

**From:** [Daryl Knox](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 11:09 AM  
**To:** [SalemCAP](#)  
**Subject:** Climate Action Plan

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I understand the City of Salem has been working on an overall strategic plan for the future development of Salem. Planning is an important tool and critical as we consider the demands of growing population in the region. However, I do not understand why so many resources (time, energy and money) were invested in the Climate Action plan when there are so many other immediate needs of the community that seem to be unaddressed.

By all accounts, many of the initiatives in the Climate Action plan will not make a measurable positive impact on global climate initiatives. But they will have a significantly negative impact on the affordability and livability of the Salem region for its residents, especially those people who possess the least resources. As an example, eliminating natural gas would only increase the cost and reduce the reliability of energy. It is effectively a regressive tax on the poorer residents because of its impact on the cost of housing and the cost of heat.

I would prefer the City of Salem focus it's limited resources on the problems facing our residents that we can actually impact with some attention and good planning – infrastructure, public safety, homelessness, economic development, a shortage of property zoned for housing and industry, and a shortage of skilled workers. Let's figure out ways to make our community more affordable and attractive for our residents.

Thank you,

**Daryl Knox, CPA, CCIFP®**

Partner

Aldrich CPAs + Advisors LLP  
680 Hawthorne Avenue SE, #140, Salem, Oregon 97301  
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**From:** [Dennis Creel](#)  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 5:37 PM  
**To:** [SalemCAP](#)  
**Subject:** Climate Plan comments

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1. I dont see any downtown merchants listed for input on this topic.
2. I dont see any experts talking about underground storage of carbon and its benefits.
3. Any strategy should include private drivers taking over chariots. Lyft and Uber are much more efficient getting people to where they need to be. Takes me 1.5 hours to get from my house in West Salem to get to the train station. So I use Lyft. Time is worth more than public transportation. This needs total rethinking. Think outside the box. Need innovation. Rethink public transportation.
4. Reading these proposals will definitely discourage downtown business success and encourage more home delivery from Amazon. Most of the products delivered will come from China. China is still building coal plants in their country as well as their surrounding countries in order to meet our demands. I see nothing in this proposal to encourage people to buy local and stop subsidizing coal energy use in China and India.
5. Natural gas should be a solution not banned. Its highly efficient. Also, encourage mixing of decay process technology gas including landfills and cow barns with natural gas for energy.
6. Banning diesel trucks from downtown or thru town is impractical. Encourage better diesel technology to reduce emissions.

Dennis Creel  
1268 29th CT NW  
Salem, Oregon 97304

dennis.creel@comcast.net

**From:** [Christian Kelly](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 8:17 AM  
**To:** [SalemCAP](#)  
**Subject:** frontline community

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Highland is a front line community being impacted. We would like to get involved.

We feel that Highland could use:

1. more trees
2. more green spaces
3. Solar on city buildings

It appears to me that the city is at odds with itself as I have brought up several issues concerning developments in the area; and lack of investment by the city to support all the new business and people coming in and have been ignored so far by all the city planners/ people who approve these developments. At one point I had a very long drawn out email chain surrounding street trees and the development on Fairgrounds, Madison, and Winter st. and most of the time I get blown off all together.

It doesn't appear to me the climate action plan is a priority, but we are very interested in being a significant part of it if the city decides to actually get behind the initiative.

Thank you.

Christian Kelly, Highland NA

**From:** [Patricia Farrell](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:01 PM  
**To:** [Robert Romanek](#)  
**Subject:** FW: My comments related to the draft "Salem Climate Action Plan"

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**From:** Woodrow Dukes <[woodrowd668@gmail.com](mailto:woodrowd668@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 12:57 PM  
**To:** Patricia Farrell <[PFarrell@cityofsalem.net](mailto:PFarrell@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Subject:** Re: My comments related to the draft "Salem Climate Action Plan"

On Nov 13, 2021, at 17:54 PM, Woodrow Dukes <[woodrowd668@gmail.com](mailto:woodrowd668@gmail.com)> wrote:

Page 19:

### *Natural Resource Protection*

*Salem's parks and trees are thriving, thanks to investments in the tree canopy and the incorporation of native plants in parks across the city. Careful management practices have reduced storm runoff, and water quality has been protected with increased buffers.*

**Also consider:**

- Learn what changes in climate have actually taken place that are different from what has been historically normal and what changes are predicted for the future. In general, we have been informed that it will be dryer, hotter and for longer periods, potentially wetter and warmer in winter but overall less water in underground water tables which will be getting lower and have less volume. Choices of plants/trees that can thrive in these conditions is critical.
- Conserve water. Reservoir levels are expected to be lower than normal and there will be more release water requirements for fish to help moderate the higher water temperatures in rivers that are deleterious to fatal for fish.
- Ween specific park areas and plant beds and turf off of irrigation. Monitor significant perennials, shrubs and trees for stress from the loss of supplemental water that they may have been used to and adjust to maintain health.
- Escalate the work to increase tree/plant canopy.
- Starting with the current inventory project, and looking at the lists of trees damaged/destroyed in storms, look at the City's lists of acceptable/unacceptable trees that may be planted on its rights-of-way and other properties to try to find as much diversity as possible while choosing trees that have the best potential adaptability, least demand for maintenance and have the best abilities to withstand/survive unexpected and severe climate events.

- **Be in contact with local and other Willamette Valley nurseries to find out what they are or are not developing to adapt to changing climate. Look for 'nativars' which are a variety selected from a native species for its horticultural qualities - in this case for its abilities to adapt to changes in its normal growing conditions.**

**From:** [Reiten, Connor](#)  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 8:41 AM  
**To:** [SalemCAP](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Romanek](#); [Patricia Farrell](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NW Natural CAP Comments  
**Attachments:** NWN\_SalemCAPComments\_Nov5\_2021.pdf

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All,

The attached comments from NW Natural contain a small scrivener's error correction, and do not have any additional changes beyond the correction (adding two title headers to make the comments more organized and clear).

Regards,

**Connor Reiten**

Government Affairs  
NW Natural  
503.310.4831 | [nwnatural.com](http://nwnatural.com)



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**From:** Reiten, Connor  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 4:47 PM  
**To:** 'salemcap@cityofsalem.net' <salemcap@cityofsalem.net>  
**Cc:** Robert Romanek <RRomanek@cityofsalem.net>; 'Patricia Farrell' <PFarrell@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** NW Natural CAP Comments

Salem Climate Action Planning Team,

Please see the attached comments on behalf of NW Natural and our customers regarding the Salem Climate Action Plan.

Regards,

**Connor Reiten**

Government Affairs  
NW Natural  
503.310.4831 | [nwnatural.com](http://nwnatural.com)







Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW, Salem, OR 97304

November 15, 2021

Patricia Farrell  
Parks and Natural Resources Planning Manager  
Public Works Department  
555 Liberty ST SE, RM 325  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Draft Salem Climate Action Plan

Dear Patricia:

I would like to thank you and the City Council for the opportunity to participate as a member of the Task Force in the development of the Salem Climate Action Plan. The Glenn Gibson Creeks Watershed Council has provided recommendations that focus on the protection and enhancement of natural resources to be included in the plan. We have strongly urged that acquisition of floodplain areas to both protect from increasing flood hazards as well as providing significant carbon capture and storage that occurs in floodplain sites to be an important strategy for the Action Plan. We are encouraged by the 24 proposed strategies to build towards the vision that *"Salem's natural resources will provide benefits to all residents, including physical, psychological health benefits and natural resilience"*.

The Glenn Gibson Creeks Watershed Council supports the adoption of the Salem Climate Action Plan and encourages the City to prioritize the planning for Goal 5 resources as that can significantly assist in the integration of climate adaptation solutions into the City Comprehensive Plan. As the City prepares for additions to the housing base, we will watch to ensure riparian and waterway protections are provided that will provide both natural resource benefits a but maintain or enhance carbon sequestration. Even is the Council does not approve the entire proposed Climate Action Plan, please consider moving forward with the Natural Resource strategies.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning the support of the Glenn Gibson Creek Watershed Council support for the City of Salem's Climate Action Plan in its draft form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth F. Bierly". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kenneth F. Bierly, Chair  
Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council

**Mission:** to foster better understanding and stewardship of watershed resources

**Purpose:** to share information, reduce duplication of activities and to help address watershed management issues in the watershed and to provide a framework for coordination and cooperation among key interests

**Vision:** a balanced ecosystem that supports a healthy watershed and provides for an economic base and viable communities

[GlennGibsonWC.org](http://GlennGibsonWC.org)

***ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL to SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net***

November 5, 2021

Dear City of Salem Climate Action Planning Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the current draft Salem Climate Action Plan. We plan to comment again at the end of November when an updated draft with new modeling is released (per Verdis, at the October 27 Climate Task Force meeting).

NW Natural believes that addressing climate change is urgent and complex. Climate change is an issue that requires quick and thoughtful action and involvement by all of us. Salem's goal of reducing GHG emissions aligns with NW Natural's strategic goals for decarbonization, and we are grateful for the opportunity to participate and collaborate.

As part of this process, NW Natural has outlined several ways that we can drive carbon reductions in the natural gas sector to support decarbonization in Salem and in alignment with NW Natural's own 2050 vision for carbon neutrality. These include:

- Supporting increased low-income weatherization programs to reduce energy use and drive efficiency. Additionally, supporting energy efficiency through programs and partnerships that include equipment upgrades.
  - In addition to current work on low-income weatherization and energy efficiency, NW Natural has offered to discuss a utility-city program under Senate Bill 844, to allow Salem to accelerate decarbonization through energy efficiency.
- Continuing to deliver on the promise of renewables like renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen:
  - NW Natural has now signed several agreements to purchase and develop 2% of our supply as renewable natural gas (RNG) on behalf of our customers. To put this in context, that represents enough RNG to heat the equivalent of about 36,000 homes. With wind and solar energy accounting for about 11% of U.S. electric generation after two decades of development, we are proud of this early progress after just one year of new RNG legislative rules being in place. Looking forward, we have sightlines to 10% of our supply as RNG over the next several years, demonstrating our commitment to urgency in decarbonizing our supply.
  - To that end, NW Natural would be pleased to join the city in an evaluation of potential local and regional sources of renewable natural gas that could support renewable demand from Salem residents and businesses, and potentially drive revenue to the city in support of decarbonization.



- Teaming up with the city and/or other local partners to explore renewable hydrogen pilots that would provide Salem residents with clean energy and resiliency benefits.
- As referenced in the draft plan, NW Natural is working to create a voluntary (opt-in) green energy option that would enable delivery of an increasingly renewable natural gas product to Salem residents and businesses who select it.
- In addition to use of renewables in the gas system for residential, commercial and industrial customers, NW Natural continues to support efficiency and innovation from partners in the transportation sector (the highest emitting sector in the Salem CAP) around fleet conversions to RNG and hydrogen.
- We are also exploring carbon capture and sequestration technologies that are suited to scale for large industrial loads, and we would be pleased to keep Salem informed on progress and collaborate if there is future opportunity.

NW Natural sees many very important proposals in the CAP—including some of the above—that can facilitate progress reducing Salem’s share of global GHG emissions while supporting an affordable, equitable and economically prosperous Salem. But there are also critical issues in the current draft that need to be addressed before any final plan is adopted. At the highest level, NW Natural is concerned that this process ignored strategies that would allow Salem to decarbonize using the community’s existing energy infrastructure. Instead, the current draft puts full emphasis on unpopular forced electrification strategies with potentially significant unintended consequences including increased equipment and energy costs for Salem residents and businesses, reduced resiliency in Salem, as well as driving out economic growth in Salem. Moreover, these negative impacts would achieve negligible to no GHG benefits.

The current draft has errors in GHG forecasting, and Verdis declined to model a 2020 executive order requiring NW Natural and other gas utilities to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. We recognize that state and federal policy is dynamic and currently changing; however, at best this draft plan is lacking in current policy integration and analysis and at worst it is simply based on incorrect data and conflicts with state programs and goals.

