



Developing the Climate Justice Plan

Revised Strategies from Community Feedback

How Your Feedback Shaped Our Goals & Strategies

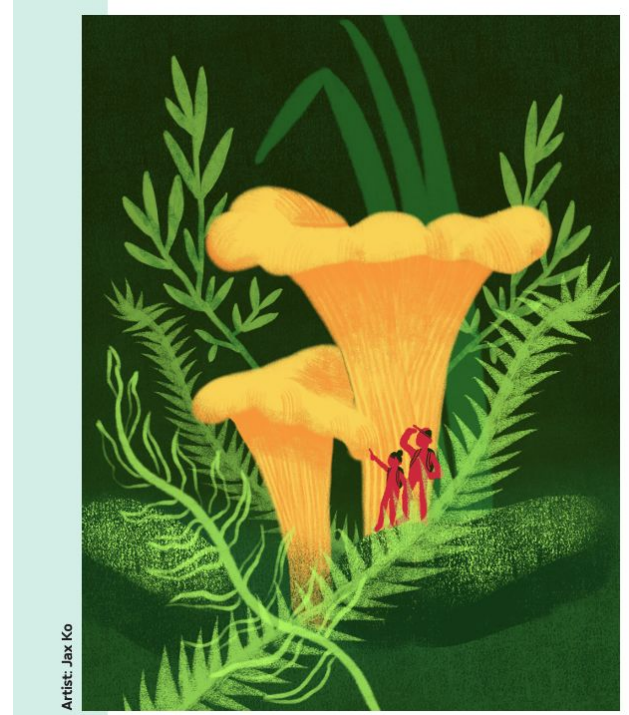
May 19, 2026 | May 21, 2026

MEETING AGENDA

- **Introductions**
- **Core Values & Shared Agreement**
- **The Journey:** Reviewing the CJP planning phases (2023-2026)
- **Revision Framework on Goals and Strategies**
 - How we processed feedback into strategies
 - Strategy Category and Decision Support Tool
- **Next Steps:** June 1 feedback deadline
 - Steering Committee Approval - June 2026
 - Board Approval - July 2026
- **Q & A + Public Comment**

CORE VALUES

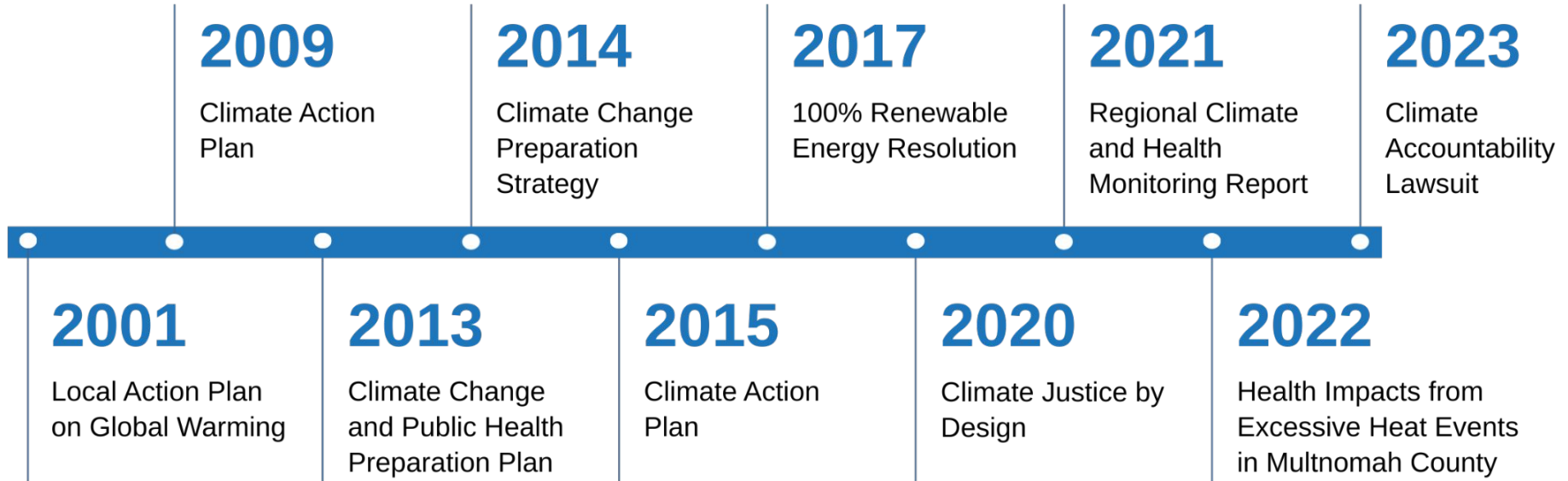
- Climate change is real and driven by fossil fuel combustion.
- Climate change impacts public health and well-being.
- Climate justice links the climate crisis to social, racial, and environmental equity.
- We must center frontline communities—those most impacted—to drive efficient and equitable solutions.



