

Rebecca Messinger

From: Kathleen Otto
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Rebecca Messinger
Subject: FW: My public comment for Tuesday Sept 26



Kathleen Otto
County Manager

564.397.2458



From: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 12:51 PM
To: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Heidi Cody WCA <heidi@waconservationaction.org>
Subject: My public comment for Tuesday Sept 26

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From Don Steinke

Just a heads up.

I plan to say the following tomorrow.

Hello everyone, my name is Don Steinke. I live in East Clark County. I'd like to review some history.

In 2012, your public health department asserted that Climate Change was a Public Health Emergency.

In 2020, our legislature set the goal of reducing emissions state-wide 45% by 2030.

In 2022, our legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act. It says the oil refineries are no longer allowed to pollute for free, they have to purchase permits to pollute. Some of the money from those permits will be used to reduce the energy burden for low-income residents and the rest will be used as grants for clean energy projects such as heat pumps, solar panels and charging plugs for EVs.

To access those funds, you will need a plan and then you will need to apply for those grants.

In 2023, our legislature amended the Growth Management Act. That amendment requires Clark County to develop a plan for coping with the impacts of climate change, and a plan to do our part to reduce emissions.

Please consider adopting the State goal, and authorize your staff to develop a plan to achieve it. \$28 million is available for multifamily charging stations, \$25 million for public fleets, \$9 million for private fleets, and about \$100 million for solar.

I attended a 2-day workshop at Clark PUD a week ago. All their consultants said, in five years, our region will be short 11 Gw of power. We need solar plus batteries in Clark County.

Here are some things you could do:

1. In new construction projects, make the roofs solar ready.
2. Make new parking lots EV ready.
3. Start installing solar on your own existing buildings, car ports, and brownfields. With population growth we'll be short of electricity.
4. Replace your oldest natural gas systems with electric heat pump systems.
5. Gradually replace your fleet with electric vehicles.
6. Encourage development plans that allow kids to walk or ride their bikes to school and to commercial centers.
7. Speed up the permitting process for solar by using SolarAPP, a platform developed by The National Renewable Energy Lab

In summary, please authorize staff to do the planning work. It's doable, and delay will make it more expensive. I believe \$500,000 has been allocated to you for this. Consider putting this on the agenda for a future workshop. I'm available for questions. Thanks for the opportunity to speak.