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# **Clark County Climate Change Planning**

Environmental Justice Coalition Meeting #2 March 4th, 2024, 3:30-6:30pm PT, Zoom Webinar

**Meeting Summary** 



The WA Department of Commerce climate planning grant is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at www.climate.wa.gov.

#### **Attendees**

**Environmental Justice Coalition members:** Catherine Bean, Ana Betancourt, Laura Ellsworth, Gabriela Mendoza Ewing, Yolanda Frazier, Patricia Haggerty, Erin Hamilton, Josh Jones, Loveita Morrison, Paris Nelson, Rebecca O'Brien, Dania Otto, Minh Pham, Alana Tudela, Angela William, Monica Zazueta

Environmental Justice Coalition member alternates: Almendra Velazquez, Jude Wait,

County staff: Lauren Henricksen, Jenna Kay, Amy Koski

**Consultant team:** Ben Duncan, Nicole Metildi, Grant Simmons (Kearns & West); Tracy Lunsford (Parametrix); Dana Hellman, Zachary Boyce (CAPA Strategies)

Number of members of the public in attendance: 14

#### Welcome

Clark County and Kearns & West staff welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, reviewed the agenda and outlined the purpose and desired outcomes of the meeting:

- Discuss and confirm group agreements from the Equity-based Process and Engagement Plan.
- Check-in on engagement workplans and prepare for initial engagement.
- Introduce and begin developing the project Equity Lens.
- Introduce and discuss climate hazards and impacts for the Resilience Sub-element.

Additionally, Ben reviewed meeting logistics and greeted members of the public, noting that there would be a public comment opportunity at the end of the meeting.

### **Confirm Group Agreements**

Ben reviewed the role of the Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) and their group agreements. The group did not have any questions or additions to either.

## **Public Engagement Brainstorm & Visioning**

Amy Koski, Clark County, reviewed the proposed public engagement timeline. She also shared the public engagement approach for each project phase, how the EJC and project team will work together to develop questions to ask community members for their feedback, and how that feedback will be shared with the Community Advisory Group (CAG).

Amy addressed questions relating to public engagement work plan development, invoicing, and other advisory group logistics.

The group had the following, additional questions:

- Question: How many hours can EJC members bill per month on their invoice?
  - Answer: EJC members can use a rate that works for them and their organization. Members will have to make sure they're accounting for all time needed to deliver activities outlined in their work plans. Members can include as many hours as it will take for them to deliver the work outlined in their engagement work plans with the county; however, they cannot exceed the total amount of \$7,200.

- Question: Is it possible to have a policy that if a person is feeling ill, they should not come to in-person meetings?
  - Answer: County guidance is that if you are feeling ill, please do not show up to inperson meetings. EJC meetings will always have an option for people to attend virtually.

Jenna Kay, Clark County, then went over work plan logistics, outlining the formal steps for submitting their draft work plans to the county.

Members then briefly shared how they plan to approach their public engagement work throughout this process. Tactics mentioned encompassed a range of methods, including surveys, community meetings, events, and collaboration with other organizations, with an emphasis on engaging diverse stakeholder groups and utilizing both online and in-person platforms for outreach. Many members shared that they plan to engage their communities using multiple methods at once. Ben encouraged members to connect with other individual EJC members where they see opportunities to collaborate.

One member asked how we can ensure that EJC members are not replicating efforts or reaching out to the same people over the course of this project. Ben and county staff noted that this is an important consideration and that the group can revisit in future meetings to reduce redundancy across EJC member public engagement efforts.

#### **Equity Lens**

Jenna reviewed equity components of the HB 1181 climate change planning legislation (now codified in RCW 36.70A) and how the Climate Element must address Environmental Justice. The Equity Lens, which will be developed by the EJC to guide policy and goal recommendations, will be used by county staff and the EJC to review initial policy recommendations from the CAG.

Ben reviewed common Environmental Justice core principles, an overview of environmental-related inequities, and the concept of targeted universalism. Jenna and Ben emphasized the mandatory nature of these considerations and the importance of ensuring community input informs the policy recommendations throughout this project.

Ben posed the following discussion prompts to help the group begin developing the Equity Lens:

- What questions do we need to ask to account for climate impacts to vulnerable populations?
- What questions do we need to ask to avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts to overburdened communities?
- What questions can ensure that we have utilized community input and relevant data sources?

