

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Planning Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 10/17/18 **Approx. Start Time:** 9:30 am **Approx. Length:** 1.5 hours

Presentation Title: Update & Discussion on Strategic Direction on Climate Change

Department: Transportation & Development – Sustainability & Solid Waste Program

Presenters: Dan Johnson; Eben Polk

Other Invitees: Cheryl Bell; Staff participants in our cross-departmental Climate Exchange group

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

- 1) Confirmation to begin an update of the County's sustainability / climate strategy, creating a scope of work and culminating eventually in a new plan.
- 2) Input among three basic options on the scope of such a plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Board has raised its visibility and commitment on the issue of climate change. In 2017, Commissioners adopted a Resolution Reaffirming Clackamas County's Commitment to Combat Climate Change.

In a key excerpt from that resolution, the Board resolved to "renew its commitment to policies and practices, both within county government and throughout the community, that respond to the need to combat and adapt to climate change, for the sake of the future of our residents and our economy."

In response to the commitments embodied in that resolution, we are preparing to develop an updated strategy. This would take the shape of a Clackamas County Climate Plan, which would encompass elements of the 2008 Action Plan for a Sustainable Clackamas County.

The issue is relevant to almost every department's operations and long-term goals. Several departments are already seeing climate change emerge as a strategic issue (e.g. tourism, public health); are participating in planning or policy processes where climate is a factor (e.g. transportation planning, solid waste planning, or the development of state climate legislation); or are engaged in work that can help reduce our carbon footprint (e.g. our development of a high-performance building standard for County facilities to push new buildings towards net-zero emissions performance). Among the areas we influence that are affected by climate change or that can contribute to climate solutions are buildings, transportation, land use, tourism, economic development, forestry and agriculture, garbage and recycling, public health, and more.

Staff-level working group

Because of the cross-cutting nature of the issue, earlier this year, with Administration approval, we initiated an interdepartmental work group to discuss and support work on the issue of climate change. After four meetings we developed a draft charter. This was shared with the Executive Management Team last week and is attached. We welcome comments on the charter. It includes a more detailed summary of the relevance of climate change to ongoing work in our departments. The group is intended to provide an advisory, educational, and internal stakeholder engagement role for the Board and Department leadership – essentially a sounding board and source of informed options.

How comprehensive and inclusive should an updated plan be?

The 2008 Action Plan for a Sustainable Clackamas County included a focus on climate change. The climate change goals in the plan were for the County to become carbon neutral and reduce our emissions by 80% by 2050. In the years since, this goal has been supported by the data. It aligns with the latest assessment of climate science by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which identifies carbon neutrality by 2050 as the key target to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

These goals and the 2017 Resolution imply a pathway for an updated climate strategy that is comprehensive and inclusive. **Staff would like to confirm—does this characterize the Board’s expectation?**

A comprehensive and inclusive climate action plan would identify many opportunities to implement well-researched solutions, some of which would build on existing work happening in departments, and some of which would reflect new actions and new priorities. Research shows that an abundance of solutions are available that, if implemented, would also yield significant economic savings, avoid catastrophic economic costs from climate change, and create many ‘co-benefits’ in areas such as public health and livability. To implement them effectively will require transformative action on the part of local, state and federal governments.

Many cities and counties aside from Clackamas County have expressed a commitment to address climate change, for example by honoring the targets identified in the 2015 Paris Climate Accords. China, the EU, and California all now have policies to cap carbon emissions, and Washington and Oregon are developing legislation to join California in a low-carbon push for the west coast. These commitments are also increasingly reflected in the corporate and business sector. Many major corporations now have strategies in place to transition towards renewable energy, cleaner technology. For example, a voluntary business organization called the ‘We Mean Business Coalition’ includes 670 corporations with \$15 trillion in market capitalization.

