

MINUTES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND
CLIMATE OUTREACH COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 22, 2020
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Marion Moore at 6:01 p.m. Commissioners Risa Buck, Steve Mitzel, Jamie Rosenthal, Bryan Sohl, and Rebecca Walker along with staff liaison Stu Green and Council liaison Stef Seffinger were present. Commissioners Larry Cooper, Marni Koopman, James McGinnis, and staff liaison Adam Hanks were absent.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1. December 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Buck/Rosenthal moved/seconded to approve the minutes as written. Further discussion: none. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Announcements

3.1. Next Regular Meeting: February 26, 2020

3.2. Upcoming Subcommittee meetings

Buck announced that the Waste Prevention Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, January 23 at 3 p.m. in the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Facilities Building, 351 Walker Avenue.

3.3. Other Announcements from Commissioners

Buck said she would be attending the February Tree Commission meeting as a member of the public to talk about best practices for when wildlife and cutting down trees adversely affect wildlife. Moore stated that Cooper submitted a statement about the Water Treatment Plant. His concerns included that conservation efforts are not taken into account and there is no greenhouse gas emissions calculation for the construction. Rosenthal announced that she would not be at the February meeting as she will be traveling to a waste prevention and recycling training for work. Buck will also be absent in February.

4. Public Forum

Flavia Franco – with Emerging Futures and Southern Oregon Food Solutions announced that there will be a food reduction workshop for restaurant owners and workers on March 24 at the Ashland Springs Hotel. She is looking for volunteers to reach out to restaurants to participate and for future tabling events. Other workshops include a zero food waste demo at the Ashland Food Coop in April and a class through Parks and Recreation on reducing food waste in May.

Louise Shawkat – spoke to idling vehicles around town especially around the schools. There will be a Transit Equity Day in Ashland corresponding to the nationwide event on February 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Ashland Public Library's Gresham Room.

Cat Gould – who is also on the Tree Commission, reiterated Shawkat's statement about idling and explained that the existing ordinance needs more enforcement. Gould suggested placing more signage year round in areas where buses and RVs park and idle. Outreach could also be done through students by using nationwide programs to target the idling that occurs at the schools. She also spoke to the solar collective and finding large roof space that could benefit from solar installations.

Huelz Gutcheon – reminded the Commission of an email he sent about electric vehicle (EV) charging sites. He also spoke to the solar collective called Ashland Community Solar and would like to see more groups like this. The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) also recommended progressive energy codes influencing the State's building codes, especially EV charging in residential constructions.

5. Reports/Presentations

5.1 Community/Neighborhood Presentation

Moore gave the presentation for community outreach (see attached). Moore has given five presentations so far and is looking for more Commissioners to help present. Further discussion included:

- Fossil fuel landscaping equipment accounts for a small amount of the GHG inventory in the Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP);
- The Buildings emissions category includes both construction and territorial emissions;
- Carbon offsets for flights and shipping products can be purchased which generally consist of a third party planting trees and other carbon offsets;
- Adaptation tips will be included in the presentation; and
- Ashland is making GHG reductions, but not meeting the eight percent per year goal.

The Commission will add an update on the GHG inventory and GHG reduction efforts focusing on consumption after Green's progress report to Council in March.

5.2 Council Update

Seffinger announced that tonight there was a Capital Needs and Financing Town Hall to receive input on raising funds for City Hall, Community Center, Pioneer Hall, a City solar installation and repair of the Perozzi fountain. The Council has also been looking at:

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) development for the Water Treatment Plant;
- The Trails Master Plan including trails as a part of the transportation system;
- Buildable lands for the next 20 years; and
- Providing public space for camping if a shelter space is not provided.

Buck asked about the climate emergency declaration. Seffinger said that it has been shifted to the Climate Policy Commission (CPC) which will present at the February 3 Council Study Session along with Ashland School District's (ASD) progress on incorporating CEAP into their bond projects.

