



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Allocating Council Contingency Funds to facilitate Pierce County Climate Conversation meetings – June 4, 2024**
DATE: **May 21, 2024**

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing \$20,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Pierce County Climate Conversation, [Council Member Rumbaugh]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Members Diaz, Rumbaugh, and Walker

BACKGROUND:

The Council Member’s Recommendation is Based On:

The Pierce County Climate Conversation (Climate Conversation) is a partnership among jurisdictions to work collaboratively to address challenges brought on by climate change. This work began in 2023 and has been facilitated through volunteer effort. They work to achieve the countywide goal of reducing greenhouse gas by 45% by 2030, following the Pierce County Sustainability Plan 2030¹. The Climate Conversation brings together a broad group of elected officials in conversation for:

- Fact finding
- Seeking funding for shared projects
- Sharing resources to develop common policy and objectives and implementing actions.
- Supporting jurisdictions in integrating climate goals and policy throughout their comprehensive plans together with implementation actions. Understanding the climate connection to policies across the comprehensive plan chapters can guide this effort.

This resolution would provide initial funding, which is necessary for the Climate Conversation to continue to meet. There is not an existing agreement with partners to collaborate on funding this work. However, part of the scope of work includes determining membership responsibilities, commitments, and a sustainable funding plan. While this is a countywide initiative, the City has been a leader in this work with our Climate Action Plan, our Climate Emergency Resolution in 2019, and our Sustainable Tacoma Commission. Our Climate Action Plan intends to be a tool to serve overburdened and frontline communities’ needs and priorities, beyond reducing emissions and building resilience against climate impacts. At this time, the County hasn’t expressed a willingness to provide funding to intergovernmental coordination to accomplish their County-wide climate goals, but someone needs to do it. Tacoma has historically been the first to champion this work and when we do, others follow.

The \$20,000 in contingency funds should accomplish the following between June 2024 and June 2025:

- Develop & present options for membership responsibilities and commitments and sustainable funding plan
- Meet with each participant to gauge needs and gather feedback
- Lead Steering Committee meetings (8-10)
- Attend Steering Committee meetings (8-10)

¹ <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/2058/Sustainability-2030>



- Develop Agendas for Climate Conversation
- Facilitate priorities discussions, including regional collaboration for projects/programs/grants, climate legislation discussion, etc.
- Coordinate outside speakers, presenters
- Facilitate Climate Conversation meetings (4-6)
- Develop Annual workplan
- Develop Annual Report, that highlights countywide successes
- Curate and communicate relevant resources to electeds and staff, including grants
- Admin: update mailing list, name tents, mailings, rsvps, etc., presentation prep
- Connecting with Community Organizations for Partnerships

This is intended to be one-time funding. Additional needs are not intended to be funded by the City of Tacoma through contingency funds or in the 2025 – 2026 biennium budget. If the funding is not sufficient to cover the entire scope of work, the scope of work will be negotiated to cover as much as possible. The goal of this funding is to develop a work plan so that City-funded consultant services are no longer needed once the City funding is fully utilized.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The Climate Conversation has met quarterly since 2023. The Climate Conversation has reached out to Pierce County policy makers and governing bodies to invite them to participate in and inform these discussions. Representatives from Pierce County, cities of Puyallup, Fircrest, Lakewood, Gig Harbor, Edgewood, Tacoma, University Place, Steilacoom, and Fife, Metro Parks Tacoma, Port of Tacoma, and the Puyallup Tribe have participated in Climate Conversation meetings. There is also participation from others like the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

Substantive public outreach was performed to craft the City of Tacoma's 2030 Climate Action Plan. For a climate-safe and socially just future for Tacoma, we are committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. This is in line with targets being set by many other communities across the U.S., and the global target needed to increase our chances of avoiding catastrophic climate change. Analysis shows that our current climate plans and policies don't get us nearly as far as we need to go, and that if no new action is taken we will only reduce our GHG pollution by 14% by 2050. We need to forge a new path that reduces our emissions by 33% by 2030 on our way to zero emissions in 2050.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Tacoma has not been a place of equal opportunity in the past. As our climate warms, we must prepare for many local impacts. In the summertime, we will experience more very hot days, longer dry periods without rain, less snowpack, lower stream levels, and more wildfire smoke. In the wintertime, we will see more extreme rainfall, contributing to flooding and landslides. These impacts can be particularly intense for our unhoused neighbors, outdoor workers, kids, seniors, pregnant people, low-income households, BIPOC community members, people with breathing or heart issues, as well as other species, like salmon and orca. For our climate work, it has been important to acknowledge and work from the knowledge that some communities have been denied socioeconomic opportunities, made more vulnerable to climate impacts, and underrepresented in City decision-making processes.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?² (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

