

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

Summary of key themes from March-May Council Briefings – May 12, 2025

Councilors support staff's recommendation to bring the CCAP to Council for endorsement in November. In spite of the uncertainty surrounding federal climate funding right now, Councilors want Metro to advance its climate leadership and see the CCAP as an opportunity to do so.

Councilors want the CCAP to identify achievable steps to advance climate work in the region.

- Moving forward, **councilors expect there to be fewer federal resources to support local and regional climate action.**
- Councilors **requested that the CCAP identify low- or no-cost ways to advance climate work** (e.g., requiring more energy efficient buildings, implementing parking pricing, focusing transit spending on the most impactful projects) in the short term, and **explore actions that can be implemented with non-federal funding sources** over the longer term.

Councilors want the CCAP to communicate the value and impact of Metro's climate work.

- Councilors **understand that combating climate change means setting ambitious goals** to reduce emissions.
- They **worry that the perceived lack of progress toward these goals**, as well as the complexity of the data used to monitor progress, **alienates people and partners**. When goals are not achieved or when progress seems slow, it can lead to confusion, mistrust and make people question the value of current efforts and the region's commitment to meaningful climate action.
- Councilors **suggested several communication strategies**—including being clearer and more consistent when communicating climate data and targets, better tracking the different climate actions that partners are leading and better communicating the co-benefits of climate actions—to **help people better understand that the region is making real progress on climate and that this progress benefits everyone.**

Councilors want the CCAP to advance both climate and equity—and cautioned against pursuing actions that risk raising people's cost of living, such as green building requirements that make it more costly to build new housing and congestion pricing that penalizes low-income people for whom driving is the only viable travel option.

Councilors have questions about how the CCAP is broadening Metro's climate work and partnerships.

- The CCAP involves partnering with new communities (Columbia and Yamhill County) and efforts to reduce emissions in sectors that Metro and partners have not traditionally focused on (commercial and industrial).
- **Staff are engaging these communities and sectors through the CCAP Climate Partners' Forum** and working to identify relevant opportunities to reduce emissions.
- However, staff anticipate that **the CCAP will focus on reducing emissions from transportation, homes and waste in urbanized areas, which is where we are seeing the biggest opportunities to reduce emissions.**