5.3 Administration Update

Green updated the Commission on an upcoming ECO challenge, added features to the EV calculator online at ashland.chooseev.com, upcoming changes to the CEAP website in the Spring, the meeting with CPC and CCOC chairs to discuss coordination between the two, a joint Commission meeting is planned for April, workplace charging incentives are still available for commercial Ashland Electric account holders, the Transportation Commission is reviewing the draft contract proposal for the Transportation System Plan tomorrow, more adaptation items needing to be added to CEAP, the launch of Rogue to Go, and possibly changing the time of the CCOC meetings.

Buck added that her and Hanks were interviewed on the Jefferson Exchange for the Rogue to Go program along with Talent City Councilor Emily Berlant, who is a part of the Talent Zero Waste Team. Talent is promoting a "Bring Your Own" campaign to encourage customers to bring their own food containers to restaurants for takeout. Green also hopes that the Commission will help interview Rogue to Go customers in the future.

6. Old Business

6.1. Other Commission Updates

Buck met with Julie Smitherman, Water Conservation Analyst, who will be leading a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Reservoir on May 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. Buck also has been working with Ashland ACE Hardware about ways to incentivize switching to electric landscaping equipment.

6.2. 10 by 20 Update

Hanks provided a memo (see attached). This item will be added to the March agenda for Hanks to answer any questions.

Sohl asked what was the action on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the large Imperatrice solar project. Green stated Council did not want to move forward with the project. Green also stated that CPC will look into a strategic plan for the Electric Utility, which could address some of the issues brought up in the 10 by 20 ordinance. Sohl asked if the City plans on expanding solar and Green responded with they are

planning on expanding as long as the installations do not trigger the take or pay provision in the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) contract.

6.3. Update on Bag Ban and Debrief on State Laws

Moved to next meeting.

6.4. Commission Monthly Column in Sneak Preview

6.4.1 Approve Article

There was a miscommunication with the Sneak Preview editor and the Climate Action Card article was run in January instead of the Last Straw article. The Last Straw article will run in February.

Buck introduced the article up for approval and explained the importance of reflecting on the past 25 years of the Commission. Buck was concerned over the ad size and Green stated that the Rogue to Go ad of the same size had a decent quality. Rosenthal/Walker moved/seconded to approve the article as written. Further discussion: none. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

6.5 Subcommittee updates

6.5.1 Water

See above under Other Commission Updates.

6.5.2 Waste Prevention

The Subcommittee had a meeting with staff regarding banning single-use items. They will also have another meeting tomorrow.

6.5.3 Air Quality

See above under Other Commission Updates.

6.5.4 Marketing and Outreach

Moore stated that there are no new projects for the group at this time. Sohl asked if Subcommittees could be shared between two Commissions. Green stated that a Subcommittee could have members from both Commissions, but it needs to report to only one Commission. External members on the Subcommittees would need to be formally accepted by the Commission itself.

Rosenthal asked if she found some groups interested in the presentation who should they contact. Moore stated they could contact her directly. Seffinger suggested reaching out to the Senior Center, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), and American Association of University Women (AAUW) for the presentation.

7. New Business

8. Wrap Up

8.4. Review of Action Items

- Email Kevin Golden to connect Buck and Cooper (Hanks) – done
- Meet with staff about banning or phasing out single use items (Waste Prevention) – done
- Research leaf blower bans and possible incentives (McGinnis/Cooper) – in progress
 - Check with CPC for their work on this issue
- Research adaptation actions for Community presentations (Moore) – in progress
- CPC meeting (Koopman, McGinnis, Walker, Moore, and staff) – done
- Electric landscaping equipment outreach (McGinnis) – in progress
- Displaying outreach materials on City TVs (McGinnis) – in progress
- Updating the Commission webpage (staff with Commission input) – done
- Researching grants for Tool Library (Cooper and Koopman) – in progress; Rosenthal asked if the Library would be a good place to start as they have a check out system in place.
- Creating a spreadsheet for outreach activities (Green and Moore) - done
- Checking with Ashland School District about getting a new representative (McGinnis) - done
- Checking with local landscapers about using electric tools (McGinnis) – in progress

- Referencing the Drawdown book for importance of various actions for neighborhood meetings (Moore) – done
- Researching locations for presentations (Moore) - Ongoing and possibly could be a regular agenda item along with outreach discussion.