A comprehensive and inclusive approach to reduce our operational and community-wide carbon footprint would incorporate the existing diversity of work that touches on climate change across departments, and also likely include actions in these areas:

- Accelerating the transition to electric vehicles / low carbon fuels
- Supporting rapid adoption and purchasing of renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Supporting growth in jobs and industry that help us transition to a clean economy
- Multimodal transportation options and complementary land use policies to reduce dependence on single-occupancy vehicles across all ages (such as mixed use development)

- Action to reduce food waste and other carbon-intensive wastes
- Encouraging agricultural and forestry practices that store carbon
- Supporting higher performance, lower carbon residential and commercial buildings (for example through increased use of Mass Timber / CLT)
- Urban forestry / tree planting initiatives

These are all areas that were touched upon in the 2008 Action Plan, to varying degrees. In addition, a comprehensive climate plan might include action areas to promote preparedness and adaptation in public health, disaster management, tourism, for example. Such a plan would position Clackamas County to come alongside other local governments in Oregon taking a lead on these issues.

As a second option, alternatives to a high-level comprehensive approach could include:

- A narrower focus on County operations; or
- The selection of specific major contributors to our carbon footprint to include in an update. That could include a subset of the items identified above.

Finally, as a third option, the Board could start by requesting an updated analysis of our community's carbon footprint, and use that as a basis to select primary and/ secondary action areas.

There are examples of all of these approaches, across a variety of local governments.

Potential Planning Elements

Depending on the Board's stance on this process, here are some key planning elements that staff can bring back to the Board at different points in the process of crafting an updated plan:

- Baseline measurements of our carbon footprint (County operations and/or community-wide)
- Criteria for a successful plan and process
- A proposed approach for engagement and participation by the public, subject matter experts, and potential partners
- An understanding of the current and future impacts of climate change on Clackamas County
- Ideas for coordination across departments and integration into Performance Clackamas
- Identification and analysis of the relative degree of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions achievable by different actions.
- Implementation timelines / elements

What level of involvement would the Board like to have?

Specifically, would one or two Board members like to participate as a Board liaison to this process? Staff would welcome a tight link with leadership in the development of a scope of work and planning process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? YES NO

What is the cost? \$ TBD – a significant plan update led by a consulting team could cost \$75K to \$150K.

What is the funding source? TBD – likely a significant contribution from the Sustainability & Solid Waste fund.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- How does this item align with your Department's Strategic Business Plan goals?

This item has not yet been incorporated into our Strategic Business Plan goals. It is potentially cross-cutting, including multiple departments. The DTD – Sustainability & Solid Waste program plan includes the 2008 Action Plan for Sustainable Clackamas County within our purview.

- How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?

Climate change is an issue that touches on almost every Performance Clackamas goal. At present it is not explicitly addressed in Board-level strategy, but it is a lens that provides a key perspective on economic development, our use of natural resources, infrastructure priorities and even public health and safety.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

There is no legal requirement for Clackamas County with respect to climate change. In the 2017 resolution on climate the Board of Commissioners resolved to “renew its commitment to policies and practices, both within county government and throughout the community, that respond to the need to combat and adapt to climate change, for the sake of the future of our residents and our economy.”

A number of other policies and plans speak to climate issues and would benefit from continued coordination. For example, the Oregon Legislature required Metro to develop a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas pollution from the transportation sector in our region, which culminated in the regional Climate Smart Strategy in 2015. Our new Regional Waste Plan incorporates goals and actions that would reduce GHG emissions from our consumption and discard of materials. Tourism is developing a sustainable tourism strategy. The County's Public Health Modernization process explicitly includes climate-related health issues.

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

A scope of work for an updated climate or sustainability plan would likely include a stakeholder and public engagement process developed with input from the Board.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Develop a comprehensive and inclusive climate action plan building off the 2008 Action Plan for a Sustainable Clackamas County and supporting the 2017 climate resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

Option 2: Advance a plan with a more moderate scope addressing county operations or selected major contributors to our community's carbon footprint.

