

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Community Planning

DATE: November 7, 2023

REQUESTED ACTION:

To approve a Public Participation Plan for the Climate Change & Resiliency Element of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

_____ Consent X Hearing _____ County Manager

BACKGROUND

With passage of ES2HB 1181 into law on May 3, 2023 (Chapter 228, 2023 Laws), Clark County is now required to add a Climate Change Element to its Comprehensive Plan by June 30, 2025. This work will need to integrate into the 2025 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan (Plan) periodic review, which is currently underway.

ES2HB 1181 crosscuts multiple topics in the comprehensive plan, including: transportation, land use, parks, capital facilities and utilities, environmental, economic development, housing, rural and resource lands, and adds requirements related to health disparities and environmental justice. The legislation mandates that a new Climate Element include a greenhouse gas reduction subelement and a resilience subelement for the first time. This means greenhouse gas reduction and resilience will need to be added into the county's comprehensive plan, including goals and policies for the county to implement during the 20-year planning period, 2025-2045.

A Public Participation Plan (PPP) is a communication program that provides members of the public opportunities for early and continuing participation and access to key decision making processes with the Clark County Planning Commission and Clark County Council. [RCW 36.70A.140, WAC 365-196-600]. The PPP describes the steps that Clark County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement, as well as Clark County contact information and web addresses. This PPP is in addition to the public participation required by Clark County Code Sections 40.510.040 and 40.560.010.

The intent of this PPP is to ensure that the county facilitates a thoughtful, open, and equitable process to provide residents, workers and other interested parties meaningful opportunities to discuss climate change and resiliency and shape policy recommendations for the unincorporated county.

Clark County Council adopted a PPP for the 2025 Plan periodic review on March 21, 2023 [RES. 2023-03-05], before E2SHB 1181 was passed into law. This PPP supplements and compliments RES. 2023-03-05, as the Climate Change & Resiliency Element project that is part of the 2025 Plan periodic review.

The proposed PPP also outlines the approach for forming three advisory groups:

- The Clark County Council will appoint a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to develop goal and policy recommendations for the Planning Commission and County Council.
- The county will convene an Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) made up of organizations who the county will hire to help design and implement community engagement with

community groups who are most vulnerable to climate pollution and the impacts from climate change such as extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire smoke, and to guide the equity framework used throughout this project. Representatives of the EJC will also serve on the CAG.

- Community Planning staff will assemble an interdepartmental and interagency coordinating team to provide information and expertise throughout the project and attend CAG and EJC meetings as needed.

For each advisory group, a list of recommended interest groups or organizations is provided and is derived from the work of a project consultant, JLA Public Involvement. JLA conducted preliminary stakeholder interviews to learn about key climate change and resilience issues in unincorporated urban and rural Clark County, to better understand the range of perspectives in the community. A summary document of that process and the interview responses, titled Clark County Climate Stakeholder Assessment, is also included with this hearing packet.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no known policy implications regarding approval of the Public Participation Plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

N/A

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
X		Action falls within existing budget capacity.
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
	X	Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

BUDGET DETAILS

Local Fund Dollar Amount	
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	
Account	
Company Name	

DISTRIBUTION:

Council staff will post all staff reports to The Web. <https://www.clark.wa.gov/council-meetings>



Jenna Kay
Planner III, Community Planning



Oliver Orjiako
Director, Community Planning

Primary Staff Contact Name and Extension: Jenna Kay – extension 4968

APPROVED: _____
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: _____

SR# _____

APPROVED: _____
Kathleen Otto, County Manager

DATE: _____

BUDGET IMPACT ATTACHMENT

Part I: Narrative Explanation

I. A – Explanation of what the request does that has fiscal impact and the assumptions for developing revenue and costing information

Not applicable

Part II: Estimated Revenues

Fund #/Title	2020 Annual Budget		2021 Annual Budget		2022 Annual Budget	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Total						

II. A – Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)

Not applicable

Part III: Estimated Expenditures

III. A – Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTE's	2020 Annual Budget		2021 Annual Budget		2022 Annual Budget	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Total							

III. B – Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	2020 Annual Budget		2021 Annual Budget		2022 Annual Budget	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Travel						
Other controllables						
Capital Outlays						
Inter-fund Transfers						
Debt Service						
Total						

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11-**

2

3 **A RESOLUTION relating to the adoption of the Clark County Public Participation Plan**
4 **that will be used for development of the county's Climate Change and Resiliency Element in**
5 **the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2025 periodic update pursuant to RCW**
6 **36.70A.140.**

7 WHEREAS, Clark County adopted a 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan
8 through ordinances 1994-12-47 and 1994-12-53 on December 20, 1994 to meet the goals and
9 requirements of Chapter 36.70A RCW (also known as the Growth Management Act or "GMA");
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Clark County adopted an updated 20-Year Comprehensive Growth
12 Management Plan through ordinance 2004-09-02, 2007-09-13, 2016-06-12, 2017-07-04, and
13 2019-11-16 to meet the goals and requirements of RCW 36.70A.130; and

14 WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.140 requires counties to conduct outreach to "establish and
15 broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program identifying procedures
16 providing for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of
17 comprehensive land use plans and development regulations implementing such plans. The
18 procedures shall provide for broad dissemination of proposals and alternatives, opportunity for
19 written comments, public meetings after effective notice, provision for open discussion,
20 communication programs, information services, and consideration of and response to public
21 comments;" and

22 WHEREAS, Clark County Council adopted the Public Participation Plan and Preliminary
23 Scope of Work for the Comprehensive Plan 2025 periodic update on March 21, 2023 through
24 resolution 2023-03-05; and

25 WHEREAS, on May 3, 2023 Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1181, Chapter 228
26 Laws of 2023, amended Chapter 36.70A RCW in several respects to require that each county
27 planning under GMA include a Climate Change Element as part of its Comprehensive Growth
28 Management Plan periodic review, which for Clark County is due June 30, 2025. RCW
29 36.70A.070 and 36.70A.095 mandate that Clark County's Climate Change Element include a
30 greenhouse gas reduction subelement and a resiliency subelement; and

31 WHEREAS, the Clark County Climate Change & Resiliency Element Public Participation
32 Plan was developed to supplement the already adopted Public Participation Plan and
33 Preliminary Scope of Work for the Comprehensive Plan 2025 periodic update to address public
34 participation as it relates specifically to development of a Climate Change and Resiliency
35 Element; and

1 WHEREAS, the Clark County Council after effective notice considered the Clark County
2 Climate Change and Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan (Exhibit 1) at a duly advertised
3 public hearing on November 7, 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, the Council took public testimony from interested parties, considered all the
5 written and oral arguments and testimony, and considered all the comments presented to the
6 Council; and

7 WHEREAS, the Council concluded at a duly advertised public hearing and finds that
8 adoption of the Public Participation Plan for the development of a Climate Change and
9 Resiliency Element will further the public health, safety and welfare; now therefore,

10 **BE IT HEREBY ORDERED, RESOLVED AND DECREED BY THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL,**
11 **CLARK COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON, as follows:**

12 **Section 1. Findings.** The recitals above are incorporated into this resolution as findings.

13 **Section 2. Adoption.** The Clark County Public Participation Plan for development of a Climate
14 Change and Resiliency Element as part of the Comprehensive Plan 2025 periodic update is
15 adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.140 to supplement the already adopted Public Participation
16 Plan and Preliminary Scope of Work for the Comprehensive Plan 2025 periodic update.

17 **Section 3. Instructions to Clerk.**

18 The Clerk to the County Council shall:

- 19 1. Transmit a copy of this resolution to the Washington State Department of Commerce
20 within ten (10) days of its adoption pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106.
- 21 2. Transmit a copy of the adopted resolution to the Community Planning Department
22 Director.
- 23 3. Record a copy of this resolution with the Clark County Auditor.
- 24 4. Cause notice of adoption of this resolution to be published forthwith pursuant to RCW
25 36.70A.290, Clark County Code 1.02.140, and transmit a copy to Community Planning.
26

27 ADOPTED this ____ day of November, 2023.

28 COUNTY COUNCIL
29 CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

30
31 Attest:

32
33 _____ By: _____

1 Clerk to the Council

Karen Dill Bowerman, Chair

2

3

4

By: _____

5

Glen Yung, Councilor

6

7

8

By: _____

9

Michelle Belkot, Councilor

10 Approved as to Form Only:

11 Anthony F. Golik

12 Prosecuting Attorney

By: _____

13

Gary Medvigy, Councilor

14 By: _____

15 Christine Cook

16 Sr. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

By: _____

17

Sue Marshall, Councilor

18

19

20

21

22

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24

25



Exhibit 1

Clark County Climate Change & Resiliency Element

Public Participation Plan

Jenna Kay, Planner III, Community Planning, 564.397.4968

Gary Albrecht, Planner III, Community Planning, 564.397.4318

Amy Koski, Built Environment Coordinator, Public Health, 360.852.0685

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

This Public Participation Plan will guide the public engagement process to develop the Clark County Climate Change and Resiliency Element for the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan in coordination with the already adopted Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Public Participation Plan. The overarching goal of the project is to implement Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1181 ([ES2HB 1181](#)), signed into law May 3, 2023, and add a Climate Change and Resiliency Element to Clark County's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

The intent of this Public Participation Plan is to ensure that the county facilitates a thoughtful, open, and equitable process to provide residents, workers and other interested parties meaningful opportunities to discuss climate change and resiliency and shape policy recommendations for the unincorporated county.

1. Project Overview

With passage of ES2HB 1181, Clark County is now required to add a Climate Change Element to its Comprehensive Plan by June 30, 2025. This work will need to integrate into the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Review project, which is currently underway. ES2HB 1181 crosscuts multiple topics in the comprehensive plan, including: transportation, land use, parks, capital facilities and utilities, environmental, economic development, housing, rural and resource lands, and adds requirements related to health disparities and environmental justice.

New Subelements

The new legislation requires Clark County's Climate Element include a greenhouse gas reduction subelement and a resilience subelement for the first time. This means greenhouse gas reduction and resilience will need to be added into the county's comprehensive plan, including background information, goals, and policies for the county to implement during the 20-year planning period, 2025-2045.

Greenhouse Gas Subelement

The greenhouse gas subelement must be designed to result in reductions in overall local greenhouse gas emissions. The term greenhouse gases includes gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and certain synthetic chemicals that trap some of the Earth's outgoing energy, thus retaining heat in the

atmosphere. The subelement requires the county to identify actions it will take during the 20-year planning cycle to reduce greenhouse gas emission and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) related to transportation and land use, without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state, and must prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities to maximize co-benefits of reduced air pollution and environmental justice.

Resilience Subelement

The resilience subelement is intended to avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities. "Climate resilience is the ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities." [RCW 70A.65.010]. Resilience can be thought of as a community's capacity to bounce back from hazards exacerbated by climate change, such as stronger storms, more frequent wildfires, more frequent flooding, heat waves and drought, etc. In short, resilience encompasses community preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, including hazard mitigation and climate adaptation. The resiliency subelement will identify goals, policies, and programs the county will pursue during the 20-year planning cycle to equitably improve county resiliency to the impacts of climate change. These actions must: 1) identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to climate impacts; 2) identify, protect, and enhance community resiliency, including social, economic, and built environment factors, consistent with environmental justice; and 3) address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change. The subelement requires prioritizing actions that benefit overburdened communities that will disproportionately suffer from the compounding environmental impacts and natural hazards due to climate change.

A team of consultants is in the process of being hired to help Community Planning staff with this project.

Project Tasks

The project will include the following main tasks/phases of work for each subelement:

- Greenhouse gas reduction subelement
 - Baseline data collection, research and analysis. This task will include development of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and VMT study/evaluation to establish baseline information.
 - Selection of targets for greenhouse gas reduction and VMT reduction for the 20-year planning period (2025-2045).
 - Goal and policy list to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.
 - Draft greenhouse gas reduction subelement integrated into the Comprehensive Plan for consideration by the Planning Commission and County Council.
- Resiliency subelement
 - Foundational data collection, analysis, and research. This task will include an exploration of local climate impacts, an audit of existing plans and policies, and, if needed, a vulnerability and risk assessment.
 - Selection of priority climate hazards for 20-year planning period (2025-2045).
 - Goal and policy list to improve resiliency by 2045.
 - Draft resiliency subelement integrated into the Comprehensive Plan for consideration by the Planning Commission and County Council.

Project Area

The project area is unincorporated Clark County, including both unincorporated rural and unincorporated urban areas outside of the cities.¹

2. Public Participation Plan

A Public Participation Plan (PPP) is a communication program that provides members of the public opportunities for early and continuing participation and access to key decision making processes with the Clark County Planning Commission and Clark County Council. [RCW 36.70A.140, WAC 365-196-600]. The PPP describes the steps that Clark County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement, as well as Clark County contact information and web addresses. This PPP is in addition to the public participation required by Clark County Code Sections 40.510.040 and 40.560.010.

The Clark County Council adopted a Public Participation Plan for the Comprehensive Plan 2025 periodic update on March 21, 2023 [RES. 2023-03-05], before E2SHB 1181 was passed into law. This PPP for the Climate Change & Resiliency Element supplements and compliments that already adopted Public Participation Plan, as the Climate Change & Resiliency Element project is also part of the Comprehensive Plan 2025 periodic update project and addresses a significant change to the state's Growth Management Act.

Before writing this PPP, Clark County hired JLA Public Involvement to conduct a climate change stakeholder assessment. A copy of their report is available on the project webpage. Much of this PPP is based on the recommendations in that report.

Public Participation Goals

- **Communicate clearly.** Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and clear communications about opportunities to learn and engage in the process. See Section 3 of this document for tools and techniques the county plans to use to accomplish this goal.
- **Prioritize equity.** Incorporate the environmental justice and equity components of E2SHB 1181 into the public process. "Environmental justice" means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, and national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities and the equitable distribution of resources and benefits." The new legislation mandates that the county develop policies that benefit those harmed by greenhouse gas pollution and most vulnerable to climate change impacts.² A goal of this PPP is to include approaches to engage with these most vulnerable community groups. Vulnerable community groups include: communities of color, Tribal and Indigenous populations, low-income populations, people with disabilities, chronic

¹ Some countywide information will be gathered to provide additional context. The county and cities may decide to collectively create countywide planning policies for the comprehensive plan, in which case these policies will need to be developed by all county jurisdictions and apply countywide in both unincorporated and incorporated areas.

² Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1181, Chapter 228, Laws of 2023. §(9)(a). (Enacted May 3, 2023). <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/1181-S2.SL.pdf?q=20231016173959>

illnesses, or existing health conditions, infants and children, pregnant people, older adults, migrant farmworkers, outdoor workers, first responders, indoor workers without air conditioning, unhoused or unsheltered populations, people with limited English proficiency, some immigrant and refugee populations, populations with other social and geographical vulnerabilities (e.g., people with low educational attainment, renters, historically “red-lined” communities, urban, rural, vulnerably housed populations, people who are unemployed, areas with poor infrastructure). The formation of an Environmental Justice Coalition (Section 6) to design public engagement activities and use of an equity framework (Section 3.8) throughout the project are two key tools for accomplishing this goal.

- **Inform, Consult, Involve, and Collaborate.** The county will provide a process with multiple opportunities and options for education and feedback during the project. The project team will keep the public informed. The project team will listen and acknowledge what they hear. The project team will explain how public feedback impacts the project. As much as possible, the project team will look to community members for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate community member advice and recommendations into final deliverables for County Council consideration. The formation of a Community Advisory Group (Section 5) and Environmental Justice Coalition (Section 6) are key tools for facilitating extensive, in-depth collaboration with community members. Additional tools and techniques are described in Section 3.

