



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6235
March 7, 2023
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6235: Climate Action Plan: Review Draft Document	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report on Climate Action Plan public comment period, discuss proposed changes, and provide direction to staff on revisions to the draft.	
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works	
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Ross Freeman, Sustainability Analyst	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds Jake Jacobson Ted Weinberg	
EXHIBITS:	1. Draft CAP document, available at: www.mercerisland.gov/CAP 2. Q&A Matrix 3. New Section: Executive Summary 4. New Callout Box: The Cost of Inaction 5. New Callout Box: Green Power 6. Revised Natural System Section – Targets, Strategies, and Actions 7. Items Recommended for City Council Approval 8. Items Recommend for City Council Discussion	
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	4. Focus efforts and actions to be an environmentally and fiscally sustainable, connected, and diverse community.	

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to review the input received on the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) (see Exhibit 1), to discuss and provide direction on potential revisions, and to review next steps toward plan adoption. [Note: This Agenda Bill was revised after initial publication. Changes to Exhibits 7 & 8 are shown in yellow highlight within those documents.]

- The staff presentation will include an overview of the plan process to date and introduce documents that summarize the comments received on the draft plan.
- Public comments on the draft CAP were gathered through the Let’s Talk engagement page, via an online commenting platform (“Konveio”), through a Public Hearing, via email, and through a handful of formal letters.

- The public comment period on the draft plan was open from January 11 to February 7, 2023. The City Council held a public hearing on the draft CAP at the February 7 Council meeting. In total, approximately 150 comments were received on the draft plan, some addressing multiple topics.
- Staff is seeking direction from the City Council on potential revisions to the plan which are summarized in the various exhibits and further detailed in the following sections of the agenda bill.

Adoption of the final CAP is anticipated in early April 2023.

BACKGROUND

In alignment with neighboring communities, the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), and the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), the City of Mercer Island has established a goal to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 95% by 2050, with interim targets of 50% reduction by 2030 and 75% reduction by 2040 (see [Resolution No. 1620](#), March 2022), compared to a 2007 baseline.

This Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines a roadmap for meeting this GHG emissions reduction commitment as well as achieving other important resiliency goals for the community, including preparing for unavoidable climate impacts, protecting valuable natural resources, and preserving quality of life on Mercer Island (see Exhibit 1).

The CAP is a long-term planning document that organizes GHG reduction actions and resiliency measures in a strategic manner. The CAP takes into account near-term and long-term resource needs and other considerations that will affect the City's ability to meet the emissions reductions targets. Staff expect to deliver an annual progress report to the City Council, provide online performance data updates to the public each year, and update the CAP approximately every 10 years.

CAP Public Engagement to Date

This CAP is the product of months of data collection and analysis, but also lengthy engagement with community members and organizations, the City Council, and City staff.

The CAP process launched in December 2021 and the City has used a range of measures to gather public input, including two online workshops, various outreach events and activities, online surveys, factsheets, the Let's Talk engagement platform, and the recent 4-week public comment period.

The City also conducted a citywide random sample survey in September 2022 (see [AB 6180](#)), sent by mail to 2,500 households. The survey had 264 responses (176 submitted via mail and 88 online). This 10% response allowed the City to achieve its desired 95% level of confidence, with a +/-6% margin of error. A parallel, general public, opt-in survey received another 123 responses online.

Overview of Draft CAP Comment Period

Staff promoted the public comment period widely via all City channels as well as local media. Over a four-week period comments were received via the following methods.

- Online commenting platform ("Konveio"):
 - 339 site views; 62 unique site visitors
 - 120 comments; 10 unique commenters
- Email:
 - 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 Puget Sound Energy
- Let's Talk Public Engagement Site (numbers only cover the Draft CAP phase):
 - 529 visitors to posted story about the Draft CAP comment period
 - 1 online comment from 1 resident
 - 3 online questions from 3 residents
- Public Hearing:
 - 8 speakers testified

Draft CAP Comment and Edit Summaries

In addition to the public input listed above, the project team reviewed suggestions from discussions held during the November 29 public workshop for other actionable content not already represented. Members of the City Council also submitted a range of comments and questions upon the release of the Draft CAP.

The feedback and suggestions were used to prepare recommendations on potential revisions to the draft plan, which are further summarized below. Please also see **Exhibit 2 – Q & A Matrix**, for a list of comments and questions that were not identified for a specific plan revision.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Staff have gathered and distilled the feedback on the draft plan into several exhibits for City Council review. Direction on each exhibit is needed to inform development of the final CAP Plan.

- **Exhibit 3 – New Section: Executive Summary**
This new section will be added to the beginning of the CAP Plan and was developed at the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee.
- **Exhibit 4 – New Callout Box: “The Cost of Inaction”**
This new callout box related to the “cost of inaction” was developed based on public feedback and recommendations from the Sustainability Committee.
- **Exhibit 5 – New Callout Box: “Green Power”**
Several comments and questions were received seeking additional information or clarification on PSE’s green power program: this new text is recommended to address those comments.
- **Exhibit 6 – Revised Natural Systems Section – Targets, Strategies and Actions**
When the Draft CAP was published the section on “Natural Systems” was not complete. Exhibit 6 includes the entirety of the “Natural Systems” section and reflects comments and feedback received from the City Council and the public.
- **Exhibit 7 – Items Recommended for City Council Approval**
This exhibit summarizes a list of recommended changes based on City Council and public input. The staff recommend the City Council approve these changes.
- **Exhibit 8 – Items Recommend for City Council Discussion**
The final exhibit includes a list of items/topics that require discussion and direction from the City Council.

NEXT STEPS

Based on direction from the City Council, the project team will incorporate revisions into the plan and will return with a final version for Council adoption, which is currently anticipated for April 4, 2023.

This final CAP will be circulated as part of the materials for the April 4 City Council Meeting and will also be published on the Let's Talk engagement platform, where all other CAP documents are posted (these are all available at: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/climate-action-plan>).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Approve Exhibits 3, 4 & 5, and direct staff to include the new text in the final CAP Plan.
2. Approve Exhibit 6 and direct staff to include the revisions to the "Natural Systems" section in the final CAP Plan.
3. Approve Exhibit 7 and direct staff to include the revisions in the final CAP plan.
4. Approve [*insert specific motion based on discussion related to topics in Exhibit 8.*]