From: Jeffrey Delapena
To: "Don Steinke"
Cc: Oliver Orjiako; Jose Alvarez
Subject: RE: For the planning commission and County Council
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 11:49:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Good day, Don,

Thank you for submitting comments ahead of the Aug. 20th Public Hearing for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update.

I am forwarding to additional members of staff and your comments will be added to the Index of Record and brought to the attention of the Planning Commission.

Best,

Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4558

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From: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 11:31 AM
To: Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: For the planning commission and County Council

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From Don Steinke

To the Clark County Planning Commission and County Council, c/o Jeff Delapena

re The GMA Climate Element

Hello Everyone, My name is Don Steinke. I live in rural East County.

I was on the Climate Advisory Group. We unanimously agreed to recommend approximately 150 goal and policy proposals. I support them and encourage you to do so as well.

I suggest the consideration of an additional issue that didn't surface until about 6 months ago--grid scale batteries. Grid scale batteries vary from the size of dumpsters to shipping containers.

The Columbian reported last week that the Pacific Northwest Power and Conservation Council said we needed 5.2 GW of battery storage regionally by 2032. Batteries are needed to shave peak demand and to store daytime solar energy for use in the evening. Grid scale batteries vary in power from 1 to 9 megawatts.

We need approximately 1500 grid scale batteries regionally by 2032.

Currently, we have 1 grid scale battery in the state. Portland has 30 of them close to Vancouver near the Columbia River. On a clear day, you could see them from here with binoculars. We need 1500 more in the region but maybe only 50 in Clark County by 2032.

Where do we put them and how will we regulate them?

About two years ago, a developer tried to install 1 battery in rural Thurston County and people protested. Their protest was motivated by a serious battery fire at the Moss Landing Battery complex in California. That battery complex wasn't properly regulated. The project in Thurston County was eventually approved on the condition that the fire department approve.

The Power Council says we need grid scale batteries. Do we concentrate them in industrial areas like Portland General Electric has done, or do we distribute grid scale batteries on commercial rooftops and in church parking lots like Minnesota is doing, or both?

The law requires us to reduce emissions. Batteries can help us do that. Batteries can also provide some resilience in the event of a cyberattack or wildfire.

I'm suggesting that we welcome grid scale batteries but also develop regulations to minimize the risk.

For context, California, Texas, and Arizona have already installed 4000 shipping container batteries collectively.

I urge you to support the recommendations of the Climate CAG, and suggest adding two more: Work with the PUD and the Fire Dept to develop regulations that welcome grid scale batteries in as many places as possible while protecting public safety and establish an emissions reduction goal.