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To: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Cc: [Jenna Kay](#)
Subject: FW: Climate Element Update – Greenhouse Gas Reduction 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update County Council Work Session July 10, 2024 1300 Franklin St, Room 680/Webex
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 8:26:08 AM

FYI – For the record.

From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 6:14 PM
To: Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Climate Element Update – Greenhouse Gas Reduction 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update County Council Work Session July 10, 2024 1300 Franklin St, Room 680/Webex

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Clark County Council
July 8, 2024
P.O.Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD and the Comprehensive Plan Update

Re:

Climate Element Update – Greenhouse Gas Reduction 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

County Council Work Session July 10, 2024 1300 Franklin St, Room 680/Webex
https://clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-07/071024-ws_climate-element-comp-plan_ghg-update.pdf

Dear Councilors,

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. notes that providing additional rural and resource housing, via zone changes to smaller parcels, fulfills the goals of Greenhouse Gas Reduction under HB 1181 Requirements. Making these changes does this in a variety of ways. CCCU explores the possibilities.

According to the information provided to the Clark County Council at a July 10, 2024 Work Session on Greenhouse Gas Reduction, it states,

1. • " Climate change and resiliency goal in Growth Management Act (GMA) • Climate Element in Comprehensive Plan • Greenhouse gas reduction • Resilience • New definitions • Themes: Environmental Justice, Best Available Science, Commerce Guidance • Due date: December 31, 2025 "

•" Reduce GHG emissions • Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)"

"Emissions Reduction Planning"

"• GHGs are in large part from the burning of fossil fuels for energy....."

"A Metric Ton of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent – a way to normalize GHG gases to CO2.

One MT CO2e is equal to any one of the following:*

• One passenger vehicle driven 2,500 miles"

"Largest sources of local emissions were building energy and transportation

"Landfilled Solid Waste & Wastewater Emissions - 2%"

• Solid waste sent to the landfill is the largest source, followed by septic"

"Taking action to reduce or eliminate the emissions of GHGs in order to reduce the rate and extent of climate change damage."

"Washington statewide target of net zero emissions by 2050

• Identify targets for each sector to meet the overall target"

Most of what is in the county report focuses on greenhouse gas emissions and reductions, which is generally understood to be caused by the use of motorized vehicles. Currently, those living in the rural and resource areas have not been given an opportunity to enjoy working close to home. Instead, they are forced to drive and work many miles from home. Putting jobs where those people live would go a long way in reducing their carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions. One can clearly see that septic systems generate only a small portion of the 2% of greenhouse gas, according to the report. .

Clark County has been given a golden opportunity to realize a major reduction of greenhouse gas by utilizing the 33 miles Chelatchie Prairie Railroad, for industrial, commercial and transportation use. Not only would the miles traveled to work be drastically reduced for those living in those areas, but the rural centers would fit nicely into that scheme. Using that railroad for commuter travel would enhance the possibilities even more. CCCU believes that is what was envisioned, when it was passed by the legislature and made into law, in the Growth Management Act RCWs. That law opens the door for many rural and resource land possibilities. But the most important effect of using the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad would be a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas.

CCCU wants to go on record in support of using the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad as an effective means to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a meaningful way, while providing for family wage jobs, efficient transportation options and a variety of affordable housing types.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.
P.O. Box 2188
Battle Ground, Washington 98604

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