Option 3: Request an updated analysis of our community's carbon footprint and use that as a basis to later determine the scope of an updated climate action plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully recommends Option 1, a comprehensive, inclusive climate strategy update that aligns with existing work and with the 2017 Resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2017 Resolution Reaffirming Clackamas County's Commitment to Combat Climate Change
- Draft Climate Exchange Charter (includes a 'Climate Lens' for several departments)
- What is in the 2008 Action Plan for a Sustainable Clackamas County? (a one-page summary)

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Eben Polk @ 503-742-4470

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON**

**In the Matter of Reaffirming
Clackamas County's Commitment to
Combat Climate Change**



Resolution No. *2017-85*
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WHEREAS, in 2008, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners approved a *Resolution for a Sustainable Clackamas County* to meet or exceed global targets for mitigating climate change, reducing emissions in county operations, and promoting sustainable practices and alternative transportation options; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners adopted an *Action Plan for a Sustainable Clackamas County* in 2008 with seven goals, including to become carbon neutral, support energy efficiency, support green standards for development and infrastructure, and protect and restore lands, water and air that support natural systems; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners adopted a strategic plan, *Performance Clackamas*, which sets the goal to: *Honor, Utilize, Promote and Invest in our Natural Resources*; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners passed a *Resolution Adopting a County Energy Policy and Goals*, which included reducing 2016 energy usage by five percent by 2020; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County has taken numerous steps to conserve energy and reduce its own carbon footprint.

WHEREAS, Clackamas County has a nationally-recognized sustainability certification program that supports local businesses, initiates grants for healthy local watersheds, and provides energy conservation and weatherization services for lower-income county residents; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County recognizes the projected negative impacts of climate change on public health safety, and well-being, as well as the impacts of climate change to our natural resources and our agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County is an active supporter of the federally-funded Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program to improve air quality and mitigate congestion, and has used those funds to plan and implement Intelligent Transportation System Freight Plan projects; and

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Resolution No. 2017-85
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WHEREAS, Clackamas County, with its mix of urban, rural and wild areas, is well-positioned to reap economic benefits from climate-friendly practices like clean energy production, biofuels, alternatives to diesel, cross-laminated timber construction and the carbon-storage benefits of good agricultural practices; and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County is committed to promoting economic vitality and protecting the health and well-being of all our residents, and understands that action to combat and adapt to climate change is necessary.

NOW THEREFORE, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners does hereby resolve to:


Reaffirm the goals and actions in the previously-approved Resolution for a Sustainable Clackamas County, Action Plan for a Sustainable Clackamas County, and Resolution Adopting a County Energy Policy and Goals,

Renew its commitment to policies and practices, both within county government and throughout the community, that respond to the need to combat and adapt to climate change, for the sake of the future of our residents and our economy.

Support efforts to encourage the use of new lower-emission technologies in public buses such as those operated by transit agencies and school districts.

Dated this 6th day of July, 2017

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Chair



Recording Secretary

Clackamas County Climate Exchange [DRAFT CHARTER 10/4/18]

Background & Business Case

Climate change is a pressing and relevant issue for us all. Action on climate change has and will have many benefits. Inaction will be the most costly alternative. Our Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on climate change in 2017—the proposed interdepartmental Climate Exchange can serve as an important coordinating, consultative foundation for an updated strategy.

- Climate change is a pressing, transformational issue for Oregon, the United States, and our planet. Climate change carries ‘long-tail’ type risks that it is important to mitigate.
- It is relevant to Clackamas County as a community and as an organization. (See below for a summary of how the issue relates to many of our departments.)
- A concerted mitigation effort is needed to draw down atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases toward 350 ppm and limit the likely average temperature increase to 2 °C or less.
- This approach will have the lowest net cost to our economy, health, and environment—in fact, such an approach could save trillions of dollars in the U.S. alone.
- Pursuing a low carbon economy will also create new jobs, promote energy independence, cleaner air, more livable & safer communities, and healthier kids.
- In 2017 our Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution affirming climate goals.
- Our Board is not alone. More than 280 cities and counties, 10 states including OR, WA and CA, more than 2,128 businesses and 26 health care organizations have affirmed the need for action to meet the goals identified in the 2015 Paris Accords. One group, the ‘We Mean Business Coalition’ includes 670 corporations with \$15 trillion in market capitalization.
- Meeting the intent of our Board’s resolution, there is a need for coordination and a strategy. This proposed group can help Commissioners, Administration, and Department leadership craft and implement a meaningful strategy.

