



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services *GMS MPS*
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PRESENTERS: Kristi Lynett, Sustainability Officer, Environmental Services
Beth Jarot, Resilient & Green Building Specialist, Environmental Services
SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Strategy Update
DATE: September 22, 2021

PRESENTATION TYPE: Informational briefing.

SUMMARY:

Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability staff will be presenting an update on the Climate Action Plan and the Climate Adaptation Strategy. Draft Plans will be shared and a summary of community engagement results will be addressed. Final public engagement and full City Council consideration is planned for autumn.

BACKGROUND:

The Climate Action Plan serves as an update to the current Environmental Action Plan. This update is a compilation of meaningful, high-priority actions that the City of Tacoma and our community will take to meet the City's greenhouse gas and community goals outlined in the Tacoma 2025 Strategic Plan and the Climate Emergency Resolution. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) consolidates the priorities of multiple city departments, providing a centralized plan and reporting system for tracking progress toward environmental goals. In this way, it functions both as a management tool for city staff and as a public document providing transparency on the actions the city is taking on behalf of the broader community. The City has contracted with Sustainability Solutions Group and Citizens for a Healthy Bay to support plan development and community engagement and ensure that it will serve as a guiding document for shared climate solutions, environmental protections, and community resilience – putting people first and prioritizing those communities most vulnerable to climate impacts. Input from diverse community voices, through Environmental Justice Leaders, Climate Action Ambassadors, and frontline community organizations, helped develop this draft transformational plan. This plan will direct strategies, investments and actions that work to create a better Tacoma for all.

The Climate Adaptation Strategy (CAS) follows up on the Climate Resiliency Study conducted in 2015-2016. The City of Tacoma has contracted with Cascadia Consulting to produce a comprehensive Climate Adaptation Strategy to identify responsibilities and timelines for tasks that will reduce risks from climate change and build resiliency into municipal operations and to the Tacoma community. The report will include targeted, cost-effective, and appropriately scaled adaptation strategies to protect its infrastructure, economy, and community in the face of increasing climate threats. This report will serve as a mechanism to tie together the City's existing and developing sustainability initiatives and plans with community goals. A steering committee made up of representatives from the City, Tacoma Public Utilities and outside organizations is providing input and guidance throughout the process. Key recommendations from the CAS will be incorporated into the updated Climate Action Plan.

ISSUE:

The City Council passed Resolution No. 40509 in December 2019, declaring a climate emergency in Tacoma, and affirming Council's support of initiatives that mitigate impacts.



The CAP responds to the directives of the Climate Emergency Resolution by responding to the threats posed by climate change to Tacoma. The CAP not only addresses the critical issue of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, but will also prioritize actions with multiple benefits such as health, safety, access, and equity.

In addition to mitigation efforts, Tacoma must prepare for the expected impacts of climate change including, but not limited to: rising sea levels, more frequent significant rain events, more powerful coastal storms, wildfire smoke and more frequent days with heat over 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The Climate Adaptation Strategy is companion document to the CAP that positions the City to maintain a high quality of life with livable neighborhoods, healthy open spaces, parks and tree canopy and a growing business environment with a focus on social equity.

ALTERNATIVES:

Informational presentation only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational presentation only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time.