



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6246
April 4, 2023
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6246: Climate Action Plan Final Adoption	<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:	Adopt the City of Mercer Island Climate Action Plan.	

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. Final CAP document 2. Final Changes Matrix		
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

This agenda bill presents the City's final Climate Action Plan (CAP) (see Exhibit 1) for approval by the City Council and identifies the changes and additions made to the document since the March 7 City Council Meeting.

- At its March 7 Meeting, as part of [AB 6235](#), the City Council reviewed approximately 150 comments and suggestions on the draft plan, which were summarized as [AB 6235 Exhibit 2](#) (Q&A); [AB 6235 Exhibit 7](#) (Items recommended for Council approval); and [AB 6235 Exhibit 8](#) (Items recommended for Council discussion).
- The City Council also approved the insertion of four more substantial sections of new or revised text that were presented as [AB 6235 Exhibit 3](#) (new *Executive Summary*); [AB 6235 Exhibit 4](#) (new callout box on *The Cost of Inaction*); [AB 6235 Exhibit 5](#) (new callout box on *PSE's Green Power Program*); and [AB 6235 Exhibit 6](#) (Revised *Natural Systems Section*).
- The CAP is ready for adoption in substantially the form presented today. Staff will perform a final review for typos and formatting corrections. The final version to be published on the City's website in the following weeks at www.mercerisland.gov/CAP.
- A matrix of the changes made to the CAP since publication of the draft document is included as Exhibit 2.

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 Climate Action Plan (Exhibit 1) outlines a roadmap for meeting this GHG 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.

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 community each year, and update the CAP approximately every 10 years.

Overview of CAP Process

The City Council approved the budget and scope for the CAP in late 2021, and the process formally launched with a Community Workshop and Kickoff Event on December 8, 2021. In early 2022, the City hired Cascadia Consulting Group to help staff the CAP team and support some of the technical tasks, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data analysis, and plan drafting.

As part of its lengthy engagement with community members and organizations, the City used a range of measures to gather public input, including two online workshops, various outreach events and activities, online surveys, a random sample survey mailed to 2500 households, factsheets, the Let's Talk engagement platform, and completed a four-week public comment period.

The CAP has also been discussed at nine different City Council meetings over the past 18 months, often drawing public comment during the *Appearances* portion of the agenda. The local MI-Reporter newspaper has run stories on a number of CAP milestones and the City's social media outlets have run extensive coverage throughout the process.

CAP Structure

The CAP document contains four main sections and four appendices, as follows:

- **Plan Summary** – a high level overview of the process and plan contents.
- **Introduction & GHG Data** – an overview of climate impacts and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Strategies & Actions** – the heart of the plan, detailing proposed measures to reduce emissions or improve resiliency with six focus areas:
 - Cross-Cutting & Municipal
 - Buildings & Energy
 - Transportation
 - Consumption & Disposal
 - Natural Systems
 - Community Resilience

- **Implementation Plan** – an overview of what it will take to implement the plan and how progress will be measured and publicized.
- Appendix A (*Implementation Matrix*) – details on the anticipated timeframe, estimated cost, lead department, potential partners, and other considerations that may affect implementation.
- Appendix B (*Multi-Criteria Analysis - MCA*) – details on how each measure was assigned a priority score based on the four criteria of cost, impact, feasibility, and community support.
- Appendix C (*Crosswalk table*) – crosswalk table summarizing MCA score and implementation factors.
- Appendix D (*Survey Report*) – full report on the mailed random sample survey conducted Oct 2022.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

At the March 7 Council Meeting presentation on the CAP ([AB 6235](#)), the City Council reviewed approximately 150 comments and suggestions on the draft plan, which were summarized as: [AB 6235 Exhibit 2](#) (Q&A); [AB 6235 Exhibit 7](#) (Items recommended for Council approval); and [AB 6235 Exhibit 8](#) (Items recommended for Council discussion).

The City Council also approved the insertion of four more substantial sections of new or revised text as follows:

- New *Executive Summary* ([AB 6235 Exhibit 3](#))
- New callout box on *The Cost of Inaction* ([AB 6235 Exhibit 4](#))
- New callout box on *PSE's Green Power Program* ([AB 6235 Exhibit 5](#))
- Revised *Natural Systems Section* ([AB 6235 Exhibit 6](#))

The remainder of the meeting was used to gather further guidance and input from the City Council. A matrix of the changes made to the CAP since publication of the draft document is included as Exhibit 2. This matrix includes:

PART A: Suggestions, feedback, and staff recommendations brought to the March 7 Council Meeting in AB 6235 Exhibit 7 and approved by City Council

PART B: (1) Changes based on the Council's approval of AB 6235 Exhibits 3, 4, 5, and 6
(2) Changes derived from Council discussion at the March 7 City Council Meeting

Due to the overall length of the plan and the number of embedded graphics, tables, photos, and section headers, it is not practical to present a final redlined version to the City Council.

NEXT STEPS

Once the CAP is approved staff will perform one final copyediting cycle solely for typographical errors, etc., and then publish the final public version of the CAP on Let's Talk and on the City's main website.

Some early action programs identified in the CAP are already underway. These programs include:

- The [Mercer Island Climate Challenge](#)
- The [Energy Smart Eastside](#) heat pump installation program
- First/last-mile [transportation and mobility pilots](#)
- Research on grants to support planning for Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure
- Expanded [recycling collection events](#)

As the public engagement phase for the CAP concludes, the City will archive all the plan development content found on the [Let's Talk engagement page](#). Going forward, for ongoing access and easy reference, the City will post the final CAP document, as well as supporting research (such as the GHG inventory), and progress-tracking metrics, on the main City website at: www.mercerisland.gov/CAP.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the City of Mercer Island Climate Action Plan in substantially the form presented in Exhibit 1.