

Acting now means we can avoid the worst impacts of climate change for our children and grandchildren. Taking action now can also bring other benefits to the community, like reduced energy costs, better air quality, more transportation options, and enhanced recreational areas.

OUR PLANNING PROCESS

2019 early 2020 late 2020

- Identify the top actions to meet our targets.
- Actions cover topics such as transportation, energy, and land carbon storage.
- Decide which organizations will take on each action.
- Make sure local rules support those actions.
- Release draft plan.
- Revise and finalize plan.
- Continue to work with the community to take climate action.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The plan will lead directly to projects and resources spent in communities.

Here's how you can help determine which projects we undertake and where we should focus our resources:



SIGN UP for updates via www.trpc.org/climate.



ASK QUESTIONS and share your climate action priorities at public events and in surveys.



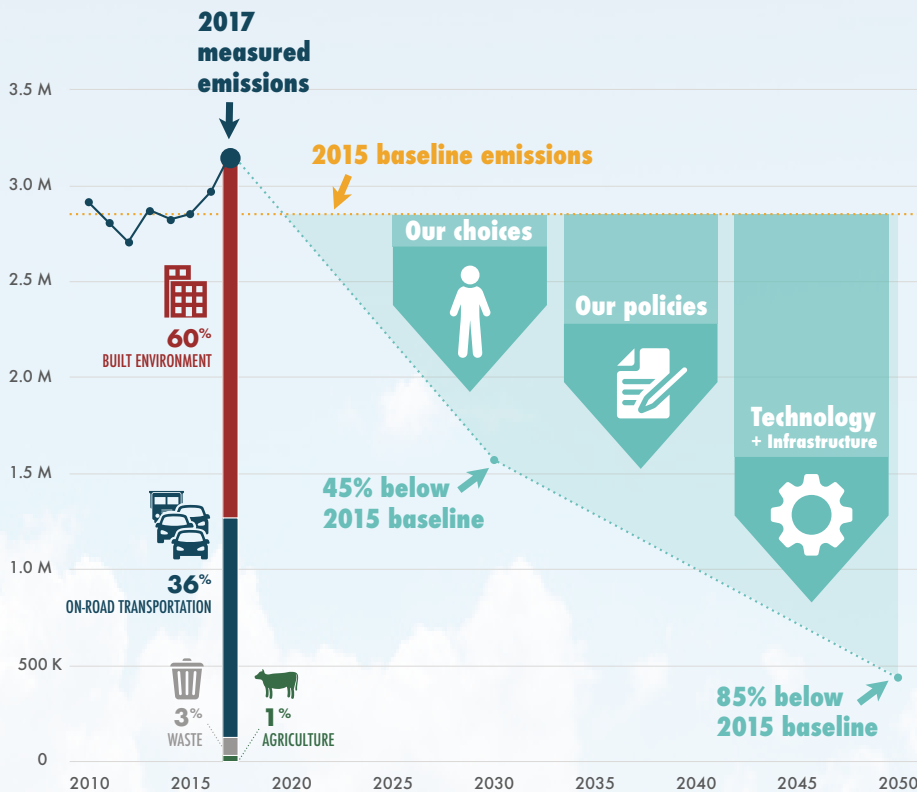
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK about the draft Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (available in 2020).

CONTACT: Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner
Thurston Regional Planning Council
www.trpc.org/climate



WHERE DO WE NEED TO GO?

In 2018, Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater set targets to reduce carbon pollution emissions **45% below our 2015 baseline by 2030** and **85% below the 2015 baseline by 2050**. These targets are in line with those set by other countries and communities around the world to minimize global temperatures.



HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

To meet these shared targets, all communities will need to take action across a variety of sectors—especially from buildings and transportation, which make up the bulk of emissions.

We will explore actions that support:



Choices that reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions.



Policies and legislation that promote climate goals.



Investment in technologies and infrastructure that advance a low-carbon future.

Meeting these targets will not be easy—we will all need to play our part. The region's growing population will make reaching the goal even more challenging. **The average person in Thurston County will need to reduce their carbon footprint by 90% by 2050 to meet our target.**

YOU CAN HELP US GET THERE!

