

CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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1300 Franklin Street PO Box 5000 Vancouver, WA 98666-5000 564.397.2000

Clark County Climate Change Planning Environmental Justice Coalition Meeting #7 August 5, 2024, 3:30-6:30pm PT Public Service 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

Environmental Justice Coalition members:

- Alana Tudela (Pacific Islander Health Board of Washington)
- Ana Bentancourt (Latino Leadership NW)
- Gabriela Mendoza Ewing (Pasitos Gigantes)
- Josh Jones (Partners in Careers)

- Monica Zazueta (League of United Latin American Citizens # 47026 -Vancouver Metro)
- Rebecca O'Brien (Free Clinic of Southwest Washington)
- Tavie Keo (iUrban Teen)
- Yolanda Frazier (NAACP Vancouver)

Environmental Justice Coalition alternates: Abby Hollopeter (Odyssey World International Education Services), Jude Wait (Farm Food Justice Network), Lika Smith (Pacific Islander Health Board of Washington), Paris Nelson (Fourth Plain Forward), Roz Leon Guerrero (Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington), and Thuy Huynh (Vietnamese Community of Clark County)

County staff: Chris Cook, Jenna Kay, Amy Koski, and Harrison Husting

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

Number of members of the public in attendance: 1

Welcome

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

- Reflect on public engagement members have conducted to date.
- Discuss public outreach for Greenhouse Gas Sub-Element.

Additionally, Ben reviewed meeting logistics and greeted members of the public, noting that there would be a public comment opportunity at the end of the meeting. Ben also noted that AI notetaking tools were being used in the meeting and asked members to not use those tools due to potential issues with their use and the Open Public Meetings Act. Ben then asked if members had corrections for Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) Meeting Summary #6. There were no suggested corrections, and the summary was accepted as is.

Project Updates

Jenna Kay, Clark County, provided project updates, sharing that there was a new batch of comments from EJC members and a few public comments since the last meeting. Jenna added that the meeting materials included a detailed copy of the full Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory report for reference.

Jenna also reminded EJC members to submit their invoices and project reports for Phase One engagement activities to Laura, Amy, or herself as soon as possible. Additionally, Jenna shared that Phase Two and Three engagement activities can now begin using the provided questions. Assistance is available for modifying the questions based on EJC member needs.

Jenna added that Phase Three translated questions were sent out on Friday, and feedback on the translation is requested by August 12.

The last CAG meeting had similar discussions about the GHG Sub-Element to what the EJC discussed at their last meeting and closed the loop on a few Resilience policies. The CAG is now shifting its focus to the GHG Sub-Element. The project team is conducting further analysis on the Resilience policy list and will bring it back to the EJC for additional input in the coming months. Finally, Jenna announced that there will be no meeting in September due to Labor Day and the beginning of the school year, with the next meeting scheduled for October.

EJC Announcements

EJC Members shared the following announcements and invited members to their events (listed below):

- The Bodega Night Market will be held on August 24 5-9pm at La Casita Art Gallery & Cultural Center and there will tables available for members to share the project surveys if they are interested.
- Pacific Islander Health Board of Washington and the Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington (PICA-WA) are holding several upcoming events.
 - September 5: Interactive activities with Pacific Islander youth about environmental justice.
 - September 13: Discussion group with community leaders where they will conduct the survey.
 - September 14: Back-to-school fair, where they will have a focus group discussion from 10:00 am -12:00 pm, as well as engagement events from 1:00 - 4:00 pm with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Licensing. At the fair, they will distribute back-to-school supplies. The survey will be available at the event and the event will include interactive activities.
- Odyssey World International Education Services (OWIES) and Fourth Plain Forward will hold a listening party on August 15 for OWIES's recent Women's Mosaic podcast episode. There will be an opportunity to distribute surveys.
- The League of United Latin American Citizens Vancouver Metro is holding an event on September 7 from 11:00 am 3:00 pm and will feature an introduction to doughnut economics, art, free food, music, and dancing, with translation available in Spanish and Chuukese.
- Pasitos Gigantes is holding an engagement event during the week of August 19 (exact date to be determined) and will have backpacks for children in need, fun activities, games, and food.
- Vietnamese Community of Clark County will hold a mid-autumn celebration on September 14, where surveys will also be conducted.
- Farm Food Justice Network (FFJN) asked the group if they would be interested in participating in a multisector discussion on food justice. There was interest from some EJC members. FFJN will coordinate with county staff on communicating information out to the EJC. If a quorum of the EJC members plan to attend the event, county staff would publish a special meeting notice in alignment with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Reflection on Engagement

