



# CITY OF TACOMA

## SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION

### VIRTUAL MEETING

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#### DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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 February 18<sup>th</sup>. Please e-mail your comments to [PBabbitt@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:PBabbitt@cityoftacoma.org), put in the subject line "STC Meeting 2/18/21", and clearly indicate which agenda item(s), if any, you are addressing.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVE JANUARY 21 MINUTES AND FEBRUARY 18 AGENDA
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. STAFF UPDATES
- V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES
- VI. OFFICER NOMINATIONS
- VII. SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM & OUTREACH – STAFF PRESENTATION
- VIII. TIDEFLATS SUBAREA PLANNING AND REGULATIONS – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
- IX. DECARBONIZATION RESOLUTION DRAFT REVIEW
- X. CLIMATE PLANNING UPDATE – STAFF PRESENTATION
- XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- XII. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

# Sustainable Tacoma Commission

2/18/2021 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, Leah Michaelson, Kyla Wilson**

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability



Office of  
Environmental Policy  
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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- II. **APPROVE FEBRUARY 18 AGENDA & JANUARY 21 MINUTES**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. **STAFF UPDATES**
- V. **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**
- VI. **OFFICER NOMINATIONS**
- VII. **SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM & OUTREACH – STAFF PRESENTATION**
- VIII. **TIDEFLATS SUBAREA PLANNING AND REGULATIONS – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**
- IX. **DECARBONIZATION RESOLUTION DRAFT REVIEW**
- X. **CLIMATE PLANNING UPDATE – STAFF PRESENTATION**
- XI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- XII. **OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING**
- XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Motion)



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# 1/21/2021 STC Minutes Approval

(Motion)



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# Public Comments



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# Staff Updates

## Last Meeting: 1/21

1. Climate Planning Update
  - Staff presentation
2. Climate Planning
  - Letter of recommendation
3. Tidelats Subarea Planning & Regulations
  - Letter of recommendation
4. Officer nominations
  - Moved to 2/18 Commission meeting



# Staff Updates

## Commission Notices:

- 2021 Commission Priorities Brainstorm:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1acD\\_aK3pmbksGpygx5prSPOKFVpPGpkF1xTwoMovTSs/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1acD_aK3pmbksGpygx5prSPOKFVpPGpkF1xTwoMovTSs/edit)
- 2021 Subcommittees:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MfQUTYmxU6NcnMTzQ5ZiY6u7MTgJzm-jJ-ksYqBQWxw/edit>
- 2020/2021 Commission feedback survey:  
<https://forms.gle/iHzKYsTDGvdvMGA67>





# Staff Updates

## Around the City:

- Sustainability Small Grant reopened 1/1/21, due 3/31/21
- Wednesday, 3/3, 5:30pm Planning Commission public hearing: proposed Tideflats and Industrial Land Use Regulation Amendments:  
<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/tideflatsinterim>
- 2021 Sustainability Expo event canceled; staff preparing virtual Earth Month activities and promotions
- Staff presented to City Council on 2/16 about Climate Action Planning

# Subcommittee Updates

- Welcoming Commissioners to report on subcommittee activities, possibly including:
  - Climate Action Plans Review
  - Tidelands Regulations & Subarea Planning
  - Planning Commission
  - Other?
- Upcoming subcommittee activities:
  - Waste prevention and recycling (Q1 or Q2 2021)



# Other Business Items

1. Officer Nominations
  - Discussion
2. Small Grants Program & Outreach
  - Staff presentation
3. Tidelands Subarea Planning & Regulations
  - Letter of recommendation
4. Decarbonization Resolution Draft
  - Review / discussion
5. Climate Planning Update
  - Staff presentation



# Officer Nomination

- **Roles:** Chair, Co-Chair, Vice-Chair
- **Term:** 1-year (renewable)
- **Hours/month:** 5 - 10
- **Qualifications:** meeting facilitation, agenda building, subcommittee leadership, familiarity with EAP, OEPS, STC
- **Duties:** coordination with staff on work plan, agendas, STC performance, reporting; direct meetings

**Today:** motion to nominate 1+ Officers



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# Officer Responsibilities

## Vice-Chair (Example)

- Work plan, agenda input
- Meeting facilitation
- Subcommittee support
- Commissioner support and accountability
- Commission performance tracking & review
- Annual Commission report to Council
- Sign documents
- Build working relationships



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# Small Grants Program & Outreach – Staff Presentation

- Staff: Leah Michaelson



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# Tideflats Subarea Planning & Regulations – Letter

- Link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LzYeV0JTJw5LgYh-ryx4BHSr-yAZ96UhDp6syeEY49Y/edit>



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# Decarbonization Resolution Draft Review

- Staff: Kristin Lynett



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# Decarbonization Resolution - Early Version: November

1. All new city owned buildings and major renovations exclude natural gas by Jan 2022
2. New fleet purchases to prioritize zero-emission equipment and fuels
  1. When suitable equipment exists
  2. Life cycle cost analysis shows premium less than 10%
  3. Suitable EV charging equipment is in place
3. The city shall encourage other local entities to also commit
4. The city shall conduct impact assessment on requiring all electric heating and fuel source in new development in the city and report back to IPS by May 2021
5. City Council and Mgr shall support legislative agenda that improves City's ability to advance decarbonization

# Decarbonization Resolution - Current Version: February

- Whereas section on encouraging and promoting active transportation for staff
  1. All new city owned buildings and major renovations exclude natural gas by Jan 2022
    - a) Shall evaluate feasibility of retrofitting existing buildings by 2030 and report made to IPS by Jan 2023.
  2. New fleet purchases to prioritize zero-emission equipment and fuels
    - a) When suitable equipment exists
    - b) Life cycle cost analysis shows premium less than 10%
    - c) Suitable EV charging equipment is in place
    - d) Applies to class 5 (19k lbs) and smaller vehicles
    - Shall develop a plan to retrofit each city owned parking facility and buildings with EV stations and report made to IPS by Jan 2023.
  3. The city shall encourage other local entities to also commit
  4. The city shall conduct impact assessment on requiring all electric heating and fuel source in new development in the city and report back to IPS by Jan 2023
  5. City Council and Mgr shall support legislative agenda that improves City's ability to advance decarbonization



# Decarbonization Resolution - Timeline

- March – IPS
- April - Council

# Climate Planning Update – Staff Presentation

(Change now to that presentation)



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# Public Comments



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# Objectives for Next Meeting (Mar. 18)

- Staff updates
- Subcommittee updates
- Officer Elections
- Climate Planning update (recurring)
- Tidelands Subarea Planning visioning – staff presentation
  - Meeting in a box (?)
- Earth Day/Month – staff presentation



# Adjournment

(Motion)



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City of Tacoma  
Office of Sustainability

March 3, 2021

TO: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee  
RE: Non-Interim Tideflats and Industrial Land Use Regulations Recommendations

Dear Council Members of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee,

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission is writing a second letter with recommendations and considerations for the drafting of non-interim Tideflats regulations, a process coordinated at this stage through Tacoma's Planning Commission. As you know, the purpose of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission is to advise City Council and staff on sustainability initiatives, bringing community accountability to implementation of the City's vision for sustainability<sup>1</sup>, 2016 Environmental Action Plan<sup>2</sup>, and other sustainability policies.

The Sustainable Tacoma Commission wishes to express support, with minor amendments, for the proposed draft non-interim Tideflats regulations. **We call on the City to take urgent action to preserve the possibility of a low-carbon future for our community, which is next to impossible if we allow fossil fuel investments to expand.** The current draft of the non-interim regulations largely does this, and our specific recommendations for minor changes follow.

Speaking to the importance of strong non-Interim regulations, our understanding of the intent of the previous Interim regulations was to preserve the full range of regulatory possibilities for the subarea plan. The Sustainable Tacoma Commission has affirmed many times that we want to see a net-zero future for our city; there is no way to meet that if we lock in additional investments in fossil fuels. To achieve this future, regulations need to be stringent in order to protect Tacoma from development that is against the public interest and existing City policies while we draft the Subarea Plan.

This is clearly a topic that is important to the broader community in Tacoma, and we have seen ongoing strong community advocacy from a large range of coalitions that share our understanding of the intent of the regulations, and what is needed to preserve that intent. We want to emphasize -- it is specific subsets of uses, not business and industry in general that we

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/office\\_of\\_environmental\\_policy\\_and\\_sustainability](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability)

<sup>2</sup>[https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/Sustainability/Tacoma\\_EAP.pdf](https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/Sustainability/Tacoma_EAP.pdf)



feel is contrary to the City of Tacoma's established environmental and economic goals. We believe there is a vibrant short- and long-term economic future in Tacoma's port that is not dependent on fossil fuels, and shifting focus at this time to adding green industries and jobs will position Tacoma to benefit as an early adopter of the global transition away from fossil fuels. Indeed, based on international, national, state, and local policies, we know for a fact that the success of the economy will be increasingly tied to the well-being of our environment in coming years. The prosperity of our community and recovery of our planet are co-dependent now more than ever. Tacoma should act now to seize the competitive advantage and other benefits based in fostering low- and zero-carbon technologies, practices, and industries. We believe Tacoma can become a national and internal model in the shift away from fossil fuels.

### **Recommendations**

Setting the stage for a successful, accountable, and transparent Subarea Planning process begins with protecting against fossil fuel industry development now in this non-interim regulations planning process. Following this process, we can begin to redesign and renew the tideflats economic engine with environmental justice at the center of Tideflats Subarea Planning.

We strongly support the non-Interim regulations as drafted, with the following recommendations:

1. In Section A, we support the regulations as drafted. The expanded notification to include occupants, not just property owners, is a meaningful step towards including the most impacted members of our community.
2. In Section B, we support the regulations as drafted with the following suggestion:
  - a. The definition of open space currently referenced in the draft interim regulations seems to include non-heavy use and passive-use open space, such as pocket parks. The language should be clarified to prohibit only heavy-intensity uses. We suggest this language be updated to make it more clear that low-intensity open space is allowable.
3. In Section C, we support the regulations as drafted. It is important to the health and safety of both Tacoma residents and our environment to minimize residential encroachment on industrial areas, and to minimize the impact of development on steep slopes and biodiversity corridors.
4. In Section D, we strongly support the regulations as drafted, with the following recommendations and considerations for Subsection VI:
  - a. In the definition of "Renewable Fuels," which will adopt any future state fuel standard, we suggest the language should also include a regional fuel standard, should one be adopted before the Tideflats Subarea Planning Process is complete.
  - b. In "Proposed Amendments to TMC 13.05.010 Conditional Use Permits and Title 19 Chapter 2.1.7.f Shoreline Conditional Use Permits," item 10 should be

periodically reviewed to be consistent with future City of Tacoma emissions targets and policy, for example, any new targets that result from the update to the Environmental Action Plan.

- c. The current code amendments to TMC 13.05.010 Conditional Use Permits should be reviewed for clarity of intent; in its current form, it is unclear that section TMC 13.05.010 describes Conditional Use Permits allowable under TMC 13.06.080 Special Use Criteria. We are concerned that a reader would come to the conclusion that New Major Fossil Fuel Facilities are allowed based on the current wording.
- d. All fossil fuel facilities, including those under the 1,000,000 gallon threshold, should be subject to conditional use permitting.
- e. We strongly encourage Planning staff to recruit or develop the skill set to thoroughly vet permit application information put forward, including technical information such as GHG emissions modeling or mitigation for allowable uses, if these skills are not already present within the Planning Department.
- f. Staff should establish processes, such as regular reporting requirements, to proactively review activities and enforce regulations beyond the common approach to enforce regulations on the basis of reported complaints. Complaint-based enforcement tends to be ineffective. In addition, complaint-based reporting requires organizations and community members to bear the burden of environmental protection that should be the purview of the City. Staff should implement fines sufficient to discouraging unpermitted behavior/activities.

### **Science and Policy Context**

In support of our recommendations, we wish to highlight the most relevant up-to-date climate science and related City policies.

The science on climate change is now well established. The 2018 UN International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report<sup>3</sup> details the projected impacts of global warming for 1.5°C and 2°C above pre-industrial average temperature. Reaching either of these thresholds will have devastating impacts on populations around the world, due to increases in summer temperatures, drought, flooding from sea level rise, and catastrophic storms. In response to these catastrophic impacts, the global target for signatories of the 2015 Paris Agreement is to limit warming to 1.5° C (2.7° F).<sup>4</sup> The same report found that we must achieve a 45% reduction from 2010 levels by 2030, and a 100% reduction by 2050 to reach this target, meaning have a little less than 10 years to make meaningful reductions in emissions to avoid exceeding a 1.5° future.

