

ACSI QUARTERLY MEETING

Date	Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 1PM - 3PM
	Remote access only
Next Meeting	Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 1PM - 3PM

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner staff None	Office of Sustainability John Wasiutynski Tim Lynch Jillian Hughes	Other Multnomah County staff, Public None
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ACTION ITEMS

- **ACSI members** to share the [CJP Forums](#) through ACSI community networks.
- **ACSI members** to email sustainability staff thoughts on what content should be included in the annual letter to the board.
- **ACSI members** to fill out doodle poll by October 31 to schedule a meeting for the ACSI letter.

DECISIONS MADE

- **July meeting minutes were approved.**
- **Jona Davis** unanimously approved as chair for 2026.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

- **Jona Davis** encouraged folks to learn more about the City Sustainability Climate Commissions, meetings are online.

- **Juliae Riva** discussed her new initiative to support a climate resilience pillar under the PGE foundation (different from other PGE grant programs).
- **Elaine Hart** mentioned a [study](#) around electricity/gas reliability happening, upcoming presentations, and an impending winter reliability challenge. Part of the challenge is lack of coordination between gas and electric providers.
- **Derron Coles** mentioned the Kijani collective kick-off. Focus for this year is around workforce/green jobs and community resilience hubs.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** shared that an urban forestry plan passed Council this morning. Event in outer SE portland tomorrow night re: green jobs and green infrastructure. <https://thriveeastpdx.org/green-infrastructure-and-shade-equity-social/>
- **Samantha Hernandez** discussed what OPSR learned at the APHA conference. The American lung association will conduct a virtual home pollution assessment and will provide resources to support low income households. <https://www.lung.org/help-support/lung-helpline/virtual-home-assessments>
- **Briar Wray** announced PCC is launching a CAP update process, which will be expanding to broader community engagement. She is hoping for a light update that builds off of the existing goals.
- **Tim Lynch** shared that [ACSI applications](#) are now open.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared that the government shutdown will halt food benefits for families across the country, including 150,000 families in Multnomah County, which is approximately \$6M per month, starting November 1st. The County released a [statement](#) calling on the Trump administration to fund food assistance to prevent this.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

- The minutes from July 23, 2025 were approved unanimously by all members present, with the exception of **Noelle Studer-Spevak** and **Briar Wray**, who abstained due to being absent during that meeting.

2026 CHAIR ELECTIONS

- **Jona Davis** has been asked to lead as the chair for 2026. **John Wasiutynski** asked if anyone else would like to put their name in the ring for chair or vice chair.
- **Derron Coles** offered to be vice chair via chat.
- **Jona Davis** was unanimously approved to be chair.

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES

- **John Wasiutynski** mentioned the twelve upcoming [Community Forums](#) to discuss the strategies and metrics for each of the twelve goals of the draft Climate Justice Plan. He encouraged members to join the forums.
 - There will be a feasibility analysis done outside of the community forum process, as well as prioritization for the board, so they know what strategies the county will prioritize versus what the community will be prioritizing.

- **ACSI members** asked about who is likely to attend the forums, what ACSI members can do to help spread the word about the forums.
- **Jona Davis** asked about indigenous/Native American engagement around topics, including the water chapter. **John Wasiutynski** mentioned some of the organizations that the County has engaged with, including CRITFC and Future Generations Collaborative.
- **Derron Coles** shared that most of the forums fit with Kijani's plan, so he will try to attend multiple forums and provide feedback from the Kijani action plan standpoint that covers the plan as a whole.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared that Silvia Tanner was appointed to the environmental quality commission. Silvia is also continuing to work on disconnection protections (140k+ people disconnected annually), including speaking at the CUB conference recently. Several important utility dockets are underway that the County continues to engage in. The County is also working with other communities to understand where there might be opportunities to weigh in jointly. This includes integrated resource planning (IRP) which includes how the investor owned utilities will be meeting statewide climate obligations.
- ACSI will be recruiting for new members for the 2026/27 term. Some current members can be reappointed, two members will be termed out. John outlined the application process.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** recommended working with CCC to identify someone for ACSI membership.
- **Juliae Riva** offered to help review applications.

ANNUAL LETTER TO THE BOARD

- Climate Resilience Subcommittee - **Noelle Studer-Spevak** discussed that the team is working on a document about resilience hubs. **Derron Coles** has been working on culturally specific resilience hubs. Annabelle Rousseau has toured resilience hubs around the country.
 - **Juliae Riva** offered to be added to this subcommittee due to her work on the new foundation grant pillars.
- **Tim Lynch** mentioned that the county is going through a strategic planning process - pillar for community vitality, including supporting resilience hubs - not clear what that work will look like yet, so this committee can be helpful to guide the county's actions.
- **Derron Coles** said they are still on the lookout for additional case scenarios or examples of resilience hub initiatives.
- **John Wasiutynski** mentioned that sometimes less is more when it comes to recommendations.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** recommended we structure comments around the CJP to help the board see the plan as the backbone for all the work and how it fits together. Derron likes the idea of showcasing what is going on to offer suggestions for ways they can support those projects as supplemental or contributing to the climate action plan

- **John Wasiutynski** - PCEF looking to invest in climate strategies. Noelle shared the [PCEF investment strategies survey](#).
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** shared that ElectrifyPDX has started providing money-saving electrification resources briefs to orgs with major SUN contracts.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** and **John Wasiutynski** discussed creating flyers and resources that have a comprehensive list of programs and information for energy assistance and such. The committee discussed how the County and partners should be using the programs to not only provide support today, but also connect to long term investments that help make folks more resilient in the future. One of the core tenets is that we are understanding and linking sustainability conversation to existing County programs.
 - **Juliae Riva** shared PGE's [Income-Qualified Bill Discount Program](#) which is available in 15 languages.
- Amanda Zuniga was unable to attend the meeting, but she sent feedback to **Jona Davis** to share. She mentioned the increase of connections across regional leaders and the preservation of the existing work to advance climate justice.
- **Jona Davis** mentioned that when hearing leaders talk about resilience hubs for example, the focus is often on public infrastructure. What does a community using public infrastructure look like? How are we collectively coordinated about investments and priorities? Need for leaders to connect. She mentioned Comm. Singleton and Comm. Pirtle-Guiney. Need to overcome past challenges across organizations.
- **John Wasiutynski** is really seeing a stronger coordination at both the staff level and also across regional leadership, particularly in response to federal pressures. One question that comes up is resilience for whom in what context? Challenge when we are trying to serve folks in a responsive way and some groups may not be obviously compatible. It is important to think about distributed nodes, rather than a grand coordinated strategy or facility.
- **Jona Davis** mentioned that another challenge is that schools for example are resource constrained, and vary widely in both financial and human resources. It is hard to use one example as a model for another.
- **Elaine Hart** - Energy resilience, lot's of focus on winter reliability over the coming months, reminding people of the value of resilience. Folks are warning of rolling blackouts for example, but if that is the case it also makes a case for resilience investments and not just new large generation for example. John asked to clarify if resilience investments support the grid? Elaine was thinking more of ability to withstand energy shortages.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** recommended people tour [Earl Boyles](#) if given the chance to see a model of a resilience hub.
- **John Wasiutynski** mentioned that the East County Library project will include battery storage, supported by PGE DSG funding. ACSI members emphasized the importance of tailoring battery storage to limited site uses, and the value it can provide when implemented well.

- **Juliae Riva** shared PGE's [Renewable Development Fund](#) and last year's [awardees](#) for the RDF Grant.
- **Tim Lynch** suggested that ACSI might weigh in on if/how ACSI can play a stewardship role in the implementation of the Climate Justice Plan. Noelle agreed, and suggested that this be kept in mind when thinking about recruitment and future membership.

DIRECTOR'S APPRECIATION

- N/A

REVIEW MEETING ACTIONS AND ADJOURN

- N/A