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Executive Director  
*Thurston Climate Action Team*

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Climate Program Manager  
*City of Olympia*

Deepa Sivarajan  
Washington Policy Manager  
*Climate Solutions*

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Chair  
*Northwest EcoBuilding Guild*

Dr. Lisa Parshley  
Councilmember  
*City of Olympia*  
Chair  
*Thurston Climate Action Steering Committee*

Jill Dvorkin  
Legal Consultant  
*MRSC*  
*Moderator*
Presenters

Deepa Sivarajan
Washington Policy Manager
*Climate Solutions*
Our climate crisis can’t wait

We’re already seeing the impacts of climate change in our Washington communities, including:

- Extreme heat
- Wildfires and smoke
- Sea level rise
- Decreased winter snowpack
- Greater exposure to drought
- …and more

PC: Dave Logan for Peninsula Daily News
We need to prioritize climate justice

Frontline communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change
- BIPOC and low-income communities bear the highest burdens of air, water, and carbon pollution, while receiving the fewest benefits of clean energy.

Government action must:
- Minimize further harm to frontline communities
- Champion the voices of frontline communities in creating solutions
- Prioritize those solutions to serve those most impacted

“The burden of air pollution is not equally shared.”

American Lung Association’s 2020 “State of the Air” Report
We must meet our **statewide goals**

Dr. Lisa Parshley
Councilmember
City of Olympia
Chair
Thurston Climate Action Steering Committee

Dr. Pamela Braff
Climate Program Manager
City of Olympia
Background
Why do we need a climate mitigation plan?

- **Climate change poses risks** to everything from our health and our infrastructure to local ecosystems.

- **Reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases** will minimize these risks.

- The **Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan** sets goals and identifies strategies and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Local perspectives on climate change.

Thurston County Beliefs

- Global warming is happening: 72%
- Worried about global warming: 66%
- Global warming will harm future generations: 73%
- Global warming is already harming people in the US: 56%

Who Should Do More About Climate Change?

- Congress should do more to address global warming: 60%
- My Governor should do more to address global warming: 50%
- Local officials should do more to address global warming: 54%
- Corporations should do more to address global warming: 71%
- Citizens should do more to address global warming: 65%

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, 2020 Public Opinion Survey Results for Thurston County, Washington
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How will climate change impact Thurston County?

- Shrinking snowpack
- Changing & rising oceans
- Warming lakes & streams
- Intensifying storms
- Deepening droughts
- Expanding wildfires
Vision and Goals

VISION:

“Thurston County, Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and neighboring tribes recognize the urgent threat and opportunity that climate change poses to our community’s economy, public health, public safety, and environment.

We will work together to identify and boldly implement the most effective, efficient, and equitable actions to reduce locally generated greenhouse gas emissions to protect current and future generations from the most severe impacts of climate change.”
Adaptation and Mitigation Planning

**2018 ADAPTATION PLAN**
- Science Summary
- Vulnerability Assessment
- 90+ Adaptation Actions
- Grant-funded

**2020 MITIGATION PLAN**
- Sector-based Emissions Inventory
- Emissions Reduction Targets
- 22 Strategies & 70+ Actions
- Jurisdiction-funded

www.thurstonclimateplan.com
Climate Mitigation Planning Process

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
Community events, surveys, interviews, social & traditional media, public meetings

JURISDICTION PARTNERS
Each jurisdiction’s policymaking body will consider a resolution that adopts the mitigation plan and affirms the jurisdiction will execute its Implementation Strategy.

CONSULTANT TEAM
Will lead public-engagement efforts, perform technical analysis, and help develop and measure mitigation actions for both the Steering Committee & Advisory Workgroup consideration.

STEERING COMMITTEE
Elected official and staff from each jurisdiction, will meet about monthly and steer the project (select consultants, stakeholders, vision & guiding principles).

