

**From:** [Oliver Orjiako](#)  
**To:** [Sonja Wiser](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Written Comments - PPP - Climate Change  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 9:13:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [Ann Donnelly comments PPP Climate Change Nov 27 2023.pdf](#)

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FYI. Thanks.

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**From:** Ann T. Donnelly <[adonnelly7@comcast.net](mailto:adonnelly7@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 7:58 PM  
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**Subject:** Written Comments - PPP - Climate Change

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Please accept the attached written comments.

Thank you!

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## **Written Testimony – PPP Climate Change and Resiliency Element**

**November 27, 2023**

**Ann Donnelly, 4305 Oregon Drive, Vancouver WA 98661, [adonnelly7@comcast.net](mailto:adonnelly7@comcast.net), 360-921-1281**

With regard to the proposed Public Participation Plan for the Climate Change Element of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, I support the concept of the three listed advisory groups, under the following conditions to assess costs and risks of proposed changes.

It is essential that the Council provide for a robust spectrum of voices, perspectives, and areas of expertise on each of the three advisory groups, but especially on the CAG. The advisors must include the business community, economic development leaders, individuals with knowledge of actual utility planning for energy resources, law-enforcement/first responders, and health providers, among many others.

The informed participation of these advisors is needed because some of the likely areas of climate actions may substantially impact their areas of responsibility and performance. If so, the exact same vulnerable communities that this plan is empowered to protect may be harmed.

I offer just three examples.

1. Mandates in the eventual Climate Plan, or even just guidelines for energy resource planning, may eliminate fossil fuel supplies that are in place, tested, reliable and affordable, and for which expensive infrastructure and transmission to customers have already been built and depreciated. Without expert input, changes to eliminate such sources could be implemented before reliable, affordable replacements are available with all the required infrastructure and transmission. Costs and timing of replacements must be analyzed. Otherwise, the net effect would be to greatly reduce reliable electricity or natural gas resources that work well, without a workable, cost-controlled substitute. If so, vulnerable communities will suffer the most from more costly, less reliable energy supplies. Utility planners and elected commissioners must be consulted in these cases because utilities hold their exclusive franchises under the condition that they will deliver energy supplies (electricity or natural gas) to every customer at an affordable rate every day of the year, 24 hours a day, no matter how variable the demand is. This obligation must not be abrogated even for the objectives of climate change. If it is, every customer will suffer, and disproportionately vulnerable communities.
2. If actions taken under the eventual Climate Plan place additional costs on the business community (e.g. the requirement to use electricity, not natural gas, for new homes), the construction community will have no choice but to absorb and likely pass on to the customer the likely additional costs that arise when competition among solutions is eliminated. The construction industry here is a leading employer of skilled and unskilled labor, which includes breadwinners in vulnerable, diverse communities. These populations depend on a thriving business community with affordable costs to employ them. So the business community must have a strong and effective voice on these advisory groups.

3. Law enforcement, first responders, and health care providers must be closely consulted on these committees to identify possible new burdens on their operations. Recommendations and decisions must include their input as to how changes, such as mandated replacement of their mobility with EVs, or cessation of use of natural gas, may impact their costs or ability to perform their essential duties. If law enforcement, fire, or EMTs are hampered or their responses slowed, or health care providers burdened with new costs, it will be vulnerable communities, small business, and large retail along with everyone else in Clark County who will be additionally harmed.

Thank you for considering these concerns when the three PPP advisory groups are set up.