

ACSI QUARTERLY MEETING

Date	Wednesday, 7/23/25, 1PM - 3PM
	Remote access only
Next Meeting	Wednesday, 10/22/25, 1PM - 3PM

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT

- Samantha Hernandez
- Amanda Zuniga
- Elaine Hart
- Noelle Studer-Spevak
- Derron Coles
- Juliae Riva
- Annabelle Rousseau
- Jona Davis

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner staff Salomé Chimuku (Policy Advisor), Solene Curren (Intern)	Office of Sustainability John Wasiutynski Tim Lynch Monique Smiley Jillian Hughes Erriyon Solomon Silvia Tanner	Other Multnomah County staff, Public None
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ACTION ITEMS

- **Monique Smiley** will email ACSI members a doodle poll to plan a group event, along with next steps.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** will share updates on the sub-committee report-out.

DECISIONS MADE

- **April meeting minutes were approved.**

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

- **Amanda Zuniga** shared that there are still career openings at Energy Trust: <https://www.energytrust.org/about/work-with-us/careers/>.

- **Silvia Tanner** shared her recent work on consumer protections around disconnection work and asked people to email her if they wanted to get involved or offer suggestions.
- **Samantha Hernandez** shared that Oregon PSR will be hosting the annual Portland-area memorial of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Friday, August 6th beginning at 6:00 PM at the Japanese American Historical Plaza at Waterfront Park in downtown Portland..
- **Annabelle Rousseau** shared that they are looking for tablings for the Cully Fest on Saturday, September 13, 2025.
- **Salomé Chimuku** shared the commissioners work/interest around warming shelters. Commissioner Singleton and Portland City Council President Pirtle-Guiney will be hosting a budget recap townhall to discuss budget priorities and resource mapping.
- **Salomé Chimuku** shared via chat: “Joint Community Conversation: City and County Budget Recap, Date: Saturday July 26, 2025, Time: 10:30AM, Location: Rigler Elementary, 5401 NE Prescott St, Portland, OR 97218; D2 is teaming up with Portland City Council President Pirtle Guiney for a community conversation to recap the budget process. The County Board of Commissioners approved a \$4 billion budget, and the Portland City Council approved an \$8.2 billion budget. You will hear about what our goals were, our priorities, the shortfalls, and next steps. Refreshments will be provided. Please use the [RSVP link](#).”

REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

- The meeting minutes from April 23, 2025 were approved unanimously by all members present, with the exception of **Juliar Riva and Elaine Hart**, who abstained due to being absent during that meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that the Office of Sustainability was impacted by budget cuts, with a 1.0 position reduced to 0.75 FTE, leading to the loss of one full time staff member and a new 0.75 staff member joining the team. In addition a vacant position was eliminated, for a total loss of 1.25 FTE reduction.
- **Silvia Tanner** shared the [legislative victory](#) of HB 3792 to double funding for low-income electricity assistance.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared the [grand opening of the CROPS farm](#) with partner Feed'em Freedom that will take place on August 27, 2025.
- **Amanda Zuniga** asked how ACSI could support the Office of Sustainability while they are at a lower staff-capacity to address the legislative areas that the office would like to have a voice in, but do not have the capacity for at the moment.
- **Silvia Tanner** responded that the office is relying on community partners and resources in energy advocacy spaces that are well covered, given capacity constraints. **Tim Lynch** shared via chat: “We are also members of the [Northwest Energy Coalition](#), which does amazing work in this space, and whose capacity we leverage.”

CLIMATE JUSTICE PLAN COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT DISCUSSION