8.5. Items to be added to future agendas

- Multifamily Recycling Ordinance Review (TBD)

Items to be added to future agendas include:

- An update on the GHG inventory and GHG reduction efforts (March)
- CCOC and CPC joint Commission meeting (April)
- Changing the time of the CCOC meetings (February)
- 10 by 20 update (March)
- Bag ban and State laws debrief (March)
- Outreach update/ideas (continuous)
- ASD bond report (February)

Further discussion included the ASD report on the bond to City Council. Mitzel stated that he will be giving a short report on how ASD incorporated CEAP into bond projects and requiring contractors and subcontractors to follow the guidelines. He will be willing to present this more in February.

Going back to the GHG emissions inventory, Sohl asked if better data on Ashland citizens could be used for flights to see the reduction those emissions. Green stated that the sharing of information from the Federal Aviation Administration is restrictive and would be hard to get those details. Walker stated that it is also tourist who come to Ashland; therefore, would not be inclusive to only track Ashland residents. Walker also stated that it is better to look at cutting back where necessary with video conferencing, car sharing, etc. but you must be careful about messaging to help balance the economy. Buck stated that two main issues are transportation and population increases which can be controversial issues.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Moore at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Taylor, Executive Assistant

Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan



Powered by Community



Why does the CEAP exist?

To support Ashland's Climate Vision

...for 2050 is to be a resilient community that has zero net greenhouse gas emissions, embraces equity, protects healthy ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future generations.



How was Ashland's climate plan created?

- The CEAP is an ongoing, multi-year process
- 2015 - Citizen planning committee (1.0)
- 2016 - Plan development
- 2017 - Plan adoption, Climate Recovery Ordinance
- 2018 - Citizen implementation committee (2.0), Staffing
- 2019 - Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission / Climate Policy Commission

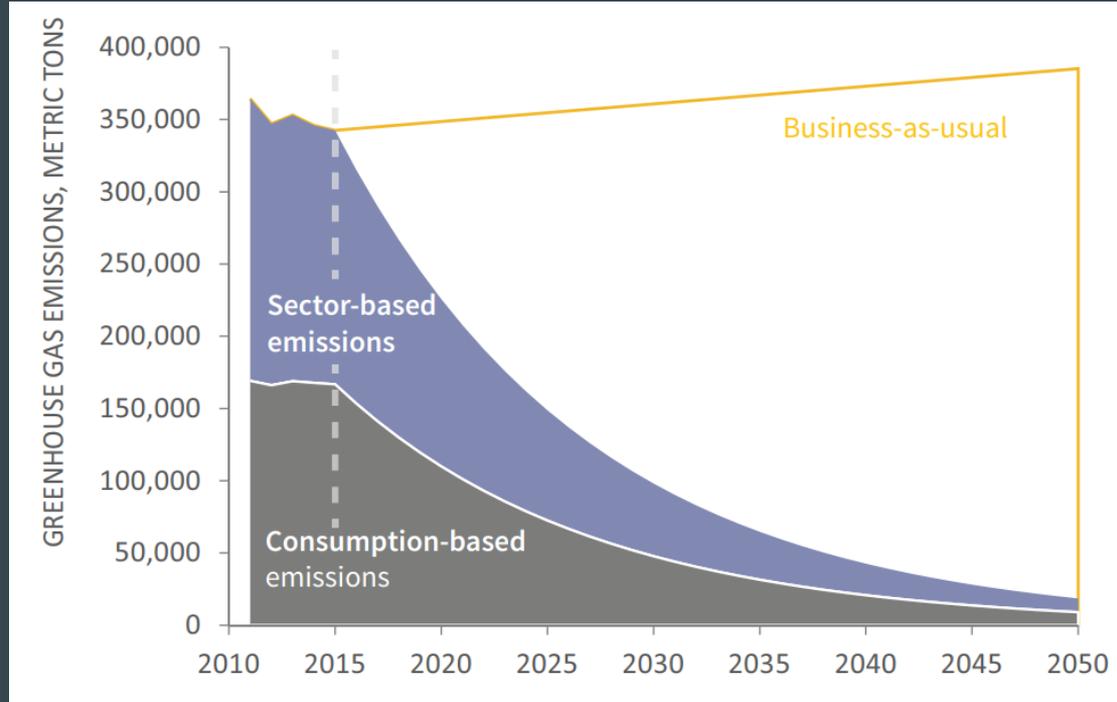
Goal 1: **Dramatically Reduce** Our Climate Pollution