Goals

- Provide a platform for regular exchange for inter-departmental education and discussion on issues such as the state of knowledge, risk awareness, mitigation policies and practices, adaptation
- Provide a deeper bench of awareness and capability to advise leadership on strategy and local and state policies and programs for mitigation and adaptation
- Analysis of and coordination with state-level climate policy
- Cross-departmental coordination and involvement in the development of climate strategy for Clackamas County

Scope of Activity

Regular meetings to advance the above-listed goals

Organizing education and summary analyses around climate change as it impacts Clackamas County

Consulting in the development of updated climate / sustainability strategy

Roles to be filled by staff participating in this group include: general stakeholder / member, steering committee, liaisons to Directors and/or EMT, communications lead.

Proposed Outcomes

- Staff and leadership are more aware of initiatives and programs that influence, or are influenced by, climate change mitigation and adaptation, that are relevant to the County’s ongoing mission and success as an organization and as a community.
- Staff and leadership are more aware of priorities and opportunities for climate mitigation and conversant in their cost-effectiveness and value.
- Departments can contribute to the development of a draft climate strategy for county operations and/or the wider community.
- With increased knowledge of the issue, Staff and County Admin have an increased capability to inform high-level discussions on climate-related issues that require BCC input and leadership, such as county policy and code, or opportunities for input on state legislation and programs.
- Staff are able to support awareness and education in venues like departmental management meetings, Quarterly Managers’ Meetings or Lunch-n-Learns.

Departmental Lens

This is a partial analysis of the relevance of climate issues within the County as an organization.

Department / Entity	Relevance	Potential Participants
Business & Community Services	Economic development, forestry, and agriculture all have a stake. Climate policy will steer investments towards clean tech and give polluters an incentive to become more efficient and adopt renewable energy sources. Clean tech jobs are growing much faster. Climate change will have a significant impact on our forestry and agricultural economy as we shifts into new growing conditions that cause problems for historic crops and forest types. Climate policy creates both opportunities and costs for farmers. <i>Current Relevant Work: Research and support of architectural mass timber, urban forestry/ carbon, County forest management, and Ag Investment Plan updates; illegal dump cleanup. Infill brownfields development supports a more sustainable mix of employment and housing.</i>	Catherine Grubowski-Johnson Rick Gruen Samantha Wolf
Disaster Management	Climate-related disasters such as heat waves, floods or fires are a significant preparedness issue. Projections suggest a 400% to 500% increase in	Nancy Bush

	<p>area burned by 2040 in the Northwest. Climate change also carries the potential to create migration challenges that may stress infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Current Relevant Work: flood and fire preparedness.</i></p>	
Facilities	<p>We want to continue reducing our facilities' and grounds' carbon footprint. Future building designs should anticipate climate shifts. Maintaining functionality during extreme weather conditions.</p> <p><i>Current Relevant Work: Facilities serves as co-champion along with Sustainability & Solid Waste for Strategic Energy Management, implementation of County Energy Policy, and development of a green building policy.</i></p>	<p>Jeff Jorgensen</p> <p>Eli Seely</p>
Procurement & Fleet	<p>The purchase and use of goods and services accounts for a significant percentage of the County's operational carbon footprint. This includes fleet vehicles and purchased supplies.</p> <p>Electrification and greater fuel efficiency are important options for reducing our fleet carbon footprint. <i>Current Relevant Work: Fleet has included the development / implementation of sustainable fleet goals in their Performance Clackamas strategic plan.</i></p>	TBD
Public and Government Affairs	<p>The Oregon Legislature has and will likely continue to develop climate-related legislation, including clean fuels, renewable portfolio standards, cap-and-invest, etc. Talking points, outreach, engagement, leg. Advocacy and major legislative funded projects (e.g. transportation, Courthouse; staff county transportation group). <i>Current Relevant Work: PGA supports BCC awareness and engagement on state climate policy proposals.</i></p>	<p>Chris Lyons</p> <p>Dylan Blaylock</p>
Public Health (H3S)	<p>Climate change will exacerbate a number of public health risks if not mitigated, including air pollution, heat waves, chronic diseases such as asthma, food scarcity, vector born and communicable disease, and housing related issues as populations shift. Adapting to these risks will also be a significant challenge. <i>Current Relevant Work: Restructuring programs has led to the development of a Population Health Strategies program better positioned to engage on climate issues. The BCC has supported the Public Health Modernization program, which includes climate health issues. Other work includes: Air quality monitoring; communicable disease and chronic disease</i></p>	<p>Dawn Emerick</p> <p>Laurel Bentley Moses</p> <p>Erika Zoller</p>

