



Meeting Notes

DETAILS

Date: May 23rd, 2023

Time: 1:00-2:20pm

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Pierce County Sustainable Resources staff

Attendees

- City of Dupont
- City of Fife
- City of Lakewood
- City of Puyallup
- City of Tacoma
- Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
- Pierce County Planning & Public Works (PPW) Long Range, Sustainability
- Pierce Transit
- Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD)
- Tacoma Power
- Northwest Seaport Alliance

Attendee Updates

- PPW Sustainability: One year since launch of Sustainability Collaborative. Attendees at quarterly meetings change based on their interest in topic, which is by design. Others are always invited.
- TPCHD: First extreme heat activation occurred early this year (mid-May); helped them get into gear and finalize draft heat response plan and set heat activation thresholds
[Article](#) shared in chat about impacts of early season heat waves
- Pierce Transit: continuing to work on zero emission fleet transition and determining which fuels to use; just submitted federal grant application to acquire battery-electric buses
- Lakewood: New Urban Forestry Implementation Plan presented to City Council May 22, moving forward with funding planning
- Dupont: Owner of brownfield site in Old Fort Lake Subarea wants to develop; city is in midst of Comprehensive and Park Plan updates, including the Old Fort Lake Subarea Plan
- Pierce County S2030: Regional partners have begun organizing (Snohomish, King, Pierce, Kitsap Counties + Cities of Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton, Bellevue + Puget Sound Clean Air Agency) for

the submission of a workplan to EPA's climate pollution reduction grant (CPRG). Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will be the lead agency for our MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area). Contact Laura Rysler -laura.ryser@piercecounitywa.gov if you are interested in participating in planning for the grant.

Pierce County Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities Study Update (see slides)

Becca Book, PPW Long Range Planning, becca.book@piercecounitywa.gov & Rachel Gregg, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), rgregg@esassoc.com

- Why perform a Climate Vulnerabilities Assessment (CVA)? Directed by County Resolution #2022-77: evaluate vulnerabilities and risks associated with climate change
- ESA work funded by Commerce (competitive early implementation climate planning grant)

Five Step Climate Adaptation Planning Framework, centered around Engagement and Outreach (with community members but also planners/managers)

- Define goals & objectives
- Assess vulnerability
- Identify adaptation options
- Prioritize and implement strategies
- Monitor, evaluate, and adjust

A CVA CAN: Identify *what* resources are most vulnerable and *why* to help prioritize focus of management actions efficiently, develop strategies to address climate change, and allocate resources.

A CVA CANNOT: make a management decision for you. Still need to weigh your organization's values and other factors i.e., equity, effectiveness, feasibility, etc.

Vulnerability: the degree to which an asset/resource is susceptible to or unable to cope with adverse impacts of climate change.

Developing Adaptation Strategies

Reduce negative effects, take advantage of any opportunities.

Develop actionable strategies, evaluate against your own value criteria (i.e., effectiveness and feasibility)

Look for places to build off and align with existing and in-development plans i.e., salmon recovery plans.

Questions to consider:

- What are actions you are already taking that are responsive to climate change?
- What are actions you could modify to better respond to climate change?
- What are new actions that could be implemented?

Products (expected approximately end of June 2023)

- Climate Impacts Assessment
- Climate Vulnerabilities Assessment
- Menu of Adaptation Options
- Outreach Materials (fact sheets/maps/activities)

Equitable Community Engagement Framework and the Sustainability 2030 Plan Update (see slides)

Nicole Avendaño, Pierce County PPW Sustainable Resources, nicole.avendano@piercecountywa.gov

- This is a draft. Will be an appendix in our Sustainability 2030 Plan update and will be updated every 2 years.
- Equity as an outcome and a process – dynamic and iterative
- Background – climate solutions must be rooted in a sense of belonging.

Prepare the ground – planting & growth – harvest & regrowth

- Prepare:
 - USDN Equity Foundations course.
 - Video: [How We Got Here: A Reckoning with U.S. and Tacoma History](#)
- Planting: Use tools for equitable engagement
 - [Pierce County Equity Note & Index](#)
 - [Washington State Environmental Health Disparities map](#)
 - Sustainable Resources internal equity assessment tool
- Harvest: active reflection phase, will support sustained and new processes that build racial equity. Leading by example, share and celebrate success and missteps.

What are we prioritizing?

- Relationships
- Long-term impacts
- Notice and grapple with: Our timeline vs needs of our community -

Who are we prioritizing?

- Frontline communities
- TPCHD communities of Focus
- WA Environmental Health Disparities map

How are we doing this?

- Attending community meetings
- Interviewing community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Using accessible materials
- Translating questions into Spanish
- Asking simple questions
- Tailoring presentations to the community

Meeting people where they are – community resource fairs, events organized by CBOs, Participation numbers aren't necessarily the most important consideration. Qualitative over Quantitative.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Safe Streets climate change workshops
- Reporting back to community
- Integrate feedback and work on solutions
- Continue showing up, listening, and building relationships

“Transform yourself to transform the world.”

[Living for Change: An Autobiography](#) by Grace Lee Boggs

Discussion:

- *I really appreciate the ground-up and grounded approach you are taking. thank you for building that in so strongly into your work*
- *Homeless population will be really affected by impacts of climate change, most vulnerable to extreme heat events. Working with organizations that regularly serve and interact with homeless community members for heat response.*
- *Important to take part in community conversations*
- *Survey fatigue is real, especially among underrepresented groups.*
- *Foundational relationship work is super important for engaging underrepresented/at risk communities*
- *Will share the Pierce County Equity Note and Index with policy team*

End of meeting poll results:

- *Most folks interested in more frequent shorter meetings to share updates, but still have quarterly learning meetings with guest presenters.*
- *Split on webpage use. Appreciate resources and would like more.*
- *Potential topics for next meeting: Building codes and electrification, funding opportunities*

Comments:

- *Yes, I need to visit the webpage more often! And I will definitely try to invite our building official to the next meeting. I think he'd be interested :)*
- *The website is really really good. Great resource. I have used it a few times.*
- *I haven't been to the webpage because of a lack of time*

Next meeting: September 12, 2023 (tentative)