SHARED AGREEMENTS

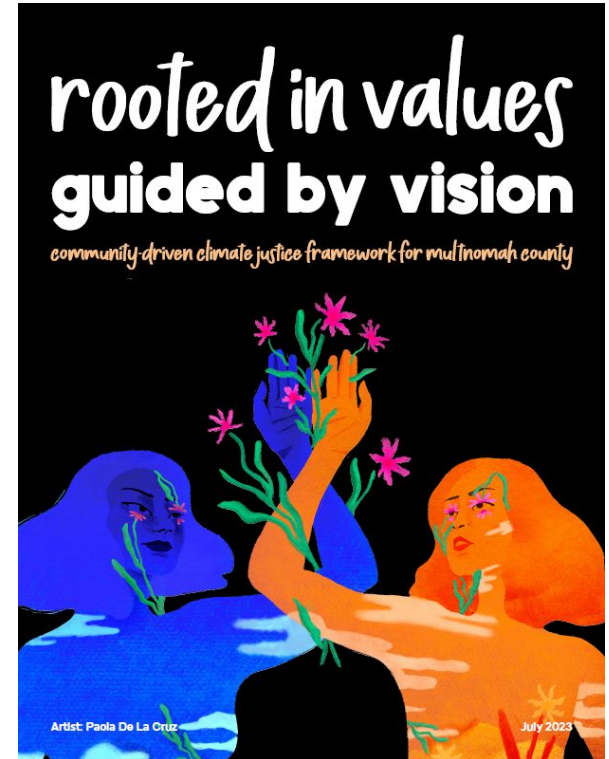
- Tell us your name and affiliation (if any) when talking
- Tell us if you don't want to be in photographed
- Respect each other
- Listen to understand, not to respond. Don't interrupt.
- Make space - balance participation in the room.
- Expect and accept discomfort (and joy!)
- Practice community and self-care
- "Bike rack" to capture off topic or detailed questions or ideas that arise
- For accessibility purposes, please no side conversations, and project your voice so everyone can hear
- Others?

HISTORY OF CLIMATE PLANNING



DEVELOPING A NEW MODEL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Laying the Foundation - Vision & Values (2020 - 2023)
 - Climate Justice Earth Day Convening
 - Environmental Justice (EJ) Indicators Storytelling Zine
 - Vision & Values Framework: Climate Justice Framework
- Phase 1 - Frontline Community Engagement (2023 - 2025)
 - Launched Steering Committee
 - Prioritized non-transactional conversations with communities typically excluded from government planning
- Phase 2 - Public Comment Period (2025)
 - Significant Feedback Gathered (webinars, survey responses, written comment)
- Phase 3 - Refinement & Revision (2025-2026)
 - Community Forums on each Universal Goal
 - Collaboration to finalize a plan that is both technically effective and equitably centered, serving as a comprehensive government action plan and community toolkit.



Phase 1 - STEERING COMMITTEE

Community Partners

- APANO
- Coalition of Communities of Color
- Community Energy Project
- Multnomah County Youth Commission
- NAACP PDX
- Neighbors for Clean Air
- NW Energy Coalition
- Rahab's Sisters
- Self Enhancement, Inc.
- Unite Oregon
- Verde



Staff Partners

- Office of Sustainability
- Health Department
- City of Portland (BPS)
- Multnomah County Climate Leadership Team



PHASE 1: DEVELOPING THE PUBLIC DRAFT CLIMATE JUSTICE PLAN

(April 2023 - Feb 2025)

14

Steering Committee Meetings

17

Events
(workshops, webinars, open houses, informational meetings)

640

community members engaged



UNIVERSAL GOALS

The plan presents a vision of climate justice in Multnomah County, where every community member:

- breathes clean and healthy air
- has access to clean water that supports their needs and all living systems
- has access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally specific food and food practices
- has safe, healthy, and affordable housing
- has access to wealth-building opportunities and green jobs
- has access to the resources and underlying conditions that promote health and well-being
- is surrounded by and connected to nature, parks, and green infrastructure
- has access to affordable, reliable, and safe transit, biking, and pedestrian infrastructure
- is resilient to extreme weather events and other climate threats
- has access to affordable clean energy
- is safe from the risks posed by fossil fuels and energy infrastructure
- has the opportunity to contribute to climate justice in Multnomah County

