



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2026

Committee Members in Attendance: Chris Greacen- Chair, Adrian Kilpatrick, Vince Dauciunas, Jay Kimball, John Pierre Van Dongen, Anastasia Jespersen, Barbara Marrett, Andy Hiester, Matilda Twigg

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Tim Clark, David Checkley, Faith Van De Putte

Ex-officio and County Staff: Angela Broderick, Tillery Williams, Justin Paulsen

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Greacen. Quorum was confirmed.

Public Comment

None

Business Operations

- The agenda for the meeting was approved. **MOTION: Barbara moved, Adrian seconded, and the motion passed.**
- The Jan. 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved. **MOTION: Jay moved to pass the minutes, John Pierre seconded, and the motion passed.**
- Chris shared that three members are terming out – Vince, Barbara, and Matilda and thanked them for their service and contributions. Barbara, Matilda, and Vince shared their experiences and advice for the committee, emphasizing the importance of focusing on implementable actions and expressing gratitude for the collaborative work accomplished. **Thank you Vince, Barbara, and Matilda!**
- Angela explained the current recruitment efforts, noting two open positions for the San Juan Island district and the youth representative role, and encouraged members to refer suitable candidates.

Climate and Sustainability Program Update

Angela provided a comprehensive update on the climate and sustainability program, detailing recent activities, upcoming events, and ongoing initiatives. Updates included:

- A working group met several times to condense, pre-vet, and prioritize draft actions, reducing the initial list from 76 to 32 items and preparing for further discussion and prioritization.
- The Friday Harbor High School Eco Club's recent presentation to the County Council and their legislative outreach, emphasizing the growing involvement of youth in climate advocacy and the importance of maintaining youth representation on the committee.
- The upcoming Climate Convergence event, scheduled for April 2nd and hosted by the Madrona Institute, which will bring together local organizations to foster collaboration, share insights, and inform the climate action plan.
- The 2nd communitywide community-wide survey is currently on hold pending further prioritization work with staff and partners, with plans to release the survey in May to maximize engagement.
- Staff recently presented to Council on renewable energy and water resiliency roundtables, noting Council's enthusiasm and support for continued work in these sectors, including partnerships with organizations like OPALCO and the Clean Water Advisory Committee.

- Following up from last meeting's recommendation, San Juan County has officially joined the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative. We are receiving support from a NOAA Coastal Resilience fellow and a consultant to develop a pilot project for sustainable funding mechanisms as part of the Small Communities Cohort.

CAP Prioritization

Angela explained the process of condensing the initial list of 76 actions to 32 by nesting sub-actions and separating government operations. The committee was guided through a voting exercise using a simplified scoring rubric focused on feasibility and impact. The combined feasibility and impact scores were shared, showing that renewable energy actions, maintaining climate staff, sustainable funding, emergency planning, wildfire risk mitigation, energy efficiency, and composting ranked highest among committee members.

Committee members discussed how to interpret feasibility, considering factors such as county authority, funding, policy barriers, and community acceptance, with members emphasizing the importance of clear and specific code changes for enabling climate actions. The distinction between actions best led by county government and those more suitable for nonprofits or public-private partnerships was highlighted, suggesting an approach in the climate action plan to support both direct county actions and broader community initiatives. Relationship building and education was also highlighted.

Angela solicited feedback on the Mentimeter rubric and the potential use of a force-rank polling tool, with most members agreeing that Mentimeter results are reasonable and suggesting further input from any members who had not yet participated. Angela will share out results with committee.

The committee discussed the need for a dedicated working group to address code changes and best-fit solar siting. Angela explained that she has been communicating with OPALCO about launching a best-fit solar siting group following the successful Energy and Climate Roundtable.

Liaison and Member Updates

Tim (Land Bank Commission) shared that carbon sequestration and forestry really stood out as priorities, sharing that a forest assessment was just done of Land Bank properties on Lopez, and "back of the envelope" calculations show that maintaining healthy forests is expensive! Yale environmental group came to Lopez and did soil sample; Land Bank brought in 10 tons of basalt dust and scattered on ag soils. They're looking at carbon it captures and will see results after one year. Basalt gives a bit of fertilizer support but also pulls carbon and binds it to more permanently sequester. Orcas had an assessment of Turtleback and Crescent Beach, they are just starting for San Juan. Community garden led by the Grange is happening at Overmarsh Preserve; they are looking at the metered well there for growing food and grazing.

Faith (Agricultural Resources Committee) shared that the agrisolar session at February Ag Summit was great. She is stepping down from her position in May, position is open. ARC doing deep dive on policy, organizing Ag Retreat in May.

Justin discussed the impact of federal and state funding pressures, the complexities of grant compliance, and the county's efforts to advance solar projects and composting facilities, emphasizing the need for local funding solutions and streamlined code changes. Tillery and Justin addressed the county's budget challenges, explaining the shrinking availability of state and federal funds, the stipulations attached to grants, and the upcoming levy lid lift proposal aimed at sustaining essential services.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.