

CAP Update Steering Committee
June 6, 2013
Meeting Notes

Present:

Faduma Ali	Carrie Hearne	Jon Ostar
Jennifer Allen (for Jon Fink)	Mike Houck	Priya Premchandran
John Carroll	Tom Kelly	Chris Smith
Angus Duncan	John MacArthur	Kent Snyder
Andrea Durbin	Guillermo Maciel	Douglas Tsoi
Laura Gephart	Holly Meyer	
Ann Gravatt	Linda Nettekoven	

Absent: Amy Qiu.

Welcome

Josh Alpert from the Mayor's office thanked the Steering Committee members. He noted that the timing for this work is perfect because yesterday Portland was the North American host city for World Environment Day.

According to Josh, the Mayor expects to see aggressive implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Mayor has also charged all bureaus to continue their efforts to aggressively reduce carbon and is setting a ten-year goal for bikes and walking to be the preferred modes of transportation for trips under three miles.

This is an issue that brings Mayor Hales and Chair Cogen together. The City and County welcome help from the Steering Committee to inform who is doing what, where, and why with respect to climate work. We also need the Steering Committee to help make sure the City and County are doing work in a more equitable way.

Introductions

CAP SC members were asked to introduce themselves, including a brief statement of what they bring to the project and what they hope the updated climate plan accomplishes. Highlights included interest in:

- Engaging resources at PSU to help with the CAP update process.
- Broaden the discussion beyond liberal political circles, which limits the kinds of solutions that are proposed.
- Making sure the City's goals align with state and federal efforts, and that the climate action related work locally pushes the State to do more.
- Looking at international relationships and how they benefit this work. Portland is recognized as an international climate leader.
- Seeing more alignment between the City/County and the federal government to ensure the best use of resources.
- Reaching the goal of having Portland become a carbon-free community in our lifetime.
- Giving immigrant communities the voices they need.
- Addressing transportation.

- More and faster growing new energy cities.
- Elevating climate adaptation in the conversation to integrate adaptation and mitigation – and working regionally with Metro on this work.
- Advancing the electric transportation aspects of the climate plan.
- Getting businesses involved and potentially encouraging them to sign a climate action declaration to pronounce their commitment.
- Advancing green building practices and solar, as well as other actions to improve the built environment’s impact on climate change.
- Addressing social equity and health issues through climate efforts.
- Developing a common vision for the City and neighborhoods to work toward together.
- Expanding low-income weatherization programs for underserved groups.
- Making sure tribal community voices are heard in Portland, particularly around issues of healthy ecosystems and safe passage for fish.
- Making sure the CAP is relevant to people of color and low-income communities.

Kim Powe, Multnomah County’s Sustainability Director, introduced herself and discussed how the County would like to make sure that equity and social justice are part of the Climate Action Plan Update as well as everything they do.

Michele Crim, Sustainability Manager at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS), mentioned that an additional steering committee member, Amy Qui, was unable to attend today’s meeting because she is in school at Lincoln High. She will attend future meetings.

Michael Armstrong, Senior Sustainability & Operations Manager at BPS, asked the group to please let staff know if they are interested in being co-chairs for the CAP Steering Committee.

The meeting guests introduced themselves.

Michael Armstrong outlined the meeting goals to do a CAP orientation and get priorities and questions on the table.

History & Background/CAP Update Project

Michael Armstrong gave a brief orientation for the group about the history of local climate work and results to date, to set the context and foundation for the work moving forward and the CAP Update Project (see attached PowerPoint). Additional highlights include:

- The City and County do not intend to re-do the entire plan, but rather look at the existing actions and update those actions but not the objectives. The update process is intended to be an update of the activities and not a creation of an entirely new plan.
- The City and County’s goal is to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. We need to be preparing for a more populous, thriving community in 2050 but with only about 20% of the carbon emissions that we are emitting now.
- BPS is working with David Allaway at the Oregon DEQ to do a consumption-based inventory for Multnomah County.
- The emissions trend since 1990 trend shows Portland’s emissions diverging from the national trend since 2000. National numbers are also decreasing in recent years.
- Although local population has increased, we have seen a reduction in energy use per person.

- Total local carbon emissions decreased 8.5% between 1990 and 2011.
- The City and County would like to ensure that we do a better job addressing equity in this CAP update.
- Role of the Steering Committee: help the City and County come up with actions that apply to committee member's area of expertise.
- High-Level Process. In September we will have a preliminary draft of the updated actions for the steering committee to review.
- Climate Change Preparation Strategy work: the goal is to make sure the CAP Update integrates and reflects the adaptation work that is currently underway.

The Committee asked about the overlap and linkages between the current mitigation and preparation work. Michael referenced the mitigation/preparation slide that illustrates the intersection among the various work being done in these areas. It would be helpful for this steering committee to advise the City & County as to how to improve our preparation work.

