

Whatcom County Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023
10:45 AM
Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 11:15 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON AT
311 GRAND AVENUE SUITE 101, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Absent: None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2023-115](#) Update from the Climate Impact Advisory Committee

Ellyn Murphy, Climate Impact Advisory Committee Chair, presented about a recommendation from the Climate Impact Advisory Committee (CIAC) stating, “We write to recommend that Whatcom County advocate for state legislation that will accelerate the pace of local renewable energy development and to create climate resilience and equity in our energy system. We need to remove the barriers that now limit the use of solar energy to a small minority of Whatcom County residents” (quote taken from “CIAC Priorities” letter on file).

She answered how House Bill 1427 would affect those who are already doing net metering, whether these House Bills presented are new bills or ones the Council has already weighed in on, whether the CIAC would bring recommendations to the Council about what we can do locally to take advantage of this legislation, and what the CIAC can do to facilitate implementation.

Galloway spoke about what the Council might do, and thinking about how they might like to see these issues move forward.

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, answered whether the Council can work with the Administration on these four bills and incorporate them into our State advocacy.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Galloway stated later today she plans to testify in support of a bill that is being heard in the Environment and Energy Committee on House Bill 1735 around net ecological gain.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Kaylee Galloway-via email 2/12/2023

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE