



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Saturday, May 6, 2017

8:30 AM

Council Chambers

City Council Work Session - Salem Strategic Plan
Meeting Location: Council Chambers

[17-221](#)

Salem Strategic Plan Goals

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Attachments:

[Vision for Growth and Development Work Group discussion summary](#)

[Affordable Housing, Social Services, and Homelessness Council Work Group discussion](#)

[Economic Development and Downtown Council Work Group discussion summary](#)

[Sustainable Service Delivery Council Work Group discussion summary](#)

[Public Transportation Summary](#)

[Written Testimony 1](#)

Add - Attachment Added

Add - Written Testimony

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Laurie Dougherty <lauriedougherty@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2017 8:01 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Submitting Comment for City Council Work Session 5/6/17

To Mayor Bennett and Salem City Councilors:

Due to a longstanding prior commitment I will only be able to attend the May 6 work session briefly if at all. So I am submitting this comment for your consideration in conjunction with that work session.

Along with others who will speak to you on May 6, I strongly urge you to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Salem. Several Oregon cities have CAPs in place or in development as do many cities in other states and countries.

We at climate action group 350 Salem OR have researched, and continue to research, the progress of several of these CAPs as well as previous initiatives in Salem. We would be happy to share that research with you and with city staff. We can point to programs available to cities for grant funding, sharing best practices, and technical assistance for development and implementation of a CAP.

We know climate change is real and is already causing disruption to many natural systems and cycles upon which we depend for life and livelihood and the stability of our society. Denial and dysfunction at the federal level make it more important now than ever that cities and states take responsibility for measures to address climate change. It's time for Salem to step up to this challenge and to take up the opportunity it presents for a healthier, more efficient, resilient and forward-thinking city.

Thank you for your consideration,
Laurie Dougherty
Ward 2
462 20th St. SE
Salem OR 97301
lauriedougherty@gmail.com
Co-Coordinator 350 Salem OR

Comments for Salem City Council Work Session May 6, 2017
Nancy Pfeiler, 350 Salem
448 Sunwood Dr NW

Thank you for allowing public input in this process. I am in the audience today, but do not plan to speak.

I recommend you add to your goals the following language:

"The City of Salem shall adopt a community-wide Climate Action Plan designed to measure and determine strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for a healthy and sustainable future for us and future generations."

The outcome noted in other places is a more vibrant, livable, healthy city where people LOVE to live and new businesses thrive as the population grows.

The City of Salem departments currently conduct business in accordance with state and federal environmental requirements and as a citizen, I want to make sure the environment is protected for future generations regardless of federal or state expectations. To do so, I recommend creating a Department of Sustainability with a dedicated staff and examination of all city and community business activities leading to setting of goals. This department works with community members and groups to suggest and implement actions.

Cities' actions could include the following found in other cities:

1. Drought-proofing water supply by recycling
2. Improving bike network through shopping and eating areas increasing retail spending.
3. Local jobs created to manage waste diversion.
4. Small loans to residents to install solar adds to the economy and adds jobs.
5. Traffic calming efforts increase family bike use, decreases vehicle congestion and educates young people on routes they can take on their bikes to get places they want to go.
6. Interest-free loans for and bulk buying programs of electric vehicles creates another incentive for people who cannot afford it any other way.
7. Requiring solar energy-ready installation in new building construction.
8. Solar net-metering provides incentives to home/apartment owners.
9. Small grants encourage community creativity and involvement while adding money to our economy.

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Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the workgroup today. My name is **Meg Rowe. I am a resident of Ward 1** and work for the Oregon Judicial Department. I am here today for myself & 350.org Salem and the opinions I express are my own.

I congratulate City Council on the commitment you made to develop a strategic plan for the city. It takes a significant investment of time and resources, and today's proactive work can ensure the social, environmental and fiscal sustainability of our city for decades to come.

I encourage you to include a clear commitment in the strategic plan to adopt a Climate Action Plan (CAP) through a public stakeholder engagement process--To prepare for the current and anticipate impacts of our changing climate; and to ensure a healthy and prosperous life for current and future citizens. Doomsday predictions abound across media platforms since the November election and we have an administration where the best case scenario would be to stall on climate action. Instead we face regressive policies and a certain increase in US emissions, leading us to a potentially catastrophic consequences for future generations.

