



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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 #10

December 2, 2024, 3:30-6:30pm PT

Public Service 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.

Attendees

Environmental Justice Coalition members:

- Alana Tudela (Pacific Islander Health Board of Washington)
- Almendra Velazquez-Perez (Fourth Plain Forward)
- Ana Bentancourt (Latino Leadership NW)
- Angela William (Pacific Islander Community Association of WA)
- Gabriela Mendoza Ewing (Pasitos Gigantes)
- Josh Jones (Southwest Partners in Careers)
- Minh Pham (Vietnamese Community of Clark County)
- Rebecca O'Brien (Free Clinic of Southwest Washington)

Environmental Justice Coalition alternates: Abby Hollopeter (Odyssey World International Education Services), Erin Hamilton (iUrban Teen), Jude Wait (Farm Food Justice Network)

County staff: Lauren Henriksen, Jenna Kay, Amy Koski

Consultant team: Ben Duncan, Nicole Metildi, María Verano (Kearns & West); Joshua Proudfoot (Parametrix); Tracy Lunsford (Parametrix)

Number of members of the public in attendance: 5

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 outcome of the meeting: Apply the Equity and Environmental Justice (EJ) Lens to draft GHG emissions reduction policies.

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 then asked if members had corrections for Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) Meeting Summary #9. There were no suggested corrections, and the summary was accepted as is.

Project Updates

Jenna Kay, Clark County, provided several project updates (slides 11-14). She mentioned materials included in the meeting packet, such as feedback from EJC members and the public, draft Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction policies, and memos supporting Equity and Environmental Justice (EJ) discussions. She noted that the draft summaries for Phase Three and Phase Four engagement included key themes and data. Final versions of these reports are pending additional materials.

Jenna highlighted the Equity and EJ Lens developed by the group, noting it would guide today's discussion. She also shared details about a County Council hearing on December 6th, which will focus on land use alternatives for the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Participants can attend online or in person, with further details on the County Council website.

Jenna then discussed the project timeline. The EJC is currently refining draft policies through the Equity and EJ Lens, while keeping in mind the feedback they gathered through their engagement activities this year. The project team will then incorporate EJC feedback into the policies, which the Community Advisory Group (CAG) will then review in January 2025. Ultimately, the CAG will make policy recommendations to the Planning Commission and County Council. Jenna acknowledged the significant progress made over the past year and thanked members for their dedication.

GHG Policies Refresher

Tracy Lunsford, Parametrix, provided an overview of the GHG emissions reduction policies development and how they are integrating the EJC's feedback into this work (slide 16). Tracy outlined the key phases of developing the policies, starting with the GHG inventory, which identified local emissions sources. Using this data, the team sought feedback from the CAG and identified policies in high impact sectors. The EJC provided initial feedback on the draft policy list and consultants conducted a high level, initial analysis to prioritize policies to be quantified for greenhouse gas emissions impact. Today's meeting will focus on evaluating the full draft greenhouse gas reduction policy list through the Equity and EJ Lens. The consultant team will continue its work quantifying emissions reductions to inform sector-specific targets aligned with the state's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Jenna emphasized the intersection of GHG reduction and EJ, noting that legislative requirements prioritize benefits for overburdened communities (slides 17-24). Data sets such as air quality metrics, the Washington State Health Disparities map, and community feedback reveal areas needing targeted actions. The group reviewed maps showing the overlap between poor air quality and vulnerable populations, emphasizing the need for policies that reduce both emissions and health disparities.

Feedback from community engagement highlighted widespread support for climate action, including energy-saving initiatives and tree planting. However, community members expressed concerns about affordability, potential mandates, and barriers like HOA (Homeowners Association) and property management rules. Jenna underscored the importance of balancing equity, feasibility, and community priorities as policies are refined.

Apply the Equity and EJ Lens to the GHG Policies

Ben introduced the next topic, applying the Equity and EJ Lens to the GHG policies. He explained that the policies need to provide enough direction to guide implementation and should focus on creating long-term, big-picture guidance, particularly aimed at directing benefits and mitigating burdens for vulnerable and overburdened populations. Ben reiterated that these policies are meant to serve as a framework for implementation, and the specifics of implementation will be addressed in subsequent processes (slide 26).

Both Ben and Jenna highlighted the importance of today's discussion in refining policies to avoid exacerbating negative impacts, especially for vulnerable communities. The goal of the discussion is to identify ways to enhance positive impacts and minimize negative ones, ensuring policies align with Equity and EJ priorities.

Tracy introduced the structure of the GHG policies for discussion, highlighting that they have been organized by their mechanisms of implementation and primary focus areas (slide 29). She explained that there are three main ways these policies direct action: (1) Plans, Policies, and Regulations; (2) Incentives; and, (3) Community and Industry Education. Policies are grouped by topical area (Building and Housing, Transportation, and Agriculture & Natural Areas) within each implementation mechanism (Plans, Policies and Regulations; Incentives; and Community and Industry Education).

