



CITY OF TACOMA

SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

VIRTUAL MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021
5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

To comply with Governor Jay Inslee's [Proclamation 20-28.15](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will not be conducted in-person. The meeting can be attended remotely using the following information:

Meeting phone line: (253) 215-8782

Meeting hyperlink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84328083947?pwd=YXo2N1dURXJhRkxpSHNMMnZhRTIGQT09>

Meeting ID: 843-2808-3947

Meeting password: 253253

Microphones will be muted and cameras turned off for all meeting participants, except for the Commissioners and staff presenters. Public comments will be accepted in meeting during the time set aside by the agenda. In addition, the Commission encourages community members to submit written comments prior to the meeting by 4:00 p.m. on December 16th. Please e-mail your comments to PBabbitt@cityoftacoma.org, put in the subject line "STC Meeting 12/16/21", and clearly indicate which agenda item(s), if any, you are addressing.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVE DECEMBER 16 AGENDA AND NOVEMBER 18 MINUTES
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. STAFF UPDATES
- V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES
- VI. 2022 COMMISSION MEETING DAY/TIME – DISCUSSION
- VII. YEAR-IN-REVIEW & YEAR-AHEAD – PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION
- VIII. COMMISSION NETWORKING – DISCUSSION
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- X. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC)

12/16/2021 Virtual Public Meeting

Welcome

Commissioners

Members of the public

Presenters and staff support:

LaTasha Wortham

Tacoma Public Utilities, Public Affairs and Communication

Patrick Babbitt, Kristin Lynett, James Parvey

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability



Office of
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and Sustainability

Call to Order



Land Acknowledgment

ʔuk'wədiid čət ʔuhigwəd txwəl tiit ʔa čət ʔal tə swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš. ʔa ti dxwʔa ti swatxwixwtxwəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš ʔəstətətłil tul'al tudiʔ tuhaʔkw. didiʔt ʔa həlgwəʔ ʔal ti sləxłil. dxwəstətłils həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uyayus həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uλ'axwəd həlgwəʔ tiit bədədəʔs gwəl tixdxw həlgwəʔ tiit ʔiisəds həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'uʔalalus həlgwəʔ gwəl λ'utxwəlšucidəb. xwəla ···b ʔə tiit tuyəl'yələbs.

We gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People. The Puyallup people have lived on this land since the beginning of time. They are still here today. They live, work, raise their children, take care of their community, practice their traditional ways and speak the Twulshootseed language – just as their ancestors did.



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Agenda – 12/16/2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- II. **APPROVE DECEMBER 16 AGENDA & NOVEMBER 18 MINUTES**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. **STAFF UPDATES**
- V. **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**
- VI. **2022 COMMISSION MEETING DAY/TIME – DISCUSSION**
- VII. **YEAR-IN-REVIEW & YEAR-AHEAD – PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**
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- IX. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- X. **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Motion)



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11/18/2021 Meeting Minutes Approval

(Motion)



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Public Comments



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Staff Updates

Last Meeting: 11/18

1. Transportation Impact Fees
 - Presentation
2. Green Hydrogen
 - Presentation
3. Stormwater & Watershed Management Planning
 - Presentation



Staff Updates

Commission Notices:

- Let Commission know if you can't attend 1/20
- Staff supported Commission subcommittees:
 - Waste Prevention/Recycle Reset: 12/14
 - Green Economy: 12/13
- 11/16: Tideflats Regulations adopted by Council
- 11/30: Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted by Council
- 12/7: Home in Tacoma ordinance adopted by Council
- Sustainability Small Grants applications due 12/30
 - www.cityoftacoma.org/ESgrants
- Commission Officer nominations in January



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Staff Updates

Around the City:

- 12/14 Seattle Times:

Omicron variant surging rapidly in Washington state, UW testing indicates

Dec. 14, 2021 at 6:51 am | Updated Dec. 14, 2021 at 10:30 am



- Health Department recommends:
 - Get vaccinated
 - Wear a mask
 - Stay 6 feet from others
 - Wash your hands often
 - Stay home if you're sick
 - Keep gatherings small
 - Get tested if you have symptoms
- ltpchd.org/healthy-people/human-coronavirus

Subcommittee Updates

- Upcoming subcommittee activities:
 - Waste Prevention & Recycling (12/14)
 - Green Economy (12/13)
- Welcoming Commissioners to report information relevant to the Commission or provide updates on subcommittee activities



