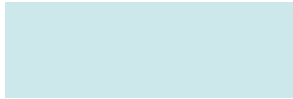
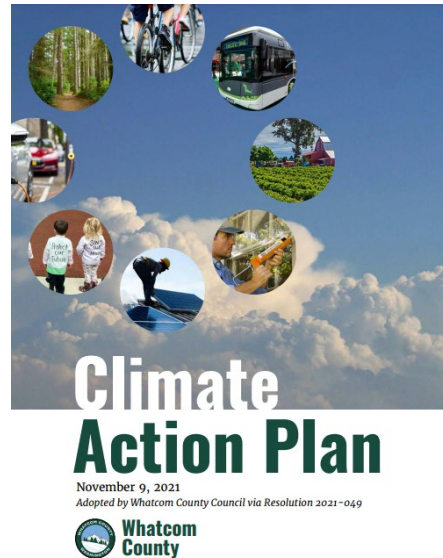




# CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM UPDATE

LAUREN CLEMENS, CLIMATE ACTION MANAGER





# WHATCOM COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- Countywide: Meet Washington State Legislature targets by 2050 (45% lower than 1990 emissions)
- County Operations: Reduce emissions 85% from 2000 levels by 2030

[www.whatcomcounty.us/4201/Climate-Action](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/4201/Climate-Action)

# COUNTY FACILITY, FLEET, & FERRY DECARBONIZATION



<b>Clean Buildings- In progress</b>	<b>Electric Vehicles- In progress</b>	<b>Ferry Electrification- Completed</b>	<b>On-Site Renewables- On hold</b>
Compliance with Clean Buildings Law Requirements for Tier 1 buildings	Assessment for needed EV infrastructure for County fleet electrification	Evaluate electric infrastructure improvements required to support hybrid/ electric ferry	Technical assistance to evaluate solar capacity on County owned facilities- WA Commerce Solar plus Storage

# CLIMATE PLANNING & POLICY

## Comprehensive Plan (In progress)

Draft new element for Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan compliant with HB 1181 requirements

## Code Revisions (In progress)

Evaluate needed code revisions as part of Comprehensive Plan implementation

## Adaptation Planning (On hold)

Expansion of Compound Flood Vulnerability Assessment (applied for funding- awaiting decision)

# BUILD PROGRAM CAPACITY



## Climate Funding Strategy (In progress)

Determination of project and funding needs for FY 24

## Strategic Planning (In Progress)

Coordinate and execute actions throughout Whatcom County Climate Action Plan

## Departmental Collaboration (Ongoing)

Advance climate work through partnerships, funding, and support

## Partnership Building (Ongoing)

Increase collaborative relationships with external organizations

# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## Residential Electrification Webpage (On hold)

Use federal technical assistance to help residents plan for electrification using resources from Rewiring America- applying for funding

## Low Income Electrification Pilot (In progress)

Execute electrification pilot in coordination with City of Bellingham and Opportunity Council to reach low-income homeowners- applying for funding

# STRENGTHEN CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## Compound Flood Vulnerability Assessment (Complete)

Determine climate impact zones and probable flooding scenarios

## Wildfire Smoke & Heat Vulnerability Assessment (In progress)

Analysis of wildfire smoke and heat prevalence and population vulnerability

## Urban Forestry (On hold)

Application for grant funding for joint project as identified by Whatcom Million Trees

## Community Forestry (In progress)

Next steps as identified by Stewart Mountain Community Forest Strategic Vision Framework

## Carbon Market Development (On hold)

Determine carbon sequestration opportunities for existing and planned parcel acquisitions

# GROW REGIONAL CLIMATE NETWORK

## Countywide Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (In progress)

Determine best locations for additional EV public infrastructure charging across Whatcom County

## Community Outreach (Ongoing)

Create resources for residents to advance Climate Action Plan goals

## County Climate Collaboration (Ongoing)

Identify grants to determine joint projects for federal and state funding

## Multimodal Transportation Network (In progress)

Bike/ Pedestrian Advisory Committee identifying list of priority projects



# EXECUTE, COMMUNICATE, & TRACK ACTION

## Climate Action Dashboard (In progress)

ArcGIS dashboard site updated annually with Whatcom County climate indicators

## Climate Action Plan Progress Reporting (Not started)

Annual reports to both Executive's Office and County Council

## Grant & Project Management (Ongoing)

Key indicators and fiscal reporting for grants and projects

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## Countywide Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning

- Partnership with Whatcom Council of Governments
- Projection of future EV adoption demand
- Assessment of infrastructure needs and prioritize site selection
- Provision of site plans for top priority locations in conjunction with project partners
- Interlocal agreement with Whatcom Council of Governments in front of Council

## Clean Energy to Communities Program

- No cost technical assistance from National Renewable Energy Laboratory in cohort with 14 other jurisdictions nationally
- Partnered with Columbia- Willamette Clean Cities Coalition
- Evaluation of siting criteria and alignment with state and federal EV plans
- Review and preparation for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant and other funding opportunities
- Early draft electric vehicle infrastructure study framework for public charging

# CLIMATE ACTION BUDGET

## 2024 GENERAL FUND (Request)

- Solar- Match funding for Commerce Solar plus Storage grant program
- Electric vehicle infrastructure- Match funding for installation of electric vehicle chargers on County properties
- Forestry- Match funding for federal or state funded carbon sequestration project
- Sea Level Rise- Support for implementation of Coastal Vulnerability Assessment

## ARPA (Request)

- Public Works Grant Specialist- 1<sup>st</sup> year support
- Low Income Residential Electrification Pilot with City of Bellingham and Opportunity Council

## STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS

- DOE Energy Efficiency Block Grant (2024 application)
- WA Commerce Climate Planning Grant (2023 application)
- Shoreline Planning Grant (applied)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Grants (US DOT, WA Commerce, WA Ecology)
- Urban & Community Forestry Grants
- Others as identified



THANK YOU

LAUREN CLEMENS, LCLEMENS@CO.WHATCOM.WA.US