Ben shared two core equity-focused questions to guide the group's discussion (slide 30)

- What are the ways in which these policies could be modified to enhance positive impacts or reduce negative impacts?
- How can we strengthen or adapt these policies so that they give enough direction at a high-level, to guide implementation to benefit vulnerable populations and overburdened communities?

Plans, Policies & Regulations Feedback Themes

Jenna provided an overview of the key themes from the feedback gathered by the EJC, focusing on plans, policies, and regulations (slide 31). She emphasized that EJ and equity emerged as critical areas of interest. A recurring theme was the need to center race in policymaking and enact anti-racist policies, with a strong emphasis on holding major polluters and corporations accountable before placing the burden on individuals to change their behavior. Feedback highlighted the importance of including marginalized communities in planning and policy development, ensuring those most affected by climate impacts have a voice. Additionally, there was a call to recognize nature as a stakeholder deserving representation in decision-making processes.

Accessibility also surfaced as a significant theme, with feedback advocating for the removal of barriers to program participation and ensuring specific community groups have equitable access. Additionally, Jenna noted that policy effectiveness was another key focus, with calls to evaluate projects based on their emissions impact and to adopt a holistic approach that considers both short- and long-term costs and benefits. Feedback emphasized the need for strategic use of time and resources, advocating for collaboration with city and regional partners as well as community organizations.

While many of these ideas were present in the draft policies, Jenna shared that there is an opportunity to elevate them further. EJ equity, and accessibility, in particular, stood out as areas for deeper integration, and participants were encouraged to identify ways to enhance these themes as they reviewed the draft policies.

Plans, Policies & Regulations: Building and Housing Draft Policies

Members shared the following feedback and asked clarifying questions about the policies on slide 32:

Goal 5, Policy 2: Ensure new construction is all-electricity ready for energy transition, including site development that plans for things like future electricity demand and electric vehicle charging and considers onsite renewable energy and battery storage.

- One member raised concerns about the reliance on electricity in the policies. They highlighted feedback about the risks of relying solely on electricity, such as what happens during outages, and emphasized the need to diversify power sources. They also brought up accessibility issues with vehicle charging infrastructure, noting that many charging

stations cater only to Tesla vehicles, and pointed out affordability concerns for electric vehicles among community members with lower income levels.

- Ben reminded the group of previous EJC meeting discussions on policies' potential economic impacts on communities, such as the lack of explicit mention of affordable housing or geographic targeting for initiatives like electricity-ready buildings. He also recalled the group had previously stressed the importance of accessibility, noting issues like language barriers, disability inclusion, and support for undocumented individuals.
- One member commented on increasing housing diversity and supply to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support environmental justice in urban, suburban, and rural areas
- A member commented that to prioritize the preservation and weatherization of housing and agricultural facilities to reduce emissions and increase resilience
- A member commented on providing financial assistance, incentives, and cost-share for energy efficient systems in homes, buildings, agricultural facilities.

Goal 19, Policy 3: Develop a local pollution surcharge – for large producers of air pollutants, wastewater, and solid waste that cannot be reused or recycled – which may be used to fund complementary environmental resilience projects.

- A member noted that a local pollution surcharge for large producers of pollutants in communities seems good, but what about specifically addressing the presence of Superfund sites?
- A member inquired whether the comprehensive plan explicitly prohibits new pollutant-heavy industries from being introduced into vulnerable areas and overburdened communities.
- Another member commented on the need for explicit language around the reduction of air pollution and environmental justice in land-use and zoning decisions, such as those related to fossil fuel storage. They did not see policies related to restricting the development of new fuel storage, for instance.
 - *Jenna noted she will review other sections of the comprehensive plan related to the broader concept of environmental justice, particularly as it pertains to industries that pollute.*
- A member highlighted the need to restore and clean up hazardous sources of pollution of water and air; require mitigation for impacts to overburdened communities and funding. Policies should address past, present, and future environmental justice.

Goal 20, Policy 3: Evaluate county planning decisions with the primary criteria of the climate element requirements in RCW 36.70A.070(9), where a plan or project is evaluated for whether or not it: a) results in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state; and/or b) results in reductions in per capita vehicle miles traveled without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state; c) enhances resiliency to climate change impacts in human communities and ecological systems; and d) benefits overburdened communities to maximize the co-benefits of reduced air pollution, environmental justice, and reducing disparities from compounding environmental impacts.

- One member raised concern regarding the impact of the current political climate on community trust and participation. They described how fears of mass deportation and family separation are discouraging community members from engaging in programs,

including those related to green policies, out of fear they may lead to targeting by authorities.

- Another member highlighted the challenges faced by individuals without Social Security numbers, such as lack of access to housing support and disproportionately high home loan interest rates. They called for policies ensuring equitable housing opportunities regardless of citizenship or immigration status.
- Additional member comments echoed and provided support for elevating safety and solidarity for vulnerable populations as a key aspect of the environmental justice lens.