3. Public Participation Tools and Techniques

Clark County is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the project, to ensure that anyone who wants to participate can do so. Clark County will use a variety of communication tools and techniques to inform the public and encourage their participation, which will include the following:

3.1 Project Webpage

The county website will include a project webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, scope of work/schedule, meeting information, contact information, information on how to stay involved and provide comments, and contact information for requesting materials in other languages: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/climate-change-planning>

3.2 Email Distribution List

The county maintains an email list of interested parties regarding Climate Change planning activities. The list will be used to notify interested parties about project news and updates, and opportunities to engage in the process. Interested parties will be added to the list by submitting a request to the Community Planning Department. To join the Climate Change listserv, sign up online at <https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-planning/get-project-updates> or contact the Community Planning Department at 564-397-4968 or jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov. Additional sign-up opportunities may be available at any in-person events through the use of sign-in sheets.

3.3 Media

The local news media will be kept up to date on the Climate Change & Resiliency Element project and receive copies of all official notices. In addition, legal notices for public hearings will be published in the paper of record, *The Columbian*, *The Messenger* and *The Reflector* newspapers and social media, such as Nextdoor, Facebook, and X may also be used to provide notifications on upcoming meetings or events and where to find project information.

3.4 Written Comments

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Clark County by letter, email, or web-based forms during the public process. All comments received will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and Clark County Council for their consideration as a part of the adoption process. Comments received during certain phases of the process may also be shared with the project advisory groups for review and consideration.

3.5 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2025 Periodic Update Public Engagement Activities

Public engagement activities planned for the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2025 periodic update project may also include climate related information and feedback opportunities. This could include, for example, an open house type event on a variety of comprehensive plan topics that includes climate.

3.6 Climate Change and Resilience Public Engagement Activities

Specific climate change and resilience related public engagement and educational activities are still to be determined. Examples of possible activities and techniques that may be implemented include the following:

- Community data gathering activities and field trips.
- Online open houses and surveys (mobile phone friendly).
- In-person open houses, workshops, other activities targeted to specific interest groups such as youth.
- Informational videos translated into languages other than English.
- Tabling/and or sharing information at high-traffic locations and community gatherings spaces, such as ethnic markets, farmer's markets, public libraries, community centers, senior centers, and events.
- Partnering with organizations that can help disseminate print information, such as Meals on Wheels People.
- Sharing information through targeted media channels like *The Messenger*.
- Leveraging partner agency information platforms, such as distribution lists, podcasts and social media.
- Engagement through school-based activities, classroom projects, and youth-based groups.
- Offering honorariums, budget permitting, for members of the public who participate in community meetings/workshops.
- Offering community meetings/open houses and events in different places around the county, to increase accessibility to a range of people.

3.7 Communication Approaches

The JLA Public Involvement Climate Change Stakeholder Assessment included preliminary communication feedback from stakeholders interviewed. Community Planning will strive to address the following feedback in its communication:

- The topics of comprehensive planning and climate change planning are complex and not broadly understood. It will be important to explain processes and topics in a way that makes sense for non-experts.
- To promote broad general awareness and understanding of this effort and to encourage participation in engagement activities, project communications should be clear and consistent. Messaging should use plain language.
- Materials should be translated/transcreated into languages such as Spanish, Chuukese, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, Russian, and Ukrainian.

- Avoid politically charged language or describe things in factual/neutral terms when referring to climate change. Examples of a more neutral approach to explaining climate-related impacts could include discussion of wildfires, droughts, and extreme heat instead of discussing climate change.

3.8 Advisory Groups and Equity Framework

JLA Public Involvement, a neutral third-party consultant, conducted preliminary stakeholder interviews to learn about key climate change and resiliency issues in the unincorporated county, to better understand the range of perspectives in the community, and to inform public engagement for this project and this PPP. After conducting interviews, the consultant prepared a Climate Stakeholder Assessment Summary that details the process and a summary of the interview responses. Based on this research, the JLA Public Involvement team provided recommendations regarding advisory group composition, formation, charge, and group process. The project team will follow recommendations in the Climate Stakeholder Assessment summary as much as possible. More details about each advisory group are provided in Sections 5, 6, and 7 of this document.

The three advisory groups recommended by JLA Public Involvement are the following:

- The Clark County Council will appoint a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to develop goal and policy recommendations for the Planning Commission and County Council.
- The county will contract with Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) organizations to help the county with community engagement with community groups who are most vulnerable to climate pollution and the impacts from climate change such as extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire smoke, and to guide the equity framework used throughout this project. Representatives of the EJC may also apply to serve on the CAG.
- Community Planning staff will assemble an interdepartmental and interagency coordinating team to provide information and expertise throughout the project and attend CAG and EJC meetings as needed.

Equity Framework

The advisory groups will develop a Diversity/Equity/Inclusion framework early in the process to serve as a touchstone and guide group process and decision-making.

3.9 Public Comment Periods and Hearings

The Clark County Planning Commission and Clark County Council will hold televised (through CVTV) public hearings before final adoption of the Climate Change and Resiliency Element as part of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2025-2045 periodic review and update. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments for review and provide testimony during hearings.

Public notice of all hearings will contain information on how to comment, and the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published according to code requirements and will comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. The county will also provide emailed notices to parties on the listserv identified in Section 3.2.

4. Tribal Engagement

The county will reach out to leadership of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and other tribes with ancestral lands and waters and/or usual and accustomed areas in or near the project area and invite them to partner, consult, and/or coordinate on the county's climate change planning project, if they would like, in a manner they prefer.

The county will also reach out to local Native American non-governmental organizations and Indigenous community-based organizations to invite them to participate in the project.

5. Community Advisory Group

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) will form consensus-based recommendations on Climate Change and Resiliency Element goals and policies. Staff will forward the group's recommendations to the Planning Commission and ultimately the County Council to consider and potentially to adopt. As such, this group should represent a wide range of interests within the community and from across the county amongst the committee members.

To ensure an open, transparent, and diverse set of interests are represented on the CAG, an open recruitment process (anyone can apply) will be implemented. Applications will be reviewed by a neutral facilitator/consensus building process expert consultant, to be hired by the county. The consultant's advisory group member recommendations will then be forwarded to the County Council to consider for appointment.

An invitation to apply should be distributed to the stakeholder list generated through the JLA Climate Stakeholder Assessment work as well as additional county email distribution lists. The application form can be an online questionnaire format available in multiple languages and can also be available in hard-copy format at community centers, libraries, senior centers, schools, faith-based organizations, and other popular places. Hard copies can be returnable by mail, in-person, or text message. In rural areas, hard copies are especially important where online accessibility can be more challenging.

The Community Advisory Group positions recommended by JLA Public Involvement are listed below. The consultant team did not specify total group size but did highlight emphasizing representation of vulnerable community member representatives.

- Several environmental justice advocates to represent those most vulnerable to climate change pollution and climate impacts
- Urban neighborhoods/residents – renters and homeowners
- Rural neighborhood/residents – renters and homeowners
- Homebuilding
- Land development
- Business
- Affordable housing
- Transit users
- Commuters
- Healthcare
- Environment
- Education
- Youth
- Bike/Pedestrian
- Agriculture/Farming
- Forestry
- Freight

- Industry
- Economic and workforce development
- Groups supporting community activities including hiking, fishing, hunting, and gardening

The County Council may choose to identify a council liaison for the project and the Community Advisory Group. This liaison may attend CAG meetings but would not be a voting member of the group. Additional guests such as county staff or utility partners may be invited to attend meetings as needed.

CAG meetings

The CAG will meet approximately 12 times throughout the course of the project. CAG responsibilities include reviewing and commenting on work products, guiding focus/priorities, working towards consensus on a list of climate change and resiliency goals and policies, acting as liaisons to specific constituencies or interest groups, encouraging community members to participate in the process, and acting as champions of the Climate Change & Resiliency Element that emerges from the process.

Community Planning and the consultant team will coordinate with the CAG to identify preferred meeting times, locations, and formats. The county will provide translation/interpretation at group meetings based on group member preferences. If virtual or hybrid meetings are used, the county will provide phone and closed captioning services.

If meetings are held during mealtimes, the county will provide food for advisory group members. When possible, the county will provide additional space at meetings for children or family members. The county plans to hire a consultant to coordinate and facilitate CAG meetings. In-between meetings, committee members can engage with the group facilitator and/or county staff to ask questions and prepare for meetings. These in-between meeting conversations would serve as an opportunity to mentor committee members and build capacity with some members who may not have participated in a group consensus building activity or planning process previously.

6. Equity-focused Public Engagement with an Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC)

Based on the new legislation, a priority for this project includes advancing participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities. County staff's focus for public engagement will be designed and implemented with an Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) formed and made up of members who are a part of a vulnerable or overburdened population, work with, or are involved, with local vulnerable and overburdened populations.

The county plans to hire members of this group to design the public engagement work within their communities, with county staff and consultant support. Public engagement activities should occur at key milestones so that public feedback effectively informs advisory group recommendations and other key parts of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update process. Representatives from this group may also apply to participate in the Community Advisory Group discussed in Section 5.

Contracting with Environmental Justice Coalition members will follow county purchasing and contracting procedures and policies. Focused outreach will be conducted to community-based organizations that were identified through the initial stakeholder assessment process. This includes but is not limited to organizations supporting the following communities:

- Culturally specific groups such as: Chuukese, Vietnamese, Pacific Islander, and Latino
- Minority-focused business, community development, and service associations

- Immigrants and refugees
- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Older adults
- Youth
- Early childcare or education providers
- People who identify as LGBTQ+
- People living with disabilities
- People who are houseless
- Farmworkers

EJC meetings

The EJC will meet approximately 14 times throughout the course of the project. Community Planning and the consultant team will coordinate with the EJC to identify preferred meeting times, locations, and formats. The county will provide food for group members if meetings are held during mealtimes. When possible, the county will provide additional space at meetings for children or family members. The county will provide translation/interpretation at group meetings based on group member preferences. If virtual or hybrid meetings are used, the county will provide phone and closed captioning services.

The county will hire a consultant to facilitate and coordinate EJC meetings. In-between meetings, committee members can engage with the group facilitator and/or county staff to ask questions and prepare for meetings. This will serve as an opportunity to mentor committee members and build capacity with some members who may not have participated in this type of activity previously. Members of the EJC will be compensated for their time in EJC meetings and community public engagement activities through contracts with the county.

Representation in the Community Advisory Group

EJC members may also choose to apply for appointment on the CAG (see Section 5).

7. Interdepartmental and Interagency Coordination Group

County staff will build a list of county, city, and partner agency staff (such as the Southwest Regional Transportation Council and local utilities) who are technical experts in various areas related to the Climate Element. Members of this group will be expected to provide information and expertise, and help draft, review, and eventually implement Climate Element policies, as needed. Email communication will keep this group up to date on project process. Individual and small group conversations will be scheduled as needed. Invitations to listen or present at EJC or CAG meetings will be scheduled as needed.

This group may include staff from the following organizations:

- Clark County Cities and Towns
- Clark County departments:
 - Community Development (Building, Fire Marshall, Wetland/Habitat, Land Use)
 - Community Planning
 - Community Services
 - General Services
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 - Public Health (Healthy Communities, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Environmental Health)
 - Public Works (Transportation, Parks and Lands, Emergency Management, Clean Water)

- Purchasing/Green Team
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Hospital/Medical organizations
 - PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center
 - Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
- Other government agencies
 - Fire Districts
 - Port of Vancouver
- Regional agencies
 - Clark County Conservation District
 - Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA)
 - Clark Regional Wastewater District
 - Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC)
 - C-TRAN
 - Southwest Clean Air Agency
 - Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC)
 - Workforce Southwest Washington
- Schools/Educational institutions
 - Clark College
 - ESD 112
 - K-12 school districts
 - WSU-Vancouver
- State agencies
 - Washington State Department of Agriculture
 - Washington State Department of Ecology
 - Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Washington State Department of Health
 - Washington State Department of Natural Resources
 - Washington State Department of Transportation
- Utilities
 - Northwest Natural
 - Clark Public Utilities

8. List of stakeholders

Clark County will engage multiple stakeholder groups throughout the project, including:

- Clark County community members (rural and urban areas)
- Clark County cities
- Community-based organizations and volunteer groups
- County agencies/commissions/advisory boards
- Environmental organizations
- Faith-based communities
- Farmers and farmworkers
- Fishers, hunters, and gardeners
- Forestry and natural resource workers
- Green jobs, economic and workforce development

- Healthcare organizations
- Housing/building/development organizations
- Local businesses and industries
- Neighborhood associations
- Older adults
- People vulnerable to climate pollution and climate impacts
- State and regional agencies
- Transportation users
- Tribes
- Utilities
- Youth

All parties will be informed and invited to participate throughout the process. Notification will be accomplished via the methods outlined in Section 3 of this document.

9. Public Participation Timeline

The following is a general timeline of the Climate Change & Resiliency Element project. Exact project milestone dates are anticipated to shift as needed during the project.

Date	Project Phases
Nov 2023 – Jan 2024	Advisory group formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory group application period (mid-November 2023 to early-January 2024) • Advisory group appointments (January 2024)
2024	Advisory groups meet and work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish vision, charter, equity framework, other foundational group agreements and guides. • Review and learn about baseline data and research; provide feedback on priorities, targets, policy evaluation criteria. • By end of 2024, the CAG strives to reach consensus on a recommended list of greenhouse gas reduction and resiliency goals and policies for inclusion in the Climate Change & Resiliency Element.
2024	Engagement activities outside of advisory groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the consultant team and advisory groups review key decision points in the project, community engagement activities will be planned, scheduled, and implemented. • Feedback collected through 2024 engagement activities will be shared with advisory groups to inform their work based on communitywide input. • Most community engagement will happen in 2024. Final community engagement leading up to adoption is included in separate line items below.
Early 2025	Draft Climate Element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete draft of the Climate Change & Resiliency Element written.
Spring 2025	Adoption process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Commission work session and hearing • County Council work session and hearing, ordinance adoption

June 30,
2025

Project must be complete - a compliant comprehensive plan climate element must be adopted by Council - before the Growth Management Act due date



To: Clark County Council
CC: Kathleen Otto, County Manager
From: Jenna Kay, Planner III
Date: November 6, 2023
Subject: Revisions to Climate Change and Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan

On November 6, 2023, Clark County Community Planning posted an updated version of the Climate Change and Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan to the project webpage.

Enclosed please find a copy of the edits made, shown in track change. A summary of the edits is as follows:

- Made writing more precise and clear. For example, changed several instances of passive language to more assertive language.
- Corrected scrivener's errors.
- Clarified that members of the Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) may also apply for Council appointment to the Climate Community Advisory Group (CAG). The wording wasn't as clear as it could be about how the intersection of the EJC and CAG would work.



Exhibit 1

Clark County Climate Change & Resiliency Element

Public Participation Plan

Jenna Kay, Planner III, Community Planning, 564.397.4968

Gary Albrecht, Planner III, Community Planning, 564.397.4318

Amy Koski, Built Environment Coordinator, Public Health, 360.852.0685

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

This Public Participation Plan will guide the public engagement process to develop the Clark County Climate Change and Resiliency Element for the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan in coordination with the already adopted Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Public Participation Plan. The overarching goal of the project is to implement Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1181 ([ES2HB 1181](#)), signed into law May 3, 2023, and add a Climate Change and Resiliency Element to Clark County's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

The intent of this Public Participation Plan is to ensure that the county facilitates a thoughtful, open, and equitable process to provide residents, workers and other interested parties meaningful opportunities to discuss climate change and resiliency and shape policy recommendations for the unincorporated county.

1. Project Overview

With passage of ES2HB 1181, Clark County is now required to add a Climate Change Element to its Comprehensive Plan by June 30, 2025. This work will need to integrate into the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Review project, which is currently underway. ES2HB 1181 crosscuts multiple topics in the comprehensive plan, including: transportation, land use, parks, capital facilities and utilities, environmental, economic development, housing, rural and resource lands, and adds requirements related to health disparities and environmental justice.

New Subelements

The new legislation requires Clark County's Climate Element include a greenhouse gas reduction subelement and a resilience subelement for the first time. This means greenhouse gas reduction and resilience will need to be added into the county's comprehensive plan, including background information, goals, and policies for the county to implement during the 20-year planning period, 2025-2045.

