



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

[clark.wa.gov](http://clark.wa.gov)

1300 Franklin Street  
PO Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000  
564.397.2000

# Clark County Climate Change Planning

## Environmental Justice Coalition Meeting #3

April 1st, 2024, 3:30-6:30pm PT

Public Services Center in Vancouver, WA and  
Zoom Webinar

*Meeting Summary*

FUNDED BY WASHINGTON'S

**CLIMATE**   
**COMMITMENT**  
**ACT** 

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](http://www.climate.wa.gov).

## Attendees

### Environmental Justice Coalition members:

- Ana Bentancourt (Latino Leadership NW)
- Laura Ellsworth (Council for the Homeless)
- Gabriela Mendoza Ewing (Pasitos Gigantes)
- Patricia Haggerty (Farm and Food Justice Network)
- Josh Jones (Partners in Careers)
- Loveita Morrison (Odyssey World International Education Services)
- Paris Nelson (Fourth Plain Forward)
- Rebecca O'Brien (Free Clinic of Southwest Washington)
- Dania Otto (Sakura 39ers Youth Association)
- Minh Pham (Vietnamese Community of Clark County)
- Alana Tudela (Pacific Islander Health Board of Washington)
- Angela William (Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington)
- Monica Zazueta (League of United Latin American Citizens - Vancouver Metro)

**Environmental Justice Coalition alternates:** Erin Hamilton (iUrban Teen), Lika Smith (Pacific Islander Health Board of Washington), Almendra Velazquez (Fourth Plain Forward), Jude Wait (Farm and Food Justice Network)

**County staff:** Christine Cook, Lauren Henricksen, Jenna Kay, Amy Koski

**Consultant team:** Ben Duncan, Gillian Garber-Yonts, Grant Simmons (Kearns & West); Tracy Lunsford (Parametrix); Dana Hellman (CAPA Strategies)

**Number of members of the public in attendance:** 8

## Welcome and Updates

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 final engagement workplans.
- Prepare for initial public engagement.

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.

Ben went over protocol for approving materials. He then asked if there were suggested edits or questions for Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) meeting summaries #1 and #2. There were no suggested corrections and both summaries were therefore approved.

Jenna Kay, Clark County, expressed gratitude for the team's engagement plans and mentioned the adjustment of insurance requirements for the contracts recently sent to EJC member organizations. She asked EJC members to raise any questions or concerns. Additionally, she reminded members to complete the open government training if they haven't already done so.

Jenna informed EJC members that the county would share public comments with the EJC monthly, advising members to review them along with their other meeting materials to inform considerations and noted members don't have any obligation to respond to comments. She also mentioned a request for copies of the meeting Zoom transcripts, stating that there are currently

no plans to distribute them, but chat and meeting recordings, along with meeting summaries, will be made public after meetings.

Jenna informed members about climate project communications they may see for other advisory groups or general public engagement events and reminded members that attendance at events outside EJC meetings is not required. Jenna noted the county is trying to clearly label project communications and who they are for, but if EJC members have questions about whether something applies to them, they can reach out to county staff to clarify. She also highlighted two open Community Based Organization (CBO) grants: one with the WA Department of Commerce and another with the Environmental Protection Agency.

## Engagement Workplan Check-In

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

Lauren Henricksen, Clark County, went over a high-level summary of engagement workplans from EJC members. Ben posed the questions “Which populations are you focusing on?” and “What geography(ies) are you expecting to reach?” to the members. The group had the following discussion. Please refer to [Appendix B: Miro Board](#) to view a screenshot of the Miro whiteboard, which was used to capture the discussion. See [Appendix A: Zoom Chat](#) for comments submitted through the chat.

