

Climate Impact Advisory Committee
FINAL Meeting Minutes



Date: September 3, 2020
Location: Zoom

QUORUM	Y
Members Present	
Kaylee Galloway	X
Treva Coe	
Phil Thompson	X
Ellyn Murphy	X
John Yakawich	X
Katherine Kissinger	X
David Kershner	X
Cynthia Mitchell	X
STAFF Chris Elder	X

1) Meeting Began at 5:33 PM

Meeting began with roll call of CIAC members

Public in attendance:

- Carryn Vande Griend, PSE
- Adrienne Hegedus, Port of Bellingham
- Ander Russel, ReSources
- Dave Hostetler, public

Chris announced that the committee had previously commented on the Shoreline Master Plan. A draft of the plan is now open for public comments through September 18th.

2) Review and Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Phil motioned
Dave seconded
Motion passed

3) Public Comment

None

4) Appointing a Vice Chair

Cynthia nominated Phil Thompson
Katie Seconded
Motion passed

5) Washington State Policy Update – Kaylee Galloway

Bills passed in 2019

Slide 7: HB 1112: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from hydrofluorocarbons. Phase out the use of HFCa in Washington state by 2024.

Slide 8: Bills with topics relating to Renewable Energy & Buildings

SB 5116: Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future. get off coal by 2025, GHG neutral by 2030, 100% renewable by 2045.

HB 1257: Concerning energy efficiency. Phil added to the presentation information about the efforts that western is taking to become more energy efficient. The “campus as a lab” course gets Energy students involved in the process.

HB 1444: Concerning appliance efficiency standards. New appliance standards and so water heaters can be used effectively in demand response programs.

Slide 9: Transportation

HB 1160: Making transportation appropriations for the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium. This is the transportation budget. It includes funding for projects such as: a Hybrid electric ferry, high speed rail study, commute trip reduction and major construction projects such as replacing culverts.

Slide 10: Transportation

HB 2042: Advancing green transportation adoption. \$75 fee for hybrid vehicles. To help pay for EV infrastructure.

HB 1512: Concerning the electrification of transportation.

SB 5723: Increasing safety on roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other roadway users. Additional fine applicable for following a vulnerable roadway user too closely/ not giving right of way.

Carryn from PSE: PSE's Up & Go EV program funds residential, multifamily and workplace charging stations - including incentives for charging off peak hours:

<https://www.pse.com/pages/electric-cars> covers 75% of installation costs of residential charging stations

Slide 11: Land Use, AG, Ecosystems, Water & Adaptation

HB 1578: Reducing threats to southern resident killer whales by improving the safety of oil transportation. Requires tug escorts for oil tankers traveling near the San Juan Islands.

HB 1579: Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance.

SB 5577: Concerning the protection of southern resident orca whales from vessels. Increased the acceptable distance you can be from orcas, and a go-slow zone for viewing boats.

Slide 12: Land Use, AG, Ecosystems, Water & Adaptation

SB 5397: Concerning the responsible management of plastic packaging. Study to identify plastic alternatives to achieve 100% recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging and 20% recycled content in all plastic packaging sold in WA by 2025

SB 5135: Preventing toxic pollution that affects public health or the environment.

SB 5993: Reforming the financial structure of the model toxics control program.

Bills passed in 2020

Slide 14: GHG Reduction & Community Engagement

HB 2311: Amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change science. 0 emissions by 2050 for state agencies.

HB 2811: Establishing a statewide environmental sustainability education program. Teaches kids about local environmental science and career opportunities in Natural Resources.

Slide 15: Renewable Energy & Buildings

HB 2518: Concerning the safe and efficient transmission and distribution of natural gas.

Introduced by Rep. Shewmake.

HB 2405: Concerning commercial property assessed clean energy and resilience. Funding was vetoed due to covid. Kaylee asked Chris if he had any insight as to how the county is leading the way in energy efficiency since CPACER programs are county run.

Chris: stated that Bellingham Mayor Seth Fleetwood has been an advocate for this as well as Rep. Ramel. Four counties are coming together to present on implementation to the state. Executive Sidhu is participating in that process

Phil: Asked a question about the veto on this bill, and what state funding was supposed to be used in this bill.

Kaylee: said that this bill allocated funds to the dept. of commerce for the counties to administer this program. State does not actually pay for the efficiency loans.

HB 2248: Expanding equitable access to the benefits of renewable energy through community solar projects. Vetoed

HB 2645: Concerning the photovoltaic module stewardship and takeback program. Partially vetoed.

Ellyn: asked if this entire bill was vetoed, and if that meant the bill would have to be re-voted on if the legislature wanted to implement it.

Kaylee: said yes, this would have to be re-voted on from scratch due to a full veto. It was vetoed due to funding (budget cuts as a result of COVID-19).

Slide 16: Transportation

[HB 2322](#): Supplemental Transportation Budget. Kaylee suggested that if people wanted more info on the state's budgeting, they should visit this website: <http://fiscal.wa.gov/>

[SB 5811](#): Reducing emissions by making changes to the clean car standards and clean car program. Modeled after a CA Bill. 9 other states also have similar laws on the books.

[HB 2486](#): Extending the electric marine battery incentive. Introduced by Rep. Lekanoff.

Slide 17: Transportation

[HB 2587](#): Establishing a program for the designation of state scenic bikeways. Introduced by Reps. Ramel and Shewmake. Inspired by areas around Whatcom County specifically like Kendall and Blaine.