Steering Committee Big Picture Ideas

City and County staff solicited ideas and guidance from the group about big ideas or issues they would like the CAP update to address. Steering Committee members proposed the following considerations for the updated CAP:

- **Buildings and Energy**
 - Need to address coal in the electricity mix
 - What does the gas and electricity carbon profile look like?
 - Public reporting of building energy usage data (energy disclosure)
 - From the federal to the local level, look at generation sources (Denmark is a good example), especially coal; need to focus on big strategies in the short term (5-10 years) rather than the long term
 - Need to get policy alignment between local, state and federal levels
 - Barriers and incentives to Net Zero buildings
 - Address oil heat in home and transition to gas heat.
- **Urban Form and Mobility**
 - Need to address the car vehicle fleet as the primary source of carbon in the transportation sector, along with transit and walkable neighborhoods
 - Look at "vehicle ownership" as a metric, not just VMT
 - Inclusionary zoning – work toward lifting that prohibition
 - Focus on mass transit being more accessible, safe, and affordable – needs to have bus focus – and identify job creation opportunities
 - Internalize cost of constructing rail (look at this data)
 - Connect standards of walkability to neighborhood prosperity initiatives (explicitly link these – help the community build capacity to move projects forward (e.g., grant writing, facilitation, etc.)
 - Look at culturally and geographic relevance of the transportation system (e.g. appropriateness of bike and light rail)
 - Need a truly regional interconnected trail system
- **Consumption and Solid Waste**
 - Look for opportunities to expand the "sharing economy"

- **Urban Forestry and Natural Systems**
 - Get a handle on ecosystem services, values and investments in green infrastructure
 - Investments in green infrastructure for the region are needed
- **Food and Agriculture**
 - Expand healthy food options and creating new markets for micro- and medium-scale farms (e.g., micro-processing, connection to markets, distribution)
- **Community Engagement**
 - Communicate in a compelling way to new and diverse audiences
 - Framework of addition – what do we want more?
 - Transparency and feedback loops
 - Utilize Portland’s “Do It Yourself” culture to into a “Do It Together” frame
 - Figure out how to measure the impact on the community (data)
 - Bring larger firms and companies to the table
 - Figure out how to better engage immigrant communities
 - Graphic representation of all groups that have a role to play – partnerships
 - Find policy incentives for the behavior we want (behavior change)
 - Do more in the schools
 - Build capacity for professional community organizing
 - Translate the CAP into other languages
 - Increase regulatory pressure and transparency so companies and the public can see their impact and work to reduce it.
- **Climate Change Preparation**
 - Zombies – a potentially useful messaging frame for adaptation
 - Need to get serious about this and raise the profile of the issue
 - Make a strong emergency management link.
- **Health and Equity**
 - Need to see more equitable outcomes
 - Ensure equity isn’t separate, but is incorporated in all areas.
- **Other**
 - Look at a carbon tax
 - Economic cost/benefit of actions
 - Professional integrity – must walk the talk and get honest about the link to affluence
 - Internalization of costs
 - Emissions trend data – what does the line look like based on what the plan can influence
 - We should be measuring against where we want to be
 - Need to see a vision of what a low-carbon future looks like – to help us see and ignite imagination...a transforming vision
 - Political advocacy by elected officials – need to outline this agenda and recognize where we may not have jurisdiction but where we are impacted and/or can have influence.

Next Steps

Michael Armstrong asked steering committee members to feel free to email him, Michele Crim, Ingrid Fish, or Tim Lynch with further input. The group should also feel free to ask for a phone conversation. Staff will supplement notes with additional input.

Kari Lyons asked if it would be helpful for the group to know what the Health Department does. Michael Armstrong said he thought there might be a lot of groups interested in explaining their work to the Steering Committee and that staff would think about that how to get appropriate information to committee.

Desiree Williams-Rajee explained that the Equity Work group will consist of six community organizations: Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), Organizing People Activating Leaders (OPAL), Groundwork Portland, Coalition of Communities of Color, Wisdom Council of the Elders, and Upstream Public Health. The community organizations were given grant funding to participate in the process and provide input from community's perspective. This group will work on equity metrics for the CAP actions, look for opportunities to incorporate equity into the updated actions as well as look for missed opportunities. Steering Committee members were invited to participate in this group with staff and the community organizations to provide input. The meetings will be every other week. Committee members were asked to email Ingrid Fish if they were interested in being a member of the Equity Working Group.

Steering Committee Questions:

- How will Steering Committee members communicate among themselves and share contact info? Committee members suggested setting up a website (e.g., FMYI) was suggested so it doesn't cause a bunch of emails to be sent to members' inboxes.

- How will the Steering Committee members be updated on the Equity Working Group's work and the work of the other technical working groups? Michael Armstrong stated that there will be periodic updates at the steering committee meetings and the steering committee will see the recommendations from the groups.

Adjournment

Contact Information

Michael Armstrong, BPS Senior Sustainability & Operations Manager, 503-823-6053,
Michael.armstrong@portlandoregon.gov

Michele Crim, BPS Sustainability Manager, 503-823-5638, Michele.crim@portlandoregon.gov

Ingrid Fish, BPS Policy & Research Analyst, 503-823-4326, Ingrid.fish@portlandoregon.gov

Tim Lynch, Multnomah County – Office of Sustainability, 503-988-4064,
tim.j.lynch@multco.us