Greenhouse Gas Subelement

The greenhouse gas subelement must be designed to result in reductions in overall local greenhouse gas emissions. The term greenhouse gases includes gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and certain synthetic chemicals that trap some of the Earth's outgoing energy, thus retaining heat in the

atmosphere. The subelement requires the county to identify actions it will take during the 20-year planning cycle to reduce greenhouse gas emission and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) related to transportation and land use, without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state, and must prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities to maximize co-benefits of reduced air pollution and environmental justice.

Resilience Subelement

The resilience subelement is intended to avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities. "Climate resilience is the ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities." [RCW 70A.65.010]. Resilience can be thought of as a community's capacity to bounce back from hazards exacerbated by climate change, such as stronger storms, more frequent wildfires, more frequent flooding, heat waves and drought, etc. In short, resilience encompasses community preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, including hazard mitigation and climate adaptation. The resiliency subelement will identify goals, policies, and programs the county will pursue during the 20-year planning cycle to equitably improve county resiliency to the impacts of climate change. These actions must: 1) identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to climate impacts; 2) identify, protect, and enhance community resiliency, including social, economic, and built environment factors, consistent with environmental justice; and 3) address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change. The subelement requires prioritizing actions that benefit overburdened communities that will disproportionately suffer from the compounding environmental impacts and natural hazards due to climate change.

A team of consultants is in the process of being hired to help Community Planning staff with this project.

Project Tasks

The project will include the following main tasks/phases of work for each subelement:

- Greenhouse gas reduction subelement
 - Baseline data collection, research and analysis. This task will include development of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and VMT study/evaluation to establish baseline information.
 - Selection of targets for greenhouse gas reduction and VMT reduction for the 20-year planning period (2025-2045).
 - Goal and policy list to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.
 - Draft greenhouse gas reduction subelement integrated into the Comprehensive Plan for consideration by the Planning Commission and County Council.
- Resiliency subelement
 - Foundational data collection, analysis, and research. This task will include an exploration of local climate impacts, an audit of existing plans and policies, and, if needed, a vulnerability and risk assessment.
 - Selection of priority climate hazards for 20-year planning period (2025-2045).
 - Goal and policy list to improve resiliency by 2045.
 - Draft resiliency subelement integrated into the Comprehensive Plan for consideration by the Planning Commission and County Council.

Project Area

The project area is unincorporated Clark County, including both unincorporated rural and unincorporated urban areas outside of the cities.¹

2. Public Participation Plan

A Public Participation Plan (PPP) is a communication program that provides members of the public opportunities for early and continuing participation and access to key decision making processes with the Clark County Planning Commission and Clark County Council. [RCW 36.70A.140, WAC 365-196-600]. The PPP describes the steps that Clark County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement, as well as Clark County contact information and web addresses. This PPP is in addition to the public participation required by Clark County Code Sections 40.510.040 and 40.560.010.

The Clark County Council adopted a Public Participation Plan for the Comprehensive Plan 2025 periodic update on March 21, 2023 [RES. 2023-03-05], before E2SHB 1181 was passed into law. This PPP for the Climate Change & Resiliency Element supplements and compliments that already adopted Public Participation Plan, as the Climate Change & Resiliency Element project is also part of the Comprehensive Plan 2025 periodic update project and addresses a significant change to the state's Growth Management Act.

Before writing this PPP, Clark County hired JLA Public Involvement to conduct a climate change stakeholder assessment. A copy of their report is available on the project webpage. Much of this PPP is based on the recommendations in that report.

Public Participation Goals

- **Communicate clearly.** Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and clearly communicate about opportunities to learn and engage in the process. See Section 3 of this document for tools and techniques the county plans to use to accomplish this goal.
- **Prioritize equity.** Incorporate the environmental justice and equity components of E2SHB 1181 into the public process. "Environmental justice" means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, and national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities and the equitable distribution of resources and benefits." The new legislation mandates that the county develop policies that benefit those harmed by greenhouse gas pollution and most vulnerable to climate change impacts.² A goal of this PPP is to include approaches to engage with these most vulnerable community groups. Vulnerable community groups include: communities of color, Tribal and Indigenous populations, low-income populations, people with disabilities, chronic

¹ Some countywide information will be gathered to provide additional context. The county and cities may decide to collectively create countywide planning policies for the comprehensive plan, in which case these policies will need to be developed by all county jurisdictions and apply countywide in both unincorporated and incorporated areas.

² Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1181, Chapter 228, Laws of 2023. §(9)(a). (Enacted May 3, 2023). <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/1181-S2.SL.pdf?q=20231016173959>

illnesses, or existing health conditions, infants and children, pregnant people, older adults, migrant farmworkers, outdoor workers, first responders, indoor workers without air conditioning, unhoused or unsheltered populations, people with limited English proficiency, some immigrant and refugee populations, populations with other social and geographical vulnerabilities (e.g., people with low educational attainment, renters, historically “red-lined” communities, urban, rural, vulnerably housed populations, people who are unemployed, areas with poor infrastructure). The formation of an Environmental Justice Coalition (Section 6) to design public engagement activities and use of an equity framework (Section 3.8) throughout the project are two key tools for accomplishing this goal.

- **Inform, Consult, Involve, and Collaborate.** The county will provide a process with multiple opportunities and options for education and feedback during the project. The project team will keep the public informed. The project team will listen and acknowledge what they hear. The project team will explain how public feedback impacts the project. As much as possible, the project team will look to community members for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate community member advice and recommendations into final deliverables for County Council consideration. The formation of a Community Advisory Group (Section 5) and Environmental Justice Coalition (Section 6) are key tools for facilitating extensive, in-depth collaboration with community members. Additional tools and techniques are described in Section 3.

3. Public Participation Tools and Techniques

Clark County is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the project, to ensure that anyone who wants to participate can do so. Clark County will use a variety of communication tools and techniques to inform the public and encourage their participation, which will include the following:

3.1 Project Webpage

The county website will include a project webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, scope of work/schedule, meeting information, contact information, information on how to stay involved and provide comments, and contact information for requesting materials in other languages: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/climate-change-planning>

3.2 Email Distribution List

The county maintains an email list of interested parties regarding Climate Change planning activities. The list will be used to notify interested parties about project news and updates, and opportunities to engage in the process. Interested parties will be added to the list by submitting a request to the Community Planning Department. To join the Climate Change listserv, sign up online at <https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-planning/get-project-updates> or contact the Community Planning Department at 564-397-4968 or jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov. Additional sign-up opportunities may be available at any in-person events through the use of sign-in sheets.

3.3 Media

The local news media will be kept up to date on the Climate Change & Resiliency Element project and receive copies of all official notices. In addition, legal notices for public hearings will be published in the paper of record, *The Columbian*. *The Messenger* and *The Reflector* newspapers and social media, such as Nextdoor, Facebook, and X may also be used to provide notifications on upcoming meetings or events and where to find project information.

3.4 Written Comments

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Clark County by letter, email, or web-based forms during the public process. All comments received will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and Clark County Council for their consideration as a part of the adoption process. Comments received during certain phases of the process may also be shared with the project advisory groups for review and consideration.

3.5 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2025 Periodic Update Public Engagement Activities

Public engagement activities planned for the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2025 periodic update project may also include climate related information and feedback opportunities. This could include, for example, an open house type event on a variety of comprehensive plan topics that includes climate.

3.6 Climate Change and Resilience Public Engagement Activities

Specific climate change and resilience related public engagement and educational activities are still to be determined. Examples of possible activities and techniques that may be implemented include the following:

- Community data gathering activities and field trips.
- Online open houses and surveys (mobile phone friendly).
- In-person open houses, workshops, other activities targeted to specific interest groups such as youth.
- Informational videos translated into languages other than English.
- Tabling/and or sharing information at high-traffic locations and community gatherings spaces, such as ethnic markets, farmer's markets, public libraries, community centers, senior centers, and events.
- Partnering with organizations that can help disseminate print information, such as Meals on Wheels People.
- Sharing information through targeted media channels like *The Messenger*.
- Leveraging partner agency information platforms, such as distribution lists, podcasts and social media.
- Engagement through school-based activities, classroom projects, and youth-based groups.
- Offering honorariums, budget permitting, for members of the public who participate in community meetings/workshops.
- Offering community meetings/open houses and events in different places around the county, to increase accessibility to a range of people.

3.7 Communication Approaches

The [JLA Public Involvement Climate Change Stakeholder Assessment included preliminary communication feedback from stakeholders interviewed. county-Community Planning](#) will strive to address the following feedback in its communication:

- The topics of comprehensive planning and climate change planning are complex and not broadly understood. It will be important to explain processes and topics in a way that makes sense for non-experts.
- To promote broad general awareness and understanding of this effort and to encourage participation in engagement activities, project communications should be clear and consistent. Messaging should use plain language.
- Materials should be translated/transcreated into languages such as Spanish, Chuukese, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, Russian, and Ukrainian.

- Avoid politically charged language or describe things in factual/neutral terms when referring to climate change. Examples of a more neutral approach to when explaining climate-related impacts include: could include discussion of -wildfires, droughts, and extreme heat instead of discussing climate change.

3.8 Advisory Groups and Equity Framework

JLA Public Involvement, a neutral third-party consultant, conducted preliminary stakeholder interviews to learn about key climate change and resiliency issues in the unincorporated county, to better understand the range of perspectives in the community, and to inform public engagement for this project and this PPP. After conducting interviews, the consultant prepared a Climate Stakeholder Assessment Summary that details the process and a summary of the interview responses. Based on this research, the JLA Public Involvement team provided recommendations regarding advisory group composition, formation, charge, and group process. The project team will follow recommendations in the Climate Stakeholder Assessment summary as much as possible. More details about each advisory group are provided in Sections 5, 6, and 7 of this document.

This PPP outlines the approach for forming the three advisory groups: The three advisory groups recommended by JLA Public Involvement are the following:

- The Clark County Council will appoint a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to develop goal and policy recommendations for the Planning Commission and County Council.
- The county will contract with Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) organizations to help the county with community engagement with community groups who are most vulnerable to climate pollution and the impacts from climate change such as extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire smoke, and to guide the equity framework used throughout this project. Representatives of the EJC will may also apply to also serve on the CAG.
- Community Planning staff will assemble an interdepartmental and interagency coordinating team to provide information and expertise throughout the project and attend CAG and EJC meetings as needed.

JLA Public Involvement, a neutral third-party consultant, conducted preliminary stakeholder interviews to learn about key climate change and resiliency issues in the unincorporated county, to better understand the range of perspectives in the community, and to inform public engagement for this project and this PPP. A Climate Stakeholder Assessment Summary was then prepared that details the process and a summary of the interview responses. Based on this research, the consultant team provided recommendations regarding advisory group composition, formation, charge, and group process. The project team will follow recommendations in the Climate Stakeholder Assessment summary as much as possible. More details about each advisory group are provided in Sections 5, 6, and 7 of this document.

Equity Framework

AThe advisory groups will develop [a?] Diversity/Equity/Inclusion framework will be developed by the advisory groups early in the process to serve as a touchstone and guide group process and decision-making.

3.9 Public Comment Periods and Hearings

The Clark County Planning Commission and Clark County Council will hold televised (through CVTV) public hearings before final adoption of the Climate Change and Resiliency Element as part of the

Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2025-2045 periodic review and update. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments for review and provide testimony during hearings.

Public notice of all hearings will contain information on the how to comment, and hearing information including the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published according to code requirements per official policy and will comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. The county will also provide emailed notices ~~are also planned for distribution to parties on the email list~~ serv outlined identified in Section 3.2.

4. Tribal Engagement

The county will reach out to leadership of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and other tribes with ancestral lands and waters and/or usual and accustomed areas in or near the project area and invite them to partner, consult, and/or coordinate on the county's climate change planning project, if they would like, in a manner they prefer.

The county will also reach out to local Native American non-governmental organizations and Indigenous community-based organizations to invite them to participate in the project.

5. Community Advisory Group

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) will ~~be where form~~ consensus-based recommendations on Climate Change and Resiliency Element goals and policies. Staff will forward the group's recommendations to are formed for to be staff to forwarded by staff to the Planning Commission ~~for review and input and~~ and to the ultimately the County Council ~~for to~~ consider ~~ation to and potentially to~~ adopt. As such, this group should represent a wide range of interests within the community and ~~there should be representation~~ from across the county amongst the committee members.

To ensure an open, transparent, and diverse set of interests are represented on the CAG, an open recruitment process (anyone can apply) will be implemented. Applications will be reviewed by with impartial review of applications by a third party, neutral facilitator/consensus building process expert, to be hired by the county consultant will be implemented to result in a representation of a diversity of perspectives. The consultant's advisory group member recommendations will then be forwarded to the County Council to consider for appointment.

An invitation to apply should be distributed to the stakeholder list generated through the JLA Climate Stakeholder Assessment work as well as additional county email distribution lists. The application form can be an online questionnaire format available in multiple languages, ~~and can also be as well as~~ available in hard-copy format at community centers, libraries, senior centers, schools, faith-based organizations, and other popular places. Hard copies can be returnable by mail, in-person, or text message. In rural areas, hard copies are especially important where online accessibility can be more challenging.

These interest positions include, but are not limited to: The Community Advisory Group positions recommended by JLA Public Involvement are listed below. The consultant team did not specify total group size but did highlight emphasizing representation of vulnerable community member representatives.

- Several members of the Environmental Justice Coalition to environmental justice advocates to represent those most vulnerable to climate change pollution and climate impacts

- Urban neighborhoods/residents – renters and homeowners
- Rural neighborhood/residents – renters and homeowners
- Homebuilding
- Land development
- Business
- Affordable housing
- Transit users
- Commuters
- Healthcare
- Environment
- Education
- Youth
- Bike/Pedestrian
- Agriculture/Farming
- Forestry
- Freight
- Industry
- Economic and workforce development
- Groups supporting community activities including hiking, fishing, hunting, and gardening

The County Council may choose to identify a council liaison for the project and the Community Advisory Group. This liaison may attend CAG meetings but would not be a voting member of the group. Additional guests such as county staff or utility partners may be invited to attend meetings as needed.

CAG meetings

The CAG will meet approximately 12 times throughout the course of the project. CAG responsibilities include reviewing and commenting on work products, guiding focus/priorities, working towards consensus on a list of climate change and resiliency goals and policies, acting as liaisons to specific constituencies or interest groups, encouraging community members to participate in the process, and acting as champions of the Climate Change & Resiliency Element that emerges from the process.

Community Planning and the consultant team will coordinate with the CAG to identify preferred meeting times, locations, and formats. ~~The county will provide t~~Translation/interpretation ~~will be made available~~ at group meetings based on group member preferences. If virtual or hybrid meetings are used, ~~the county will provide~~ phone and closed captioning services ~~will be provided~~.

If meetings are held during mealtimes, ~~the county will provide~~ food ~~will be provided~~ for advisory group members. When possible, ~~the county will provide~~ additional space ~~can be provided~~ at meetings for children or family members. ~~The county plans to hire a consultant to coordinate and facilitate~~ CAG meetings ~~will be coordinated and facilitated by a third party, neutral consultant~~. In-between meetings, committee members can engage with the group facilitator and/or county staff to ask questions and prepare for meetings. ~~These in-between meeting conversations is~~ would serve as an opportunity to mentor committee members and build capacity with some members who may not have participated in ~~this type of a~~ group consensus building activity or planning process previously.

6. Equity-focused Public Engagement with an Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC)

Based on the new legislation, a priority for this project includes advancing participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities. County staff's focus for public engagement will be designed and implemented with an Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) formed and made up of members who [are a part of a vulnerable or overburdened population](#), work, or are involved with local vulnerable and overburdened populations.

~~Members~~ [The county plans to hire members](#) of this group [will be hired by the county](#) to design the public engagement work within their communities, with county staff and consultant support. Public engagement activities should occur at key milestones so that public feedback effectively informs advisory group recommendations and other key parts of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update process.

~~Representatives~~ [Representatives](#) from this group [will may](#) also [participate apply to participate](#) in the Community Advisory Group discussed in Section 5.

