

Chapter 2.22

SKAGIT COUNTY CLIMATE IMPACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2.22.010 Established.

There is hereby established the Skagit County climate impact advisory committee.

2.22.020 Purpose.

The principal purpose of the Skagit County (County) climate impact advisory committee is to collect, analyze and discuss peer-reviewed scientific studies, providing recommendations to the Skagit County Board of Commissioners (Board) on issues related to climate change impact risk, risk reduction, and adaptation. Recommendations shall be oriented around matters within the County's jurisdiction.

2.22.030 Function.

To advise the Board, in support of the County's climate action efforts, specifically as follows:

- (1) Review and make recommendations on Skagit County's climate action plan, at minimum every five years; and
- (2) Using data analyses from various departments, outside agencies or other institutions, evaluate and make recommendations regarding the County's compliance with targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the climate action plan, and recommend targets for evaluating and reporting on renewable energy goals; and
- (3) Review available peer-reviewed science and provide recommendations to the Board to support appropriate climate risk reduction and adaptation policies associated with sea level rise, floods, wildfires, drought and other climate change, to be used in community planning, infrastructure and capital facilities development, with a focus on protecting, sustaining and harmonizing Skagit County's natural resource industries (farming, fisheries, forestry, aquaculture), and the lands on which they depend; and
- (4) Advise the Board regarding new and emerging business concepts related to climate change adaptation and risk reduction, such as renewable energy and carbon sequestration, and their compatibility with the long-range protection and sustainment of Skagit County's natural resource lands and industries.
- (5) Make recommendations to the Board on public health and affordable housing policies related to climate change adaptation and risk reduction, including recommendations regarding climate change impacts specific to the Skagit River basin; and

- (6) Make recommendations to the Board on updates to the Skagit County comprehensive plan, in accordance with Skagit County's goals related to climate change adaptation and risk reduction, with a focus on the long-term protection and sustainment of Skagit County's natural resource lands and industries; and
- (7) Make recommendations to the Board on updates to Skagit County land use policies and development regulations in support of Skagit County's goals related to climate change adaptation and risk reduction; and
- (8) Serve as a conduit for information exchange and engagement in support of Skagit County's climate change adaptation and risk reduction; and
- (9) Make recommendations to the Board regarding state and federal climate policy priorities and their impact on the Skagit County's lands, resources, interests and community, with a focus on the long-term protection and sustainment of Skagit County's natural resource lands and industries.

2.22.040 Membership – Term of office.

- (1) The committee shall consist of 15 voting members.
- (2) Committee members must have previous work or educational experience in subjects including: climate change; civil or hydraulic engineering; hydrology; energy conservation; health; farming; fisheries; forestry; and/or flood risk management and planning.
- (3) All committee members must be full-time residents of Skagit County.
- (4) A committee seat is reserved for each of the four federally-recognized Skagit Tribes (Swinomish, Upper Skagit, Sauk-Suiattle, Samish). Designation must be by written action by the Tribe's governing body. If a Tribe does not designate a representative, that seat will remain reserved and open until filled by that Tribe's governing body.
- (5) A committee seat is reserved for a representative of Skagit County's dike districts responsible for the operation and management of the Skagit's riverine levees and marine dikes. If dike districts do not designate a representative, that seat will remain reserved and open until filled by the dike districts.
- (6) A committee seat is reserved for a representative of Skagit County's drainage and irrigation districts responsible for drainage, flood return flows, and irrigation in the diked and drained portion of the Skagit. If drainage/irrigation districts do not designate a representative, that seat will remain reserved and open until filled by the drainage/irrigation districts.

(7) One committee seat is reserved for a citizen, unaffiliated with any governmental entity, principally involved in climate change advocacy and education in Skagit County.

(8) The remaining eight committee seats are open to any Skagit County resident meeting the qualifications set forth by subsection (2) and (3) of this section.

(9) A quorum consists of at least half of the committee's appointed voting members.

(10) To the fullest extent possible, the committee will endeavor to make all decisions by consensus. To the extent consensus is not possible, decisions and recommendations will be made by majority vote. The Board encourages transparent debate, and, in the event of a split vote, dissenting committee members may submit a dissent.

(11) A county staff member with relevant background and experience will serve on the committee as a nonvoting member, voting only if needed to decide a tie vote of the committee.

(12) The Board will appoint the committee members and consult with county staff and various offices to identify the expertise required to address current climate mitigation and adaptation needs. In application for membership, committee members must disclose any financial or economic interest they may have in the committee's recommendations. Member terms will be three years from the year of appointment. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation.

2.22.050 Organization – Meetings.

Meetings of the committee will be open and accessible to the public, and subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. At every meeting, the committee will schedule an open session to take public comment on issues associated with the committee. Written records of meetings and any research, findings and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be public and promptly made available on Skagit County's website. The committee will adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business consistent with this ordinance, which must be approved by subsequent Board resolution. The committee will elect (i) a chair from among its members who shall preside at its meetings; and (ii) a vice chair, who will preside in the chair's absence or incapacity. The committee will determine its meeting schedule and agenda, but shall meet at least quarterly, not more than monthly. The committee may form and appoint ad hoc committees to work on specific issues, so long as at least two committee members are also members of each ad hoc committee.

2.22.060 Committee staffing.

The committee is encouraged to operate and hold its meetings as independent of county staffing and resources as possible. Staffing and other resources for the committee may be requested through the Board's office. The committee is authorized to request information from administrative departments as necessary, through the Board's office.

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