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Other Business Items

1. 2022 Commission Meeting Day/Time
 - Discussion
2. Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead
 - Presentation
3. Commission Networking
 - Discussion



2022 Meeting Day/Time – Discussion

- **Discussion: maintain 3rd Thursdays, 5-7pm**

Advantages

- Follows monthly Planning Commission meetings
 - 1st/3rd Wednesdays
 - Follows monthly Transportation Commission meeting
 - 3rd Wednesdays
 - Splits Infrastructure, Planning, & Sust. Comm. meetings
 - 2nd/4th Wednesdays
 - Precedes Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays
 - Excellent Commission attendance
-
- **Note:** other Commission/Committee meetings may change



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Commission Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead – Presentation/Discussion

Presenters

Patrick Babbitt (he/him)

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Lexi Brewer (she/her), **Matthew Benedict** (he/him)

Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson, Sustainable Tacoma
Commission



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

COMMISSION OVERVIEW

Demographic	Membership (13)
District 1	1
District 2	4
District 3	4
District 4	1
District 5	2
Vacancies	1
BIPOC	5
Gender	8 female – 4 male
Youth	1

Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION

1. To bring “accountability, transparency, and vigilance to the long-term implementation of Tacoma’s [Climate] Action Plan and...”
2. “...[t]o oversee, coordinate, communicate, and encourage public involvement regarding sustainability initiatives as are consistent with the City’s vision and definition of sustainability.”



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

ANNUAL PRIORITIES

- **Environmental Action Plan update & climate emergency**
- Community engagement & active Outreach Subcomm.
- Public transit & sustainable transportation
- Building decarbonization
- Urban Forest Management Plan & air quality
- Waste prevention
- **Electrification & renewable energy**
- Work with local public partners
- **Industry, economy, tideflats**
- Food sovereignty
- **Equity & environmental justice**



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

AGENDA ITEMS

Jan. - CAP update, CAP Target letter, **Tideflats** letter

Feb. - Officer Nominations, **Small Grants** Program update, **Decarbonization Resolution** drafting, CAP update

Mar. - Officer Elections, Earth Day/Month Planning, **Tideflats Subarea Planning** update, CAP **Adaptation Strategy** update

Apr. - Rules of Procedure Amendment, ES Commission Participation Letter, **Annual Recommendations** drafting

May – CAP update, CAP Commission input, New Members

June – **Port Clean Air Strategy** update, CAP update, CAP Actions input

Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

AGENDA ITEMS

July – City-Council Waste Management Plan update, Small Grants Applications awards, **Home in Tacoma** Project letter, Top 5 CAP Actions update

Aug. – CAP Draft discussion, **Heat & Smoke Preparedness** letter

Sept. - **Hemp Industrial Uses** update, Proposed Tree Codes update, **CAP Adoption** letter, Tideflats letter

Oct. - Green Economy update, Small Grants Applications award, **Proposed Tree Code Updates** letter

Nov. - **Transportation Impact Fees** update, **Green Hydrogen** update, Stormwater & Watershed Management Planning update

Dec. - Year-in-Review/Year-Ahead discussion, Commission date/time, Commission networking

Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

SUBCOMMITTEES

- Climate Action Planning
- Decarbonization & Building Electrification
- Tideflats Regulations
- CAP Outreach
- Green Economy
- Waste Prevention & Recycling



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

- Tidelands Regulations & Subarea Planning (x3)
- Tacoma Emissions Target & Climate Action Preparations
- Commission Participation on Envir. Services Commission
- Home in Tacoma Project
- Heat & Smoke Preparedness
- Climate Action Plan Adoption
- Proposed Tree Code Updates



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

LETTERS

2. Tideflats Regulations (Jan.)

- Regulations should **preserve a low-carbon future**
- **Disallow fossil fuel and heavy industrial use expansions**
- Prohibit new mining/quarrying, smelting, coal facilities; prohibit petrochemical, fertilizer, and explosive manufacturing except in tideflats with conditional permit
- **Prohibit export of fossil fuel products**
- Permit **alternative fuels** with low carbon intensities
- Allocate adequate **staff support** for Subarea Planning
- Prepare for a green economy
- Prioritize **equity**

Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

LETTERS

5. Home in Tacoma Project (July)

- Supports project, recognizing its benefits for housing **supply, choice, and affordability; density and transit-oriented development**
- Emphasizes focus on **anti-displacement, tree preservation, deprioritizing parking**
- Recommends strengthening affordable housing **incentives**, investing in transit, reviewing codes related to short-term rentals and tree preservation