Comments not related to a specific goal or policy.

- A member expressed difficulty navigating the mixed goals and policies in the draft GHG reduction policy list, finding it challenging to follow the project's process. They mentioned previously evaluating specific policies in a survey and questioned how or where those are being incorporated.
 - *Jenna noted we are spending the November and December EJC meetings walking through each draft policy with the invitation for EJC members to highlight suggested changes. After the December meeting, county staff will be incorporating feedback from the November and December EJC meetings and the key themes from the engagement feedback into proposed policy revisions that will be shared back with the EJC at the January meeting for additional EJC review.*

Plans, Policies & Regulations: Transportation Draft Policies

Members shared the following feedback and asked clarifying questions about the policies on slide 33:

Goal 6, Policy 1: Increase the network and safety of pedestrian sidewalks and bike lanes by funding improvements, integrating active transportation into transportation engineering and planning, implementing complete streets, and expanding the size of bike lanes/sidewalks.

- A member emphasized the importance of incorporating safety and equity in public engagement and long-term policy planning. They highlighted ongoing community fears related to safety and participation, including concerns about sanctuary status and the impact of past policies.

Goal 9, Policy 2: Support safe, reliable and convenient transit services throughout Clark County, including increasing frequency, improving reliability, expanding routes to align with key destinations, adding bike mounts to buses, land use planning policies (including zoning and development) that support transit use, expansion of community transportation options in rural Clark County, and explore alternatives such as regional rail on new and existing rail lines.

- A member highlighted the need for robust language access across all county services, noting challenges with inaccurate translations in multiple languages and the difficulty of meeting the needs of Clark County's linguistically diverse population.
- Another member pointed out the need for policies to explicitly prioritize overburdened communities, emphasizing equitable access to safe pedestrian and transit infrastructure, as well as proximity to jobs and essential services.

Goal 6, Policy 2: Improve the safety and maintenance of existing pedestrian sidewalks, bike lanes and multimodal trails using safety recommendations from adopted countywide plans.

- One member raised concerns about accessibility in transportation policies, including accommodations for people who are hard of hearing, visually impaired, or use wheelchairs. Specific issues mentioned included the need for accurate Braille signage, audio announcements at crosswalks, and improved transitions between streets and sidewalks.

Goal 10, Policy 1: Plan for key services, jobs and daily conveniences to be close to where people live, shortening the distance people need to travel to meet their needs and with multiple transportation options available, with priority in overburdened communities.

- A member suggested integrating agriculture-specific “eat local” considerations into transportation and urban planning, including connections between food systems and where people live. Suggested examples included: more coordinated transportation of food to and from markets; people to and from farms; ag-friendly transportation routes; and cooperative transportation routes.

Plans, Policies & Regulations: Agriculture & Natural Areas Draft Policies

Members shared the following feedback and asked clarifying questions about the policies on slide 34:

Goal 14, Policy 1: Expand the county forestry team and work with other local agency forestry departments and universities to promote sustainable forestry practices and maintenance in the urban and rural unincorporated areas, including practices such as fire management, salvage logging, conserving biodiversity, etc.

- A member highlighted the importance of sustainable forestry in urban and rural areas, including fire management, biodiversity conservation, and urban tree planting focused on overburdened communities. They also advocated for banning clear-cuts and maintaining green spaces.
- A member recommended the county adopt a forest (and agroforestry) master plan to maintain and expand tree canopy cover, and improve tree and watershed health, and require no net loss of forest and ag land. They recommended doing more than “plant more trees” for things like retention and interplanting and maintenance of forest health. They also recommended edible forest areas on public land.

Goal 15, Policy 1: Ensure new tree plantings are the right species in the right place (prioritize diverse and resilient plantings that provide building shading, and reduce heat in urban heat islands and overburdened communities).

- One member stressed the importance of addressing invasive plant species that harm native trees and vegetation. They also emphasized the need for resources to ensure tree planting efforts include proper water supply for survival.

Goal 12, Policy 2: Establish policies that support tree plantings, natural areas, and gardens in new developments (could also include a conservation credit system for developers), including policies such as cluster lot subdivisions.

- A member suggested creating mechanisms like “water banks,” “tree banks,” conservation easements, or a garden/land trust approach to ensure resources like gardens and raised beds are maintained long-term. They emphasized the importance of fairness, environmental justice, and innovative funding strategies for sustainable community

investment. They emphasized the need for funding long-term protection and maintenance beyond initial installation.

- A member proposed collaborating with nonprofit organizations or community groups to oversee community gardens, ensuring long-term funding and support after developers complete their projects. Another member recommended being more explicit in the wording about new developments and gardens.

Goal 14, Policy 2: Advocate to state legislature and Department of Natural Resources to prohibit clear-cutting on forested lands and to protect old growth trees.