- EJC members discussed data collection methods and target populations: Various groups are using surveys, focus groups, virtual events, and collaborations to collect feedback from specific communities such as:
  - Adults facing difficulty finding housing or employment
  - BIPOC community members
  - Black families
  - Chuukese and Compact of Free Association (COFA) communities
  - Evergreen parents
  - Families with children
  - Farmers
  - Farmworkers
  - Fort Vancouver Low Rider Car show attendees
  - Free clinic patients (particularly Spanish-speaking and uninsured populations)
  - Immigrant and refugee populations
  - People with intersectional identities
  - Latinx students
  - Pacific Islander community
  - People experiencing homelessness
  - People living in emergency shelters
  - Unsheltered people
  - People living with intellectual or developmental disabilities
  - People with ADHD who are not covered by county services
  - People with low income (specifically renters)
  - Students and families from underrepresented communities
  - Ukrainian, Russian, Arabic and Spanish-speaking communities
  - Undocumented Spanish speakers
  - Veterans
  - Vietnamese population
  - Women of color
- Members noted that gaps in populations currently focused on included children, those with non-intellectual or developmental disabilities, LGBTQ+ populations, food insecure people, hunger relief providers, younger kids, public utility workers, elderly people, people who work outside or who are high environmental risk, and indigenous persons. Members also noted opportunities at events, such as the Multicultural Resource Fair,

would be a good method to connect with populations that specific EJC work plans may not reach and that upcoming events should be showcased at every EJC meeting.

- Members discussed intersectional identities and noted that many community members fall into multiple groups. Members also noted that outreach to one group will likely touch on other groups.
- EJC members also discussed geographic considerations. Members focused on reaching diverse populations across Clark County, including spread-out communities like Pacific Islander communities. The group noted that some geographic reach is tied to specific zip codes or schools, while other outreach is more focused on reaching populations spread throughout the county.
- Several groups mentioned collaborations with other organizations to expand their reach and impact.

## Draft Survey Review

Ben Duncan went over the draft survey questions. Jenna outlined the purpose of this engagement phase, which is one of four distinct phases. The goal is to gain a better understanding of how climate hazards affect individuals in the county. Feedback gathered in the coming months will be valuable to the county, providing insights into concerns about climate hazards, beneficial community services, and community assets. This feedback will also inform policy ideas, although this stage is several months away. She also noted that once these questions were finalized, they would be sent out for translation.

The group had the following discussion about the draft survey questions:

- Members discussed asking respondents for further information. One member suggested considering linguistic diversity and asking about proficiency in Indigenous languages. Another member suggested gathering information about respondents' current or past residency in Clark County. Members also raised potential questions about employment, business impacts, and assistance received.
- The group had a conversation on the human element of the survey. Some members noted that humanizing the survey could encourage better participation. Members suggested using infographics or engaging visuals to convey data and information effectively.
- Members discussed question two. One member suggested refining survey questions to focus on daily impacts of climate change on activities, health, and services. Members discussed adding a temporal element to the question, including the use of “recent” in terms of weather events and asking respondents to identify when, specifically, they may have been impacted. There was also discussion focusing on where people currently live; the consultant team encouraged allowing people to respond based on their experiences anywhere in the county to allow us to capture a broader range of experiences. In addition to physical impacts of weather events, multiple members raised the possibility of asking about other types of impacts including but not limited to emotional, economic, and childcare impacts.
  - Question: In this question, are ice/snow part of “Storms?”

- *Answer: This is something we've had internal conversation about. What is the difference between a climate hazard and a natural weather event? A climate change hazard is a natural weather event that is made worse by climate change. In this case, storms mean rain and windstorms. Severe cold weather is where ice/snow could fit. Based on the robust scientific evidence, more severe cold weather is not projected for Clark County over the next few decades. However, we're still asking about cold weather in the survey because peoples' experiences with any severe weather may be helpful for this project to understand what was helpful and what was needed in a severe weather situation.*
- Members discussed question three. Some members proposed more specific ways to assist communities and identify vulnerable community members. Additionally, members considered perceptions of vulnerability and the usefulness of gauging anticipated needs versus actual needs to improve communication efforts.
- Members discussed reframing the survey to be intended for one member of a household to fill out to speak for the entire family. There was a proposal to revise questions to ask respondents about “you and your family.”
- Impact mitigation was discussed, and members proposed adding a question to ask respondents about how prepared they are for possible climate induced weather events.
- The group discussed translation needs. Both EJC members and the County addressed budget constraints for translation and collaboration on survey creation. Clark County staff noted that translation was paid for by the word. Many members advocated for inclusivity in translation efforts and budget allocation to ensure all residents of Clark County could participate in the survey. The county noted plans for translation in the following languages: Chuukese, Marshallese, Tongan, Chinese, Russian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, and Spanish. There was a request to add Samoan and Kosraean. Members also noted that translation could be paid for by the budget allocated in each organization's engagement work plans.

