

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

JON HUTCHINGS
Director



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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council
The Honorable Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director
Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager

FROM: Chris Elder, Senior Watershed Management Planner *CE*

RE: 2017 Whatcom County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

DATE: February 9, 2021

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the Whatcom County Council and County Executive receive and review the attached 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory as prepared by the consultant, Cascadia Consulting Group, in coordination with the Whatcom County Climate Impact Advisory Committee.

Background and Purpose

The Climate Impact Advisory Committee was created by Ordinance 2017-080 with the purpose of providing review and recommendations to the Whatcom County Council and Executive on issues related to the preparation and adaptation for, and the prevention and mitigation of, impacts of climate change. One of the key functions of the committee is to support update of the County's Climate Action Plan.

Council authorized \$50,000 in funds to support climate action planning efforts in 2019/2020 and the County contracted with Cascadia Consulting Group to develop a summary of observed trends and projected climate change impacts, a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, in addition to vulnerability assessment factsheets and vulnerability assessment guidance documentation. Therefore, in preparation for an update to the Climate Action Plan and in support of other identified committee functions, the Climate Impact Advisory Committee is pleased to present the 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.

The 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory was compiled using the ClearPath online software platform to complete and document inventory calculations and data sources in accordance with the following protocols, developed by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI): U.S. Community Protocol (USCP) for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP). This 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory will allow Whatcom County to compare recent emissions at the municipal and community scales with the inventories completed in support of the Whatcom County 2007 Climate Action and Protection Plan. The Climate Impact Advisory committee and staff look forward to discussing this work product with you and continuing to engage Council on climate action planning efforts in Whatcom County.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6225, if you have any questions.