ADVISORY WORKGROUP
Subject matter experts and other community members will recommend actions for consideration by the Steering Committee.
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Climate Mitigation Planning Timeline

- **Public outreach**
- **Develop Communitywide Action List**
- **Complete Analysis**
- **Draft Plan**
- **Steering Committee Approves Plan**
- **Jurisdictions Accept Plan**
- **Begin Phase III Implementation**

**SUMMER 2019**
- Develop Scenarios
- Analyze Actions for Identified Criteria

**FALL 2019**
- Public Review of Draft Plan

**WINTER 2019**
- Monitoring Framework

**SPRING 2020**
- Draft Plan

**SUMMER 2020**
- Steering Committee Approves Plan

**FALL 2020**
- Jurisdictions Accept Plan

**WINTER 2020**
- Begin Phase III Implementation

**SPRING 2021**
Climate Mitigation Planning Timeline

Begin Phase III Implementation

Approve Phase IV Interlocal Agreement

Implementation of Annual Initiatives

Minor TCMP Updates

Develop long-term agreement for implementation

Continue policy research for regionally coordinated strategies
Thurston County Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Total 2018 Emissions:
3.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO$_2$e)
Thurston County Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Total 2018 Emissions:
3.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO$_2$e)
Adopted Regional Emissions Targets

Reduce emissions:

45% below 2015 levels by 2030

85% below 2015 levels by 2050

Figure 10. Potential Reduction in Thurston County Emissions from State Policies. The dotted line shows the adopted emission reduction targets. Source: Hammerschlag 2020
Adopted Regional Emissions Targets

Reduce emissions:

45% below 2015 levels by 2030

85% below 2015 levels by 2050
How do we get there?
Climate Mitigation Framework

- **Green our Grid**
  - Support state-level action to generate electricity with 100% renewable sources
  - Increase energy efficiency of homes and businesses
  - Make it easier to install renewables on homes and businesses

- **Shift Energy Sources**
  - Switch more appliances, heaters, and vehicles to electricity
  - Make it easier to charge electric vehicles in homes and around town

- **Live Lighter**
  - Create denser urban neighborhoods where more people can opt to drive less
  - Make it easier to telework, walk, bicycle, and ride transit
  - Reduce food and other waste

- **Store Carbon**
  - Plant trees and preserve tree canopy
  - Preserve farmland and increase regenerative agriculture practices
  - Preserve and enhance prairies

- **Build Local Capacity & Resilience**
  - Provide coordinated leadership on climate action
  - Monitor greenhouse gases and assess progress
  - Develop expertise in climate-forward practices
  - Factor climate impacts into funding and decisions
  - Support the development of a green economy
  - Further understand and address social equity issues related to climate change
### BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

**Energy Efficiency**
- Prioritize high-efficiency building envelopes.
- Increase efficiency of appliances.

**Building Electrification**
- Phase out fossil fuels for heating and cooking.

**On-site Solar**
- Increase the production of local solar energy.
TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE

Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

- Set land use policies that support increased urban density and efficient transportation networks.
- Increase the use of public transit and active forms of travel such as walking and biking.

Vehicle Electrification

- Increase the adoption of electric vehicles.
- Increase the availability of EV charging infrastructure.
CARBON SEQUESTRATION

**Forest and Ecosystem Management**
- Protect and restore existing forests, prairies, and marine ecosystems.
- Increase forest cover where it is ecologically appropriate.

**Regenerative Agriculture**
- Increase agricultural practices that sequester carbon.

**Regional Strategy**
- Support a regional program for carbon sequestration.
CROSS-CUTTING

Center Frontline Communities

• Ensure equitable distribution of costs and benefits.

Regional Coordination

• Support regional implementation of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.

Monitoring and Assessment

• Monitor GHG emissions, key performance indicators, and implementation progress.
Olympia’s Climate Program

Local implementation of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.
Olympia Climate Inheritance Resolution

“...the City commits to working with the youth of Olympia on the collective actions and strategies necessary to achieve a goal of net zero emissions by 2040.”
Cities Race to Zero Pledge

Olympia has also joined cities around the world in a pledge to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2040, to ensure a green and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Local Implementation Strategy

- Capacity Building
- Municipal Operations
- Code and Regulatory Changes
- New Programs and Incentives
- Regional Coordination
- Community Partnerships
Capacity Building

Climate Action Team

• Develop city-wide climate action expertise.
• Engage all City Departments in the implementation of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.

