**CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON** 



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# **Clark County Climate Change Planning** Community Advisory Group Meeting #3 April 24, 2024, 5:30-8:30pm PT Public Services Center in Vancouver, WA and Zoom Webinar

Meeting Summary



The WA Department of Commerce climate planning grant is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-andinvest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at <u>www.climate.wa.gov</u>.

## Attendees

**Community Advisory Group members:** Gabriela Ewing, Sharon Ferguson, Ann Foster, Nelson Holmberg, Janet Kenefsky, Noelle Lovern, Brent Marsden, Nick Massie, Kathy Miu, Dave Rowe, Andrea Smith, Don Steinke, Terry Toland, Alana Tudela, Justin Wood, Monica Zazueta

County staff: Christine Cook, Jenna Kay, Amy Koski

**Consultant team:** Sylvia Ciborowski, Nicole Metildi, Grant Simmons (Kearns & West); Tracy Lunsford (Parametrix); Dana Hellman (CAPA Strategies)

### Number of members of the public in attendance: 6

### Welcome

Clark County and Kearns & West staff welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sylvia Ciborowski, Kearns & West, reviewed the agenda and outlined the purpose and desired outcomes of the meeting:

- Share and seek alignment with revised Vision Statement.
- Share update on Resilience Sub-element work.
- Introduce process for creating the Resilience Sub-element goals and policies.
- Brainstorm resilience goals.

Additionally, Sylvia reviewed meeting logistics and greeted members of the public, noting that there would be a public comment opportunity at the end of the meeting.

## **EJC and Engagement Updates**

Jenna Kay, Clark County, shared the following project updates and reminders:

- Climate Advisory Group (CAG) members need to complete the Open Government by May 22.
- CAG members should not "reply all" to any communications that they receive related to this project. Only reply to staff.
- Public comments received since the last meeting were shared in the meeting materials packet.
- Feedback sent by CAG members to the county in-between meetings will be shared with the entire group in future materials packets. The county will also update past CAG member comments with the corresponding meeting, for documentation and transparency.
- Clark County has put out a public survey pertaining to severe weather. This is the first broad public engagement initiative from the county that pertains directly to this project. It is open until May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- EJC members have engagement events coming up that we will share more about in the future. A CAG member, who is also part of the EJC, shared plans for upcoming community events for climate public engagement on May 25, June 20, and September 7 from 11:00AM until 3:00PM at the Fourth Plain Forward Community Commons.
- Clark County's Comprehensive Plan will have open houses on May 28, 29, and 30, as part of the Environmental Impact Statement scoping process.

• Per county policy, this group is not allowed to talk about elections or initiatives that are going to be on any upcoming ballots.

### **Vision Statement**

Jenna then went over the revised Vision Statement sent with the meeting materials, as well as a further revised Vision Statement that separated the introductory sentence from the bullet points below. The introductory sentence was reframed as the purpose of the project.

Sylvia noted that this Vision Statement will help guide the work for this group for the next eight months. She asked the group to consider the following:

- Does this statement incorporate what's important to protect in the community? If not, why not?
- Is this a statement you can live with?
- If something needs to be changed, what is your proposed alternative?

CAG members had the following questions and suggestions:

- Many members noted that the revised statement incorporated feedback from the last meeting and includes what is important to protect in the community.
- One member stated that the Vision Statement should be more specific in terms of what goals this project is attempting to reach, including interim targets. Examples include how much reduction in emissions and how much reduction in vehicle miles travelled. Jenna noted that goals and a Vision Statement are two different components to this project. The Vision Statement paints a picture of the future, with more specific goals to be defined further along in the project process. This group will begin discussing resilience goals later in this meeting.
- One member suggested changing "live within the means of our environment" to "protecting our critical areas and natural resources." Another member stated they would like to see the phrase "rewilding" used in that section.
- Regarding transportation, one member stated that rail use should be explicitly named as a method of reducing vehicle miles travelled.
- One member expressed hesitation that the first three bullets don't directly pertain to climate change and stated they would like to see them taken out.
- Another member thought it was important to include and even elevate the statement around better health equity.
- Another member suggested adding language around holding polluters responsible to the overall statement.
- One member stated that, with any edits to the draft language, they would like to see mention of better health equity and environmental justice retained.
- To create a concise statement, one member suggested using only the bold words at the beginning of the bullet points for the Vision Statement but reordering for emphasis and improving the grammar. They suggested the following: "In 2045, Clark County will be prepared for climate uncertainty and equitably meet our communities' needs for basic necessities, a clean environment, green jobs, and transformed transportation, energy, and waste systems." Multiple members liked this suggestion.
- Several members noted that it is more appropriate to see specific details in the goals and would like to approve the vision statement as-is and move onto developing goals.

Sylvia asked if the group was okay with approving the statement with no changes, with the understanding that they would return to it again later in the process and ensure it aligns with additional work products. Members approved the Vision Statement with this understanding, with one member in particular noting that it is very important to revisit the statement later on.

### **Resilience Recap**

Dana Hellman, CAPA Strategies, reviewed the project team's work to date on the Resilience subelement. They defined "resilience" and reviewed climate hazards applicable in Clark County. They reminded the group about the interconnection of these hazards and their impacts on various sectors (i.e., health, economic, etc.).

Dana also noted that community experiences are an integral part of this effort and will be used to help identify assets vulnerable to climate change. Additionally, Dana explained how CAPA Strategies would be soliciting input on resilience goals and highlighted ongoing engagement in the planning process.

The group had the following questions and discussion:

- Question: Will the climate projections mentioned for each of the areas be in the final plan?
  - Answer: We will need to include some background information in the final plan. While we haven't started drafting the Climate Element, it does make sense to include a summary of key climate impacts.
- Question: Is there an ability to differentiate between wildfires and urban fires?
  - Answer: For the purposes of talking about climate change, we are referring to fires that originate in natural areas or at the wildland/urban interface. They may spread into urban areas, but they started in wild land. Right now, it's hard to see a place for urban-originating fires in this work. Jenna and Dana agreed to follow-up and discuss this topic further after the meeting to confirm this approach is consistent with the Dept. of Commerce Climate Guidance.
- One member noted that there are impacts that take place elsewhere but may directly affect Clark County. An example of this would be climate impacting the ability to irrigate crops in Eastern Washington which would impact the Port of Vancouver.

### **Resilience Goals Brainstorm**

Dana reviewed resilience goal and policy examples. They noted that goals and policies are two different items and that developing them will be an iterative process between the CAG and EJC and will take into account public input as well.

Sylvia then introduced the Resilience Goals Brainstorm activity and posed the following prompting question: "What would it look like for our community to be more resilient to climate impacts?"

Additionally, Sylvia shared example resilience goals for a few sectors. The group then brainstormed goals for each sector on their own, with in-person participants placing sticky notes on flip charts in the room and Zoom participants posting their thoughts in a Jamboard and Zoom chat.

Sylvia and Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West, reviewed what members wrote on the flip charts and in the Jamboard. Members shared additional ideas during the report out (captured in the below summary). Please see <u>Appendix B</u> and <u>Appendix C</u> for screenshots of the Jamboard and flip charts, as well as <u>Appendix A</u> for ideas submitted through the Zoom chat.

