



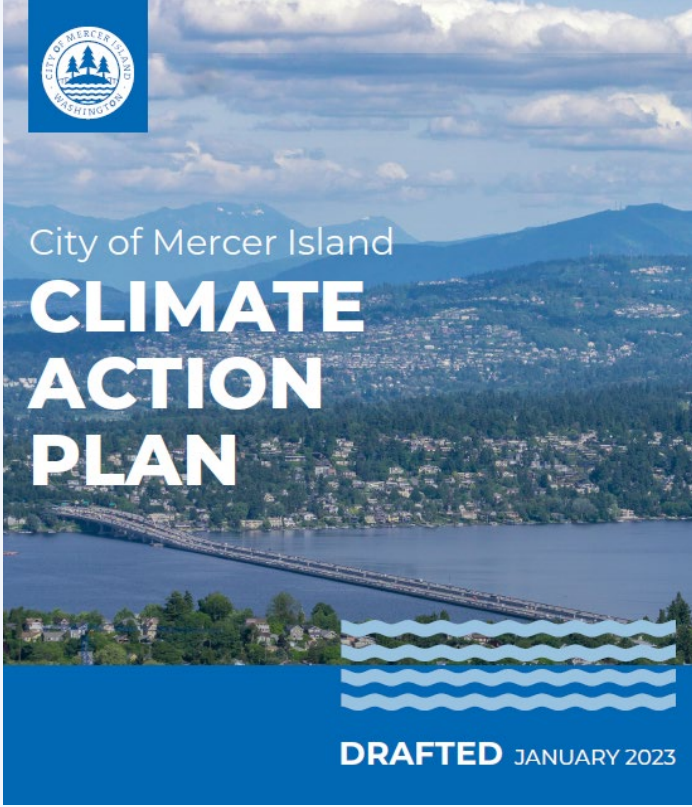
AB 6235

**MI Climate Action Plan:
Review Draft Document**

March 7, 2023

Agenda

- Introductions
- Climate Action Plan (CAP) Recap
- Public Comment Period Overview
- Next Steps
- Discussion Items





CAP Recap

Work done to date

Where Are We in the CAP Process (2022)?

Sept/Oct:

- Conduct and analyze community-wide random sample survey

Nov:

- Present survey results to Council (Nov 15 Mtg)
- Host Community Workshop (Nov 29)
- Refine GHG actions
- Perform Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA)

Dec:

- Develop Implementation Plan
- Begin CAP drafting



Where Are We in the CAP Process (2023)?

- **Jan 11:** Publish Draft CAP for 4-week review
- **Jan 11- Feb 7:** Public Comment Period
- **Jan 17:** Present Draft CAP to City Council
- **Feb 7:** Public Hearing
- **Feb/Mar:** Research edits, draft new text, respond to comments
- **Mar 7:** Discuss and approve edits to Draft CAP
- **Mar/Apr:** Implement revisions, finalize layout
- **Apr 4:** Potential adoption of Final CAP



Public Comment Period

Rec'd via 5 main channels, available online at <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/climate-action-plan>

Konveio

- 339 site views
- 62 unique site visitors
- 120 comments
- 10 unique commenters

Let's Talk

- 3 questions from 3 residents
- 1 comment from one resident

E-mail

- 10 emails from 10 residents

Letters

- 2 letters on behalf of Mercer Islanders for Sustainable Spending
- 1 from a private citizen
- 1 from Seattle King County Realtors
- 1 from PSE

Public hearing

- 8 residents testified

"Now this is exciting! Glad to see it. Love the "early action". Count me in!"

"This is great but please develop a policy for PLASTIC which has been completely omitted from this plan."

"Unless someone can quantify the benefit that community gardens will have on our community's carbon emissions, I suggest moving this action to some other part of the city's agenda, not the CAP."

