

COUNCIL FEEDBACK ON DRAFT ACTIONS FOR THE PORTLAND/VANCOUVER AREA COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Date: June 20, 2025
Department: Planning, Development and
Research
Meeting Date: July 8, 2025
Prepared by: Eliot Rose,
eliot.rose@oregonmetro.gov

Presenters: Ted Leybold, he/him,
Transportation Policy Director
Kim Ellis, she/her, Climate Program
Manager
Eliot Rose, he/him, Senior Transportation
Planner
Length: 45 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

The greater Portland region, like many places in the world, is experiencing the impacts of climate change in the form of hotter summers, more extreme weather events and increased wildfire activity. Metro is currently leading development of a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the 7-county Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area. The CCAP is the **most comprehensive climate action plan the region has ever created**. It is a **roadmap for climate leadership that will help coordinate and track climate action** across the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area.

The CCAP will:

- Build on existing climate work by Metro and partners across the metropolitan area.
- Identify cost-effective, implementation-ready climate actions and describe how Metro and partners can collaborate to move them forward.
- Identify new projects, policies and process changes that can help Metro and partners better reduce climate pollution over the long term.
- Focus on climate actions that help save people money, improve health, and produce a variety of other benefits.
- Clarify how state, regional and local governments can best work together to alleviate climate change given their complementary and overlapping roles.
- Support Metro and partner agencies in pursuing state, foundation, and federal funding to implement projects that benefit the climate and advance other goals.
- Cover all sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the metropolitan area.
- Complete an inventory of current GHG emissions, recommend a set of actions to reduce these emissions, and estimate the future impact of these actions alongside state-level climate policies that are already underway to determine if they meet state climate goals.

The draft analysis finds that while **the recommended CCAP actions and existing state climate policies do not reduce emissions enough to meet state goals**, the actions make significant progress in reducing emissions. The CCAP recommends collective actions that require broad coordination between the public and private sector and at all levels of government that could reduce remaining emissions.

ACTION REQUESTED

Metro staff request Council provide feedback on the draft list of climate actions being proposed for the draft CCAP prior to releasing the draft plan for public comment in August 2025. This work session is also an opportunity for Council members to identify additional information needed prior to endorsing the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan in November 2025.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

In December 2023, Metro Council adopted five-year strategic targets related to economy, environment, and housing, including a target titled “Meeting our Climate and Resilience Goals” that states, “we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” Council provided direction on how this target should be reflected in Metro-led plans such as the Climate Smart Strategy, the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Regional Solid Waste Plan, and have approved updates to these and other plans that identify specific actions to reduce emissions and demonstrate climate leadership. Many agency and community partners across the region have adopted climate-related plans for their communities that support and inform Metro’s efforts.

Metro Councilors and other decision-makers have highlighted the need to advance climate leadership while also addressing current challenges due to limited resources and uncertainty about the federal government’s approach to climate change. The CCAP will identify near-term opportunities to advance climate-related projects and policies that are already in existing plans while also identifying longer-term opportunities for Metro and partners to further reduce climate pollution that may require follow-up planning and resource development.

The CCAP will not only address climate change, but has the potential to create jobs, save people money, clean the air and improve quality of life for everyone, including the region’s most vulnerable community members, who often bear the brunt of high energy costs and climate-related disasters. It focuses on climate actions that also benefit people in other ways, like making it easier to get around without driving, reducing the amount of energy used by our homes and buildings and making it easier to repair and reuse products.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does Council have feedback about the draft list of climate actions being proposed for the draft CCAP?
- Does Council need any additional information as staff work to finalize this plan for your endorsement?

BACKGROUND

Development of the CCAP is funded by a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Planning Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The CCAP is the second deliverable developed under this grant; the first was a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) submitted to EPA in February 2024. The PCAP was a 5-year plan focused on identifying actions that were eligible for implementation grants to combat climate change. The CCAP is a 25-year plan that expands upon the PCAP by looking more broadly at how to meet long-term climate goals. The states of Oregon and Washington also have parallel CPRG planning grants, and Metro coordinates with both states to ensure that the resulting

plans are aligned and mutually supportive. See Metro's CPRG webpage¹ for more information on the CPRG grant, including the submitted PCAP.

