

CJP Public Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026
Meeting Notes

Attendees - in person

1. John Wasiutynski - Project Staff, Mult Co Office of Sustainability
2. Tim Lynch - Project Staff, Mult Co Office of Sustainability
3. Monique Smiley - Project Staff, Mult Co Office of Sustainability
4. Jona Davis - NAACP Environmental Justice Committee
5. Jonathan Cruz - Mult Co Health Department
6. Nakisha Nathan - Neighbors for Clean Air (NCA)
7. Samantha Hernandez - Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (OPSR)
8. Amanda Zuniga - Energy Trust of Oregon
9. Helena Birecki - Community Member

Attendees - Online

1. Jillian Hughes - Project Staff, Mult Co Office of Sustainability
2. Michael Stewart - Community Member, Hillsboro
3. Lynny Brown - Climate & Health, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
4. Olivia Barrows - Community Energy Project
5. Jeremy O'leary - Climate Resilience Advocate
6. Nsilo Berry - MultCo REACH
7. Maleek McKenzie - Sierra Club
8. Amy Rathfelder - NW Natural

Discussion - Revised Strategies & Indicators

- Jeremy- Encourage when we talk about water, we should differentiate between blue (clean), grey (sinks and showers) and black water (toilets). Each of which needs to be thought of and dealt with differently. Community resilience in a lot of ways is measured in gallons of diesel, e.g the need to move large trucks around to distribute fresh water, and to collect black water etc.
 - John - Fossil fuel section speaks a bit to fuel continuity.
- Michael Stewart - Asked if there is a manager, administrator to keep this all moving forward?
 - John - The County definitely heard this during community forums, both how to manage and how to keep the community involved in the work. Participation sections call out giving the County's [ACSI](#) advisory committee to give it explicit authority to provide oversight over implementation. The Office of Sustainability will serve as an implementer, as well as a tracker coordinator.
 - Michael - Thought that made sense, but sees challenge when there are so many different agencies identified.

- John spoke to the difference of County strategies, more direct management, vs community led.
- Samantha - Need the strategy category slide listed as a key throughout the document to clarify the topologies.
 - Jillian - Draft so far is just the main content, but the context, definitions, glossary, etc. will be added as part of the next iteration.
 - Tim - At the public meeting on Tuesday there was a lot of discussion about accessibility, web content, and how people can grasp this plan, make it easier to understand. It's also an ongoing dialogue with community partners on how staff should be thinking about this work to activate the community.
- Amanda - Is the CJP connected to the County's strategic plan?
 - John - Yes, implementing the CJP is part of the strategic plan.
 - Amanda - Noticed in the strategic plan that there are a lot of indicators, knows that these change over time in larger organizations. Emphasized the need to include community qualitative data, which would support and align with the strategic plan to capture the full story of the community.
 - John - For the indicators section in the goals, there are some that are taken from the strategic plan.
- Amy - Is there a formalized timeline for a full Climate Action Plan update with the City?
 - John - The City of Portland's Chief Sustainability Officer is working with a committee to update the City's climate plan. While the City and County work closely together, these plans will be separate. For the CJP the next step in the process is having the CJP steering committee approve and then go to the County Board for consideration on July 9.
- Amy - Is there a plan to engage with industry groups during implementation? She appreciated the utility roundtable discussion in the fall and wondered what the planning process is around that.
 - John - Noted that the City of Portland's Clean Industry Hub just hired staff and there are opportunities to coordinate with there. Also, the County wants to ensure ongoing community input and John is interested in hearing suggestions from Amy about what the right mix of industry players are. One of the goals in the plan was around wealth creation & green jobs, and while meeting with labor leaders, one of the folks talked about the need for a "pull" for green jobs. That requires coordination with industry folks and there are opportunities for the government to get out of the way in order to get to a clean energy economy.
 - Amy - There are a lot of interconnections across energy, housing, workforce, opportunity and need to work closely together, offered to help liaise with the other utilities.

- Jeremy - Thought he saw electrification of end use in the document, a lot of which is reliant on overseas industry which is complex. Logistical challenges of moving forward with electrification, coordination across actors like utilities. Demand and energy management.
 - John - In this version of the plan, more recognition about the challenges to energy systems in the northwest, prioritizing being planful in light of current realities.

- Maleek - With energy and green jobs, how can the County incentivize these? With the conversations in the state, it's about land use and he wondered about opportunities for encouraging specific businesses to operate in the County.
 - John - There is exciting technology in the energy, a lot of complexity underlying these systems, a lot of innovation including American companies. Thinking about tradeoffs in land use, attracting new industry. Not just about weatherization and direct work, but also about the industrial and other supports that go into that.