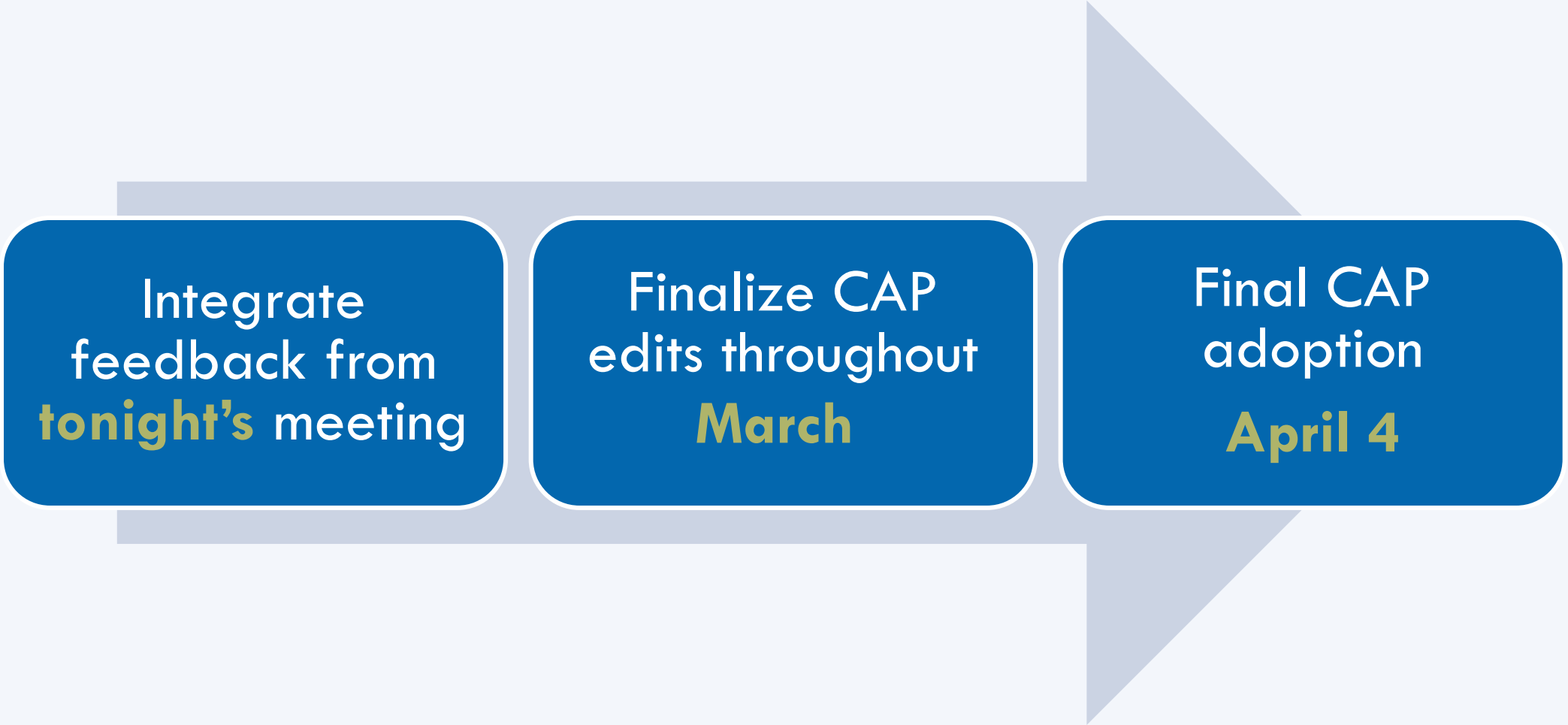


Council Comment

- **Approx 60 Council comments and questions**



Proposed Next Steps



Integrate feedback from **tonight's** meeting

Finalize CAP edits throughout **March**

Final CAP adoption **April 4**





Discussion Items

Exhibit 2 – Q&A

Exhibit 2 Q&A Matrix

- **22 Comments and questions answered but not identified for specific plan revision**

