

Tumwater Climate Element Public Workshop Notes & Comments

Idea for icon to indicate – publicly supported actions

Comment Cards

“Tumwater is making no plans to move to higher ground – because the residents love their city. But eventually sea level rise will force a move regardless of how much anyone loves their city. That means that everything that is built here in Tumwater will have to be abandoned. The longer we stay here, the more stuff we build here only to be abandoned. The sooner we move, the more money we save. I would like to see at least a place identified for an eventual high-ground Tumwater. Maybe with some laws to prevent people from trying to make money off the move.”

“I want the city of Tumwater to save as many of our older trees as possible. It’s time to pressure the insurance industry to allow old trees to stay standing!”

“Encourage building bicycle paths throughout Tumwater – safe bicycle paths that are not part of major streets i.e. Cleveland. The bike lanes on Cleveland are useless because they are not safe. People drive 60 mph on Cleveland and being in the bike lane is suicide!!!”

“Please look closely at the effort to save the Davis-Meeker Garry Oak + be careful with trusting this mayor with these precious resources.”

“Please promote redevelopment over new development. Get used to saying “no” to developers.”

“Re: Governance, seems like the city approves every application for a building permit. The Hearing Examiner doesn’t know much about environmental needs or even laws. Educate those HE’s!”

“Whenever airport expansion is discussed, someone says “why don’t we build faster railroads instead of more airports?” But the remark is greeted with silence. Why don’t we take that option seriously since it (railroad travel” is very much less harmful to the climate than air travel?”

“Invest in solar banks for neighborhoods so less poor(?) space + more equity + sustainable”

“Tear down the brewery – make community areas. Park n Ride, Art, film, Hub”

“flooding mobilizes pollutants 6PPDQ; mobile homes – preserve & protect; green space for high density – shade along walk to bus stop, parking lots; white roofs; HOAs – green grass –

fire/fireproofing – involve developers; airport expansion concern; AI – scientific American; electric grid; advocacy for regionally sound policy

Post-it comments from Resilience station

- Lessen power of airport – no expansion
- Provide education on fire-resistant yard design – no grass!
- Ways to fireproof without removing trees
- Ordinances to encourage trees to remain on land – slow drainage, carbon sequestration
- Coca cola bottling factory – water use/dwindling water supply?
- Olympia airport traffic
- Incentivize business owners to avoid more warehouse building
- Corridors of trees + better building design for no AC need (passive cooling – Madrid, Spain)
- Prioritize protecting existing mature trees
- More trees in parking lots
- Permeable surfaces
- Using methane by-product as power source
- Contiguous trails + access to cooling areas
- Urban shading - shade structures where trees are not feasible (i.e. parking lots)
- White roofs
- Businesses/warehouses should be required to put up solar panels, not private residents
- Don't impose new codes without working with groups impacted if they are to be effective
- More public green spaces near high density housing
- Give some love to the small but mighty Palermo neighborhood
- City/other gov't entity should rule that non-sustainable rules/covenants are in violation of public policy – this would allow residents to overrule HOAs that prevent them from making sustainable choices
- New low-income housing has to be resilient to climate impacts
- Incentivize developers instead of punishing – or make fines actually punitive and use to fund incentive programs
- Water supply concerns vs. corporate-owned housing, HOAs etc. w/ green lawns
- Keep developers, builders, investors involved in design & solution-making – use that talent, don't push away key tax base

- Older mobile homes are immobile – enable communities to acquire the land they live on – prevent redevelopment
- Mobile homes more sustainable than a new-build replacement – let people keep their homes
- Permitting to allow rainwater collection on private property – dept. of public health prevents this
- Requirement to pave XX feet from sidewalk on new developments – limits developers in avoiding impermeable surfaces
- “Flooding introduces pollutants to ESA habitat – e.g. Black Lake”
- “Flooding captures road contaminants 6PPDQ – Coho – Salmon run”
- “HD Housing areas need traffic calming, good x walks + protection from freeway traffic in their neighborhood”
- “Municipal Gov’t should encourage new business that is not resource intensive – water, energy, nat. resources
 - Data centers
 - Hydrogen Fuel Cells
 - Small or large nuclear
 - Soda bottler plants (SWIRE)”
- “Water quality is missing for people and wildlife. Water quality/levels for wildlife should not be sacrificed for people. 100%”
- Building codes that allow 95% impervious surface are not good for recharge OR runoff”

Station Notes

Resilience

- Resilience – community’s ability to bounce back and also enhance, be equitable, and be efficient
- Start in low-income, historically affected areas, places that are most affected but have contributed the least to climate change
- Wildfire smoke
- Interruptions to the power grid – extreme heat and wildfires can impact
- Incentives for installing solar panels on homes
- Drought concerns
- How is Tumwater going to find new wells? Do they hold enough water? Do we need to spend so much money on finding them? Do wildlife need surface water?
- How do we grow and accommodate future population growth and maintain net zero emissions by 2050?