Climate change is a global problem but the impacts are local and so are some of the solutions. Responsibility also rests on the local level—government, industry and residents forging initiatives crafted from of ingenuity and elbow grease. As Michael Bloomberg recently told the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, “Cities, businesses and citizens will continue reducing emissions, because they have concluded — just as China has — that doing so is in their own self-interest.”¹

What Localities Are Doing Local governance bodies of all sizes are planning for mitigation and adaptation across the county, the northwest and Oregon.

- **Jackson County-** as part of the CDC's Climate Ready States and Cities Initiative, adopted a Climate and Health Action Plan in 2013. Five other Oregon counties participate in the initiative: **Benton, Crook**, and working together, **Wasco, Gilliam and Sherman**

¹ *Bloomberg Says Cities Will Fight Climate Change, With or Without Trump*, Edward Wong, The New York Times, November 23, 2016. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/23/us/politics/mike-bloomberg-donald-trump-climate-change.html> Last accessed 5/3/2017.

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- Among the Oregon cities who have adopted climate plans or integrated climate planning into their comprehensive plans are **Bend, Corvallis, Oregon City and in the NW, Spokane, Issaquah, Lynnwood, Bellingham, Boise and Hailey ID.**

TACOMA

In 2005, Tacoma's Mayor signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement committing the city to reduce its greenhouse gas emission levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, the Kyoto Protocol target. Tacoma convened a task force of 25 public and private stakeholders including industry, labor, local government, business, environmental organizations and higher education institutions to draft a Climate Action Plan.² Tacoma conducted a 15-month process:

- Studied other region's climate action plans,
- Evaluated strategies, and
- Projected potential reductions and estimated costs.

Tacoma took a lead from The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's statement that **intense efforts in the short term are better than moderate efforts over the long term.** Tacoma's 2008 Climate Action Plan called for a reduction to **15 percent below 1990 levels**, a significantly more robust goal than the U.S. Mayor's agreement. Tacoma and its citizens tackled these goals aggressively and met that 2012 goal with **16 percent reduction since 1990**, in spite of the recession.³ Tacoma has shown that it and other cities can and should be leaders in exceeding the Kyoto Protocol.

BOISE

As far back at 2005, the City of Boise undertook numerous sustainability initiatives to achieve the vision of "making Boise the most livable city in the country."⁴ Boise committed to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (2005 and again in 2014) resolving to:

²https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/environmental_action_plan/2008_climate_action_plan Last accessed 5/4/2017.

³ Tacoma's Climate Action Plan 2008, cms.cityoftacoma.org/enviro/sustain/ClimateActionPlanJuly2008.pdf

⁴ City of Boise Renewable Energy Plan RFO, 12-27-2016, publicworks.cityofboise.org/.../item-3-Renewable-Energy-Plan-RFP-Draft-Scope-of-Services-12-26-16.pdf Last accessed 5-4-2017

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- reduce Boise's carbon footprint by improving energy efficiency
- adopt sustainable land-use policies and
- promote transportation alternatives.

A city-wide initiative "LIV Boise" (Lasting, Innovative and Vibrant) was implemented to enhance livability by promoting sustainable policies, practices and partnerships.⁵

In 2008 Boise embarked on a climate planning process and integrated climate action into their comprehensive plan, *Blueprint Boise*,⁶ which conceptualized a series of themes to create a framework of goals and policies to implement priority actions.

First Theme is **Environmental Stewardship**. Among the primary tenants is to develop tools to **measure and monitor progress**. Actions steps include:

- Establishing a **baseline of conditions**, which is crucial to understanding the impacts overtime and determining which initiatives are most effective, and
- Taking **quantitative measures on an annual basis** of city operations and the community as a whole.

Another noteworthy theme is a **Community of Stable Neighborhoods and Vibrant Mixed-use Activity Centers**. Action steps include revising and developing new regulations to streamline the approval process for development that is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

In 2012 the city hired Climate Solutions, an Oregon company, to develop an inventory of energy consumption and use within the community and then conduct a community stakeholder workshop to develop a community action plan to both improve energy efficiency and increase production of renewable energy within the community.

