

GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION POLICY Policy 958

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Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy

.1 PURPOSE

This policy is intended to acknowledge Clallam County government's commitment of action to conserve resources while conducting government business and to model the conservation of resources to the county residents and businesses. A primary goal of this policy is to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in county government and to assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the region through partnerships, planning, education, and community engagement.

This policy is intended to be reviewed and updated as Clallam County continues to establish goals, actions and partnerships related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

.2 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all county offices, departments and agencies and to all elected and appointed County Officials, their employees, volunteers and visitors of Clallam County facilities unless otherwise governed by statute, County Ordinances or policy.

.3 DEFINITIONS

3.1 Greenhouse Gas

A greenhouse gas is a gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range, causing the greenhouse effect. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone.

3.2 Greenhouse Effect

The greenhouse effect is the process by which radiation from a planet's atmosphere warms the planet's surface to a temperature above what it would be without this atmosphere.

.4 GENERAL POLICIES

Clallam County acknowledges government's need and responsibility to conserve resources in the conduct of government business and to serve as a role model conservation to Clallam County residents, businesses and visitors.

4.1 Historical Review

In 2009, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a *Climate Action Plan* to guide decision-making and set goals related to greenhouse gas reductions. As an outcome of the *Climate Action Plan*, significant internal reductions in energy consumption were achieved at the department level by removing excess/outdated equipment, reducing

passive energy use, replacing traditional lighting with more efficient options, and by updating heating and cooling systems.

In 2019, to continue and expand on the *Climate Action Plan* efforts, the Board of County Commissioners hosted a series of Jefferson Dinners in each district to open a dialog with constituents to engage, gather public opinion and build community support around the role of county government in Climate Action. The public guidance from each Jefferson Dinner was shared in a work session resulting in a determination to establish an updated greenhouse gas inventory to gather data for use in guiding future climate action initiatives and to stand up in an in-house Climate Advisory Group to ensure countywide engagement and to bring ideas and plans forward for adoption.

4.2 Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Clallam County has committed to conduct and maintain an updated greenhouse gas inventory for the purpose of establishing a baseline to measure and determine the results of any climate action initiatives and to monitor progress toward county greenhouse gas emission goals.

The greenhouse gas inventory will monitor the status of Clallam County as a governmental entity (county owned structures, vehicles, employees) as well as Clallam County as a geographic region. To ensure accuracy, consistency, and inclusiveness, Clallam County will establish data-gathering partnerships with any interested county cities, tribal governments, and the public.

4.3 Planning

Clallam County has incorporated by Resolution 62-2018 that all future updates to the Clallam County Comprehensive Plan will be informed by relevant climate change predictions and shall be amended to specifically include strategies that will reduce Clallam County's risk exposure while improving citizen's ability to prepare for and address the impacts of climate change.

Clallam County has committed to work closely with the consultant engaged by the North Olympic Development Council (NODC) beginning in 2022 to develop specific guidelines on incorporating climate change considerations within county planning documents such as the Comprehensive Plan and the Shoreline Master Plan.

Clallam County has adopted a new Solid Waste Management Plan that focuses on waste reduction gains as well as recommendations for waste reduction strategies including food waste reduction strategies. Food waste reduction is perhaps the most impactful area of focus for Clallam County as we work to reduce our carbon footprint.

4.4 Vehicle Emissions

Clallam County recognizes the significant environmental impacts created by our fleet vehicles and commuting employees. It is the policy of Clallam County to establish alternatives to reduce the greenhouse gases created by these activities.

- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS)
Clallam County conducted a survey of all employees to determine the interest and anticipated use of EVCS for incentivizing employees to switch to electric vehicles for commuting. Based on a positive response to the survey, six EVCS will be installed in the employee parking lot (anticipated completion 12/2021). With the installation of EVCS, Clallam County has the option of replacing a portion of the county fleet vehicles with electric vehicles. All elected officials and department heads are encouraged to consider electric fleet vehicles as a contributing factor in meeting county greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.
- Reduced cost public transportation passes are available for purchase by Clallam county employees in the County Commissioner's Office.
- Significant efforts were made in 2020 to allow some employees with department head approval to complete county work from home reducing emissions caused by commuting.
- Consideration of expanded work-from-home policies that allow employees increased flexibility to work remotely, thereby reducing vehicle emissions.

4.5 Climate Advisory Group

In 2021, the Board of County Commissioners established an internal *Climate Advisory Group* to ensure continued progress in the reduction of greenhouse gases. The *Climate Advisory Group* is led by the director of the Clallam County Washington State University Extension Office and consists of employees from a variety of county departments working in an ancillary capacity to:

- Support the public outreach efforts and information dissemination around climate planning.
- Identify data-collection needed for informed decision-making on GHG reductions.
- Recommend greenhouse gas emission reduction goals to the County Commissioners;
- Identify and recommend greenhouse gas reduction and resource conservation strategies to the Board of County Commissioners;
- Monitor and report county progress to the public on actions related to county greenhouse gas emissions;
- Draft and submit changes and additions to the Clallam County Greenhouse Gas Policy.