- One member suggested policies to retain undisturbed areas within developments, protecting existing forests and woodlands.

Goal 11, Policy 1: Protect and maintain existing County-owned greenspace and tree canopy and increase plantings of new shade trees.

- Ben recalled previous EJC group discussions about community and economic development opportunities that could arise from green initiatives, such as involving youth in tree planting and creating green economy jobs.
- Another member recalled feedback from students about planting fruit trees to address food insecurity, especially for those experiencing homelessness. They mentioned current prohibitions on fruit trees and suggested revisiting policies to enable "edible forests," such as including fruit trees on approved tree lists.
- Another member noted that food forests and fruit trees need maintenance and care and there are challenges with "wild" food forests related to vectors of disease.

Goal 11, Policy 2: Better greenspace/public space management to improve safety and accessibility.

- A member suggested policies requiring community gardens in new developments, particularly in low-income housing. They stressed that residents need safe and unpolluted spaces for gardening and proposed making policies more specific and enforceable.

Goal 14, Policy 3: Utilize reconveyance where possible, as well as small forestland ownership programs, forest stewardship educational programs and implement ordinances that maintain tree cover.

- One member raised concerns about the lack of clarity on funding sources and responsibility for implementing policies, such as forestry stewardship programs or garden maintenance in developments.

Incentives Feedback Themes

Jenna provided an overview of the key themes from the feedback EJC members gathered related to the use of incentives within community programs (slide 35). She highlighted that incentives were widely regarded as a critical and high-interest area across various stakeholders, including individuals, households, organizations, and businesses. A recurring theme was the importance of accessibility in designing these programs, ensuring that barriers to qualification were minimized and requirements—such as definitions of hardship—were inclusive. Participants expressed a strong desire for incentives to address basic needs and include options like free resources or sliding scale offerings.

Members were encouraged to identify opportunities to further elevate these themes within the policy framework.

Incentives: Building and Housing Draft Policies

Members shared the following feedback and asked clarifying questions about the policies on slide 36:

Goal 4, Policy 2: Incentivize green building programs, including compliance with Washington Clean Buildings Act, certifications for new construction, operational affordability standards, and by removing barriers to green building practices and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

- One member discussed the emphasis on electrification, green buildings, and weatherization and asked for input on how these initiatives could better benefit communities. They inquired about ensuring policies prioritize access to incentives and economic opportunities, especially for marginalized groups.

Goal 2, Policy 1: Provide incentives to encourage switching to electric, high efficiency appliances (residential and commercial).

- A member suggested incorporating donating appliances into appliance incentive programs, such as receiving an incentive for: buy one, donate one.
- Another member noted that grants need to be included, not just incentives, especially when there's an assumption that disposable income exists to pay for improved energy efficiency.

Goal 16, Policy 3: Incentivize commercial composting and waste reduction.

- One member highlighted the need for education around composting and recycling, sharing an anecdote about Japan's strict recycling culture and noting the lack of accountability in current systems. They suggested incentivizing correct practices instead of punitive measures.
- A member shared that in their community, children often act as key messengers for educational initiatives, bringing information home to parents and influencing household behaviors. They recommended leveraging schools as a bridge between governments and families to promote sustainable practices. Additional members echoed this idea and the opportunity of engaging with youth on topics like school gardens, composting, recycling, waste reduction, science projects, and green schoolyards.
- A member advocated for incentivizing both commercial and residential composting (including paying people to recycle and compost), expanding infrastructure, and supporting systems that reward positive environmental behaviors like recycling and waste reduction. A member noted specifically that the county has a composting pilot program that needs more support and expanded infrastructure.
- A member suggested a community celebration could be the incentive to promote the proper recycling and composting, such as around Earth Day.

Incentives: Transportation Draft Policies

Members shared the following feedback and asked clarifying questions about the policies on slide 37:

Goal 8, Policy 2: Enhance availability and accessibility of EV infrastructure (charging stations) with particular focus on multifamily housing and availability of fast chargers.

- One member commented on the need for more diversity in EV charging infrastructure, specifically for multi-family housing. They noted that Tesla is the most common provider, and having more options would be beneficial for the community.

Goal 8, Policy 1: Offer incentives or rebates for EV purchases.

- Another member questioned the difference between incentives, rebates, and subsidies and whether one is more effective than the others, or if any key language was missing.
- A member suggested implementing a program that would allow people to exchange high-gas consumption vehicles for electric ones, noting that this idea is already being requested in the community.

Goal 6, Policy 3: Provide subsidies to purchase micromobility and active transportation devices, such as e-bikes and e-skateboards, to low-income residents.

- One member remarked on the importance of including all forms of active transportation, such as e-bikes, e-scooters, and even e-wheelchairs for low-income and disabled populations. They also noted the challenge of insurance not covering all types of devices.

Comments not related to a specific goal or policy.

