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From: Clark County <webmaster@clark.wa.gov>
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Clark County

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Subject

Climate Change and Resiliency Element Public Participation Plan

Date of Hearing

Tue, 11/28/2023

Comment

Comment submitted by others regarding solar: "The initial cost, maintenance, breakdown costs, loss of efficiency over time and more make this proposal (for solar) poor and unsound. Steinke's response: New fossil fuel power plants are illegal, Nuclear is extremely expensive. Wind and geothermal are capital intensive. Hydro resources all taken. How would you provide for increased demand?"

Comments by Others: Costs? How does this affect housing costs? Steinke's response: Where will we get the electricity needed by newly constructed buildings? We have no other choice. That's why Clark PUD is in talks right now for 134 Mw of solar from a solar developer east of The Dalles Oregon. But we need ten times that amount and our transmission lines are maxed out and extremely expensive to build and take years. We need local solar.

Others: RE Heat pumps: Others says: At 40 degrees F heat pumps efficiency drops and resistance heating (electric) kicks in and is more costly. Steinke's response: I've heated my 2500 sq ft home with a heat pump ever since 1975. The electric resistance heat doesn't come on until the outside temp drops to 25 F. Newer models are designed to work down to -20F.

Others: How much additional production capacity (for heat pumps) will be needed, by when? Steinke's response. We need a lot of heat pumps. But the market will ramp up as needed. Already at least one local company has expanded its

warehouse for heat pump work south of the Post office in Orchards.

Others: RE planning so people can walk or bike to work? How many days of rain do we get per year in our climate? 154 days on average and 42" of rain. How well does that work? Steinke's response: Ask any local farmer or construction worker. 90% of the time, no rain is falling. Ask any local farmer or construction worker. We have apps on our phones that provide hourly notice.

Others: re EV's? The costs, Steinke's response. On August 26, I purchased a 2023 Chevy Bolt with a range of 259 miles for \$27,000. Starting in January of 2024, buyers can subtract a \$7,500 tax credit at the point of sale. Dealers will be reimbursed within 2 days by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Comment by others: re Lack of charging, time of charging and so many more factors show the EV, without a quantum improvement in battery technology, will only be solution for multiple vehicle families and then only for local trips. It's not practical nor cost effective. Steinke's response: Our first EV was a 2016 Leaf with a range of only 84 miles. We drove it 50,000 miles without any scheduled maintenance. By charging it at home, we saved \$5,000 compared with gasoline. We sold it to our son to have as a second car. Our new 2023 Bolt has three times the range, but cost \$5000 less than the LEAF. Clark County currently has 9000 registered EVs, the number sold grows 50 every year in Clark County. Amazon has 10,00 electric delivery vans (one serving Camas) and is adding them to their fleet as fast as they can be manufactured. Today's Columbian reports that Daimler has donated an electric semi for use in our local Walk and Knock. It's made partly in Portland. <https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/nov/24/volunteers-in-clark-county-ready-for-39th-walk-knock-nations-largest-local-food-drive/>

According to a BloombergNEF EV outlook published in June: EVs sales reached 33% of sales in China, 35% in Germany, and 90% in Norway for the first six months of 2023. And in America, sales will reach more than 1 million this year.

Others: The costs? 9) Cost topic (Page 9) • For small businesses, homebuilders and developers • Meeting climate policy requirements will be expensive. • More specifically, the cost of building affordable housing will rise: state and local agencies should have incentives available.

Steinke's Response: They do have huge incentives available more than a \$trillion dollars when tax credits are included. In fact there are so many incentives that Clark County should assign staff to apply for them. Here is some guidance: On Dec 16, 2022, the White House published a Guidebook for cities, counties, states, school-districts, utilities and the private sector for clean energy incentives made available by the Inflation Reduction Act.

RMI has developed a tool to make it easier for cities to find the right incentives for their jurisdiction.

<https://rmi.org/breaking-down-the-inflation-reduction-act-program-by-program-incentive-by-incentive/>

The White House Guidebook can be downloaded here.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/15/biden-harris-administration-releases-inflation-reduction-act-guidebook-for-clean-energy-and-climate-programs/>

Part of that deals with solar

The federal government now has \$7 billion that can go to community solar through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which was created by the Inflation Reduction Act signed by President Joe Biden in August.

The EPA has said the fund will award up to 60 grants and that it "will prioritize delivering financial and technical assistance to projects that deploy residential and community solar, associated storage technologies, and related upgrades."

Others: For residents ➤ Increased cost of living will be a likely unintended consequence of climate change policy.

Steinke's response: The cost of living has already gone up because the taxpayers have to pay \$billions to decommission oil and gas wells and to station our aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf and in the Moluccan Straights.

Others: Electrification is costly. There needs to be a dual system; electrification can't handle everything. Steinke's response: True, we aren't expecting all industries to decarbonize for 27 years. Renewable fuels should be saved for hard to electrify industries. Renewable fuels cost more than fossil fuels and solar energy. Nuclear is more expensive than solar plus batteries. Conclusion, we need solar.

Others: The report notes the high costs, yet offers no substantive or useful solutions. Steinke's response: That comment was made by the fossil fuel industry which has a special interest in no action

Others: Without an accurate cost estimate and a way to pay of the changes nothing should be done. Steinke's response: We want the most cost-effective solutions. For most of America, that is solar plus batteries plus EVs. In fact they are the most cost effective resource for energy and private travel.