

From: [Barb Myers](#)
To: [SalemCAP](#)
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:51:01 AM

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a resident of Salem, I am writing to voice my opposition with the costly requirements of certain recommended strategies currently included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

Adopting Mandatory Home/Building Energy Ratings & Requiring Costly Upgrades

Property owners (including prospective buyers) should retain the right to choose the information they need to make decisions regarding their property, just as they choose whether to obtain a home inspection. Property owners should not be forced to make expensive upgrades based on energy rating system criteria to have the right to sell their property. (Strategy #s EN02, EN20, & EN21)

Banning Natural Gas Increases Housing Costs & May Risk Lives

Requiring all-electric new construction raises housing costs significantly. The ban on natural gas could put lives at risk as natural gas provides a resilient source of heating and cooking during power outages and will negatively impact low-income populations least able to afford alternatives. Property owners should have the choice to use natural gas or electricity. (Strategy # EN31)

These proposed mandatory strategies will further impact the housing crisis, especially affordable housing, and will drive commercial and residential property owners out of Salem.

I support these efforts being voluntary with associated incentive programs.

Please remove the requirements from these strategies in the Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Barb Myers
5160 2nd Ave SE
Salem, OR 97306
peacebarb@gmail.com

From: Cheryl Hummon
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Mayor Bennett & City Council: Approve the Climate Action Plan
Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022 8:35:30 PM

Whole Council City Council,

To Mayor Chuck Bennett and Salem City Council,

Salem is the only sizeable city in Oregon with no adopted Climate Action Plan. The Final Draft Climate Action Plan was sent to the Council in November with a staff report that said, “the final draft CAP will come to Council for consideration after the beginning of 2022.” That time is now.

The CAP has been in development for years. An inventory of Salem’s climate changing emissions was done using well-accepted methods. The Council set goals for reducing these greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2035, and to be carbon neutral by 2050. A Task Force of over 40 people met with city staff and consultants for over a year to develop the draft CAP. It’s ready for a vote.

Without Council approval, the CAP will not have the official status it needs to guide City and community discussions on transportation, energy, buildings, land use and waste disposal. Without an approved CAP there will be no way to assess progress on the Council’s emission reduction goals.

The draft plan is far more than a list of short-term suggestions. It makes the climate crisis a priority for city policy and community action. Furthermore, the CAP makes equity a priority so that the needs and concerns of historically underserved and underrepresented communities are included.

350 Salem OR began advocating for a Salem Climate Action Plan over five years ago and has closely followed every step of CAP development. For effective implementation, the new City Manager must have a clear understanding of and commitment to the important role that cities play in addressing the climate crisis.

Mayor Bennett and Councilors, I urge you to hold public hearing and pass the Climate Action Plan.

Cheryl Hummon
chummon@peak.org
PO Box 4446
Salem, Oregon 97302

<<https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/o/sKxQ9Tusut-gXiwfMaIEaQ/3ja/8ibQyd5LQ1KPRjZlwwTHNg/ho.gif>>

From: [Dorothy Horton](#)
To: [SalemCAP](#)
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 1:30:06 AM

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

We upgraded to gas furnace and gas stove in our home approximately seven years ago. Definitely don't want the costly expense of different energy upgrades.

As a resident of Salem, I am voicing my strong opposition to the costly requirements of Strategy # EN21 included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

Requiring properties (commercial and residential) to meet energy rating system criteria upon the sale of the property is essentially forcing property owners to "write a blank check" for energy upgrades to be able to sell their property. This will significantly increase home prices as upgrade costs are passed on to buyers, further increasing the housing crisis.

Salem has many older properties which are typically the "affordable housing" for first time home buyers and young families. Requiring costly upgrades to meet modern energy criteria will price hundreds of families out of home ownership.

Current building material and labor shortages will delay sales for those needing to access the equity in their home. Many, especially seniors, rely on the "nest egg" equity they have spent their lives building as part of their financial plan to cover living expenses for their future.

