



## Staff Report

November 6, 2023 Council Workshop Meeting

Interlocal Agreement with Clark County and Clark County jurisdictions for Cooperative Climate Planning

Presenter: Alan Peters, Community Development Director

Time Estimate: 15 minutes

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**BACKGROUND:** The City of Camas is undergoing a periodic review and update to its Comprehensive Plan required by the Growth Management Act (GMA). The updated Comprehensive Plan will include a climate element, now required by the GMA after HB 1181 was enacted earlier this year. Clark County and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Washougal, and the town of Yacolt are proposing to cooperate and share some costs related to meeting these new climate planning requirements. The costs associated with this interlocal agreement would be covered by a climate planning grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** HB 1181 was enacted this year, requiring local governments to plan for climate change impacts as part of their comprehensive planning processes. Under the new requirements, localities must add a climate change element to comprehensive plans. This element must include an emissions reduction sub-element and a resiliency sub-element.

Because these requirements also apply to Clark County and the cities within Clark County, the County and cities have proposed some collaboration to meet new GMA climate requirements. While cities would ultimately still be responsible for developing their own climate elements and identifying local goals and policies, the cities and County will collectively identify baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventories for each city and vehicle miles traveled inventories for each city. This data will help inform policy decisions and the setting of greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled reduction targets.

The cities and County would also collaborate on identifying foundational data, research, and technical support in development of the required resiliency sub-element. This effort will provide an exploration of climate impacts, an audit of existing plans and policies, and assessment of climate vulnerability and risk.

A detailed scope of work is provided as an attachment to the proposed interlocal agreement. The City of Camas' contribution is \$40,096.37. The entirety of this fee would be reimbursed by a climate planning grant from the Department of Commerce.

**BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:** Collecting baseline data will assist the City with setting targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. Cooperation with Clark County and other jurisdictions will ensure that grant funding is used efficiently through economies of scale.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** Fees associated with this interlocal agreement will be reimbursed by a climate planning grant from the Department of Commerce.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the interlocal agreement between and among Clark County and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Washougal, and the town of Yacolt for cooperative climate planning be placed on the November 20, 2023, Council Regular Meeting consent agenda for Council's consideration and approval.