



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

**AB 6147  
September 6, 2022  
Regular Business**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6147: Climate Action Plan: Finalize Survey Language and Contents	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Provide direction on the revised statistical survey.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Ross Freeman, Sustainability Analyst
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Craig Reynolds                      Jake Jacobson                      Ted Weinberg
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proposed Survey Tool (Draft) 2. Updated GHG Impacts and Wedges Memo
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda bill is to gather City Council guidance on a proposed statistical survey that will inform the ongoing development and drafting of the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP).

- The City’s CAP process launched in December 2021 and the City is now assessing the most appropriate survey tool to gather public input on, and gauge support for, a range of potential Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction actions.
- At its July 19 Meeting, the City Council reviewed a draft survey document and expressed a desire for the content to be shortened, and for the addition of some overarching questions regarding community climate and sustainability priorities.
- For the past two months, the Council Sustainability Committee has met weekly to develop a revised survey document (Exhibit 1).
- The City Council also requested additional information on the GHG implications of limiting the proposed survey to only those GHG actions that were graded by the Committee as “B+ & above” (based on approximated GHG gains and estimated cost). A revised Memo (Exhibit 2) from the City’s consultant outlines the GHG implications of limiting the City’s focus to this shortlist of 36 actions, vs the original suite of 58 actions.
- The City continues to use its Let’s Talk public engagement website to publish CAP documents, solicit feedback, and make announcements (see: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/climate-action-plan>).

## BACKGROUND

In 2007, the City adopted a GHG reduction target of 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050 (compared to a 2007 baseline). In 2011, Mercer Island became a founding member of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C). This alliance of 20 local governments helps support climate solutions, share success stories, advocate for legislation, and coordinate multi-city initiatives to achieve shared climate goals and targets. In June 2021, King County's Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) updated countywide planning policies that tightened the 2050 emissions target to a 95% reduction. The Mercer Island City Council ratified this, and other, new policies, with [Resolution No. 1620](#) on March 1, 2022, and it took effect on April 6, 2022.

The City's Climate Action Plan will provide a long-term cohesive planning document that organizes Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction actions and programs in a strategic manner in order to achieve the City's emissions targets as detailed above. It will also rank implementation priorities, quantify funding needs, identify a protocol for tracking progress on a regular schedule, and enhance the City's existing GHG Dashboard webpage.

Multiple sources of information contribute to the development of a robust CAP and include regional guidance documents and climate plan toolkits; commitments made by the City as part of its membership in the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C); successful components of other regional CAP's; consultant expertise; staff feedback; and public input. To date, informal public input has been gathered at various phases of the ongoing CAP process, including at the December 2021 kickoff event, via an online survey, through the commenting function of the City's Let's Talk engagement platform; emails and comments to Council; and more.

Public input can also be gathered through statistical surveys that may be assigned greater weight due to the fact that they are understood to represent the collective sentiments and priorities of all Mercer Island residents at a specified level of confidence. Similar to other recent City surveys, by mailing to a randomly selected subset of 2,500 Island addresses, the City can achieve a 95% level of confidence, assuming 400 surveys are returned.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Following the prior CAP presentation at the July 19 Council Meeting (see [AB 6123](#)), the Sustainability Committee and staff have been meeting weekly to revise the structure and content of the statistically valid survey.

### Revised Survey

The recommended survey, proposed by a majority of the Sustainability Committee is attached as Exhibit 1. The survey in Exhibit 1 is suggested as a response to Council's request for a shorter, tighter survey that also includes the addition of some overarching questions regarding community climate and sustainability priorities.

More specifically, Council directed the Committee to first limit the revised survey to GHG actions that scored at B+ or above in a Committee ranking exercise, resulting in a shortlist of 36 total actions. Then, if consultant analysis revealed that this shortlist of 36 actions would not allow the City to meet its 2030, 2040, and 2050 GHG goals, Council indicated that actions should be added back onto the list to meet these GHG goals.

In Exhibit 1, color-coded icons next to the survey questions indicate which actions are covered by each question, and whether that specific action appears on the “B+ & above list,” and/or on Cascadia’s “Refined List,” or on neither.

**Greenhouse Gas Impact Analysis**

An accompanying memo from Cascadia Consulting (Exhibit 2) outlines the GHG implications of limiting the City’s focus to a shortlist of 36 actions, vs. the original 58 actions. The memo assesses the impacts of using a “B+ & above” methodology from three different perspectives, namely: the six overall CAP Focus Areas; the 14 CAP Strategies; and the 11 CAP levers available in the interactive wedge analysis tool. Based on this assessment, Cascadia has suggested its “Refined/Alternative List” of 35 GHG and resiliency actions if the Council wishes to limit itself to a reduced total.

Also contained in the memo is a revised “wedge analysis” for each of the three GHG scenarios under consideration, and a corresponding assessment of whether the City can meet its stated GHG targets using each approach. A wedge analysis is a data-driven graphical depiction of the relative contribution of various federal, state, and local GHG reduction measures. A summary of the key findings is listed below:

	% GHG Reduction by 2030	Meets K4C 2030 GHG Target?	% GHG Reduction by 2050	Meets K4C 2050 GHG Target?
Original Scenario (58 Actions)	50%	Yes	95%	Yes
“B+ & Above” (36 Actions)	44%	No	77%	No
“Cascadia Alternative” (35 Actions)	46%	No	80%	No

**Schedule Implications**

As discussed at the July 19 Council Meeting, the schedule to complete the CAP has been extended to reflect a Q1 2023 completion date. To meet this deadline, direction on the statistically valid survey should be finalized as soon as possible.

**NEXT STEPS**

While a great deal of logistical work has already been completed to prepare for the survey, the printshop requires two weeks of turnaround time before it can be mailed, and the survey itself is expected to be open for four weeks. In late fall, after the survey closes, the City intends to hold a Community Meeting (postponed from June) to solicit community feedback and to inform further development of the CAP.

The next scheduled CAP presentation before City Council has been revised to November 15, to focus mainly on the results of the survey, input from the public, and to receive an update on overall CAP development.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Sustainability Committee seeks final direction on the structure and contents of the revised statistical survey, and suggests that the City Council has three potential pathways, as follows:

- a) Accept the proposed survey as-is and direct the staff to finalize for distribution; or
- b) Accept the proposed survey, but ask for minor revisions prior to printing and mailing; or
- c) Reject the survey as not responsive to its July 19 guidance and ask for a replacement survey to be developed.