

COMMENT RECEIVED VIA MARCH 5, 2019 EMAIL

So this proposal is to " Amend the City's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Policy Language in PN8.1 (policy 8.1 of the Natural Environment Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan) to align with the regional greenhouse gas emission goal." . I'm sorry but you aren't doing anything. It looks like the regional goal either was not aligned with the City or the other way. Either case you aren't going to meet the 2020 goal of 25% less than 1990 levels and your pushing an unrealistic goal of 85% below 2015 by 2050. How far off are we from the original objective. What actions were in place to meet that objective, which action failed? Something was planned 29 years ago, I know of nothing that has been done for 29 years, almost 1 1/3 careers, that's a lot of time at the water cooler.

I think you are using resources that are not aligned with obtaining the stated objective. With this process of aligning goals nothing gets accomplished. Stick with the original goal, check progress towards that goal, make adjustments to processes of reducing greenhouse gas. If that were done you would exceed the regional goal - set the pace.

I would like to know what you have done and how well it worked. Are we looking at: requiring emission checks on vehicles, increasing bus service, trollies downtown, bicycle taxis downtown, increased green space, reducing tree removal, limiting paper use in Government.

I'm also not sure where City Of Olympia, Public Works, Water Resources fits into this, I don't link water works with greenhouse emissions.

29 years and now we are aligning with regional goal - sure why not, nothing else to do anyway.

STAFF RESPONSE

The City's original policy PN8.1 (*achieve a 25 percent reduction of 1990 levels by 2020...*) was incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan in March 2014. In other words, despite the use of the year 1990 as the base-year, the goal was not adopted by the City until 2014.

The source of the City's original policy language is a regional planning process termed "Sustainable Thurston". The Sustainable Thurston project began in early 2011 under the leadership of the Thurston Regional Planning Council and resulted in the document *Creating Places – Preserving Spaces: A Sustainable Development Plan for the Thurston Region*, which was approved in late 2013.

At the time the Sustainable Thurston project was occurring, 1990 was chosen as the base-year for the emissions reduction goal in order to be consistent with Washington State's involvement in the North America 2050 coalition which used 1990 as its base-year emission target. The Sustainable Thurston project also recommended the development of a climate action plan. (*Note: While the City chose to adopt the Sustainable Thurston emission reductions goals, Thurston County and the cities of Lacey and Tumwater chose to adopt different emission goals.*)

Information regarding the Sustainable Thurston project can be found here:

<https://www.trpc.org/260/Sustainable-Thurston-Plan>

In 2018, the City entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Thurston Regional Planning Council, Thurston County and the cities of Lacey and Tumwater to develop a regional climate mitigation plan. Phase I of the project included a review of the participating jurisdictions' varying climate policies and emission targets and a recommendation to adopt a common region wide emissions target using 2015 as the base-year. The City's current policy change proposal is to incorporate the recommended common region wide emissions target into the City's Comprehensive Plan. (The other participating jurisdictions have also adopted the recommended common region wide emissions target.)

Key to the recommendation to use 2015 as the revised base-year, rather than 1990, is that inventories of greenhouse gas emissions developed after 1990 provide a more accurate accounting of emissions than the original 1990 estimate. (Note: A 2007 statewide average per person emission rate factor was multiplied by regional population projections to calculate the 1990 greenhouse emissions estimates included in the Sustainable Thurston planning process. Later greenhouse gas emissions inventories better account for region specific emissions.)

While the base-year was recommended for revision in the Phase I regional climate mitigation work, the recommended region wide emissions goal – the City's current policy change proposal – still aims to achieve the emissions level associated with the Sustainable Thurston's 2050 target – the City's original PN8.1. In other words, the end goal – the 2050 target - remains consistent.

See *TRPC Memorandum: Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Policy Benchmarks Recommendation* for additional information: <https://www.trpc.org/910/Project-Documents>

The City of Olympia has taken measures to reduce its municipal greenhouse gas emissions. For example, actions taken in recent years include:

- Converting all streetlights and traffic signals to LED
- Energy and water conservation retrofits in City Buildings
- Solar panels have been placed on City Hall, Farmer's Market and the Library
- Electric vehicles have been added to the City fleet
- The City purchases Green Power from Puget Sound Energy for all of its electricity use
- Use of biodiesel in City trucks

The Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) has developed estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for the cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater and unincorporated areas of Thurston County for the 2010-2016 time period. According to this work, Olympia's per capita emissions have declined by 8 percent between 2010 - 2016. See *Attachment 2: Emissions Inventory and Analysis for additional information*: <https://www.trpc.org/910/Project-Documents>

The City has also developed estimates of greenhouse gas emissions, using a different methodology than TCAT. City information can be found here: <http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/codes-plans-and-standards/action-plan/community-indicators.aspx#environment>

Phase II of the regional mitigation planning process – development of the Thurston Regional Climate Mitigation Plan – began in January 2019. Phase II will focus on developing and analyzing the strategies necessary to ensure that each partner jurisdiction hits the shared emission targets. An analysis of the TCAT emission inventory referenced above, recommendations for improvement and a recommended standardized methodology, are additional project deliverables. Information on the regional mitigation planning process, including how you can get involved, can be found here:

<https://www.trpc.org/909/Thurston-Climate-Mitigation-Plan>

Staff from the City's Public Works Department is serving in the lead role for the City's participation in the regional mitigation planning process. However, the City recognizes that in order to be successful, representation from all areas of the City will be required. Therefore, an internal "Climate Action" work group has recently been developed to assist Public Works staff.