

Action Minutes CCAC - Oct 15, 2025

Called to order at 5:31 PM PT.

Member Attendees: Bill Dowey, Mike Cox, Steve Richards, Sanjay Bhatt, Derik Broekhoff, Kevin Thomas

Climate Manager: Laura Rýser

City Staff: Ellen Schroer, Maurie Harbick

Absent Members: Ray Victurine, Michael Kleeman

Absent Council Liaisons: Joe Deets, Kirsten Hytopoulos (tried to join; issues with the zoom).

Agenda approved. Approved the minutes from February, May, and August. No conflicts of interest disclosures.

- **Public Comment**

- Jens Bömer, a former member of the CCAC, explains that he is helping Grace Church to submit a grant request to the Department of Commerce for battery feasibility and solar construction; he argues that this would be in line with the recent ETIPP recommendations, and he asks if the CCAC would consider writing some sort of a memo in support of this effort.
- Laura explains that there are multiple entities on the island who are considering applying for the same grant.
- Steve makes a motion for the Committee to write a memo to the Council expressing our wish to support efforts on the Island to get grant monies to build solar and assess battery feasibility.
- ACTION: Mike volunteers to draft the memo, which he will deliver to Laura, who will pass it to the City Manager for consideration if this should be taken to the Council.

- **City Manager Updates**

- Maurie Harbick, City Intern, provides updates on his recent work on the EV Charging Code for Multifamily Properties; last year Steve and Sanjay of the CCAC produced a report and a set of recommendations on this topic; Maurie has engaged with these and has consulted with Steve and Sanjay.
 - Maurie would like to return to the Nov 19 CCAC meeting to provide another set of updates; he plans to conduct final analysis for Council review during the Feb 2026 study session.
 - Sanjay and Laura discuss how to make the permitting process with PSE more transparent for developers up front.
 - ACTION: Laura urges the CCAC to return to this issue of permitting and readiness for EV installations (and for all infrastructure related to lowering GHG emissions) when we formally begin work to help revise the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

- ACTION: Steve also requests separate time with Maurie to explore some of the open issues around what Maurie is drafting.
- The consensus from the CCAC is that Maurie is doing excellent work around the code.
- Laura provides updates on upcoming regional climate engagement opportunities.
 - The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (we saw a presentation on this at the last CCAC meeting) is out now for comment, and the hub is open. Can make comments until October 26; we will want to consider what is in that final draft when we formally begin work to revise our CAP.
 - On Oct 27 there is a public session with the Department of Ecology to discuss zero-emission vehicle strategies.
 - The Recycling Reform Act, which standardizes recycling processes and systems around the state, did pass. They have a bunch of recordings and presentations about what this all about. More info: <https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/recycling-reform-act>
 - Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is offering \$500 to get rid of your wood stove. More info: <https://pscleanair.gov/409/Wood-Stove-Recycling-Program>.
 - Mike asks about what the status is on the agreement between the City and local waste management. Laura reports that there is no change and that negotiations are ongoing.
 - Gov Ferguson and the Department of Ecology have just launched what they are calling the ZEvergreen program, which is a statewide effort to increase access to zero emissions vehicles. More info: <https://governor.wa.gov/news/2025/governor-ferguson-ecology-launch-zevergreen-expand-access-zero-emission-vehicles>
 - Ocean Week is coming to Seattle on Oct 22. More info: <https://maritimeblue.org/one-ocean-week-2025/>
 - In terms of items here on the island, Laura highlights that we are advancing the ETIPP recommendations via the Solar Plus Storage grant that is being implemented right now; on Nov 3 site she is doing a site visit with the consultants to the City of City Hall, Waste Water Treatment Plant, and the Operations & Maintenance Facility. One will be recommended for a full bid package. Doing a cost estimate.
 - As the CCAC considers how to assist with the pursuit of grants, Laura is going to have Kate Pedersen from the Dept of Commerce join the CCAC at its Dec meeting so that the committee members have more depth about potential funding for solar and battery projects.
 - SparkNW reached out and wants to do a workshop. Happening at Grow on Nov 3; main topic is PSE Flex Batteries.
 - The annual Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference will be held on March 29, 2026. The focus will be sea-level rise. More info: <https://www.sustainablebainbridge.org/programs/biec/>

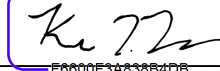
- Mike asks about when the latest GHG inventory will be completed. Laura says it will be done by the end of this year.
- Steve asks about the latest on discussions around yard tools. Laura says that that might be picked up by the Council in early 2026.

- **Regular Business**

- The Planning Commission is working on the Winslow Sub-Area Plan. They have worked up four policy statements. They have asked the CCAC to review the policy statements and provide comments back to them
- Bill asks about recent discussions with PSE. Laura clarifies that PSE gave her a tour of the new transformer and control house that is being built on the island.
- Mike asks if the Council wants to officially request that the CCAC review all of the climate-related language in the draft. Ellen clarifies that the Council will not make the official request but that her interpretation is that CCAC should pursue that.
- ACTION: The existing CCAC sub-committee on the Comprehensive Plan (Mike, Ray, Kevin) will need to reconvene to look at the current draft of the Comp Plan to see how we can assess the document and make recommendations. Mike will reconvene the sub-committee; the work has to be done by the end of the year
- ACTION: A one-time sub-committee is formed to try to look more closely at the four policy statements (Sanjay, Kevin, Steve).
- Kevin gives a quick overview of the Heat Pump Pilot Program; Laura included a written readout in the CCAC packet for this meeting.
- ACTION: Look at next steps for Heat Pump Pilot and get those back to Laura.
- Laura talks about going after the next round of potential funding from the Home Electrification Rebates (Commerce); this is coming up again. Kevin asks if the CCAC can help with that; Laura does not yet know.
- Bill presents the case for going after grant monies to help fund solar and battery projects, specifically to support microgrids; the specific grant has a Nov 4 deadline; the feedback from the rest of the committee is that the idea itself is a good one; it is something we want to get behind; but there is a process that must be pursued via the City, and we need the time to properly build alliances with groups such as PSE and Bainbridge Prepares; Laura and the other committee members urge Bill to draw up a plan for our next meeting with an eye toward sharing if with Kate Pederson from Commerce for feedback.
- ACTION: Bill will draft a plan for a microgrid.
- Bill also recommends that we set up a demo of a solution called Cell on Wheels; Sanjay suggests that Bill make that part of the plan he is drawing up.
- Mike reports on the ideas coming out of the recent Climate Mixer that was held at Grow. That group (which is tentatively named the Bainbridge Climate Cooperative) wants to pursue a Solar and Battery Fair for next spring, setting up some sort of financing mechanism (something like a green bank), and trying to simplify permitting and codes around installation of solar and batteries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05.

Signed by:



06-Dec-25

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Kevin Thomas, Chair

Date