For all of Ashland

-8%

Average reduction,
every year until 2050

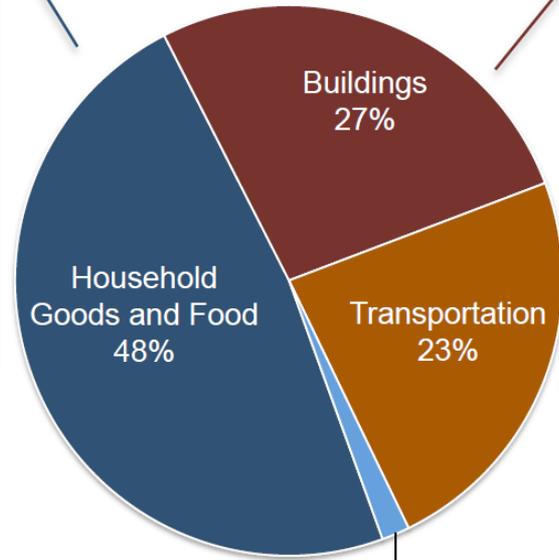
aka. **Mitigate** GHG



Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions

Goods and Food
160,000 MT CO₂e

- Manufacture of goods and food (from inside and outside the region) consumed by Ashland residents
- Freight transport of goods and food
- Waste management systems



Buildings

90,000 MT CO₂e

- Fossil fuels used to generate electricity consumed in Ashland
- Natural gas use by Ashland households and businesses
- Refrigerant leakage from air conditioning systems

Transportation

80,000 MT CO₂e

- Passenger vehicles
- Local freight
- Public transit (buses)
- Air travel

City Government
Operations
2%

Goal 1: **Dramatically Reduce** Our Climate Pollution

For Municipal Operations

Carbon Neutral

by 2030

Fossil Fuel reductions

50%

by 2030

100%

by 2050

Goal 2: Prepare Our Community for Climate Impacts



Overarching Strategies

- Transition to clean energy.
- Maximize conservation of water and energy.
- Support climate-friendly land use and management.
- Reduce consumption of carbon-intensive goods and services.
- Inform and work with residents, organizations, and governments.
- Lead by example.

Strategies for Efficient Buildings and Renewable Energy

- Support cleaner energy sources.
- Encourage increased building energy efficiency.
- Maximize efficiency of City facilities/equipment and operations.
- Improve demand management.
- Prepare and adapt buildings for a changing climate.



Strategies for Low Carbon Transportation and Land Use (ULT)

1. Support better public transit and ridesharing.
2. Make Ashland more bike and pedestrian friendly.
3. Support more efficient vehicles.
4. Support more climate-ready development and land use.
5. Increase the efficiency of City fleet vehicles and employee commuting.



Strategies for a Zero Waste Economy (CM)

1. Reduce consumption of carbon-intensive goods and services.
2. Support sustainable and accessible local production and consumption.
3. Expand community recycling and composting
4. Reduce food waste.
5. Improve sustainability of City operations and purchases.



Strategies for Healthy Ecosystems (NS - Natural Systems)

1. Promote ecosystem resilience.
2. Manage and conserve community water resources.
3. Conserve water use within City operations.



Strategies for Public Health and Safety (PHSW)

1. Manage landscapes to minimize climate-related health impacts.
2. Promote a sustainable local economy that minimizes emissions and vulnerability.
3. Optimize City services to minimize public health impacts.
4. Optimize City services to minimize public safety impacts.



Strategies for an Informed Community (CC)

1. Educate and empower the public.
2. Educate and empower City staff.
3. Mainstream and integrate climate considerations.
4. Engage with other governments and organizations around regional, statewide, national and international climate policy and action.



Adapt your home!

Four pillars of home adaptation

- Be ready
- Get efficient
- Electrify most everything
- Harness renewables



Thank you!