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that the official public comment period for the Climate Justice Plan has ended, but the office still welcomes feedback. Examples of feedback given are: the document is too long, and it needs action items for the county and communities. The office is looking through the feedback and will redraft the plan. After a redraft, the new version will be presented to and approved by the steering committee, followed by the Board of County Commissioners. John is also working on a proposal for a work session and briefing with the commissioners and board members to give feedback on the plan prior to the redraft.
- **Monique Smiley** shared that she and Tim Lynch welcome feedback on how the climate justice plan can be less abstract and be more specific in what types of advocacy the county and community can do.
- **Amanda Zuniga** shared that people at Energy Trust would be interested in meeting to discuss the process of creating the Climate Justice Plan, as well as providing feedback.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared additional feedback received about the Climate Justice Plan: how does the plan get implemented, who will track it, and how does it differ from other “plans” that the county has? John flagged pages 90 & 91 in the [draft Climate Justice Plan](#) that discusses implementation. This includes indicators and reporting. John mentioned the disparities between communities - while air quality might have improved overall, certain neighborhoods (especially those of minorities) may not see those same positive changes. It is important to look deeper into community data, such as population and factors in the area that impact climate, along with people’s lived experiences. Once the plan is approved, internal accountability will include regularly recurring reports to track greenhouse gases, and more. Community accountability would include regular reporting on metrics outlined in the plan, along with leadership and guidance from ACSI on implementation.
- **Elaine Hart** asked what accountability means and what impact ACSI has over the county’s implementation. **John Wasiutynski** responded that the committee would serve as a sensor to help the board and public determine whether implementation is being done well or to give guidance on ways to improve. This could include public letters.
- **Derron Coles** asked if there were specific roles for accountability that had certain tasks, so everyone knows what their role on the committee is. Derron suggested aligning metrics with the data Kijani collective and other community science/data efforts gathers, aligns or is a check on the County approach to data/metrics/accountability.
- **Amanda Zuniga** mentioned indicators, equity work, and adaptive management that Energy Trust is doing, and setting standards for analysis - ensuring community voice, but in a realistic/efficient way. What do check-ins look like? How do you get adaptive feedback?

- **Jona Davis** shared that while we de-colonize our work, adapting is one way, but not in the old-school ways of over-adapting when things don't have immediate results; she hopes that there would be honor and respect to community data. **John** responded "adaptive but not reactive" in chat. He shared a story of how raw data on public transport stops showed a positive story, but community stories showed otherwise.
- **Derron Coles** shared via chat: "Kijani is using a peer review process for our research methodology with folks who are knowledgeable about qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research. We do not have the process fully worked out yet, but I am happy to share it when we get it all together."
- **Amanda Zuniga** shared via chat: "Here is an interesting paper from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory about metrics for energy equity. Note, this is not an "endorsement" for this but wanted to share as a type of framework with examples: <https://www.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/media/file/Metrics%20for%20Energy%20Equity.pdf>"
- **Tim Lynch** shared that because there is so much new work happening, this is an iterative, community work. He would like community data to be looked at as equal to quantitative data in the future, but for now it can act as a check to ensure that the quantitative data is accurately illustrating the community. It can act as an accountability check.
- **Derron Coles** mentioned quantitative research (the numbers) - if you implement something you believe would help energy bills, for example, but it does not work as you planned - looking at qualitative data from the community can help highlight the barriers the community may be facing - the messaging is just as important as the policy. **John Wasiutynski** agreed that a trusted messenger is vital. Sometimes doing something and "fumbling" through something shows us what information we need to look for in the future and how to adapt.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** shared via chat: "I recently learned how Clark County created a tool to collect qualitative data about climate resilience. [This](#) is phase 1 of the report that includes the survey tool. [This](#) is the project website that includes phase 2 of community engagement." Noelle also mentioned [cooling conversations](#).
- **John Wasiutynski** mentioned that the city of Gresham is developing a cooling plan as part of their climate justice strategy.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** shared that they hosted a Shade Equity ride in Lents last week. They captured [two thermal images](#) of heat in streetscapes.
- **John Wasiutynski** summarized that the committee is not opposed to being an accountability group for the plan, but that the group would like to have more detailed roles and an outline of how that accountability will function. Reporting would have static elements but also includes stories and elements from the community that bring more light to how the plan is and isn't working in the community, beyond the quantitative data.
- **Amanda Zuniga** mentioned the group may need to rethink the subcommittees to support this work.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT OUT

- N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

- N/A

REVIEW MEETING ACTIONS AND ADJOURN

- **ACSI members** will review the draft Climate Justice Plan to provide feedback and determine how best to support implementation.