

MINUTES OF THE LACEY CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

4:00 P.M. – 5:01 P.M.

REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: MAYOR RYDER, DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT, COUNCILMEMBERS
GREENSTEIN, STEADMAN, COX, KUNKEL, MILLER

STAFF PRESENT: S. SPENCE, D. SCHNEIDER, R. WALK, J. BRANDT, E. FONTAINE

ACTION: APPROVE WORKSESSION AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBERS
GREENSTEIN AND STEADMAN

THURSTON REGIONAL CLIMATE MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

STAFF: RICK WALK, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
JESSICA BRANDT, ASSOCIATE PLANNER
ALLISON OSTERBERG, SENIOR PLANNER, THURSTON REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Jessica Brandt, Associate Planner provided Council with an update regarding the Thurston Regional Climate Mitigation Plan. The City Council signed into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Thurston County, Olympia, and Tumwater in April 2018 to complete Phase 1 of a Regional Climate Mitigation Plan.

Phase 1 focused on assessing existing policies and targets of each jurisdiction for gaps and consistencies, recommending a regional emissions target, identifying each jurisdictions implemented mitigations actions to date, and recommend regional emissions reduction targets. The recommended targets were adopted on July 12, 2019. The targets are as follows:

- Achieve a 45% reduction of 2015 greenhouse gas levels by 2030.
- Achieve an 85% reduction of 2015 greenhouse gas levels by 2050.

Phase 1 produced a recommended scope of work for Phase 2, which included a public engagement strategy, assessment of actions sufficient to reach shared emissions targets, and implementation strategies. On October 11, 2018, the Council approved the ILA for Phase 2.

In February 2019, TRPC hired a consultant team, Cascadia Consulting, to assist with Phase 2. The Phase 2 planning process, which has been underway since early 2019 and is nearing conclusion, has included the following steps:

1. Develop steering committee and charter (January 2019)
2. Develop stakeholder advisory committee (February – March 2019)
3. Engage the general public and develop potential actions list (July – Sept 2019)
4. Assess potential actions and develop scenarios (September – June 2019)
5. Develop plan and strategies (March – July 2020)
6. Engage the general public (September 2020)
7. Adopt plan and strategies (October – November 2020)

Early project steps including public input were successful. The goal was to ask the community what actions they think the cities and County should take to reduce carbon emissions. Through dozens of geographically diverse community events such as fairs and festivals early in the planning process, we reached a large number of Thurston County residents. The online survey received over 1,200 responses over five weeks during August and September. The early community engagement efforts focused on the typically hard to reach audiences, which the steering committee has identified as youth, lower income families and rural residents.

The Climate Advisory Workgroup used the community list and added to it. They developed the list of actions and prioritized them based on agreed upon criteria.

Existing statewide policies and laws will significantly reduce future emissions, primarily through the Clean Energy Transition Act (CETA). CAFÉ standards, EV adoption and building code adoptions also play a meaningful role in reducing emissions. The actions list contains 72 specific actions that can be sorted by category (buildings and energy, transportation, forestry and agriculture, waste, and cross-cutting) and by implementation approach (legislative agenda, regional actions, individual jurisdiction actions supporting partner actions). The scenario tool also shows the focus areas for local governments will need to be in buildings and energy, transportation, and carbon sequestration. In Lacey that could mean retrofitting existing buildings, encouraging and incentivizing zero emission vehicles, reducing vehicle miles traveled, creating walkable, bikeable neighborhoods that are connected to transit services and tree protection and replanting.

The project team will be bringing the actions list to the community for input in September. The results of the community outreach will help guide priority areas for the Council to consider. Staff is reviewing actions that could be added to a work program in 2021 and utilizing public input to help prioritize areas of action. Staff will include Council comments and concerns in those discussions. Once prioritized, staff will provide another update to Council at a future meeting.