- **The CAP’s modeling currently does not include State of Oregon regulations that go into effect in 2022 or true costs** (the DEQ’s Climate Protection Plan). Also, the current draft plan treats renewable natural gas differently than the State of Oregon and therefore creates confusion and misalignment with state requirements and state climate goals (noted in chapter 7 of the Salem CAP). Current state policy considers renewable natural gas as carbon neutral. On a lifecycle basis, many sources of RNG have similar – or better – climate benefits relative to wind and solar energy.
- The draft plan includes misguided ideas like bans on new natural gas hookups for homes and businesses in Salem but fails to be transparent and acknowledge there is no such thing as banning natural gas; not now or for years to come. It will either be used most efficiently in homes and businesses via direct use, or indirectly to generate power in electric power plants. In fact, Oregon electric utilities rely on about as much natural gas for power generation as all the gas utilities combined – and that’s to serve the *existing* electric loads. More will be needed when the coal plants close to meet current and future power demand, and hydro-electric power, which Oregon is very fortunate to have access too, is limited. Further, the draft plan does not yet fully contemplate the opportunity to replace natural gas with renewables in the gas system. If the goal is carbon reduction, **banning new gas**

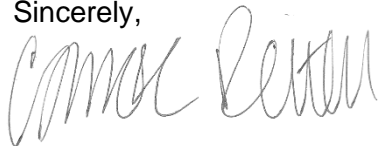
**infrastructure that can and is delivering renewable energy is not an effective strategy and may even prevent Salem from reducing GHG emissions to the furthest extent possible.** *Reference: Appendix 8, page 17.*

- **Energy system reliability is essential and has not been contemplated in the proposals.** There has been no acknowledgement or assessment of the risks posed by adding to peak power requirements on the electric system that is already facing serious capacity shortfalls. The CAP also doesn't address the inherent risks of relying solely on an above ground energy system that is more susceptible to extreme weather. For example, this past winter 5 million electric customers lost power in Texas for a prolonged period due to an extreme winter storm. While above ground wires and electric natural gas generators failed, the below ground natural gas distribution system performed quite well – and retained service to customers that could heat and cook without power. This is also true in the local power outage this past February where 400,000 electric customers lost power for nearly a week. Having renewable electrons above ground and renewable molecules below ground serving the Salem community is the lowest cost, least-risk way to further climate goals and retain energy system resiliency – and should be fairly analyzed before wide-reaching actions that eliminate energy system diversification are proposed.

NW Natural looks forward to hearing more from residents, businesses, and stakeholders during the public comment period. After further public review and refinement, and once a plan is adopted by Salem City Council, NW Natural supports the recommendation to create a working group of public agencies and utilities responsible for implementing carbon reduction initiatives so that best practices and innovations can be shared, and space created for collaboration and progress towards emission reduction is intentional, rigorous and measured.

The pages that follow provide more detail on NW Natural's comments on the draft plan and our significant concerns about the strategy planning process. We look forward to providing additional comments once Verdis shares the next draft plan at the end of November with updated modeling. NW Natural encourages the city to create space and process for that next draft to be reviewed by all stakeholders before it is presented to Council.

Sincerely,



Connor Reiten, Community & Government Affairs Manager | Mid-Willamette Valley

*Attachment: Detailed Comments on Draft Salem Climate Action Plan | NW Natural*

## ATTACHMENT – Detailed Comments on Draft Salem Climate Action Plan | NW Natural

Our cover letter references many ways NW Natural is excited to partner with the City of Salem on climate action planning – from innovation on renewables to policy pilots on energy efficiency and more. However, we do have concerns that the draft climate action plan is not yet ready for Council adoption.

Key concerns are categorized below:

### Process:

- GHG modeling and policy recommendations are materially changing during the comment period without extending the comment period to accommodate feedback on the changes.
- In our view, there was only one substantial early opportunity for the public and Task Force to lend strategies feedback to the CAP process: which came in the form of a survey of roughly 212 proposed strategies in early 2021. The survey of the general public (opt-in and not statistically weighted) showed that natural gas bans were the second most *unpopular* of over 200 potential strategies (results sent to the Climate Task Force on March 31, 2021, in advance of the April 7, 2021, Task Force meeting). And the Climate Task Force was never asked in any significant way about that ranking. Then, on October 27, Verdis presented gas bans as the second highest ranked strategy recommendation to the Climate Task Force (See Appendix 9 of city documents; Appendix 9 is not included on the public CAP website as of 11/5/21).
  - First: In no way does Verdis' recommendation reflect the advice or counsel of the Task Force. And there is no transparent analysis shown for the recommendation ranking with regard to cost and affordability for consumers long-term, the legality, authority and regulatory framework, the reliability of energy systems, peak management, and effectiveness for reducing GHG emissions under a high energy efficiency and high renewables scenario for the gas system.
  - Second: Verdis' recommendation was shown only to the Climate Task Force in Appendix 9. Appendix 9 has not been made public for the public comment period. This failure to provide adequate public notice and transparency is troubling as well as legally questionable. The Climate Task Force has not been provided with an adequate explanation for why Appendix 9 has not been shared during this public comment period—NW Natural recommends that Appendix 9 and all analysis used to create Verdis' rankings be made available for a public comment period.

### GHG Forecasting:

- NW Natural and the customers it represents were not sufficiently included in the modeling process, resulting in vastly inaccurate and misleading data in the current draft. Further, indications are that Verdis did not engage all utilities equally from a process standpoint. Again, this type of skewed public process is unacceptable and not in keeping with Salem's commitment to government transparency.

- The current GHG forecasting model in the draft plan assumes full compliance with impending state law for electric utilities, but not for natural gas utilities.
  - NW Natural was not appropriately consulted for modeling information with sufficient timing. In February 2021, Verdis met with NW Natural for about 30 minutes. In that meeting, NW Natural outlined strategies for our 2050 vision for carbon neutrality and offered technical follow up. At no point after that meeting was NW Natural contacted for data or modeling information or any requests to meet with technical staff. On September 15, Verdis released a draft with inaccurate and incomplete modeling for the gas system, and while we appreciate that Verdis is now reviewing the modeling and has stated that they plan to update it, we are concerned that the process is not transparent or consistent and the release of inaccurate draft modeling has already created an uninformed and unrealistic framework for group discussions on conclusions and recommendations.
  - When the forecasting data was released, it determined that the use of waste from organic sources as useable gas (renewable natural gas) did not qualify for GHG reductions. That is not consistent with national or state standards for RNG. Verdis told NW Natural that converting organic waste streams to usable energy would make real GHG reductions on behalf of Salem customers on the state level, but that they could not be accounted for at the local level because the specific GHG protocol used does not (yet) contemplate it. While it appears some work is happening now to offer some partial credit for these very real GHG reductions, we still have not seen the resulting data set for renewable natural gas, which is a carbon neutral resource and can be a very real driver toward Salem meeting its 2050 carbon neutral goal.
- The draft annual GHG forecasting model supporting the recommendations for the CAP does not consider or account for a critical component of energy system planning – estimating peak energy needs experienced during dangerous temperatures and understanding the substantial resources (power plants, energy storage, transmission and distribution assets, etc.) required to meet those needs and maintain reliable energy service. Also, the models currently assume 100% decarbonization for electric utilities, despite new and existing regulations allowing carve outs for reliability scenarios and cost caps (See Section 9 in House Bill 2021). In other words, when electricity demand is high – like during a cold snap where the direct use natural gas system currently meets more energy needs than the electric system – electric utilities will be allowed to use thermal generating resources like natural gas power plants to meet that demand.
  - The draft plan makes recommendations for the electric system to take on the direct-use gas system’s load but does not look at the needed build out of transmission lines and neighborhood substations to handle load needs for both electrification of transportation as well as buildings, combined with normal growth. On viability alone the challenges are myriad but here are just three examples of significant blocks to growth for the electric system today:
    - Just this week, Maine voters rejected a \$1 billion Central Maine Power hydropower transmission corridor.
    - Pacificorp has been working on a new transmission line – underway for 11+ years and counting.
    - Puget Sound Energy has been working on the need for a new transmission line on Bainbridge Island since the 1990s.