Climate and Equity Lens

• Develop and adopt a climate and equity lens for all programs, policies, projects, and expenditures.
• Apply framework during planning and decision-making.
**Municipal Emissions Reduction**
General Services; Fire Department; Police Department; Human Resources; Fiscal Services

**Community-wide Emissions Reduction**
Community Planning and Development; Public Works; Parks, Arts, & Recreation

**Community Outreach and Engagement**
Communications Services; Parks, Arts, & Recreation

**Advisory Committee Engagement**

**Strategic Support**
Office of Performance and Innovation; Information Services; Communications Services; Fiscal Services
Lessons Learned
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Regional Planning

- Interjurisdictional coordination takes longer than you expect.
- Make sure to work with a broad base of stakeholders (not just climate advocates).
- Public engagement = public support for the plan.
Lessons Learned

Regional Planning

• Interjurisdictional coordination takes longer than you expect.
• Make sure to work with a broad base of stakeholders (not just climate advocates).
• Public engagement = public support for the plan.

Local Implementation

• Executive support is critical.
• Identify the right staff champions.
• Take time to build expertise and a shared vision.
Lisa Parshley, DVM, PhD
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Presenters

Melinda Hughes
Executive Director
Thurston Climate Action Team

Chris van Daalen
Chair
Northwest EcoBuilding Guild
Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (TCMP)

Presenters - Melinda Hughes, TCAT Executive Director
- Chris van Daalen, TCAT Board Member
and Chair of S. Sound Chapter, NW EcoBuilding Guild

For the Municipal Research and Services Center – November 15, 2021
Who Are We?

Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT), founded in 2009, is the leading local nonprofit in Thurston County focused on climate change which partners with our community to restore earth’s climate and create a healthy, just, and joyous world for all people and our planet.
TCAT & TCMP – A Little History

2008-2011: Thurston Energy
$1.5 million ARRA funds to do energy efficiency improvements on local homes and businesses.
http://thurstonenergy.org/

2013: Greenhouse Gas Inventory
Using methods by ICLEI, TCAT Compiled GHG emissions data for 2000-2019, set the stage for adoption of local targets
2012 and 2013: Sustainable Thurston
TCAT Board members pushed climate into this 25 year sustainable development plan

2015: Global Compact of Mayors
Mayor Stephen Buxbaum represented Olympia at the Paris Climate Summit
Public Influence

2015: Public Opinion Survey
80% of community members consider it important to take action on climate change


2015 - now: Thurston Thrives
TCAT and NWEBG help lead Climate & Clean Energy Action Team and Housing Action Team

https://thurstonthrives.org/action-teams/climate-clean-energy/
2016: Olympia proposes TMCP
With GHG Inventory, Olympia adopted reduction targets and organized other cities & County to collaborate

2018: Interlocal Agreement
Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey and Thurston County adopt identical resolutions to take action together

Early 2021: TCMP Formally Accepted
All four jurisdictions accept plan, and 3 declare a Climate Emergency
TCAT had also formed its Carbon Free Thurston campaign in 2016, specifically to support a region-wide climate action plan. Our volunteers advocated for this initiative at city council and county commissioner meetings.
TCAT Pushes Forward

TCAT advocacy to push jurisdictions

- Meeting with elected officials and staff
- Public comment at every TCMP meeting
- Community Advisory Workgroup
- Carbon Sequestration
- Calls for Early Action
- Declaration of Climate Emergency
TCAT’s Role as a Convener

Examples:
- Possible climate funding mechanisms conversation w/electeds
- no dedicated funding established to-date
- land trust collaboration for tree preservation
- regular updates of GHG Inventory data
- building related actions (more about this later)
How Does TCAT Do It?

• TCAT Staff
• Dedicated Board w/Representation
• Volunteer Action Groups:
  – Carbon Free Thurston Campaign
  – BACA (Buildings As Climate Action)
  – Transportation
  – Trees
  – Food and Agriculture
  – Justice and Equity
  – YECO (Youth Education Community Outreach)
Government Accountability

To keep things in check, there are a lot of “behind the scenes” actions:

- We show up at meetings
- We make connections (introduce outside experts, etc…)
- We send emails – “Thank You’s” & “We Know You Can Do Better”
- We engage the public in “accountability” campaigns
  - Chrysalis Project
  - Haunting/Urgency Campaign
Education & Awareness

We bring awareness to the public through a variety of avenues. Just a couple examples:

- EV Flash Mobs
- Climate Justice Mural
State and Federal Advocacy

Statewide Coalitions

• Shift Zero, the Zero Carbon Buildings Alliance
• Building Electrification Coalition
• It Takes Transportation Coalition

State Level Advocacy

• Meeting with representatives and senators
• Testifying at hearings
• Support for federal leadership.
Why Focus on Buildings?