Contracting with Environmental Justice Coalition members will follow county purchasing and contracting procedures and policies. Focused outreach will be conducted to community-based organizations that were identified through the initial stakeholder assessment process. This includes but is not limited to organizations supporting the following communities:

- Culturally specific groups such as: Chuukese, Vietnamese, Pacific Islander, and Latino
- Minority-focused business, community development, and service associations
- Immigrants and refugees
- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Older adults
- Youth
- Early childcare or education providers
- People who identify as LGBTQ+
- People living with disabilities
- People who are houseless
- Farmworkers

~~An open and transparent, low barrier application and selection process will be conducted with the EJC, similar to what was described for the CAG application process. However, there will be some differences due to the purchasing processes involved.~~

EJC meetings

The EJC will meet approximately 14 times throughout the course of the project. Community Planning and the consultant team will coordinate with the EJC to identify preferred meeting times, locations, and formats. ~~If The county will provide food for group members if~~ meetings are held during mealtimes, ~~food will be provided for group members~~. When possible, ~~the county will provide~~ additional space ~~can be provided~~ at meetings for children or family members. ~~The county will provide t~~ Translation/interpretation ~~will be made available~~ at group meetings based on group member preferences. If virtual or hybrid meetings are used, ~~the county will provide~~ phone and closed captioning services ~~will be provided~~.

~~The county will hire a consultant to facilitate and coordinate~~ EJC meetings ~~will be coordinated and facilitated by a third party, neutral consultant~~. In-between meetings, committee members can engage with the group facilitator and/or county staff to ask questions and prepare for meetings. This will serve as an opportunity to mentor committee members and build capacity with some members who may not have participated in this type of activity previously. Members of the EJC will be compensated for their time in EJC meetings and community public engagement activities through contracts with the county.

Representation in the Community Advisory Group

~~EJC members may also choose to apply for appointment on the CAG~~ ~~The EJC should be empowered to make decisions about how they would like to be represented on the CAG~~ (see Section 5).

7. Interdepartmental and Interagency Coordination Group

County staff will build a list of county, city, and partner agency staff (such as the Southwest Regional Transportation Council and local utilities) who are technical experts in various areas related to the Climate Element. Members of this group will be expected to provide information and expertise, and help draft, review, and eventually implement Climate Element policies, as needed. Email communication will keep this group up to date on project process. Individual and small group conversations will be scheduled as needed. Invitations to listen or present at EJC or CAG meetings will be scheduled as needed.

This group may include staff from the following organizations:

- Clark County Cities and Towns
- Clark County departments:
 - Community Development (Building, Fire Marshall, Wetland/Habitat, Land Use)
 - Community Planning
 - Community Services
 - General Services
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 - Public Health (Healthy Communities, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Environmental Health)
 - Public Works (Transportation, Parks and Lands, Emergency Management, Clean Water)
 - Purchasing/Green Team
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Hospital/Medical organizations
 - PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center
 - Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
- Other government agencies
 - Fire Districts
 - Port of Vancouver
- Regional agencies

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 - Washington State Department of Ecology
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- Utilities
 - Northwest Natural
 - Clark Public Utilities

8. List of stakeholders

Clark County will engage multiple stakeholder groups throughout the project, including:

- Clark County community members (rural and urban areas)
- Clark County cities
- Community-based organizations and volunteer groups
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- Environmental organizations
- Faith-based communities
- Farmers and farmworkers
- Fishers, hunters, and gardeners
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- Tribes

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- Youth

All parties will be informed and invited to participate throughout the process. Notification will be accomplished via the methods outlined in Section 3 of this document.

9. Public Participation Timeline

The following is a general timeline of the Climate Change & Resiliency Element project. Exact project milestone dates are anticipated to shift as needed during the project.

Date	Project Phases
Nov 2023 – Jan 2024	Advisory group formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory group application period (mid-November 2023 to early-January 2024) • Advisory group appointments (January 2024)
2024	Advisory groups meet and work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish vision, charter, equity framework, other foundational group agreements and guides. • Review and learn about baseline data and research; provide feedback on priorities, targets, policy evaluation criteria. • By end of 2024, group the CAG strives to negotiate <u>reach consensus on a recommended</u> list of greenhouse gas reduction and resiliency goals and policies for inclusion in the Climate Change & Resiliency Element.
2024	Engagement activities outside of advisory groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the consultant team and advisory groups review key decision points in the project, community engagement activities will be planned, scheduled, and implemented. • Feedback collected through 2024 engagement activities will <u>incorporate into the be shared with advisory groups' work. advisory groups to inform their work based on communitywide input.</u> • Most community engagement will happen in 2024. Final community engagement leading up to adoption is included in separate line items below.
Early 2025	Draft Climate Element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete draft of the Climate Change & Resiliency Element written.
Spring - Summer 2025	Adoption process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Commission work session and hearing • County Council work session and hearing, ordinance adoption
June 30, 2025	Project must be complete - <u>a compliant comprehensive plan climate element must be adopted by Council - before the</u> based on Growth Management Act due date

CLARK COUNTY CLIMATE STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT



SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Prepared by

JLA Public Involvement, Inc.

Date

October 9, 2023

INTRODUCTION

During the 2023 Washington State Legislative session, the state passed [ES2HB 1181](#), requiring Clark County to add a climate change and resiliency element to the county's Comprehensive Plan by June 30, 2025. The new mandate requires Clark County's climate change and resiliency element to include a greenhouse gas reduction sub-element and a resiliency sub-element.

2025 Comprehensive Plan Update: focusing on greenhouse gas reduction and resiliency

The greenhouse gas sub-element must be designed to result in reductions in overall local greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled. The resiliency sub-element must help the county equitably prepare for, adapt and minimize the negative impacts of climate change on natural systems, infrastructure and communities.

Notably, the goals, policies and programs for greenhouse gas reduction and climate resiliency recommended through this process must be conducted through an equity framework, prioritizing overburdened and vulnerable communities that have been historically marginalized and disproportionately suffer from the impacts of climate change, and must avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts for these communities.

The focus of this planning effort will be for unincorporated Clark County, including rural areas, such as Hockinson, Dollars Corner and Amboy and urban areas outside of city limits, such as Hazel Dell, Minnehaha, Salmon Creek and Orchards. The goals, policies, and programs recommended through this process will cover different topics related to development in the area, but will not re-examine established policies, codes, or programs.

The county plans to convene three advisory groups to guide development of the greenhouse gas and resiliency sub-elements to include in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update and make policy recommendations to the County Council for adoption.

- Environmental Justice Coalition – Members of this group will work with, or be involved with, community groups most impacted by greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and/or who are most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- Community Advisory Group – This group is expected to represent a wide range of interests in the community, including members from the Environmental Justice Coalition.
- County/City/Partner Agency climate policy group – This group will consist of county, city, and partner agency staff who are technical experts in various areas related to the Climate Element.

Assessment: collecting input to guide and inform next steps

A central priority for the county's climate planning process is to create and implement an equity-centered approach. Washington State Department of Commerce, Climate Element Planning Guidance, indicated that a public engagement strategy should include efforts to engage a diversity of community members in equitable and meaningful ways. To develop clear and credible stakeholder and process recommendations for the forthcoming Comprehensive Plan

update, Clark County Community Planning decided to conduct an initial assessment with community members and organizations to gather input and inform process, composition and charge of the three advisory groups.

Purpose and goals

This initial assessment and engagement prior to convening the advisory groups was intended to help establish a more equitable and representative membership for the advisory groups and a streamlined process in the next phases of the climate related Comprehensive Plan Update by:

- Increasing project awareness amongst interest groups, community-based organizations and partner agencies through broad and early outreach, which provides more opportunity for involvement.
- Building trust and strengthening relationships with communities by involving them early and using their feedback to inform the advisory group process in the upcoming phase of work.
- Creating a thoughtful engagement approach that is informed by stakeholders' advice, past experiences, and suggestions.
- Understanding the needs, priorities, and interests of the communities within Clark County that might need to be addressed through the climate related update to the Comprehensive Plan

Methodology

Consultant support: In August 2023, JLA Public Involvement was hired as an outside, third-party consultant to assist Clark County Community Planning with conducting the assessment and making recommendations for future engagement during the upcoming climate related Comprehensive Plan update. Outreach, interviews and surveying began in early September and concluded in early October.

Identifying stakeholders, an iterative approach: The process was designed to reach out to stakeholders in several rounds using a process called snowballing, talking with an initial group and then secondary and tertiary groups based on recommendations from earlier conversations. The snowball approach allowed the team to expand engagement and involve community members and groups as recommended by others. Additionally, some participants assisted with outreach by leveraging existing relationships in the community, helping with introductions, sending interview invites, increasing project awareness, and broadening outreach. The process of the snowball approach requires additional time to gain momentum in the beginning phase and between groups to provide room for outreach, introductions, and scheduling. Due to the time constraints of this assessment project and scheduling conflicts, the project team invited the suggested or recommended contacts but was unable to speak with all invitees.

Clark County Community Planning and Public Health provided an initial list of identified stakeholders, including stakeholders and organizations that are active in various communities within the county and/or represent different interests. Throughout engagement activities, the consultant team broadened the list by inviting stakeholders to share their suggestions and recommendations for additional organizations and individuals to interview.

Meeting and interview formats: The assessment was conducted primarily via one-on-one or small group interviews held virtually through Microsoft Teams or Zoom. The interviewees were asked a series of questions regarding their past experiences with similar processes; topics of interest or priorities relating to climate change; recommendations for community engagement; and ideas or suggestions on committee processes and solutions to overcoming identified barriers to participation.

Accommodations were offered to participants to reduce barriers to participation, such as compensation and translation/interpretation.

Online questionnaire: An online questionnaire was also made available and distributed to gather input from a broader set of stakeholders and/or those who were unable to participate in an interview during the timeframe. To reduce barriers to participation and seek to hear from a broad range of people, the online questionnaire was offered in Chuukese, Mandarin/Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. The questionnaire is included in Appendix D.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS OUTCOMES

Between September 6 and October 6, Clark County Community Planning and JLA Public Involvement conducted outreach to nearly 200 individuals, community organizations and partner agencies to invite them to participate in an interview or complete an online questionnaire. JLA Public Involvement collected input from over 83 individuals representing approximately 40 organizations or interest groups through the one-on-one and small group interviews and the online questionnaire. Two Ukrainian online questionnaire submissions were received and translated. The input collected from the interviews and online questionnaire is summarized below in key themes and takeaways.

Groups engaged: Through these activities, the project team successfully engaged with the following community and interest groups:

- Public agencies, commissions and committees and utility providers, including Clark County Councilors, City of Vancouver, Clark County Public Health, Clark County Public Works, Clark Public Utilities, NW Natural, Clark Communities Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Clark County Commission on Aging, Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Southwest Washington, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, C-TRAN and Vancouver Housing Authority.
- Community organizations providing public services, including Council for the Homeless, Meals on Wheels People and Fourth Plain Forward.
- Healthcare institutions and providers, including PeaceHealth and SeaMar.
- Neighborhood associations, including West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association and North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association.
- Community advocacy groups, including those supporting older adults, people with disabilities, and environmental protection, including Friends of Clark County, Clark County Citizens United, Alliance for Community Engagement, Western Institute for Agriculture and Food Security, Watershed Alliance of SW Washington, Project Voice, and Vancouver Bee Project.

- Local business organizations, including representatives of construction, housing, economic development, including Port of Vancouver, Columbia River Economic Development Council, Building Industry Association, and Development Engineering Advisory Board.
- Public agency and organizations supporting the agriculture sector, including Clark Conservation District and Western Institute for Agriculture and Food Security.
- Education institutions and youth, including public school districts, early childhood learning organizations and higher education institutions, including Support for Early Learning and Families, Evergreen Public Schools, Educational Service District 112, Washington State University Vancouver, and Washington State University Extension.
- Culturally specific groups and organizations, including the Vietnamese Community of Clark County, Sakura 39ers Youth Association, Hispanic Disability Support SW WA (Pasitos Gigantes), Latino Leadership Northwest and the Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington.

The full list of interview participants and invitees is included in Appendix A and B.

Limitations to engagement: Clark County includes many diverse interests, groups and communities. The project team reached out to many people, including those identified initially by Clark County Community Planning and those recommended by interview participants. The project team made multiple efforts, including a variety of different methods, in an attempt to connect with stakeholders. Despite this, the project team was not able to reach or engage with some groups and stakeholders that had been identified or recommended during the timeframe of this assessment. This assessment process highlighted that it takes time and multiple attempts to conduct outreach. People are busy and community-based organizations, in particular, are dealing with competing demands and limited resources. It is also worth noting that this process also emphasized the need to leverage existing relationships with community-based organizations and cultural groups to make an introduction and a connection.

The groups the project team was unable to reach through this assessment, despite multiple attempts, and whom we recommend should be engaged as the process moves forward, include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Metro Council and Southwest Washington League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council, houseless communities, faith-based communities, LGBTQ+ communities, tenants/renters, indigenous/tribal representation and some cities or towns within Clark County. The project team conducted interviews with a public agency and an organization supporting agriculture and forestry sectors but was unable to reach community members within the two sectors, additional effort to engage with these communities is recommended in the upcoming phases.

With regard to outreach to tribal communities, it is often preferred that contact is government to government with the highest-ranking elected official of the government agency trying to make contact, reaching out to the tribal leadership with an invite to participate. It can also be useful to leverage existing organizations or groups that tribal members are participating in to make contact. Organizations that were referenced by participants of this assessment were Confluence Project and Changing Currents. It is recommended that these approaches be used to make contact with indigenous groups and local tribes in the next phase of work.

SUMMARY OF INPUT

Interviewees and questionnaire respondents provided recommendations on the process, composition, charge and format for the three advisory groups. Participants also provided insight on topics that may need to be addressed during the next phase of work. In addition, they provided information that will inform the Public Participation Plan to be developed by county staff that will guide engagement throughout the upcoming climate change and resiliency element planning process.

Input related to topics or priorities to address

Only some participants articulated their climate concerns and the outcomes they want from this process. Their contributions are listed here. Most of those who contributed already have some knowledge of comprehensive planning and climate policy. Others expressed a need for more information or education.

Specific measures

- Add native plants on county land to sequester more carbon and add habitat. Native plants are more tolerant of hotter and drier conditions and would require little or no pesticide.
- Distribute compost bins for food waste, to reduce landfills' contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Require solar-ready roofs for new construction projects.
- Require new parking lots to be Electric Vehicle ready.
- Start installing solar on buildings, carports, and brownfields.
- Replace old natural gas systems with electric heat pumps.
- Gradually replace county fleet with electric vehicles.
- Encourage development plans that allow people to have different transportation options, including being able to walk or ride their bikes to destinations.
- Speed up permitting for solar by using SolarAPP, a platform developed by The National Renewable Energy Lab.
- Partner with Clark Public Utilities to install solar on large Clark County buildings.

Cost

For small businesses, homebuilders and developers

- Meeting climate policy requirements will be expensive.
- More specifically, the cost of building affordable housing will rise: state and local agencies should have incentives available.

For residents

- Increased cost of living will be a likely unintended consequence of climate change policy.

For unspecified persons or organizations

- Electrification is costly. There needs to be a dual system; electrification can't handle everything.

- Most people are interested in investing in protecting the environment; but that becomes difficult as it relates to timing and cost to comply with any mandates.
- How do we pay for these investments in green infrastructure? There needs to be sustainable reinvestment.
- The long-term financial savings from energy reduction should be able to offset the short-term financial impacts to regulatory changes.

Government policy and inter-agency collaboration

- This presents a great opportunity for collaboration across agencies, communities and organizations — for sharing information, resources and best practices.
- City, State and other local guidelines should be unduplicated and streamlined.

Grants and funding

- The county should position itself to receive funding for climate adaptation and implementation.
- The county should consider hiring staff to research climate grants and other funding sources.