	<i>prevention; healthy housing and land use & climate resilient places. Health equity is also a climate issue. CHIP components include weatherization, disease prevention (CV), active transportation.</i>	
Sheriff	Extreme weather can create public safety issues that place stress on emergency response capabilities, and can undermine enforcement. Population shifts tied to climate may create pressure on crime, per a 2017 study (Hsiang et al, Science)	TBD
Tourism	Outdoor recreation such as fishing, hiking, mountain biking, snow sports, and ag-tourism (wineries, breweries, farm to fork, etc.) face significant challenges under climate change: forest fires, summer droughts and low stream flows, declining snowpack (see also the ag/forestry issues above). <i>Current Relevant Work: Tourism is studying sustainable / eco-tourism opportunities.</i>	Samara Phelps
Transportation & Development	Buildings, land use, transportation, sustainability, and solid waste and recycling systems, policies, and programs have a huge impact on carbon emissions and our ability to adapt and to promote health. The department also has a significant role in disaster response. <i>Current Relevant Work: The Sustainability & Solid Waste program serves as a lead for internal sustainability efforts including climate, co-champions on energy issues with Facilities. Climate issues are also address in parts of our Transportation System Plan, and in other areas. Regional transportation plan—Climate Smart Strategies. Transportation technology and congestion; transportation options/transit; active transportation; land use planning.</i>	Eben Polk Karen Buehrig
Water Environment Services	Changes in precipitation patterns and stream flows can pose challenges for stormwater site and system design. Stream flows can impact ability to release nutrients into streams. WES desires to promote water reuse to alleviate pressure on water supplies. Existing and future facilities. Significant user of electricity. <i>Current Relevant Work: WES runs its own Strategic Energy Management program and was recently certified as a 'Leader in Sustainability'. Looking at opportunities to apply biosolids closer w/in region. More sustainable approaches to sanitary and stormwater (if we don't have pipes we don't have to worry about</i>	Ron Wierenga Matt Glazewski

	<i>capacity) working with drinking water providers / PSU on Clackamas River basin resiliency. Climate impacts white paper assessing our risk.</i>	
County Administration		

Schedule – Intentionally Blank Pending Feedback

Milestones / Work Plan for the Year – Intentionally Blank Pending Feedback

[Identify the significant milestones or elements of a work plan: start date, end date.]

[Milestones / work plan could include:

- development of a framework to create a climate or sustainability strategy / plan
- development of ideas to apply a climate lens to existing MFR work or to identify additional opportunities in future MFR updates

Operating Expectations – Intentionally Blank Pending Feedback

[decision-making]

[ground rules]

[expectations for communication]

Constraints, Assumptions, Risks and Dependencies – Intentionally Blank Pending Feedback

Constraints	[Describe here potential factors that will impact the delivery of the project]
Assumptions	[Describe here conditions or situations that you are relying on in order to achieve project goals]
Risks and Dependencies	[What are the most significant risks? What things must happen before the project is delivered?]

Project Resources / Budget (If Any) – Intentionally Blank Pending Feedback

[Describe the main project expenses: non-recurring & monthly recurring.]

Approval Signatures

By signature our department expresses a desire and commitment to participate.