## Public Comment

Ben opened the public comment period. There were no public comments.

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

## Next Steps

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

- Complete by Wednesday, May 22: [Open Government Training](#)
- Please send March invoices to Jenna, Amy, and Lauren
- Complete the DocuSign for the public engagement Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) before beginning any work plan tasks and send proof of insurance to [GCT@clark.wa.gov](mailto:GCT@clark.wa.gov) (please Cc Jenna, Amy, and Lauren).

- If you have any questions or concerns about the MOA or insurance requirements, please schedule a meeting with the Clark County team.
- Please communicate any changes to your organization's work plan summary to the Clark County team.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, 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.*

15:38:31 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

For Zoom technical issues, please email [gsimmons@kearnswest.com](mailto:gsimmons@kearnswest.com) or message me directly here

15:39:49 From Gabriela Ewing to Hosts and panelists:

Hi, my internet is cutting in between. I'll keep my camera off to improve my connection.

15:43:06 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

For public comment, email comments to [comp.plan@clark.wa.gov](mailto:comp.plan@clark.wa.gov) or submit a comment online: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments>

15:52:13 From Gabriela Ewing to Hosts and panelists:

My accountant is out of town. Sorry for the delay

15:58:45 From Gabriela Ewing to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks for sharing

16:00:35 From Alana LG Tudela to Hosts and panelists:

Can we adjust Pacific Islander Health Boards summary?

16:00:51 From Alana LG Tudela to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you. Will do.

16:08:03 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

Questions of the moment:

Which populations are you focusing on?

What geography(ies) are you expecting to reach?

16:08:47 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Everyone:

This is what the Workplan Summary says: FFJN will administer surveys from farmers and farmworkers

through both online and in-person formats. They will also host three focus groups and two virtual events/meetings to collect feedback from farmers

16:11:40 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Everyone:

Farm operators can be inclusive of owners, managers, workers. County ag statistics includes diversity and majority.

16:12:19 From Ben Duncan (Kearns & West) to Everyone:

thank you for the additional information in chat re: operators/workers and ag statistics

16:18:53 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Love that event!

16:32:47 From Monica Zazueta to Everyone:

Bi-Zi Farm

16:33:05 From Monica Zazueta to Everyone:

Farms\*

16:35:12 From Gabriela Ewing to Hosts and panelists:

We're working with families that have children from age 0 +

16:36:25 From Gabriela Ewing to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you Paris

16:40:11 From Ana Betancourt LLNW to Hosts and panelists:

LGBTQIA+, I believe it is important to name!

16:42:49 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Hosts and panelists:

Other population may include "Hunger relief providers and food insecure people" should be added? (obviously bigger/different problem for unhoused)

16:48:07 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Yes, happy we are collaborating to extend our workplan's reach with OWIES and LULAC!

16:50:12 From Gillian Garber-Yonts, He/Him, Kearns & West to Hosts and panelists:

Paris can you share that again in the chat for the board?

16:50:38 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

The Latino Community Resource Group of Clark County hosts the Multicultural Resource Fair each spring.

16:50:47 From Gillian Garber-Yonts, He/Him, Kearns & West to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you!

16:54:44 From Gabriela Ewing to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks

17:05:51 From Farm food Justice to Everyone:

back

17:09:10 From Erin Hamilton, iUrban Teen to Everyone:

Are ice/snow part of "Storms?"

17:27:28 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Ex. daily activities, health, property, transportation, access to essential services.