The group had the following input:

- One member suggested asking the following:
  - What is most important to you and what are you most concerned about?
  - What would support you during inclement weather?
- One member emphasized the tension between community understanding/education and engagement regarding climate change issues. They noted the importance of educating the community to support better engagement and data collection while still treating data collection and education as two separate, but related, tasks.

- In terms of education, other members discussed how to make complex information accessible to a community with multiple time and capacity constraints.
- Members discussed identifying vulnerabilities and factors like socio-economic status
  while also integrating local knowledge and traditional practices into the development of
  the Climate Element.
- Members noted that throughout this process, we need to ask people what is most important to them and what they are most concerned about. This will help the project team understand peoples' day-to-day experiences and how climate change impacts them and their communities.
- An EJC member shared additional questions in the Zoom chat that could be asked to
  address the prompts Ben posed to the group and become a part of the Equity Lens.
  These questions underscored that understanding existing community challenges is crucial
  before introducing new climate initiatives and called for the lens to assess potential
  impacts, involve communities in decision-making, mitigate negative effects, invest in
  resilience, and establish transparent monitoring. Please refer to <a href="Appendix A: Zoom Chat">Appendix A: Zoom Chat</a>
  (time stamp 17:45:05) for more details.

The group did not have time to discuss each prompt in detail and will discuss the Equity Lens further at their next meeting.

#### **Climate Hazards and Impacts Presentation and Discussion**

Dana Hellman and Zachary Boyce, CAPA Strategies, presented on Climate Hazards and Impacts. They provided an overview of the climate resilience sub-element introduced by House Bill 1181 in Clark County which outlines the process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to climate change to minimize negative impacts on natural systems, infrastructure, and communities.

Key topics covered included drought, extreme heat, flooding, storms, landslides, wildfires and smoke, along with their potential impacts on human health, infrastructure, and the environment. Zachary and Dana emphasized the interconnectedness of these hazards and the importance of considering social factors, such as past planning decisions, physical sensitivity, and adaptive capacity in climate resilience planning.

Ben asked the group if they had any initial thoughts or first impressions after the Climate Hazards and Impacts presentation and posed the following, prompting questions:

- Who is impacted, by what hazards, in what ways, where?
- What impacts or considerations are important to include in this planning project?

Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West, recorded the group's discussion on a virtual whiteboard, which can be viewed in detail in <u>Appendix B: Jamboard</u>. Below is a summary of the group's questions and input:

- Members shared insights on how climate hazards affect them and their communities.
   Specifically, the impacts of wildfires, severe rain and heat, and pollution on people's health, livelihoods, and daily lives.
- Members also discussed how hazards exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, such as houselessness.
- One member mentioned the need for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions while also adapting to climate change impacts that are currently affecting communities.

 Some members raised questions about projection tools and how they can be used for future considerations.

Ben then asked the group to consider how we can best bring this information about climate hazards and impacts to their community members. Nicole recorded the group's discussion on a virtual whiteboard, which can be viewed in detail in <a href="Appendix B: Jamboard">Appendix B: Jamboard</a>. Below is a summary of the group's discussion:

- Consider using playful engagement tactics or games to relay information, instead of reading materials or slides.
- Compensate people for their time and for sharing their feedback.
- Work with trusted community leaders to reach people.
- Communicate clear expectations of what community members can expect to happen after they share their input, and then follow-up about how their input was used.
- Keep in mind the "So what?" for community members and why they might want to participate.
- Utilize storytelling to communicate how climate change is impacting communities today.
- Provide food at events.
- Publicize the project and engagement opportunities widely.

#### **Public Comment**

Ben opened the public comment period.

One member of the public brought up Washington's Climate Commitment Act and noted how it is designed to be equitable and is raising billions of dollars to pay for clean energy projects. They stated that this could hypothetically include a mechanism for reducing a person's energy burden.

Ben reminded the public that there is a form on Clark County's website to submit comments at any time during the project at <a href="https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments">https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments</a> and comments can be emailed to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov.

## **Next Steps**

Ben and Clark County staff went over next steps for EJC members, which consisted of:

- Completing the Open Public Meetings Act training.
- Submitting January and February invoice forms.
- Finalizing public engagement work plans.

Members can direct questions about invoicing and work plans to Lauren, Amy, and Jenna. All other questions can be directed to Nicole and Ben.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 3:30-6:30p.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm PT.