Jenna reviewed the project decision-making process and public engagement framework, emphasizing the importance of reviewing feedback through an Equity Lens to improve policies.

Jenna shared key takeaways from feedback gathered during Phase One engagement activities, which focused on understanding peoples' experiences with climate impacts and severe weather. Some key themes from Phase One indicated that smokey air was a major concern, extreme cold significantly affected the houseless community, and extreme temperatures had widespread impacts, including health issues, high energy bills, and disruption to daily life. Financial impacts from extreme weather were mentioned often, with vulnerable community members being particularly affected.

Community members who shared feedback expressed a desire for improved community connections and access to jobs related to building resilience. Jenna asked the group if the key themes she shared accurately summarized what EJC members had heard during Phase One engagement and if there was anything missing.

EJC members shared the following reflections:

- EJC members were concerned about how these surveys would be accepted by the community. They shared that community members had more pressing concerns in their lives, other than climate change, and may not be interested in the surveys for this project. There was a suggestion to add more language into the key themes summary, noting that people are more focused on day-to-day concerns than climate change.
- Mental health impacts are intrinsically tied to climate impacts and extreme weather. EJC members mentioned how many community members, especially youth, were more interested in the impacts of climate change on their mental health than the economy.
- EJC members discussed the compounding effects of severe weather impacts, noting that this causes stress for people and takes up mental space. Members discussed how underlying economic and social systems create different risks and trauma for different people, and how these impacts are exacerbated by climate change.
- EJC members suggested including questions in upcoming surveys asking about participants' wellbeing.
- The economic impacts of climate change are top of mind for the people EJC members work with. EJC members have found that people are more concerned about their ability to work and pay rent, than the cause of extreme weather (like ice storms) that may keep them from working.
- Transportation is an important topic in EJC members' communities, especially transportation to and from work.
- EJC members shared that both they and their communities are concerned that there is a lack of collaboration between the City of Vancouver and Clark County.

Outreach Discussion

Tracy Lunsford, Parametrix, led a discussion on community engagement for the GHG Sub-Element, focusing on the importance of asking questions to gather meaningful feedback from community members that can also help shape the project. She emphasized the goal of identifying high-impact measures to reduce GHG emissions, which will be evaluated using a multi-criteria framework and the Equity Lens. To achieve this, the project team proposed a few questions to ask community members for EJC consideration and feedback:

1. How will these strategies impact you? Will they help or harm you?

- 2. What should we consider as we develop these strategies into policies?
- 3. What barriers or opportunities exist to accessing these strategies? What help do you need accessing them?

Tracy provided an example GHG reduction measure related to promoting bicycling and walking. Feedback such as concerns about safety, lack of bike lanes, and travel time are examples of feedback her team has heard when working with other communities and could be used to refine strategies for creating a safe and well-connected bicycle and pedestrian network. The discussion highlighted the importance of customizing actions to local needs and incorporating community feedback to ensure effective implementation The goal is to integrate greenhouse gas reduction actions into Clark County's Comprehensive Plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Tracy shared another example GHG strategy related to electric vehicles and infrastructure. Ben asked the group to try answering the three engagement questions with this example strategy in mind. As they answer the questions, Ben asked them to consider if the questions make sense, if they are easy to answer and understand, and if they need more information to answer them. Feedback from this activity will help the team refine the engagement questions.

