



## Overview of Draft Clackamas County Climate Action Plan Report

February 7, 2023

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*By 2023, a Climate Action Plan is adopted for our community with specific recommendations to reach the goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.*

*Performance Clackamas: Clackamas County Strategic Plan, March 2021*

### This Report...

The Clackamas County Climate Action Plan report outlines goals and objectives for addressing climate change throughout Clackamas County, and strategies to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality. The final plan will include an Implementation Guide that lays out specific actions to take and a climate lens to support future county decision-making.

The report sets the stage to achieve the following county-wide outcomes:

- ♦ Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to carbon neutral by 2050;
- ♦ Reduce community-wide consumption-based emissions, and
- ♦ Adapt to climate change and reduce climate-related risk.

This report focuses on how the county could reduce community-wide emissions from major sectors that are not based on consumption: buildings (residential, institutional, commercial, and industrial), transportation, and waste. Notably, acting on climate change also brings economic benefits, including:

- Job creation in clean energy and energy efficiency sectors, and
- Reduced reliance on fossil fuels, which can lead to energy independence and security.

### What Is a Climate Action Plan?

A climate action plan (CAP) is a strategic document that outlines actions that a government, business, or organization can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and address the impacts of climate change. It typically contains a set of specific, measurable, and time-bound goals and actions to reduce emissions, as well as strategies for adapting to the impacts of climate change that are already happening or are projected to occur.

While CAPs can differ in scale according to the community or region they are addressing, several elements are consistently included in order to identify and track progress against climate targets. These elements are:

- A greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory;
- Modeled scenarios that project future emissions in a “business-as-planned” (BAP) scenario by sector and by fuel type;
- A modeled pathway, often called a “low-carbon scenario” (LCS), that shows the size, scale, and timeline for emissions reductions as guided by the target;
- A model of financial details for the actions associated with the low-carbon scenario;
- A target for reaching carbon neutrality or net-zero emissions;
- Implementation strategies and mechanisms including recommended policies, proposed regulations, partnerships, opportunities for advocacy, and programs.

## How This Plan Was Developed

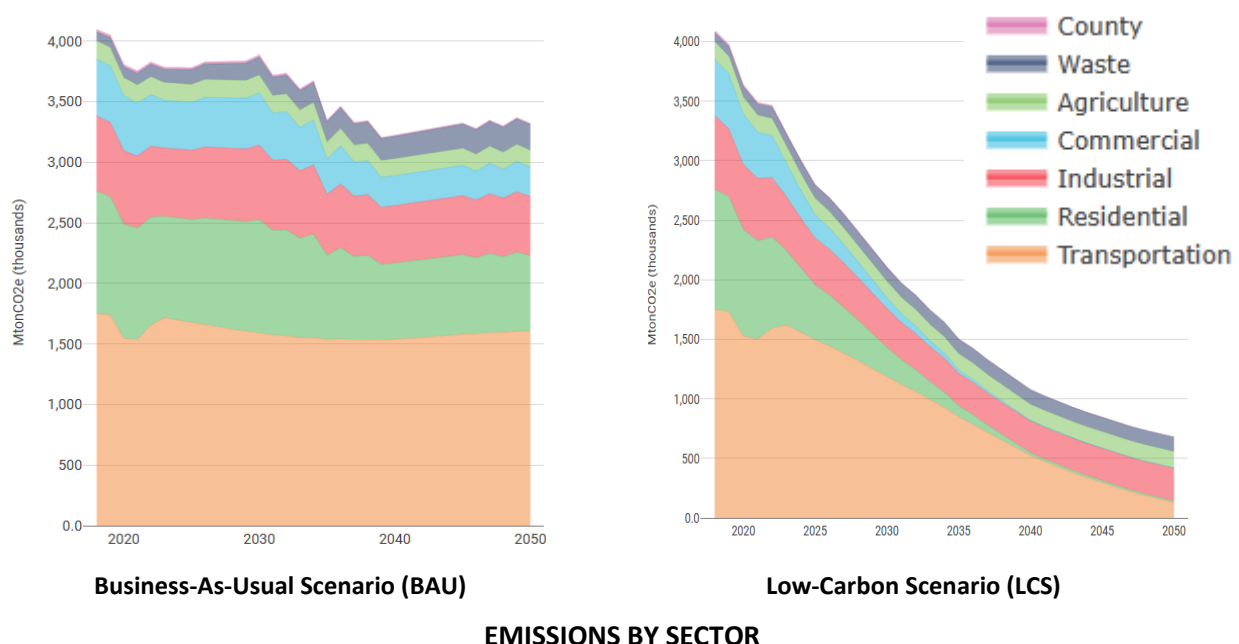
The development of this plan was led by an expert consulting team with more than 15 years of experience in helping governments, campuses and institutions address their climate planning challenges. The process included:

- ◆ Targeted engagement with interested and affected parties (stakeholders) with a variety of perspectives from throughout unincorporated Clackamas County, cities in the county and County staff;
- ◆ Review and input from community and youth advisory task forces;
- ◆ Data analysis and technical modeling;
- ◆ Review of plans, policies, legislation, demographics, climate action readiness;
- ◆ Review of best practices, and
- ◆ Broad public engagement.

### ***Business-As-Planned (BAP) Scenario***

A BAP scenario was developed to understand the size of the emissions challenge, if no additional climate action is taken, and to help guide what actions necessary for the county to take to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

- ◆ The BAP illustrates a likely scenario of community energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions between 2018 and 2050 based on the community *taking no additional action on climate change* beyond policies and practices that are in place or are guaranteed through government plans and committed funding.
- ◆ The BAP is a benchmark against which Clackamas County can measure the effectiveness of its emissions reduction efforts in the low-carbon scenario (shown in the next section) and communicate the county's reduction strategy.



### ***Low-Carbon Scenario (LCS)***

The LCS, developed through modeling, includes actions to reduce carbon emissions throughout the county, and the estimated financial costs and benefits of each action.

- ♦ The actions tackle the critical sectors that need to be addressed to create a low-carbon future.
- ♦ To achieve carbon neutrality, these actions cannot go unaddressed, nor can some actions be implemented while others are ignored.
- ♦ The LCS shows that emissions will be reduced by 83% when the community fully implements the recommended actions.
- ♦ The use of sequestration can take the County the rest of the way to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

### **Findings from the Report: Implementation Guide**

**Carbon neutrality** is achieved by reducing carbon in the community by avoiding the use of energy, using energy efficiently, and replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy technologies and systems. To balance any remaining human-driven emissions, carbon can be removed (sequestered) by restoring or enhancing natural lands and soils or through direct air capture and storage.

This report recommends actions in the following **critical sectors** as possible next steps for decreasing emissions:

- ♦ Building retrofits;
- ♦ Net-zero new construction;
- ♦ Renewable energy generation;
- ♦ Reducing vehicle emissions, and
- ♦ Increasing active transportation and transit use.

The actions for these sectors are listed in the detailed *Implementation Guide*, which will be included as an appendix to the final report. Those actions describe how Clackamas County will:

- ♦ **Lead** within the community by example through changes to its own infrastructure, services, and internal policies;
- ♦ **Support** the community through programs, education, incentives, and pilot projects, and
- ♦ **Advocate** for the community through partnerships and dialogue with other decision-makers and service providers.

### **Findings from the Report: Additional Actions**

The CAP is an ambitious plan that spans every sector of the community. While climate action is essential, all the changes required cannot happen at once. To help get the process underway, the

Climate Action Plan report contains five key, first-step recommendations, that can be taken to begin implementing the work outlined in the CAP.

These additional actions, provided by the consultant, are grounded in the consultant's extensive experience and best practices from other climate actions plans. These recommendations are offered as one way to set the foundation for the work ahead.

1. Hire dedicated staff to manage the implementation of the CAP.
2. Confirm and apply for funding from federal and state programs to fund implementation of climate actions.
3. Establish an ongoing advisory committee with members from the public to provide ongoing feedback and support of implementation initiatives.
4. Identify and evaluate the readiness of key potential partners to help implement actions not fully within Clackamas County's jurisdictional control.
5. Establish a set of key performance indicators to report on progress and challenges related to implementation.

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Full draft report available at: <https://www.clackamas.us/sustainability/climateaction>

*Click here [link to survey] to provide input on this overview and/or the report.*