17:28:41 From Laura Ellsworth (she/her) to Everyone:

I think those are good considerations across multiple groups, Gabriela.

17:29:16 From Ana Betancourt LLNW to Hosts and panelists:



I hope we can also ask if they speak other indigenous languages. I know working with Latine families we know that there are families that speak very little to no Spanish.

17:40:54 From Ana Betancourt LLNW to Hosts and panelists:

But that would be an effect, no?

17:45:26 From Ana Betancourt LLNW to Hosts and panelists:

That's a great point!!!

17:46:04 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Maybe we could add a question for household size and makeup (youth member, elder member)

17:48:23 From Ana Betancourt LLNW to Hosts and panelists:

Could this include like orgs?

17:48:24 From Loveita M. OWIES to Everyone:

Having the participants identify who they thought were the vulnerable to hazards presented by climate might be helpful.

17:49:26 From Laura Ellsworth (she/her) to Everyone:

yes, for example, I was able to access childcare so I could go to work.

17:49:44 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

I think #4 asks that MZ!

17:51:05 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

I agree with Loveita's additional ?

17:53:26 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Hosts and panelists:

Great comments. Question about employment / jobs; business (crop failures, market problems, customer/client changes, increase needs for services. Where did people get help of what kind? Beware of survey fatigue (stages of surveys ala County phases may not be as welcome).

17:54:01 From Laura Ellsworth (she/her) to Everyone:

is there a usefulness in gauging anticipated needs and vulnerabilities, and what actual needs and vulnerabilities ended up being? Could that influence communications efforts leading up to severe weather events?

17:56:21 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

YES. Loveita put it perfectly.

17:56:48 From Angela William EJC (She/Her) to Everyone:

These are all great comments that they are bringing up. For the Pasifika community we go through the same barriers. I think it would benefit our community that there the full family is included in the survey because, we do have head of households that fill out surveys, and they are usually filling out surveys for multigenerational households. With that being said, what languages will the survey be translated to?

17:56:51 From Farm food Justice to Everyone:

Asking: Do you feel adequately prepared or informed about how to mitigate the impacts of climate-related events in your community?

17:58:12 From Loveita M. OWIES to Everyone:

Yes to the Farm Food Justice!

17:58:29 From Erin Hamilton, iUrban Teen to Everyone:

We don't have to present it in a "clinical" fashion :-). We have relationships with people

17:59:31 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Hosts and panelists:

are there info-graphics that show already known "data" and indicators. maybe something from the presentation slides that is YES more interesting for multiple ages.

17:59:35 From Amy Koski, Clark County Public Health, (she/her/hers) to Everyone:

Languages to translate into include: Chuukese, Marshalese, Tongan, Chinese, Russian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Spanish

18:03:21 From Amy Koski, Clark County Public Health, (she/her/hers) to Everyone:

There was a request to make Q12 plural -- which languages do you speak...?

18:03:59 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Hosts and panelists:

Impact types: power outages, storm water backflow/overflow, snow/ice/ mobility. Clean Water supply. school closure impacts.

18:04:10 From Angela William EJC (She/Her) to Everyone:

Thank you Amy! Are we able to suggest other languages for the survey to be translated in?

18:06:17 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Hosts and panelists:

? opportunity for Organizations / members to share (respond to questions) what they already know about "clients" and sectors. Lots of wisdom in this room

18:08:36 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Hosts and panelists:

What is "severe" versus frequent (and more frequent lately). Fear of the future water shortages (how to prepare) across County environment.

18:10:47 From Ben Duncan (Kearns & West) to Heather Tischbein And all panelists:

Hi Heather, will you be interested in public comment tonight? Want to make sure we create that space for you.

18:13:21 From Heather Tischbein to Hosts and panelists:

Thanks for asking, Ben. I don't have anything I consider useful to add. And, it's good to see how this process is working. Kudos to everyone...the hosting folks and the amazing folks on the committee. It's looking and feeling like "off to a good start" to me...as a "witness".