There are significant costs and legal barriers to simply deciding to take gas customers and their energy load and shift it to electric utilities—this report shows no knowledge of the required utility regulation by the state let alone authority needed by Salem. There are significant costs as well as lack of siting viability for electric infrastructure growth: without evaluating these realities, the draft plan and the consultant, Verdis, is not positioned to defensibly recommend “electrify everything” scenarios.

### Policy Recommendations:

- Our primary concern remains the inclusion in the CAP of a recommendation to ban hook-ups to the natural gas system in the City of Salem and with that recommendation, there does not seem to be sufficient contemplation or acknowledgement for renewables for the gas system.
  - **This controversial, unverified and unpopular proposal will become a distraction to real and necessary collaboration all parties need to do to work to develop meaningful carbon reduction.**
  - REQUEST: NW Natural requests the data and analysis behind the coding icons in EN27 of Appendix 8 so that we can review this alongside new modeling to be published in the updated draft.

Additional fallout from this proposal could include, but is not limited to:

- Discouraging market development of innovations like renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen in the Salem area and jobs in renewables generally
  - Negligible to no benefit to GHG reductions
  - Increased energy and equipment costs for residents and businesses
  - Reduced reliability from the energy system, as residents would rely entirely on the electric system and would lose the safety and comfort of a diversified energy system. Incidents like the ice storm of this past year would be even more dangerous.
  - Impacts to economic development within city limits and related urban and suburban sprawl
- The draft CAP plan excludes NW Natural and its customers from partnerships and programs the company already has in place and can deepen—for instance, EN10 in Appendix 8 of the CAP does not include NW Natural as a partner in weatherization and energy efficiency. It’s possible this was Verdis’ inadvertent oversight, but it illustrates minimally the inconsistency of treatment of utilities and lack of understanding of our programs at the expense of immediate GHG reductions, comfort and energy affordability for low- and moderate-income customers, all customers, and businesses, as well as a shocking lack of understanding about state utility regulation.
    - REQUEST: NW Natural has offered information on our programs previously and now formally requests being included as a Lead Agency for EN10, Appendix 8.
    - REQUEST: NW Natural has previously brought forward the policy concept of a focused carbon reduction strategy for Salem gas customers using energy efficiency under a Senate Bill 844 program subject to OPUC approval. This idea is not in the



- draft plan currently; we formally request that it be added as a possible strategy to be explored.
- Chapter 7 of the CAP states that carbon offsets “...could be considered as a strategy for Salem to reach net zero emissions, but would likely be cost-prohibitive.” NW Natural’s experience is that meaningful and verifiable offsets are useful tools in carbon reduction especially on a voluntary basis for those organizations and individuals who have the ability and desire to invest early in moving farther and faster in the energy transition. We encourage further discussion on how offsets could be used in the near term and whether there are possible opportunities to partner on regionally focused and meaningful offset opportunities. We are particularly interested in sharing the benefits of our existing voluntary carbon offset program, SMART Energy, and how the Salem community is already stepping up to reduce the climate impacts of their energy use through NW Natural programs.
- A strategy calling for the city to evaluate moving the local wastewater treatment plant is rated as a high cost and high GHG reducing strategy. However, there are development opportunities that may not impose any costs upon the city while starting a new source of revenue generation and displacing a significant proportion of residential natural gas use in Salem.
  - REQUEST: NW Natural requests the data and analysis behind the coding icons in MW23 of Appendix 8 so we can understand Verdis’ recommendation more.
- Using the lowest carbon and most cost-effective and reliable energy system is situational, that’s why engineers and energy planners find energy choice useful. Further, depending on a variety of factors, electrification does not necessarily equate to decarbonization unless a renewables tariff is attached.
  - REQUEST: NW Natural requests the data and analysis behind the coding icons in EN28 and EN32 of Appendix 8 so we can understand Verdis’ recommendations more.

Salem is a thoughtful community with innovative business leadership and an engaged, hard-working citizenry. It is well-positioned to be a leader in the state on measurable carbon reduction planning while also continuing to focus on prosperity and affordability for the entire community. NW Natural continues to stand ready to support GHG reductions in Salem, and across our service territory. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments, and look forward to continuing to be a part of the Salem’s Climate Action Planning work and in service to our customers and community going forward.


**From:** [Brian May](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 7:23 AM  
**To:** [SalemCAP](#)  
**Cc:** [Patricia Farrell](#); [Robert Romanek](#); [Matt Lawyer](#); [Thomas Kissinger](#); [Morrow, Kim](#)  
**Subject:** Review and comment on draft Climate Action Plan  
**Attachments:** SWMAC - Salem Climate Action Plan.pdf; GHG References for WTE (2020-12).pdf; UNEP Methane Report - Key Points.pdf

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Project Team,  
Sorry for our delay in providing comments from the Marion County Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWMAC). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.  
Thanks,  
Brian

**Brian May**  
Environmental Services Division Manager  
Marion County Public Works  
(503) 365-3147  
[BMay@co.marion.or.us](mailto:BMay@co.marion.or.us)

>>> Robert Romanek <[RRomanek@cityofsalem.net](mailto:RRomanek@cityofsalem.net)> 11/5/2021 3:15 PM >>>

 **WARNING:** This email originated outside of Marion County.  
**DO NOT CLICK** links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Brian,

SWMAC is welcome to submit comments after 5 p.m. today. We will forward the comments to City Council as part of the staff report for the Council meeting scheduled for December 6, 2020, which is when City Council will hold a public hearing to consider approval of a revised draft of the Climate Action Plan.