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<sup>3</sup> 2018 IPCC Summary for Policymakers: <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/#:~:text=The%20report%20was%20prepared%20under,all%20three%20IPCC%20working%20groups.&text=As%20part%20of%20the%20decision,global%20greenhouse%20gas%20emission%20pathways.>

<sup>4</sup> UNFCCC overview of the Paris Agreement: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

The City of Tacoma has committed to climate action through a number of different plans and policies, beginning with the initial 2008 Climate Action Plan.<sup>5</sup> Climate goals are included in the City's Comprehensive Plan (the One Tacoma Plan)<sup>6</sup>, and the 2015 Environmental Action Plan (EAP)<sup>7</sup>, which outlines 67 actions over a 5-year period to respond to environmental challenges and climate change, and set a target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. Unfortunately, according to the latest update to the City's Greenhouse gas inventory<sup>8</sup>, we did not meet that target.

Most recently, we've gotten a strong statement with the December 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution,<sup>9</sup> where the City of Tacoma recognized the direct threat of climate change on our community and that it requires immediate actions to minimize harm, and constitutes a public emergency. Additionally, Mayor Woodards signed on to the "Climate Mayors" pledge,<sup>10</sup> committing our city to meet the 2015 Paris agreement target after the United States' exit. Currently, the City is in the middle of its Climate Action Planning effort<sup>11</sup>, to create a plan to update and replace the 2015 EAP, and which will be more focused on climate action than the EAP. **The Sustainable Tacoma Commission feels that this is a strong case for preventing new fossil fuel uses and expansion of existing fossil fuel uses,** so that we do not come out of this process with a Climate Plan that sets policies and commits to one climate-safe future, and a reality and course to the future that are incompatible with the Plan.

Lastly, we want to point out that while we expect Tacoma to be good global citizens, and contribute to mitigating climate impacts for the global community, we will also feel the negative impacts of climate change here. According to the City's 2016 Climate Resilience Study,<sup>12</sup> warming is expected in all seasons, and Tacoma is expected to see more intense heat waves, landslides, and more intense precipitation events. Sea level rise in Tacoma will most impact the tideflats areas, and is projected to increase up to 19 inches by 2050, and 56 inches by 2100<sup>13</sup> -- with 24 inches of sea level rise, 100-year flood events will become annual events. Extreme heat

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<sup>5</sup> City of Tacoma 2008 Climate Action Plan:

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/office\\_of\\_environmental\\_policy\\_and\\_sustainability/climate/environmental\\_action\\_plan/2008\\_climate\\_action\\_plan](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/environmental_action_plan/2008_climate_action_plan)

<sup>6</sup> Environment and Watershed Health element, Policy EN-1.26:

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/office\\_of\\_environmental\\_policy\\_and\\_sustainability/climate/environmental\\_action\\_plan/2008\\_climate\\_action\\_plan](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/environmental_action_plan/2008_climate_action_plan)

<sup>7</sup> 2015 Environmental Action Plan:

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/office\\_of\\_environmental\\_policy\\_and\\_sustainability/climate/environmental\\_action\\_plan](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/environmental_action_plan)

<sup>8</sup> As part of the 2020-21 Climate Action Planning effort, the City of Tacoma worked with consultants to establish a baseline of our greenhouse gas emissions, and update previous inventories with that methodology. This report has been shared internally and with the Sustainable Tacoma commission. Contact: Kristi Lynett (kristi.lynett@cityoftacoma.org)

<sup>9</sup> Climate Emergency Resolution:

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in\\_the\\_news/city\\_council\\_approves\\_climate\\_emergency\\_resolution#:~:text=The%20Tacoma%20City%20Council%20passed,a%20climate%20emergency%20in%20Tacoma.](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in_the_news/city_council_approves_climate_emergency_resolution#:~:text=The%20Tacoma%20City%20Council%20passed,a%20climate%20emergency%20in%20Tacoma.)

<sup>10</sup> Climate Mayors Member Cities: <https://climatemayors.org/member-cities/>

<sup>11</sup> 2020-21 Climate Action Planning Overview:

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/office\\_of\\_environmental\\_policy\\_and\\_sustainability/climate/2020-21\\_climate\\_action\\_planning](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/office_of_environmental_policy_and_sustainability/climate/2020-21_climate_action_planning)

<sup>12</sup> 2016 Tacoma Climate Change Resilience Study Full Report:

[https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/Sustainability/Climate\\_Resilience\\_Study\\_Final\\_2016.pdf](https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/Sustainability/Climate_Resilience_Study_Final_2016.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> These figures from the Climate Change Resilience Study; the WA Coastal Network provides a more refined tool that gives sea level rise projections along with probabilities. Under a high emissions scenario at 2100, there is a 50% likelihood of seeing 30 inches of sea level rise, and a 5% likelihood of seeing 48 inches. <https://wacoastalnetwork.com/chm/research/slr-visualization/>

and inland flooding will directly impact (and are already impacting) Tacoma residents, and hit BIPOC frontline communities the hardest, which are already subjected to systemic inequalities.

Thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lexi Brewer", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

**Lexi Brewer**  
Chair, Sustainable Tacoma Commission

CC: City of Tacoma Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability  
Michael P. Slevin III, Environmental Service Department Director  
Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager  
Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works  
Lihuang Wung, Planning and Development Services

# CAP: Phase I & Phase II Engagement

Climate Action Planning Engagement Sub-Committee Meeting  
February 12, 2021



# PRESENTATION PURPOSE

## PURPOSE

- Provide a complete Phase I engagement overview, results, lessons
- Share Phase II engagement plans: purpose, methods, activities, goals

# CAP Timeline

## Phase I

Sept '20 – Jan '21

- Create EJ Leaders Workgroup
- Train Phase I Ambassadors
- Understand community priorities & concerns
- GHG Inventory & BAU Projection

## Phase II

Feb '21 – June '21

- Train Phase II Ambassadors
- Community input on actions & strategies
- Develop low carbon scenarios
- Identify priority actions and costs

## Phase III

July '21 – Sept '21

- EJ Leaders Workgroup recommendations & written section
- Draft Plan with equity centered implementable priority actions & indicators
- Final adoption

# Phase I Engagement: Purpose & Approach

## Purpose

- Gather input on community's priorities & concerns
- Establish new community relationships & inform public of CAP process
- Guide development of actions & strategies that align with community needs

