

**From:** [Sonja Wisser](#)  
**To:** [Jim Byrne](#)  
**Cc:** [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jenna Kay](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public participation and climate climate planning  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:33:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Dear Jim:

Thank you for your comments related to the 2025 Comp Plan/Climate Change. Your comments have been forwarded to staff and will be added to the 2025 Comp Plan Index of Record. Your name and email are in our database to receive future communications related to the 2025 Comp Plan. Please let us know if you have further questions. Thank you.

<https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/2025-update-public-comment>

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**From:** Rebecca Messinger <[Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 3:55 PM  
**To:** Karen Bowerman <[Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov)>; Glen Yung <[Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov)>; Michelle Belkot <[Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov)>; Gary Medvagy <[Gary.Medvagy@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Gary.Medvagy@clark.wa.gov)>; Sue Marshall <[Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Oliver Orjiako <[Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov)>; Jenna Kay <[Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov)>; Sonja Wisser <[Sonja.Wisser@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Sonja.Wisser@clark.wa.gov)>; Christine Cook <[Christine.Cook@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Christine.Cook@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Public participation and climate climate planning

Please see the below public comments. Thank you!



**Rebecca Messinger**  
Clerk to the Council  
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

564-397-4305



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**From:** Jim Byrne <[byrnejim7@gmail.com](mailto:byrnejim7@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 3:41 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Messinger <[Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public participation and climate climate planning

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rebecca,

Here are my comments:

Dear Rebecca Messinger and County Councilors

11/07/2023

With passage of ES2HB 1181, Clark County is now required to add a Climate Change Element to its Comprehensive Plan by June 30, 2025. The County is currently drafting this plan. The proposed Climate Participation Plan consists of two elements: a Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, and Resiliency. I believe both elements are important.

The Greenhouse gas reduction sub-element requires: baseline data collection, research, analysis; selection of targets for GHG, and an actual reduction vehicle miles traveled; development of goals and policy list recommendations; and drafting a sub-element for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan

The Resiliency sub-element tasks: the foundational data collection, research, and analysis; a selection of priority climate hazards; developing a goal and policy list recommendation; and drafting a sub-element for the Comprehensive Plan. All of these are important and should be completed.

How can the County insure sufficient public input to draft an effective plan? The County will convene three advisory groups: Environmental Justice Coalition, a Community Advisory, and a County/City/Partner Agency climate policy group. I agree that this is a good format. The question becomes who mans these committees, and is the County willing to listen to all speakers. Remember, some folks are climate deniers, and their views would prevent reaching County goals.

The County made a good start by hiring JLA Public Involvement to begin this process. They conducted surveys and interviewed County residents thought to be representative of all residents. One thing JLA discovered was “the public and stakeholders lack trust with the county and don’t see it as transparent in its processes and projects — particularly related to diversity, equity and inclusion.” “To guide committee decision-making, it will be important to establish a vision, goals and values for this effort early in the process and align them across each of the committees as well as vet them with the public through outreach efforts. A well vetted vision, goals and values will serve as a mechanism to evaluate proposals during committee deliberations.”

Trust will need to be built for open discussions and consensus to happen. Some folks noted the polarizing positions suggest the meetings will need strong facilitation, clear agendas, and goals. Some participants suggested specific alternatives for when consensus could not be reached, such as rank choice voting.

To guide the three committees decision-making, it will be important to establish a vision, goals and values for this effort early in the process and align them across each of the committees as well as vet them with the public through outreach efforts.

A common theme heard throughout JLA's assessment was a lack of trust because of past processes either not involving key stakeholder groups or interests or not fully considering stakeholder feedback in the decision-making process. Some groups such as the

building/development segment, seem to have an disproportionate amount of access to staff and Council, through the Development Engineering Advisory Board, and other County work groups. Many feel it is not a level playing field. Building trust and relationships is essential to a successful process.

Recently the County has been failing in the trust department. Lack of enforcement on Conditional Use Permits is a common theme. Recently, the actions of the PVJR railroad have shaken confidence in the County to develop and protect its own ordinances and State environmental laws. Egregious environmental violations without permits have occurred and dire consequences must be applied. Clark Co. owns the railroad, and illegal actions by the lessee cannot be condoned.

The Spectrum of Public Participation developed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) should be used to define both the public's and the committees' roles in this process. It aims to achieve the collaboration level of engagement through the advisory group process, understanding that the County Council will be the final decision-maker in this effort. It should be commended and reinforced as a process "architecture" that holds greater promise to "empower" the public...rather than merely "inform" them...as has been the usual approach to public participation. Make it clear throughout the process how public and advisory group feedback will be used. The Planning commission and Councilors need to respect and follow public input. The public needs to see how their feedback informs the process and decision making.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jim Byrne

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Thanks, Rebecca.