Participant

Participant Signature

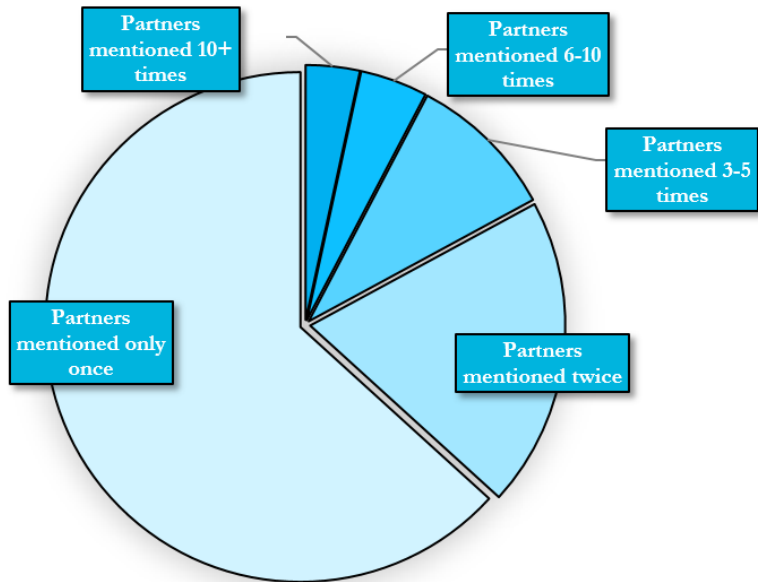
Director Signature (if participant is not a Director)

What is in the 2008 *Action Plan for a Sustainable Clackamas County*?

7 Goals for 2050
 43 Actions to take
 184 Tasks for 2008-2013
 117 Potential External Partners

- ### Seven Goals for Clackamas County
1. Become carbon neutral 🌱♻️🎓🏠
 2. Ensure and communicate progress through citizen involvement, outreach, reporting and alignment of financial incentives with sustainability 🎓👤
 3. Support energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energy 💡
 4. Support and encourage green standards for development, planning and infrastructure ⚙️🎓👤
 5. Identify, protect and restore land, water, and air in Clackamas County that support important natural systems and ecological functions and values 🏞️💧♻️🎓
 6. Support an economy of businesses that sustain and restore natural, economic, and social systems 🎓♻️❤️👤⚙️
 7. Build community health, vibrancy, and resiliency 👤👤⚙️❤️♻️🎓

There are 117 individual potential partners identified in the plan. The majority of them are mentioned only once.

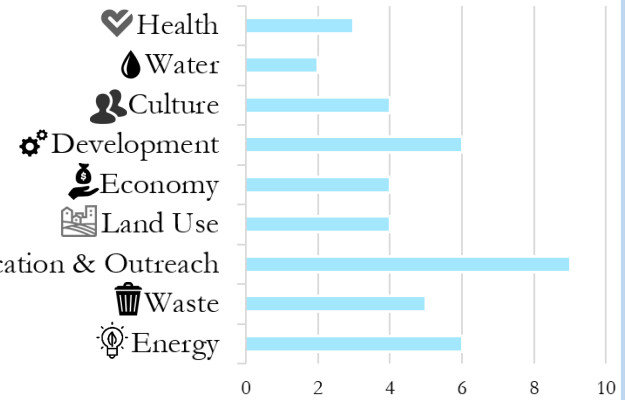


Some of the most commonly referenced partners include:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Energy Trust of Oregon
- Local Cities
- Metro
- Clackamas Community College
- K-12 Schools
- Local Universities
- Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- OSU Extension Services
- Oregon DEQ
- Portland General Electric

Forty Three Actions for Clackamas County

The actions outlined for the County are best divided into nine topic categories. Of the topics, education & outreach is the one with the most actions dedicated towards it.



Of the 184 tasks for 2008-2013, the County was the designated lead for 150 of them. As of the plan's adoption, 53 of the tasks were "currently underway."

- Specific **115 tasks**
- Measurable **44 tasks**
- Achievable **154 tasks**
- Relevant **170 tasks**
- Time bound **12 tasks**

How many tasks were SMART?

There were a total of 7 tasks that met the requirements for SMART goals. Otherwise, most often tasks lacked qualifiers that were "measurable" and "time bound."