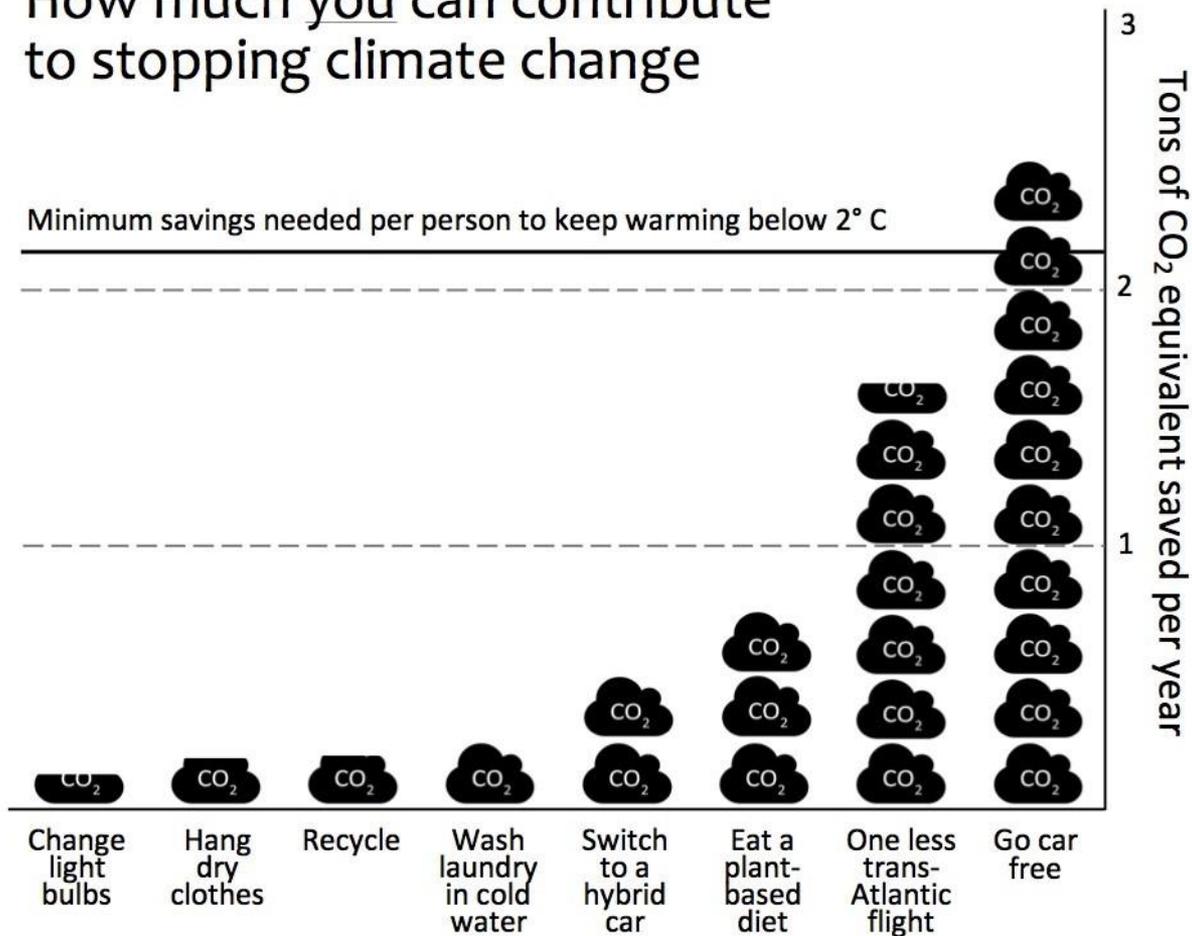
Marion Moore

mlmatlpc@hotmail.com

Ashland's Climate Vision for 2050 is to be a resilient community that has zero net greenhouse gas emissions, embraces equity, protects healthy ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future generations. For more information please see:

[ashland.or.us/climate](https://www.ashland.or.us/climate)