Land development policy

- Require new buildings to be electrified and be Gold or Platinum LEED certified. New buildings should be required to include electrical conduit and wiring for electric vehicle charging.
- The current land use principles in the county's Comprehensive Plan Update are antithetical to all climate goals and favor development.
- Rapid expansion of sustainable, regenerative agriculture, and rewilding — as both mitigation and resiliency measures — would require a strict and critical eye toward all new development.
- Evaluate planned developments in rural and urban areas separately, and take community culture and values, such as aging-in-place, into consideration.
- Invest in economic development in rural areas, increasing employment opportunities in the area.

Road and transportation policy

- New capital projects:
 - Already, the county considers changes to storm patterns in stream-crossing structures, and provides for increased permitting requirements related to roadway pollution. Potentially new climate requirements could increase such efforts on all county projects involving motor vehicles and multi-modal transportation. This work potentially reduces the impacts of projects during construction, operation and life cycle.
 - Including the changes in the county's Comprehensive Plan Update will align the county's project efforts with the new requirements.
 - Specific requirements for transportation infrastructure elements and the construction, operation and maintenance of these assets.
 - Likewise, considerations for parks, clean water initiatives and county fleet decisions.

Trust, equity and inclusion

- The public and stakeholders lack trust with the county and don't see it as transparent in its processes and projects — particularly related to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Equity and inclusion will need to be front and center and be considered in every aspect — not just related to people, but industry and technology as well.
- Some people in the county don't believe in sustainability or green infrastructure – they think it's a fleeting interest.
- Identifying and clearly stating the gaps in the current system in addressing climate change can help with trust-building.
- Consider socio-economic indicators when identifying vulnerable communities.
- Clear communications surrounding scope, limitations and constraints at the beginning of the process can help build trust by setting realistic goals and standards.
- Communities want to be empowered by the county to conduct independent environmental preservation efforts, especially communities with more limited resources and connections.

Vehicle Miles Traveled

- Active transportation and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are complex subjects that warrant explanation and orientation.
- Public transportation/transit is important to consider for greenhouse gas reductions and VMT reductions. But in Clark County, it's hard to use and/or it's not available to everyone.
- Distance to economic and housing opportunities and availability of transportation options are important factors impacting VMT, especially for communities in rural areas with more limited options.

Public health

- Climate change will impact health, particularly for older adults and vulnerable populations.
- Consider the global impact and cost of climate-related migration (to this country).

Food, water and natural systems

- Water and the health of our watersheds are a concern for some.
- Considering the impact to food systems should be a focus.
- Protection of natural areas and ecosystems was also mentioned.

Education

- Educating and informing the public about climate preparedness in accordance with their community needs such as educating forest landowners on wildfire readiness.
- Integrate school programs, involve educators, teachers, staff and parents in the process.

Input related to future community participation

Participants provided thoughtful feedback on how to encourage community members to be informed and participate, for the county to build trust and relationships, and for the project team to broaden engagement through process and format improvements. Most feedback had to do with lowering barriers to participation by providing accommodations such as transportation access and childcare, amongst other suggested supports and resources, as well as incentivizing participation through providing meals, compensation and engaging in culturally appropriate manners. Some interviewees suggested that the committees should include a separate group or task force consisting of committee members focusing on outreach, as a way to broaden community engagement and empower committee members through independent outreach.

Input related to the advisory group process

- The advisory groups need to establish a shared agreement on appropriate conduct during meetings, conflict resolution, and the decision-making process.
- Many noted the importance of using data and facts to lead the process and discussions, especially using data to establish the same foundational understanding of equity and climate change for everyone.
- One person recommended beginning the process with an assessment of the local environmental justice impacts.
- Some shared concerns surrounding polarizing opinions on climate change, highlighting that the topic should be addressed in a solution-based approach, and to be mindful of the language used to describe the topic during outreach.
- Topics that were raised to be addressed in the process include land-use planning, local agricultural systems and sustainable food production, transportation, and health disparities caused by climate impacts, and many emphasized the need for an educational component on these topics.
- Most participants felt a consensus-based process and resulting recommendations to be realistic expectations. Many highlighted that trust will need to be built for open discussions and consensus to happen. Some noted the polarizing opinions on the topic, suggesting that the meetings will need strong facilitation, clear agendas, and goals. Some participants suggested specific alternatives for when consensus could not be reached, such as rank choice voting.
- Some suggested that offering additional training, mentorship opportunities or informational sessions outside of the meetings could help empower quieter voices in the meetings.
- Building trust by utilizing existing connections, such as community-based organizations, trusted community spaces, or leaders (i.e. public schools and religious organizations).
- Established meeting structures, clear agendas, and sharing information before and after the meetings can help with continuity and lower participation barriers.

- Establish charter and ground rules as a group early in the process and review them at each meeting to set expectations.
- All people involved need to have a clear and shared understanding of the dynamic, role, and purpose of the three advisory groups.

Input related to meeting format

- Provide accommodations such as meals, space for families, stipends, transportation and technology assistance could encourage participation.
- Provide various ways to engage and contribute outside of the meetings, being mindful of meeting time/day accessibility.
- Consider hybrid or virtual meetings as an alternative to in-person meetings. When participants expressed a preference for a virtual meeting platform, they preferred Zoom.
- Consider community hubs and existing community gathering spaces for in-person meetings such as the public libraries and schools.

Input related to committee composition

Interviewees were invited to share suggestions for individuals or organizations that should be involved in the advisory groups. Overall, the interviewees advocated for a diverse membership that is representative of the various interests and perspectives in Clark County. This includes but is not limited to representation for businesses, economic development, low-income residents, culturally specific groups, neighbors, community service organizations, agricultural workers, environmental advocates, educators, older adults, healthcare workers, youth/students, landowners, renters, and the houseless communities.

The full list of suggested advisory group candidates is listed in Appendix C.

Input related to engagement

Participants were invited to share suggestions of individuals or organizations that we should invite for an interview. The suggestions include active individuals within the county, organizations focusing on climate-related issues, or serving vulnerable populations and underserved communities and cultural groups. The project team reached out to a majority of the suggested contacts and was able to reach and engage with most. Due to limitations to engagement, such as time constraints, conflicting schedules, and priorities, the project team was unable to reach or engage with all of the suggested contacts. The suggested contacts have been noted and added to the stakeholder's list for future outreach.

The full list of suggested interviewees is included in Appendix D.

Other input received

- Many of the participants shared positive feedback and appreciation towards the county's effort and work.
- Many also offered their support with future outreach and offered to reach out to their connections and to lend their expertise as resources.

- Some shared concerns surrounding implementation of the recommended policies and programs, suggesting that outreach and engagement should continue.
- Concern was raised surrounding the implementation of the advisory group process due to time and resource constraints, it was suggested for the advisory groups to be empowered to conduct simultaneous processes such as data gathering and community outreach.

RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON FEEDBACK

The following recommendations are being proposed by JLA Public Involvement to the county for consideration and to inform the development of the Public Participation Plan for the Climate Element portion of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update. JLA Public Involvement developed these recommendations directly based on input received through this assessment.

Committee composition, formation and charge

Engaging a broad spectrum of interests, lived experience and subject matter experts through the three committees will be critical to the success of this process and overall project. It will also be important that all members of these committees are working with the same data and information, to support a foundational understanding of equity and climate. In addition, these groups should have clear roles and expectations, as identified in their charters.

Open recruitment process

To ensure an open, transparent and diverse set of interests are represented on the Environmental Justice Coalition and the Community Advisory Group, we recommend an open recruitment process (anyone can apply) with impartial review of applications by a third party neutral consultant to result in representation of a diversity of perspectives. This type of recruitment would require a broad community education and outreach campaign to promote awareness of the effort and opportunity to participate, as well as understanding of how participation can influence the outcomes of this process. JLA Public Involvement has seen success with other agencies using this process, resulting in highly diverse, representative and productive committees. Example evaluation criteria for screening applications might include:

- Representation from both rural and urban areas.
- Community mindedness and problem-solving perspective.
- Likelihood to attend meetings with accommodations.
- Represent a key viewpoint, stakeholder interest, or lived experience.
- Willingness to consider and resolve other's viewpoints & differences (ability to work towards consensus).
- Special skills, added value to group (project understanding and deliberations).
- Capabilities, desire and ideas for outreach (ability to outreach to constituency).

- Other criteria to be informed by consultant technical team and county staff based upon project goals and through research of community vulnerabilities, health disparities and demographics.

An invitation to apply should be distributed to the stakeholder list generated through this assessment work. The application form can be an online questionnaire format available in multiple languages as well as available in hard-copy format at community centers, libraries, senior centers, schools, and other popular places and returnable via prepaid mail. Hard-copy, prepaid applications (25 at each location) could be made available at libraries, schools, community centers and faith-based organizations especially in more rural areas where online accessibility is more challenging and could be refilled as needed.

The overall size of each group should be considered so as to allow a manageable size for productive discussions.

Committee purpose, recruitment structure and membership

Environmental Justice Coalition: We envision the Environmental Justice Coalition's role as being key to forming the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) framework for the climate change and resiliency element planning project. This group will also lead the design of in-community public engagement work for the project with staff and consultant support. They can also serve as a sounding board for the Community Advisory Group to hear from and react to and give feedback on policy and program recommendations to ensure that possible outcomes from this process have given consideration to the impacts to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

The Environmental Justice Coalition should be empowered to make decisions about how they would like to be represented on the Community Advisory Group. For example, they may choose to nominate two spokespeople to rotate attendance at Community Advisory Group meetings or they may choose to have several members attend to carry forward the Environmental Justice Coalition's perspectives.

Recruitment for this committee should occur via an open recruitment process as indicated above, however, focused outreach would be needed to community-based organizations that were identified through this assessment process. This includes but is not limited to:

- Sakura 39ers (representing the Chuukese Community)
- Hispanic Disability Support SW WA (Pasitos Gigantes)
- Fourth Plain Forward
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Metro Council
- Southwest Washington League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Vietnamese Community of Clark County
- Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington, SW WA Chapter
- Lutheran Community Services and other services that serve immigrant and refugee populations, including Eastern European and Afghan communities.
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

- Older Adults
- Youth, including high school and college/university students
- Latino Leadership Northwest
- Early childcare or education providers
- LGBTQ+
- Tribes
- People living with disabilities
- Share, Council for the Homeless or other groups representing those who are houseless
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber-Vancouver Office and other business associations
- Western Institute for Agriculture and Food Security or groups serving farm workers

Community Advisory Group: The Community Advisory Group will be where consensus-based recommendations are formed to be forwarded by staff to the Planning Commission for review and input and to the County Council for consideration to adopt. As such, this group should represent a wide range of interests within the community.

It is recommended that the decision-making process for this group have a three-touch process prior to taking any action. For example: 1) introduce a topic and seek input; 2) bring back a revised proposal based on input and seek further input; and 3) make a consensus-based recommendation. Having multiple touches on an issue before making a recommendation will also allow members to carry concepts back to their constituency for feedback before making a recommendation.

Recruitment for this group should occur through an open recruitment process as indicated above; however, staff should screen and select applicants so they collectively represent a wide range of interests. This includes but is not limited to:

- Neighborhoods/residents from both urban and rural areas
 - Both homeowners and renters
- Homebuilders
- Developers
- Businesses
- Affordable Housing
- Transit users
- Commuters
- Healthcare
- Environment
- Education
- Youth
- Bike/Pedestrian
- Agriculture, including meat/dairy farmers
- Forestry
- Freight
- Industry

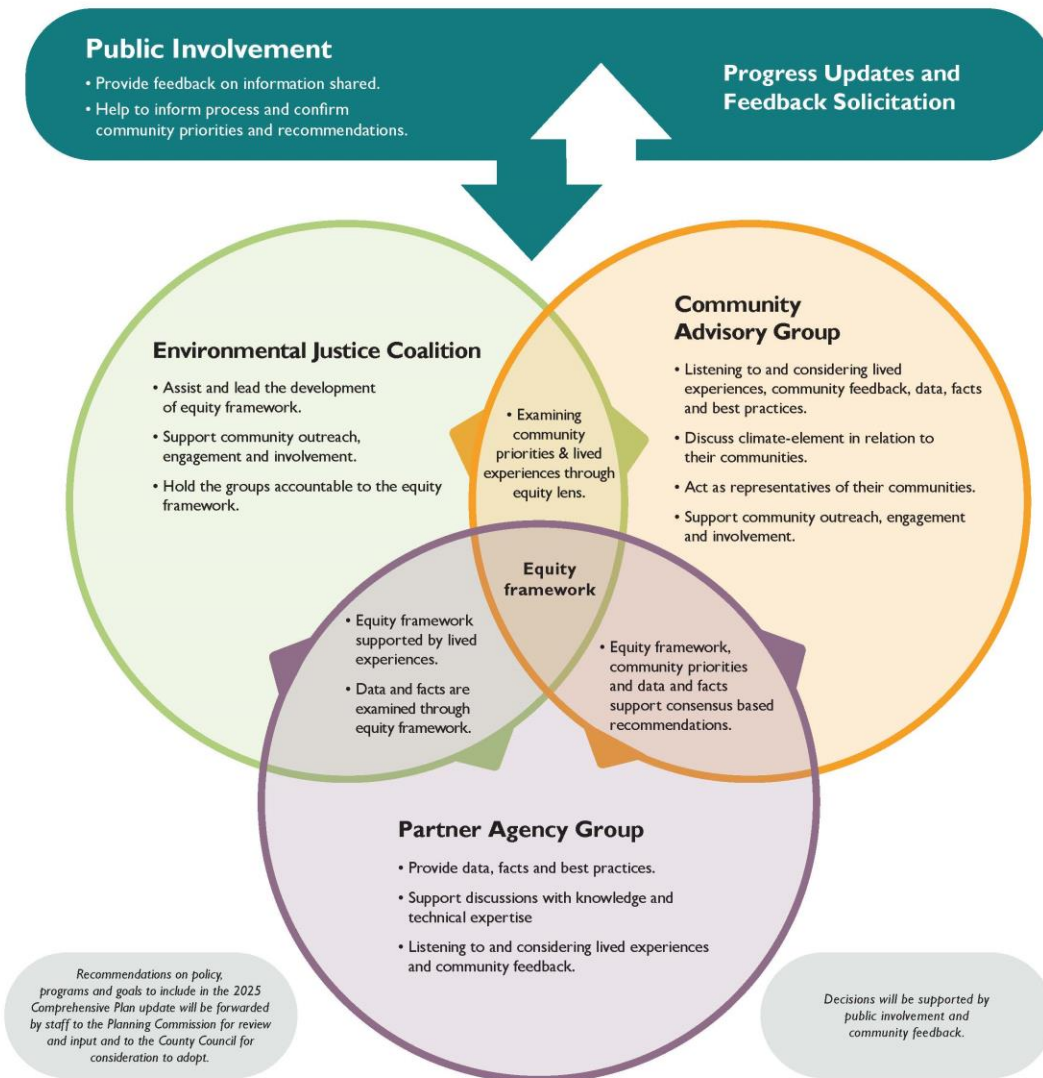
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Groups supporting community activities including hiking, fishing, hunting, and gardening.
- Several members of the Environmental Justice Coalition should also serve on this group to provide overlap and liaison between each of the committees.
- There should be representation from across the county amongst the committee members.

Partner Agency Team: This group will be comprised of county and partner agency staff and will serve as a technical resource to the Environmental Justice Coalition and the Community Advisory Group in their deliberations. This group will offer guidance and advice to the groups through the development of data, background information on existing programs and current and forecasted climate conditions and assist the groups in formulating achievable goals related to climate change. We envision that members of the Partner Agency Team would also attend meetings of the Environmental Justice Coalition and Community Advisory Group as needed depending on the topic of discussion and the technical member's area of expertise. Partner Agency members would participate as non-voting advisory members when attending another advisory group meeting. The cadence of the technical work related to greenhouse gas emission reductions and climate resilience will guide how and when the Partner Agency Team should meet. This group should include the following organizations:

- Clark County departments and services, including:
 - Community Planning
 - Public Health
 - Transportation
 - Parks
 - Public Works
 - Community Services
 - Community Development (Building, Fire Marshall, Wetland/Habitat, Land Use)
 - Clean Water
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 - Purchasing/Green Team
 - General Services
- Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA)
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- NW Natural
- Clark Public Utilities
- Cities within Clark County, including the City of Vancouver
- PeaceHealth Green Team
- Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

- C-TRAN
- Clark Regional Wastewater District
- Port of Vancouver
- Southwest Clean Air Agency
- Clark County Conservation District
- Academia or scientists and researchers working on climate in the region

Decision-making framework



Decision-making framework

It will be important that input and recommendations from each group dove-tail so they support each other's role as it relates to reaching consensus. The diagram above provides an overview of how this is recommended to happen.

