



City of Tualatin

CITY OF TUALATIN Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

FROM: Maddie Cheek, Management Analyst II
Nic Westendorf, Deputy Public Works Director

DATE: November 27, 2023

SUBJECT:
Climate Action Plan – Draft Mitigation Actions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The draft community Climate Action Plan (CAP) is complete and the project team is now soliciting feedback from the City Council on the “Reducing Emissions” section of the draft plan, which is focused on climate mitigation. Climate mitigation refers to the actions that are taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. The project team will review Tualatin’s emissions inventory results and emissions forecast, setting the context for the discussion surrounding this section of the plan. Additionally, the project team will share focus area-level results and relevant feedback from the most recent online open house and information about the emissions reduction benefit and estimated cost per ton of emissions reduced for the strategies that were analyzed quantitatively. The team will then share examples of actions included in the draft plan, and answer Council questions on the draft emissions reduction actions included in the plan.

Please note that staff will not be covering all 90 mitigation actions one-by-one during this presentation. Instead, staff will present a handful of specific actions under each strategy to demonstrate the variation in scope and ownership between different actions. There will be time for Q&A at the end the presentation, so Council is encouraged to bring any questions or comments on any of the 90 actions that arise during individual plan review!

WHAT SHAPED THE “REDUCING EMISSIONS” SECTION?

This section of the plan was shaped by a number of factors including:

- ***Tualatin’s emissions reduction goal:*** The plan strives to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This goal was selected by the project steering committee and aligns with the Paris Climate Agreement, Climate Mayors goal, and most other national and international climate goals.
- ***Tualatin’s communitywide greenhouse gas emissions inventory:*** The project team conducted a community-wide emissions inventory in 2022 to identify and categorize the community’s emissions sources. The inventory was based on 2019 data and included both local and imported emissions sources.

Local emissions refer to emissions from activities that take place within city limits, like heating and cooling buildings, cooking food, driving cars, disposing of waste, industrial processes like manufacturing, and leaked refrigerants from appliances that help to keep people and food cool. Tualatin's local emissions sources include building energy (42%), transportation energy (12%), industrial processes and refrigerants (2%), and waste disposal (<1%).

Imported emissions refer to emissions from things that are made outside of city limits, but benefit the people within the city who use those items or services. Emissions from the production of furniture, clothing, electronics, and food are all examples of items that count towards imported emissions. Tualatin's imported emissions sources include goods production (15%), food production (13%), fuel production (12%), and air travel (3%).

- ***Tualatin's emissions forecast:*** Local emissions in Tualatin are expected to decrease over time, primarily due to strong climate regulations from the State of Oregon in the building energy sector, which includes electricity generation and natural gas use. While emissions are estimated to decrease by 80% in 2050 compared to 2019 local emissions without additional mitigation actions, that is still not enough to meet our goal of net zero by 2050. The Climate Action Plan includes the additional strategies and actions that provide our best chance at reaching this ambitious goal.
- ***Community & stakeholder feedback:*** The project team spent the last year and a half engaging with community members and stakeholders to better understand their concerns, level of support for different strategies, needs, and opportunities for action. That information played an important role in informing the actions that appear in the draft plan.

Before drafting the plan, the project team conducted engagement to determine what kinds of strategies the community might be interested in. During the Fall 2022 engagement period, community members expressed interest in the following strategies: energy efficiency and conservation (strategy 4.1), increasing renewable energy use (strategy 4.2), planting trees (strategy 5.2), switching to electric and hybrid vehicles (strategy 6.1), active transportation (strategy 6.2), increasing transit transportation (strategy 6.3), working remotely (strategy 6.4), reducing food waste (strategy 7.2), buying more used or durable items, or repairing broken items, instead of buying new items (strategy 7.4), and recycling (strategy 7.5).

The Fall 2023 online open house, completed by 327 community members between October 16-November 10, revealed the following levels of support for mitigation strategies included in the plan:

- Buildings and energy use – 53% support, 29% do not support, and 17% need more information or have questions/concerns
- Urban form and land use – 61% support, 19% do not support, and 19% need more information or have questions/concerns
- Transportation: modes and fuel switching – 61% support, 22% do not support, and 17% need more information or have questions/concerns
- Consumption: food and goods – 65% support, 20% do not support, and 15% need more information or have questions/concerns

Stakeholder engagement with partners from the utilities, non-profits, businesses, state agencies, and other local agencies was critical to understanding what programs and partnerships already exist, and can be built

upon to meet Tualatin's emissions reduction goal. These conversations also helped the project team identify opportunities and constraints faced by stakeholder partners.

For example, during these conversations, Northwest Natural shared that increasing production of renewable natural gas (RNG) is an opportunity for Northwest Natural to reduce the carbon footprint of its operations. The utility also shared that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulations at the time did not permit it to increase the amount of RNG in the system and requested that the City write a letter of support encouraging the PUC to consider allowing more RNG in the system to decrease emissions from natural gas. The City signed on to a joint letter of support with the cities of Tigard, Hillsboro, and Lake Oswego in July 2023.

MITIGATION ACTIONS

There are 90 mitigation actions in the draft plan. Each action can be thought of as a “project” and there are many pathways to implement different actions. Some actions can be implemented by community members through existing partner programs without City involvement. Some actions may require support from the City in the form of providing education or information, convening partnerships, or conducting research to empower the community to act. Other actions are bolder and focus on policy changes and code updates, requiring a policy decision from the City Council in order to move forward. Reducing emissions to meet our ambitious goal of net zero by 2050 will take a variety of approaches and action from our entire community, including the City.

The project team will walk through a few example actions from each strategy to illustrate the variation in scope and ownership across different actions. There will be time for Q&A within each focus area; questions or comments on specific actions, including those not covered in the presentation, are encouraged.

ATTACHMENTS:

- PowerPoint presentation
- Draft Climate Action Plan Section 3: Reducing Emissions