PHASE 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

(April 2025 - Sept. 2025)

24

Events

*(presentations, tabling,
roundtables)*

46

Survey responses

39

Written comments

597

Connections
(in person conversations)



PHASE 3: COMMUNITY FORUMS

(Oct. 2025 - Dec. 2025)

12

Forums

279

People

558

Hours of Community
Participation

CLIMATE JUSTICE PLAN COMMUNITY FORUM

Join us for a series of events to discuss the strategies and metrics for the twelve goals of our Climate Justice Plan. Have your voice heard and help shape our community's climate justice future.



Water | Thursday, October 23

Food | Tuesday, October 28

Health | Tuesday, November 4

Air | Thursday, November 6

Contribute | Thursday, November 13

Green Jobs | Tuesday, November 18



Extreme Weather | Thursday, November 20

Green Infrastructure | Tuesday, December 2

Transit | Thursday, December 4

Clean Energy | Tuesday, December 9

Fossil Fuels | Thursday, December 11

Housing | Tuesday, December 16



Information and previous materials here: <https://tinyurl.com/CJforums>

PHASE 3: COMMUNITY FORUMS & STRATEGY REFINEMENT

(Oct. 2025 - May 2026)

Key Takeaways from the 12 Community Forums

- Link indicators to strategies and leverage community data to “ground-truth” progress.
- Ensure the information in the strategies is thorough and accurate.
- Protect the public from environmental harms, including climate and natural hazards.
- Address both indoor and outdoor air quality, which are community concerns.
- Expand consideration of energy reliability, given rising demand and constrained supplies.
- Support thermal energy networks, an area of shared agreement across participants.
- Ensure climate resilience is considered throughout all of the goals.
- Support decentralized, trusted community networks for resilience to extreme weather.
- Emphasize the value of ecosystem services and climate-adaptive infrastructure.
- Strengthen green jobs goal through investments in green industries, trades, and worker training.
- Ground strategies in the current fiscal reality.
- Ensure ongoing community governance and accountability.

REFINING GOALS & INDICATORS

● Deepened Goal Descriptions

- Wove community insights directly into the universal goal description
- Explicitly connects *why* these goals matter for climate justice

● Shifted from Metrics to Indicators

- Metrics: Track technical, ongoing activities (*the "what"*)
- Indicators: Reveal strategic outcomes and broader progress (*the "meaning"*)
- Looked for existing sources of data that can respond on the timelines and to the strategies contemplated in the plan
- Responded to calls for qualitative, story-driven community data by shifting new sources of data to strategies
- First task - produce a baseline report

Goal: Every community member breathes clean and healthy air.



Description

Clean air is a fundamental right regardless of one's neighborhood or socioeconomic status. We all have to breathe, but we seldom have a choice in the quality of the air we breathe. Where we live, where we work, and what other people do has a big impact on the quality of the air we are exposed to from day to day.

Air pollution has substantial health impacts that can lead to sickness and even early death. Multnomah County is the most urban county in Oregon and its residents are subject to high pollution exposure from fossil fuel combustion, industry, and even residential and commercial wood burning. These sources of pollution expose people to elevated levels of fine particulate matter (soot), nitrogen oxide, ozone, diesel particulate matter, and other air toxics. Smoke from wildfires, exacerbated by a heating climate, is also an emerging threat resulting in worsening air quality across the U.S. West after decades of improvement.

Air quality is an environmental justice issue. Although air pollution affects everyone in Multnomah County, it puts communities of color at greater risk. Analysis has shown that Black and Latinx communities tend to live in areas with the highest concentrations of diesel particulate matter (a highly toxic soot from diesel engines) and residential wood smoke (which also produces soot and other pollutants).²⁶ In addition, indoor air quality is also impacted from a wide variety of sources – including household cleaners, tobacco use, pets, pests, mold, gas stoves,²⁷ wood stoves, and dust – and is often less healthy than outdoor air. Elevated levels of carbon monoxide or radon may also pose serious health risks for indoor air quality.



How we measure progress

Indicator 1: Number of days that the Air Quality Index is 50 or above, or "moderate (yellow)" level in Multnomah County.