An example of how these groups may interact and support one another would be that Environmental Justice Coalition may be responsible for initiating an equity framework/lens to guide the work and serve as a touchstone for the other two groups, but this framework should also be grounded in the data and statistics that would be provided from the Partner Agency Team.

Furthermore, any recommendations on policy or programming that might be considered by the Community Advisory Group would be informed by public input through outreach activities, data and statistics provided by the Partner Agency Team and input provided by the Environmental Justice Coalition.

These groups should be collaborative and learn and share information with each other. This may occur through joint meetings or workshops at key project milestones, through cross-representation across the advisory groups and presentations to each group provided by representatives/spokespeople from other groups.

Staff should keep the Planning Commission and County Council apprised of progress throughout the process.

Group process

Chartering: Develop a charter collaboratively with each group early in the process to provide clear expectations on the group purpose, role, commitment, decision-making structure and meeting guidelines. The charter should be established early in the process and collaboratively with the group through early interviews with committee members and as part of the first meeting. The charter should recognize positions of power and influence and establish ground rules to address these dynamics within each group.

Equity framework/lens: A Diversity/Equity/Inclusion framework should be developed early in the process to serve as a touchstone and guide the decision-making for all three committees. This framework would apply equity values and goals established by the Environmental Justice Coalition and Community Advisory Group and guide recommendations and measure success at key milestones.

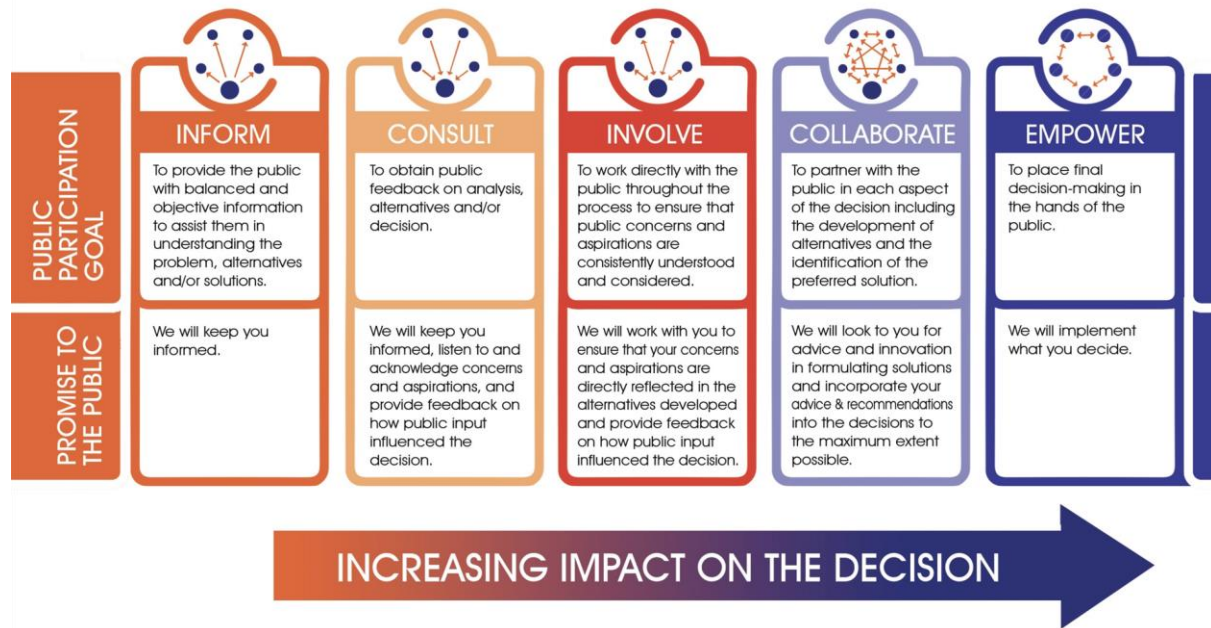
Data and facts: Feedback through this assessment underscored the importance of using data and facts as a framework for setting goals and informing discussions related to climate policy and benchmarking. It will be important to orient each committee to current climate data, trends and forecasted impacts.

Vision, goals and values: To guide committee decision-making, it will be important to establish a vision, goals and values for this effort early in the process and align them across each of the committees as well as vet them with the public through outreach efforts. A well vetted vision, goals and values will serve as a mechanism to evaluate proposals during committee deliberations.

Engaging the Clark County Council throughout the process and having their support on the equity framework and committee-created vision, goals and values will be critical to achieving

ongoing council support, including support for the committee recommendations that result from the climate change planning process.

Spectrum of participation: A common theme heard throughout the assessment was a lack of trust because of past processes either not involving key stakeholder groups or interests or not fully considering stakeholder feedback in the decision-making process. Building trust and relationships is essential to a successful process. The Spectrum of Public Participation developed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) should be used to define both the public’s and the committees’ roles in this process (see the IAP2 Canada Spectrum of Public Participation graphic below). We recommend this process operate across the spectrum regarding public engagement and aim to achieve the collaboration level of engagement through the advisory group process, understanding that the County Council will be the final decision-maker in this effort. At the collaboration level, the advisory groups will be able to help co-create and shape the outcomes of this process. It should be clear throughout the process how public and advisory group feedback will be used with opportunities to reflect with the public and the groups so that they are able to see how their feedback informed the process and decisions.



Above: IAP2 Canada Spectrum of Public Participation

Meeting formats

We suggest that meetings have a more flexible format and cadence to accommodate content, decision needs and peoples’ busy schedules. For example, meetings could take place in a variety of formats. Following are specific suggestions:

- Meetings should be facilitated by third party consultant, which would allow county staff to act as a participant, collaborator and information resource.

- For meetings where deliberations and decision-making would occur, in-person meetings would be highly encouraged with accommodations provided, such as compensation for time and travel, childcare, meals, and translation and interpretation.
- Meetings should be held virtually (or hybrid) when decisions aren't being made.
- Replace a meeting with a narrated PowerPoint presentation if the meeting content is purely informational and a decision/discussion isn't needed. Possibly follow-up with a survey or questionnaire. We do recommend in-person or hybrid meetings for all discussion and decision points throughout the process.
- Hold both virtual and in-person "office hours" or information sessions for committee members to engage with the facilitator and county staff, to ask questions and prepare for meetings. This would serve as an opportunity to mentor committee members and build capacity with some members who may not have participated in this type of activity previously.

Accessibility and accommodations

As we heard from participants of this assessment, many barriers exist to participating in advisory groups, including a variety of issues from time commitments to language. To accommodate people's needs, we suggest the following accommodations be provided for advisory group members as well as considering accessibility needs for other engagement activities.

- Hold meetings during mealtimes and provide catered meals for all committee members and their families.
- If holding in-person meetings, have them in accessible, centrally located places within the county.
- Ensure that the committee meeting setting and format is culturally relevant. Consider meeting venues that are familiar to cultural groups, such as schools or community centers.
- Childcare should be available at meetings or group members should be offered stipends for the cost of childcare. In addition, as it was learned through this assessment, some cultures prefer to have family members watch their children and would be more inclined to have their family at the meeting. Therefore, it will be important to offer meals for family members at meetings as well as additional space and activities.
- Providing stipends to compensate group members for their time, travel and preparation for meetings will be necessary for some members to be able to participate.
- In addition, honorariums should be considered for members of the public who participate in community meetings/workshops. Gift cards are a common way to offer honorariums for participation at one-time events or meetings.
- Some members of the groups may need to be provided access to devices such as a tablet or laptop to prepare for and participate in meetings.
- Training/mentorship should be offered to group members who may not have participated in a public process previously, to build capacity and experience.

- Translation/interpretation should be available at group meetings as needed, which may include spoken languages or American Sign Language. Live captioning should be provided for virtual meetings.

Communication/education strategy and terminology

Offering community meetings/open houses and events in different places around the county, not just in the city, will make them more accessible to people, including those who might live in rural areas.

The topics of comprehensive planning and climate change planning are complex and not broadly understood. It will be important to explain processes and topics in a way that makes sense for a lay audience.

To promote broad general awareness and understanding of this effort and to encourage participation in engagement activities, project communications should be clear and consistent. Messaging should use plain language and all materials should be translated/transcreated into languages such as Spanish, Chuukese, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, and Russian and Ukrainian. These languages are suggested as translated questionnaires were provided in these languages during this phase. The language selection was informed by Clark County demographic data and community feedback gathered during the initial interview process. The project team referenced Clark County's demographic information from [Clark County's 2018 Public Health Report](#) and the [U.S. Census Bureau database](#). From 2017 - 2021, around 15.5% of the population in Clark County spoke a language other than English at home. Besides English, the top languages spoken are Spanish, Indo-European, and Asian/Islander. After incorporating community feedback, the project team selected Spanish, Chuukese, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, Russian, and Ukrainian.

Determining the translated languages for future efforts should be informed by demographic data and refined based on community needs and input. It is typically recommended that language accommodation be provided if more than 5% of the population speaks that language. However, to foster meaningful and equitable engagement, it is essential to recognize the limitations of quantitative data and conduct additional research to determine the community's needs.

When considering language accommodations, materials should be prepared in parallel with developing materials in English; not as an afterthought.

In addition, avoid politically charged language or describe things in factual/neutral terms when referring to climate change. People recommended using examples when explaining climate-related impacts, including wildfires, droughts, and extreme heat.

Engagement techniques

We recommend that public engagement activities should occur at key milestones so public feedback effectively informs advisory group recommendations. Participants suggested a variety of outreach strategies that could be used to engage people and meet community members' needs. Some of those suggested strategies include:

- Online open houses and surveys (mobile phone friendly).
- Project website with frequently updated information.
- Social media, including Nextdoor.
- Informational videos translated into languages other than English.
- In-person open houses, workshops and charrettes targeted to specific interest groups such as youth.
- Tabling at high-traffic locations and community gatherings spaces.
- Share information at public places like community centers, libraries and senior centers.
- Host information tables at high traffic locations, such as ethnic markets, farmer's markets, public libraries and events.
- Use Meals on Wheels People and other distribution centers to disseminate information.
- The Senior Messenger is a good resource for getting information out to older adults, radio and local newspaper is also suggested.
- Leverage partner agency information platforms, such as distribution lists, podcasts and social media.
- Consider engagement through school-based activities or classroom projects.
- Utilize youth-based groups and schools for outreach opportunities. Consider youth engagement opportunities such as paid internships or other mentoring relationships that build capacity in reciprocal ways.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: List of invitees
- Appendix B: List of interviewees
- Appendix C: List of suggested advisory group contacts
- Appendix D: List of suggested interviewees through snowball approach
- Appendix E: Online Questionnaire
- Appendix F: Interview Questions/Script

APPENDIX A. LIST OF INVITEES

LIST OF INTERVIEW INVITEES

Organization	Name
Afghan Community	Khalid Barzgar
Alliance For Community Engagement	Catheryn Chudy
Alliance For Community Engagement	Don Steinke
Alliance For Community Engagement	Heidi Cody
Alliance For Community Engagement	Monica Zazueta
Alliance of Black Nurses Association of Oregon	Megan Ludena
Amboy Church of the Nazarene	
Apostilic Lutheran Church (Hazel Dell)	
Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities	Mike Reardon and Christina Marnaris
Bahai'is of Vancouver Washington	
Battleground Public School	
Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington	Francisco Bueno
Building Industry Association of Clark County	Noelle Lovern
Camas Public Schools	John Anzalone
Camas Public Schools	Lisa Greseth
Camas United Methodist Church	
Chinese Evangelical Church of Vancoucer	
Chinook Tribe	

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Church of Christ the Savior	
Church of Truth - Slavic Engagement Workshop	
Chuuk Logos Community Church (Chuukese Community)	
Clark Communities Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee	Judith Perez
Clark Conservation District	Samantha Frundle
Clark Conservation District	Zorah Oppenheimer
Clark County Adventist Community Services	
Clark County Citizens United	
Clark County Council	Gary Medvigy
Clark County Council	Glen Yung
Clark County Council, Chair	Karen Bowerman
Clark County Council	Michelle Belkot
Clark County Council	Sue Marshall
Clark County Latino Youth Conference	
Clark County Public Utilities	Bill Hibbs
Clark County Public Utilities	Matt Babbitts
Clark County Public Utilities	Morgan
Clark County Public Works - Clean Water	Eric Lambert
Clark-Cowlitz Farm Bureau	Summer Steenbarger
Coalition of Communities of Color	Nikita Daryanani
Coalition of Communities of Color	Taren Evans
Collective for Social and Environmental Justice at WSU-V	Desiree Hellegers

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Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council (CPBCTC)	Willy Meyers
Commission on Aging	Franklin Johnson, Cass Freedland
Community Action Advisory Board	Rebecca Royce
Community AME Zion Church	Associate Pastor Patricia Mayes
Community Foundation of SW WA	
Council for the Homeless	Sesany Fennie-Jones
Council for the Homeless	Siobhana R. McEwen
County Planning Commission	Karl Johnson
County Planning Commission	Matt Swindell
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Patty Kinswa-Gaiser
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Steve Barnett
Cowlitz Indian Tribe - staff	Dean Reynolds
CREDC	Jennifer Baker
C-Tran	Eric Florip
C-Tran	Shawn Donaghy
C-Tran	Taylor Eidt
DEAB	Seth Halling
DEAB	Sherrie Jones
Development Disabilities Advisory Committee	Walt Gordon
DOWL Engineering	
Early Care and Education	Jodi Wall
EarthGen (Climate Justice League; STEM Seminars)	Cameron Foy

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EarthGen (Climate Justice League; STEM Seminars)	Cameron Steinback
EarthGen (Climate Justice League; STEM Seminars)	Laura Tyler
EOCF	
Evergreen Public Schools	Board of Directors
Evergreen Public Schools	Craig Birnbach
Evergreen Public Schools	John Boyd
Evergreen School District	Adriana Garcia
Evergreen School District	Mariano Marcus
Evergreen School District	Yelena Daltoso
Exigy Consulting	Jeff Swanson
Forestry community	
Fourth Plain Forward Coalition	Lauren Henricksen
Fourth Plain Forward Coalition	Paul Burgess
Friends of Clark County	Ann Foster
Friends of Clark County	Heather Tischbein
Friends of East Fork of Lewis River	
Futurewise	Tim Trohimovich
Hispanic Disability Support SWWA	
Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes)	Gabriela Ewing
Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber-Vancouver Office	
Hockinson Public Schools	Steve Marshall
Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church	Fr. Michael Rozdilski

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House of Peace Russian Adventist Church	Alexander Bolotnikov
Housing Initiative, LLC	Sierk Braam
Hurley Development	
Identity Clark County	Jim Mains
Identity Clark County	Sean Philbrook
Identity Clark County	Ron Arp
IRCO - Slavic and Eastern European Center	
Islamic Center of Clark County	
Islamic Society of SW WA	Fouad Bayomi
Janus Youth Programs	
Kol Ami	Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker
La Center Public Schools	Peter Rosenkranz
La Center Public Schools	Tammy Lichliter
Land use attorney (Jordan Ramis)	Jamie Howsley
Latino Community Resource Group	Elizabeth Najera
Latino Leadership NW	
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)	Javier Navarro
Leland Consulting	
Lutheran Community Services	Mindy Johnston
Masjid al Noor (Islamic Society of SWWA)	
Meals on Wheels People	Suzanne Washington
Migrant Communities	Oscar Sanchez