# Appendix A: Zoom Chat

Below is a verbatim transcript of the webinar Zoom chat.

15:41:30 From Ana/Rose LLNW to Hosts and panelists:

Hello, I am at a conference and will have to leave at 6pm. My apologies!

15:42:09 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Sounds good, thanks for letting us know Ana!

15:42:15 From Farm & Food Justice; Wellsave (Jude) to Everyone:

mic not working

15:42:21 From Yolanda Frazier NAACP President to Hosts and panelists:

Hello I am Yolanda NAACP President Vancouver WA - My speaker is'nt working but I can hear. Thank you

15:43:07 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

I'm joined here today with my wonderful FPF colleague, Almendra as well!

15:47:27 From Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West to Everyone:

Hi all, please reach out to me at gsimmons@kearnswest.com or through DM here if needed.

15:51:22 From Lauren Henricksen to Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West(Direct Message):

Loveita Morrison and Minh Pham are unable to access the meeting. I'm not sure if you're the person who could help them--they are sending emails that they can't get in due to not having a Microsoft account.

15:52:44 From Farm & Food Justice; Wellsave (Jude) to Everyone:

We can "view full transcript" but it doesn't look like we can save/show. Same with chat.

15:53:12 From Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West to Lauren Henricksen(Direct Message):

HI Lauren, thanks for the heads up. I am working with Loveita directly to try and get them in the meeting. Minh was able to get in it appears.

15:53:59 From Lauren Henricksen to Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West(Direct Message):

👍 Thanks.

15:55:03 From Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West to Everyone:

As a reminder - Feel free to email comments to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov or submit a comment online at this link: https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments

16:01:14 From Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West to Farm & Food Justice; Wellsave (Jude)(Direct Message):

Hi there, for the chat and make it available, and we will also post a full recording of the meeting afterwards.

16:03:09 From Ben Duncan, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

@Paris, should we promote Almendra or are they just joining in audience?

16:03:41 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Please promote her! She'll be joining me in this EJC work moving forward as well.

16:03:45 From Farm & Food Justice; Wellsave (Jude) to Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West(Direct Message):

Thanks. I know the transcript is AI generated. I prefer to have it anyway for quick searching on topics -- versus having to watch the recording -- you should understand as researcher/facilitators.

16:12:13 From Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West to Farm & Food Justice; Wellsave (Jude)(Direct Message):

We understand that need. We also produce a meeting summary after each meeting which will be made public. Beyond that, I will take your input back to the project team as it is theoretically possible to make transcripts available publicly too.

16:13:53 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

Will screenshots work for saving posts and comments? Do you want us to forward the emails or screenshots?

16:17:11 From Laura Ellsworth, EJC (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

can we have a policy for in person meetings that if a person is feeling ill, they should not come?

16:19:46 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

This has been helpful, I didn't realize we could add staff time to the \$7,200 engagement proposal.

16:25:45 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

What is the best way for the public to stay informed about the EJC work and its meetings?

16:32:31 From Amy Koski, Clark County Public Health (she, her) to Everyone:

Monica, we are happy to put together a list of activities once work plans are finalized. There will also be an opportunity at monthly EJC meetings for updates from each of the EJC members about their work.

16:32:59 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

Thank you

16:36:20 From Yolanda Frazier NAACP President to Hosts and panelists:

Our Workplan exists of gathering at least 1x a month for the remainder of the year as our NAACP Public General Meetings are already standing public community meeting seeking and engaging community input and engagement. Our communities trust us and they're already excited to begin these EJC public meetings held on the last Wednesday of month. It will be something exciting & new as a topic within these meetings so we're excited as we incorporate these meetings in current standing general public meetings. Thank you!!

16:37:11 From Ben Duncan, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

thanks Yolanda! know mic isn't working

16:37:55 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Love the Healing Circle concept, MZ!

16:40:50 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

Thank you Paris. 😊 🛎

Question:

Is there an email list for the public to get on to receive notifications and reminders of monthly meetings and other events the public can attend?