Simply adding financial incentives does not cover the financial burden of completing energy upgrades. No cost/benefit analysis has been done to determine the real-world cost for these upgrades and the impact on the housing market.

While well intentioned - this strategy is not equitable for all in our community.

I urge you to remove Strategy # EN21 from the Salem Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Horton
1162 Liberty Cir S
Salem, OR 97306
hortondot@gmail.com

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of kaellenhessel@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 4:55:08 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Kaellen Hessel
Your Email	kaellenhessel@gmail.com
Your Phone	9717079513
Street	3992 Heritage St SE Apt 117
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>Hello, I'm writing in support of the Salem Climate Action Plan. I urge you to adopt it and push for the more aggressive path. Now is the time for action. We need bold steps and bold leadership. With the more aggressive plan, Salem can be a leader in our state and country. We have no time to waste. I know there's been some eyebrow raising about banning natural gas lines in new housing. This is critical for combating climate change and for our health. (More and more research shows how terrible natural gas appliances are for indoor air quality and our health.) But it's also what the housing market will require. More and more millennials are finally able to become homebuyers. I am a 30-something renter hoping to buy my first house in the next year. One of my top requirements is a climate-friendly house with no natural gas hookups. Putting our money where our values are is a defining aspect of my generation. This will be the future. Banning natural gas lines in new housing would get the housing market toward the direction it's heading faster while making a positive change for the planet sooner. Thanks, Kaellen</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/14/2022.

From: [Patrick Dougherty](#)
To: [SalemCAP](#)
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Friday, February 4, 2022 3:20:24 PM

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

I believe the city should develop building objectives/guidelines which move us toward a reduction in our carbon "footprint" with appropriate incentives but stay away from mandated details and forced upgrades! New technologies and equipment are becoming available daily which will facilitate the transition to reduced carbon solutions! Windmill turbines and solar panel/battery systems are not efficient enough to supplant today's energy sources. Oregon is a beautiful state, we don't need our tree covered mountain vistas marred with windmills nor the lush fields and valleys covered by solar panels!

As a resident of Salem, I am writing to voice my opposition with the costly requirements of certain recommended strategies currently included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

Adopting Mandatory Home/Building Energy Ratings & Requiring Costly Upgrades

Property owners (including prospective buyers) should retain the right to choose the information they need to make decisions regarding their property, just as they choose whether to obtain a home inspection. Property owners should not be forced to make expensive upgrades based on energy rating system criteria to have the right to sell their property. (Strategy #s EN02, EN20, & EN21)

Banning Natural Gas Increases Housing Costs & May Risk Lives

Requiring all-electric new construction raises housing costs significantly. The ban on natural gas could put lives at risk as natural gas provides a resilient source of heating and cooking during power outages and will negatively impact low-income populations least able to afford alternatives. Property owners should have the choice to use natural gas or electricity. (Strategy # EN31)

These proposed mandatory strategies will further impact the housing crisis, especially affordable housing, and will drive commercial and residential property owners out of Salem.

I support these efforts being voluntary with associated incentive programs.

Please remove the requirements from these strategies in the Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Patrick Dougherty
497 Eaglet St NW
Salem, OR 97304
pdoug0120@aol.com

From: [Laurie Dougherty](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 6.e. Next Steps for Climate Action Plan
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 4:55:39 PM

Mayor Bennett and City Coucilors,
My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Ward 1. I support a strong and effective Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Salem.

Once there is a public hearing on the CAP, there will be more to say. Right now I would like to comment on the controversial topic of natural gas.

