



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting, December 5th, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance: Jay Kimball– Chair, Chris Greacen-Vice Chair, Kendra Smith, Michael Shanks, Adrian Kilpatrick, Grant Carlton, Janet Alderton, Vince Dauciuinas, Barbara Marrett, Matilda Twigg

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Tim Clark, Lovel Pratt

Ex-officio and County Staff: Angela Broderick

Members of the public/guests: Chom Greacen

Committee Members absent: Jerry Whitfield

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jay Kimball at 5:35pm. Quorum was confirmed. Introduction of new committee member, Grant Carlton.

Public Comment Chom Greacen asked the County to adopt the goal of 95% greenhouse gas reduction emission reduction by 2050 to align with the Washington state's targets.

Business Operations

- **Approve Agenda** – The Agenda for the meeting was approved as presented. **MOTION: Janet moved, Vince Seconded and the motion passed.**
- Approve October 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes – **MOTION: Barbara moved, and Vince seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 7th, 2024 meeting as presented and the motion passed.**

Climate Resilience Planning Update – Angela

Angela shared about the Fall Open House events in October, two events each on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez. Daytime tables at grocery stores and evening presentations at the respective island's community gathering centers. Also in October and November were Vulnerability Assessment Listening Sessions; consistency in feedback reaffirms planning is heading in the correct direction.

Cascadia started drafting the Climate Element for the Comprehensive Plan; condensing and clarifying a lot of the verbosity of what was there.

Chris raised the possibility of refinements to data going into future Greenhouse Gas Inventories and the entail for GHG Inventory Management Plan. Angela agreed local data is lacking and a new goal will be to improve the data gathered. Open to ideas. Adrian asked about yard waste burning/woodpiles being added to GHG inventory.

Draft of the Climate Action Plan will begin with the existing work (GHG Inventory, VA, etc.) Climate Element to be handed over to Dept. of Community Development and Planning Commission in February for March meeting, and full Comp Plan update set for adoption in June 2025. Target is to draft CAP in the summer, adopt in Fall 2025.

Member asked if there were any standout conversations from the community open house events. Angela relayed the grocery store tables were able to capture attention from people not already involved in the climate action sphere. Notes from each conversation were gathered, the anecdotal conversations were found to be very helpful.

Clarifying conversation on the Committee's responsibility for the roadmap of Climate Element in the Comp Plan to implementation of the policy that we have laid out. Discussion of the Transportation Element and the recommendation for a transportation advisory committee. Kendra clarified that interest in "requirements" i.e. code amendments can be identified in CAP (eg. code amendment requiring EV chargers at vacation rentals).

Climate Element Development - Angela

Angela gave an overview of the draft document and opened the floor for the committee's input. Feedback included:

- Under the transportation/marine facilities section, pg. 21 Transportation 6.4A the possibility of adding upgrading marinas for e-vessel charging.
- Considering water availability and energy use, would like to further explore how large property developments can impact the surround area aquifer, especially in the summer months. As well as if current trend reports regarding local building construction will be taken into account in the terms of energy and water demands. Look at expanded ways to look at low-impact development, and consider including in Overarching Goals for energy/water efficiency. Kendra answered that the Clean Water Advisory committee has recommended the development of an integrated water resources management strategy, including surface water systems.
- “Overarching” was more favorable than “Crosscutting” for some members
- On page 13, the climate action focus portion of the table is redundant and wordy; cut down, one thought per sentence.
- Within this document, there does not seem to be an emission reduction target for San Juan County as was mentioned in the public comment period.
- Regard for prioritization angle of all the elements being discussed in the Comp Plan and how to best achieve change and funding following that prioritization. Another member expanded that providing the Council with smaller, actionable goals is advisable; apply SMARTIE goals to SJC.
- Concerns were raised about limited resources we have to put towards measuring emissions for a target. Targets don't necessarily change behavior.
- Biochar plant could be combined with composting system as possible priority.
- Regarding woodstoves, recognize their role in SJC; see policy 7.4 adding word “*inefficient* woodstoves”
- Goal 4 lacks a specific policy for establishing multi-modal transportation system; this belongs in CAP as well. This goal also lacks specific policy for electrical grid, 4.3 is making it actually more difficult, maybe soften language and include language for prioritization around energy independence, reliability and affordability, and also streamlining land use roadblocks in relation to electrical grid.
- On 4.3 consider alternate language using methodology for water flowing between solar panels.

Angela requested any additional input to be submitted to her by December 23rd. Final revisions will happen in January ahead of early February submittal to DCD.

Liaison Roles and Updates

Lovel Pratt - The Marine Resource Committee will hold their annual retreat tomorrow, including presentations on kelp aquaculture. MRC will have opportunity to consider recommendations to Council for future permitting of kelp aquaculture/farming best practices.

Tim Clark - Land Bank's upcoming annual retreat will be focusing on discussing projects and priorities for acquisitions. Tim resonates with the point that a cultural change will be necessary for our work.

Faith Van de Putte - Agricultural Resource Committee has been working on land use and housing elements. Related to the climate conversation, the ARC has been discussing how to remove roadblocks when individuals or groups want to take action for renewable energy, infrastructure or food production.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2025 at 5:30pm.