

2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

Climate Element Update

County Council Work Session

Aug. 6, 2025

1300 Franklin St, Room 680/Webex

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Presentation overview

- Process review
- Draft policy review
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets
- Next steps
- Discussion



Process Review



Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, 2025-2045

Project initiation



Early 2023-
Early 2024

- ☒ Public Participation Plan and Scope of Work
- ☒ County Population Projection
- ☒ County Employment Projection
- ☒ Countywide Planning Policies and Population Allocation to each urban area (adoption of updated policies, if needed)

Shape the plan



Early 2024-
Fall 2025

- ☒ Hire environmental analysis consultant
- ☒ Property owner submittal for comprehensive land use changes
- ☒ Outline/Scope the range & types of issues studied for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- ☒ Review and select Growth Alternatives for Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- ☐ Input on County Comprehensive Plan text and policies & Title 40 revisions, if needed

Review & Refine



Fall 2024-
Summer 2025

- ☐ Draft Environmental Impact Statement Review
- ☐ Selection of Preferred Alternative
- ☐ Preferred Alternative Analysis work (*Update urban and rural land capacity estimates, Capital Facilities Plan, Capital Facilities Financial Plan, and Transportation Analyses*)
- ☐ Issue Final Environmental Impact Statement
- ☐ Public Review of Comprehensive Plan Update Materials (*Plan text, Title 40, Capital Facilities Plan, Capital Facilities Financial Plan*)