16:42:15 From Loveita M, OWIES to Hosts and panelists:

We're doing 5 types of input-gathering Tasks: 1. Women's Mosaic (Health) Radio Show 2. Black women's Focus Group 3. In-person interviews focusing on representation from unsheltered houseless folks and Black/ Brown women caretakers. 4. Surveys (in person and online) 5. Youth Community Conversation

16:43:12 From Ben Duncan, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

from loveita: We're doing 5 types of input-gathering Tasks: 1. Women's Mosaic (Health) Radio Show 2. Black women's Focus Group 3. In-person interviews focusing on representation from unsheltered houseless folks and Black/ Brown women caretakers. 4. Surveys (in person and online) 5. Youth Community Conversation

16:46:17 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Everyone:

Thanks for your comment Jude about saving chat/transcript. We will save the chat and make it available, as well as a meeting recording and summary. We will also explore how to share a meeting transcript.

17:06:38 From Erin Hamilton, iUrban Teen to Hosts and panelists:

Ask community members open ended "what is most important to you and what are you most concerned about?

17:06:52 From Ana/Rose LLNW EJC She/Her/Ella to Hosts and panelists:

We are at the same conference. We are taking off too.

17:07:53 From Loveita M, OWIES to Hosts and panelists:

Right on, paris

17:09:40 From Erin Hamilton, iUrban Teen to Hosts and panelists:

Might be helpful to have current public health data so community members have examples

17:11:30 From Gabriela Mewndoza/Ewing (she/her/ella) EJC & CAG to Everyone:

Thank you everyone!

17:11:36 From Grant Simmons (he/him), Kearns & West to Everyone:

We will reconvene at 5:21pm.

17:12:01 From Yolanda Frazier NAACP President to Hosts and panelists:

I LOVE that explanation PARIS - time is always precious to each of us, considering our most vulnerable and ostracized communities.

17:31:44 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

My data nerd is very happy.

- 17:45:05 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:
- 2. What questions do we need to ask to avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts to overburdened communities?

To avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts in overburdened communities, it's important to ask questions such as:

- 1. \*\*What are the existing stressors and vulnerabilities in the community?\*\* Understand the socioeconomic, environmental, and health challenges faced by the community before introducing any new projects or policies.
- 2. \*\*How might proposed climate initiatives affect these communities?\*\* Assess the potential impacts of climate-related projects or policies on issues such as air and water quality, access to resources, displacement, and economic opportunities.
- 3. \*\*Are there alternative solutions that minimize negative impacts?\*\* Explore options that prioritize environmental justice and equity, considering factors like location, scale, technology, and community involvement.
- 17:45:34 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:
- 4. \*\*Have community members been consulted and involved in decision-making processes?\*\* Ensure that affected communities have a voice in planning, implementing, and evaluating climate initiatives to address their specific needs and concerns.
- 5. \*\*What measures can be taken to mitigate adverse effects?\*\* Identify strategies to minimize or offset negative impacts, such as providing adequate compensation, improving infrastructure, or implementing green infrastructure solutions.
- 6. \*\*How can we build resilience and capacity within the community?\*\* Invest in initiatives that strengthen community resilience, including education, training, access to resources, and social support networks.

- 7. \*\*What monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place?\*\* Establish transparent and accountable processes for tracking the effectiveness and equity of climate initiatives and adjusting them as needed based on feedback from affected communities.
- 17:45:48 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:
- 8. \*\*Are there opportunities for co-benefits and positive outcomes?\*\* Look for ways to align climate action with community priorities and values, such as creating local jobs, improving public health, and enhancing quality of life.
- 9. \*\*How can we address historical injustices and disparities?\*\* Acknowledge and rectify past injustices and systemic inequalities that have disproportionately impacted overburdened communities, and work towards building trust and partnership.

By asking these questions and engaging in meaningful dialogue with affected communities, policymakers, and stakeholders can work together to develop climate solutions that prioritize equity, justice, and sustainability.

17:49:46 From Ben Duncan, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

Zachary, you likely can go until 5:55 we will not have 10 mins of public comment (based on audience)

17:52:00 From Lauren Henricksen to Everyone:

Did the sound go out for anyone else?

17:52:09 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

Nc

17:52:15 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Not for me. LH!

17:52:23 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

I can hear I mean

17:52:51 From Lauren Henricksen to Everyone:

Fixed it. Always nice when the computer changes settings on its own.

17:56:27 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

3.

What questions can ensure that we have utilized community input and relevant data sources?