The City of Tacoma is impacted by regional actions to reduce or exasperate climate change. Achieving the Pierce County Sustainability Plan 2030 goal of reducing greenhouse gas by 45% by 2030 will support the goals in the City of Tacoma's



Climate Action plan, and reduce the burden climate change will have on our most vulnerable communities.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Do not provide funding to Climate Conversation	Saves City resources for other Council Priorities. Prevents potentially underfunding a project that is unable to advance fully due to inadequate funding. The City of Tacoma would not be taking on the sole financial responsibility of a County-wide initiative without formal demonstration of broad stakeholder buy in and support.	Climate Conversation work is unable to continue without a funding source for meeting facilitation.
2. Request Pierce County lead on funding Climate Conversation work	The Pierce County Climate Conversation scope of work seeks to achieve goals outlined in the Pierce County Sustainability Plan 2030, and it would make sense for the County to be a primary fiscal sponsor to facilitate this work. The County could utilize their county-wide resources, relationships, and subject matter expertise to advance these efforts more effectively than the City of Tacoma.	Pierce County hasn't expressed a willingness to provide funding to intergovernmental coordination to accomplish their County-wide climate goals. Climate Conversation work is unable to continue without a funding source for meeting facilitation.
3. Pursue broader intergovernmental agreements and fiscal partnerships to advance Climate Conversation work	A broad coalition of fiscal sponsors would demonstrate formal commitment from stakeholders, both in the work of the Climate Conversation and in the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing local impacts of climate change. Broader funding reduces the risk that inadequate funding would shut down the Climate Conversations. An intergovernmental agreement would ensure shared understanding and buy-in on the contracted services goals/objectives.	This would take time, and would require resources to coordinate the intergovernmental agreement. Climate Conversation work is unable to continue without a funding source for meeting facilitation.
4. Provide a long-term, sustainable funding source from the City of Tacoma for Climate Conversation work	The Climate Conversation work would have a long-term, sustainable funding source.	This type of funding option would precede the establishing agreement county-wide for municipalities to come together towards achieving climate change goals. Without this, there wouldn't be a clear objective/outcome for this level of investment. Other municipalities may not show their commitment to this effort, and may not fully participate in the work. The City of Tacoma would be allocating resources to funding county-wide work instead of City of Tacoma focused programs/services.



EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

At the end of this work an update of what was funded should be shared with the City Council, including how many meetings took place and what progress was made on shared participation between municipalities.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend the City of Tacoma leading on regional climate change collaboration by adopting this resolution to provide \$20,000 to support the Climate Conversation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 1030- Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$20,000
2.			
TOTAL			\$20,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

The Council Contingency Fund provides an established amount of funding each year for unbudgeted Council sponsored initiatives.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

List attachments using bullet points.

- Resolution.

2024 Council Contingency Commitments

2024 - 2025	\$	225,000.00
(Remaining balance that will be carried over in March / April 2024)	\$	19,450.00

Resolution 41354

Council Requested - Raising Girls Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor 500 Raising Girls winter care bags with personal hygiene and menstrual products, as well as warm winter items, for low-income Tacoma students.

Resolution 41372

Council Requested - Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange	\$	5,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 request to sponsor the Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange.

Resolution 41373

Council Requested - Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Culture Festival	\$	5,500.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,500 to sponsor Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Cultural Festival.

Resolution 41378

Council Requested - Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest	\$	10,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) for their Phone Call Fund to support access to phone services for detainees in the Northwest Ice Processing Center

Resolution 41386

Council Requested - Tacoma Refugee Choir's First Annual Symposium Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
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A Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Refugee Choir's first annual symposium, "From Welcoming to Cooperation."

To Council June 4, 2024

Council Requested - Facilitation of Pierce County Climate Conversation Meetings	\$	20,000.00
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Resolution authorizing \$20,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Pierce County Climate Conversation

Starting Balance	\$	244,450.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	60,500.00
Current Balance	\$	183,950.00