Need + Opportunity = Momentum

Globally, buildings create 40% of emissions
Locally 58% of emissions are from buildings
25% from residential buildings
Why Focus on Buildings?

Need + Opportunity = Momentum

In 2040, 2/3rds of the building stock will be buildings that exist today.

If we require net zero new construction, upgrade the rest, how much less CO2?

What are the building intervention points for upgrades?
Why Focus on Buildings?

Multi Faceted Approach

New Construction & Existing Buildings
Residential, Multifamily & Commercial
Education, Incentives and Partnerships
Leveraging Mandates for voluntary action
New Construction

2018 & 2021 Building Codes
- Racing to meet the 2030 Mandate in RCW 19.27a
- Going further with Local Commercial Energy Codes
- R406 + C406 Energy Efficiency Options Menu
- Performance - Based Codes (e.g. R407)

Building Electrification
Fossil Gas out of new buildings

www.ThurstonClimateAction.org
Existing Buildings - Residential

Building Electrification
Conversion from gas appliances to electric heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, induction stoves
Renewable solar energy
Equity

Community Energy Efficiency Program
Focus upgrades to low-income and rental households
Leverage local, state and federal funding
Collaborate with Housing and other Agencies
Existing Buildings - Residential

Require: Home Energy Score at Listing
TCAT Convened Realtors Stakeholder Group
Agreed on DOE Home Energy Score
Need for Data Collection and Monitoring

Implementing Upgrades is Voluntary
Comprehensive Education and Marketing
5 year evaluation to measure results v. goals
More rigorous mandates may be necessary
Existing Buildings - Commercial

C-PACER
Community Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency - Financing tool per RCW 36.165

Energy Benchmarking
Annual reporting of energy performance
Modeled on Portland, Seattle, others

Performance Standards
Going Beyond HB 1257
Shift Zero Policy Toolkit

Green Building Incentives
Land Use
Expedited Processes
Technical Assistance
Recognition and Promotion
Financial Incentives

Incentive Policy Design Tool
Tiered Incentives based on Zero Carbon Certifications
Sample Matrix from City of Shoreline

www.ShiftZero.org/Toolkit

www.ThurstonClimateAction.org
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www.ThurstonClimateAction.org
Deepa Sivarajan
Washington Policy Manager
*Climate Solutions*
Cities & counties taking action in 2021

Transportation
- King County, Seattle, and Issaquah have passed **EV-readiness ordinances**
- Many cities and counties are working to increase multimodal transportation

Buildings
- Seattle passed a policy **eliminating most uses of fossil fuels** in new commercial and large multifamily (over 4 stories) buildings
  - Shoreline, Bellingham, and King County are all working on similar policies
Reports and toolkits

Climate justice
- Community Report on Environmental Justice (Front & Centered)
- Washington State Environmental Justice Task Force Final Recommendations
- Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map (WA Dept of Health)
- Reports from the Greenlining Institute

Building decarbonization
- Zero Carbon Buildings Policy Toolkit (Shift Zero)
- Building Towards Decarbonization: Policy Solutions (Berkeley Law & UCLA Law)

Transportation
- AchiEVE: Model Policies for EV Adoption
- Electrifying Transportation in Municipalities
Collaboratives and working groups

Regional
- King County-Cities Climate Collaborative (K4C)
- Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative
- Regional Code Collaboration
  - Contact Kathleen Petrie for more information (kpetrie@kingcounty.gov)

Statewide & National
- WA Local Government Building Decarbonization Working Group (run by Climate Solutions & Stand.Earth)
  - Contact Deepa Sivarajan for more information (deepa.Sivarajan@climatesolutions.org)
- SAFE Cities (run by Stand.Earth)
- American Cities Climate Challenge
1. Click the orange arrow to expand or collapse the toolbar.

2. Enter your inquiry in the “Questions” dialogue box and click the “Send” button.

Questions?

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Deepa Sivarajan
deepa.sivarajan@climatesolutions.org

Jill Dvorkin
jdvorkin@mrsc.org
Upcoming Trainings

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR:

Planning Ethics
November 30, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

FREE: Equity and Inclusion in Climate Action Planning
December 7, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Inclusionary Zoning – A Tool to Increase Affordable Housing
December 14, 1 PM – 2 PM

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