Below are the key themes from the brainstorm activity by sector:

#### **Agriculture and Food Systems**

- Protect open spaces
- Increase land access for local farmers
- Incentivize heat-resistant and drought-resistant crops
- Improve irrigation efficiency
- Promote organic practices
- Support sustainable agricultural research
- Ensure food system resilience

#### **Buildings and Energy**

- Incentivize green building certification
- Promote water conservation
- Provide communal heating/cooling areas
- Encourage renewable energy sources
- Enhance infrastructure resilience
- Support energy efficiency retrofits
- Ensure backup electricity sources
- Transition to net-zero energy buildings
- Sustainably manage and distribute natural and mineral resources

#### **Cultural Resources & Practices**

- Digitally preserve cultural sites
- Support native plant restoration
- Ensure access to mental health services
- Restore community connectivity post-disaster

#### **Economic Development**

- Invest in broadband infrastructure
- Promote renewable energy projects
- Enhance disaster preparedness for businesses
- Provide job training for disaster roles
- Incentivize use of recycled materials
- Support local supply chains

#### Ecosystems

- Implement habitat restoration
- Promote sustainable land management
- Support soil erosion prevention
- Invest in community resilience measures

#### **Emergency Management**

- Ensure adequate battery storage
- Establish emergency transportation plans
- Improve communication systems
- Promote community emergency response teams
- Provide emergency shelters and resources

#### Health and Well-being

- Target resources to vulnerable populations
- Invest in local community resources
- Ensure access to affordable, healthy food
- Foster exercise and mental health programs

### Transportation

- Promote alternative transportation modes
- Improve cycling and pedestrian infrastructure
- Incentivize renewable aviation fuel
- Support transit-oriented development

#### Waste Management

- Support material recycling
- Use waste for renewable energy
- Reduce rules on vegetative debris disposal

#### Water Resources

- Develop localized water systems
- Ensure drinking water quality
- Size stormwater facilities for extreme events

#### **Zoning and Development**

- Protect agricultural land
- Conserve open space
- Increase code enforcement
- Incentivize renewable energy adoption
- Ensure development affordability

Members also shared concerns about affordability across all sectors, for both community members and businesses.

Dana noted that once these initial goals are refined further and the EJC has reviewed and added to them, the initial process of matching goals to policies can begin. Sylvia asked that CAG members submit additional ideas to Jenna by April 26 at 5pm<sup>1</sup> if they would like them to be included in the EJC meeting materials email.

## **Public Comment**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The deadline for submitting additional ideas about Resilience goals was later extended to Wednesday, May 1.

Sylvia opened the public comment period and received the following comment:

• Tina Barrow: I'd like to address the concerns raised regarding the Vision Statement, particularly regarding the inclusion of social justice goals alongside environmental emergency priorities. Having been involved in environmental activism for several years, I understand the importance of addressing both simultaneously and this committee should not get rid of any social justice goals in this process. Regarding waste management, I urge the group to prioritize improved handling of human waste, particularly in terms of water conservation. While I acknowledge the efforts of the City of Vancouver to upgrade their system to filter waste from flush toilets, the issue of water usage remains significant. Despite its unpleasant nature, I believe it warrants careful consideration.

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

## **Next Steps**

Sylvia reviewed the next steps for CAG members, which consisted of:

- **Complete by Friday, April 26:** Please send any additional ideas for Resilience goals to Jenna (jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov) to be included in EJC meeting materials email.
- Complete by Wednesday, May 22: Open Government Training

She also shared information about the next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 5:30-8:30p, and that they can find past meeting materials on the <u>CAG website</u>. Regular meetings will continue to be held on the fourth of the month going forward. Members can reach out to Jenna if they have questions and send additional feedback to her via email.

## Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm PT.

# Appendix A: Zoom Chat

Below is a verbatim, unedited transcript of the Zoom webinar chat.

17:39:58 From Monica Zazueta to Hosts and panelists:

https://www.businessinsider.com/nobel-prize-economist-angus-deaton-rethinks-unions-free-trade-immigration-2024-4

17:41:53 From Gabriela Ewing, CAG to Hosts and panelists:

Hi everyone, great to be here! I'll be joining the meeting for a short while due to state meeting. Thank you

17:52:28 From Alana LG Tudela to Hosts and panelists:

So sorry! I won't be able to talk right now. Going to be driving now.

18:10:25 From Alana LG Tudela to Hosts and panelists:

Amazing work on the vision statement.