If you can kindly send the comments to [SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net](mailto:SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net) on Monday, the project team will do our best to review and consider any potential revisions. We have a very tight turnaround as we are scheduled to publish the revised draft plan on November 19.

-Rob | 503-588-6211 ext. 7385

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**From:** Brian May <[bmay@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bmay@co.marion.or.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 3:03 PM  
**To:** Robert Romanek <[RRomanek@cityofsalem.net](mailto:RRomanek@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Cc:** Matt Lawyer <[MLawyer@co.marion.or.us](mailto:MLawyer@co.marion.or.us)>; Thomas Kissinger <[TKissinger@co.marion.or.us](mailto:TKissinger@co.marion.or.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Review and comment on draft Climate Action Plan

Rob,  
SWMAC was able to review the plan at their October 26th meeting. They do have comments, but we need the Board of Commissioners approval. Can we submit to you on Monday?  
Thanks,  
Brian

**Brian May**  
Environmental Services Division Manager  
Marion County Public Works  
(503) 365-3147  
[BMay@co.marion.or.us](mailto:BMay@co.marion.or.us)

>>> Robert Romanek <[RRomanek@cityofsalem.net](mailto:RRomanek@cityofsalem.net)> 10/19/2021, 03:50 PM >>>

Hello Brian,

I am following up from the February meeting of the Marion County Solid Waste Management Advisory Council and the City's presentation about the Salem Climate Action Plan process. A draft of the Climate Action Plan is now available for

public review and comment. Can you please share the below information with the Council?

The public comment period is open for 18 days, closing on November 5, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Thank you,

**Rob Romanek**

*Assistant Climate Action Plan Manager*

City of Salem | Public Works Department

555 Liberty St SE, Suite 325, Salem OR 97301-3515

[rromanek@cityofsalem.net](mailto:rromanek@cityofsalem.net)

Office: 503-588-6211

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [CityofSalem.net](#)



**From:** Salem Climate Action Plan <[SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net](mailto:SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 10:58 AM

**To:** Robert Romanek <[RRomanek@cityofsalem.net](mailto:RRomanek@cityofsalem.net)>

**Subject:** [BULK] Review and comment on draft Climate Action Plan



## Review and comment on draft Climate Action Plan

Hi Rob Romanek,

It's here! The City of Salem invites you to [review and comment on a draft of the Salem Climate Action Plan](#). This plan is the result of the year-long process we've been sharing with you since early 2020. Its recommendations tackle climate change locally by proposing major changes in how we travel, design neighborhoods, and use energy, among other approaches to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare the community for impacts, and ensure a transition to an equitable and climate-smart future. The plan is a roadmap to guide City and community action, including efforts to meet the City's goal of reducing community-wide GHG emissions 50% by 2035 (from the baseline year of 2016), and to be carbon neutral by 2050.

### Review and comment

The public comment period is open for 18 days beginning on October 18, 2021, at 8 a.m., and closing on November 5, 2021, at 5 p.m. The draft Climate Action Plan can be found at the following address: [SalemClimateActionPlan.com/review-draft-cap](https://SalemClimateActionPlan.com/review-draft-cap). Comments will be accepted online through the survey on this page, by email at [SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net](mailto:SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net), and by mail to Salem Climate Action Plan Comments, 555 Liberty St SE, Suite 325, Salem, Oregon, 97301-3515.


### **GHG Forecast Revisions**

To measure the impact of local GHG reduction efforts, the plan forecasts future emissions with and without local action. The City and the project consultant, Verdis Group, are currently revising the GHG forecasts to ensure consistency with evolving state regulations and rule making, including DEQ's new Climate Protection Program that seeks to limit emissions from natural gas. Revisions to the GHG forecasts will be included in the revised plan that goes to City Council on December 6.

Kind regards,  
City of Salem Climate Action Plan Team

If you need help accessing this information, please call 503-588-6211 or email [SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net](mailto:SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net). Accessibility services or other accommodations will be provided upon request.

You're receiving this email because you are a registered participant on Salem Climate Action Plan.  
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# SWMAC: Comments on City of Salem's Climate Action Plan

At the Marion County Solid Waste Management Advisory Council's February meeting, City of Salem representatives discussed their Climate Action Plan. City of Salem published a Draft plan for Public Comments that closes November 5, 2021 until 5:00 pm.

On October 19, Rob Romanek (Assistant Climate Action Plan Manager) offered the Draft plan to SWMAC for their review. The Draft Plan was reviewed by SWMAC at their October 26 meeting.

SWMAC is a citizen advisory council that provides recommendations to Marion County Department of Public Works – Environmental Services (PWES) staff and the Marion County Board of Commissioners on issues related to solid waste, including waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and disposal. SWMAC reviewed those areas of the Plan that pertain to their areas of knowledge and with a focused-on Appendix 8 – Climate Action Plan Strategy List.

## General Comments – EarthWISE Program:

SWMAC appreciated the reference and utilization of the Marion County's EarthWISE program. SWMAC sees a benefit of the City of Salem partnering with the EarthWISE program to help the City obtain their climate action goals. Marion County Environmental Services (ES) division looks forward to collaborating with the City to explore options on how the City will be able to assist in funding the EarthWISE program to benefit the Climate Action Plan.

Listed below are a number of the strategies that reference Marion County Programs or Divisions.

## Energy – Page 13

- Page 13 - EN02 – Partner with PGE, Energy Trust of Oregon and EarthWISE programs for energy benchmarking and transparency policies in existing buildings with a publicly available “reward” system recognizing those who do well and “recommendations” system that requires the property owners of lower-performing buildings to take action for improvement.
- Page 15 - EN15 – Set a goal to increase number of businesses certified under Marion County's EarthWISE program.

## Economic Development – Page 19

- Page 20 - EC08 – Develop a City-based program that promotes and incentivizes local businesses and organization who improve their sustainability practices by participating in Marion County's EarthWISE program.



## Community – Starts on Page 25

- Page 30 - CM38 – Collaborate with Salem-Keizer School District and local education institutions to develop curricula and career programs focused on climate change and sustainability education.