Description: Air Quality Index (AQI): Think of the AQI as a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. AQI is a composite measure of several air pollutants, including particulate matter, nitrogen oxide, and ozone. The desired outcome in Multnomah County is to have zero days over an AQI of 50, also known as "moderate (yellow)" level, the level at which air quality begins to become unhealthy for sensitive populations.

Current data: In recent years there have been more days with unhealthy to hazardous air quality and more consecutive days of poor air quality. In 2024 there were **55 days** when the AQI was 50 or above.

Data Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Indicator 2: Number of Emergency Departments (ED)/Urgent Care (UC) visits for breathing related illness per 100,000 people in Multnomah County, and associated demographic data about those seeking care.

Description: This indicator measures the number of visits to hospital emergency departments and urgent care clinics (ED/UC) made by people with non-infectious respiratory illnesses. The indicator excludes data for respiratory illness caused by communicable disease such as COVID-19 and the common cold.

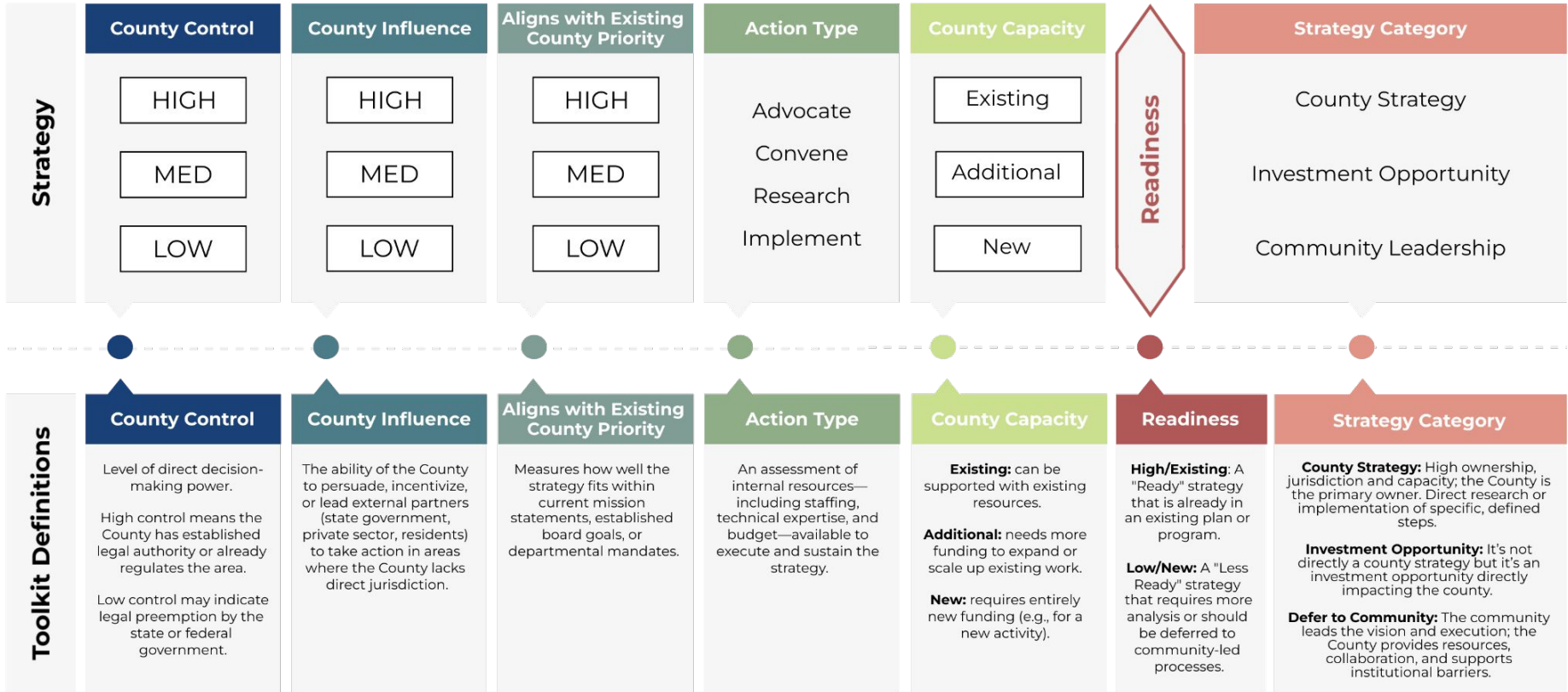
Current data: After a notable decrease in 2020, asthma-like illness ED/UC visits have been returned to pre-2020 levels in Multnomah County. In 2024 the rate was **1732 visits per 100,000** people. Asthma-like illness ED/UC visits are more likely to be female, older adults (ages 45 – 64), and Black than other ED/UC patients.