- Jeremy - thinking about how people respond to extreme weather, heat smoke etc. Digital equity is also a component of this, are people able to do their work while keeping themselves safe at home.
 - John: Asked if this is a cost issue or an infrastructure issue?
 - Jeremy - Challenge especially with rental housing, bandwidth demands, conflicting wifi. And during an extreme situation, the bandwidth needs, telecom needs are going to be strained.
 - Amanda - Reference page 83 of the draft, also important to be thinking about energy services and connectivity, smart thermostats, need wifi for demand response. Some interesting ways to think about combining wifi access alongside new energy technologies. Also can think about this through emergency alerts. Or even failure of lighting and other technologies that are wifi dependent.
 - Samantha, also issues privacy concerns from smart homes, the amount of data and tracking.
 - Jeremy also has major considerations about cyber security, digital equity. Cheap equipment for example can have terrible security.

- Helena - Appreciations to staff and work for the plan. Emphasis on accessible public resources, planning around affordability as well. Energy, buildings and health nexus, liked what she saw in the clean energy strategy, removing indoor combustion improves air quality. High priority action on limiting gas system expansion, does not fully consider or align with the clean energy strategy. Limiting is not the same as less. Serious concerns about hydrogen for example, full consideration language may not be sufficient. Renewable natural gas similarly incentivises CAFOs for example. We need to stop burning things, and need to finesse the fossil fuel strategy to align with clarity.

- Michael - The comprehensive breadth of the plan can pose a significant challenge because of political will and coordination. For example, prior workgroups on houselessness have not been able to solve that issue.
 - John - Fewer actions than previous plans, and fewer still are County specific. And political will changes. Some differences from previous iterations including that climate

change is real for people, painful. Renewables are now often cheaper than fossil fuels and there are lots of technology changes.

- Jona - Asked about the difference in terms of the community involvement, accountability from 2015 Climate Action Plan to the CJP.
 - Tim - The 2015 plan was very much broad participation - there was a steering committee of technical experts & and a separate equity subcommittee that was at a different table. This new plan acknowledges the limitations in government and prioritizes alignment with community priorities and a shared vision. The CJP is centered on people and not just reducing GHG emissions. It emphasizes how people experience the issue of climate change and its impacts.

- Amanda - This plan allows the county and community to celebrate progress and there is still an opportunity for the County to be that convener for info sharing and connections. With the strategy category, it would be good to have transparency on “this is what the county can do but these are the areas where we cannot move.” There are many groups tackling resilience” having folks understand where they can see themselves in that vision. Understanding what is community-led and what is county - being more specific in the beginning. Maybe a dashboard online so people can see the county strategies, and here are orgs that are active in these spaces doing this work.
 - Nakisha - Sees the strategy around community-led data eco systems and with ACSI oversight. Can see the overlap with this work. Looking at all 75 strategies, if someone wants to focus on community-led strategies, how can orgs interact and make sure folks are reaching out to people who do this work. Making sure there is an open and easily accessible dashboard to find out what is happening.
 - Amanda - Need a mechanism, dashboard, to help folks navigate both County and community led work, find ways to connect.
 - John - Hearing that there is a need for the County to convene people, bring people together in a summit style to help find alignment. The government is leaning on community based work as it pulls back funding/programs etc. So many things happening that folks aren't aware of, can be part of.
 - Nakisha - Tools like the zine really work for the community, need to make sure the CJP resources those kinds of efforts.
 - John - Zine came about organically, combining community values and government data.

- Michael - Question about the strategy around 16 year old voting in local elections.
 - John - Came from engagement with youth. Youth are the most affected by climate change today, and will be exposed over the course of their lives. But don't have a political say on these issues. This is a bit of a controversial action, which has always been the case in history with expanding voting eligibility.
 - Jona - Youth accountability is valuable, new insights and perspectives. Building a pipeline of folks who are paying attention and concerned about their future.
 - Nakisha - Helpful for this action to mention that this is being done elsewhere.
 - Michael - Asked if the County knows what would need to happen to allow this?

- John - Phrased to allow 16 year olds at local elections, but would likely need a state change to allow for that.
- Samantha - Asked if NWN already has seismic safety valves, flexible pipes.
 - John answered that a lot of the pipes underground are flexible. About 10% of NWN meters are slated to be replaced with new meter technology. Acknowledging that work is under way.
 - Amy - NWN system is one of the most modernized in the country, working to ensure seismic technology on all new installs, retrofitting a percentage of existing meters.
 - John - Invited NWN staff to review that strategy.
 - Samantha - Are all underground pipes flexible, or only a percentage? In emergency management training folks talk about shut off valve installation. Could include some language about these options in emergency education.
 - Jeremy - Pipes are only typically upgraded roads are being dug up. The sewers have to be at a perpendicular angle, and if an earthquake happens, a very long line of the pipes will need to be restored and that will impact transportation. Opportunity to look at this and other strategies through the lens of where there is a need for coordination, when to lead, when to get out of the way. Thinking about tearing up the streets, trying to improve all systems strategically.
- Maleek - For the air quality section, what is the County's capacity to swap out gas stoves for electric, addressing NOx and other elements that are asthma triggering?
 - John - Responded that County only has limited ability when it comes to direct action, County does look at AQ when it does Wx for households, but there are education and some other partnership opportunities. Federal HOMES/HEAR program will be launching soon that could help incentivize these. Which may not be enough for LI households.