Adoption Process

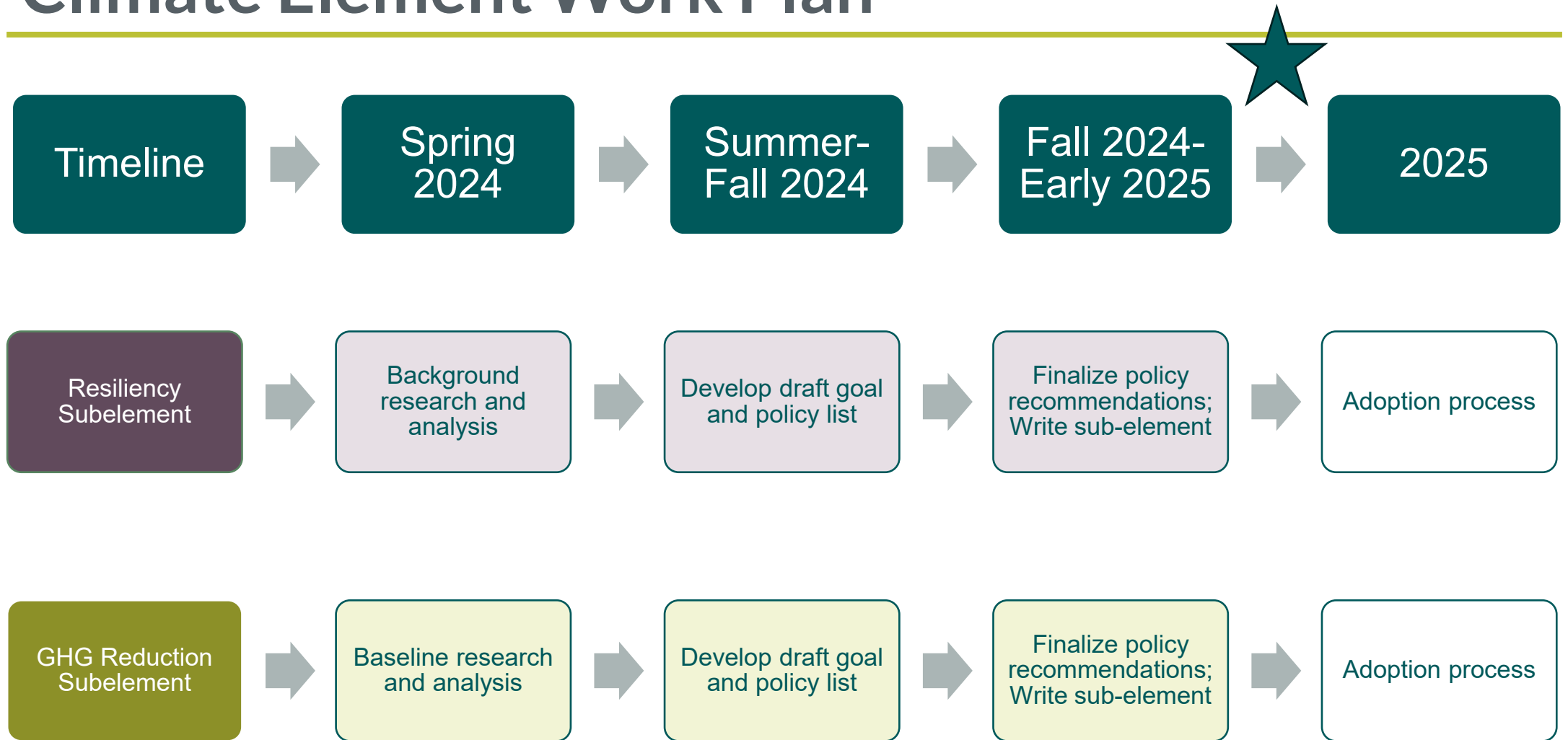


Summer 2025-
Late 2025

- ☐ Washington Department of Commerce 60-day review submittal
- ☐ Planning Commission work sessions/hearings
- ☐ County Council work sessions (review Planning Commission recommendations)
- ☐ Adopted with effective date of plan **on or before December 31, 2025**



Climate Element Work Plan



Climate Element Timeline Review

- ✓ Mar. 21, 2023: Council Hearing Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Public Participation Plan
- ✓ May 3, 2023: HB 1181 signed into law
- ✓ June 28, 2023: Council Work Session Climate Legislation (HB 1181)
- ✓ Fall 2023: Climate Stakeholder Assessment
- ✓ Nov. 7 and 28, 2023: Council Hearing Climate Public Participation Plan
- ✓ Dec. 5, 2023: Interlocal Agreement with cities and Consultant Contract
- ✓ Nov. 2023-Jan. 2024: Advisory Group Formation
- ✓ 2024-early 2025: Advisory groups meet
- ✓ 2024: Engagement activities outside of advisory groups
- ✓ June 5 and July 10, 2024: Council Work Session. Update, climate impacts, greenhouse gas inventory
- ★ Spring-Summer 2025: Complete Draft Climate Element. PC and Council briefings
 - Adoption process: with Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Includes PC and Council hearing(s)

Approach to Reviewing Climate Policies



8/6 Council work session:

- Chapter 14: Climate Element policies
- Chapter 3: Rural and Natural Resource Element policies with climate integration
- Chapter 7: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space policies with climate integration
- Additional Council work sessions: Climate policies in additional chapters to be reviewed with those chapters

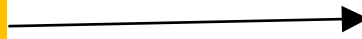
How CAG Outcomes Will Be Reported

Items with full
consensus (151)



Recommend to
Planning Commission

Items without full
consensus (4)



Vote recorded; key
concerns shared with
Planning Commission
for their consideration

Background Meeting Materials

Background Materials:

- Memo to Council on greenhouse gas emissions target-setting
- Memo to Planning Commission explaining Climate Project Community Advisory Group vote
- Community Advisory Group letter to Planning Commission and Council
- Environmental Justice Coalition letter to Planning Commission and Council
- HB1181 requirements matrix - draft
- Policy analysis tables
 - Level 1 analysis: resilience policy prioritization
 - Level 1 analysis: greenhouse gas reduction policy prioritization
 - Level 2 analysis: resilience priority policies
 - Level 2 analysis: greenhouse gas reduction priority policies
- Glossary of terms - draft



Draft Policy Review



Draft Goals & Policies

- Chapter 14: Climate Element Goals & Policy Table
- Chapter 3: Rural and Natural Resource Element Goals & Policy Table with climate integration
- Chapter 7: Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Element Goals & Policy Table with climate integration

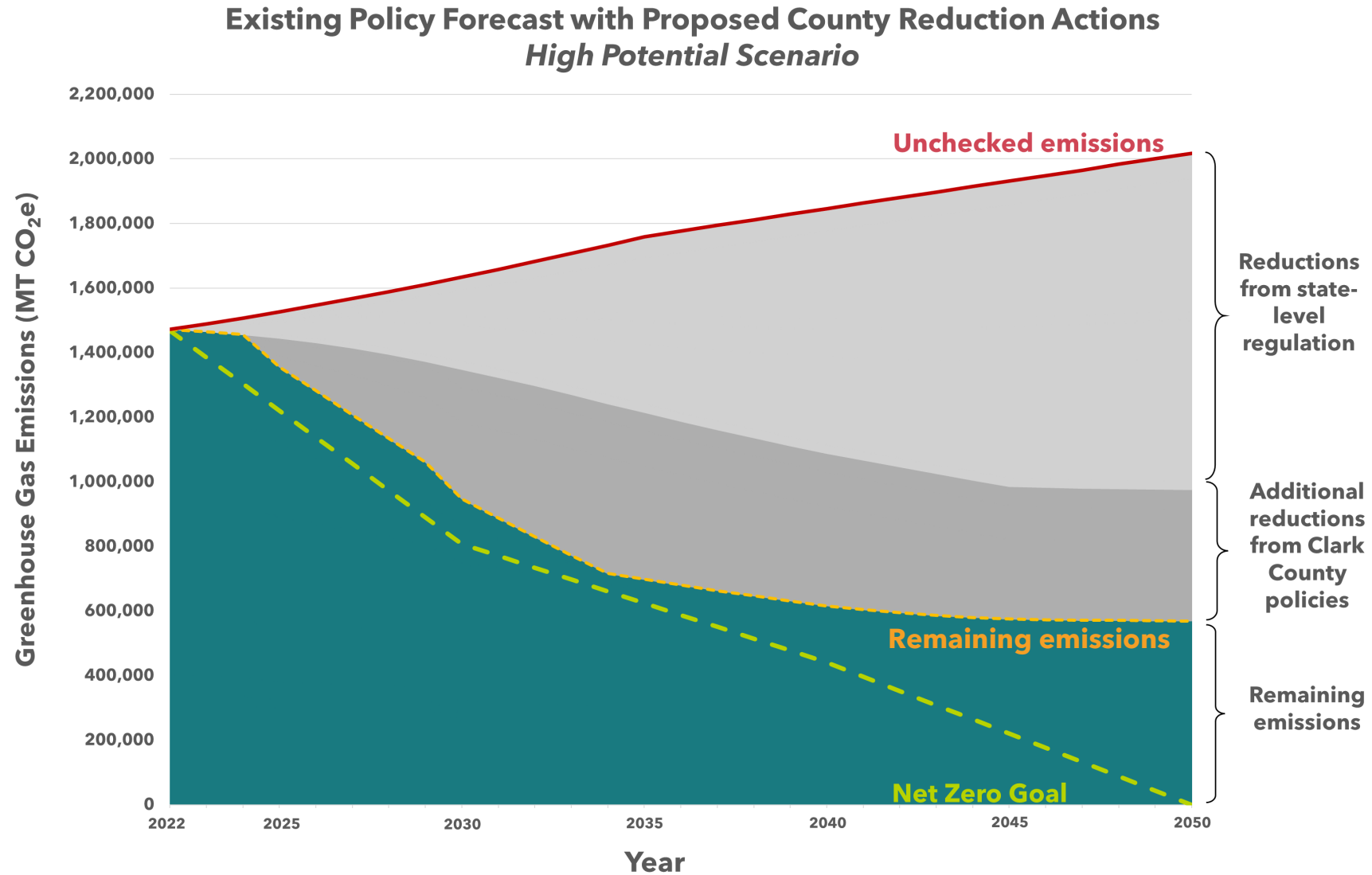
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Targets



GHG Target Setting

- Reduce GHG emissions to net-zero by 2050 in alignment with statewide target established in RCW 70A.45.020
- Set incremental targets
- 5-year reporting to Department of Commerce

