

Action Minutes CCAC - May 20, 2026

Called to order at 5:33 PM PT.

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

City Climate Manager: Laura Rýser

Council Liaisons: Leslie Schneider

Absent Council Liaisons: Kirsten Hytopoulus

Absent Members: Bill Dowey, Michael Kleeman

Public Comment

- Charlotta [sp?]: Asks that the CCAC take up the topic of AI and data centers.
 - ACTION ITEM: The CCAC will add this to a future agenda for discussion.
- Jens B: Giving a talk on AI and Data Centers on June 9, Tue, at the Treehouse at 7PM.

Climate Manager Updates

- Ben Silesky gives an update on Solarize Bainbridge.
 - The final workshop is on June 8.
 - 237 sign-ups for assessments (original goal was 200 sign-ups).
 - 150+ workshop attendees.
 - ACTION ITEM: He will do a more extensive post-program assessment in August.
- Mike provides updates on the Climate Solutions Dinner, Climate Cafe, Bainbridge Solar Collective, and efforts around the Rotary Auction.
- We are slated to meet with PSE on June 4 for our annual meeting.
 - Mike led the effort to draft a set of questions to present to them; the spirit of the questions is that we need info from PSE to help advise the Council and to assist in revising the CAP.
 - ACTION ITEM: Sanjay has comments on the questions; he will draft additional questions specifically on the grid and on permitting.
 - Leslie reminds us that we drafted a franchise agreement and a COBI partnership agreement.
 - Mike asks that we explore an additional and separate meeting to see if PSE would discuss those questions; perhaps this could be a Council Study Session?
 - ACTION ITEM: Laura will take this to the Interim City Manager to find out if this can be done and how it would be executed.
 - Leslie reports that PSE has raised questions about permitting at COBI; she suggests that it would be useful for the CCAC to understand why COBI approaches permitting the way it does.
 - ACTION ITEM: Laura will meet with the City's Permit Manager to get a better understanding of why the City has its approach.
- The CCAC Work Plan was officially approved by the Council at its last session.
- Laura provides updates on the City's climate-related projects.

- Solar + Storage Grant. Assessing for solar and battery backup for two buildings, City Hall and the Operations & Maintenance Facility. Have engineering stamped designs. COBI will be seeking green energy grants in 2027 to move forward with both projects. Would give us another source of solar+storage if the grid goes down; would also allow us to power the electric fleet in an outage.
- The City is working with Hyla to get solar and battery backup to give the island another disaster hub with solar+storage.
- The Fleet Accelerator program is moving forward.
- Hannah is leading a Community Ride program.
- Having collaborated with the Chamber and Kitsap Transit (and Laura and Hannah), the Council has approved a new Kitsap Transit bus circulator for downtown on Saturdays starting at 11am at the ferry terminal; it will be free to riders.
- Laura has talked with the Planning team about the EV Code; they are deferring discussions until after June when the Sub-area Plan is complete, but they do have it on their radar.
- Laura has published a survey about climate priorities on the COBI website; has begun to get results.
- CAP Updates.
 - Ray, Derik, and Mike present their draft recommendations for the Natural Environment section of the CAP.
- **Regular Business**
 - Agenda approved.
 - No conflicts of interest disclosures.
 - Kevin did not submit minutes from the last meeting.
 - ACTION ITEM: Kevin to make sure that minutes for this meeting and the previous meeting are submitted to Nicole so we can approve at the next CCAC meeting.
 - See public comment above.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Kevin Thomas, Chair

6/23/2026

Date