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NAACP	Yolanda Frazier
Native American Parents Association of SW WA	
NAYA	Jennie Cirincione
NAYA	Sasha Bartoo-Smith
New Heights Church	
NW Natural	Nelson Holmberg
NW Natural	Kellye Dundon – environmental technology lead
Odyssey World International Education Services	Karen Morrison
Odyssey World International Education Services	
Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington, SW WA Chapter	
PEACE	Martha Maier
Peacehealth (Diversity Dept)	
PeaceHealth Medical Group	Brian Nelson
PeaceHealth Medical Group	Dr. Sarah Garber
PeaceHealth Medical Group	Sean Gregory
Peacehealth Southwest	Lucy Cook
PeaceHealth Southwest Columbia Region	Liz Cattin
PeaceHealth Southwest Foundation	Dr. Stan Friedberg
PFLAG Southwest Washington	Dale Gaskill
PFLAG Southwest Washington	
Port of Vancouver	Matt Graves
Port of Vancouver	Mary Mattix

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Primera Iglesia de Dios	
Project VOICE (Vancouver Outreach & Innovation for Community & Environment)	Stacy Meyer
Queer Youth Resource Center	Hillary Magallanez
Regional Transportation Council	Adam Fiss
Regional Transportation Council	Matt Ransom
Ridgefield Public Schools	Cheryl Cook
Ridgefield Public Schools	Susie Da Silva
Romanian Baptist Church	
Sakura 39ers/Vancouver Public Schools	Dania Otto (formerly Rescue)
Schwabe	Kelly Walsh
Sikh Temple (Vancouver)	Pawneet Singh
Skyview High School	Colleen McKinney
Skyview High School	Darin DeGrande
Skyview High School	John Skoog
Skyview High School	Kathy Mills
Skyview High School	Kurt Schmidt
Skyview High School	Marissa Swanson
Slavic Grace Baptist Church	
Southwest Washington Equity Coalition	Luz Gonzalez
Southwest Washington Equity Coalition	Sky Wilson
St Joseph's Catholic Church	
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church	

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St. John's Catholic Church	Father Temo Ramirez
Support for Early Learning and Families (SELF)	Debbie Ham
SW Clean Air Agency	Uri Papish
SW WA Communities United For Change	
Ukrainian Baptist Church	
Vancouver Apostolic Lutheran	
Vancouver Bee Project	
Vancouver Chinese Association	
Vancouver Housing Authority	Victor Caesar and Andy Silver
Vietnamese Community of Clark County	Minh Pham
Volunteer Lawyers	Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Waste Connections	Derek Ranta
Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington	Sunrise O'Mahoney
We Are One America	Eli Goss
Western Institute for Agriculture and Food Security	Ed Hamilton Rosales
Word of Grace Bible Church	
Workforce SW WA	
WSDOT	Carley Francis
WSU- Extension	Angela Shields
WSU-Vancouver	Nanu Iyer- communications program staff
WSU-Vancouver	Eric Scott
WSU-Vancouver	

Yacolt Community Church	
	Greg Shaw
	Hector Hinojosa
	Jane Teskner-Kleiner
	Judith Ann Wait
	Karissa Halstrom
	Robin White

LIST OF SURVEY INVITEES

Questionnaire was also provided to some interviewee invitees as an alternative to a meeting and to circulate within their network.

Organization	Name
Audubon Society	Susan Saul
Battle Ground Free Clinic	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of SW WA	Moriah Candler
Bike Clark County	Peter Van Tilburg
Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)	Dr. Vivienne Meijen
Bridgeview	
Catholic Community Services and Catholic Housing Services	
City of Battle Ground	Sam Crummett
City of Camas	Alan Peters
City of La Center	Bryan Kast
City of Ridgefield	Claire Lust

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City of Vancouver	Stacey Dalgaard
City of Vancouver	Bryan Snodgrass
City of Vancouver	Rebecca Kennedy
City of Vancouver	Rebecca Small
City of Vancouver	Aaron Lande
City of Washougal	Mitch Kneipp
City of Woodland	Brent Meyer
City of Yacolt	Terry Gardner
Clark County Community Development - Building	Max Booth
Clark County Community Development – Land Use, Wetland/Habitat	Brent Davis
Clark County Community Planning	Oliver Orjiako
Clark County Community Planning	Jose Alvarez
Clark County Community Services	Vanessa Gaston
Clark County Community Services	Michael Torres
Clark County Emergency Management	Mike Lewis
Clark County Facilities	Ryan Bird
Clark County Food Bank	
Clark County General Services	Michelle Schuster
Clark County Green Program	Sarah Keirns
Clark County Medical Examiner's Office	Doreen Gunderson
Clark County Public Health	Dr. Alan Melnick
Clark County Public Health	Steve Krager

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Clark County Public Health - Emergency Preparedness & Response	Belinda Walker
Clark County Public Health - Environmental	Angelina Kotchetova
Clark County Public Health - Solid Waste	Sarah Keirns
Clark County Public Health - Solid Waste Operations	Joelle Loescher
Clark County Public Works	Ken Lader
Clark County Public Works - Clean Water	Rod Swanson
Clark County Public Works - Forestry	Hunter Decker
Clark County Public Works – Parks and Lands	Kevin Tyler
Clark County Public Works – Parks and Lands	Rocky Houston
Clark County Purchasing/Green Team	Priscilla Ricci
Clark County Youth Commission	Elizabeth Hill
Clark-Cowlitz Fire and Rescue	John Nohr
Columbia River Mental Health	Dr. Kevin Fischer
Columbia Springs	Kylie DaCunha
Communities in Motion	Gerina Hatch
Community Foundation of Southwest Washington	Janie Spurgeon
Community Roots Collaborative	Dan Whiteley
Community Services	
Comunidades Amplifying Voices for Environment and Social Justice	Ubaldo Hernandez
Comunidades Amplifying Voices for Environment and Social Justice	Juan Monje
Craft3	Ana Inclan
Craft3	Nichole Lopez

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CRESA	Scott Johnson
Crossroads Church	Diana Blaser
East Fork Alliance Neighborhood Association	Gary Ogier
East Fork Hills Rural Association	Michael Benson
East Vancouver Business Association	Kim Blahnik
Fire District No. 3	Scott Sorenson
Fire District No. 10	
Fire District No. 13	Bryce Shirley
Fire District No. 5	
Fire District No. 6	Kristan Maurer
Fire Marshall	Curtis Eavenson
Fishing and hunting community	
Four Creeks Neighborhood	Andrew Cecka
Free Clinics of SW WA	
Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge	
Friends of the East Fork Lewis River	Richard Dyrland
Fruit Tree Community Gardens (affiliated with Fourth Plain Forward)	
Grace and Glory Community Church	Will Vollstadt
Greater Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association	Cat Montgomery
GV Chamber of Commerce	John Dombroski
Healthy Living Collaborative SW WA Accountable Community of Health	
High-Tech Council	Nirav Sheth

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Kaiser	
Lifeline Connections	Victoria Nita
Lower Columbia Nature Network	Michelle Sanow
Maple Tree Neighborhood Association	Diane Williams
Meadow Glade Neighborhood Association	Roger Entrekin
Nature Play Design - Green Schoolyards	Jane Tesner-Kleiner
NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association	William Cline
North Fork Neighborhood Association	Evie Ring
North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association	Ed Conzatti
Parks Advisory Board	James Kautz
Port of Vancouver	Mike Bomar
Port of Vancouver	Mary Mattix
Proebstel Neighborhood Association	Kirk Van Gelder
Railroad Advisory Board	Daniel Weaver
Ridgefield Junction Neighborhood Association	Marc Krsul
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge	
River City Church	Ryan Sidhom
Roads End Neighborhood Association	Chelsea Fraering
Safe Kids Clark County	Weston Perkins-Clark
Sea Mar Community Health Centers	
Sea Mar PCAP	
Sea Mar WIC	

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Self WA	Debbie Ham
Share House	
Sherwood Hills Neighborhood Association	Vicki Fitzsimmons
Sunnyside Neighborhood Association	Judy Bumbarger-Enright
SW CHAPS	
SW WA Central Labor Council	Shannon Meyers
SWACH	
Truman Neighborhood Association	Cherryl Burkey
Vancouver Bicycle Club	Jan V
Vancouver Clinic	Mark Mentei
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Rian Sallee
West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association and Team 99	Ila Westergard
WSDOT	Laurie Lebowsky-Young

APPENDIX B. LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

Organization	Name
Alliance for Community Engagement	Heidi Cody, Cathry Chudy, Monica Zazueta, Don Steinke
Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of SW WA	Mike Reardon and Christina Marnieris
Building Industry Association of Clark County + DEAB	Noelle Lovern (BIA) and Sherrie Jones (DEAB)
City of Vancouver - Climate Team	Stacey Dalgaard
Clark Communities Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee	Judith Perez
Clark Conservation District	Samantha Frundle
Clark County Citizens United	Carol Levanen, Susan Rasmussen
Clark County Council	Karen Bowerman
Clark County Council	Glen Yung
Clark County Council	Gary Medvigy
Clark County Council	Sue Marshall
Clark County Council	Michelle Belkot
Clark County Public Health	Alan Melnick
Clark County Public Utilities	Morgan
Clark County Public Utilities	Bill Hibbs
Clark County Public Works	Rod Swanson
Clark County Public Works	Eric Lambert
Commission on Aging	Cass Freedland
CREDC	Jennifer Baker
C-Tran	Taylor Eidt

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C-Tran	Eric Florip
Evergreen Public District	Mariano Marcus
Exigy Consulting	Jeff Swanson
Fourth Plain Forward Coalition	Lauren Henricksen
Fourth Plain Forward Coalition	Paul Burgess
Friends of Clark County	Heather Tischbein
Latino Leadership Northwest	Diana Avalos Leos
North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association	Ed Conzatti
Northwest Natural	Nelson Holmberg
Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington	Angela Williams
Pasitos Gigantes	Gabriela Ewing
PeaceHealth	Liz Cattion, Stephen Weipert, Dustin Daniel
PeaceHealth	Sean Gregory, Brian Nelson
Port of Vancouver USA	Michael Bomar
Project VOICE (Vancouver Outreach & Innovation for Community & Environment)	Stacy Meyer
Public Works	Ken Lader
Regional Transportation Council	Adam Fiss
Sakura39er	Dania Rescue
SeaMar Vancouver Women's Clinic	Vivienne Meljen
Support for Early Learning and Families	Debbie Ham
Vancouver Bee Project	Sarah, Kyle

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Vancouver Housing Authority	Victor Caesar and Joshua Ollinger
Vietnamese Community of Clark County	Minh Pham

APPENDIX C. SUGGESTED ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

PUBLIC AGENCIES OR AGENCY PARTNERS AND ADVISORY GROUPS:

- Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of SWWA – Christina Marnieris
- Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee member - Dr Vivienne Meijen
- City of Vancouver
 - Aaron Lande
 - Stacy Daalgard
 - Rebecca Small
 - Youth Climate Leaders
 - Bryan Snodgrass
- Clark Conservation District
- Clark County Horse Council
- Clark County Public Health
- Clark Public Utilities
 - Matt Babbits (recommended for Partner Agency Group)
- Clean Water Commission
- Clark County Health Department: Brian D. and Amy Koski.
- Department of Ecology (suggested for partner agency group)
- Southwest Washington Clean Air
- Vancouver Housing Authority
- Wastewater utilities
- Watershed Alliance
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) – Carley Francis
- Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
- Lacamas Watershed Council
- SW Washington Clean Air Agency (suggested for partner agency group)
- Parks District
- Liaison with County Committees and Commissions, Advisory Committees/Groups including but not limited to:
 - Board of Health
 - Industrial Revenue Bond Board
 - Board of Greater Clark Parks District
 - Emergency Medical Services Districts Board
 - C-Tran
 - Regional Transportation Council
 - Vancouver Library, Capital Facilities Area Board
 - Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of SW WA (AAADSW)
 - Elder Justice Executive Board - Clark County PA (EJC)
 - Discovery Clean Water Alliance (DCWA)

- Cowlitz Tribal Foundation Clark County Fund Board
- Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO)

ETHNIC OR CULTURAL COMMUNITIES:

- Asian American Communities (Vietnamese Community of Clark County, Vancouver Chinese Association)
- Ukrainian and Russian community
- Ethnic media or organizations in ethnic media
- Pacific Island Community Association of Washington (PICAWA)
- Chuukese Community - Sakura 39er, Chuukese Parent Liaison, Chuukese Church Leaders
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Native American Parent Association of Southwest Washington
- NAYA
- Latino Community Resources Group (LCRG)
- Latino Leadership Northwest
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Changing Currents- intertribal coalition
- Confluence
- Latino Youth Leadership Conference (Diana Avalos-Leos)
- Vancouver Chinese Association
- Vietnamese Community of Clark County (Mihn Pham)
- Coalition for Communities of Color
- Hispanic Disability Support SW WA (Pasitos Gigantes) – Hispanic autistic community
- PEACE NW

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY GROUPS:

- Audubon Society
- Vancouver Bee Project
- Columbia Land Trust -Glen Lamb (retired)
- Columbia River Keepers – Dan Serres
- Friends of Trees
- Friends of Vancouver Lake
- Loowit Sierra Club
- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS:

- Council for the Homeless
- Elder Justice executive board

- Bridgeview
- Brighton Center
- Houseless Community
 - Thrive to Survive
 - Roy Dicker
 - Charles Handset
- Community Roots Collaborative – Hector Hinojosa
- Meals on Wheels People

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY OR ORGANIZING GROUPS:

- Vancouver Community Leadership Institute
- NW Partners for Stronger Communities
- Clark County Citizens United
- Community Leadership Institute
- Comunidades Amplifying Voices for Environment and Social Justice
- Fourth Plain Forward
- Identity Clark County
- Friends of Clark County
 - David McDonald
- Front and Centered (suggested for Environmental Justice Coalition)
- Futurewise
- Southwest Equity Coalition (SWEC)
- Alliance for Community Engagement:
 - Heidi Cody
 - Don Steinke
 - Monica Zazueta
- Southwest Washington United Communities of Change
- League of Women Voters
- Justice Involved
- Lester Griffen & Marcus

PRIVATE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES:

- Makay Sposito
- Maul Foster Alongi
- Francis Naglich from ELS
- SWCA Environmental Consultants

FARMERS, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SECTORS:

- Farm Bureau

- Farmers/Landowners representatives
- Food system providers
- Forestry Council
- 4-H Council (educating youths on farming)
- Grangers
- Meat producers (sheeps, goats, hogs, poultry, beef, etc.)
- Munoz Farms – Latinx ownership
- NW Organics
- CASEE Center for Agriculture, Science and Environmental Education

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, TRADE, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

- Port of Vancouver
- Nutter
- Stordahl
- Chambers from various cities within Clark County
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC)
- Aggregate hauling
- Building Industry Association (BIA)
 - Elizabeth Gomez
- Robertson Olson Construction
- Vesta Hospitality
- Realtors
- Workforce Southwest – Marion Halladay
- Partners in Careers (PIC): Sharon Pesut

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Clark County Public Health
- Hospitals
- Free Clinic of Southwest Washington (John Nusser)
- Dr. Melnick, Clark County Public Health
- Healthy Living Collaborative
- Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health (SWACH)
- PeaceHealth:
 - Physicians on the Green Team
 - Brian Nelson
 - Liz Cattin
 - Dustin Daniels

SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Emergency services including fire, and medical emergencies.
- NW Natural

TRANSPORTATION

- C-Tran

TRIBES, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND INTERTRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Confluence
- Changing Currents

YOUTH FOCUS

- Youth Foundation
- YWCA Clark County
- Washington State University- Vancouver (WSU-V): Carolyn Long (faculty)
- WSU-V Student Government and Faculty
- WSU-V: Collective for Social and Environmental Justice
- ESD112: Stacy Meyer
- Queer Youth Resources Center
- Janus Youth Programs
- Clark College
 - Campus meadows
 - DEI lead (*Michelle Kruse*)
- School Districts
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of SW WA
- Boys and Girls Clubs of SW WA
- Odyssey World International Educational Services (OWIE) – Karen Morrison

GENERAL GROUPS

- Urban agricultural groups/community agriculture
- People from schools, churches
- People most impacted - most important
- People who speak for the land
- People with disabilities
- Groups serving community activities (such as hunting, fishing, hiking)
- People who own horses
- Houseless community

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- Marginalized community in rural areas
- Low income
- Aging and Disabled populations
- Agricultural representatives
- Kitchen Gardens
- Neighborhood associations
- Scientist/researchers (suggested for partner agency group)
- Faith-based organizations

INDIVIDUALS:

- Chris Dabobonin (?)