- Ask developers to use solar?
- Places to park bikes when using them? Bike racks at stores; Make it comfortable to use bike trails
- Do future bike/ped plans plan to incorporate bike racks?
- Balance that allows building for more homes that will also benefit current residents
- Parking lots don't have trees anymore – all that asphalt contributing to urban heat islands
- Leaving quality trees that are there
- Incorporating stormwater ponds into parking lots – help them cool down
- Corridors of trees – help to overall cool environments that won't need AC
- Flood map could be improved
- No mention of mass transportation
- Need more outside the UGA van service

GHG Reduction

- Jim Lazar: inadequate connection b/w Sustainable Thurston & TCMP; shrink UGA to existing boundaries of water + sewer infrastructure
- Lynn: ban on gas in new construction; tree preservation (not enough), also decrease ag. Emissions
- Darin: Which impacts are greatest?
- Elizabeth: divest from cars and have safe bike lanes
- Justin: lawns are terrible for water conservation; naval base Whidbey Island example; shared vision exercise including people who don't agree
- Jim: New developments w/lawn required – don't require
- Jesse: Remove minimum parking requirements
- Kim: Change the mindset of what is beautiful – lawns, personal vehicles; cost to develop is high that keeps small folks from developing. Streamline permits and create a database of feasibility studies for public use
- Jessie: Transit needs to be more frequent, more stops; get cars off the road
- Justin: lived 2 miles from bus stop
- Jim: prioritize sidewalks and bikes to parks (seconded by Darin); prioritize improvements at time of sale
- Jessie: push back against stick, choose carrot (rebate costs for climate)
- Joanne – Hybrids sell and buy network for hybrids + EVs
- Elizabeth – HOAs w/ green lawns
- Kim - \$2500-5000 to doing blower test and insulation improvements in LMI homes
- Bonnie: Save whales & Oregon spotted frogs

- Brianna: update old homes that may have lead pipes – help w/ that cost
- Tom – bldg. energy + transportation; energy efficiency in rentals, businesses, homes; get people out of cars, affordable EVs
- Matthew: bike lane connectivity, huge parking lots yet no bike parking
- Valier: unsafe – 500 cars in 1 hour all speeding, driving SUVs. She walks everyone. Lynnwood + 2nd ave. crosswalk – doesn't feel heard
- Jim: have a bus system that works. Doesn't take people to where they want to go (including where they work)
- Valerie: people drinking on the bus – feels unsafe
- Nathaniel: goals are important. More public education – public policy; zoning and building codes; we need community support
- Lin: solutions need to cross cities; transit to SeaTac for example, hasn't been explored; light rail stops at Lakewood; net zero goal – how do we actually get there?
- John: more outreach w/ the schools; transport to schools is a mess; need sidewalk routes to school
- Matthew: work w/ schools to work on mitigation; compost, recycling, solar, heat pumps
- Brienne: buy up blighted property and do GHG – plans?
- Doug: is this b/c state requirements only
- Lin: more regional work for greater effort
- Brianna: biofuels, dams & fish conflicts
- Janine: not enough focus on tree protection/preservation; preserve vs. new planting
 - Seconded by Chris
- Jeff: this is going to be expensive for a long time; engage businesses and solution providers; invite businesses to begin
- Karen: improve bus + walking; buses on dense corridors then make walking and biking more safe; Sustainable Thurston implementation w/ city density and stop sprawl; build upwards
- Jolt: Tumwater has opportunity to develop urban core at DOT facility; allow higher heights in our zoning code; Ride share-EV autonomous vehicles
- Chris: disservice Costco warehouse – may open for business
 - Deborah: it's a distro center
- Janine: walkable buildable core
- Betty: solar everywhere we can, bird-friendly windmills; solar on industrial property rooftops; get buildings to participate in flex too, not just residents
- Jeff: all solar should also include storage
- Jennifer: in phoenix – demand pricing