To ensure that community input and relevant data sources have been effectively utilized, consider asking the following questions:

- 1. \*\*Have community members been actively engaged throughout the process?\*\* Ensure that diverse voices within the community have been heard and involved in decision-making, planning, and implementation stages.
- 2. \*\*What methods were used to gather community input?\*\* Evaluate the approaches taken to solicit feedback, such as community meetings, surveys, interviews, focus groups, or participatory workshops.
- 3. \*\*Was the input collected representative of the community's demographics and perspectives?\*\* Assess whether efforts were made to reach marginalized or underrepresented groups and ensure their voices were included.
- 17:56:48 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:
- 4. \*\*How was community input incorporated into decision-making?\*\* Determine how feedback and suggestions from the community were considered and integrated into project plans, policies, or initiatives.
- 5. \*\*Were there mechanisms for ongoing communication and feedback loops?\*\* Evaluate whether opportunities for continued engagement and dialogue were provided, allowing the community to stay informed and provide input as the project progressed.
- 6. \*\*Did the data sources used reflect the community's needs and priorities?\*\* Verify that relevant data sources, such as demographic information, environmental assessments, health studies, or socioeconomic data, were utilized to inform decision-making.
- 7. \*\*Were there any gaps or limitations in the data collected or used?\*\* Identify any areas where additional data may be needed to better understand community needs, preferences, or vulnerabilities.
- 17:57:01 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:
- 8. \*\*How were conflicting perspectives or priorities addressed?\*\* Consider how divergent opinions or interests within the community were managed and reconciled to reach consensus or accommodate diverse viewpoints.
- 9. \*\*Was there transparency in how community input was utilized?\*\* Ensure that the process for incorporating community feedback into decision-making is transparent, accountable, and documented for stakeholders to review.

10. \*\*What measures were taken to ensure data privacy and confidentiality?\*\* Respect the privacy and confidentiality of community members by implementing appropriate safeguards when collecting and using sensitive information.

By asking these questions, stakeholders can assess the effectiveness of community engagement efforts and the relevance of data sources in informing decision-making processes. This helps ensure that projects and policies are responsive to the needs and priorities of the communities they serve.

17:59:18 From Yolanda Frazier NAACP President to Hosts and panelists:

Ben, Amy & Jenna and everyone, I'll need to jump at 6pm for another meeting. I loved the presentation and our organization is excited to get this dialogue going with our communities. I'm here to deploy this work and it's going to be exciting!! Have a Blessed evening everyone.

17:59:23 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

I could see where reducing duplication for high touch data collection like focus groups could be helpful to align some understanding of participant duplication

18:05:10 From Farm & Food Justice; Wellsave (Jude) to Everyone:

Please be clearer on the likelihood (in any given year) of what "on average" is a "2-year storm" and what that looks like (stream banks "full"). Given that the "average" is based on the past, how are you/they accounting for the fact that climate change has a baseline change. Can the past still project the future -- are you maps now based more on modeling scenarios rather than older methods that were based on data. In terms of impacts, will you evaluate impacts of development on runoff rates and levels; Also the impact on drainage and likely WASTE Water impacts.

18:05:59 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

Question maybe for another time or now,

What happens if when the proposals are presented to the planning commission, and then the county council for adoption...what if either or both of the decision-making bodies choose to ignore the recommendations of this group...for whatever reasons? Is there a mechanism for holding the planning commission and then the county council "accountable" for implementing them?

18:06:47 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

I've heard recently "the economy" can't handle these types of policies...

18:08:06 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Absolutely fab, Loveita! YES to that a million x over.

18:09:02 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

Maslow's Hierarchy Of Needs

https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html

18:10:37 From Farm & Food Justice; Wellsave (Jude) to Everyone:

Link to your jam board, please?

18:11:50 From Amy Koski, Clark County Public Health (she, her) to Everyone:

We will provide meeting notes including jam board.

18:12:23 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

 $https://jamboard.google.com/d/1f1msLfSWJWaTxlDT\_fuemMxqQAVexDFbXePuRLCO\\ 6fA/edit?usp=sharing$ 

18:12:50 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

Provide Food

18:13:13 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:

At events\*

18:27:43 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone: Yes, happy to use Jamboard!

18:28:53 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone: Maybe 2 meetings a month with all the things to discuss...

18:30:09 From Monica Zazueta, LULAC Council #47026, She/her to Everyone:



18:30:26 From Paris Nelson, EJC (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone: Cheers y'all! Great work project team. :)

18:30:27 From Almendra Velazquez to Everyone:

Thank you

# Appendix B: Jamboard

Below are screenshots of the Jamboard virtual whiteboard and comments captured during the meeting.