More recently Boise began working with McKinstry to address city operations, and their efforts have identified a savings potential for over **13,000,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, 100,000 therms of natural gas, and 27,500,000 gallons of water**. Combined, these measures are anticipated to reduce the City's environmental impact by more than **12,000,000 pounds of CO₂**.⁷

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <http://pds.cityofboise.org/planning/comp/> Last accessed 5/4/2017.

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Equity

One of the identified values of the recent city assessment is that Salem is “fair, equitable, and safe” This planning process must necessarily include consideration of equity. Low income and communities of color frequently experience un-equal burden of impacts from our changing climate. Social vulnerability as measured by health, education and socio-economic status is high in Marion County and the City of Salem relative to other areas of the state.⁸ I strongly encourage you to include a lens of Climate Equity in the planning process to ensure that all Salem’s residents benefit equally.

I and other 350.org -Salem members have assembled numerous resources related to city climate action plans and we are happy to share that research with City Council.

Respectfully submitted, May 4, 2017.

Meg Rowe
Ward 1
Salem OR

⁷ www.cityofboise.org/city_clerk/013112/energyaudit.pdf

⁸ *Climate & Health Vulnerability Assessment*, Oregon Climate and Health Program.
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/ClimateChange/Pages/index.aspx> Last accessed May 4, 2017.

City of Salem Strategic Planning 2017—Climate Action Plan Proposal

Submitted by Linda Wallmark on behalf of 350 Salem OR

wallmarklinda4@gmail.com

May 6, 2017

I am here on behalf of 350 Salem OR, the local chapter of the international, grassroots group, 350.org, working to address the issue of climate change. Thank you for your dedication to the city and for taking our testimony this morning. We commend you for drafting Vision and Mission statements which recognize the value of a sustainable, quality environment. Salem can be proud of the city's efforts made toward that goal, including the 2009 Environmental Action Plan, the 2010 Salem Energy Strategy, and continuing projects to improve biking and pedestrian connections, among other measures.

In keeping with the draft Vision and Mission statements, 350 Salem OR encourages the city to squarely address the reality of global climate change. In Oregon, we already are seeing climate change impacts that will only accelerate in the years to come: shifting climate patterns that affect agriculture, forestry and tourism; increased frequency and severity of forest fires; rising temperatures and drought; heavier rainfall events; decreased snowpack; and negative human health effects. We ask that you pro-actively plan and invest in strategies, processes and infrastructure in Salem that will address these impacts.

Mayor Bennett and honorable City Councilors, we urge you to commit to create and adopt a **Salem Climate Action Plan** with a public stakeholder process. The role of cities in addressing greenhouse gas reduction is critical, with over half of the world's population currently living in cities. As the state's capital and second largest city in Oregon, we believe Salem should join other Oregon cities such as Hillsboro, Corvallis, Eugene, Portland and Ashland that have adopted Climate Action Plans. Such a plan will further state goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support community preparation for anticipated climate change-related impacts, and produce co-benefits such as greater energy efficiencies and other positive cost-benefit investments.

There are five steps to take in developing and implementing a Climate Action Plan that serve as milestones for assessing progress:

- Step 1: Conduct a city-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory
- Step 2: Establish quantitative carbon emission reduction targets
- Step 3: Develop a Climate Action Plan for achieving the targets
- Step 4: Implement the Climate Action Plan
- Step 5: Monitor and verify the results

We call for the short-term goal of taking inventory of Salem's greenhouse gas emissions. Subsequent steps would be addressed as medium and long-range goals as appropriate. Such a plan would analyze sectors as diverse as Buildings and Energy, Food and Agriculture, Land Use and Transportation, Consumption and Waste, Health and Social Services and Urban Natural Resources in order to develop a Climate Action Plan uniquely suited to our community and its needs.

We ask for your bold and foresightful leadership to help Salem successfully meet the challenges of a future of increasing climate change. We urge you to create and adopt a Climate Action Plan.

May 3, 2017

Salem City Council
555 Liberty Street SE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mayor Bennett and Councilors,

The Salem Strategic Plan Study Group has spent the past two months reviewing many City documents, including the existing comprehensive plan, the proposed budget and the 5-year forecast, the documents produced by ECONorthwest as part of the Strategic Plan Initiative, and the zoning codes. We have attended many of the Strategic Plan Initiative's work sessions and reviewed their work products. We also brought in an outside expert to help us better understand state land use laws and City planning requirements.

We present the following recommendations based on our review of the material, our experience with the City as taxpayers and residents, and our shared aspiration for a better and more dynamic Salem.

Central Services

1. We believe that acting on "*Finding 4: The City needs more staff capacity to implement a coordinated package of forecasting, planning, and evaluation systems*" is critical to the ability of the Council and the City to move forward and effectively implement the goals of the City's many current plans, let alone the plan that results from this initiative. The City should move quickly to identify the positions that are needed and fill them.

Sustainable Services

1. We recognize that any new program efficiencies that the City achieves in its services will not solve our existing structural deficit, fund our deferred maintenance needs, and allow us to improve select services. We, therefore, support an increase in revenue.
2. We think it is important that the City develop recommendations for any new revenue through a broad-based, inclusive, citizens' committee.
3. We believe that any new revenue increases should not be regressive.
4. We urge the City to investigate best practices in the operations of police and fire departments in other cities, with the goal of discovering methods of containing and possibly reducing the cost of these two departments that together comprise nearly 60% of the General Fund.

Vision for Growth and Development

1. We agree with the work group's recommendation that the City should update its comprehensive plan.
2. We believe that the City should prioritize density through infill and redevelopment and discourage the development of the large-scale, single-family residential communities that typify urban sprawl.
3. We believe it is important that in pursuit of urban density we do not sacrifice our current level of service for parks (both developed and undeveloped), weaken existing policies that set aside riparian areas, floodplains and steep slopes, or accept a reduction of our urban tree canopy target of 23%.

Economic Development and Downtown

We support all the goals and programs suggested in the work group plan. We have some concern, however, about whether there are sufficient personnel to address the range of goals and programs included in the plan. With that in mind, we have set out what we believe are the highest priority and most valuable elements, ones we believe may hasten the realization of goals that may be beyond the reach of current resources.

1. We believe the highest priority is supporting local business retention and expansion, with business recruitment limited to opportunities identified by SEDCOR and Business Oregon. Given the strength of agriculture in the central Willamette valley, we believe it is wise to work with Team Oregon.
2. We would rank land and site readiness as the second priority, especially opportunities for infill development, consistent with SSPSG's overall recommendation. We encourage the City to streamline permitting for new and existing businesses.
3. We support growing the program reach to the whole city, not just URA's, and presumably, the Enterprise Zone.
4. We suggest including WorkSource Oregon and Chemeketa Community College in your workforce development plans, and CTEC may be valuable as well.
5. We suggest the City offer loan guarantees along with grants and loans.
6. We believe the highest priority downtown development is continued building renovations, including seismic retrofits. Simultaneously, the City should pursue office and a range of different housing developments on upper

floors. We support direct city investments in key projects and building improvements.

7. The City should focus on improved transit and bicycle access. Buses on north-south routes could easily provide access to all of downtown by extending routes a few blocks further north or south before returning to the transit center, for example, and downtown connections with emerging bike boulevards will likely encourage biking downtown.
8. We believe renewed housing efforts downtown would benefit from better streetscapes and alley improvements that present inviting pedestrian environments.
9. Of the potential new URA's, we suggest the City select North Waterfront and State Street because of their proximity to downtown and redevelopment readiness.

