

Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI)



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 7/12/23, 9am - 11am

Remote Access Only

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 10/11/23, 9am - 11am

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT / PHONE

Derron Coles, Adah Crandall, Jona Davis, Sasha Pollack, Amanda Zuniga

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Nicole Buchanan, Tim Lynch, Sara Mihm, Monique Smiley, Silvia Tanner, John Wasiutynski (Office of Sustainability), Michelle Rogelstad (Office of Commissioner Diane Rosenbaum)

ACTION ITEMS

- **Nicole Buchanan** will share information about the Energy Trust of Oregon landlord cooling space initiative with the East County Resilience Network.
- **Tim Lynch** will reach out to folks at Portland Bureau of Environmental Services regarding bioswales at Clay Street.
- **ACSI members** are invited to the Zine/Framework Launch party on Wednesday, July 26 at 6pm, held at Meyer Memorial Trust, and are encouraged to [RSVP](#).

DECISIONS MADE

- None.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, ICE BREAKER

- **Amanda Zuniga** shared that **Energy Trust of Oregon** has a landlord provided cooling space initiative that provides renters access to cooling spaces on hot days. If ACSI members know of organizations who would be interested in the Energy Trust of Oregon landlord cooling space initiative they should contact Amanda Zuniga.

REVIEW & APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

- **Derron Coles** shared that the air quality work they are focused on was submitted for a DOE prize, first \$50,000 and then Phase 2 and going to Atlanta to pitch for more \$

STAFF UPDATE

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that the wood stove exchange program has distributed 1,000 portable air conditions in Multnomah County.

- The Office of Sustainability is focused on getting additional funding for connecting low and moderate income, with a focus on BIPOC communities, with the green resources like Multnomah County's wood stove exchange program, more air quality monitoring work with **Blueprint Foundation**, heat pump program partnership with **Earth Advantage**, heat pump installation, Climate Pollution Reduction Program, Inflation Reduction Act funding for low and moderate income households to electrify.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared:
 - An update on the infrastructure upgrades at the CROPS site, managed by **Mudbone Grown**.
 - We have a new Tree Team leader who is leading more tree inventory and planting work in East County.
 - **Multnomah County** will be planting 72 trees in honor of those who died during the 2021 heat dome.
- **Tim Lynch** shared an update on the Climate Justice Framework and why we're doing this different than past plans, and taking a different approach. We're running up against the significant changes we need to make that the government alone cannot achieve. We've seen at the same time the organizing and advocacy from many different organizations and individuals, especially those focused on environmental justice.
 - There is an opportunity to come together as a community and government to achieve together. Some characteristics of this work include centering justice, shifting power to equal partnership, co-creation, and community data (how are people actually experiencing issues and how does this shape and drive better solutions).
 - The framework is intersectional where everyone can see themselves a part of this work.
 - Shifting power/co creation: We've been fortunate to work with CCC, leaders and experts in best practices, and using the **National Association of Climate Resilience Planners** work as guidance.
 - A key milestone is the development of an environmental justice zine.
 - An area of focus include creating a Climate Justice framework that captures the emerging themes and priorities of the conversations we've had thus far.
 - **ACSI members** can join the environmental justice zine and climate justice framework on July 26, join the steering committee this fall, participate in community roundtables, and attend the summit later in the year, and engage in regular updates through the AQCnE subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that there was a recent Air Quality Climate & Energy (AQCnE) meeting.
- **Nicole Buchanan** shared that Food & Water has met once to coordinate meeting logistics and focused on rights of nature. They are working toward the County adopting a resolution to incorporate nature into the County's philosophy. They also wanted to focus on how the subcommittee and ACSI can support work the County is doing around culvert needs, including writing a letter of support to help acquire more funding.

- **Tim Lynch** shared that in the Transportation subcommittee they are looking forward to reengage with **Commissioner Julia Brim Edwards**, focusing on transportation from a health and safety lens, and asking do people feel safe in the “last mile.”

MEET COMMISSIONER BRIM EDWARDS & STAFF

- **Michelle Rogelstad** was previously with Judy Shiprack, has worked at the City and is now policy director for **Commissioner Julia Brim Edwards**.
- **Commissioner Julia Brim Edwards** will be **ACSI’s** liaison and looks forward to attending a full **ACSI** meeting in the future. She praised the wealth and expertise on the call. Her background includes working at every level of government, including working on the Finance Committee in the **U.S. Senate**, 17 years at **Nike** to set up the global sustainability policy framework, chairing the **Portland Public School** board’s policy committee that includes the most comprehensive climate action and climate justice policy in the county. **Commissioner Brim Edwards** expressed allyship with **Adah Crandall** and **Danny Cage** in the work she did with **Portland Public Schools**. She has lived on the eastside of Portland in the home she grew up in for 50 years and acknowledged the heat islands in the area, including the community impacts due to extreme weather, and ability of Multnomah County to address climate change impacts. She said she’d like to be briefed on the work done thus far and is hopeful to elevate **ACSI** work at the **Board of Commissioners** level.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared that scheduling a check in with **Amanda Zuniga** and **Jona Davis** would be a great starting point to connect with **Commissioner Brim Edwards**, reviewing a summary document of **ACSI’s** policy interests from the past. He also provided context around the annually submitted letters. She asked about how to support the budgeting process and said she’ll watch the [April 2023 presentation from ACSI](#) to learn more about the recommendations.
- She expressed interest in the longer term thinking around air quality and the health impacts of the major transportation corridors intersecting the city, like 205 that intersects her district, I-5, and the lack of tree canopy in some areas and how she can advance that work.
- **Derron Coles** will be doing a subcommittee presentation about tree canopy and air quality, including collecting data and engaging the community, and using the data for advocacy and workforce development.
- **ACSI** will schedule a briefing for the **Board of Commissioners** on their work to date sometime in August.
- **John Wasiutynski** plugged the environmental justice zine and climate justice framework launch party and invited **Commissioner Brim Edwards** to attend.

ADJOURN & NEXT STEPS

- The October 2023 quarterly meeting will include an update on and review of the Climate Justice Plan framework.