- Chris: small urban farms kept in place
- Janine: encourage food systems
- Jennifer: density of animals at farms very high; pollution from runoff
- Deborah: CAFOs w/ stormwater permits
- Carla: multifamily EV charging; more charging stations in Tumwater
- Chris: land use + permitting for ADUs need to be easier; streamline
- Janine: make it extremely easy or incentivized ADU
- Betty: increase public transit and keep it free – “middle transport”
- Bonnie: also small van routes
- Jennifer: permeable hard surfaces
- Janine: encourage native drought tolerant plants including when developments go in enforce tree rules
- Asland Meade: edc – food production in Tenino

Governance

- How to get attention for climate/sustainability issues:
 - Facebook post, QR codes will not be used
 - Need to understand the benefit of doing an action (clear relationship of cost-benefit)
 - No press release received (JOLT)
 - Cost to households
 - Clearly track cost
 - Reach out more to schools, youth
 - All costs upfront, cost/benefits
 - Natural gas may or may not be
 - Need more incentives to get people to participate, staff participation in TCAT to get message out and be enacted
 - Public involvement – one age bracket responding
 - Going beyond perception that only benefits homeowners
- Level of trust in city
 - Long-term residents issue with the mayor with the tree issues; wary and betrayed by staff and administration
 - City has established some level
 - City council reference to the regional refer to it (?)
 - Permitting/regulatory issues – enforcement, advocating for insurance
 - How to get trust – changing of personnel, lack of contacts on website - feeling disconnecting; lack of email access to staff

- Climate lens throughout comp plan
- Do you feel that the city is communicating what is happening or not
 - Newer resident (4 years) - Tumwater nature of smaller site allows people (us, KC) to interact
 - Not clear how the Tumwater is reachable, reach out more to the other cities to coordinate letting people know
 - Still allowing for printed copies, radio station
 - 72 action items on the TCMP
 - Need to publicize how people actions are being met
 - Tumwater on Tap/Jolt share more information on website and as a part of signs throughout city; passing out notices worked; coordinating w/ school district
 - More educational materials from city
 - Different audiences – how are you reaching those who are on the edge or denying, putting more information on videos, short bites of information
 - City's communication reflects the level of the challenge (use of fossil fuels) to meet 2050 goal
 - Climate emergency is not reflecting the magnitude of the challenge
 - What does success and failure mean
 - Women's – personal
 - Adding utilities bill notices how we get the message gets, communication online, email list based on topic to push information social messaging on more platforms
- Trust in the cities
 - Information video on the jevaa set ice bean in the water
 - Development size – the city doing wide variety of actions, city more responsive, existential threat, need more on climate issues, transparency, more communication
 - Mayor issue with oak tree – issue with trust, sell water rights to squire
 - Communicating what it can and cannot do something
 - Alyssa very good – more resources needed to address climate and what else will be reduced to devote resources to this issue
 - Pay attention to where money goes
 - reader board in front of city hall
 - turnover in the community
 - Tumwater 101 course
 - Work with the school districts

- How/who of it to implement action – communication/trust/what the city can do to engage and implement
- How did you hear about the event and do you feel the communication by the city is reaching you/neighbors, is it sufficient, how do you make it better?
 - Tumwater metro areas expansion, senior housing, how do you get to and from, who were you trying out to everyone and how are groups (homeowners & tenants) review of traffic analysis for new housing development (only PM peak), how are these things taking into counter, how to address how permitting process relates to the goal of the climate element, TCMP development (consider climate change) in all actions by city council, Olympia implementing council to take the involvement that into decisions, city governments not set up to meet these climate goals, not business as usual
 - How the information is shared, education is very important, need to think beyond the boundary lines
- Issue with transportation boundary lines to go more to a regional model
 - Jobs, shopping, and where people live
 - Rail expansion
 - More light rail/public transportation
 - More work is needed from outreach to group out
- How important is the 18-35 age range for governmental planning
- How important is community background – native, LGBTQA+, immigrants, homeowner, homeless, family unit, individual) to what should be done in communities?
- Level of trust to get involved
 - Public education important
 - How important is community background notice, EBT, immigrants, homeless, family unit, intercity transit
 - Build trust through clear conversation and communication
 - Update comprehensive plan complexity, how will those ideas end up in the comprehensive plan
 - City council climate change awareness of this will work
 - City level/community forum, concrete actions, maybe fewer actions

Other Alyssa notes

- Chris: get people out of WUI
- Janine: sponsor more workshops; commercial composting

- Another one of these in February
- Tom (not Crawford): AI – data centers energy + cooling; what do we do, how can we address this regionally; electrical grid – PSE wind purchase and cost to consumers for that transition
 - Tom Crawford – advocacy at state level
- Jeff: Panatone + Burien example of greenspace and walking trail; DeMoin's Way & 140th "Miller Creek"; Chehalis Airport vertical life takeoff