- A member highlighted the recurring issue of income verification for individuals without Social Security numbers, explaining that their gross income is considered without accounting for after-tax earnings. They pointed out that this group often pays higher taxes and suggested that tax burdens and family size should be factored into income-based assessments for fairness. Additional members made comments echoing this one.
- Another member suggested that incentives alone might not be enough for low-income households and proposed expanding support to include direct grants or financial assistance to remove barriers for participation in green programs. They provided an example of an Oregon “Food for all” law that would eliminate the need for social security numbers to receive SNAP benefits. They emphasized that incentives/funding should be based on need and not “gross income.” A member suggested that “priorities for low - income & overburdened households” would be appropriate language to be incorporated into all incentive-related policies.
- A member noted there may be a gap in the policy list, unless it is included in Goal 9, Policy 2, regarding incentivizing mass transit through annual or monthly passes.

Community and Industry Education Feedback Themes

Jenna introduced the third pillar of the discussion, focusing on education (slide 39). She shared insights from feedback gathered, which highlighted several key themes. A consistent message was the need for a broad educational approach that spans various topics and reaches diverse groups, particularly individuals, small businesses, and community-based organizations. Accessibility was a central concern, with a call for education to be available in multiple formats, languages, and for audiences of all ages.

Another significant theme was the importance of community partnerships, relationship-building, and trust development. Participants emphasized the need to strengthen relationships between policymakers, county staff, and community organizations. One suggestion was for the county to establish a compensated task force, putting more responsibility on the community to drive initiatives while still receiving support for relationship-building and trust.

The feedback also pointed to the integration of cultural elements, arts, youth programs, and schools into educational efforts. There was a recognized need for sustainable funding to ensure community organizations can consistently offer programs aligned with climate initiatives. Additionally, some feedback, particularly from the Pacific Islander community, emphasized connecting local actions with global climate impacts, such as rising sea levels in the South Pacific.

Lastly, there was strong support for green job workforce development, especially for marginalized and lower-income communities. Jenna noted that accessibility and community partnerships could be further emphasized in the upcoming policies and invited participants to suggest where these themes could be incorporated.

Community & Industry Education: Buildings and Housing

Members shared the following feedback and asked clarifying questions about the policies on slide 40:

Goal 5, Policy 3: Support reduced dependence on fossil fuel-based energy.

- A member noted this policy seemed geared towards property owners and their experience is that property owners will often choose to do the least expensive option, which may not be the most beneficial to renters. They recommended that language like: “support reduction and use of...” language would be more clear than “reduced dependence” language.

Goal 3, Policy 4: Provide education on energy efficiency products and how to optimize using them and opportunities for operational cost savings.

- A member noted this policy seemed like it would not have significant impact. They saw the need to build capacity being greater than the need for education.

Goal 19, Policy 1: Support existing goods reuse and repair programs, and sponsor events and programs led by the County, businesses and community that improve the demand for reused and recycled goods and materials.

- A member noted this policy also seemed like it would not have significant impact. They saw the need to build capacity being greater than the need for education.

Goal 4, Policy 3: Support development of a local, diverse green building workforce.

- A member noted that green jobs are needed beyond the building workforce. They recommended looking at examples in the Green New Deal including: agriculture workforce, food production, etc. They also highlighted the need to support pathways from worker to owner, such as Fourth Plain Forward programs.
- A member noted considering landscaping in housing policies and workforce development related to that field.

Goal 16, Policy 2: Support outreach and education to households and businesses, and advocacy to state on improving access to and participation with recycling and composting to encourage behavior change, including county-led programs and community-based programs.

- A member shared their experience with the complexity of multifamily complexes and recycling programs. They recommended reviewing language so it is more clear what it would mean for implementation.

Community & Industry Education: Transportation

Members shared the following feedback and asked clarifying questions about the policies on slide 41:

Goal 9, Policy 1: Provide education, marketing and incentives for existing public transit services.

- A member expressed curiosity about whether discussions on public transit included details on who would be responsible for education and marketing.
 - *Response: Jenna clarified that these policies were more about synthesizing general ideas and had not yet gotten into specific roles or responsibilities.*

Goal 8, Policy 3: Collaborate with state, regional, and local agency partners on electric vehicle infrastructure for trucks, buses, and trains.

- A member commented on the importance of including specific details about who will be responsible for actions related to transportation incentives, public transit, and marketing efforts.
- A member suggested that clarifying specific entities responsible for implementing policies, such as community organizations or local businesses, would be helpful.
- A member noted they were hesitant about this policy without reassurance in writing that it includes everyone.

Goal 10, Policy 2: Encourage more remote work (and homes and land as businesses too).