## Approach

- **COVID-adapted:** primarily online
- **Leveraged energy and creativity:** community participants
- **Emphasized quality:** frontline communities, relationships, depth
- **Equitable:** compensated frontline community members to participate and connect their networks
- **Mixed methods:** presentations, visioning activities, interviews, surveys, social media, one-to-one outreach



# Phase I Engagement: Outreach & Results

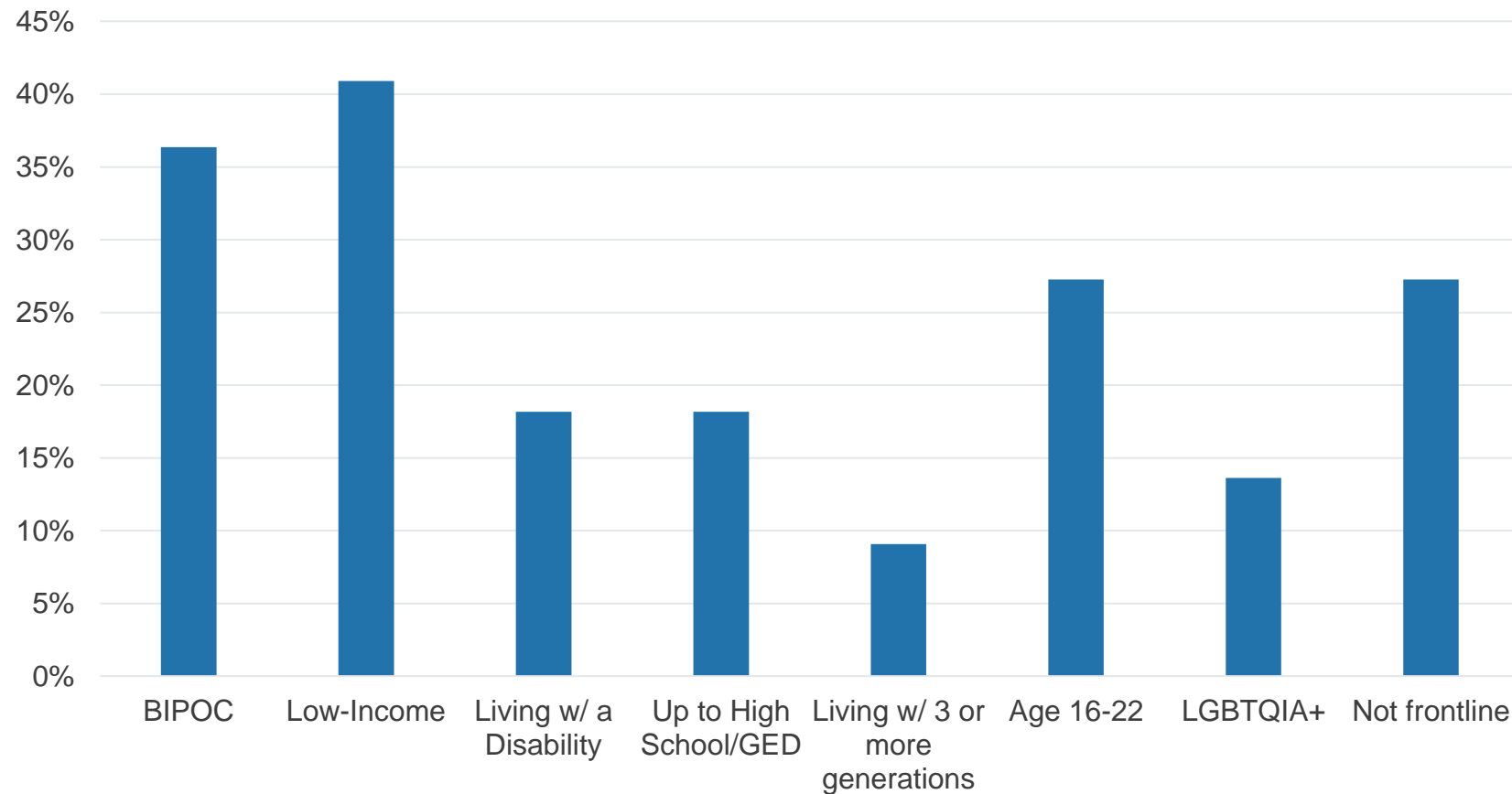
## Outreach

- 33 Ambassadors
- 10 EJ Leaders
- 13 Staff presentations to City Committees, Boards, and Commissions
- Staff emails & social media posts

## Results

- 321 stories
- 128 surveys
- 9 interviews

# Ambassador Demographics



# Phase 1 Engagement Methods

## Survey Questions

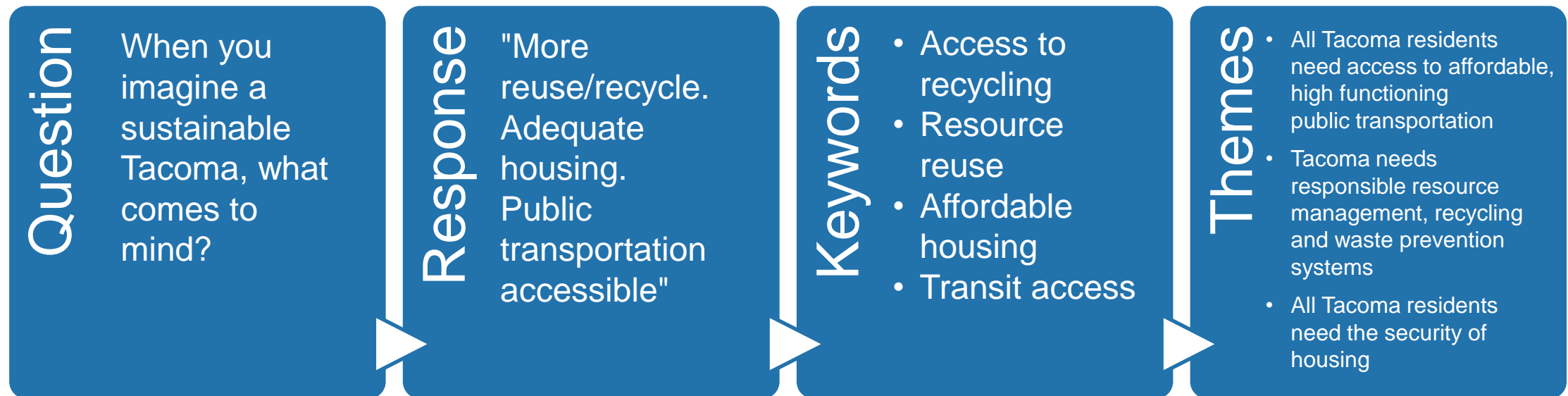
1. When you imagine a sustainable Tacoma, what comes to mind?
2. What could keep us from getting there?
3. What are some concerns you have living in this community?
4. Thinking about Tacoma and our region, what climate change impacts are you most concerned about?
5. What would make it easier for you and others in the community to participate in the climate justice action planning update process?
6. Any other thoughts/questions/comments?