[HB 1793](#): Establishing additional uses for automated traffic safety cameras for traffic congestion reduction and increased safety

[SB 6208](#): Increasing mobility through the modification of stop sign requirements for bicyclists. Allows cyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs unless it is a railroad or school bus stop sign.

Slide 18: Land Use, Ag, & Water

[HB 2343](#): Concerning urban housing supply.

[HB 2713](#): Encouraging compost procurement and use. Partially vetoed

[SB 6091](#): Continuing the work of the Washington food policy forum.

Slide 19: Land Use, Ag, & Water

[HB 1165](#): Encouraging low-water landscaping practices as a drought alleviation tool.

[HB 1622](#): Concerning drought preparedness and response.

[SB 6613](#): Concerning the inspection of marine aquatic farming locations.

Slide 20: Land Use, Ag, & Water

[SB 5947](#): Establishing the sustainable farms and fields grant program.

[HB 2528](#): Recognizes the contributions of our forest products sector as part of the state's global climate response.

[SB 6306](#): Creating the Washington soil health initiative.

Future Sessions: 2021 and on

Slide 22: Lots of budget cuts from COVID. Many projects have been delayed as a result.

Slide 23: Discusses COVID-19 recovery and how federal funding could help our state.

For Questions Kaylee provided her email to get in contact with her:

Kaylee.galloway@outlook.com

6) Review Climate Action Plan Outline

Ellyn said we need to have a draft done by the first quarter of next year. She recommended going to the Dept. of Commerce website to see their recommendations for climate change strategies. Ellyn and Dave have been working on a draft outline

Section 1 – Intro.

- currently in progress.
- Discussion of charter from the county council and Cascadia report on impacts, ghg emissions assessment,
- present the targets voted on in May

Section 2 –

- framework for climate strategies: provides definitions,
- explains process for selecting actions.
- Part 1 climate resilience: mitigation and adaptation,
- community outreach and engagement: community interviews from 2019, this shows council that we have gotten input from communities around the county.
- Local economic impacts
- Equity and social justice
- Public health & Safety
- Data availability

Phil commented on this section saying that this had a good framework. He agreed that these issues cut across all the work groups and suggested that there be a brief discussion within each recommendation that touches on these things.

Section 3 – Built Environment

- Grid energy
- Buildings
- Transportation
- Industrial: Point source emissions make up half of the county's emissions. Includes economic development and work opportunities.
- Solid waste

Ellyn said that these categories could change depending on what is decided upon by work groups, she suggested looking at the Cascadia report and other counties that have relevant experiences. Ellyn suggested when we give our recommendations to sort the actions into long term and shorter-term goals keeping in mind that the climate plan will be updated every 5 years.

Section 4 – Natural Environment

- Intro
- Vulnerability assessment and key impacts by category
- Natural resources climate goals

- Strategies & Actions

Possible section 5 – cannot rule out that we might need an additional section.

Appendices – Cascadia reports, etc..

7) Update on Discussion with County Executive Sidhu

- Chris and Ellyn had a discussion with County Exec. Sidhu on August 19th to update him on CIAC work, including the Cascadia reports, the emission goals set by CIAC in May, and timing for filling the current vacancies on CIAC. County Executive Sidhu voiced no concerns with the GHG emission goals CIAC established at our May meeting. He understood that the County gov't goals were more aggressive to show leadership. He also understood that the County gov't emissions are a very small part of the overall communitywide emissions.
- Exec. Sidhu can include an agenda item to have the County Council vote on CIAC vacancies in October.

Key Issues in discussing the Climate Action Report update:

- Sidhu does not want us to single out specific small groups like dairy farmers to reduce emissions. In response, Chris pointed out the positive aspects of the current operational anaerobic digestors for manure disposal. Ellyn mentioned that we are looking for win-win strategies like possibly setting up a carbon market where farmers or foresters, if they choose to participate, could sell carbon offsets for the carbon they store above and below ground.
- Sidhu want us to reach out to the various mayors in the county for their input. Chris mentioned that he was awarded a \$20K grant from the Dept of Commerce on climate communication that will help in this effort. The grant partners with WWU and provides a student intern.
- The County Executive has limited funds that he can direct to us for help on developing a template, graphics and editing for the revised Climate Action Plan. We just need to send him a one- or two-page description of the scope and number of hours we need.
- Chris pointed out that the County will need to direct staff time to the implementation of strategies in the revised Climate Action Plan. Sidhu said he will start talking with his department heads about needing staff time to help with implementation.
- On the topic of future county staffing, Chris mentioned the model for the City of Bellingham with Clare Fogelsong in charge of the strategies for natural resources and Seth Vidana coordinating the strategies in the built environment. Sidhu said he hopes to hire a water manager by early next year. Depending on this person's capabilities, he/she may be able to help with the implementation of strategies in natural resources.
- Sidhu thinks we should establish a date like April 15th to have a completed draft of the Climate Action Plan

8) Work Group Updates

Transportation: Phil said they are still refining their list of recommendations.

Natural Resources: Katie Gave the Natural Resources update.

Renewable Energy and Buildings: Cynthia updated her July report and has drafted some strategies (presentation in December meeting).

9) Next Meeting Discussion Topics

October: Phil discuss Transportation strategies and Actions. Also, a presentation by Eddy Ury, and John Yakawich on industry point source emissions.

November/ December: Natural Environment Strategies and Actions, Circle back to electricity and buildings actions.

10) Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Recorded By: Katherine Kissinger

Staff Contact: Chris Elder – (360) 788-6225