Over the past 10 months, Metro has completed significant engagement and analysis to help identify the draft list of climate actions being proposed for the draft CCAP, including:

Researching existing **climate-related plans** to help identify climate actions for inclusion in the CCAP, which builds on the extensive climate work already happening in the metropolitan area. Metro reviewed climate action plans from community-based organizations and local and regional agencies for potential CCAP actions, as well as plans on a variety of topics related to these actions (including transportation, land use and waste) to understand in more detail potential benefits, costs, and pathways to implementation for specific actions.

Engagement (summarized in **Attachment 1**), including with the following groups:

- Technical staff working on climate issues across the region, via the **Climate Partners' Forum**, which reviews CCAP work products and helps to ensure that the CCAP is aligned with and supportive of partner organizations' climate work. Forum participants are listed at the end of **Attachment 1**. A total of nine meetings have been held to date to support development of the PCAP and CCAP.
- **Engagement of regional policy and technical committees**, including county-level coordinating committees, to ensure that the CCAP meets regional and local needs and reflects existing regional and local plans and priorities.
- **Public engagement**, via **online open houses** that focus on understanding which GHG reduction measures most benefit people and on how to best deliver these co-benefits. The results from the first online open house, held during December 2024-January 2025, are summarized in **Attachment 2**. A second online open house is planned for August 2025.
- **Metro Council updates**, including more recent individual and small group conversations with Council members during March-May 2025. Key themes from those recent conversations are summarized in **Attachment 3**.

Quantitative analysis, including:

- Development of a **greenhouse gas inventory** that highlights the sectors where there are the greatest opportunities to reduce GHG emissions, including buildings; transportation; and food, goods and services.
- **Emissions projections and targets** that show how much planned local and regional actions and state-led actions that are already underway in Oregon and Washington are likely to reduce emissions to meet state climate goals. This work helps to illustrate not only how much the CCAP needs to reduce GHG emissions, but also opportunities for additional collective climate action and leadership.
- Estimates of the **costs and benefits of recommended climate actions**. The CCAP is required to include estimated GHG reductions, costs, and cost effectiveness for each action in the plan.

¹ <https://oregonmetro.gov/climategrant>

These activities contributed in different ways to the draft list of actions being proposed for the draft CCAP:

- Wherever possible, actions are drawn from **existing climate-related plans**. The CCAP includes low, medium, and high implementation scenarios for each action that are based on the resources and priorities outlined in these plans. These scenarios are used to quantify the **costs and benefits** of each action.
- **Climate Partners' Forum** members and **regional and county-level policy and technical committees** helped ensure CCAP actions align with existing plans and identify actions that are **ready for implementation**.
- **Public engagement** helped to identify actions that are community priorities because they provide **co-benefits** (including saving people money, improving access to destinations, and creating resilient communities). The public also identified some actions that may have negative impacts on community that need to be addressed prior to implementation.
- The **inventory, projections, targets, and cost/benefit estimates** were used to assess how much progress the planned local and regional actions make toward meeting Oregon and Washington's climate goals. Collectively, the actions in the CCAP and existing state policies do not meet these goals. Meeting state climate goals will require additional collective action.

Attachment 4 describes the draft CCAP actions, including the implementation scenarios that were used to analyze these actions, their estimated climate benefits and cost-effectiveness, and other information that helps to illustrate the opportunities and challenges associated with each action (alignment with community priorities and with available resources and agency authority). It also includes emissions projections, information on the collective climate benefit of the CCAP actions, and collective actions that could help meet state climate goals.

Final steps

- **August 1, 2025:** Metro staff plans to release the draft CCAP for public comment via an online open house.
- **August to September 2025:** Metro staff continues to engage with the public, the Climate Partners' Forum, and regional and county-level policy and technical committees to collect and address feedback on the draft plan. **Attachment 1** shows the planned schedule for these remaining engagements.
- **October 2025:** Metro staff plans to present recommended changes to the draft CCAP for Council review and feedback as staff finalize the plan for Council consideration. The changes will address feedback received over the summer and early fall.
- **November 2025:** Metro Council considers endorsing the CCAP by Metro resolution.
- **December 2025:** Metro staff submits final CCAP to EPA, as required by the federal grant funding this work.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Project schedule and engagement activities
 2. Winter 2024-25 online open house summary and findings
 3. Summary of key themes from March-April Council Briefings
 4. Draft Comprehensive Climate Action Plan actions and results
- Is legislation required for Council action? Not at this time. A draft resolution will be prepared for Council feedback at the October work session.
 - What other materials are you presenting today? Presentation slides.