Make your voice heard! In 2019, visit us at a fair or festival booth, take a short survey on community climate priorities, or attend a community briefing. In 2020, provide input on the draft Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan through a survey or open house.



SIGN UP for updates via www.trpc.org/climate.



Early Action - Strategies

Climate Action Work Group

Strategy 1: Establish a Framework for Climate-Focused Decisions

Meeting greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets will require changes to how governments and individuals make decisions. Olympia's early actions under this strategy will focus on investigating changes to select existing City decision-making processes and making changes when appropriate.

Strategy 3: Create a City Staff Culture of Climate Awareness

City staff interact with community members on a daily basis, both on the clock and off. Meeting our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and implementing the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan will require City staff, community members, stakeholders and other government agencies to work together. As City staff, we have a responsibility to be community leaders. Olympia's early actions under this theme will focus on creating opportunities and actions where City staff can "walk the talk" and be leaders both on the job and in the community.

Strategy 5: Build the Foundation for Climate Friendly Infrastructure

The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan is expected to include recommendations for increasing community members' access and use of climate friendly infrastructure such as walking, bike lanes, transit and electric vehicle charging stations. Olympia's early actions under this theme will focus on exploring ways to build community support for increasing the current supply and use of climate friendly infrastructure.

Strategy 2: Set the Foundation for a Solar and Green Building Community

Increasing residential, commercial and industrial building efficiencies, including solar use and green building techniques, is anticipated to be a key recommendation resulting from the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan project. Olympia's early actions under this theme will focus on: Investigating ways to establish a Green Building Program; setting the stage for future building code changes, and; meeting SolSmart Community designation criteria.

Strategy 4: Green City Facilities and Fleet

While the City has taken steps to reduce its municipal greenhouse gas emissions, additional opportunities to invest in energy efficiency improvements exist. Olympia's early actions under this theme will focus on continuing to make energy efficiency improvements and making informed decisions to convert to a greener fleet.

Strategy 6: Build and Leverage Partnerships

Meeting our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and implementing the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan will require community members, governmental agencies, businesses and stakeholder organizations to work in partnership with one another. In preparation for implementation of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, City staff will continue to foster existing partnerships and seek new.



Early Actions

Climate Action Work Group

Strategy 1: Establish a Framework for Climate-Focused Decisions

Evaluate our procurement processes

Consider buy local requirements and conducting a cradle to grave analysis.

Investigate the City's investments

Consider shifting investments to more ecological and socially responsible securities.

Research others' practices

Research Washington State's transportation efficient communities webpages for recommendations that may be relevant to Olympia.

Prioritize greenhouse gas reduction in City Master Plans

Make greenhouse gas reduction a priority in the Transportation Master Plan, as well as future updates to other master plans (Parks, Utilities, etc.).

Consider requiring an analysis of climate impacts in staff reports

Consider revising staff reports to include an analysis of climate impacts, consistent with the existing "neighborhood/community interests (if known)" section. If revised, provide messaging to City staff including sample/example language and rationale for the revision.

Consider environmental justice and social equity into climate action planning

Develop a strategy for integrating equity into climate action planning.

Strategy 2: Set the Foundation for a Solar and Green Building Community

Research others' Green Building Programs

Through research of Green Building Programs in other cities (e.g. Shoreline, Seattle) and in coordination with organizations such as NW Ecobuilding Guild, analyze how to develop an Olympia Green Building Program including:

- Potential incentives.
- Staffing requirements.
- Code change requirements.
- Public and stakeholder engagement and education requirements.
- Potential incentives for solar installations.