## Materials & Waste – Page 33

- Page 33 - MW01 – Calculate a baseline, track, and report a diversion rate for City of Salem using Marion County data.
- Page 33 – MW02 – Conduct regular waste audits to identify materials being sent to the landfill, to gain an understanding of contamination rates, and to identify diversion opportunities.
- Page 34 – MW07 – Collaborate with local and regional producers to recycle packaging, printing and writing paper and food serviceware at the end of life, i.e. support policies and practices related to extended producer responsibility per SB 582.
- Page 35 – MW15 – Implement an educational and outreach program for residents and businesses that raises awareness about how to reduce food waste at home and at work. Work with Marion County Environmental Services to develop and share information.
- Page 35 – MW18 – Educate residents how to do backyard composting and incentivize with coupons or gift certificates to local businesses. Work with Marion County Environmental Services to develop and share information.
- Page 35 – MW19 – Work with local restaurants to identify their barriers to reducing food waste and composting. Work with Marion County ES to develop an educational program with incentives for implementing strategies for reducing food waste and diverting organic waste from the landfill.
- Page 35 – MW21 – Explore incentives for residences and businesses that reduce food waste, including the use of a pay structure for municipal waste disposal services based on lower overall costs for lower rates of contamination.
- Page 36 – MW22 – Explore how to send waste to landfill rather than Covanta plant.

## SWMAC Comments / Recommendations:

- Appreciates the recognition of Marion County’s EarthWISE Program
  - Suggests that the City of Salem collaborate with PWES Staff
    - County Commissioners would like funding assistance to expand / enhance existing programs to help achieve recommended strategies
- Very supportive of Strategies that promote education of residents and businesses on waste reduction
- SWMAC requests data used to support MW22 - Explore how to send waste to landfill rather than Covanta plant.
  - Current Waste Projections for 2021 disposed of from Marion County
    - ~160,000 tons disposed at Coffin Butte Landfill
    - ~140,000 tons disposed at Covanta

- Marion County utilizes the Waste Hierarchy approved by the EPA and Oregon DEQ that ranks “recover energy” as more favorable than “disposal”



- Reference materials are attached regarding Waste-to-Energy facilities
- Reference materials related to landfill methane generation  
<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2020/new-3d-view-of-methane-tracks-sources-and-movement-around-the-globe>
- Recommend the addition of a Strategy that is related to construction materials. Supporting the use of carbon sequestering products to reduce carbon emissions. Reduce steel and concrete and all of the carbon emissions that come from developing that and could be instead using the product from logging
- Recommend the expansion of Strategy MW02 to also include Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste reduction by investigating a program to provide waste management consulting

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact our Environmental Services Division Manager, Brian May at (503.365.3147) or [bmay@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bmay@co.marion.or.us).

# New UN Report Calls for Reducing Methane

Identifies landfill organics diversion as a key mitigation measure

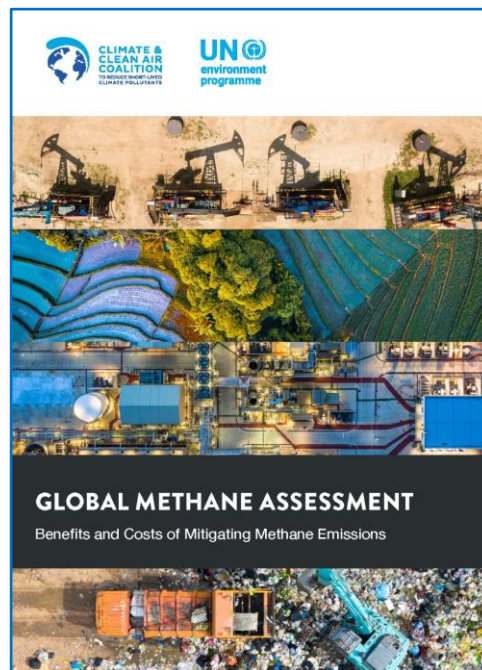
## Importance of Methane

“Cutting methane is the strongest lever we have to slow climate change over the next 25 years”  
*Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP*

“Methane is a powerful and short-lived climate pollutant which drives climate change and harms human and ecosystem health by contributing to the formation of ground-level ozone.”  
*UN Report, p.5*

“Reducing human-caused methane emissions is one of the most cost-effective strategies to rapidly reduce the rate of warming and contribute significantly to global efforts to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.”  
*UN Report, p.8*

“Focused strategies specifically targeting methane need to be implemented to achieve sufficient methane mitigation.”  
*UN Report, p.8*



Methane is 84X as strong a GHG as CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20-year period. *IPCC 5th Assessment Report*

## Methane Emissions from the Waste Sector

### Targeted measures to reduce emissions

- Source separation with recycling/ reuse
- No landfill of organic waste
- Treatment with energy recovery

*UN Report, p.16*

“In the waste sector, landfills and wastewater make up about 20 per cent of global anthropogenic emissions.”  
*UN Report, p. 9*

Direct measurements have found actual emissions from landfills 2-3X higher than reported.  
*UN Report, p. 34*

“Ground-based studies similarly show that many bottom-up inventories underestimate methane emissions relative to observations.”  
*UN Report, p. 34*

## **Waste to Energy as a GHG Mitigation Tool**

### **Excerpts from Key Documents**

#### **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report**

WTE identified as an “important option for [GHG] mitigation in waste management.”<sup>1</sup>

#### **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report**

The IPCC identified WTE a “key GHG mitigation technology.”<sup>2</sup>

#### **Berkeley Law (2016) Wasting Opportunities: How to Secure Environmental & Clean Energy Benefits from Municipal Solid Waste Energy Recovery**

“Harvesting these leftover materials as solid waste energy sources could provide multiple environmental benefits:

- complementing intermittent renewable energy, such as wind and solar, to offset fossil fuel-based energy sources and associated greenhouse gas emissions;
- avoiding landfill emissions of methane (a potent greenhouse gas that is 28-34 times as strong as carbon dioxide over 100 years) by diverting wastes to energy, particularly organic wastes;”<sup>3</sup>

#### **U.S. EPA Energy Recovery from the Combustion of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Webpage**

“Energy recovery from the combustion of municipal solid waste is a key part of the non-hazardous waste management hierarchy, which ranks various management strategies from most to least environmentally preferred. Energy recovery ranks below source reduction and recycling/reuse but above treatment and disposal. Confined and controlled burning, known as combustion, can not only decrease the volume of solid waste destined for landfills, but can also recover energy from the waste burning process. This generates a renewable energy source and reduces carbon emissions by offsetting the need for energy from fossil sources and reduces methane generation from landfills.”<sup>4</sup>