Below is a summary of the group's discussion. Comments from the Zoom chat are included. Refer to <u>Appendix A</u> to review the chat. The discussion is separated into feedback on the electric vehicle example policy and feedback on the engagement questions.

Feedback on example GHG strategy:

- Members discussed that the Latinx community will need education to understand why electric vehicles are better for the environment.
- The group discussed potential barriers to owning and using electric vehicles, which included the following:
 - A lot of community members live in apartments and have limited space to store electric bikes, and park or charge electric cars.
 - Undocumented people may not be able to access federal subsidy programs.
 - Some people do not have credit scores, which is required to purchase vehicles.
- There was a question about if subsidy programs would consider peoples' gross income and taxes.
- A few members discussed the importance of people understanding what goes into making an electric vehicle.
- Education should be provided to help people understand how to maintain electric bikes and vehicles.
- Community members' cultural preferences, comfort with using technology, and understanding of technology should be considered when thinking about accessibility.
- Members wanted to know how the strategies will be put in place and what the incentives for electric vehicles will be like because the cost may prevent implementation.
- There was interest in the tradeoffs in becoming dependent on batteries.
- There was frustration that the focus of many government agencies is only on electric vehicles. A member expressed a desire to see subsidies for hybrid vehicles.
- There was a suggestion to include subsidy programs for electrifying home, landscaping and farming tools, and possibly using electric equipment as a steppingstone to electric vehicles.
- Members discussed how some of these strategies (and the questions we ask about them) would not be relevant to community members who were undocumented. They shared

frustration that many of the programs or incentives would not apply to those who were undocumented or if they would be restricted based on who had an EIN number.

- Members discussed engaging youth and how questions could be framed for youth in a way that generates interest in electric vehicles.
- The group discussed how people with low-income are more concerned with their day-today necessities than paying for electric cars – or other climate change topics. They suggested adding questions to the survey that ask people if they are OK and if they have what they need to survive.

Feedback on the proposed engagement questions:

- A member suggested the following edits to the engagement questions. Several other EJC members agreed with these edits.
 - Original: How will these strategies impact you? Will they help or harm you?
 - Edited: How will these plans affect your daily life? Will they make things better or worse for you?
 - Original: What should we consider as we develop these strategies into policies?
 - Edited: What should we think about when making these plans into rules?
 - Original: What barriers or opportunities exist to accessing these strategies? What help do you need accessing them?
 - Edited: What problems might you have using these plans? How can we make it easier for you to use them?
- There was also an alternate suggestion to the above edits to integrate each strategy into the question. Many members agreed on the importance of engaging and communicating with community members using accessible and equitable dialogue, and that the wording of the questions should be simple so that everyone can understand the terms used.
- There was a suggestion to separate the third question into two separate questions to make it easier to answer.
- There was a suggestion to use a scalar question format when asking these questions in a survey.
- It was shared by many participants that they first have to help community members understand why they are talking with them about climate change as opposed to topics that are more urgent (like making rent).
- One member suggested adding an open ended, qualitative question to the survey that would give people an opportunity to share other concerns they have outside of this project: "This survey will focus on x but we recognize that you may have other priority concerns outside of x. What would you like to share that you're concerned about before spending time on the X, Y, Z?"
- Community members' comfort using technology should be considered when thinking about how to engage them.
- A member was concerned that these strategies will be promoted but not enforced.
- There was a suggestion to change the following words in the questions: Change "strategies" to "plans", "policies" to "rules," and "subsidies" to "free support programs."

Ben raised a concern about how to address the real-life struggles that community members are facing, such as issues with rent and meeting their basic needs, which can overshadow discussions about climate change. He wondered how EJC members and the project team can navigate these priorities in outreach efforts.