APPENDIX D. LIST OF SUGGESTED INTERVIEWEES

PUBLIC AGENCIES AND AGENCY PARTNERS

- Health Department
- City of Vancouver
 - Rebecca Kennedy
 - Rebecca Small
 - Shannon Williams
 - Angelica Martinez
 - Stacy Daalgard
- Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities
- C-Tran
- Clark County Commission on Aging planning staff
- Port of Vancouver– Matt Graves, Mary Mattix
- Vancouver Housing Authority
- Council for the Homeless
- Eric Lambert with Clean Water
- Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Services local field office in Clark County
- Watershed Alliance
- Clark County Farm Bureau

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Vision and hearing impaired

INDIVIDUALS

- Dr Vivienne Meijen, – works for SeaMar and involved in Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Ed Hamilton Rosales – next generation farmers
- Kellye Dundon – environmental technology lead at NW Natural.
- David McDonald – Friends of Clark County attorney
- Schwabe (Kelly Walsh)
- Land use attorney Jordan Ramus (Jamie Howsley)
- Jane Tesner Kleiner – Landscape Architect
- Don Steinke
- Stan Freiburg
- Gregory Shaw and wife
- April Fetcher
- Hector Hinojosa – food security

- Monica Zazueta
- Judith Ann Wait. - PhD on ag land
- Clark/Cowlitz Farm Bureau, Summer Steenbarger
- Migrant Communities, Oscar Sanchez
- Karissa Halstrom
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald – Volunteer Lawyers

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Alliance for Community Engagement
 - Don Steinke
 - Monical Zazueta
- Fourth Plain Forward
- Vancouver Bee Project
- Friends of Clark County
 - Heather Tischbein
- Community Foundation of SW Washington– focused on social justice
- Futurewise
- Friends of East Fork of Lewis River
- The Peace and Justice Fair - Mike/Kay
- Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health (SWACH)
- Volunteer Lawyers, Elizabeth Fitzgerald

UTILITIES/SERVICE PROVIDERS

- NW Natural, Kellye Dundon – environmental technology lead

ETHNIC/CULTURAL GROUPS

- Pacific Islanders
- Cowlitz Tribe Representation
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Identify Pacific Islander Groups
- Leaders within minority populations - Native Americans, Slavic Communities, whether it is through churches or community organizations.
- Lao community
- IRCO - Slavic and Eastern European Center
- Cowlitz Tribe – Michael Watkins

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

- WSU extension services – agricultural work

- WSUV communications program staff – Nanu Iyer
- ESD112
- WSU- Clark County Extension Office
- Robin White – WSUV
- Desiree – WSUV
- Steve Fountain - WSUV
- School Counselors – they are connected with families and the community
- Odyssey World International Education Services, Karen Morrison

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Hurley Development – specializes in green building materials
- Exigy Consulting, Jeff Swanson
- DOWL Engineering
- Leland Consulting
- Columbia River Economic Development Council
- Local Food Systems Council - in rural areas
 - Food banks
 - Local food producers
 - Farmers markets

HEALTHCARE

- Brian Nelson - PeaceHealth's sustainability manager
- Dr. Melnick, Clark County Public Health
- Community Health Workers
- Share
 - Kimiann Miller
 - Carol Jack

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- Community leaders/religious leaders

APPENDIX E. ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

First Page

Clark County Climate Assessment

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us!

Disclaimer: Please note that all your responses will be anonymous; statements will not be attributed to individuals or organizations. Your responses may be disclosed upon request in accordance with the Public Records Act. If there is any reason you feel uncomfortable with any of the questions please feel free to abstain from answering.

A translated version of this survey is available upon request in: Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Mandarin/Chinese, and Chuukese. Please contact valentina.peng@jla.us.com if we can provide any accommodation to ensure your participation (e.g. language translation or interpretation, monetary compensation for time, or others as indicated).

Second Page

Project Overview

Box1

With the passage of [ES2HB 1181](#) during the 2023 Washington State legislative session, Clark County is now required to add a climate change and resiliency element to its Comprehensive Plan by June 30, 2025.

The new mandate requires Clark County's climate change and resiliency element to include a greenhouse gas reduction sub-element and a resilience sub-element.

- The **greenhouse gas sub-element must be designed to result in reductions in overall local greenhouse gas emissions** and per capita vehicle miles traveled.
- The **resiliency sub-element must help the county equitably prepare for, adapt and minimize negative impacts of climate change** to natural systems, infrastructure and communities.

In addition, the goals, policies, and programs for greenhouse gas reduction and climate resiliency recommended through this process must **prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities** that have been historically marginalized and disproportionately suffer from the impacts

of climate change and **avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts for these communities.**

The focus of this effort will be for the unincorporated county, including rural areas and urban areas outside of city limits, such as Hazel Dell, Minnehaha, Salmon Creek, and Orchards.

Box2

Your input and participation are important and will help us make recommendations on the composition, formation and charge of three advisory groups that will be convened in the next several months to guide this process:

Environmental Justice Coalition – Members of this group will work with, or be involved with, community groups most impacted from greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and/or who are most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Community Advisory Group - This group is expected to represent a wide range of interests in the community, including members from the Environmental Justice Coalition.

County/City/Partner Agency climate policy group - This group will consist of county, city, and partner agency staff who are technical experts in various areas related to the Climate Element.

These advisory groups will guide and inform the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update, and specifically, make recommendations on a set of climate change and resiliency related policy recommendations to be shared with the County Council for approval.

Questions

1. Do you have any thoughts or ideas about the process mentioned above or the outcome of these types of policies?
2. How would this work impact you or your community?
3. What topics or priorities do you feel should be addressed in this process?

Page 3

Questions

1. In your opinion, is it realistic to expect a consensus-based recommendation from the advisory groups as a result of this process?
 - Yes
 - No
2. Please elaborate.
3. What groups or individuals do you suggest we include as part of the committees/advisory groups?

4. What groups or individuals do you suggest we talk to in the near-term in order to inform our recommendations about the advisory groups formation and composition?
5. What barriers to participating in an advisory group, such as the ones being proposed for this process, exist for your community? What suggestions do you have for overcoming these barriers?
6. When considering the three advisory groups and meetings, do you have any past experience with committee composition, process or a meeting format that worked really well? What does a successful process look like to you?

Final Questions

1. Do you have any closing thoughts or concerns you'd like to share?

To keep the responses confidential while ensuring that the project team is reaching the right persons, please follow this link to share your contact information:

<https://form.jotform.com/232535791378062>

This will help the project team understand who we've reached out to, and collect contact information for future outreach while guaranteeing the feedback provided in this survey remains confidential

Page 4

Box 1

Thanks again for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. The information given will be used to help inform/shape the formation of the advisory groups that will guide the future climate-related sub-elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Please feel free to contact **Clark County Community Planning** at jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov or **564-397-4968** with any further questions about this project, and please stay tuned for announcements about future meetings and events.

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Clark County Climate Assessment Contact Information

Thank you for taking the time to complete our surveys.

- Name (First Name, Last Name)

Clark County Climate Stakeholder Assessment – Summary and Recommendation Report

- Organization
- Email
- Would you like to be kept informed moving forward?
 - Yes
 - No
- Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

APPENDIX F. INTERVIEW SCRIPT AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for taking the time to talk with us about the Clark County Climate Change Stakeholder Assessment.

We have a set of questions we will be asking you to respond to and will be taking notes on what you tell us. We'd like to begin by sharing a brief project overview.

Project Overview:

With the passage of [ES2HB 1181](#) during the 2023 Washington State legislative session, Clark County is now required to add a climate change and resiliency element to its Comprehensive Plan by June 30, 2025. The new mandate requires Clark County's climate change and resiliency element to include a greenhouse gas reduction sub-element and a resilience sub-element. The greenhouse gas sub-element must be designed to result in reductions in overall local greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled. The resiliency sub-element must help the county equitably prepare for, adapt and minimize negative impacts of climate change to natural systems, infrastructure and communities. In addition, the goals, policies, and programs for greenhouse gas reduction and climate resiliency recommended through this process must prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities that have been historically marginalized and disproportionately suffer from the impacts of climate change and avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts for these communities. The focus of this effort will be for the unincorporated county, including rural areas and urban areas outside of city limits, such as Hazel Dell, Minnehaha, Salmon Creek, and Orchards.

Your input and participation are important and will help us make recommendations on the composition, formation and charge of three advisory groups that will be convened in the next several months to guide this process:

- *Environmental Justice Coalition – Members of this group will work with, or be involved with, community groups most impacted from greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and/or who are most vulnerable to climate impacts.*
- *Community Advisory Group - This group is expected to represent a wide range of interests in the community, including members from the Environmental Justice Coalition.*
- *County/City/Partner Agency climate policy group - This group will consist of county, city, and partner agency staff who are technical experts in various areas related to the Climate Element.*

These advisory groups will guide and inform the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update, and specifically, make recommendations on a set of climate change and resiliency related policy recommendations to be shared with the County Council for approval.

The interview should take about 30 to 45 minutes. Before I start, I would first like to inform you that I will be taking notes on what you tell me. Please note that all your responses will be anonymous; statements will not be attributed to individuals or organizations. If there is any reason you feel uncomfortable with any of the questions that are asked please feel free to

abstain from answering. For any answers you would like to keep confidential please let me know and they will be handled as such.

Questions:

1. The three advisory groups I mentioned will make recommendations on goals, policies, and programs for greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate resiliency that will prioritize avoiding or worsening localized impacts to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities. Do you have any thoughts or ideas about this process or the outcome of these types of policies?
 - a. For example, how would this work impact you or your community?
 - b. What topics or priorities do you feel should be addressed in this process?
2. In your opinion, is it realistic to expect a consensus-based recommendation from the advisory groups as a result of this process?

Consensus means everyone's opinions are heard and understood, and a solution is created that respects those opinions. Consensus does not mean 100% agreement. Consensus results when all parties can agree to support a decision as a workable solution.
3. When considering the three advisory groups and meetings, do you have any past experience with committee composition, process or a meeting format that worked really well? What does a successful process look like to you? (OPTIONAL if time allows)
4. What groups or individuals do you suggest we include as part of the committees/advisory groups?
5. What groups or individuals do you suggest we talk to in the near-term in order to inform our recommendations about the advisory groups formation and composition?
6. What barriers to participating in an advisory group, such as the ones being proposed for this process, exist for your community? What suggestions do you have for overcoming these barriers?
7. Do you have any closing thoughts or concerns you'd like to share?
8. Would you like to be kept informed moving forward? If so, how can we best keep you and others informed and involved?

Thanks again for taking the time out of your day to talk with me. And as just a reminder, the information given will be used to help inform/shape the formation of the advisory groups that will guide the future climate-related sub-elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Please feel free to contact Clark County Community Planning at jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov or 564-397-4968 with any further questions about this project or your conversation with me today, and please stay tuned for announcements about future meetings and events.

Climate Change & Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan

County Council Hearing
November 7, 2023, 10:00am
1300 Franklin St, Room 680/Webex

Oliver Orjiako, Ph.D., Director, Community Planning
Jenna Kay, Planner III, Community Planning



Presentation overview

- Climate Element
- Public Participation Plan
- Timeline



Climate Element



Comprehensive Plan Elements

- Land Use
- Housing
- Capital Facilities
- Utilities
- Rural (for counties)
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Parks and Recreation
- Shoreline
- Annexation
- **Climate**
- Optional elements (schools, historic, community design)



20
YEAR

Comprehensive Growth
Management Plan
2015-2035



Climate Subelements

Greenhouse gas reduction subelement

- Baseline data collection, research, analysis
- Selection of targets for GHG and VMT reduction
- Develop goal and policy list recommendation
- Draft subelement for Comprehensive Plan

Resiliency subelement

- Foundational data collection, research, analysis
- Selection of priority climate hazards
- Develop goal and policy list recommendation
- Draft subelement for Comprehensive Plan



Public Participation Plan



Public Participation and the Comprehensive Plan

GMA Goals

([RCW 36.70A.020](#))

- Concentrated urban growth
- Sprawl reduction
- Regional transportation
- Affordable housing

- Economic development
- Property rights
- Permit processing
- Natural resource industries
- Open space and recreation
- Environmental protection

- Early and continuous public participation
- Public facilities and services
- Historic preservation
- Climate change and resiliency
- Shoreline management (RCW 36.70A.480)



Public Participation Plan (PPP) for Climate Element

Purpose

- Identify the project scope
- Identify when legislative action is expected
- Identify how the public can participate or comment
- Supplement Comprehensive Plan PPP

Goals

- Communicate clearly
- Prioritize equity
- Inform, consult, involve, and collaborate

Informed by

- Clark County Climate Stakeholder Assessment report by JLA Public Involvement



Tools, Techniques & Approaches

- Project webpage
- Email distribution list
- Media
- Written comments
- Comprehensive Growth Management Plan 2025 Periodic Update Public Engagement Activities
- Climate Change and Resilience public engagement activities including community-led engagement
- Communication approaches
- Public comment periods and hearings
- Tribal engagement
- Advisory groups and equity framework



Community Advisory Group (CAG)

Primary purpose: develop consensus-based goal and policy recommendations

Positions:

- Several environmental justice/vulnerable community advocates
- Urban area residents – renters and homeowners
- Rural area residents – renters and homeowners
- Homebuilding

- Land development
 - Business community
 - Affordable housing
 - Transit users
 - Commuter
 - Healthcare
 - Environment
 - Education
 - Youth
 - Bike/Pedestrian
 - Agriculture/Farming
 - Forestry
 - Freight
 - Industry
 - Economic and workforce development
 - Outdoor activities (i.e. hiking, fishing, hunting, and gardening)
- Option: County Council liaison**



Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC)

Primary purpose: Equity-focused public engagement with vulnerable community members

Contracts for in-community public engagement work with support from Community Planning and Public Health staff

Outreach to community-based organizations includes those serving:

- Culturally specific groups such as: Chuukese, Vietnamese, Pacific Islander, and Latino
- Minority-focused business, community development, and service associations

- Immigrants and refugees
- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- Older adults
- Youth
- Early childcare or education providers
- People who identify as LGBTQ+
- People living with disabilities
- People who are houseless
- Farmworkers



Interdepartmental and Interagency Coordination Group

Primary purpose: provide information and feedback, listen

Includes internal and external agency partners:

- Clark County Cities and Town
- Clark County departments:
 - Public Health (Healthy Communities, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Environmental Health)
 - Public Works (Transportation, Parks and Lands, Emergency Management, Clean Water)
 - Purchasing/Green Team
 - Community Development (Building, Fire Marshall, Wetland/Habitat, Land Use)
 - Community Planning
 - Community Services
 - General Services
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Hospital/Medical organizations:
 - PeaceHealth SW Medical Center
 - Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
- Other government agencies:
 - Fire Districts
 - Port of Vancouver



Interdepartmental and Interagency Coordination Group Cont'd

- Regional agencies
 - Clark County Conservation District
 - Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA)
 - Clark Regional Wastewater District
 - Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC)
 - C-TRAN
 - Southwest Clean Air Agency
 - Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC)
 - Workforce Southwest Washington
- Schools/Educational Institutions
 - Clark College
 - ESD 112
 - K-12 school districts
 - WSU-Vancouver
- State agencies:
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Ecology
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Transportation
- Utilities
 - Northwest Natural
 - Clark Public Utilities



Timeline



Timeline



Thank you!

Comments and questions

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

