

From: [publiccomment](#)
To: [Karen Bowerman](#); [Glen Yung](#); [Michelle Belkot](#); [Gary Medvigy](#); [Sue Marshall](#)
Cc: [Oliver Orijako](#); [Jenna Kay](#); [Sonja Wiser](#)
Subject: FW: Council Hearing Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 10:16:22 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Please see the below public comments re: Climate Change and Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan.
Thank you!



Rebecca Messinger
Clerk to the Council
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From: Clark County <webmaster@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:38 PM
To: publiccomment <publiccomment@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Council Hearing Public Comment

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Submitted on Tue, 11/21/2023 - 8:37 PM

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Subject

Climate Change and Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan

Date of Hearing

Tue, 11/28/2023

Comment

More comments made by others, in red. Their numbering.

1) Completing this public participation plan in 2 months was a rush. Given the magnitude of the task this is simply too fast. Steinke's response: This is only a public participation plan, not a broad policy proposal. The public participants will take at least 12 months to recommend an implementation plan. The consultants have done other outreach work for the county. This is a routine process for them.

2) The report appears to show the bias of the consultant in they identified people and groups for interviews. Steinke's response: My team is the primary advocacy team in Clark County supporting this amendment to the GMA. The County consultants tried to reach us, but their email was discovered in our spam folder only after the consultants had interviewed everyone else . . . people we've never heard of. County staff found us only because we spoke at a Council meeting about a month ago.

4) How can the public weigh in if they have no idea what's involved, what it will cost and how it will impact their lives. Steinke's Response: I agree. I would argue that people on the committees should become knowledgeable about climate science, and the cost of climate impacts. They should also be briefed on heat-pumps. They should be briefed on the learning curves and cost reductions related to electric vehicles and photo-voltaic energy. They should also be briefed about our electric utility resources, and their limitations. They should also become briefed on relevant laws: The Clean Energy Transformation Act, The CA ZEV Mandate, the Climate Commitment Act, the Climate Amendment to the GMA, and the State goals for emissions reduction by 2030. They should also be briefed on the Guidance Documents prepared by the Dept of Commerce for this work.

What is required is a full study that is comprehensive and paid for by the legislature and governor...not be another unfunded mandate. Steinke's response: The legislature has already funded the Dept of Commerce to do the work, and they've been working on it for 18 months. So far, they have convened with 30 agency heads and consultants and they have drafted a list of 150 options for action. This is like a menu. The options will usually have free money attached. Choose what works for us. Nothing is mandated, except the end result. The end result is to reduce emissions and to develop a resiliency plan by 2030.

5) The plan is required for unincorporated Clark County but what of the cities? How are they involved and impact?? Steinke's response: The law requires all the cities in Clark County with a population greater than 6000 to do the same work. Camas is publicly looking for other entities to partner up with on the work. Washougal reports that they are working on it. Vancouver started working on it 3 years ago before law was proposed. Ridgefield and Battleground have not responded yet to my email.

6) Three advisory groups are proposed but only one of them will make recommendations to the Council? That will lead to 2 of the groups going through motions. This has happened throughout government history and won't change now. Steinke's response: It appears that the EJ Group makes recommendations to the Community Advisory Council, which then makes the final recommendation to the planning commission. Would the commentor like the EJ group to make separate and binding recommendations to the County Council?

7) Given that ~15% of the county are classified as minorities why would their representation in the form of various organizations supporting them receive so much attention and power? Steinke's response: The law specifically avoids using the expression minorities Instead it references low-income communities overburdened by pollution, health disparities, and handicaps such as are experienced by war veterans.

8) When looking at page 9 -specific measures it appears that the solutions and decisions have already been made but no data to support them: a. Require solar panels for new construction? Solar has low value in our climate.

Steinke's response: I agree that solar is less productive west of the Cascades, but the greatest gap between demand and supply in Clark County is in the summer.

The Washington State Department of Energy says we'll soon need a gigawatt of more energy in Clark County. For comparison, the maximum output of Bonneville Dam is about 1 gigawatt. Where will that energy come

from? It's illegal to build more fossil fuel power plants. We can't count on solar from east of the cascades because the transmission lines are almost full.

New long-distance transmission lines would be extremely expensive and almost impossible to get permitted. Approximately half of your electric bill is for the long-distance wires, towers and associated lands.

Although the sun shines less here than elsewhere, by building solar here, we'll save on transmission costs.

Local solar also provides resilience in the case of wildfires or windstorms. Indeed, the Battleground School District has already received a grant for solar on the CASEE Center in exchange for a commitment to serve as a community emergency center.

Although solar may have a lower value in our climate compared with sunnier places, but that doesn't mean it isn't cost effective. In 2015, the cost of community solar was \$5.20 per watt in Clark County. In 2023, the cost of community Solar is \$1.70 per watt. The price of solar has come down about 67% in the last 8 years, and is expected to fall at the same rate over time as local installers get innovative.

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