- A member shared concerns about incentives for electric vehicle infrastructure, ensuring inclusivity in language, and clarity around the concept of "encouraging" remote work.
- Another member raised a concern about how remote work incentives would work, especially in light of businesses pushing for a return to the office.
- One member commented on the potential tension between encouraging remote work and the push for urbanization and strong business economies, which may conflict with such incentives.
- An additional member suggested that the language used in discussions about incentivizing remote work is too vague and needs to be more specific.
- A member commented that incentivizing remote work might exclude people who are unable to work from home.
- A member recommended changing the word "encourage" to "incentivize" and suggested that businesses offer remote work to a certain percentage of their employees as appropriate based on job duties.
- A member noted it could be helpful to consider remote work by industry sector.

Goal 10, Policy 3: Encourage carpooling/rideshare networks

- A member questioned the use of "encourage" and wanted more clarity about how the county would encourage this.
- A member noted that a specific entity needs to "organize" carpooling and that encouraging it is not enough.

Community & Industry Education: Agriculture & Natural Areas

Members shared the following feedback and asked clarifying questions about the policies on slide 42:

Goal 11, Policy 3: Expand educational awareness campaign and volunteer engagement opportunities to foster pride in and knowledge of the County system of parks and value of trees and natural areas.

- A member stressed the importance of funding community groups and agencies involved in education in agriculture and natural areas, which are currently underfunded. They also emphasized incorporating equity and environmental justice into the recommendations.

Goal 13, Policy 4: Reduce barriers to agriculture throughout Clark County such as sustainable agriculture education, increased access to urban agriculture, promotion of green agriculture jobs, and coordinating agricultural interests through an agricultural commission.

- A member highlighted that the ordinance establishing a new Clark County Agricultural Commission lacks provisions for equity and environmental justice. They noted they thought that was a missed opportunity and to consider ways climate policies can ensure diverse representation in the county's processes.

Goal 15, Policy 2: Support tree planting and reforestation activities through both County-led and community-led activities.

- Based on comments shared, Ben noted that the group was requesting that policies be more explicit and where they say “encourage” or “support” should be replaced with “fund.”

Goal 13, Policy 2: Encourage reduction of agriculture and landscaping related greenhouse gas emissions associated with fertilizer through the use of natural fertilizers, improved fertilizer management and use of native species in landscaping, and manure, such as promoting methane capture from manure.

- The member noted insufficient data on the impacts of agriculture, such as GHG emissions, land conversion, and the distinction between different types of agricultural operations. They suggested this is a data gap that needs addressing.
 - *Jenna sought clarification on whether the focus was on the loss of agricultural land or its GHG impacts. The member clarified it's both, and that better differentiation is needed between small farms and large operations to address emissions effectively.*
- A member recommended changing “encourage” to “fund programmatic grants and incentives.”

Goal 13, Policy 3: Encourage sustainable agricultural practices, including permaculture, crop diversity, seasonal eating, etc.

- A member advocated for stronger, more action-oriented language in policies, such as using “require” instead of “encourage” or “support” in areas like food waste prevention and major pollutant reduction. They pointed to Portland’s fossil fuel zoning amendments as a model for clear and decisive policies.
- Another member recommended changing “encourage” to “fund programmatic grants and incentives.”

Goal 18, Policy 1: Support food waste prevention and diversion programs

- A member expressed interest in requiring waste prevention and diversion efforts for for-profit businesses that produce food waste such as restaurants and grocery stores.

Comments not related to a specific goal or policy:

- A member asked what the county will do to ensure these policies are not just a checkbox and that the policies are clear.
 - Jenna appreciated the accountability and added that the state has some built in some checks requiring the county to provide mandatory reporting every five years. She further explained that this is a challenge with all plans that jurisdictions develop. We don't want them to sit on a shelf and at the same time the county will need to prioritize its resources and capacity. As a result, the degree to which implementation happens depends. We are, however, working to make sure these goals and policies incorporate feedback such as that provided by the EJC today. County staff plans to bring back revised language for review by the EJC at the January meeting.
- A member of the Farm and Food Justice Network recommended inclusion of policy ideas in their group's agriculture and food-focused engagement survey.
- A member recommended creation of a youth council to do education and programming. They recommended creating an incentivized youth council that works with the county to promote and be a voice for their families.
- A member recommended education-related policies could involve education from experts that can then be spread from there by youth or community organizations.
- A member highlighted the need for all educational items to be culturally and linguistically appropriate.
- A member noted that specifically for the Pasifika community and education, it would be nice to have a break down on everything (greenhouse emissions, weather conditions, and such). The language barrier is significant for being able to connect with those teaching us.
- A member recommended partnering with community organizations as trusted messengers to help with some of the education work.

Jenna thanked the members for their participation and suggestions.

Public Comment

Ben opened the public comment period. There were two public comments.

Member of the public: "My name is David Rowe. I live in Battleground, and I've been commuting all the way to Portland for the last 15 years. But we've got a big issue in Clark County, and that's the Interstate Bridge replacement plan, which will not reduce any greenhouse gases. It will add more cars and trucks in Clark County, and the tolls will not be equitable. We really need to think about whether this is what we need in the county right now.

