



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

clark.wa.gov

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Clark County Climate Change Planning Environmental Justice Coalition and Community Advisory Group Joint Meeting #1

February 21, 2024, 3:30-6pm PT, Remote

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

Community Advisory Group members: Councilor Michelle Belkot (Council Liaison), Jessica Brown, Sharon Ferguson, Ann Foster, Nelson Holmberg, Josh Jones, Janet Kenefsky, Thilo Kluth, Nick Massie, Gabriela Mendoza Ewing, Kathy Miu, Juan Monje, Sunrise Omahoney, Minh Pham, Dave Rowe, Andrea Smith, Don Steinke, Terry Toland, Alana Tudela, Justin Wood, Monica Zazueta

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

County staff: Gary Albrecht, Christine Cook, Lauren Henricksen, Jenna Kay, Amy Koski, Oliver Orjiako

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

Number of members of the public in attendance: 18

Welcome, agenda review and introductions

Clark County officials and members of Kearns & West welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, reviewed the agenda and outlined the purpose and desired outcomes of the meeting:

- Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) and Community Advisory Group (CAG) members get to know one another;
- Introduce key concepts for the project
- Share an overview of the project purpose and need; and,
- Review the roles of the advisory group members and the decision-making process.

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

Members round robin

Members of the EJC and CAG introduced themselves, sharing their organization (if affiliated) and one thing that inspires them to be a part of climate change work in Clark County. Common reasons included a commitment to community, equity, an appreciation of nature, and laying a better foundation for the area's future. Please refer to [Appendix A: Zoom Chat](#) to view comments submitted by EJC members about the groups they work with.

Project purpose, background, and process overview

Ben Duncan, Kearns & West, shared definitions of key concepts that will be referenced throughout the Climate Change Planning project. Key concepts include environmental justice, vulnerability, resilience, and health disparities. Some definitions were based on recent Washington legislation as well as other state and federal law.

Jenna Kay, Clark County, went over the project purpose, desired outcomes for both the EJC and CAG advisory groups, and shared more information about the Climate Element, which is a required addition to Clark County's Comprehensive Plan according to E2SHB 1181.

The group had the following questions:

- Question: I don't see anything about health in the plan itself. Will there be a health element? Are there any interim goals or checkpoints built into the process as well?
 - Answer: *There is not currently a health element in the county's Comprehensive Plan. The topic of health disparities comes up a lot in the legislation (HB 1181) so it is something we will have to figure out how to address. For interim goals, the current version of the Washington State Department of Commerce's guidance document directs us to come up with interim goals. HB 1181 requires that climate element implementation progress be reported and monitored. For instance, there's been a suggestion that the group establish five-year check points to review goals and progress for reaching the policy goals of the Climate Element in alignment with the implementation monitoring schedule.*
- Question: Will these slides be available online after?
 - Answer: *Yes, they will be made available.*

Sylvia went over the EJC and CAG member roles, outlining how the groups' work will inform each other. She noted that specific roles and expectations will be confirmed at the next meeting. Additionally, Sylvia shared a high-level project timeline and topics for subsequent meetings.

Jenna went over group logistics and asked that members complete the Open Government Training in the next few months. She also highlighted a few items covered in the training such as explaining that a quorum of members of an advisory group constitutes a meeting under the Open Public Meetings Act, and that communications (i.e., emails, phone calls, in-person meetings, etc.) pertaining to the project would be considered public records and may be subject to public records requests.

The group had the following questions and comments:

- Question: How does the plan take into account climate plans created by cities within Clark County? What is being done to ensure that they all fit together?
 - Answer: *Consistency is key. Under Washington State's Growth Management Act, every county needs to have countywide planning policies. These policies live in the county's comprehensive plan and serve as the way for the cities and county to check if the policies in their comprehensive plans are consistent with the other neighboring jurisdictions' comprehensive plans.*
- Question: Will there be translation resources for the process to engage non-native English-speaking communities?
 - Answer: *Yes, the county will work with each organization on the EJC individually to gauge what is needed. The county has a translation budget that can cover some translation needs. Some EJC members can help with translation as well. The goal is to have a process that removes as many barriers as possible for people to participate.*
- Question: What are the constraints or boundaries for the work of the CAG and EJC?
 - Answer: *The group must devise a framework and criteria for creating policies for the Climate Element. If something like cost is important to the group, then that could be a criterion to evaluate potential policies against. Environmental justice is an example of a criteria written into the legislation, so that is an example of something that we have to consider. Other constraints for the project will be based on the Growth Management Act (which incorporates HB 1181) and any other applicable laws, and some will be identified by the EJC and CAG. We will go into more specific details at subsequent meetings.*

- One member noted that federal funds are forthcoming for environmental justice and climate work and that individuals should actively monitor and pursue these funds. In conjunction, Washington's Climate Commitment Act is in place, which will result in additional funding opportunities. Failure to engage in the application process may result in unutilized resources.