#### **California Air Resources Board (2014)**

“[C]ombusting waste in the three MSW Thermal facilities in California results in net negative GHG emissions, ranging from -0.16 to -0.45 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e per ton of waste disposed, when considering that the waste would otherwise be deposited in landfills resulting in higher emissions.”<sup>5</sup>

#### **CalRecycle Review of Waste-to-Energy and Avoided Landfill Methane Emissions**

“Published LCA studies and best available published direct measurement data support CalRecycle staff’s general conclusions. CalRecycle staff concludes that the three existing California WtE facilities provide net avoided methane emissions over waste otherwise disposed in a California landfill. The net avoided emissions exceed non-biogenic emissions from burning of the fossil fuel based components such as plastic in the WtE facility.”<sup>6</sup>

**NREL (2013) Waste Not, Want Not: Analyzing the Economic and Environmental Viability of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Technology for Site-Specific Optimization of Renewable Energy Options**

“We find that MSW combustion is a better alternative than landfill disposal in terms of net energy impacts and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)-equivalent GHG emissions. In this report, WTE leads to greater GHG reductions per kWh of electricity generated compared to landfill gas-to-energy.”

“Life cycle assessment studies published in the literature have generally been consistent in suggesting that MSW combustion is a better alternative to landfill disposal in terms of net energy impacts and CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent GHG emissions. The results from this study match that expectation. In this report, WTE leads to a higher reduction in emissions compared to landfill-to-energy disposal per kWh production.”<sup>7</sup>

**U.S. EPA Scientists: Kaplan et al. (2009) Is It Better to Burn or Bury for Clean Electricity Generation?**

“One notable difference between LFGTE and WTE is that the latter is capable of producing an order of magnitude more electricity from the same mass of waste. In addition, as demonstrated in this paper, there are significant differences in emissions on a mass per unit energy basis from LFGTE and WTE. On the basis of the assumptions in this paper, WTE appears to be a better option than LFGTE. If the goal is greenhouse gas reduction, then WTE should be considered as an option under U.S. renewable energy policies. In addition, all LFTGE scenarios tested had on the average higher NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and PM emissions than WTE.”<sup>8</sup>

**Center for American Progress (2013) Energy from Waste Can Help Curb GHG Emissions**

“According to the EPA, for every ton of garbage processed at an EfW facility, approximately one ton of emitted carbon-dioxide equivalent in the atmosphere is prevented. This is because the trash burned at an EfW facility doesn’t generate methane, as it would at a landfill; the metals that would have been sent to the landfill are recycled instead of thrown out; and the electricity generated offsets the greenhouse gases that would otherwise have been generated from coal and natural gas plants.”<sup>9</sup>

**Davos World Economic Forum (2009)**

Municipal solid waste to energy identified as one of eight technologies likely to make a meaningful contribution to a future low-carbon energy system.<sup>10</sup>

**EEA Briefing (2008) Better management of municipal waste will reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

“As recycling and incineration with energy recovery are increasingly used, net greenhouse gas emissions from municipal waste management are expected to drop considerably by 2020.”<sup>11</sup>

**U.S. EPA Clean Power Plan, Obama Administration**

Under the plan promulgated in 2015, new EfW facilities were eligible to generate Emission Rate Credits (ERCs).<sup>12</sup> Existing facilities were not a covered source and were considered a source of no carbon energy under the program.<sup>13</sup>

**United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**

“We therefore commit to further reduce, reuse, and recycle waste (3Rs), and to increase energy recovery from waste...”<sup>14</sup>



## References

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- <sup>1</sup> See p.102 of IPCC (2014) *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp. Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>
- <sup>2</sup> See Table 4.2 (p.60) of IPCC (2007) *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Work Groups I, II, and III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Core Writing Team, Pachauri, R.K and Reisinger, A. (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 104 pp. Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar4/syr/>
- <sup>3</sup> Berkeley Law Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (2016) *Wasting Opportunities: How to Secure Environmental & Clean Energy Benefits from Municipal Solid Waste Energy Recovery*. <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/clee/research/climate/waste-to-energy/>
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. EPA (2018) *Energy Recovery from the Combustion of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)* webpage, last updated 11/27/2018, accessed 1/10/2019. <https://www.epa.gov/smm/energy-recovery-combustion-municipal-solid-waste-msw>
- <sup>5</sup> See p90 of California Air Resources Board (2014) *Proposed First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan: Building on the Framework, Appendix C – Focus Group Working Papers, Waste Sector Working Paper* [https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/2013\\_update/waste.pdf](https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/2013_update/waste.pdf)
- <sup>6</sup> CalRecycle (2012) *CalRecycle Review of Waste-to-Energy and Avoided Landfill Methane Emissions*. Available at: [http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/conversiontechnology/download/CalRecycle\\_Review\\_of\\_WtE\\_Avoided\\_Emissions\\_07032012.pdf](http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/conversiontechnology/download/CalRecycle_Review_of_WtE_Avoided_Emissions_07032012.pdf)
- <sup>7</sup> Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis (2013) *Waste Not, Want Not: Analyzing the Economic and Environmental Viability of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Technology for Site-Specific Optimization of Renewable Energy Options*. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/52829.pdf>
- <sup>8</sup> Kaplan, P.O., J. DeCarolis, S. Thorneloe (2009) Is It Better to Burn or Bury Waste for Clean Electricity Generation? *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2009**, 43, 1711-1717. <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es802395e>
- <sup>9</sup> Center for American Progress (2013) *Energy from Waste Can Help Curb Greenhouse Gas Emissions* <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/report/2013/04/17/60712/energy-from-waste-can-help-curb-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>
- <sup>10</sup> WTE identified as a key technology for a future low carbon energy system in World Economic Forum. *Green Investing: Towards a Clean Energy Infrastructure*. January 2009. Available at: <https://about.bnef.com/blog/green-investing-towards-a-clean-energy-infrastructure/>
- <sup>11</sup> European Environmental Agency (2008) Better management of municipal waste will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Available at: [http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/briefing\\_2008\\_1](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/briefing_2008_1)
- <sup>12</sup> See p.64950, §60.5800(a)(4)(iii) of U.S. EPA (2015) Carbon Pollution Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units, *Federal Register*, **80**, 205, 64662-64964 (October 23, 2015)
- <sup>13</sup> See p64953 of §60.5845 of U.S. EPA (2015) Carbon Pollution Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units, *Federal Register*, **80**, 205, 64662-64964 (October 23, 2015)
- <sup>14</sup> See para. 218 on p42 of United Nations (2012) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012. [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E)

**From:** Judy Gysin <judygysin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 11:35 AM  
**To:** SalemCAP  
**Subject:** Salem Climate Action Plan Recommended Strategies

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Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a REALTOR, I am writing today to voice my opposition and concern with three of the recommended strategies included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

While I acknowledge the danger of climate change and the need for climate action planning to ensure we are coordinating response efforts throughout our city, these strategies being considered would impose an unreasonable financial hardship for property owners you are elected to represent.