18:16:59 From Dania Otto EJC to Everyone:



18:17:11 From Rebecca O'Brien- Free Clinic to Everyone:



18:17:14 From Angela William EJC (She/Her) to Everyone:



18:17:17 From Laura Ellsworth (she/her) to Everyone:

I am good with that. Totally understand the constraints

18:17:18 From Erin Hamilton, iUrban Teen to Everyone:



18:17:19 From Alana LG Tudela to Hosts and panelists:



18:17:48 From Almendra Velazquez to Everyone:



18:20:49 From Monica Zazueta to Everyone:

Also, want to make sure that a sticky note for the elderly to be asked.

18:21:02 From Monica Zazueta to Everyone:

added/asked\*

18:21:11 From Farm & Food Justice Network to Hosts and panelists:

Yes, please CC, reveal the survey questions for the next phases asap rather than mystery rolling out later.

18:21:21 From Gillian Garber-Yonts, He/Him, Kearns & West to Hosts and panelists:

Added - thanks

18:23:24 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:



18:23:25 From Gabriela Ewing to Hosts and panelists:



18:23:50 From Laura Ellsworth (she/her) to Everyone:



18:23:53 From Rebecca O'Brien- Free Clinic to Everyone:



18:26:27 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

That clarification helps, Jenna.

18:28:09 From Loveita M. OWIES to Everyone:



18:29:25 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (he/him) to Everyone:

As always, people can email comments to [comp.plan@clark.wa.gov](mailto:comp.plan@clark.wa.gov) or submit a comment online:  
<https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments>

18:30:52 From Paris Nelson (she/her), Fourth Plain Forward to Everyone:

Thank y'all and good night!

18:31:01 From Angela William EJC (She/Her) to Everyone:

Thank you everyone!

18:44:40 From Gillian Garber-Yonts, He/Him, Kearns & West to Hosts and panelists:

<https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVKa9i764=/>

# Appendix B: Miro Board

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

### Which populations are you focusing on?

People experiencing Homelessness - Service Providers	People living in emergency shelters, people living unsheltered	Farmers (landholders), Farmworkers (usually county residents)	Groups facilitating food
BIPOC Community	Free clinic patients (30-75 yrs old)	Latinx population (Free Clinic)	Students and families from underrepresented communities
Latinx Students	Fort Vancouver Low Rider Car Show attendees	Evergreen Parents	All residents in the County - tapping network to expand reach
Black Families	Women (primarily women of color)	Pacific Islanders (elders to youth)	Adult, youth, veterans, immigrant and refugee populations.
Ukrainian, russian, arabic and spanish speaking communities	Pacific Islander Population	Low income renters	Families with Children
Chuukese, COFA	Vietnamese population	Undocumented Spanish Speakers	People with ADHD who are not covered by county services
People living with a disability	Families with IDD (people with undocumented backgrounds)	Adults facing difficulty with employment/housing	
Intersectional identities			

### What geography(ies) are you expecting to reach?

All of Clark County - focus on within City Limits	Farms are located across the County	Fourth Plane Corridor	98661 Zip Code, Fourth Plan Corridor
Brush Prairie	Families across Clark County via online engagement	Skyview, Union, Prairie, Fort Vancouver	Bi-Zi Farms
Finding the Pacific Islanders in Clark County	Urban focus in Vancouver, Ridgefield, battleground, Washougal	All of Clark County, Fourth Plane, Mill Plane, Camas	City of Vancouver, Longview, Ridgefield, Everett
Clark County - outreach to statewide community	High schools (TBD)	Fort Vancouver, I-Tech Prep	

### Opportunities

LGBTQIA+ Population	Hunger relief providers	Indigenous Communities	People who are at high environmental risk	Outside workers
Food insecure people	Boys and Girls Club	PUD Workers	Rehab facilities	Children (elementary school, middle school)
Intersectional identities	Coordination between communities	Latino Community Resource Group of Clark County - Multicultural Resource Fair (Spring)	People living with non-intellectual or developmental disabilities	Elderly