



Climate Change Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
Monday March 23, 2026
5:30pm - 7pm

City Hall Council Conference Room
280 Madison Ave N
Bainbridge Island, WA

and

Remote Meeting on Zoom
<https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/83875258271>

or Telephone: US: +1 (253) 215-8782

Webinar ID: 838 7525 8271

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order / Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Agenda / Conflict of Interest Disclosure**
- 3. Public Comment**

In person public comment is accepted at this time on any topic of public interest. Each commenter will have three minutes, or such amount as the meeting chair determines, to speak. Public comment is not taken on individual agenda items during the meeting. Public comment is simply received by the Committee, with no response, and the Committee cannot deliberate on items that are not on the agenda. The lack of comment is not an endorsement or a denial of the comment.

Please refer to guidelines and instructions for public comment, including orderly behavior and civility in remarks, on the City's website. Remote public comment is allowed with advance notice by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before the meeting by emailing cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov, provided that all remote commenters shall be required to display their true name and to keep their camera turned on to show their true uncovered face while delivering their comments.

4. Climate Manager Updates

4.A Adam Nebenzahl to Present on a New Business Recognition Program

4.B Announcements

- Volunteer appreciation event on Wednesday, May 6 from 6-8 PM.
- Volunteer Handbook & Compliance Requirements for Viewing Public Records Act, Open Public Meetings Act, Ethics Training.
- Expiring terms and the (re-)application process. All members with terms expiring June 30, 2026, were emailed. Applications due May 3rd. [Application link](#). Interviews on Friday, May 15th- Friday, May 22.
- Ecology has published the [draft 2026 utility-specific carbon intensity \(CI\) values](#) for electricity under the Clean Fuel Standard (CFS). These values apply to electricity that would be consumed in calendar year 2026.

4.C Climate Action Updates

- Solarize Campaign & Solar Collective
- Solar + Battery Storage Grant Update
- Breaking Barriers Fleet Electrification Accelerator
- EV Charging Code Update for Multifamily
- April Earth Month
 - o [3/29 Environmental Conference](#) – Sea Level Rise
 - o [Sustainable Bainbridge Island Events](#)
 - o City Hall Lobby Display
 - o 4/21 Council Study Session
 - 2023 GHG Inventory
 - CCAC 2025 Report & 2026 Workplan
 - CAP Update
 - o 3/25 & 4/22 Solarize Workshops
 - o 2nd Round E-Bike Incentives in May – April Announcements
- CAP Update
 - o Process
 - o Community Priority Survey
 - o Breakout Activity: Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
 - o Request: CCAC workgroup for updating targets

5. Regular Business

5.A Amendment to December's Regular Business Minutes

5.B Approve January Minutes, Kevin Thomas

5.C Approval of 2025 Report and 2026 Workplan & April 21 CCAC Presentation to City Council

6. Adjournment

The City of Bainbridge Island's meetings are wheelchair accessible. The City also provides auxiliary aids and services for effective communication such as assistive listening devices, closed captioning, and print materials in digital format. For other reasonable accommodations and/or modification to programs, services, or activities, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Anshu Wahi at awahi@bainbridgewa.gov or 206-947-0803 as soon as possible, preferably at least two business days prior to the meeting.

Zero Waste Business Recognition Program

December 9, 2025

Purpose

Recognize and reward Bainbridge Island businesses that are taking steps to help adhere to the City's disposable service ware ordinance.

Proposal – High Level

1. Create a program to recognize businesses that are taking actions that adhere to the City's disposable service ware ordinance.
2. Celebrate and recognize those businesses that are taking action to support zero-waste efforts
3. Create case studies that can be used to encourage other businesses to take similar actions.

Background

The implementation of Ordinance No. 2021-18 created dialogue between businesses, City councilmembers and staff regarding the roles of regulation versus incentives to create behavior changes that support the City's Climate Action Plan goals. Businesses were interested in a program to promote businesses that go above and beyond regulatory requirements in terms of zero waste. City staff are proposing a recognition to help promote those businesses implementing zero-waste actions that support the City's climate action goals and protect the health of our environment.