How much you can contribute to stopping climate change

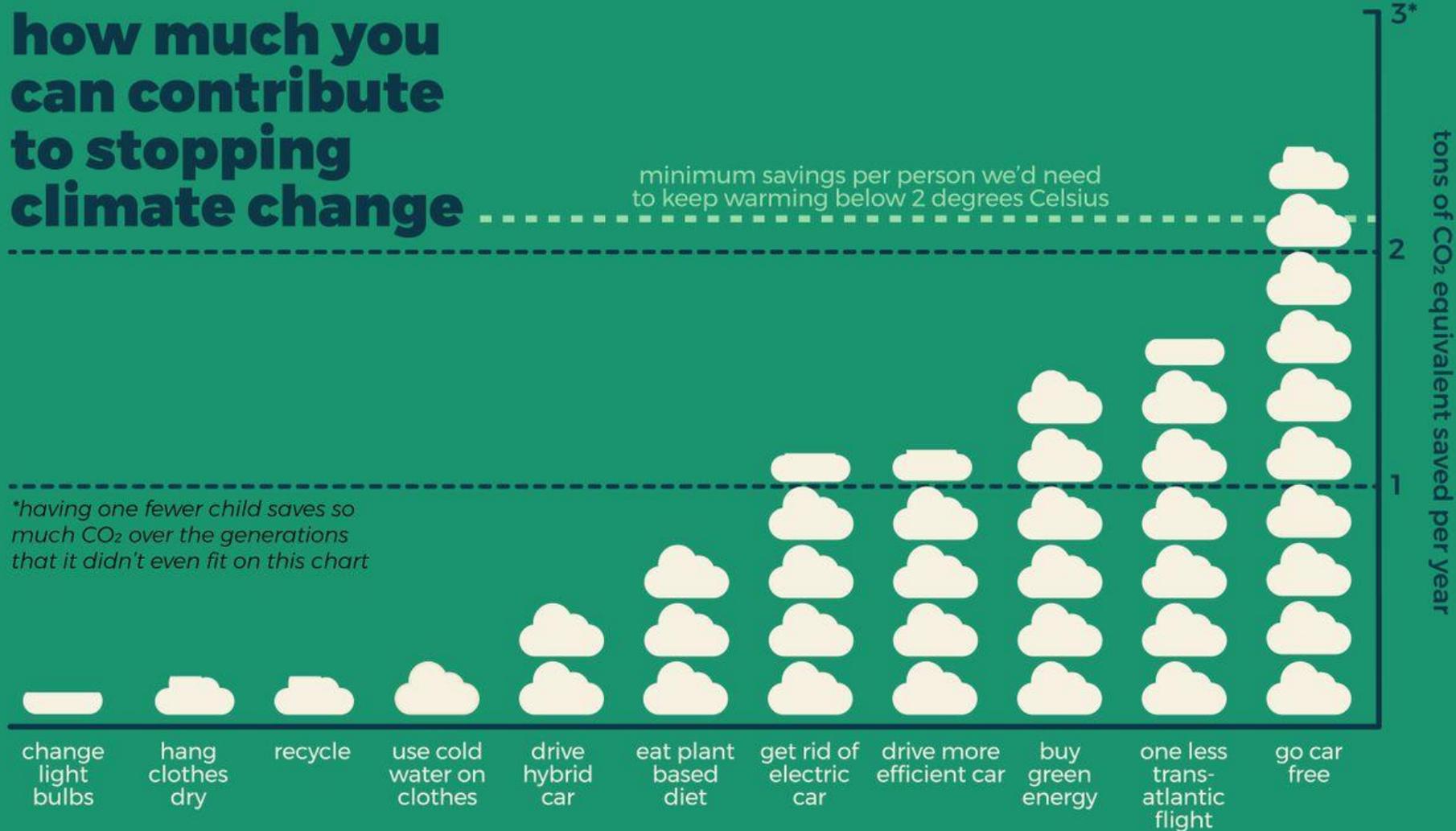


Adaptation

- 1. Prepare for a longer and more intense fire season.
- 2. Prepare for hotter summers (e.g. cooling shelters)
- 3. Ensure disaster plans are in place for more severe weather events.
- 4. Prepare for managed retreat.

how much you can contribute to stopping climate change

minimum savings per person we'd need to keep warming below 2 degrees Celsius



Memo

TO: Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission
FROM: Adam Hanks, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: January 22, 2020
RE: 10 by 20 Status Update

The attached document and associated reference links provide the most comprehensive source of Council direction and staff work completed relating to the 10 by 20 ordinance.

