



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: January 23, 2023

SUBJECT:
Climate Action Plan Update: Engagement, Goal and Strategy Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tualatin's community climate action planning effort is currently underway. Staff will provide an update for Council about how the process has moved forward over the past few months, including a summary of what we heard throughout the course of our public and stakeholder engagement. Staff are also seeking Council feedback on Tualatin's emissions reduction strategies and will discuss next steps.

FALL 2022 PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The project team recently wrapped up Phase 2 of engagement, which focused on gathering feedback about draft actions to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The public engagement component focused on gathering feedback from individuals who live, work, and play in Tualatin. The stakeholder engagement component focused on convening stakeholders from utilities, state and local agencies, non-profits, and businesses in Tualatin to discuss stakeholders' challenges, opportunities, and needs regarding best practices to reduce GHG emissions.

Public engagement

Public engagement opportunities included hosting one online open house, three in-person bilingual workshops, two in-person tabling events, attending four Latino Business Network meetings, and presenting to the Juanita Pohl Center's Earthwise Crew. Engagement opportunities were promoted through a variety of means, including a postcard mailer sent to all addresses in Tualatin, print materials like flyers, online via social media and the project website, over the phone, and in person. The team prioritized engaging our Spanish-speaking community by creating all engagement materials in Spanish as well as holding bilingual workshops. Over 250 people were engaged during this phase of outreach.

In general, participants expressed interest in reducing their GHG emissions and receiving financial help or incentives to offset the costs of reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. Participants also expressed a desire for the City to do more to address climate change, and for the

City to provide more information related to how residents and businesses can reduce their emissions and prepare for extreme weather events.

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement opportunities included four virtual workshops; one per emissions reduction target area (buildings and energy use, urban form and land use, transportation – modes and fuel switching, and consumption – food and goods). 31 individuals (including the project team) from across 14 organizations participated in the workshops.

While there were specific takeaways from each workshop, the general takeaways from across all four workshops were:

- The City can help with identifying information gaps, educating the public, and amplifying existing programming to speed up the rate of GHG emissions reduction in Tualatin.
 - There is a strong need for relationship building to enhance partnerships, increase trust, and improve coordination between stakeholders.
 - A one-size-fits-all approach will not work. Strategies and actions must be equitable and tailored to the appropriate audiences and implementers.
 - Policy changes are needed to achieve GHG emissions reduction goals.
 - Public agency and utility partners are mostly eager to engage. The business community was harder to reach and will require ongoing relationship building. The City will continue to adjust our approach to try to better reach the business community.
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TUALATIN'S EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOAL

The Climate Action Plan will include strategies and actions to help Tualatin meet its emissions reduction goal of *net zero by 2050*. Achieving net zero by 2050 would mean limiting planetary warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This goal was selected by the Climate Action Plan Steering Committee for a few reasons.

- This target is the goal of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.
 - As a member of the Climate Mayors group, Mayor Bubenik signed a letter, alongside 465 other mayors from across the U.S., in support of upholding the Paris Climate Agreement target.
 - This target most commonly adopted by other cities who have completed climate action plans.
 - If achieved, this target prevents us from going over a planetary “tipping point” of no return (1.5 degrees Celsius), which will dramatically increase the impacts of climate change.
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For all of the above reasons, this was the recommendation from the City's consultant and was agreed upon by the Steering Committee, consisting of two City Councilors and eight staff from five departments across the City.

EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS STRATEGIES

The next phase of the project includes quantitatively analyzing strategies to reduce Tualatin's GHG emissions to achieve our goal of net zero by 2050. Strategies will be measured by their emissions reduction potential and relative cost per ton of GHGs reduced. This analysis will allow the City to prioritize strategies based on both their emissions reduction impact and cost. The project team will

be able to complete in-depth analysis of 10-15 strategies. These strategies were chosen based on their potential impact, available data to measure progress, and community input.

The project team is seeking Council feedback on the following emissions reduction strategies across four target areas:

Buildings and energy use

1. Energy efficiency and conservation
2. 100% GHG-free electricity supply
3. 100% renewable natural gas / clean hydrogen supply
4. Electrification of space and water heating for *new* buildings
5. Electrification of space and water heating for *existing* buildings
6. Voluntary Purchase of verified carbon offsets (e.g., Northwest Natural's SmartEnergy program)

Urban form and land use

7. Dense future development resulting in reduced future vehicle miles traveled
8. Urban/community forestry & carbon sequestration

Transportation – modes and fuel switching

9. Electric vehicles or another low-GHG fossil *gasoline* substitute
10. Biodiesel, renewable, electric, or another low-GHG fossil *diesel* substitute
11. Active transportation to reduce car miles and fossil fuel (gasoline) use
12. Transit transportation to reduce car miles and fossil fuel (gasoline) use

Consumption – food and goods

13. Landfill diversion of organic materials (composting)
14. Avoided edible food waste
15. Road materials management

Note: the strategies themselves are fairly broad; the Climate Action Plan will include more specific actions that will help support each strategy. For example, within the “energy efficiency and conservation” strategy, potential actions could include “develop a building energy score program” and “host energy conservation workshops.”

While only 10-15 emissions reduction strategies will be analyzed in detail, the plan will include more strategies and actions that will be presented in a narrative form. For example, water conservation was a recurring theme that arose during public engagement. While important, the greenhouse gas emissions impacts from water use and conservation are relatively small, and thus may not be prioritized as a strategy within the Climate Action Plan.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next couple of months, the project team will conduct analysis of 10-15 GHG emissions reduction strategies and write the first draft of the Climate Action Plan. This spring, the draft plan will be available for review and comment. Following the comment period, feedback will be incorporated and the final plan will be presented to the City Council for Council adoption by

ordinance. Implementation will begin following adoption of the final plan. Phase 2, the City's Operational Climate Action Plan, will also begin shortly after adoption.

ATTACHMENTS:

- PowerPoint presentation
- Fall Public Engagement Summary
- Key Themes from Mitigation Themed Stakeholder Workshops