## Story Format

The year is 2030. The place I live has \_\_\_\_\_. To get home from my job, I \_\_\_\_\_. In 2020, \_\_\_\_\_ was an issue in Tacoma. Now that has changed because \_\_\_\_\_. In 2030, I finally get to \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_.

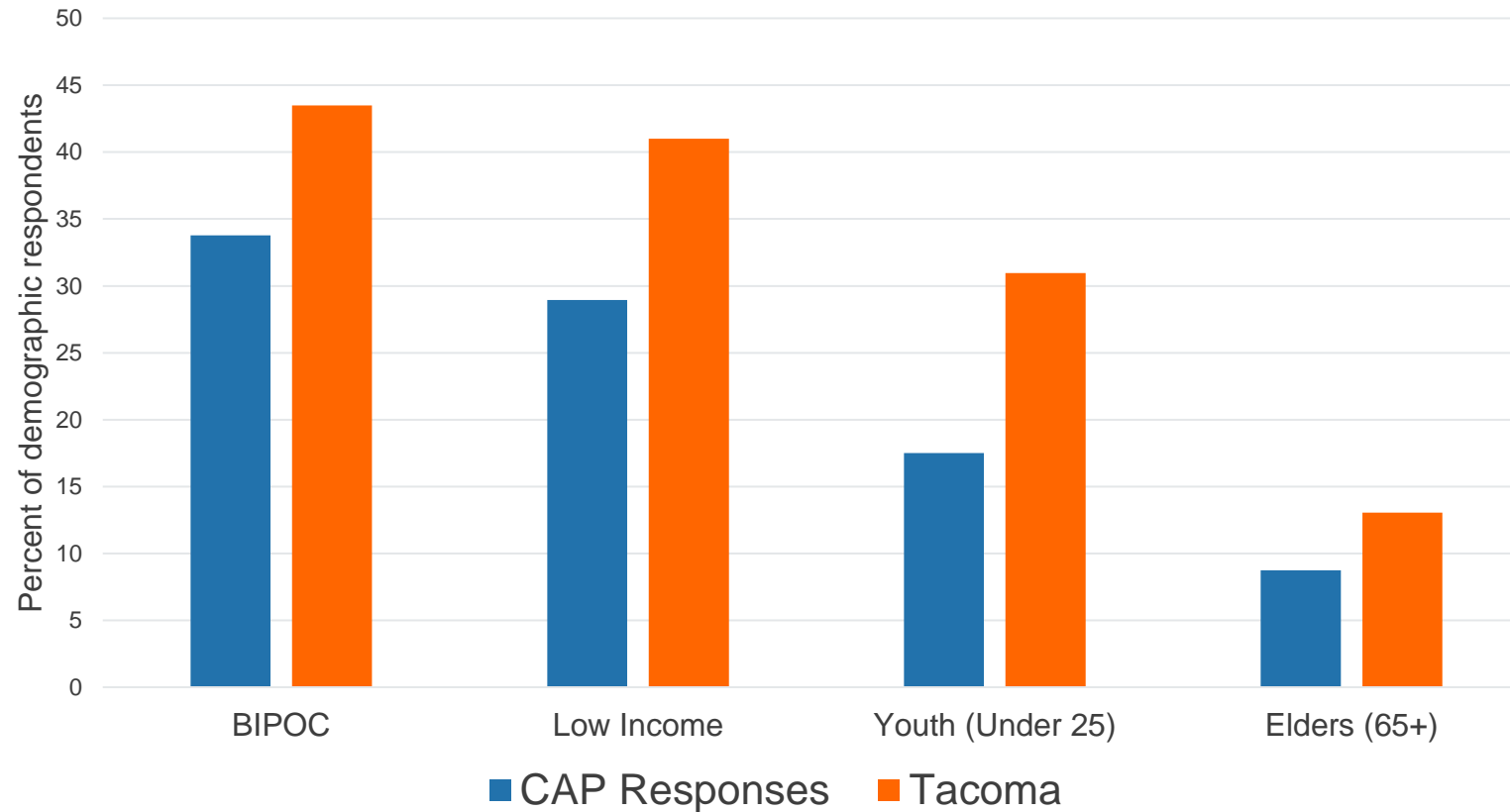
# Phase 1 Engagement Methods

- Read all responses
- Tag responses with keywords
- Group responses into themes using keywords
- Organize themes by Sustainability Priorities, Barriers to Sustainability, Community Concerns