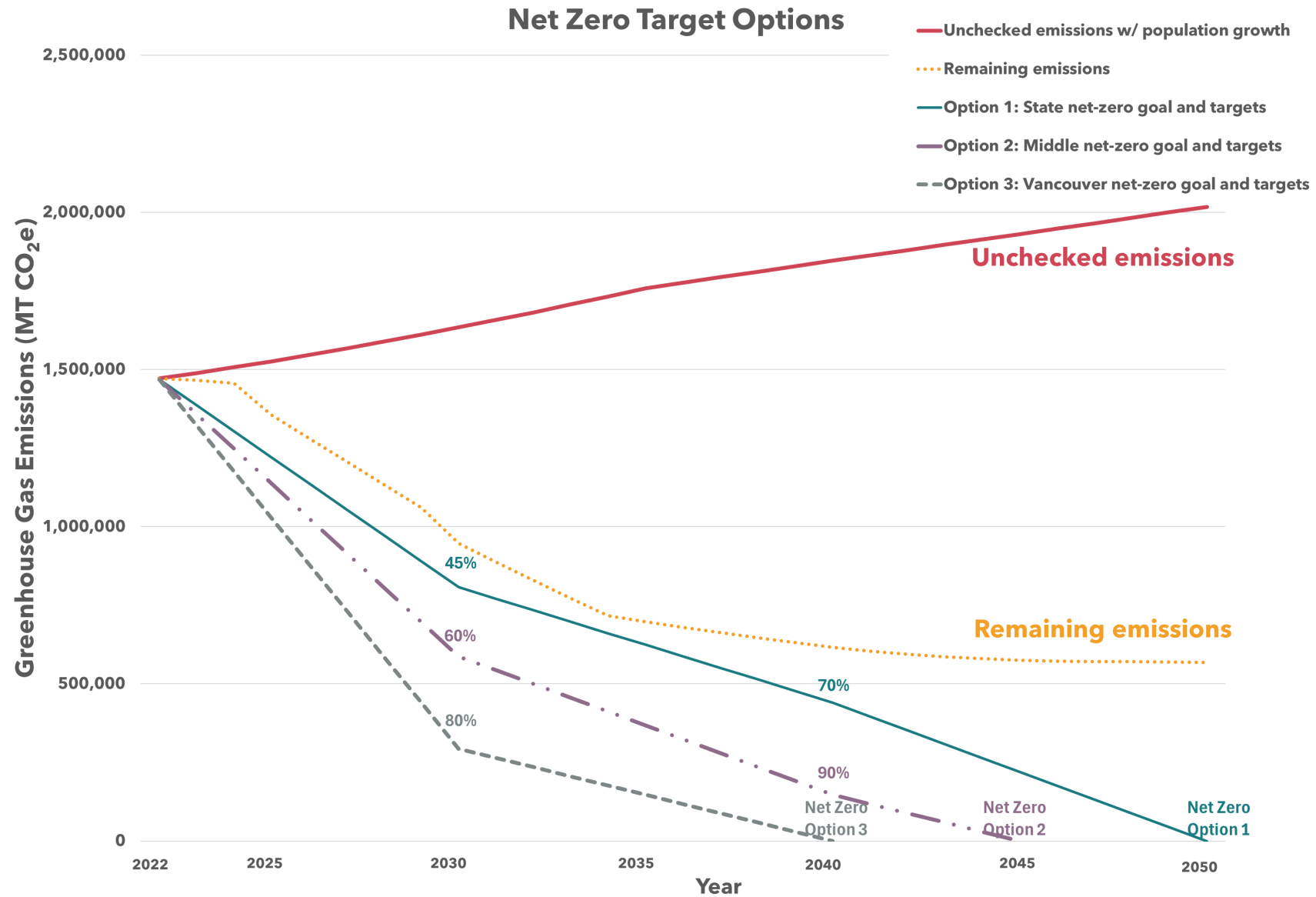
GHG Emissions Forecast



GHG Emissions Reduction Target Options

Target Year	Option 1: Net zero by 2050	Option 2: Net zero by 2045	Option 3: Net zero by 2040
2030	45%	60%	80%
2035	57.5%	75%	90%
2040	70%	90%	100%
2045	85%	100%	
2050	100%		

GHG Emissions Reduction Target Options



Option Considerations

Option 1:

Net zero by 2050

Requires steady pacing to get to the finish line

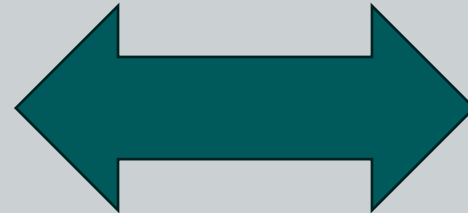
Would spread out effort and resources over a longer period of time

Spreads out benefits from emissions reductions

Leaves little room at the end of the timeline to get to net zero by 2050 if progress gets off-track towards the end

Option 2:

Net zero by 2045



Option 3:

Net zero by 2040

Creates more of a sense of urgency

May require more effort and resources in the near term to be successful

Promotes more near term benefits from emissions reduction

Allows for room to still get to net zero by 2050 if earlier target is not met

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Include net-zero target and interim targets in draft climate element for adoption process
- Future Council work sessions: Climate policies in additional chapters to be reviewed with those chapters
- Adoption process

Thank you!

Comments and questions

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

