

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AUGUST 24, 2021

10:31 A.M. – 11:20 A.M.

REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBER COX (CHAIR), DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT,
COUNCILMEMBER GREENSTEIN

STAFF PRESENT: SCOTT SPENCE, RICK WALK, WADE DUFFY, JESSICA BRANDT, BRANDON
CARTER, PERI EDMONDS

ACTION: APPROVE THE LAND USE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREENSTEIN
AND COUNCILMEMBER COX

THURSTON REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

STAFF: JESSICA BRANDT, ASSOCIATE PLANNER

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan will be integrated into the Environmental Element of the Comprehensive Plan upon adoption, and is a policy framework to guide the city in achieving carbon reduction targets.

Phase 3 of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan is a one-year agreement, and scope of work is focused on regional implementation options and approaches. Phase 3 is ongoing, in parallel with the City's local actions review and implementation planning.

The regional committee has directed TRPC staff to focus on gathering information about energy efficiency program implementation options and local and national case studies to inform the participating jurisdictions about how the region might implement such programs. The City may also consider pursuing and implementing a program at the local level without regional partners, increasing capacity to a regional level later. The TRPC implementation options will be in draft form by October, with finalization by December 2021.

Long range targets based on the most current science and methodology for emissions reductions keep the City on a path to mitigating climate change for future generations. Regional and local approaches are key to achieving a coordinated and collaborative response to climate mitigation.

The Climate Mitigation Plan requires strategic investment and long-term commitment, as well as reprioritization of existing resources to implement. Successful implementation of the TCMP is dependent upon the full participation from the community to meet targeted carbon reduction goals.

SOLAR & ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERMITTING PROCESS

STAFF: JESSICA BRANDT, ASSOCIATE PLANNER
WADE DUFFY, BUILDING OFFICIAL & FIRE MARSHALL
ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

A number of action items in the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan call for expedited permit processing for projects such as solar arrays, electric vehicle chargers, and energy efficiency projects. Currently, it's relatively straightforward and predictable to permit these types of projects through the Building Department. For example, an over-the-counter electrical permit with an inspection are all that is required for both a solar array and for a new EV charging station.

Energy efficiency projects can mean a number of things: sealing air leaks, adding insulation, installing energy efficient windows, doors, skylights, programmable thermostats, seal ducts, upgrade heating/cooling systems, hot water heaters, and lighting. Some of these projects don't require a permit and for most projects that do, the permits are issued over-the-counter, and can be issued in as little as 5 minutes, with a maximum turnaround time of 30.

COMMITTEE RENAMING DISCUSSION

STAFF: SCOTT SPENCE, CITY MANAGER
ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

In November 2018, Resolution 1071 approved a change in the Land Use Committee name to Land Use & Environment Committee. Staff have updated the website and will begin using the new committee name on agendas, minutes, staff reports, and other locations as appropriate.