

Climate Impact Advisory Committee
APPROVED Meeting Minutes



Date: May 7th, 2020
Location: Zoom

QUORUM	Y
Members Present	
Kaylee Galloway	X
Casey Harman	X
Erika Lautenbach	
Treva Coe	
Phil Thompson	X
Ellyn Murphy	X
John Yakawich	X
Katherine Kissinger	X
David Kershner	X
Cynthia Mitchell	
Alex Ramel	
STAFF Chris Elder	X

1) Meeting Began at 5:37 PM

Meeting began with introductions of all CIAC members and members of the public in attendance.

Public in attendance:

Clare Fogelsong

Kathy Sabel

2) Approval of Agenda

David Kershner moved to approve the agenda, Phil Thompson seconded, motion carried.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

Phil moved to approve the minutes, John seconded, none opposed, motion carried.

4) Discussion and Approval of Emission Reduction Targets

Dave discussed the previously sent memo. His suggestion was to provide targets so Cascadia can perform calculations and projections of emission reductions. The state reductions targets are 45% reduction by 2030, 95% reduction from 1990 in 2050, and net zero emissions in 2050. According to Clare – as a comparison, the Bellingham baseline year for emissions is 2000. Chris mentioned that there is good information for 2000 and 2001 emission levels. There may be a good reason to use these numbers due to high degree of certainty. If the 1990 level is used, the values will have to

estimated using a method called back-casting in the ClearPath model. Because the 2017 emissions are in ClearPath emissions calculation software, the 2017 numbers would be used to perform the estimates.

Casey and others mentioned the state targets are more achievable – the group more or less agreed that the community wide emissions should follow the state mandate and therefore set the emissions year to 1990.

Statewide targets – house bill 2311 approved by the legislature used a 1990 guideline. State agencies may use other targets, but the house bill 2311 uses 1990 guidelines.

Clare: Bellingham City Council set ambitious goal – carbon free by 2035. Task force recognized transportation would be very difficult to achieve by 2035 without a complete ban of internal combustion engines. Building workgroup recognized to be carbon neutral by 2035 was also not achievable even if the city required homes to convert to an electric furnace or water heater when their gas furnace or water heater needs replacement due to the longevity of the current appliances. Based on CETA, energy generation should be effectively 100% renewable by 2045 and presumably all gas appliances would be at the end of life by then and replaced by electric. Task force was quiet about the city government emissions, due to programs that were already in place.

For the purpose of analyzing approaches for greenhouse gas reduction, the Climate Impact Advisory Committee set the following targets:

Community-wide (Whatcom County) Targets will follow state mandated targets:

- A 45% reduction below 1990 levels by 2030
- A 95% reduction below 1990 levels by 2050 and net zero emissions

County Government Targets:

- An 85% reduction below 2001 levels by 2030
- A 100% reduction below 2001 levels by 2050

In order to do these analyses, Cascadia will need to use the Clear Path model to back-cast the community and government GHG emission to 1990.

Casey moved to accept motion, Katie seconded. None opposed, motion passed.

The committee also discussed that these targets may need to be revised as the Climate Action Plan is updated. Although not part of the motion, but requested by the committee as additional analyses by Cascadia Consulting:

- For County Government develop a trendline based on 100% reduction below 2001 by 2035

5) **Meeting Adjourned at 7:48 PM.**

Recorded by Casey Harman

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