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

LETTERS

6. Heat and Smoke Preparedness (August)

- **Coordinate** City departments & public agencies
- Focus City **emergency preparedness strategy** on extreme heat and smoke
- Expand **staffing and resources**
- Open **relief centers** until emergency passes
- Make **transit free** during emergencies
- Improve **development codes** for preparedness
- **Focus on most vulnerable** community members



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

LETTERS

7. Climate Action Plan Adoption (Sept.)

- **Fully fund and staff** the Climate Action Plan
- Climate action requires a **transformative** pace and scale to meet the emergency
- Fund recent **budget requests**: Decarbonization Studies and right-of-way food growing projects
- Prioritize **federal recovery funding** for climate action



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

LETTERS

9. Proposed Tree Code Updates (Oct.)

- Remove **prohibition against food-producing trees** in right-of-way
- Clarify **protections for trees** in the right-of-way
- Update **penalties** for illegal pruning and removal of trees
- Improve **financial support** for low-income households to pay for sidewalk damaged by street trees



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

MEETINGS WITH COUNCIL & MANAGEMENT

Investing in COVID-19 Recovery, Community Resilience & Climate Protection

1. **Fund Decarbonization Studies** (mid-biennium process)
2. Rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels
 - Funding streams for CAP investments
 - Immediate CAP investments
3. **Community food project funding**
4. Sustainability Small Grant program funding
5. Green and socially just, shovel-ready projects
 - Federal funding and other funding opportunities

Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

AWARDED SMALL GRANTS

- St. Vincent de Paul – Thrift is Hip
- **Foss Waterway Seaport – Seaport Pollinator Garden**
- Food is Free Washington – Canning & Preservation Classes
- Community Member – Blueberry Park Beautification
- **Zero Waste Washington – Local Repair Economy Website**
- Islandwood – Tacoma Community Waters Unit
- Tacoma Farmers Market – Single Use Waste Reduction
- **Tacoma Tool Library – Curbside Tool Lending**

Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Mix of meeting business items, with focused priorities
- Strong attendance (74%)
- Vice-Chair leadership of Commission
- Active subcommittees
- Leadership across the Commission
- Equity- & environmental justice-focused recommendations



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

CITYWIDE SUSTAINABILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2019 – Climate Emergency Resolution

2020 – Mayor pledges a green, equitable recovery to COVID19

2020 – Anti-Racist Systems Transformation Resolution

2016-2020 – 35/70 Environmental Action Plan actions completed

2020-2021 – Climate Action Planning funding sustained

2021 – Decarbonization Resolution, studies funded

2021 – **1,000+ community members engaged in Climate Planning**

2021 – Tideflats Regulations Ordinance

2021 – **2030 Climate Action Plan (Resolution)**

2021 – Home in Tacoma Ordinance



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5XYDPPB>



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Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- **Reactions to 2021, moving forward to 2022?**
- **Some work is ongoing:**
 - Climate action
 - Tidelands Subarea Planning
 - Green economy
 - Sustainable transportation
 - Waste prevention
- **What do you want to see prioritized in 2022?**



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Commission Networking – Discussion

GUESS THAT COMMISSIONER!

- **Menti.com**
- **Code: 5439 6161**



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Public Comments



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Objectives for Next Meeting (Jan. 20)

Meeting items:

- Officer nominations - Discussion
- Sustainability Small Grants Applications – Review/Award
- Green Economy – Presentation (tentative)

Non-meeting items:

- Subcommittees: Green Economy
- 4 Commissioners' current term expires April 2022



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Adjournment

(Motion)



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City of Tacoma Sustainable Tacoma Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: December 16, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Katin Kendrena, Emily Pinckney, Lexi Brewer (Chair), Gabe Moaalii, Matthew Benedict (Vice-Chair), Tony Ivey, Evlondo Cooper, Elly Claus-McGahan, Margaret Schwertner

Commission Members Excused:

Adam Reichenberger

Commission Members Absent:

Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

Others Present:

Commission Support Staff: Patrick Babbitt (Commission staff liaison), Kristin Lynett, James Parvey, Lauren Choi

Members of the Public: Heidi Stephens

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Chairperson Lexi Brewer at 5:02pm, including an acknowledgement of the occupied indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public and shared virtual meeting practices and requirements.