AB 6235 – Exhibit 2 – Q&A Matrix

Log #	Name	Page #	Comment/Question	Staff Response
01	Mayor Nice	General	Where do we stand with the CAP being population adjusted from 2007 to 2050? The incredible growth the region and the city have experienced and will experience is an overwhelming counterforce to all the CAP hopes to accomplish. I always believe that a successful plan needs to be set up for success. Implementing a CAP based on 2007 base year emissions with a 95% reduction by 2050 without considering the significant population growth is a recipe for failure.	The GHG modeling and PSRC, and growth in the account for e that the "Bus continues to emissions from emissions re wedge) to me time.
02	Council-member Reynolds	General	The big picture observation I have is that the goals here are often not very specific. A lot of goals are some variation on "consider" or "explore" or similar. I do not think these are sufficiently specific to be meaningful. For example, we "considered" these items by putting them in our plan. So are we done? I think we need to think about phrasing these as SMART (specific, measurable, actionable, realistic, and time bound) goals. (I recognize time bound may not be practical, given these will require council action, but maybe we can do SMART goals.)	Staff advises The language administratio allow. Staff will incor actions as di
03	Council-member Reynolds	General	Can you please provide spreadsheet or similar versions of all matrices so that I can sort and compare and pivot?	Staff will com Council at the descriptions,



Exhibit 3 – New Executive Summary

Exhibit 3 New Section: Executive Summary

- **2-page summary suggested by Sustainability Committee**
- **One footnote reference to be slightly modified**

City of Mercer Island
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

**Mercer Island CAP – New Section:
Executive Summary (Draft)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Location in CAP:** Page 1.

Taking decisive climate action has never been more urgent across the Pacific Northwest. People are already experiencing the economic and health impacts of changes to global climate patterns including rising temperatures, changes in rainfall and river flow, and reduced snowpack. Communities with significant topography like Mercer Island may be at risk for landslides from intense rain events in the winter, in addition to localized flooding. Conversely, hotter, drier summers are making wildfire increasingly likely even west of the Cascade Mountains. Air quality impacts from the persistent smoke plumes generated by regional fires are now all too familiar. ¹

According to experts at the University of Washington’s Climate Impacts Group² there is no better example of the changes ahead than the unprecedented June 2021 heatwave that swept across the Pacific Northwest, with record-breaking temperatures that climbed 30°F above average. Seattle exceeded 100°F for three days straight, reaching a peak of 108°F, and Portland, Oregon reached 116°F. As one of the least air-conditioned regions in the United States (just 54% of homes in Seattle), the region experienced a



Exhibit 4 – New Callout Box

Exhibit 4

New Callout Box:

"The Cost of Inaction"

- Suggested by public and Sustainability Committee

City of Mercer Island
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

**Mercer Island CAP – New Callout Box:
The Cost of Inaction (Draft)**

“THE COST OF INACTION” CALLOUT BOX

- **Location in CAP:** Implementation plan introductory sections (p.39)

Failure to act on climate change has implications not only for community health and wellbeing but also to local and global economies.

Delaying action incurs both direct costs from damages caused by climate impacts (such as destruction to infrastructure and increased insurance costs to address increased wildfire and flooding) as well as potential savings missed through advancements to lower cost energy and other technological advancements. Many experts predict that over several decades these costs could far outpace the costs of investing in climate action today. On a global scale, some models indicate, insufficient action could cost \$178 trillion over the next 50 years—a 7.6% cut to global gross domestic product (GDP) in the year 2070 alone.¹



Exhibit 5 – New Callout Box

Exhibit 5 New Callout Box: "Green Power"

- Response to public and Councilmember questions

City of Mercer Island
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

**Mercer Island CAP – New Callout Box:
Green Power (Draft)**

GREEN POWER CALLOUT BOX

- **Location in CAP:** Buildings & energy action matrix (p.27)

How does the green power program affect emissions?

Residents enrolled in the PSE Green Power Program pay a premium on their energy bill that is then invested in local renewable energy projects that generate clean power sourced by PSE and other regional utilities. Increasing the portion of renewable energy in its energy mix reduces the overall carbon intensity of PSE's electricity for everyone, thereby reducing the emissions generated from powering Mercer Island homes and businesses. The PSE program is monitored and certified by a third party, Green-e, which certifies similar programs nationally. Green-e audits the PSE program annually to ensure that ratepayers' dollars are being invested appropriately.