Jenna acknowledged the challenge of engaging community members who have pressing and urgent day-to-day, needs and suggested adapting questions to better reflect community members' immediate concerns. She pointed out that adjusting questions to align with key issues like housing and daily survival could make the engagement process more relevant. This might look different for different community groups. There are already some great examples of adapting questions and approaches in early EJC member work.

Lauren, Amy, and Jenna are available to meet with EJC members to discuss options for adapting feedback opportunities or questions if that would be helpful. Amy added that the feedback from these discussions is being carefully recorded and will be included in the final engagement summary report for each project phase. The engagement summary will then be reviewed and considered as part of the equity lens, to help integrate the feedback into proposed policies. Amy also noted the importance of noting challenges encountered during community interactions in progress reports, which is helpful information for understanding and learning how to best engage community members.

Amy thanked everyone for their participation in the discussion. She then shared more information about the upcoming engagement schedule:

- Phase 1 engagement: Need final data and progress reports to wrap-up
- Phase 2 engagement: Underway. Wrap-up engagement in Aug.
- Phase 3 engagement: Questions now available. Lauren/Amy/Jenna available to discuss modifications, discussion format, etc. Wrap-up engagement by end of Sep.
- Phase 4 engagement: County to revise questions based on today's conversation and share a draft for EJC review and feedback. Goal is to have a final set of questions available in English in late August or early September, with translated versions available later in September. Wrap-up phase 4 engagement before the Dec. EJC meeting.

Public Comment

Ben opened the public comment period. There were no public comments.

Ben 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>.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Tracy reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and noted that the schedule has been updated since the beginning of the project. Ben reminded the EJC that there will be no meeting in September and reviewed next steps for EJC members, which consisted of:

- Reviewing their work plan tasks for the months of August, September, and October and reaching out to Amy, Lauren, and Jenna with any questions or support needed to complete those tasks.
- Submit invoice forms.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, 3:30-6:30p.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm PT.

Appendix A: Zoom Chat

Below is a verbatim transcript of the webinar Zoom chat.

Time	Sender	Message
15:30:13	From Alana LG Tudela	Hi all!! Good! I'll be on mute since I have the kiddos home.
15:34:32	From Tavie Keo	Hi! Joining from my phone, I will be in my car where it's quiet momentarily
15:36:39	From Tavie Keo	Were y'all able to hear me?
15:41:59	From Jenna Kay	Hi Tavie, confirming that yes we could hear you.
15:42:47	Maria Verano	For Zoom technical issues, email mverano@kearnswest.com
15:47:15	Maria Verano	Email comments to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov or submit a comment online: https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp- plan-comments
16:00:10	From Tavie Keo	I do have to step out for a work training, I look forward to reading the notes. Thanks everyone for the updates!
16:01:55	From Alana Tudela	Our fliers and details for our events will be posted soon!
16:15:48	From Paris Nelson	💍 Go team!
16:17:45	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	I'm back
16:27:03	From Almendra Velazquez :	Thank you for sharing Monica
17:11:58	From Jude - Farm & Food Justice Network	Disruption in food access (getting to the food; availability of food; distribution).
16:18:26	From Jude - Farm & Food Justice Network	food supply chain disruption
16:20:18	From Jude - Farm & Food Justice Network	Nice detail and examples, Jenna. I assume these are in report(s) associated with the slide on Key Themes