Approval of December 16, 2021 Meeting Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda as written. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Elly Claus-McGahan

Action: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion we declared adopted.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

Approval of November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Katin Kendrena

Action: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion we declared adopted.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

Public Comment

No public comment was delivered in writing or given in meeting.

Staff Updates – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Commission staff liaison Patrick Babbitt recounted the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's (STC) November meeting activities and then delivered new notices to the Commission. Following up on November meeting activities, Patrick reported that staff

New notices included an update that staff supported a Green Economy Subcommittee meeting and Waste Prevention/Recycle Reset Subcommittee. Both subcommittees are expected to continue in January or beyond, with dates still being scheduled. In addition, staff recounted recent City Council action, including adoption of Tideflats Regulations, the 2030 Climate Action Plan, and Home in Tacoma ordinance. Patrick noted that Sustainability Small Grants quarterly applications are due December 31 and Commission Officer nominations will occur at the January meeting.

Discussing other important news related to the Tacoma community, staff shared recent Health Department reporting about COVID-19.

Jim Parvey communicated Tacoma City Council's unanimous adoption of the 2030 Climate Action Plan and that all Council Members seemed enthusiastic in its support and about the need to resource the Plan. He responded to a Commission question about implementation, explaining upcoming budget, grant-seeking, and other management processes to attain and coordinate financial and staff resources to support climate action implementation. To support the Commission's advisory and oversight role, staff will seek to incorporate regular budget process updates as part of the Staff Updates portion of Commission meetings.

Staff thanked Commissioners for participating in subcommittees focused on green economy research and getting program updates from Solid Waste Utility staff about waste prevention and recycling work.

Subcommittee Updates

Commission Chair Lexi Brewer shared that she and Vice-Chair Matthew Benedict met with Solid Waste Utility staff to learn more about waste prevention and recycling programming. They determined to set a follow-up meeting to go into depth about specific program areas. They also discussed potential areas for Commission attention or recommendations, including supporting budgeting for a potential waste characterization study as well as multi-family recycling education.

Commissioner Elly Claus-McGahan shared that a Green Economy Subcommittee met to prioritize research areas for future subcommittee work. Staff member Jim Parvey asked the subcommittee for support brainstorming a City approach to business engagement, and will seek to attend an upcoming subcommittee meeting.

No further updates were provided by Commissioners regarding other subcommittee activities.

Commission Business Items

2022 Commission Meeting Day/Time – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Patrick discussed considerations for setting Commission meetings at their current time, on third Thursdays or each month from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Patrick and Commission Chairpersons asked Commissioners whether adjusting the day or time of Commission meetings would better support Commissioner participation. The Commission determined no change to meeting day or time was needed.

Year-in-Review & Year-Ahead – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability; Chair Lexi Brewer, Vice-Chair Matthew Benedict

Patrick recounted the Commission's work during 2021, including its initial priorities set for the year, month-by-month meeting agenda items, subcommittees, recommendation letters, priorities communicated to City management and City Council, awarded Sustainability Small Grants applications, and other Commission and community-wide accomplishments. Other staff and Chairpersons communicated their thanks to Commissioners for a productive and impactful year of service amid very challenging circumstances.

Patrick invited anonymous or non-anonymous feedback through an online survey or direct email or other communications so the Commission and staff can continually improve.

Commissioners communicated a few priorities for 2022 beyond those set for 2021, including tracking decarbonization studies and supporting future work, supporting further Home in Tacoma work, and seeking opportunities to support engagement with the Puyallup Tribe.

Commission Networking – Patrick Babbitt, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Commissioners participated in a networking activity where they shared more about their sustainability knowledge and interests, connections to the Tacoma community, and winter traditions.

Commission Vice-Chair Matthew Benedict requested that networking be incorporated into Commission meeting roll calls at least quarterly.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Objectives for or before the Next Meeting

- Staff Updates
- Subcommittee Updates
- Officer Nominations – Discussion
- Sustainability Small Grants Applications – Review & Award
- Green Economy – Presentation (tentative)
- Subcommittees: Green Economy, Waste Prevention/Recycle Reset

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 6:47pm.

Adjournment of December 16, 2021 Meeting

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Matthew Benedict.

Seconded by: Evlondo Cooper

Action: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion we declared adopted.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Adam Reichenberger, Ashley Sloan, Nikie Walters

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, January 20, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Lexi Brewer, Chair

Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker