

From: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)
To: ["Brandi C"](#)
Cc: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Oliver Oriako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Rebecca Messinger](#)
Subject: FW: Comp Plan Update Coalition Comment for September 16th Council Work Session
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:54:00 AM
Attachments: [Sep 16 Comp Plan Update Coalition Comment.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day, Brandi,

Thank you very much for forwarding this comment letter ahead of the Sept. 16th Council Work Session.

These will be added to the Comprehensive Plan Index of Record. I am including Rebecca Messinger from the Council's Office as well for awareness.

Best,



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

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From: Brandi C <brandicole@protonmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>; karissa.halstrom@hotmail.com
Subject: Comp Plan Update Coalition Comment for September 16th Council Work Session

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Dear Chair Marshall, and Councilors Belkot, Fuentes, Little, and Yung,

We are writing to you in collaboration with 22 individuals and 16 community organizations to strongly encourage you to adopt greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets aligned with the City of Vancouver's Climate Action Framework, limit urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion, and protect agricultural resource lands in the 2025 Clark County Comprehensive Plan Update.

We anticipate that greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, urban growth boundary expansion, and de-designation of agricultural resource lands will be discussed at the Final Adoption Work Session on September 16th. We are sending this coalition comment to you ahead of the September 16th Council work session to give you time to consider and discuss our requests.

Please see attached our coalition comment in PDF format and acknowledge receipt. As a note, we have also submitted this [comment online](#) to ensure deliverability.

Thank you, Brandi Cole Karissa Halstrom

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

September 1, 2026

Clark County Council
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666

Dear **Chair Marshall**, and **Councilors Belkot, Fuentes, Little, and Yung**,

We are writing to you in collaboration as 22 individuals and 16 organizations including: Green Party of Southwest Washington, Southwest Washington Equity Coalition, Southwest Washington LULAC, Vietnamese Community of Clark County, Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes), Sierra Club Loowit Group, Western Institute for Agriculture and Food Security Foundation, Pacific Islander Community Association of WA (PICAWA), iUrban Teen, Vancouver Metro LULAC Council 47026, Columbia Riverkeeper, Vancouver Audubon Society, SW WA Victory Food Project, Fourth Plain Forward, Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE), and Cycle Vancouver. **We are writing to strongly encourage you to adopt greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets aligned with the City of Vancouver's Climate Action Framework, limit urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion, and protect agricultural resource lands in the 2025 Clark County Comprehensive Plan Update.**

The currently proposed GHG emissions reduction targets for unincorporated Clark County within the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update Climate Element Draft are insufficient and create risk in meeting the statewide 2050 target established in RCW 70A.45.020. The City of Vancouver's targets of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2040 would align with [the responses of a majority of the Clark County Climate Advisory Group](#) and reflect the bold leadership and sense of urgency necessary to address our rapidly accelerating climate emergency.

[According to Community Planning staff](#), **the existing GHG emissions forecast with proposed County reduction actions is both optimistic and currently insufficient in meeting the statewide 2050 goal**, highlighting the need for bold and urgent action. As noted by staff, a significant portion of Clark County GHG emissions are produced by sources like transportation (36% of total emissions) and agriculture and tree loss (21%) which are out of County control, creating a need for ambitious and innovative solutions across other sectors. We strongly agree that establishing more ambitious reduction targets could create the necessary sense of urgency and innovation while **allowing more time to adapt further if the County falls short of interim goals**. As a reminder, there is no penalty for missing more ambitious targets. However, reducing GHG emissions more quickly would provide benefits like air quality improvements sooner.

Clark County has the opportunity to work alongside the City of Vancouver in reducing our carbon footprint and **providing environmental and public health benefits as soon as possible for the majority of residents**. Unincorporated Clark County and the City of Vancouver account for [84% of Clark County GHG emissions, 40% and 44% respectively](#). By adopting reduction targets aligned with the City of Vancouver, Clark County would model strong leadership on addressing climate change as Washougal, Ridgefield, and Camas--which has a high 2022 GHG emissions baseline--align on their own reduction targets in the near future. Camas, the City of Vancouver, and unincorporated rural Clark County have the highest emissions per capita further highlighting the need for innovative reduction actions which may be facilitated by more ambitious targets. Again, committing to more ambitious targets is a net positive with benefits achieved more quickly, and **no statutory penalty as long as the statewide minimum targets are met**.

Additionally, we would like to echo the sentiment of the majority of prior [written public comment](#) and [verbal testimony](#) for the Preferred Alternative hearing in April and [FutureWise's public comment dated July 30, 2026](#) regarding the expansion of urban growth boundaries (UGBs) and de-designation of agricultural resource lands protected by the Growth Management Act. Reducing urban sprawl by **accommodating projected housing and employment targets within existing urban growth areas** through appropriate up-zoning and development could help **reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated GHG emissions**. Additionally, we strongly believe that in order to meet the goal of "promot[ing] holistic and resilient food economies" to expand local food security as stated in the [Chapter 14 Climate Element draft](#), **legally protected agricultural resource lands should not be de-designated**. As accelerating climate change [increases surface air temperatures](#), [the frequency of extreme weather events](#), and [threatens crop yields and the stability of the global food system](#), **our reliance on our local food system will become more important than ever**. As it was stated in public testimony at the Preferred Alternative Hearing, "we cannot eat concrete."

It is not too late to shift course and do the right thing. [A supplemental EIS \(WAC 197-11-405\) leveraging the Vacant Buildable Land Model data](#) could create a viable alternative that omits or greatly reduces UGB expansion, ideally eliminating the de-designation of valuable agricultural resource lands which are protected by the Growth Management Act and critical to safeguarding our local food system.

We, the undersigned 22 individuals and 16 organizations, urge Clark County Council to adopt greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets aligned with the City of Vancouver, significantly limit urban growth boundary expansion, and not de-designate agricultural resource lands. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Brandi Cole, District 2

Karissa Halstrom-Page, District 4

Green Party of Southwest Washington

Southwest Washington Equity Coalition

Southwest Washington LULAC

Vietnamese Community of Clark County

Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes)

Sierra Club Loowit Group

Western Institute for Agriculture and Food Security Foundation

Pacific Islander Community Association of WA (PICAWA)

iUrban Teen

Vancouver Metro LULAC Council 47026

Columbia Riverkeeper

Vancouver Audubon Society

Tonya Enger, District 1

Alli Marie de Hoog, District 4
SW WA Victory Food Project
Hector Hinojosa, District 1
Don Steinke, District 4
Fourth Plain Forward
Hannah Taylor, District 3
Peter Fels, District 1
Crossland Kapaun, District 3
Tina Barrows, District 3
Emily Crowe, District 1
Monica Zazueta Tabor, District 1
Cyndi Ellis, District 2
Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE)
Cathryn Chudy, District 1
Samantha Guse, District 2
Alex Luna, District 1
Matthew Thogerson, District 1
Rowen Oaks, District 1
Jim Byrne, District 5
Kate Dulemba, District 1
Cycle Vancouver
Jan Verrinder, District 1
Teresa Hardy, District 3