



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).



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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.



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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.