Public comment

There was an opportunity for public comment. No members of the public commented. Sylvia reminded the public that there is a form on Clark County's website to submit comments at any time during the project and comments can be emailed to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov or submitted online at <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments>.

Next steps

Sylvia reviewed the following actions items for advisory group members:

- EJC and CAG members complete Open Government Training.
- CAG members submit stipend forms.
- CAG members complete the Vision Statement survey by the next meeting (survey link will be emailed after the meeting).
- CAG members respond to scheduling availability survey.
- EJC members submit January invoice forms.
- EJC members work on public engagement workplans, referring to the forms and templates [available on the Clark County website](#), and send a first draft to county staff by Friday, March 1.
- EJC members review the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for public engagement activities (county staff to send).

She noted that presentation materials and a recording of the meeting will be made available publicly on the CAG website at <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/community-advisory-group>. The next EJC meeting will be on March 4 from 3:30-6:30p. The next CAG meeting is yet to be scheduled.

EJC workplan discussion

Amy Koski, Clark County, reviewed the goals of EJC public engagement and equity work, timeline for engagement activities, and shared an overview of the EJC engagement workplans. CAG members were released from the meeting.

The group had the following questions and comments:

- Question: For each phase of the project, is there a requirement for how many people EJC members need to engage or gather input from?
 - Answer: *Those standards can be defined by the EJC members as they know their communities best. There are no official requirements that workplans must adhere to.*
- Question: What documents do EJC members need to fill out next?
 - Answer: *On the Clark County website there is a template library for EJC members - there are three documents that need to be filled out. The most urgent one is the engagement workplan. It isn't essential that EJC members use the workplan template on the website, it is there just to be helpful.*

Amy reviewed next steps for EJC members as they relate to upcoming public engagement and workplan development, which are noted above in the “Next steps” section.

Additionally, the group discussed and shared what inspires them to be a part of the EJC and engage their communities around this project. Members highlighted the importance of community, relationships between one another, and a responsibility to do beneficial work for future generations. Members also discussed representation and an obligation to accurately reflect their community’s needs and desires in this work. Please refer to [Appendix A: Zoom Chat](#) to view comments submitted by EJC members during this discussion.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm PT.

Appendix A: Zoom Chat

Below is a verbatim transcript of the webinar Zoom chat.

15:32:03 From Andrea Smith, BIAW to Everyone:

I'm driving up north and won't have video today unfortunately

15:41:33 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

Hello everyone, please get in touch with me if you have any tech issues.

15:43:36 From Tavie Keo to Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him)(Direct Message):

Hi Grant, just as an FYI - My Zoom will sometimes freeze up and usually I have to ALT-F4 and restart the program, do you happen to know a fix? I'm not really sure what the error is

15:45:31 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

Project webpage: clark.wa.gov/community-planning/climate-change-planning

Environmental Justice Coalition Webpage: clark.wa.gov/community-planning/environmental-justice-coalition

Community Advisory Group Webpage: clark.wa.gov/community-planning/community-advisory-group

Clark County Contact: Jenna Kay, jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov

Project notifications: Subscribe to clark.wa.gov/community-planning/get-project-updates

15:46:22 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

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>

15:52:24 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

Please say your name, organization, pronouns.

Additionally, what is one thing that inspires you to be a part of climate change work in Clark County?

15:54:13 From Paris Nelson (she/her): Fourth Plain Forward to Hosts and panelists:



15:54:53 From Monica Zazueta to Everyone:

Vice President of Vancouver Metro LULAC Council #47026, President of SWWA Victory Food Project, Washington Electric Vehicle Advisory Committee, Clark County Environmental Justice Coalition, Clark County Climate Advisory Committee, Fourth Plain Forward Community

Advisory Committee, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, Alliance for Community Engagement, Beyond Fossil Fuels Task Force Committee, Loo Wit Sierra Club Excom, Sierra Club Political committee

15:55:21 From Paris Nelson (she/her): Fourth Plain Forward to Hosts and panelists:

FPF Community Advisory Committee represent!