16:21:32	From Amy Koski	Yes, the key themes Jenna is presenting are from the Updated Draft Phase 1 Engagement Summary Report in the meeting materials packet.
16:46:40	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	Dear PICA-WA. Great work! If you'd like, we can ask the Farm & Food Justice Network if anyone has available plants (or seeds) they might donate or suggest for edible opportunities (edible flowers, herbs, cherry tomatoes, strawberry), depending on the season, size, and ease-of-care). Maybe you already have a nursery donating plants for the kids; it just seemed like bee habitat (flowering) or edible might be additionally environmentally educational:) for the nurturing thanks! Jude, wellsavellc@gmail.com
16:54:21	From Alana Tudela	Thank you, Jude! We will look into it for our upcoming events :)
16:54:45	From Roz Leon Guerrero	@Jude Thank you. We will connect with you on this.
17:09:52	From Maria Verano	How will these strategies impact you? Will they help or harm you?
		What should we consider as we develop these strategies into policies?
		What barriers or opportunities exist to accessing these strategies? What help do you need accessing them?
17:11:22	From Ben Duncan	How will these strategies impact you? Will they help or harm you?
		What should we consider as we develop these strategies into policies?
		What barriers or opportunities exist to accessing these strategies? What help do you need accessing them?
17:11:54	From Tavie Keo	I just joined back and unfortunately missed the presentation, is there possibly a deck for me to peruse?
17:12:02	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	Is Electric Vehicles the only GHG strategy u want us to think about?

17:13:04	From Nicole Metildi	Tavie, we are taking a moment to answer the following questions in reaction to the Example GHG Strategy on screen:
		How will these strategies impact you? Will they help or harm you?
		What should we consider as we develop these strategies into policies?
		What barriers or opportunities exist to accessing these strategies? What help do you need accessing them?
17:13:19	From Paris Nelson	Original: How will these strategies impact you? Will they help or harm you?
		Edited: How will these plans affect your daily life? Will they make things better or worse for you?
		Original: What should we consider as we develop these strategies into policies?
		Edited: What should we think about when making these plans into rules?
		Original: What barriers or opportunities exist to accessing these strategies? What help do you need accessing them?
		Edited: What problems might you have using these plans? How can we make it easier for you to use them?
17:13:39	From Nicole Metildi	We will share a link to a PDF of the PowerPpoint in the follow-up email
17:13:55	From Lika Smith	Being able to purchase a vehicle is also dependent on credit ratings and a lot of our community doesn't have the best credit ratings. Plus the supply chain, can it manage everyone jumping to electric vehicles?
17:16:19	From Paris Nelson	Targeted feedback with example:
		Original: How will these strategies impact you? Will they help or harm you?
		Edited: How will building more electric vehicle charging stations and offering subsidies for electric cars and bikes affect your daily life? Will it make things better or worse for you?

		Original: What should we consider as we develop these strategies into policies?
		Edited: What should we think about when making rules for building more electric vehicle charging stations and giving subsidies for electric cars and bikes?
		Original: What barriers or opportunities exist to accessing these strategies? What help do you need accessing them?
		Edited: What problems might you have with using electric vehicle charging stations or getting subsidies for electric cars and bikes? How can we make it easier for you to use these?
17:19:09	From Ana Betancourt Macias	Here are my thoughts on these questions. The Latine community is very set when it comes to traditions. We would have to introduce education on why electric vehicles are better for the environment. I am thinking of financial stability, because we would need money to get the cars. status, to be able to apply for programs. A lot of our community lives in apartments and have limited space for bikes or where to park and charge their cars.
17:20:02	From President Yolanda Frazier	Paris, I appreciate your rephrasing of the questions asked. This exemplifies accessible, equitable dialogue when communicating and engaging with our communities. We have to be mindful of how we speak and engage with our communities.
17:21:02	From Lika Smith	l echo Ana.
17:23:34	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	Clarifying that these questions are for survey(s) and/or discussion feedback? I appreciate Paris' edits that restate the details of the question spelled out. For a survey, a scalar response mode is another approach. Qualitative approach in a survey Writing out answers is less likely to get survey response.
17:23:47	From Abby Hollopeter	100% agree with what Paris and Ana said.
17:24:07	From Dania Otto EJC	I feel like for some of our communities that are struggling and trying to just survive, a topic like this, electric cars is over their heads. We will have to first make them understand why we are talking about this as oppose to talking about meeting basic human needs.

