



# Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010

## Agenda Bill Report

File Number: AB2023-723

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<b>File ID:</b>	AB2023-723	<b>Version:</b>	1	<b>Status:</b>	Adopted
<b>File Created:</b>	10/26/2023	<b>Entered by:</b>	MMiterko@co.whatcom.wa.us		
<b>Department:</b>	Finance Division	<b>File Type:</b>	Ordinance		
<b>Assigned to:</b>	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee			<b>Final Action:</b>	11/21/2023
<b>Agenda Date:</b>	11/21/2023	<b>Enactment #:</b>	ORD 2023-072		
<b>Related Files:</b>					

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Primary Contact Email: [kschottb@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:kschottb@co.whatcom.wa.us)

### TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance establishing a Whatcom County Climate Action Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Climate Action Fund

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Establishing the Climate Action Fund will allow Administration to better track grant revenue and expenditures associated with the County’s climate action work. The Climate Action Fund seeks an initial budget of \$297,119 as described in Exhibit A. Please see attached.

### HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Acting Body:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Sent To:</b>
11/08/2023	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 6 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	
		Nay: 1 Elenbaas	
11/21/2023	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	
		Aye: 3 Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner	
		Nay: 0	
11/21/2023	Council	ADOPTED	
		Aye: 5 Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	
		Nay: 1 Elenbaas	

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Absent: 1 Byrd

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**Attachments:** Staff Memo, Proposed Ordinance, Exhibit A

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-072**

**ESTABLISHING A NEW WHATCOM COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION FUND**

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Climate Action Plan was adopted by the Whatcom County Council on November 9, 2021, through Resolution 2021-049; and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County will seek local, state, and federal funding opportunities in order to carry out activities in the Climate Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, initial climate action expenditures include but are not limited to climate action staffing, urban forestry carbon sequestration projects, and sea-level rise planning; and

**WHEREAS**, as State and Federal funding opportunities are released, Whatcom County expects to utilize Real Estate Excise Tax revenue and other local funding sources as match for grants, with an initial emphasis on electrification and solar for county facilities and fleet; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to establish a dedicated fund to track climate-related revenue and expenses across activities and County departments; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established titled Climate Action Fund, to operate beginning January 1, 2024. This fund shall be used to account for revenue and expenditures associated with climate action programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the Climate Action Fund is approved with an initial budget of \$297,119 as described in Exhibit A.

**ADOPTED** this 21st day of November, 2023.

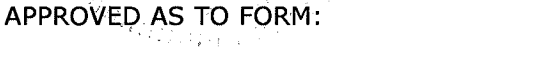
ATTEST

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Quinn (via email 10/23/23)

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Satpal S. Sidhu, County Executive

(  ) Approved      (  ) Denied

Date Signed: 11-22-23

# EXHIBIT A

## Supplemental Budget Request

*Status:* Pending

**Public Works**

**Natural Resources**

Suppl ID # 4457      **Fund**                      **Cost Center**                      **Originator:** Randy Rydel

**Expenditure Type:** One-Time      **Year 2** 2024      **Add'l FTE**       **Add'l Space**       **Priority** 1

**Name of Request:** *Climate Action Plan Implementation to new fund*

**X**   
By Randy Rydel at 4:02 pm, Oct 18, 2023

**Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)**                      **Date**

<b>Costs:</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Object Description</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
	6110	Regular Salaries & Wages	\$79,547
	6290	Applied Benefits	\$61,252
	6320	Office & Op Supplies	\$500
	6340	Books-Publications-Supsc	\$5,770
	6520	Software	\$550
	6520	Software	\$1,000
	6625	Software Maint Contracts	\$500
	6630	Professional Services	\$115,000
	6699	Other Services-Interfund	\$25,000
	6780	Travel-Educ/Training	\$2,000
	7110	Registration/Tuition	\$2,000
	7115	Membership & Assoc Dues	\$2,500
	7190	Other Miscellaneous	\$1,500
	8301.169	Operating Transfer In	(\$50,000)
	8301	Operating Transfer In	(\$100,000)
	8301	Operating Transfer In	(\$147,119)
	<b>Request Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>

**1a. Description of request:**

This request moves the Climate Action Plan Implementation from the Flood Fund to a newly created fund.

**1b. Primary customers:**

All residents of Whatcom County

**2. Problem to be solved:**

The Whatcom County Council adopted an update to the Whatcom County Climate Action Plan in 2021. The plan includes actions for Whatcom County government and the community at large to implement to reduce and/or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the inevitable impacts occurring from changing climate conditions. The County has hired a Climate Action Manager and developed a work plan for 2023-24. Funds will be used as follows:

1. Administration- \$25,000 (Urban Sustainability Directors Network, ICLEI, Conference Registration, Office Expenses)
2. Forestry- \$50,000 match funding for carbon sequestration project through Climate Commitment Act funding, federal Community and Urban Forestry Grant, or state DNR grant programs.
3. Sea Level Rise- \$50,000 funding to support 2nd round of Shoreline Planning Competitive Grant (pending) and NOAA Regional Challenge Implementation Proposal (pending).

# Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

## Public Works

## Natural Resources

Suppl ID # 4457 Fund Cost Center Originator: Randy Rydel

### 4. Grant Management- \$25,000

This request also moves existing base budget authority of \$147,119 to cover an employee and some basic office expenses from the Flood Fund to the newly created fund.

#### 3a. Options / Advantages:

The County has made a commitment to implement the Climate Action Plan. County funds will be used as match for grants to implement four activities.

#### 3b. Cost savings:

If left unaddressed, climate change impacts will have devastating effects on Whatcom County and the world with associated costs. The cost of inaction is likely immeasurable in terms of future economic impacts and impacts to public safety. Using County funds as match multiplies local dollars and expands the amount of work that can be done with limited local funding.

#### 4a. Outcomes:

Actions identified in the Whatcom County Climate Action Plan will be implemented and local GHG emissions will be reduced over a period of years and decades.

#### 4b. Measures:

The assessments and plans identified in Section 1 will be implemented.

#### 5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

The Climate Action Plan covers all of Whatcom County government. Implementation of the activities included in this request will involve staff from the Public Works Department, PDS, AS-Facilities, and the Parks and Recreation Department. Some activities will also include the involvement of the state Department of Natural Resources.

#### 5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:

Parks - Bennett Knox  
AS Facilities - Rob Ney  
PDS - Steve Roberge

#### 6. Funding Source:

Flood Fund \$50k - ASR-7016  
ARPA \$100k  
General Fund - \$147,119