18:17:43 From Kathy Miu, CAG (she/her) to Everyone:

In 2045, Clark County will be prepared for climate uncertainty and equitably meet our communities' needs for basic necessities, a clean environment, green jobs, and transformed transportation, energy, and waste systems.

18:22:40 From Alana LG Tudela to Hosts and panelists:

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18:22:58 From Justin Wood, CAG to Everyone:

18:23:38 From Kathy Miu, CAG (she/her) to Everyone:

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19:03:42 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (Tech) to Everyone:

Link to sector/impacts table: https://clark.wa.gov/media/document/170846

19:07:48 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (Tech) to Everyone:

Link to Jamboard:

 $https://jamboard.google.com/d/10 IPfJk5UfiF9pa\_bFwthYL00gn4Q4eJ0gMyGSC-PgzM/edit?usp=sharing$ 

19:15:05 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (Tech) to Sharon Ferguson, CAG(direct message):

Hey Sharon, are you able to get into the jamboard? Noticed you were making some annotations to our slides so just wanted to make sure you were situated.

19:16:46 From Monica Zazueta, CAG to Everyone:

It's hard to work on jam board.

https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZTLPGc2Ja/

The residents of SurajPura India built a 15 ft mud wall a mile long that snakes through the barren land then they dug an equally long trench beneath it. This has helped rain water from running off the land and it has allowed the land to absorb more water and slowly it's helping filling up the ground water reserves.

19:17:49 From Nicole Metildi, Kearns & West (she/her) to Everyone:

Thanks Monica - if the jamboard isn't working for you, please feel free to share in chat

19:20:02 From Monica Zazueta, CAG to Everyone:

Economic development,

**Circular City Layout** 

A typical circular city is comprised of the following:

• The central dome or theme center will house the core of the cybernated system, educational facilities, computerized communications, networking systems, health and child care facilities.

• The eight buildings surrounding the central dome contain the access centers.

• The three rings of buildings adjacent to the access centers house the research facilities.

• The next band provides the community with centers for cultural activities such as the arts, theater, exhibitions, concerts, exercise facilities and various forms of entertainment. There are also dining and other amenities.

• The eight residential districts have a variety of free form unique architecture to fulfill the various needs of the occupant. Each home is immersed in lovely gardens isolating one from another with lush landscaping.

• The skyscrapers will be a convenient place to live housing restaurants, educational facilities, entertainment, hobby

19:20:30 From Monica Zazueta, CAG to Everyone:

areas, along with apartments.

• Next are the indoor hydroponic, aeroponic and aquaponic facilities and outdoor agricultural belts which will be used to grow a wide variety of organic plants without the use of pesticides.

• A circular waterway for irrigation and filtration surrounds the agricultural belt.

• The outermost perimeter is utilized for recreational activities such as biking, golfing, hiking and riding. Areas are set aside for renewable clean sources of energy such as wind generators, solar, heat concentrating systems, geothermal, photovoltaic and others.

19:29:11 From Monica Zazueta, CAG to Everyone:

We must train our communities how to be resilient with providing livable wage jobs/careers in a wide range of positions. Examples: tree planting, building eco friendly homes, learning how to build and maintain AC's, roles in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, water management, urban planning for climate resilience, environmental consulting, and disaster preparedness/response. Most people don't know the lingo and they need to. Getting paid to learn is what we need to survive.

19:29:49 From Monica Zazueta, CAG to Everyone:

\*A job/career guarantee

20:00:18 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (Tech) to Everyone:

Email comments to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov or submit a comment online: https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp-plan-comments

20:02:12 From Monica Zazueta, CAG to Everyone:

I agree with Tina about human waste

20:02:20 From Monica Zazueta, CAG to Everyone:

Thank you Tina

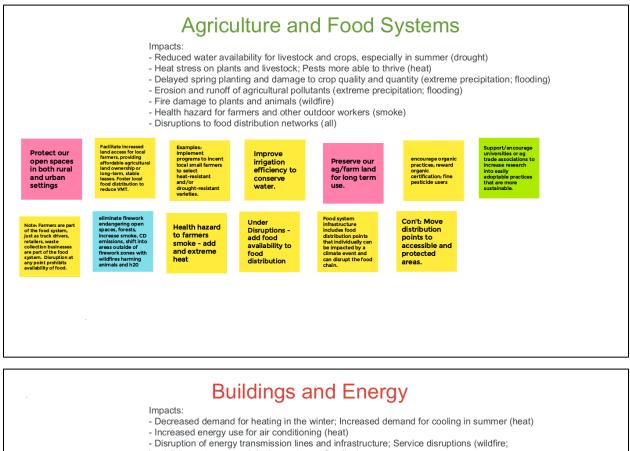
20:04:42 From Grant Simmons, Kearns & West (Tech) to Everyone:

CAG webpage: https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/community-advisory-group

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

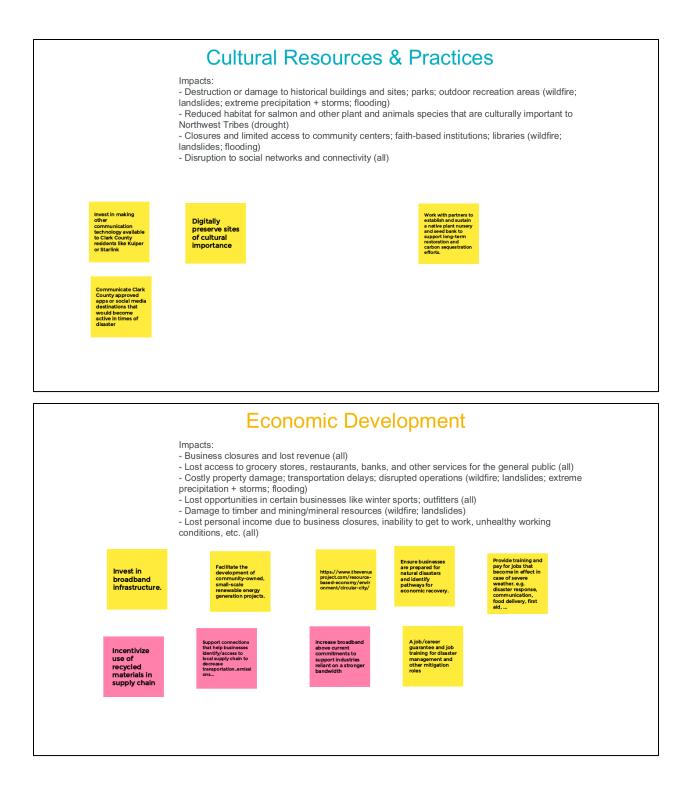
Project contact: Jenna Kay, jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov

## Appendix B: Resilience Goals Brainstorm Activity Jamboard

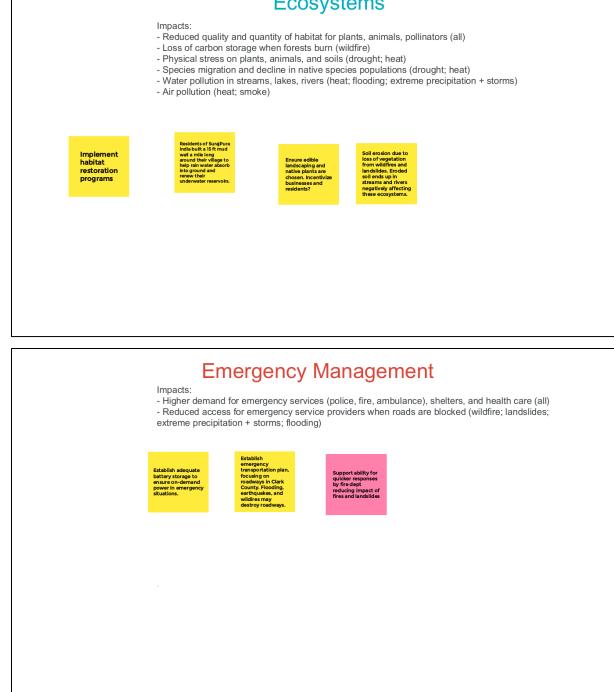


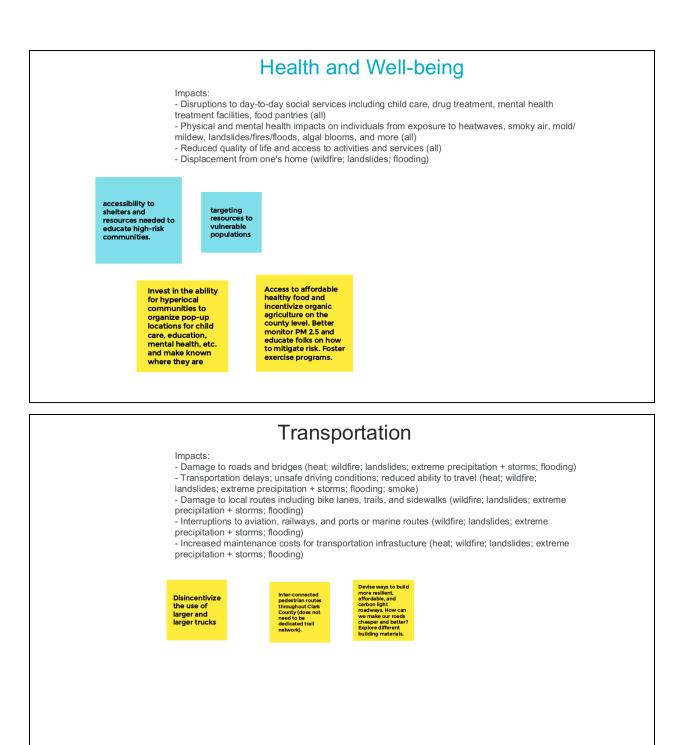
- landslides; extreme precipitation + storms; flooding)
- Reduced water supply for hydropower (drought)
- Closures and limited access to schools, government buildings, and other critical services (wildfire; landslides; flooding)

building certification to improve energy and environmental performance.	Provide and make known congregate areas where people have access to heat or air conditioning	Encourage the use of renewable	Protect our utilities/grid/infrastruc ture more resilient to	
Encourage private residents to conserve and collect water within residential neighborhoods.	so that it is not up to individual households.	energy sources.	natural disasters.	



### **Ecosystems**





### Waste Management

#### Impacts:

- Excess debris from extreme weather and increased demand on waste collection services

(wildfire; landslides; extreme precipitation + storms; flooding)

- Damage to septic systems and sewer lines, resulting in raw sewage exposure for people and the environment (landslides; extreme precipitation + storms)

- Release of hazardous materials and pollutants into the environment (extreme precipitation +

storms; wildfire; flooding; landslides)



### Water Resources

Impacts:

- Reduced surface water will require heavier use of groundwater from aquifers and wells especially in summer (drought)

- Possible damage to pipes, culverts, dams (landslides; extreme precip + storms; flooding)

- Overwhelmed stormwater drains lead to localized flooding or stormwater runoff into local

waterways (extreme precipitation + storms)

- Reduced water quality from heat and/or pollution runoff (heat; flooding; extreme precipitation + storms)

## Zoning and Development

#### Impacts:

- Damage to commercial and residential property including temporary, public, and supportive housing (wildfire; landslides; extreme precipitation + storms; flooding)

- High insurance costs resulting from repeated disasters (flooding; wildfire)

- In high-risk areas, land may become unsuitable for development but more suitable for open space preservation (flooding; wildfire; landslides)

- Disruptions to communcation infrastructure including internet, cell, and mail service (wildfire; landslides; extreme precipitation + storms; flooding)



## Appendix C: Resilience Goals Brainstorm Flip Charts

