



Land Use & Environment Committee

Thurston Regional Climate Mitigation Plan Project Update

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Title

Thurston Regional Climate Mitigation Plan Project Update

Recommended Action

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive an update on the Thurston Regional Climate Mitigation Plan and provide feedback.

Report

Issue:

Whether to receive an update on the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.

Staff Contact:

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Presenters:

Rich Hoey

Susan Clark

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.

Regional planning process accomplishments include:

- Steering Committee formed and 12 meetings held (Councilmembers Parshley and Cooper represent Olympia)
- Climate Advisory Workgroup formed and six meetings held
- Public Engagement Strategy approved and initial community outreach completed
- Completed review of the Thurston County Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Development of 300+ potential community-wide climate actions
- Approval of climate action screening criteria by the Steering Committee
- Screening of the 300+ community-wide climate actions across five different sectors (Buildings and Energy; Transportation and Land Use; Water and Waste; Agriculture and Forestry, and; Cross-cutting).
- Steering Committee narrowed the list of 300+ community-wide actions to 71 actions to be analyzed in more detail by the consultant.
- Completed an emissions target analysis which shows that the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets while ambitious, are achievable.
- Publication of a Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Public Review Draft (Draft Plan) and establishment of a public comment period (September 14 - October 13)

Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Public Review Draft

The Draft Plan lays out a road map for continuing regional collaboration on reducing local greenhouse gas emissions. It is intended to provide Olympia and its project partners with a suite of solid strategies that will guide next steps, not lock the jurisdictions into specific actions that may not make sense as the details are worked out.

The framework for reducing local greenhouse gas emissions presented in the Draft Plan includes:

- Greening our grid
- Shifting energy sources
- Living lighter
- Storing carbon
- Building local capacity

Each action included in the Draft Plan will require additional work to understand its feasibility, cost and impacts as implementation is considered. As a first step in this work, the project partners have grouped each action into the following general implementation approaches:

- Legislative agenda
- Regionally coordinated
- Individual jurisdiction

- Supporting partner

The Draft Plan can be found on the Thurston Regional Planning Council website(listed in attachments area). <https://trpc.org/909/Thurston-Climate-Mitigation-Plan>

Internal City Coordination

To ensure coordination occurs on climate issues as the mitigation plan is developed, the City of Olympia Executive Team formed an internal Climate Action Workgroup (Workgroup). To date the Workgroup has:

- Held nine Workgroup meetings, plus additional topic specific sub-Workgroup meetings.
- Developed a list of Early Climate Actions and begun action implementation
- Participated in mitigation plan stakeholder sub-committee meetings as subject matter experts.
- Provided feedback on implementation issues associated with the narrowed list of assessed actions.
- Provided input on priority actions for implementation during 2021 and 2022.

Next Steps

The next steps in the climate mitigation planning process include:

- Completion of the Draft Plan public review period
- Steering Committee review of public comment
- Steering Committee approval
- Completion of a Phase III Interlocal Agreement addressing implementation
- Individual jurisdiction review and approval

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

During mitigation planning outreach activities and at mitigation planning meetings, various stakeholders and community members have voiced general support for the planning process and taking action to reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions. As the planning process has progressed, stakeholders and community members have begun to express support for specific actions, including those that address energy efficiencies in existing buildings, promote solar and electric vehicles and address transit and growth strategies to move neighborhoods closer to workplaces. Recent input has focused on observations associated with similarities between the current COVID-19 situation and the climate crisis; the need to begin implementation immediately; and, concerns with equity and systemwide sustainability and the high reliance on carbon sequestration to meet the regional greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Options: None at this time. Briefing only.

Financial Impact: None at this time. Implementation of the strategies and actions included in the finalized Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan will likely require resources for additional staff and/or consultant support.

Attachment:

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