17:24:09	From President Yolanda Frazier	Paris, I appreciate your rephrasing of the questions asked. This exemplifies accessible, equitable dialogue when communicating and engaging with our communities. We have to be mindful of how we speak and engage with our communities.
17:24:54	From Paris Nelson	Barriers to consider:
		-Tech comfort: level of comfort with new tech associated with EVs
		-Complex application processes
		-Cultural preferences: familiarity and perceived reliability of EVs (folks gotta trust they can get to work)
		-infrastructure: space for these options for renters
		-Economic: fear of upfront costs, maintenance costs, ect for EVs
17:28:15	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	How do we transition from our gas guzzlers? Recycling? Reclaiming? What are the options for the path to electrifying? What are the tradeoffs to battery dependence?
17:29:29	From Gabriela Ewing	Using simple language is best to be fully understood by everyone
17:31:20	From Lika Smith	Why only the focus on electric vehicles? Why not offer baby steps, ie, hybrid vehicle subsidies?
17:39:58	rom thuyhuynh	thank you
17:42:03	From Tavie Keo	How can we frame these questions for youth to genuinely care about these topics like switching to electric? Especially those who don't have the ability to drive or are too young to drive. Some of the youth are not really concerned about electric/hybrid vehicles at this point in their lives
17:47:34	From President Yolanda Frazier	Dania I appreciate your intentional mindful efforts with your community. This exudes creating equitable environments & meeting our people exactly where they're at.
17:49:47	From Paris Nelson	I wish we could do a test drive campaign with EVs or an EV car sharing program to get folks hands on experience with the subject.
17:54:31	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	Yes. What does it imply that we are seeking input / your voices at the table. Hopefully the conversations benefit the communities and members, whether the GHG issues are relevant priorities or not. Dear youth,

		climate projections are scary, and not enviable. Perhaps connecting with other Climate Action Youth initiatives Youth taking the gov't to court! Good luck:) And yes, activism is a privilege.
17:58:47	From Paris Nelson	Perhaps:
		Strategies = plans
		Policies = rules
		Subsidies = free support programs
18:03:38	From Paris Nelson	Got this via DM in chat, wanted to share out
		Rebecca at 6:02: sorry I couldn't jump in - trying to finish up my kid's dinner. but my only thoughts are to echo the need for using more simplified language for the questions. I like the suggestions Paris offered for the alternate verbiage!
18:03:53	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	We have hybrid busses in Vancouver (education opportunity) that look empty how can bus riding be more inclusive and convenient for a wide array of people (versus the SUV-dominant) patterns. There are cities where the ALL income level people ride the bus! Busses that can carry bikes and wheel chairs.
18:06:58	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	@thuyhuynh I hope you get to share here:)
18:07:56	From Monica Zazueta	Questions: What do we need to survive? What are our wants? What can you not live without? What can you live without?
18:09:06	From Monica Zazueta	Q: Are you ok? Why or why not?
18:11:18	From Paris Nelson	Perhaps we can add a open ended qualitative ? that opens with something like:
		This survey will focus on x but we recognize that you may have other priority concerns outside of x. What would you like to share that you're concerned about before spending time on the X, Y, Z?
18:11:51	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	()))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))
18:15:10	From Ana Betancourt Macias	I am almost done with the Spanish survey. I'll try to be done by this week.
18:18:27	From Jenna Kay	Awesome, thanks Ana!
18:18:40	From Maria Verano	Email comments to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov or submit a comment online:

		https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/comp- plan-comments
18:18:58	From Monica Zazueta	Q: Would a publicly owned, permanently affordable, resident leadership housing option help with your mental health?
18:24:24	From Jude, Farm-Food Justice Network	Has anyone considered combining phase 2 and 3 surveys?
18:26:20	From Tavie Keo	Thank you, everyone!! ♥
18:26:28	From Roz Leon Guerrero	Thank you