



Energy Action Team CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIC PLAN

This plan is a work in progress that will evolve as we complete the actions below and identify the next steps toward our goals. The Energy Action Team (EAT) will meet quarterly, with the work groups moving forward in the intervening months and then reporting on their progress at the quarterly EAT meetings.

Home Energy Score

Goal: To implement a Home Performance Rating Program in Corvallis

Work Group Members: Marge Stevens (lead), Sarah Spangler, Annette Mills, Brandon Trelstad, Bill Pfender

Strategies/Actions:

1. Explore resources
 - a. Review "Home Energy Labeling/Disclosure Policy Blueprint for Corvallis"
 - b. Research Home Energy Score programs that include rental properties (e.g., Austin, TX; Boulder, CO; and Ft. Collins, CO)
2. Form various stakeholder groups (Realtors, Builders, Landlords and Tenants)
 - a. Start with a small Realtors Advisory Group
 - b. Finalize lists of potential stakeholder group members
 - c. Meet with each group to introduce the concept and gather their concerns/questions
3. Advance City of Corvallis/Oregon Dept. of Energy (DOE)/Earth Advantage collaboration
 - a. Contact Paul Bilotta (Community Development Director) re. proper sequence of actions
 - b. Draft MOU between City and DOE for web page and phone consultation support
 - c. Draft MOU between City and Earth Advantage for program start up, ongoing support, and home inspection and verification training opportunities

Local/State Government Action

Goal: Use Governor of Oregon's Executive Order 20-04 as the basis for discussions with the City of Corvallis regarding climate action

Work Group Members: Kirk Rensmeyer (lead), Marge Stevens, Bill Pfender, Charlyn Ellis, Annette Mills

Strategies/Actions:

1. Identify local government opportunities to comply with Governor's Executive Order on Climate Change
 - a. Review Progress Reports on Executive Order and other pertinent documents (e.g., articles by Zach Baker/Climate Solutions, etc.)
 - b. Request information from City staff re. their response to the Executive Order, particularly as it relates to the City's 2018 Greenhouse Gas Inventory
 - c. Contact staff at Governor's office regarding their outreach plans (Willamette Valley/Coast Regional Solutions Coordinator, Sarah Means (503-559-7698), sarah.means@oregon.gov)

- d. Share resources (e.g., notes from Citizens Utility Board conference, Rulemaking Advisory Committee, etc.)
 - e. Promote the use of a “climate lens” for City decision-making (i.e., staff reports to include a section on “Climate Change Implications”, similar to the “Budget Implications” section of staff reports)
2. Establish a statewide network to share ideas/leverage support for specific climate related legislation
 - a. Develop connections with Renew Oregon and grassroots climate action efforts in other Oregon communities (e.g., Lake Oswego, Silverton, Newburg, Eugene/Springfield)
 - b. Determine the most effective way(s) to communicate on a regular basis
 3. Work with Oregon Clean Power Cooperative to promote distributed energy throughout Oregon

Residential Energy Efficiency

Goal: To make homes more energy efficient and to move them toward Net Zero (NOTE: This is the goal of the Sustainable Housing Work Group of the Coalition’s Housing Action Team, with a focus on existing homes rather than new homes.)

Work Group Members: Julie Williams (lead), Angela McFarland, Peter Greenberg, Jean Townes

Strategies/Actions:

1. Explore opportunities to collaborate with Sustainable Housing Work Group and Seeds for the Sol
 - a. Review Housing Action Team and Seeds for the Sol websites to identify areas of overlap
 - b. Meet with Sustainable Housing Work Group to discuss most effective ways to support each other’s efforts
 - c. Work with Sustainable Housing Work Group to support residents in making the transition from natural gas to all-electric homes; involve local heating contractors and appliance stores
2. Identify incentives for installation of residential energy efficiency retrofits
 - a. Establish a relationship with Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) residential program contact
 - b. Determine most effective ways to stay current on ETO rebate and incentive programs
 - c. Explore additional incentive programs (City of Corvallis, Community Services Consortium, Benton Habitat)
 - d. Promote use of CAAB grant funds to support residents and small businesses to improve their housing and building efficiencies
3. Develop an outreach protocol for communicating incentives to target audiences
 - a. Identify a specific, timely incentive (e.g., Heat Pump Water Heaters have a federal tax credit that ends in December)
 - b. Gather information about the benefits of the appliance/equipment that’s being incentivized
 - c. Work with Communications Support Work Group to develop a simple message with graphics
 - d. Coordinate with Communications Support Work Group to create an outreach timeline, with target audiences and responsible parties clearly identified
4. Explore the feasibility of a ban on natural gas hookups for new buildings in Corvallis
 - a. Gather information from other communities (e.g., Eugene, Berkeley, etc.), possibly through a student internship
 - b. Contact City staff to inquire about renewal date for natural gas franchise agreement

Solarize Corvallis

Goal: To install large solar arrays at as many Corvallis facilities as possible by 2025

Work Group Members: Annette Mills (lead), Dan Orzech, Kirk Rensmeyer, Larry Weymouth, Peter Adamczyk, Peter Greenberg

Strategies/Actions:

1. Acknowledge recent investors and donors
 - a. Send acknowledgement postcards/emails for Old Mill Center and Benton County projects
 - b. Coordinate creation and placement of plaque at Old Mill Center, recognizing major donors
2. Recruit additional potential investors
 - a. Identify local C corporations and rental property owners to take federal energy tax credits
 - b. Use various marketing tools to promote this initiative to the community
3. Identify and pursue 2021 Solarize Corvallis projects
 - a. Set up meetings with City of Corvallis staff re. potential for solar at fire stations and water treatment plants or other City properties
 - b. Submit potential City solar projects for inclusion in CIP Budget
 - c. Explore potential properties for siting of community solar and/or agrivoltaics
 - d. Set up meeting with Solar Committee at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) to explore possible funding scenarios
 - e. Meet with other faith communities, based on “pilot project” at FUMC

Communications Support

Goal: To provide messages and tools to effectively communicate with target audiences

Work Group Members: Sarah Spangler (lead), Julie Williams, Kate Feldman, Jeanette Hardison, Annette Mills, Kristi Ervin

Strategies/Actions:

1. Gather mission statements from each Energy Action Team work group
2. Expand audience beyond Coalition contacts
 - a. Compile a list of local Facebook groups (e.g., Corvallis People, Corvallis Conversations, etc.)
 - b. Set up protocol for placing Facebook ads
 - c. Identify social media platforms that appeal to younger audiences
 - d. Identify volunteer(s) to translate messages into Spanish and other languages
 - e. Follow up with Patrick Rollens (City of Corvallis Public Information Officer) to clarify requirements and procedures for using City’s communications platform for key messages
 - f. Develop incentives for audience expansion (e.g., “Tag a friend you think would be interested, forward to your Facebook wall, and you’ll be entered in a drawing for \$100 worth of groceries!”)
3. Develop simple key messages
 - a. Create general messages about climate action (e.g., “The most expensive action is inaction”)
 - b. Respond to work group requests for messages that are specific to their projects
 - c. Send weekly climate action messages to Coalition Google group, Facebook, etc.

4. Create a Climate Action Facebook page for dialogue; include guidelines for participation

Funding Support

Goal: To identify and promote sources and mechanisms to help fund climate action

Work Group Members: Annette Mills (lead), Peter Adamczyk, Larry Weymouth, Julie Williams, Kirk Rensmeyer, Dan Orzech

Strategies/Actions:

1. Assist with implementation of CPACE program (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy)
 - a. Glean “lessons learned” from Peter Adamczyk’s experience
 - b. Contact Kate Porsche (Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Manager) re. status of program development and query re. how EAT can help
2. Explore funding mechanisms to support well-defined climate action projects or goals
 - a. Review notes from Climate Action Advisory Board Funding Subcommittee
 - b. Receive update from Julie re. status of Pay-as-You-Save program development and determine next steps
 - c. Identify taxes and fees on carbon intensive behaviors, as well as other innovative funding mechanisms, that have been imposed by other cities

External Climate Action Projects Supported by EAT:

CAAB: Land Development Code Revisions

Goal: To enact revisions to the City’s Land Development Code that will lead to more sustainable new residential buildings

NOTE: This project is being led by Brandon Trelstad as a member of the Climate Action Advisory Board. However, he would like to identify EAT members who are interested in providing assistance, if needed.

Assistants: TBD

OSU: Industrial/Commercial Renewable Energy Purchasing

Goal: To enable large consumers of energy to transition to solar through an industrial/commercial renewable energy purchasing consortium

NOTE: This project is being led by Brandon Trelstad as the Sustainability Officer for OSU. This project is on hold pending a decision by the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC).

Additional Sustainability Coalition Climate Action Projects:

Saving Green (Economic Vitality Action Team)

Goal: To stimulate a dramatic decrease in greenhouse gas emissions at local workplaces

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition - Energy Action Team: Climate Action Strategic Plan

Staff: Jeanette Hardison

Retrofit! (Housing Action Team)

Goal: To make older homes more energy efficient and to move them toward Net Zero

Work Group Members: Wendy Woods (lead), Nancy Evenson, Mike Beilstein, Debi Friedlander, Annette Mills

Relationship of Parking to Land Use and Transportation (Land Use Action Team)

Goal: To educate elected officials and community members about the role of parking in creating a livable community

Work Group Members: Court Smith, Annette Mills, Andrew Krivoshein, Laurie Becker, Dave Rabinowitz

Walkability/Bikeability Survey (Land Use Action Team)

Goal: To map neighborhood connectivity

Work Group Members: Laurie Becker and OSU students

Transitioning to Electric Vehicles (Transportation Action Team)

Goal: To support, through sponsorship of educational events, residents who are interested in making the transition from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles

Work Group Members: Larry Weymouth (lead), Annette Mills

No Food Left Behind - Corvallis (Waste Prevention Action Team)

Goal: To decrease the amount of food that is wasted by Corvallis residents

Staff: Jeanette Hardison

Tree Planting in Low-income Neighborhoods (project under development by Community Inclusion and Natural Areas Action Teams)

Goal: To improve air quality and reduce the heat island effect in low-income neighborhoods of Corvallis

Work Group Members: TBD