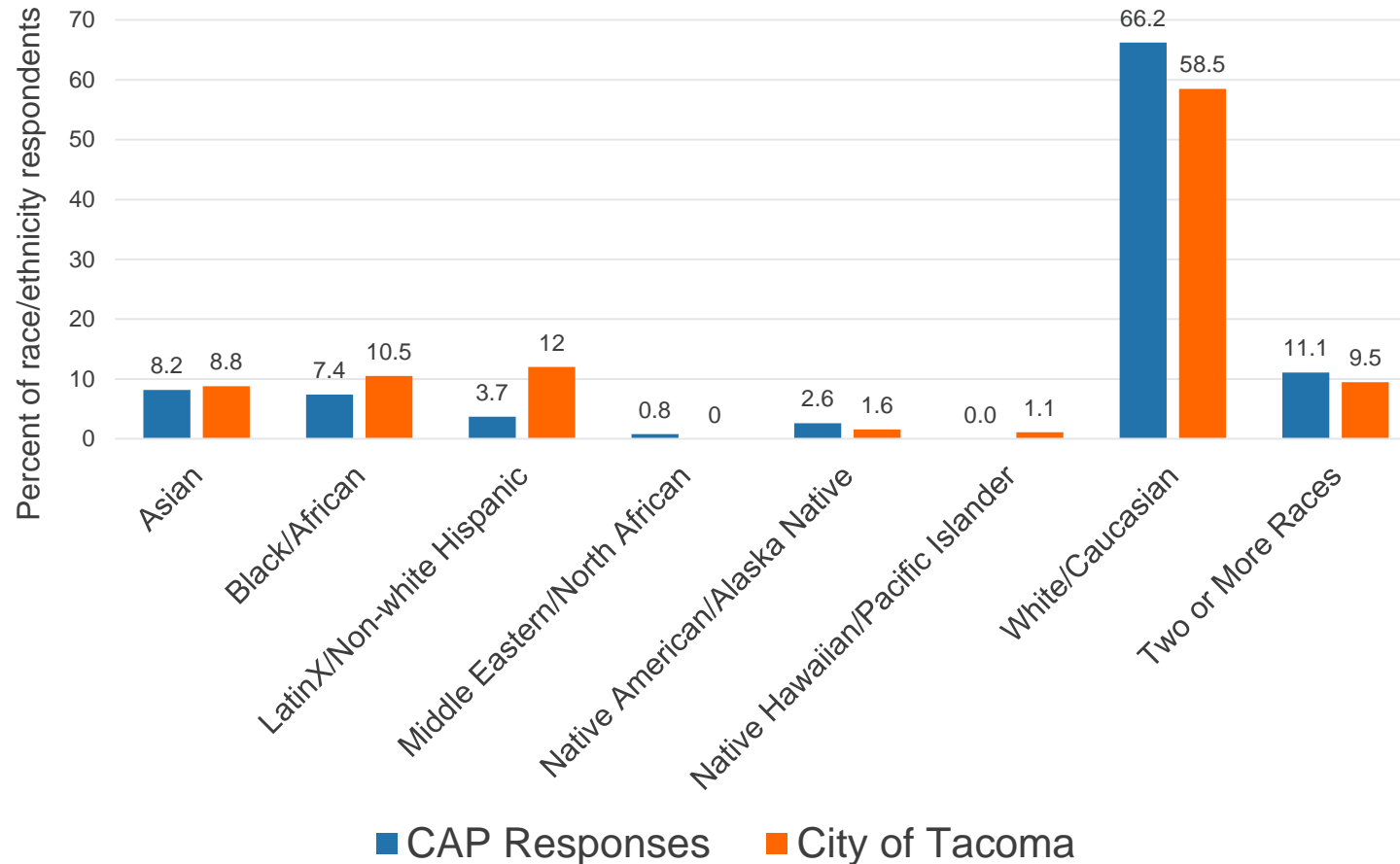
# Who We Heard From

Demographic Overview



# Respondent Demographics

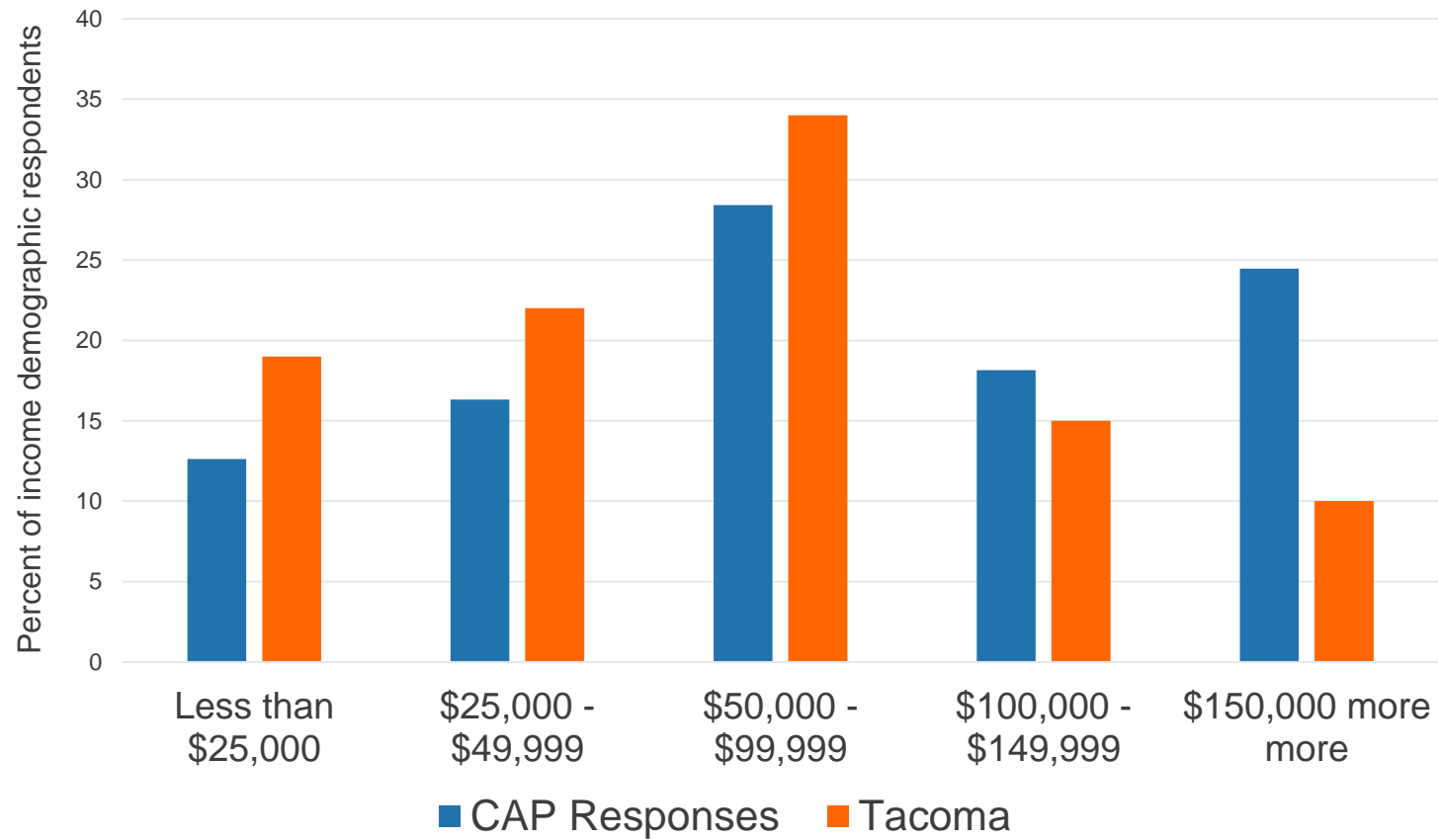
## Race/Ethnicity Demographics



| Two or More Race/Ethnicity  | # |
|---|---|
| Asian and White   | 7 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic and White   | 6 |
| Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and White  | 5 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and White   | 4 |
| Native American/Alaska Native, LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, and White   | 3 |
| Black/African, Asian, and White   | 3 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and LatinX/Non-white Hispanic   | 2 |
| Black/African, Middle Eastern/North African, and White  | 2 |
| Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and Black/African  | 1 |
| Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and Asian  | 1 |
| Native American/Alaska Native, LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, and Black/African   | 1 |
| Native American/Alaska Native and Asian   | 1 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, Asian and White  | 1 |
| LatinX/Non-white Hispanic and Black/African   | 1 |
| Asian and Middle Eastern/North African  | 1 |
| Black/African and White   | 1 |
| Middle Eastern/North African and White  | 1 |
| Asian, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian, Native American/Alaska Native, LatinX/Non-white Hispanic, Black/African, and White | 1 |