The individual paying the premium does not receive more electrons of renewable energy than their neighbor. Instead, they are sending a market signal— by paying slightly more now, they are adding more renewable energy in the future to the Pacific Northwest power-supply grid for the benefit of all.



Exhibit 6 – Revised Natural Systems Section

Exhibit 6 Revised Section: Natural Systems

- Prior section was not complete & responds to public and Council comments

City of Mercer Island
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Mercer Island CAP – Page 33
Revised Natural Systems Section (Draft)

Natural systems (e.g., trees, soil) store and capture carbon from the atmosphere and provide important climate resiliency services. For example, natural cooling from tree shade reduces extreme heat stress and decreases energy demand for air conditioning. Conserving valuable water resources also helps ensure that Mercer Island is resilient against future droughts and can maintain a healthy water supply in the years ahead.

Focus area goal: Foster climate resilient natural landscapes by protecting vital habitats, ecosystems, and natural resources, and conserving water resources.

Strategy	KPI/Metric	2030 Target	2050 Target
Increase urban tree canopy and green space.	Increase in tree canopy acreage (% of city coverage) and replacement counts ¹	Maintain current canopy and increase canopy by 5% compared to 2018 <u>Ensure City's tree replacement ratio for trees lost on public lands is at least 5:1.</u> <u>Continue to prioritize retention of healthy, mature</u>	Maintain current canopy and increase canopy by 15% <u>All new City plantings are climate-adapted species.</u> <u>Increase tree canopy on private land by 15%.</u>



Suggested Motion

Motion to approve Exhibits 3, 4, 5 & 6.



Exhibit 7 – Items Recommended for Approval

Exhibit 7

Items Recommended for City Council Approval

- Summarizes 47 items based on Council and public input
- Staff recommend these changes be approved
- Some minor edits (post-publication) identified with yellow highlight

AB 6235 – Exhibit 7 [Revised] – Items Recommended for City Council Approval [Yellow highlight]

Log #	Name	Page	Comment/Question/Engagement Theme
Other suggestions/feedback and staff recommendations			
1	Public	All	Adjustments to footnotes, typos, grammar.
2	Public	Gen	Confusion over the importance/relevance of climate resiliency actions that have no or little emissions impact, and why they would be prioritized for near term implementation.
3	Councilmember Reynolds	v	The definition of EV seems flawed: "Vehicles that derive all or part of their power from electricity." I would say that all vehicles derive part of their power from electricity. After all, all cars have batteries. Though not all are EVs. Perhaps a better definition would be something like: "A vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor that does not utilize fossil fuels for power." Note, this would exclude plug in hybrids that also have internal combustion engines, which seems appropriate in this context. Also, both these definitions use the word "vehicle", which in some cases can include boats, trains, planes, and more. I am not sure that is intended, so perhaps the word vehicle should be reconsidered.



Suggested Motion

Motion to approve Exhibit 7.



Exhibit 8 – Discussion Items

Exhibit 8

Items Recommended for City Council Discussion

- Summarizes 7 items that require discussion and direction from the City Council
- Some minor edits (post-publication) identified with yellow highlight

AB 6235 – Exhibit 8 [Revised] – Items Recommended for City Council Discussion [yellow hi

Log #	Name	Page	Comment/Question/Engagement Theme
Part A: Recommended discussion items based on City Council comments			
01	Mayor Nice	13	Climate Change and Equity: This paragraph addresses the impacts outside our borders and global inequities, many of which are grounded in economic and political factors. The statement is silent about importing dirty coal-generated electricity or environmentally impactful hydroelectricity and the inequity of a transition to electrification in this region. In contrast, the transition's pollution or environmental impacts are deposited or borne in another community. Should this equity statement be more inclusive of the inequities the CAP targets create or contribute to? Minimally, we need to understand the role of the equity statement in the plan and ensure it serves a purpose that doesn't conflict with the plan. Equity could have a role in each strategy's implementation.
02	Mayor Nice	18	Page 18, Who is most vulnerable?: Again, this statement doesn't speak to the vulnerabilities of the frontline