15:57:45 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Tavie Keo, iUrban Teen (she/her)(Direct Message):

Hi Tavie, the issue could be a number of things but oftentimes it may just be that your version of Zoom is outdated or that you are running a lot of programs at once. After this meeting, I would try updating Zoom at the very least.

16:04:49 From Tavie Keo, iUrban Teen (she/her) to Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him)(Direct Message):

Thanks Grant!

16:06:28 From Michelle Belkot, Clark County Councilor, District 2 to Hosts and panelists:

What is a good link for constituents to log on and listen?

16:09:18 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Hosts and panelists:

Hi Michelle, Please refer people to this link: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/j/82458214624>

16:11:10 From Michelle Belkot, Clark County Councilor, District 2 to Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him)(Direct Message):

They've tried and it doesn't work. That's the link I received in my e-mail

16:13:35 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Michelle Belkot, Clark County Councilor, District 2(Direct Message):

Hi Michelle, that is correct. We only have one link to make access as easy as possible.

16:13:48 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Michelle Belkot, Clark County Councilor, District 2(Direct Message):

Do you know what error people are specifically encountering?

16:14:44 From Andrea Smith, CAG to Hosts and panelists:

Just need to be a panelist. Lost signal for a moment.

16:41:26 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

To unmute on phone press *6, to raise hand press *9. Please remember to share your name and affiliation.

16:50:41 From Gabriela Mendoza/ Ewing (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Sorry I have to turn off my camera, my internet connection is not very good.

16:53:12 From Monica Zazueta to Everyone:

The cost of doing nothing is more than doing something.

17:10:59 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

Here is the link to the Open Government Training: <https://clark.wa.gov/open-government-training>

17:12:48 From sunrise omahoney, she/her/hers CAG to Everyone:

How many people are in each group?

17:14:14 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

15 in the EJC, 22 in the CAG

17:14:27 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Everyone:

15 in the EJC, 22 in the CAG

17:17:01 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

To unmute on phone press *6, to raise hand press *9. Please remember to share your name and affiliation.

17:21:17 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

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

17:22:29 From sunrise omahoney, she/her/hers CAG to Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him)(Direct Message):

If I want to stay on for the EJC portion but as the public can I? If so, do I need to leave and come back or can you just change from panelist?

17:23:30 From Ana Betancourt She/Her LLNW to Hosts and panelists:

Will the EJC meeting be via zoom?

17:24:03 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to sunrise omahoney, she/her/hers CAG(Direct Message):

Yes, you are free to stay if you'd like. I can change you from panelist to attendee.

17:26:52 From sunrise omahoney, she/her/hers CAG to Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him)(Direct Message):

Thank you

17:27:17 From Kathy Miu, CAG (she/her) to Everyone:

Poll works now, but only single choice.

17:31:29 From Paris Nelson (she/her): Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Woohoo! <3

17:31:38 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Everyone:

Hi Ana - For now, our plan is for the EJC meetings to be hybrid. We will follow-up with more details!

17:49:13 From Jenna Kay, Clark County, she/her to Hosts and panelists:

EJC templates: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/ejc-member-forms-and-templates>

17:52:41 From Monica Zazueta to Everyone:
Healing Systems.

How recognizing trauma in ourselves, other people, and the systems around us can open up new pathways to solving social problems.

<https://ssir.org/articles/entry/healing-trauma-systems#>

17:53:05 From Paris Nelson (she/her): Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:
Thank you Ms. Karen <3

17:53:10 From Tavie Keo to Everyone:



17:53:22 From Laura Ellsworth EJC (she/her) to Everyone:



17:53:23 From Gabriela Mendoza/ Ewing (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:



17:53:45 From Paris Nelson (she/her): Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

❤️ Love you MZ

17:54:08 From Dania Otto (she/her) Sakura 39ers Youth Association to Hosts and panelists:



17:59:20 From Monica Zazueta to Everyone:

I want to play more in nature. I want everyone to play more in nature. Love you Paris!

18:00:11 From Erin Hamilton, iUrban Teen to Everyone:



18:02:22 From Don Steinke, Climate Action Southwest Washington to Hosts and panelists:

I hold sacred our obligation to protect our children's future.

18:02:22 From Tavie Keo to Everyone:

Thank you!!

18:02:25 From Tavie Keo to Everyone:



18:02:27 From Dania Otto (she/her) Sakura 39ers Youth Association to Hosts and panelists:

thank you