Natural Gas is not a viable emissions reduction option for several reasons. Natural gas is a fossil fuel that emits CO2 when burned. While it does produce less CO2 than coal in power plants, it is still a significant source and that is only part of the problem. Natural gas is methane, a powerful greenhouse gas in its own right. Studies have shown that substantial amounts of methane leak during production and transmission, negating any benefit achieved during combustion. Most natural gas is now produced by fracking (hydraulic fracturing) since many conventional sources have been depleted. While the effects of fracking are not happening in Oregon, fracking endangers communities where it does take place. Natural gas leaks have caused many explosions resulting in injuries, deaths and property damage. Natural gas use in indoor furnaces and appliances brings the risk of explosion into households and businesses. It is harmful to indoor air quality, producing carbon monoxide which can be fatal and nitrogen dioxide which can cause asthma and heart problems.

The CAP should prevent natural gas in new constructions and work toward eventually converting to electricity.

Here are a few resources for your consideration:

[Methane Gas: Health, Safety, and Decarbonization](#)

by collaboration of Pacific NW organizations

[Effects of Residential Gas Appliances on Indoor and Outdoor Air Quality and Public Health in California](#)

by researchers at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

[Carbon Free Buildings Program - Powering Our Homes and Businesses Without Fossil Fuels](#)

by RMI (formerly Rocky Mountain Institute)

[Negative impacts of burning natural gas and biomass have surpassed coal generation in many states](#)

by Center for Climate, Health & the Global Environment, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Thank you.

From: [Lucy Hitchcock](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: public input on scheduling vote on CAP
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 4:35:16 PM
Attachments: [CAP letter to city council.docx](#)

Please see attachment. Thank you, Lucy Hitchcock, 1715 John Muir Cir SE, Salem, OR 97302

February 14, 2022
To the City Council:

I have been looking forward to hearing of the successful passage, by the City Council, of Salem's carefully researched Climate Action Plan, recommended by the well-funded and staffed working group with much public input, and expected to become official in early 2022. I live at 1715 John Muir SE, Salem (Ward 3) in the Pringle Creek Community whose goal is sustainability. Our practice is to remove invasive species from the riparian areas and replace with native plants and trees and to preserve our mature sequoias and oak trees as construction continues. Our new builder has agreed to build homes with all electric appliances, heat and AC, not gas-fueled ones, to eliminate polluting effluent from our buildings. We care about the planet, minimizing further climate disasters, and caring for all of Salem's citizens. The CAP works, over the next few years, toward city oversight to prevent all new construction from using natural gas. Once it is in use, it is much harder and expensive for homeowners to replace it. We encourage the use of solar panels and geothermal. We must not let Northwest Natural abort this agreed upon citizen-backed and assisted Plan. We are the only major city in Oregon which does not such a climate action plan in place. And we are the Capitol City which should be a model and inspiration.

For Oregon to meet its reduction goals for greenhouse gases, it takes the cooperative action by city and state governments, residents, business and industry. We need the whole Climate Action Plan accepted to encourage, guide and require major changes. Yes, it will be put into practice in phases, as it can be afforded and implemented, but after so much preparation we must not lose the work that has been done to design the entire plan. Please join your fellow Council members to see that it is discussed publicly, passed, framed, celebrated, publicized regularly, and managed by staff into being.

Speaking as a minister of over thirty years in congregations, now retired into volunteer climate justice work, I know the sacrifices in habitual consumption and America's privileged lifestyles that will be required to save the planet have not yet dawned on most of the people. It is going to take inspired, faithful leadership to create a popular movement to do so in time. See that the draft Salem Action Plan is made official. Thank you for your good work on the Council for our city.

Sincerely, Reverend Lucy Hitchcock
lucyhitchcock8140@gmail.com; 360-348-8800

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of skazz999W@hotmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Sunday, February 13, 2022 9:49:30 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Philip J Ratcliff
Your Email	skazz999W@hotmail.com
Your Phone	5039744859
Street	4665 Tragen Ct SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	The following comments pertain to the Salem Climate Action Plan: ---- How we shape Salem's future development will have consequences for the climate through the opportunity for compact, mixed use neighborhoods where people can walk, bike or take convenient public transit for work, school, errands and recreation. Developing in this way fosters a healthy, active way of life and supports vibrant communities as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/13/2022.