Data Source: Regional Climate and Health Dashboard

Goals & Strategies | #1

Review revised strategies & indicators: tinyurl.com/CJP-feedback

CJP Decision Making Support Tool



REFINING GOVERNANCE & DATA

● Refined Strategies:

- Shifted from dry, technical text to community-centered context
- Removed strategies that were not relevant or could be consolidated (from 90 to 75 strategies)
- Added strategies that were suggested during the process

● Clearer Strategy Typologies

- Overhauled strategy categories for better definition
- Explicitly defines ownership and decision-making processes
- Identify lead departments and/or specific agencies

● "Putting This Into Practice"

- Added tangible on-the-ground action steps
- Identifies decision making power

Strategy: Decarbonize Multnomah County Operations and strengthen the resilience of County infrastructure.

Why does this matter?

The Multnomah County government has long been considered a leader in sustainable operations. From installing one of the first green roofs in the region to the recent completion of a new net-zero building (Library Operations Center), examples of Multnomah County's leadership abound. Multnomah County must be an example of the decarbonized future for the whole community.

This strategy will prioritize the replacement of equipment at or near the end of its useful life with low- or zero-carbon alternatives in order to minimize any disruption of critical community services as well as budget impacts. Further savings will come from avoided utility costs thanks to energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. Additionally, as part of its decarbonization efforts the County will also look for additional opportunities to "harden" its infrastructure against climate extremes in order to help ensure operational continuity.

Putting this into practice

- Maximize solar generation opportunities at County facilities and leverage County facilities and property for the development of community-benefitting clean energy projects, like community solar.
- Implement a fleet decarbonization plan with the goal of fully decarbonizing the fleet by 2050.
- Implement a capital improvement plan to electrify County facilities, prioritizing end of life system upgrades.
- Work to connect County buildings to thermal energy networks when those become available.
- Develop low carbon building materials standards.
- Evaluate critical County infrastructure for durability and operability under climate extremes.

Lead Department(s)

Department of County Assets, Office of Sustainability

STRATEGY CATEGORY
<input checked="" type="radio"/> County Strategy
<input type="radio"/> Investment Opportunity
<input type="radio"/> Community Leadership
STRATEGY TYPE
<input type="radio"/> Advocate <input type="radio"/> Research
<input type="radio"/> Convene <input checked="" type="radio"/> Implement
COUNTY CAPACITY
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Existing <input type="radio"/> Additional <input type="radio"/> New
COUNTY CONTROL
Low Med High
COUNTY INFLUENCE
Low Med High
COUNTY PRIORITY
Low Med High

Goals & Strategies | #2

Review revised strategies & indicators: tinyurl.com/CJP-feedback

STRATEGY CATEGORY

Strategy Category	Type	Definition & Ownership
County Strategy	<i>High County Ownership</i>	The County is the primary lead with the jurisdiction and capacity to execute. Focuses on direct research and implementation of defined steps.
Investment Opportunity	<i>Leadership - Community Catalyst</i>	Not a direct County-led initiative, but a strategic opportunity to leverage external funding or partnerships that directly impact the County's success.
Community Leadership	<i>Community-Led Vision</i>	Requires a community driven coalition that drives the vision and catalyzes action. The County acts as a supportive partner, providing resources and removing institutional barriers when possible.

NEXT STEPS

Public Meeting #2

- Thursday, May 21 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Submit Feedback

- Review revised strategies & indicators
- Scan QR code or visit tinyurl.com/CJP-feedback to review materials
- Send comments to sustainability@multco.us by Monday, June 1

Next Steps to Adoption

- Staff revisions from community feedback
- Steering Committee review and final approval
- Official Board adoption of the Climate Justice Plan in July
- Implementation!



Scan Here to View
Updated Materials

Q&A - GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Looking at the **Revised Strategies**, does this still capture the heart of what was discussed in our earlier meetings? If not, what nuance or specific community need is currently missing?
- Is there a specific barrier (social, economic, or physical) that your community faces which isn't addressed by these current strategies?
- What is the #1 resource (funding, technical training, physical space) the County can provide to help your organization or community lead this work?
- As we move into implementation, how would you like to be updated on our progress? What does 'authentic reporting' look like to you (e.g., more Zines, community town halls, or a digital dashboard)?
- How do you see this plan supporting the work you or your organization are already doing?