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Submitted on Thu, 10/01/2026 - 12:49 PM

Name
Tonya Enger

Subject
GHG emissions reductions goals

Date of Hearing
Thu, 10/01/2026

Comment
I am writing to you to express the urgent need to align the county's emissions reductions goals with those of the city of Vancouver. Doing so would enable greater chances of success of efforts enacted at the county level, and would allow for the most efficiency at achieving state mandated emissions reduction goals overall. I also want to stress that this has nothing to do with politics, as it is first and foremost a matter of aligning goals to promote the greatest level of effectiveness for achieving regional success and the highest level of responsiveness to our global climate emergency. You as council have an opportunity today to respond to our crisis with leadership that has potential to define our county as a regional leader in climate change readiness.

Aligning with the targets adopted by Vancouver would allow greater synergy between jurisdictions and better use of county resources.
The city of Vancouver is the county's largest city center and is an inextricable part of the county's emissions network. Transportation, land use, employment, and utilities do not stop at the city boundary. Policy recommended by the CAG has stressed cooperation and collaboration between county and municipality climate goals.
Failure to align with the reduction goals set by the county's largest city would cause discord, inefficiency, and undermine the county's effectiveness at achieving state mandated reductions goals.
The county's climate policies are required to address transportation and land use. Land use decisions at the county level can lock in emissions for decades. If county and city emissions reductions goals are not in sync, then county decisions could create land use and transportation patterns that undermine Vancouver's own reduction plan and ultimately the county's own efficiency and efficacy.
Consistent emissions reductions goals would prevent emissions from increasing

disproportionately in rural areas of the county.
As the transportation and infrastructure system of Vancouver and the county are interconnected and interdependent, having coordinated reduction goals prevents emissions shifting across to other cities and unincorporated parts of the county.
The global scientific consensus has pointed to dire consequences of inaction on climate change and emissions reductions. Reducing the required amount of emissions remains of the utmost importance and county reductions targets are fundamental to the success of achieving climate change readiness.
According to a peer reviewed study from 2021, the scientific consensus is undeniable and irrefutable: “Our results confirm, as has been found in numerous other previous studies of this question, that there is no significant scientific debate among experts about whether or not climate change is human-caused. This issue has been comprehensively settled, and the reality of ACC is no more in contention among scientists than is plate tectonics or evolution.”
“According to the IPCC AR6 summary and many other previous studies, mitigating future warming requires urgent efforts to eliminate fossil fuels combustion and other major sources of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Our study helps confirm that there is no remaining scientific uncertainty about the urgency and gravity of this task.”
https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac2966
Please seize this moment in history by doing everything you can to ensure our county is as successful as possible to respond to the most dire and urgent threat of our time. Right now, that means leading the county to align county emissions reductions goals with those of the city of Vancouver which are to reduce 80% of emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2040.



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