Many municipal governments administer or participate in climate-smart business recognition programs. In the state of Washington, the City of Mukilteo previously had a [Green Business Certification Program](#) called "Mukilteo Cares." The City partners with the Mukilteo Chamber of Commerce and Waste Management to promote a green economy with local businesses. Participating sponsors include Snohomish County PUD, Alderwood Water & Wastewater District, and Mukilteo Water & Wastewater District. Each Quarter, the business showing the greatest impact by meeting its green goals is recognized by the Mayor at a Mukilteo Chamber of Commerce meeting. Businesses that apply to become a Mukilteo Green Business Network member and are committed to making their green goals will also receive special promotions on the City website, at promotional events, and have a special window decal to proudly display in their window.

The state of California has an organization called the [California Green Business Network](#) that works with local jurisdictions to help certify businesses that are climate smart. The local jurisdiction and the state recognize those businesses through special promotions and small grant funds. The Network currently covers 22 cities and 26 counties.

Draft Program Outline

The Bainbridge Island Climate Conscious Business Program (CCBP) will be a certification program that promotes those businesses that are sustainable.

Step 1 – Enroll & Select Actions

- Business enrolls in the program.
- Reviews a menu of sustainable actions (e.g., policies, product choices, operational practices).
- Selects actions to implement to earn points.

Step 2 – Implement Actions

- Business completes chosen actions such as:
 - Adopting zero waste policies.
 - Switching to environmentally preferable products.
 - Improving waste reduction, recycling, or composting systems.

Step 3 – Document Completion

- To receive points, the business submits **proof of completion**, such as:
 - Receipts (e.g., disposable food ware).
 - Photos of improvements.
 - Copies of newly adopted policies.
 - Vendor confirmations or invoices.
 - Training attendance logs.

Step 4 – Points Review & Certification

- Program staff review documentation.
- Minimum of 80% of tasks achieved to reach certification
- Business receives recognition materials (window decal, online listing, certificate).

When a business is ready to apply, they would put all the program sheets together and submit them with the application. This would allow staff to review an application one time per application period.

Applications would be submitted on a rolling basis, and the certification would last 2 years. Businesses could reapply to receive continued recognition at the same or a different level. This program would start off as a 2-year pilot to gauge interest and then be assessed after 1 year.

City staff would keep a rolling list of businesses that have achieved each tier. If the program continues past the pilot, the City would reassess requirements for points every 5 years. If there are any changes, staff would certify businesses to any changes, and direct them what paperwork is required for recertification. Business will not have to resubmit for achievements they have already completed unless they are reapplying for certification.

Partnerships

Potential partners include the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce, Bainbridge Island Downtown Association, and Sustainable Bainbridge and Visit Bainbridge Island.

Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce and Bainbridge Island Downtown Association would be utilized to provide promotional and outreach support as well as promotion of the success stories.

Visit Bainbridge would be utilized to help promote sustainable business success stories on their website.

Sustainable Bainbridge and the City would help with technical support around grant and rebate identification.

Recognition

To incentivize businesses to participate, the City and sponsors must work to promote the businesses that achieve the certification.

Proposed benefits for businesses that achieve at least the Bronze status of recognition include:

- Promotion on City website/ Climate Conscious Partnership Directory Listing (created from this program).
- Special window decal.
- Technical Assistance in the identification of grants and rebates.

Tasks

To achieve recognition, businesses will have to invest in zero waste practices. These practices will be broken down by tasks, where businesses will have the opportunity to participate in some or all the options to help increase their score and achieve recognition. To verify they completed the task, a business would submit a form for the task completed with relevant documentation. This would allow staff to review an application one time per application period. The minimum requirement to achieve certification would be 80% of all tasks.

Below are some examples of tasks businesses could take to achieve recognition:¹

Waste

- Use of only home compostable disposable food service ware
- Paperless billing >95% of all vendors
- Paperless payroll for >95% of employees
- No printed receipts

Food

- Percent of entrees that are vegan/vegetarian
- Local food sourcing (type of food and distance)
- Sustainable food and beverages sold (USDA Certified organic, Demeter Certified Biodynamic, etc.)