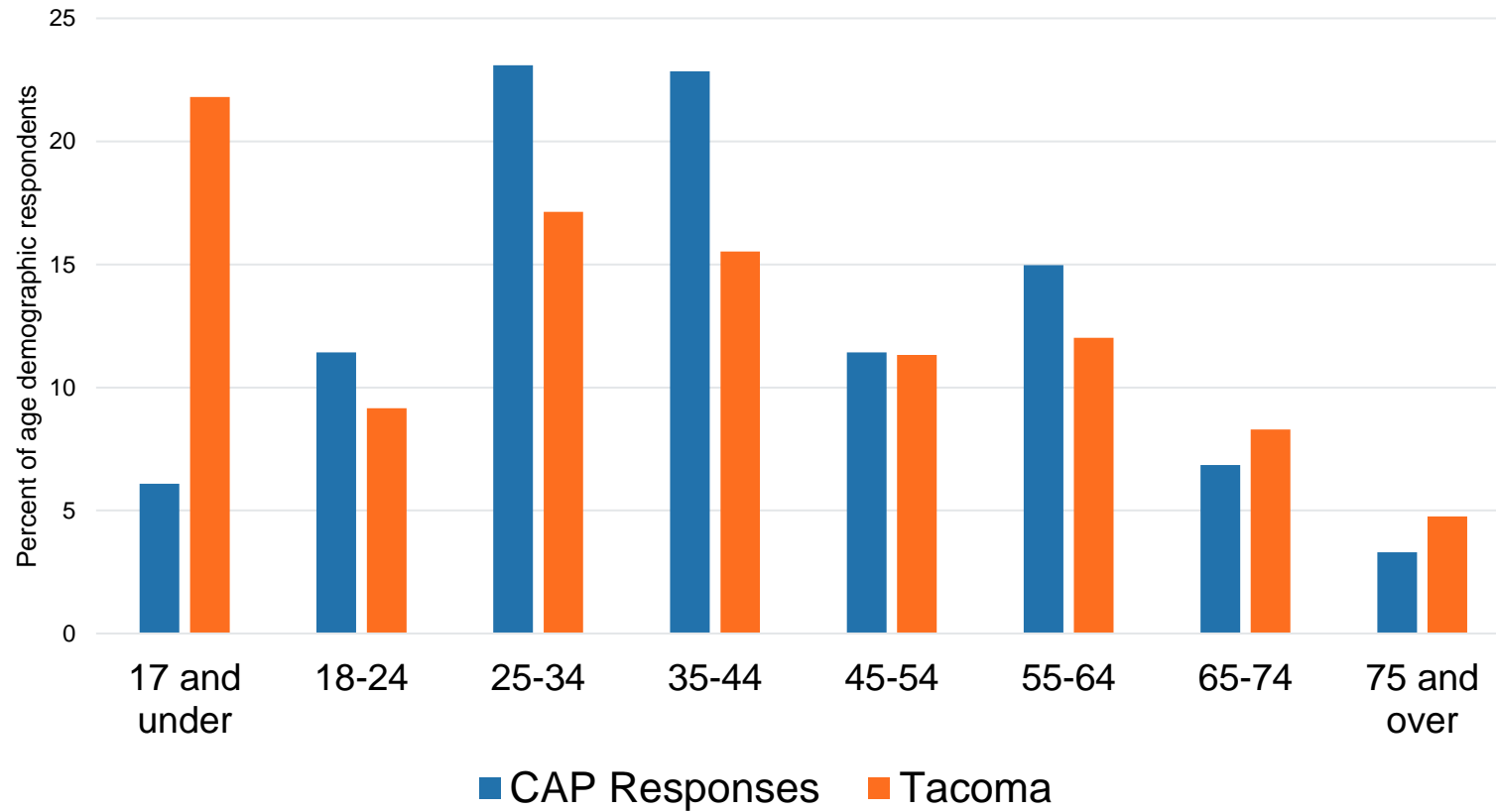
# Respondent Demographics

## 2019 Household Income Demographics



# Respondent Demographics

## Age Demographics





# Phase I Engagement Example Responses

## Personal Stories & Visions for Tacoma

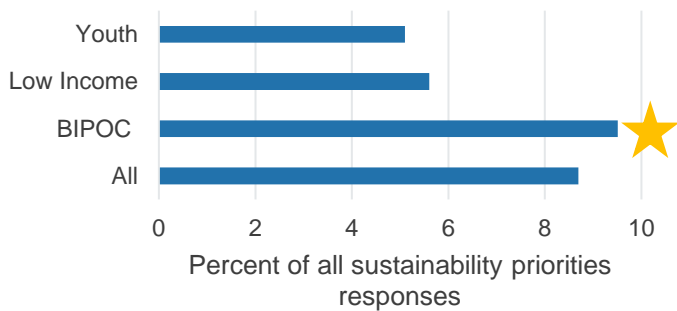
"The air quality is concerning to me given there is so many fossil fuel companies down at the Port that have been given unlimited expansion for the past 5 years"

"This community doesn't have a robust way to care for houseless or anyone who is on the verge of poverty or mental health care for anyone living on the margins/vulnerable."