Two strategies (EN02 and EN17) would require property owners to make expensive improvements on their property in order to meet energy policy or rating system criteria when they sell their property or if their property is identified as "lower-performing".

Another strategy (EN16) would require providing a prospective home buyer with a Home Energy Score. Home buyers can currently choose to obtain a Home Energy score just as they can elect to have a home inspection conducted.

These strategies should be voluntary or incentivized, rather than mandatory, and should be supported by financial assistance programs when upgrades are recommended.

I urge you to remove these requirements from the recommended strategies from the Climate Action Plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judy Gysin  
2190 Red Oak Dr S  
Salem, OR 97302  
judygysin@gmail.com

**From:** Donna Paradis <donna@nworg.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:44 PM  
**To:** SalemCAP  
**Subject:** Salem Climate Action Plan Recommended Strategies

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Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a REALTOR, I am writing today to voice my opposition and concern with three of the recommended strategies included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

While I acknowledge the danger of climate change and the need for climate action planning to ensure we are coordinating response efforts throughout our city, these strategies being considered would impose an unreasonable financial hardship for property owners you are elected to represent.

Two strategies (EN02 and EN17) would require property owners to make expensive improvements on their property in order to meet energy policy or rating system criteria when they sell their property or if their property is identified as "lower-performing".

Another strategy (EN16) would require providing a prospective home buyer with a Home Energy Score. Home buyers can currently choose to obtain a Home Energy score just as they can elect to have a home inspection conducted.

These strategies should be voluntary or incentivized, rather than mandatory, and should be supported by financial assistance programs when upgrades are recommended.

I urge you to remove these requirements from the recommended strategies from the Climate Action Plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donna Paradis  
PO Box 1373  
Silverton, OR 97381  
donna@nworg.com

**From:** Lacey Stark <lacey@yourhomesalem.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 9:12 AM  
**To:** SalemCAP  
**Subject:** Salem Climate Action Plan Recommended Strategies

---

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a REALTOR, I am writing today to voice my opposition and concern with three of the recommended strategies included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

While I acknowledge the danger of climate change and the need for climate action planning to ensure we are coordinating response efforts throughout our city, these strategies being considered would impose an unreasonable financial hardship for property owners you are elected to represent.

Two strategies (EN02 and EN17) would require property owners to make expensive improvements on their property in order to meet energy policy or rating system criteria when they sell their property or if their property is identified as "lower-performing".

Another strategy (EN16) would require providing a prospective home buyer with a Home Energy Score. Home buyers can currently choose to obtain a Home Energy score just as they can elect to have a home inspection conducted.

These strategies should be voluntary or incentivized, rather than mandatory, and should be supported by financial assistance programs when upgrades are recommended.

I urge you to remove these requirements from the recommended strategies from the Climate Action Plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lacey Stark  
523 Grandover Ave SE  
Salem, OR 97306  
lacey@yourhomesalem.com



## SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ACTION SHEET

November 16, 2021

### BOARD MEMBER ATTENDEES

Present: Alan Alexander, Tony Caito, Woody Dukes, Dave Fridenmaker, Rick Hartwig, Dylan McDowell, Keith Norris, Paul Rice, Micki Varney

### ISSUE

Should the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board endorse the *Salem Climate Action Plan* and forward a letter of support to City Council for approval?

### DATE OF DECISION

November 16, 2021

### BACKGROUND:

A special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was convened to discuss and act on a letter of support for the Climate Action Plan going to City Council on December 6, 2021.

Chair Dylan McDowell drafted a letter of support for review and discussion by the Board at the meeting. Following discussion, changes were made to the letter and it was agreed that Chair McDowell would sign on behalf of the Board.

### ACTION TAKEN

**Motion:** Member Alexander moved, and Member Hartwig seconded to endorse the *Salem Climate Action Plan* by forwarding a letter of support, as amended, to City Council for approval.

**Vote:** Eight members voted in favor of the motion; Member Fridenmaker abstained due to his role being specific to Salem Keizer School District; therefore, he can neither support nor oppose the motion.

November 16, 2021

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is pleased to support the overall goals and efforts contained within the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the City of Salem presented in draft form prior to November 5. We believe that reducing carbon emissions and adapting Salem to the realities of climate change will make the City more livable, sustainable, and inclusive for our residents.

Given SPRAB's purview of parks and green space, we are specifically supportive of the Plan's Natural Resource vision that "Salem's natural resources will provide benefits to all residents, including physical and psychological health benefits and natural resilience." Many of the included strategies in this section are labeled as low cost and could be achieved in the short-term with immediate results. While the majority of these strategies are ranked as having a low to medium greenhouse gas reduction potential, the associated community benefits--such as reduced flooding impacts--are high and should be prioritized. The strategies also allow the City to prioritize currently underserved areas to ensure all residents have the benefit of parks, green space, and robust canopy cover.

We encourage you to incorporate the Natural Resource strategies as complementary pieces of other goals during implementation. For example, bike paths and greenways can be planted with native vegetation and ensure access to the City's park system. Additionally, increased canopy cover incorporated into new development brings an impressive number of co-benefits alongside carbon reduction and sequestration, ranging from reduced urban heat to improved mental wellbeing.

We recognize that this plan is an approximation and an initial effort by the City to do its part in addressing the world's changing climate and making the city more resilient. We encourage further efforts to prioritize, monitor, and assess the potential and realized outcomes of these actions as the plan's strategies are further developed and implemented.

We are grateful for the tremendous work of City staff to make this plan possible, and the intentional effort to include a diverse set of stakeholders in the plan development. We appreciate that SPRAB was represented on the Task Force and believe our input has helped strengthen the Natural Resources section and will also allow us to stay involved in executing those strategies. We encourage you to adopt and implement the plan to help our City address and adapt to our changing climate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dylan McDowell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dylan McDowell, Chair

On behalf of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board