From: [RANDY Lutke](#)
To: [SalemCAP](#)
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 12:40:18 PM

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a resident of Salem, I am writing to voice my opposition with the costly requirements of certain recommended strategies currently included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

Adopting Mandatory Home/Building Energy Ratings & Requiring Costly Upgrades

Property owners (including prospective buyers) should retain the right to choose the information they need to make decisions regarding their property, just as they choose whether to obtain a home inspection. Property owners should not be forced to make expensive upgrades based on energy rating system criteria to have the right to sell their property. (Strategy #s EN02, EN20, & EN21)

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These proposed mandatory strategies will further impact the housing crisis, especially affordable housing, and will drive commercial and residential property owners out of Salem.

I support these efforts being voluntary with associated incentive programs.

Please remove the requirements from these strategies in the Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

RANDY Lutke
5137 Sycaan Ct SE
Salem, OR 97306
rplutke@gmail.com

From: [Robert Romanek](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Cc: [Patricia Farrell](#)
Subject: FW: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Friday, February 11, 2022 9:06:34 AM

-Rob | 503-588-6211 ext. 7385

-----Original Message-----

From: RANDY Lutke <rplutke@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 8:34 AM
To: SalemCAP <SalemCAP@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a resident of Salem, I am voicing my strong opposition to the costly requirements of Strategy # EN21 included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

Requiring properties (commercial and residential) to meet energy rating system criteria upon the sale of the property is essentially forcing property owners to "write a blank check" for energy upgrades to be able to sell their property. This will significantly increase home prices as upgrade costs are passed on to buyers, further increasing the housing crisis.

Salem has many older properties which are typically the "affordable housing" for first time home buyers and young families. Requiring costly upgrades to meet modern energy criteria will price hundreds of families out of home ownership.

Current building material and labor shortages will delay sales for those needing to access the equity in their home. Many, especially seniors, rely on the "nest egg" equity they have spent their lives building as part of their financial plan to cover living expenses for their future.

Simply adding financial incentives does not cover the financial burden of completing energy upgrades. No cost/benefit analysis has been done to determine the real-world cost for these upgrades and the impact on the housing market.

While well intentioned - this strategy is not equitable for all in our community.

I urge you to remove Strategy # EN21 from the Salem Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

RANDY Lutke
5137 Sycan Ct SE
Salem, OR 97306
rplutke@gmail.com

From: [RANDY Lutke](#)
To: [SalemCAP](#)
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:00:22 AM

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a resident of Salem, I am voicing my strong opposition to the costly requirements of Strategy # EN21 included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

Requiring properties (commercial and residential) to meet energy rating system criteria upon the sale of the property is essentially forcing property owners to "write a blank check" for energy upgrades to be able to sell their property. This will significantly increase home prices as upgrade costs are passed on to buyers, further increasing the housing crisis.

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Sincerely,

RANDY Lutke
5137 Sycan Ct SE
Salem, OR 97306
rplutke@gmail.com

From: [Rebecca Ruppert](#)
To: [SalemCAP](#)
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Friday, February 4, 2022 2:00:28 PM

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a resident of Salem, I am writing to voice my opposition with the costly requirements of certain recommended strategies currently included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

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Property owners (including prospective buyers) should retain the right to choose the information they need to make decisions regarding their property, just as they choose whether to obtain a home inspection. Property owners should not be forced to make expensive upgrades based on energy rating system criteria to have the right to sell their property. (Strategy #s EN02, EN20, & EN21)

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I support these efforts being voluntary with associated incentive programs.

Please remove the requirements from these strategies in the Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ruppert
4825 Rising St SE
Salem, OR 97302
Sapphire4825@comcast.net

From: [Rebecca Ruppert](#)
To: [SalemCAP](#)
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 6:10:16 AM

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

Please don't do this. The financial hardship would be enormous. Natural gas is a clean fossil fuel.