Pursue SolSmart designation criteria

SolSmart is a program of the U.S. Department of Energy to recognize communities that have made it easy for residents and businesses to go solar. The program provides no-cost technical assistance and communities earn points and recognition for taking solar friendly steps thereby earning Bronze, Silver, or Gold designation. Several Washington

Communities are recognized SolSmart communities. At a minimum, completing the following SolSmart criteria should be completed:

- Consider residential "solar ready" building options, including options for encouraging and/or requiring. A method for tracking solar ready homes should be included as a component of this work item.
- Review zoning requirements, ID restrictions that limit solar development and compile findings in a memo.
- Review planning documents, identify new opportunities to integrate solar into planning goals and compile findings in a memo.
- Review solar permit fees for residential and new commercial solar PV. Compile findings in a memo.

Strategy 3: Create a City Staff Culture of Climate Awareness

Form a City "Green Team"

To build City-staff climate change awareness, form a City-wide "volunteer" Green Team. Tasks to be pursued by the Green Team include:

- Develop a "gamification strategy" to get employees engaged in climate and offer fun incentives.
- Develop "what the City is doing to address climate change" & "what you can do to assist" message for incorporation into new employee orientation training.
- Develop a staff climate change/climate change action outreach program strategy.
- Develop a City Staff "go green" pledge.
- Sponsor a space heater campaign to request removal of space heaters during spring/summer.
- Promote training opportunities for City staff on climate mitigation and adaptation.

Other ideas for the Green Team to consider include co-hosting Electric Vehicle training events for City employees, offering "Go Green" sweatshirts or blankets for sale in lieu of winter space heater use, marketing Commute Trip Reduction program activities and researching environmental impacts that could result from climate actions, such as impacts on birds from increased solar use.

Promote telework/telecommuting opportunities with City employees

Develop a telecommute policy for City staff. Evaluate the GHG savings and impacts on work performance. Consider allowing "telework by bus" thereby allowing bus commute trips to be part of the work day as a component of the City's telecommute policy.

Research, develop and implement an anti-idling campaign for City vehicles

Provide "vehicle idling" reports to supervisors. Develop vehicle idling reduction targets and provide "fun" incentives for meeting targets.

Increase City Staff use of our Electric Vehicles

Evaluate city staff Electric Vehicle use, establish a baseline and set targets for increased usage and report out to staff. To increase staff use of our existing Electric Vehicles, host Electric Vehicle Training Events and update existing Electric Vehicle staff video and information material.

Provide solar power produced information

Develop the means for providing City staff and/or the general public with information about the amount of energy that is produced by City Hall's solar panels.

Promote biking and walking to off-site meetings

Add a bicycle to our transportation options to allow staff to bike to meetings.

Increase transit use

Consistent with the adopted Downtown Parking Strategy, implement a program to provide free bus passes for low-income Downtown employees.

Strategy 4: Green City Facilities and Fleet

Increase building efficiencies

Increase energy efficiency in City owned buildings:

- Increase LEDs lighting at the Justice Center.
- Perform “night walks” to find issues and opportunities.
- Seasonal damper adjustment.
- CEM for City of Olympia.
- Explore energy saving opportunities at fire stations.
- Investigate expanded use of 3M film for the windows at City Hall and Maintenance Center.
- Remove all 1,500 watt space heaters in all buildings.
- Repair damaged or missing insulation at the Maintenance Center.
- Implement a way to calculate occupancy into building usage.
- Explore replacement of single-pane windows at the Maintenance Center.
- Assess lighting efficiency opportunities in parks.
- Build new City buildings to LEED standards.
- Investigate placing solar panels at city facilities including vacant land and new home fund buildings.
- Eliminate the use of extra items using electricity in City buildings (e.g. salt lamps).

Increase fleet fuel efficiencies

In addition to the actions in Strategy 3:

- Continue to convert City vehicles to electric vehicles
- Move to hybrid police cruisers
- Conduct an alternative fuels review of all new vehicles purchases (e.g. electric pick-up trucks). Track electric vehicle technology for heavy-duty vehicles for future investment.
- Complete a business case evaluation and decision making process for the purchase of a new street sweeper (e.g. compressed natural gas vs. diesel vs. gas)

Strategy 5: Build the Foundation for Climate Friendly Infrastructure

Research climate action outreach and education best practices

Conduct literature review of climate action engagement strategies to inform internal education and outreach development. Such literature review should include prior climate outreach campaigns, audience and behavior research and education efforts. Conduct internal research (for example, through the efforts of Green Team, including focus groups, interviews, and/or surveys to collect information on knowledge, attitudes, barriers and benefits to climate actions.