Furnishings

- Furnishings Reused, salvaged, post-consumer recycled content, pre-consumer recycled content, etc.

Staff recommends that the Climate Change Advisory Committee develop a list of tasks businesses would need to achieve and return it to staff for finalization.

¹ Examples taken from [Green Restaurant Association Certification Standards](#)

Potential Next Steps

- Development of a list of eligible tasks
 - Work with CCAC beginning in February 2026; review with BIDA and the Chamber
- Create application and submittal process for businesses
- Identify staff needs and resources to review applications and provide technical assistance to businesses
- Identify funding needs to support the program (including decals with the certification year on them)
- Presentation to City Council to provide feedback

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Action Minutes CCAC - Jan 26, 2026

Called to order at 5:31 PM PT.

Member Attendees: Bill Dowey, Ray Victurine, Mike Cox, Steve Richards, Sanjay Bhatt, Kevin Thomas, Michael Kleeman, Derik Broekhoff

City Climate Manager: Laura Rýser

Absent Council Liaison: Kirsten Hytopoulos

- **Climate Manager Updates**
 - Work Plan Update: Top Priorities for 2026
 - Finalize GHG Emission Inventory
 - Finalize Solar + Storage Feasibility for City Facilities
 - Oversee Solarize Campaign
 - Finalize Transportation Study / Support Council with Next Steps
 - Execute Second E-Bike Voucher Program
 - March 17: CCAC to Give Update to the Council on Last Year's Activities and This Year's Priorities
 - Updating the CAP Itself
 - Laura lays out potential milestones timelines.
 - ACTION ITEM: Mike to reach out to the Utility Advisory Committee to see where their conversations stand with PSE
 - ACTION ITEM: Kevin to re-send potential divisions of labor for assisting with revisions to the CAP.
 - ACTION ITEM: Committee members to do deep dives on their respective sections with an eye towards how to improve, update, strengthen, and clarify.
- **Regular Business**
 - Agenda approved.
 - No conflicts of interest disclosures.
 - No public comment.
 - ACTION ITEM: Will get December minutes approved at the next session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53PM.

Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC)

Purpose

This report summarizes the work completed by the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) in 2025 and sets out the committee's priorities for the remainder of 2026. It is intended to inform both the Committee and the City Council of progress made in support of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).

2025 Annual Report

Kicking Gas Heat Pump Pilot Program - Review Outcomes and Findings / Recommend Next Steps

The CCAC originally helped design and plan this Pilot Program at the direction of Council and then Climate Manager Autumn Salamack. Once the program was completed this past year, members of the CCAC reviewed with Kicking Gas, City Staff, and the new Climate Manager Laura Rýser pilot findings and recommended next steps.

- Program Outcomes
 - Heat pumps installed: 20
 - Annual CO₂ emissions reduced: 62 metric tons
 - Community outreach events: 13
 - Applications received and reviewed: 123
 - Households qualifying for the program: 45 of 123 (37%)
 - Installations serving households ≤80% area median income: 18 of 20 (90%)
- Key Findings
 - The pilot should be considered a success. Met original goals for number of installations. Critically, 90% of installations served households at or below 80% of area median income, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in reaching the City's priority demographic.
 - Challenges included higher-than-anticipated installation costs, a lack of accessible financing options for lower-income participants, administrative complexity arising from City and Commerce grant requirements, and shifting market conditions driven by tariffs, inflation, and changes to federal tax credits.
- CCAC Recommended Next Steps
 - Sustain local investment in climate action incentives and subsidy programs, building on the pilot's success.

- Leverage partnerships and funding by expanding collaboration with regional organizations, responsible financing entities, and grant makers to extend the City's investment and build long-term program sustainability.
- Explore expanded incentives covering additional electrification measures — such as induction cooking and heat pump water heaters — and potential incentives for renters and small businesses.
- Develop equity-focused financing mechanisms, including bridge financing or low-interest loan options, to reduce upfront cost barriers for lower-income households.
- Adopt hybrid outreach models that combine virtual information sessions with in-person events to maximize accessibility and community connection.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Review Drafts and Provide Input

- An updated greenhouse gas inventory is crucial for evaluating the City's progress toward its Climate Action Plan goals.
- The CCAC reviewed the near final drafts of the updated GHG Inventory and provided comments based on requests from the Climate Manager.
- Finalization of the inventory has been delayed while the City's consultant completes an additional analysis of propane fuel methodology. The consultant is scheduled to present findings to the City Council at the April 21, 2026, meeting, after which the CCAC will be positioned to help report on updated emission trends and will seek to integrate the results into the CAP update process (see below).