There are 143,000 trips every day going across from Clark County, and by the time the bridge is completed in 2035, there will probably be 200,000 automobiles and trucks needing more roads and more parking lots. So, we need to think about specific alternatives.

One option could be utilizing the three train track corridors in Clark County. We could have electric freight trains and passenger trains, which would reduce a lot of our greenhouse gases. It would also reduce tire particles that enter our streams and kill fish. It's a proven fact that tire particles affect fish.

So, regarding the transportation specifics you mentioned earlier, I think we should consider adding something about improving the three rail tracks for gas reductions.

Thank you."

Member of the public: “Hello, my name is Paul. I have been teaching at the WSU Vancouver campus for 26-27 years.

I think that both in terms of transportation and jobs, it would be beneficial to think more about promoting the Vancouver and Southwest Washington economy—not explicitly as an alternative to commuting to Portland, but more broadly. For example, Marie Gluesenkamp Perez is sort of the poster congressperson for “Right to Repair” and entrepreneurship, as well as small businesses.

It seems like we could potentially focus more—not just on green jobs as a separate concept—but on a broad restructuring or growing an additional segment of the Southwest Washington economy. This could keep young people in the region and offer them good, high-paying jobs.

The idea of someone crossing the bridge every morning to work a minimum wage job seems so contrary to the goals of transforming or decarbonizing the economy. So, I just wanted to throw that out there.

Thanks, it's been great to see this process.”

Ben thanked the members of the public for their comments and 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.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Jenna thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. Jenna shared that the project team would be working to incorporate the feedback received before the next meeting. Jenna encouraged members to share announcements and other happenings to be distributed with the team.

Jenna reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and reviewed the next steps, which consisted of:

- Project team to develop and approach to incorporate EJC equity feedback on GHG reduction policies and will share back at the January EJC meeting.
- EJC members to send announcements to Jenna, who will share with the rest of the EJC.

Ben thanked the members for participating in the meeting and shared that the next meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025, 3:30-6:30p.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm PT.

Appendix A: Zoom Chat

Below is a verbatim transcript of the webinar Zoom chat.

- 15:33:35 From Maria Verano, Kearns & West, she/her to Hosts and panelists: For Zoom technical issues, email mverano@kearnswest.com
- 15:37:15 From Maria Verano, Kearns & West, she/her to Hosts and panelists: Email comments to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov or submit a comment online: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments>
- 15:38:16 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Hosts and panelists: EJC Members - Please choose "Everyone" from the blue drop down when sending chats.
- 15:38:36 From Gabriela Ewing to Everyone: Hello everyone! Gabriela Mendoza/Ewing (she/her/ella) Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes)
- 15:46:38 From Gabriela Ewing to Everyone: ❤️
- 15:53:01 From Lauren Henriksen to Everyone: Jenna, it is still a bit difficult to hear you on my end. Not sure if others are having difficulties or if it's just my computer.
- 16:09:28 From Maria Verano, Kearns & West, she/her to Everyone: Link to GHG policies: <https://clark.wa.gov/media/document/188891>
- 16:10:49 From Maria Verano, Kearns & West, she/her to Everyone:
Discussion Prompts:
What are the ways in which these policies could be modified to enhance positive impacts or reduce negative impacts? For example, how might they be modified to take into consideration affordability/income, accessibility, geographic distribution, or specific populations?
How can we strengthen or adapt these policies so that they give enough direction at a high-level to guide implementation to benefit vulnerable populations and overburdened communities?
- 16:18:06 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Increase housing diversity and supply to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support environmental justice in urban, suburban, and rural areas
- 16:20:19 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Prioritize the preservation and weatherization of housing and agricultural facilities to reduce emissions and increase resilience
- 16:22:23 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Provide financial assistance, incentives, and cost-share for energy efficient systems in homes, buildings, agricultural facilities
- 16:25:18 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Equity and protective sanctuary for all residents at all times in all contexts. As part of the EJ "lens"
- 16:26:29 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Elevate "safety" to be more ambassadors and solidarity with vulnerable populations that just got more vulnerable !
- 16:35:22 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Transportation solutions needed for "eat local" strategies that are not aggregated. More coordinated transportation of food to and from markets. People to and from farms. Ag-friendly routes. Cooperative transportation routes.
- 16:39:00 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Adopt a forest (and agroforestry) master plan to maintain and expand tree canopy cover, and improve tree and watershed health. NO net loss of forest & ag land. We saw "plant more trees" but we need

retention and interplanting and maintenance of forest health. Edible Forest areas on public land.

- 16:40:40 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: development could retain more forest, woodland, and undisturbed parts of properties instead of stripping land down to remove all soil
- 16:41:51 From Erin Hamilton to Hosts and panelists: How would the forestland ownership programs and stewardship ed programs be funded?
- 16:42:38 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: food forests and fruit trees need maintenance and care. wild doesn't work bc they are vectors of disease
- 16:50:46 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: some kind of an "easement" collection, if the development is "in perpetuity" the infrastructure also comes with a collection not just for installation of garden but developer pays into fund and owners and county-public health or parks or conservation district also funded for the long term. garden "trust" approach
- 17:03:26 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: All the public assistance programs are inaccessible to people without documentation (or in an application-eligibility process). In Oregon there is now a proposed law "Food for All" that would eliminate the need for a SSN for SNAP benefits, for example. Grants needed not incentives, based on need not "gross income"
- 17:03:50 From Erin Hamilton to Hosts and panelists: would the language of "priorities for low -income & overburdened households be appropriate for all incentives?
- 17:05:07 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: GRANTS not just incentives. Because cost share means there's disposable income which there is not
- 17:05:54 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Everyone: From Erin Hamilton at 05:03 PM would the language of "priorities for low -income & overburdened households be appropriate for all incentives?
- 17:06:44 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: donate the appliances. incentives for buy one donate one.
- 17:07:12 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: There's a pilot composting but it needs help. And more infrastructure.
- 17:11:10 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: pay people to recycle and compost if needed.
- 17:13:13 From Gabriela Ewing to Everyone: A community celebration could be the incentive to promote the proper recycling and composting. eg earth day or something like that.
- 17:14:08 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Yes. School gardens, composting, recycling, waste reduction, science projects. green schoolyards.
- 17:16:07 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: e-bikes are very expensive. so are wheel chairs and scooters, an not "covered" for the uninsured or people in poverty gap.
- 17:20:27 From Erin Hamilton to Everyone: Have rebates or reduced cost for mass transit monthly or annual passes been discussed previously? bikes and scooters not accessible physically and eV cars too expensive
- 17:22:39 From Erin Hamilton to Everyone: thanks as ownership is not always an option and our niceweather is not year round
- 17:26:34 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: restoration and clean up of the hazardous sources of pollution of water and air. EJ overburden mitigation requirements and funds. past present and future EJ

- 17:50:26 From Erin Hamilton to Everyone: Thank you Ana for bringing in the youth voice/perspective to ALL these recommendations
- 17:50:41 From Angela William EJC (She/Her) to Hosts and panelists: For the Pasifika community educational wise it would be nice to have a break down on everything (green house emissions, weather conditions, and such) biggest thing would be the language barrier, and being able to connect with those teaching us
- 17:51:03 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Everyone: From Angela William EJC (She/Her) at 05:50 PM For the Pasifika community educational wise it would be nice to have a break down on everything (green house emissions, weather conditions, and such) biggest thing would be the language barrier, and being able to connect with those teaching us
- 17:53:57 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: Green JOBS not just the building workforce. See the Green New Deal. Include agriculture workforce, food production, etc. Pathways from worker to owner. Such as FPF programs.
- 17:55:00 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: landscaping is housing, for example.
- 18:03:09 From Rebecca to Everyone: I have to jump off a little early tonight. see you all next time!
- 18:07:19 From Erin Hamilton to Everyone: incentivize remote work (rather than encourage)
- 18:10:09 From Erin Hamilton to Everyone: offer remote work to __% of employees as appropriate per job duties
- 18:12:15 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: to reduced GHG impacts, some entity needs to "Organize" carpooling (encourage not enough). Incentives for remote work options bc lessens commute emissions. maybe by industry sector....
- 18:13:30 From Maria Verano, Kearns & West, she/her to Everyone: Email comments to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov or submit a comment online: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments>
- 18:24:48 From Abby (OWIES, EJC) to Hosts and panelists: I can't remember if this was named in another policy, but I would like to see "support food waste prevention and diversion programs BY REQUIRING for-profit organizations that produce food waste (restaurants, fast-food, grocery stores) to take on waste prevention efforts (or something like that)
- 18:24:59 From Abby (OWIES, EJC) to Everyone: I can't remember if this was named in another policy, but I would like to see "support food waste prevention and diversion programs BY REQUIRING for-profit organizations that produce food waste (restaurants, fast-food, grocery stores) to take on waste prevention efforts (or something like that)
- 18:25:11 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Everyone: From Abby (OWIES, EJC) at 06:25 PM I can't remember if this was named in another policy, but I would like to see "support food waste prevention and diversion programs BY REQUIRING for-profit organizations that produce food waste (restaurants, fast-food, grocery stores) to take on waste prevention efforts (or something like that)
- 18:28:14 From Jude-Farm&Food Justice - EJC to Everyone: "encourage" G 13 p2,3. inadequate! Fund-programmatic grants and incentives.
- 18:31:44 From Maria Verano, Kearns & West, she/her to Everyone: EJC webpage: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/environmental-justice-coalition>
Project webpage: clark.wa.gov/community-planning/climate-change-planning
Project contact: Jenna Kay, jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov

- 18:33:00 From Almendra Velazquez, she/her, EJC Member, FPF to Everyone: Thank you! Happy Holidays everyone 😊