Exhibit 8.1 – Climate Change & Equity

Exhibit 8 – Log #01 Items Recommended for City Council Discussion

- Should equity statement be amended to be more locally-focused?
- Should it address potential inequities of GHG reduction actions?
- Should it identify ways to assist frontlines communities facing climate impacts?
- Staff present potential substitute text

01	Mayor Nice	13	Climate Change and Equity: This paragraph addresses the impacts outside our borders and global inequities, many of which are grounded in economic and political factors. The statement is silent about importing dirty coal-generated electricity or environmentally impactful hydroelectricity and the inequity of a transition to
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Proposed Revision:

Climate change disproportionately impacts frontline communities globally, regionally, and locally. Those with the least ability and resources to adapt are likely to fare the worst and already do in many locations. To ensure everyone can participate in CAP actions, the City will consider access through incentives, grants, and other financial support, particularly among low-income and under-resourced residents.



Exhibit 8.2 – Climate Change & Equity

Exhibit 8 – Log #02 Items Recommended for City Council Discussion

- **Should equity statement address potential inequities of GHG reduction actions?**
- **Should it identify ways to assist frontlines communities facing climate impacts?**
- **Staff present potential substitute text**

02	Mayor Nice	18	Page 18, Who is most vulnerable?: Again, this statement doesn't speak to the vulnerabilities of the frontline communities that this CAP might directly and negatively impact. What are we saying to the communities that house PSE's coal-fired plants? What are we saying to low-income individuals that proposed CAP strategies could negatively impact? I'm generally confused by the equity language that is trying to attach to an empirically driven CAP. We are saying that climate change has disparate impacts while ignoring that the CAP might have those same impacts. Again, we need to understand the intent of the equity language and how it has a role in the CAP strategies being assessed and potentially implemented at a future date. What is the equity lens for CAP implementation?
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Exhibit 8.3 – Gas Leaf Blowers

Exhibit 8 – Log #03 Items Recommended for City Council Discussion

- Should Action TR 2.4 implement a requirement to end gas leaf blowers usage, instead of “encourage”?

Log #	Name	Page	Comment/Question/Engagement Theme
03	Councilmember Reynolds	30	TR 2.4 on gas leaf blowers should be a requirement.



Exhibit 8.4 – Per-Capita Emissions

Exhibit 8 – Log #04 Items Recommended for City Council Discussion

- Add a new item to Implementation Plan regarding the tracking of *per-capita* emissions, in addition to total emissions.
- Staff response in yellow

04	Mayor Nice	38	Add a new bullet to "Implementation Plan" under the sub-heading "MONITORING, EVALUATING, & REPORTING," which addresses per capita emissions.
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Add a bullet as follows: **Report communitywide GHG emissions on a gross and per-capital adjusted basis as compared to a 2007 baseline.**

Staff will also modify the graph on page 19 to include a depiction of per-capita emissions data (currently found in the City's GHG Report)



Exhibit 8.5 – Using K4C vs PSRC Transportation Targets

Exhibit 8 – Log #05 Items Recommended for City Council Discussion

05	Public	8	Finalizing Transportation targets to use either K4C or PSRC numbers.
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- The CAP must finalize which transportation targets to use in the Transportation Section.
- Staff recommend sticking with the K4C targets



Exhibit 8.6 – Alternatives to Car Travel

Exhibit 8 – Log #06 Items Recommended for City Council Discussion

- Should CAP identify additional KPI's that track alternatives to car travel, such as: E-Bike ownership, or miles of new bike lanes added?

06	Public	28-30	Concern of over minimal focus on car alternatives (e.g. bike & scooter, etc). Shouldn't there be a KPI that tracks E-Bike ownership, miles of bike lane? The City's Ped-Bike Plan has been in existence since 1996, but has barely been implemented. We don't need a Ped-Bike Plan rewrite, we just need to elevate bike transportation as a solution in the CAP.
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Exhibit 8.7 – Single-Use Plastic Waste

Exhibit 8 – Log #07 Items Recommended for City Council Discussion

Log #	Name	Page	Comment/Question/Engagement Theme
07	Public	31	Support for CAP focusing more on reducing single use plastic waste

- Should CAP add an action focused on exploring a single-use plastic ban (in alignment with upcoming 2024 legislation)?

