



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 13, 2023

SUBJECT:

Climate Action Plan - Draft Adaptation Actions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The draft community Climate Action Plan (CAP) is complete and the project team is now soliciting feedback from the City Council and community members. This work session is intended to be a review of the “Preparing for Climate Change” section of the draft plan, which is focused on climate adaptation. Climate adaptation refers to the actions that are taken to adjust and respond to changing climate conditions. The project team will review the local impacts of climate change with and without strong climate action, setting the context for the discussion surrounding this section of the plan. The project team will then discuss what was heard during community engagement and how community feedback shaped the draft. The team will then share examples of actions included in the draft plan, and answer Council questions on the draft climate adaptation actions included in the plan.

Please note that staff will not be covering all 63 adaptation 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 plenty of time for Q&A, so Council is encouraged to bring any questions or comments on any of the 63 actions!

WHAT SHAPED THE DRAFT “PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE” SECTION?

Tualatin’s future climate: Climate change is already here, and will worsen significantly without strong climate action. Without strong climate action, Tualatin and the region are on track to experience the following climate impacts:

- 60 days of extreme heat (over 90 degrees F) per year, up from a historical average of 6 days per year.
- 20 days of extreme fire danger per year, up from a historical average of 10 days per year.
- An increase in atmospheric river events that bring large volumes of rain over short time periods, leading to increased flooding.

Climate hazards, like extreme heat and poor air quality, can exacerbate existing social, economic, and environmental inequities. This can lead to increased negative impacts on community members’ physical and mental health outcomes – affecting those who are most vulnerable first and worst.

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.

In general, key concerns from the community included:

- Exposure to climate hazards, particularly for the most vulnerable, such as extreme heat and poor air quality due to wildfire smoke
- Loss of work and income when conditions make it unsafe to get to work or to stay at work.
- Costs to repair damage caused by flooding or storms.
- Transportation to school was a key issue at the Youth workshop.
- Inequitable financial and safety impacts on the most vulnerable to extreme weather.
- Increased cost of electricity to heat or cool buildings during extreme weather events.
- Power outages due to extreme weather events.

Staff will highlight specific examples of actions that arose from engagement with the community in the presentation.

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 strengthen Tualatin's local climate resiliency. These conversations also helped the project team identify opportunities and constraints faced by stakeholder partners. For example, a constraint could be electrical grid capacity to handle increased electrification, while an opportunity might be to collaborate to meet shared goals, like pooling resources to construct large, regional stormwater facilities to help improve storm capacity.

ADAPTATION ACTIONS

There are over 60 adaptation 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 in that they would expand or create new programs or services the City has not previously offered, requiring a policy decision from the City Council in order to move forward. Responding to our changing climate and meeting our communities' needs 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 plenty of time for Q&A; questions or comments on specific actions, including those not covered in the presentation, are encouraged.

ATTACHMENTS

- PowerPoint presentation
- Draft Climate Action Plan Section 2: Preparing for Climate Change