Staff is working on an update to Council in the near future that will address current opportunities being explored in relationship to the most current direction provided by Council. This includes municipal solar system installations, including micro-grid solutions to include availability of power for emergency use, utility scale solar as allowed within the existing BPA contract (1 MW) and public/private partnership projects that could involve a power purchase agreement (PPA) with contract terms to take the power when the BPA contract is renewed.

I would be very interested in answering questions at the February meeting and I hope this very brief summary, along with the more comprehensive materials in the Council Communication, indicates that staff continues to work towards financially viable solutions at the direction of Council.

https://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/110518_10by20_CC_FINAL.pdf



Council Business Meeting

November 5, 2018

Agenda Item	10x20 RFP Review	
From	Adam Hanks Tom McBartlett	Assistant to the City Administrator Interim Electric Utility Director
Contact	adam.hanks@ashland.or.us , thomas.mcbartlett@ashland.or.us	

SUMMARY

City staff has refined, based on Council direction from the study session of September 17, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a large scale (10-13 MW) solar generation project to be located on the City owned Imperatrice Property. The intent of the RFP is to solicit and receive current, market-based proposals to assist in determining the cost to the City for the generated electricity as well as a realistic timeline for completion of the proposed project. Staff is requesting direction from Council for any additional edits that Council sees fit and for authorization to release the RFP.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Climate and Energy Action Plan Action BE 1-3 – Facilitate and encourage solar energy production
City Council Goal 4.4 – Examine long term use of Imperatrice property

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

A draft RFP was presented to Council September 17, 2018. Council gave direction for edits and completion of the RFP to be brought back to Council in November. Amendments to the previous RFP are summarized below:

- Clarification on the portion of the property for the siting of the project – below the TID ditch (map provided)
- Removal of the option for respondents to propose a project where the generation output would be sold or wheeled to Pacific Power rather than directly into the City of Ashland distribution grid
- Emphasis on wildlife and vegetation in the siting, development and security design of the project
- Modification of the schedule for the RFP issuance, review and selection process to provide more time for potential respondents

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This RFP is the next step in a continued effort to meet the requirements of the 10 by 20 ordinance that was approved by Council in September of 2016. This citizen authored ordinance mandates that the City “cause to produce” 10 percent of the community’s annual electricity consumption from clean, local and new sources by 2020.

Three 10 by 20 ordinance agenda items have come before Council since the ordinance’s approval, below is the work done to date.

[November 15, 2016](#) – Discussion of policy questions to be addressed regarding the 10 by 20 Ordinance

[February 21, 2017](#) - 10 by 20 Ordinance Project Update

[July 17, 2017](#) – 10 by 20 Status Update

[December 18, 2017](#) – 10 by 20 Ordinance Activity Update

[September 17, 2018](#) – Initial Review of draft RFP

Several important report/studies have been completed that will be utilized as reference materials for the RFP. All documents are in the RFP appendix, are also contained in previous Council meeting packets and are available using the meeting links provided on page one.

- 1) 2017 Biological Assessment of the Imperatrice Property – Pacific Crest Consulting LLC
- 2) Solar PV Generation Interconnect Analysis – OS Engineering – January 31, 2017
- 3) Electric Utility Rate Design Study – Utility Finance Solutions, LLC – May 15, 2018

FISCAL IMPACTS

Significant staff time has been invested in the 10 by 20 ordinance implementation efforts since its approval in fall 2016. Additional costs of approximately \$25,000 have been incurred to develop the Interconnection Analysis, the biological assessment and the rate design analysis addendum.

The RFP has been developed by staff with technical assistance from a partner agreement with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) at no additional cost to the City. BEF and OS Engineering will also be utilized in the review of RFP responses received.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council direct staff to make any edits Councils deems necessary and to authorize the release of the RFP.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

I move to authorize the City Administrator to release the solar generation RFP, (if necessary) with the following change.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Completed RFP

Attachment 2: Conservation Commission Recommendation on Imperatrice Property