Increase climate friendly bike lanes and walking areas

Pursue roadway restriping to create bike lanes and improved pedestrian crossing/walking areas at low cost thereby encouraging people to bike and walk.

Increase public EV charging stations

When available, apply for a Department of Commerce "Electrification of Transportation System" matching grant to fund additional public EV charging stations. As a component of the grant, coordinate EV charging station placement at the Farmer's Market with the Port of Olympia. Following successful implementation of the grant, and when marketing the new EV chargers, consider promoting the City's current EV parking discounts and consider additional including incentives such as designated EV parking.

Support increased density and transit use

Support Intercity Transits Bus Rapid Transit efforts. This will include signal modifications at State and Washington for a bus "queue jump" lane as well as a new bus stop on 4th Avenue. Continue efforts to focus future growth and development within urban corridors to provide residents opportunities to live, work and play while expanding mobility options.

Increase solar use

Research supporting or hosting a community purchasing and permitting program to incentivize residential solar installation (e.g. Solarize).



Early Actions

Climate Action Work Group

Tell the City's climate action story

The City has been addressing climate change since 1991. While the City must continue to take action to both mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, it is important to inform the community of the measures that have already been taken. As a component of "telling our story", consider including an overview of what zoning allows for solar under what conditions.

Articulate the existing and potential benefits of tree plantings

Pursue a City Forest Credits pilot program in correspondence with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020. Include the benefits of our urban tree canopy as a component of our "climate action story". Continue to host tree-planting projects in our Parks.

Provide alternative transportation information

Provide walk, bike and transit information on City meeting or event announcements.

Revise Downtown parking

Convert (downtown) leased parking to pay by phone as called for in the adopted Downtown Parking Strategy.

Strategy 6: Build and Leverage Partnerships

Create partnerships to provide climate education outreach activities

Consider expanding the South Sound Green contract to include additional climate change/climate change action messaging. Explore partnerships with Thurston Climate Action team on public outreach and education on climate.

Partner with City youth

Approve a "Climate Inheritance Resolution" as requested by Olympia High School students. Continue to encourage and support City youth participation in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan process.

Partner with funding agencies

Designate staff to monitor (and apply for) grant opportunities.

Partner with Olympia Community Solar

Continue to work with Olympia Community Solar to site a community solar project at the Hands-on Children's Museum (and other sites as may be appropriate) and to advance a SolSmart Community designation. At the successful conclusion of the Hands-on Children's Museum solar installation, consider holding a community event to celebrate completion of the project and to market/show support for solar use. Where possible community solar projects should include educational materials and signage.



Early Actions

Climate Action Work Group

Support climate related legislation

Include climate change issues into Olympia's annual Legislative agenda. For example, advocate for state building code revisions and support for solar use, request funding for climate mitigation and adaptation projects, including a sea level rise adaptation pilot project, and champion high speed transit expansion. Work with existing professional organizations such as WRPA and AWC to advocate for climate related legislation. Explore opportunities to coordinate with other regional jurisdictions and with Thurston Climate Action Team.

Create partnerships to increase weatherization of homes

Promote Puget Sound Energy's weatherization incentives.

Explore partnerships to increase bike commuting

Help adults learn to bicycle commute. Update the bicycle parking map and make it available on the City's parking webpage. Post a video of how to use bike racks on Intercity Transit buses on City's webpage and/or provide a link to Intercity Transit's webpage.

Participate in Puget Sound Energy's Green Direct Program

Continue participating in Puget Sound Energy's Green Direct program to ensure 100 percent of the City's electricity use comes from renewable energy sources. Continue to encourage Puget Sound Energy to move towards clean, renewable sources of energy to serve the community.

Foster partnerships with representatives from diverse groups and vulnerable populations

Work to encourage involvement from underrepresented populations in climate action planning, vision setting and decision-making processes.