Electric Vehicle Charging Code for Multifamily Buildings - Continue to Support Analysis and Refinements

- In 2024 Council liaisons and City Staff asked the CCAC to review the new Electric Vehicle Charging Code for Multifamily Buildings. Following analysis and recommendations produced by CCAC members in 2024, the City engaged an intern, Maurie Harbick, to conduct further research on potential updates to the EV charging code for multifamily properties. Maurie consulted with the CCAC members who led the 2024 analysis and presented interim findings at the October and November 2025 CCAC meetings.
- The CCAC has also noted that permitting readiness and infrastructure transparency for EV and other GHG-reducing installations should be incorporated into the broader CAP revision process.

Food Dehydrator Assessment - Assess and Recommend

- At the request of the City Council, the CCAC evaluated the merits of advocating for a particular brand of food dehydrator as a component of the City's composting program. The committee produced a report presenting the relevant considerations for Council review.
- The recommendation was provided to Council at the July 15, 2025, study session.

Climate Action Plan

- Climate Manager Laura Rýser has asked the CCAC to support her efforts to initiate the updating of the Climate Action Plan; the CCAC has begun to divide up the document by sections and to assign different pieces to respective members based on their expertise and interests. This work will continue as a central priority in 2026 (see below).

Comprehensive Plan

- The Planning Commission requested that the CCAC look at draft language related to revisions to the Comp Plan; the CCAC submitted comments related to incorporating considerations related to climate change and the CAP into the updated plan.

Groundwater Management Plan

- Council liaisons and City Staff requested that the CCAC participate in a subcommittee with the Utility Advisory Committee to provide input into the groundwater management plan.

2026 Work Plan Priorities

1. Climate Action Plan: Support Work to Update, Revise, Enhance

Draw on past experience and new perspectives to work with the Climate Manager to advance the CAP; conduct analysis on the current document and participate in community outreach, public surveys, and public meetings. Ensure that prior studies — including the ETIPP federal partnership analysis and the Fehr & Peers transportation study — are incorporated into the updated plan.

2. Greenhouse Gas Inventory: Support Finalization, Utilize for Other Work

Support the Climate Manager in finalizing the updated GHG inventory following the consultant's April 21 Council presentation; use the updated emissions data to inform CAP revision priorities.

3. Electric Vehicle Charging Code for Multifamily Buildings: Mine Past Analysis for Future Enhancements

Work with City staff to advance updates to the EV charging code that broaden access to Level 2 charging in new multifamily buildings, building on the 2024 CCAC report and the intern's 2025 analysis.

4. Solarize Bainbridge: Lean in to Help Promote

Support and extend the work of the Climate Manager and of Olympia Community Solar to promote outreach efforts for the Solarize Bainbridge program; leverage collaborations with the newly formed Bainbridge Solar Collective.

5. Solar and Battery Feasibility Study: Provide Feedback and Support

Review the feasibility study report and assist the Climate Manager in identifying potential funding opportunities for implementation.

6. Climate Mitigation Strategies for Bainbridge Island to Address Rising Sea Levels

Work with Climate Manager on sea level rise issues with a potential focus on monitoring changes along beaches and bluffs.

7. Progress Dashboard: Help Visualize Data and Insights

Work with the Climate Manager to develop a public-facing dashboard tracking the City's progress toward CAP goals.

8. Intercounty Climate Partnership: Share Knowledge, Seek Allies

Participate in the six-county regional climate partnership, which convenes quarterly.

9. Community Engagement

Support the Climate Manager and City Staff at community events through tabling and the development of public outreach materials.

10. City Council Requests

The CCAC always stands ready to respond to ad hoc requests from the City Council for information, analysis, or recommendations on climate-related matters.

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