Public Transit

1. The City needs an effective bus service that includes evenings and weekends. Period. Full stop.

Affordable Housing, Homelessness and Social Services

1. The City has a housing crisis, not just for the homeless, but also for lower income residents. We believe the City should look at reducing the time to approve an affordable housing project. The City needs to find creative ways to develop new housing opportunities such as: transitional housing for homeless, community land trusts, cooperatives, tiny apartments, senior community housing, modular housing, work trade, and co-living. The City should also find ways incentivize builders to create affordable housing.
2. We agree with the conclusion during the work group discussion that the City should leverage its resources to bring additional HUD resources to our region. Before developing specific strategies, however, the City council should seek input from local agencies to understand obstacles they face in complying with HUD mandates (such as a Homeless Management Information System) and consider how the city could help them meet these requirements to increase HUD funding.

Critical Infrastructure

1. We believe the Council should develop and approve criteria to rank infrastructure maintenance and repair projects so that projects included in

the Capital Improvements Budget reflect agreed-upon Council priorities and so the public understands the basis on which the projects were selected.

2. We believe that safe pedestrian routes, by which we mostly mean sidewalks and bike routes, along with safe buildings for City staff, should be at or near the top of the priorities for new capital purchases and for capital improvements.
3. We understand that some City infrastructure generates net revenue for the City (e.g., softball complex). It seems wise to rank net revenue generating infrastructure high on the priority list. Considering our relatively central location and status as a capitol city, we should explore other net revenue generating infrastructure facilities.

Parks and Cultural Services

1. We believe the City should maintain the existing ratios of park acreage per 1,000 residents and tree canopy target of 23%.
2. We believe the City needs to increase parks staffing levels to achieve a desirable level of service.
3. Urban trails have little value if they don't go someplace. We believe the City should aggressively expand connectivity for bike and pedestrian trails throughout downtown and the rest of the city, which may require greater use of linear and connector parks.
4. We believe the City should prioritize investment in a North Salem library branch.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute our thoughts about the future direction of Salem.

Sincerely,

Sara Swanborn

April Brenden-Locke

Kirk Leonard

Michael Slater

Jim Scheppke

Joyce Judy

Sylvia Loftus

Nick Eustrom

Trevor Phillips, MD

Sean Nikas

Jacqueline Leung

Susie Callahan

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Caroline OBrien <mygardenshoes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 7:03 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Saturday meeting with Mayor and councilors

Categories: Recorder Tasks

Mayor Bennett and councilors,

Thank you for allowing me to add my comments to this very important work day. My name is Caroline O'Brien. I am attending the meeting today to ask you to look at the current situation of climate change. A majority of Americans recognize the rapid and escalating heating of our Earth's atmosphere as the main crisis we face today. Greenhouse emissions are adding carbon into our atmosphere at an ever alarming rate. We know that cities are responsible for 70% of the current levels of carbon emissions. Having said that, the good part of this fact also means that cities have the best opportunity to slow the amount of carbon emitted into the air resulting in stopping climate change.

Here are some points I want to highlight:

1. Lowering our carbon footprint creates local jobs. Fighting climate change means saving energy which equates to installation jobs for windows, insulation, solar panels and several kinds of weatherization upgrades. These types of jobs can't be outsourced. They pay middle class wages and add value to small local businesses.

2. Lower energy costs means more money stays in the community.

3. People that bike, walk and take public transit tend to shop locally. Again, local businesses benefit.

4. Being green attracts green enterprises. When Salem joins other Oregon cities with our own CAP, then Salem and Oregon become more of a magnet for green oriented business. If we don't seize this opportunity, then they will pass us by and California benefits.

A good example is Hillsboro who adopted a climate action plan in 2008. A 2013 city report lists several clean energy companies that employ a large portion of its population. The city's top employer is Intel but the next few listed are all from the clean energy sector. Hillsboro attracts citizens with higher education and provides a healthy livable environment and this equates to better conditions for all who live there.

5. Benefits to our city would be that our environment will be cleaner, our citizens would achieve a higher level of health and our community will be more cohesive. There is no better way to improve the livability of a community than to experience it at a walking pace and get to know your neighbors. Everyone benefits. Livability also equates to a healthier population.

I am a practicing nurse and my career has been spent teaching patients how to improve their health. I see climate change as a direct factor in future health problems. I hope that you all will take my words today as deep support for all of you as you endeavor to create an agenda that supports the health of our population and its future.

Thank you,
Caroline O'Brien RN, BSN, MSN