As a resident of Salem, I am voicing my strong opposition to the costly requirements of Strategy # EN21 included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

Requiring properties (commercial and residential) to meet energy rating system criteria upon the sale of the property is essentially forcing property owners to "write a blank check" for energy upgrades to be able to sell their property. This will significantly increase home prices as upgrade costs are passed on to buyers, further increasing the housing crisis.

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While well intentioned - this strategy is not equitable for all in our community.

I urge you to remove Strategy # EN21 from the Salem Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ruppert
4825 Rising St SE
Salem, OR 97302
Sapphire4825@comcast.net

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of daltfam@comcast.net
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 4:43:23 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	William B Dalton
Your Email	daltfam@comcast.net
Your Phone	5033714174
Street	6619 Huntington Cir Se
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	<p>Dear Mayor and City Council Members; I am writing with regard to the Council's plans to take testimony regarding the City's plan to respond to "Climate Change." I am appreciative of the City speaking out on this important issue, and potentially taking action steps to address this urgent issue. In that vain, I want to encourage the City to more fully utilize the resources already at our disposal: PROTECT OUR URBAN FORESTS/TREE-COVER. Research has continued to reflect that there are few approaches to truly addressing Climate Change nearly as effective as protecting the mature trees that we have throughout the world, whether in suburban forests, untouched wilderness, or in cities. Mature trees provide oxygen at levels matched only by sea plankton; matures trees and forest sequester CO2 more effectively & continuously than any other known single 'mechanism' (man-made or natural...)! To accomplish the above, we do not need any new, fancy, potentially controversial Rules, Regulations, Laws, Statutes, Constitutional Amendments... . We just need the City to utilize and ENFORCE the City planning rules and regulations we already have!! For decades, many of our City's Mayors and Councils have consistently allowed (actively supported or passively condoned...) our planning process (Planning Commission, Planning Dept. ...) in overlooking and/or undermining nearly every Code relating to the protection of trees: -- "Significant Trees" are those not interfering with development; -- "Protecting tree cover" has been given every imaginable interpretation in favor of development except actually protecting the trees from destruction; -- "Must not cut more than x %" is ALWAYS enforced at the very minimum-- if at all; and -- "Replanting" is bragged about, as if 1" Diameter/4' high "sprigs" actually sequester anything other than developers' profits. IF We/You are at all "serious" about actually addressing the threats of Climate Change, then I request .. You begin showing some courage/backbone in enforcing the climate protection-related codes we already have. .. Get some City Manager & Council control over your Planning Department -- which consistently undermines the Public and City Government in favor of anyone or anything that has the word "DEVELOPMENT" in its Title. .. Inculcate relationships with Developers who show some responsibility and sensitivity to environment and climate (They are out there!). I fully appreciate and support any REAL ACTIONS (i.e., not just WORDS) that You bring to the battle on behalf of</p>

the City of Salem. Thank You for all You do - and ALL the more that You can do!!
Sincerely, William Dalton - 6619 Huntington Circle SE Salem 97306

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/14/2022.

From: [William Dobyns](#)
To: [SalemCAP](#)
Subject: Oppose Salem Climate Action Plan Costly Strategies
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 3:00:32 PM

Dear Salem Climate Committee,

As a resident of Salem, I am voicing my strong opposition to the costly requirements of Strategy # EN21 included in the draft Climate Action Plan.

Requiring properties (commercial and residential) to meet energy rating system criteria upon the sale of the property is essentially forcing property owners to "write a blank check" for energy upgrades to be able to sell their property. This will significantly increase home prices as upgrade costs are passed on to buyers, further increasing the housing crisis.

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While well intentioned - this strategy is not equitable for all in our community.

I urge you to remove Strategy # EN21 from the Salem Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

William Dobyns
2950 Boone Rd SE
Salem, OR 97306
dobynswleon@gmail.com