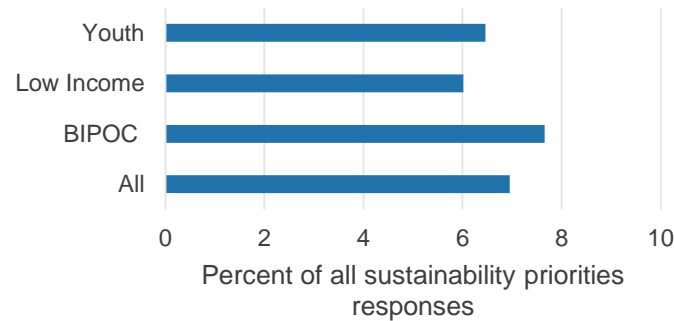
In 2030 I finally get "to ride the light rail to Seattle" because "we funded transit."

# Top Sustainability Priorities

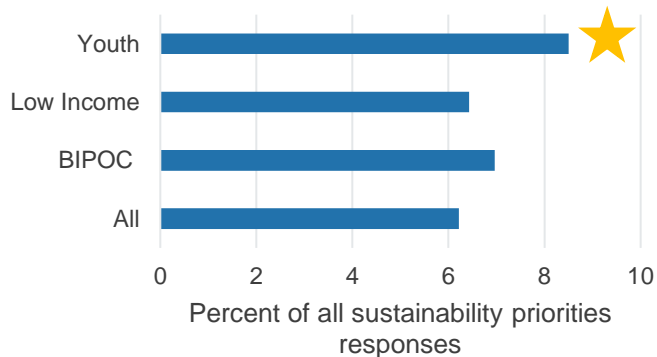
Tacomans need access to urban green spaces and forests to recreate, recharge and mitigate climate impacts



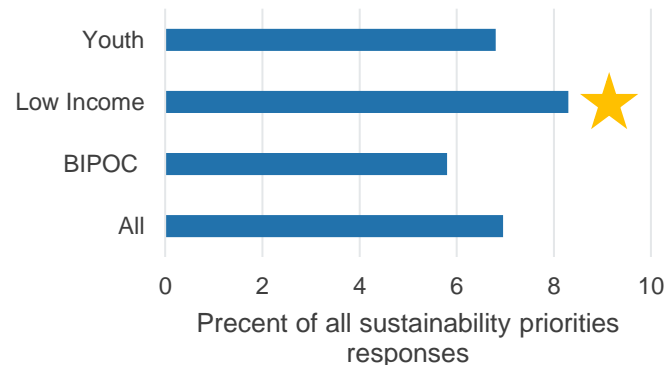
We need low carbon and active transportation systems to meet our climate action goals and connect our city



We need a healthy ecosystem free of pollution to protect human and nature welfare



All Tacoma residents need the security of housing

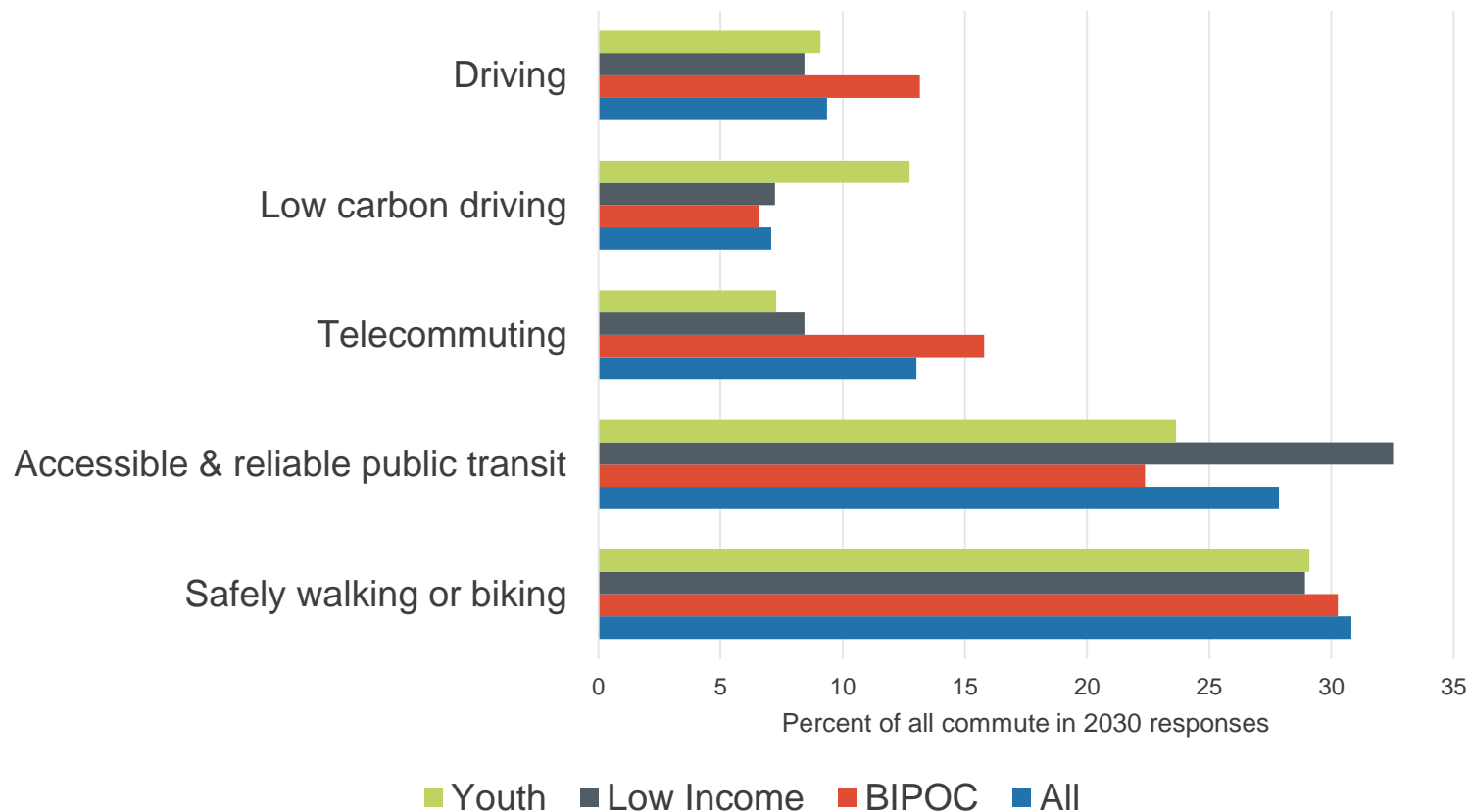


## Key Takeaways

- Social, economic, and environmental sustainability
- A sustainable Tacoma has urban greenery, healthy ecosystems, low carbon transportation options, and access to housing

# Transportation Highlight: How we commute

How we commute in 2030

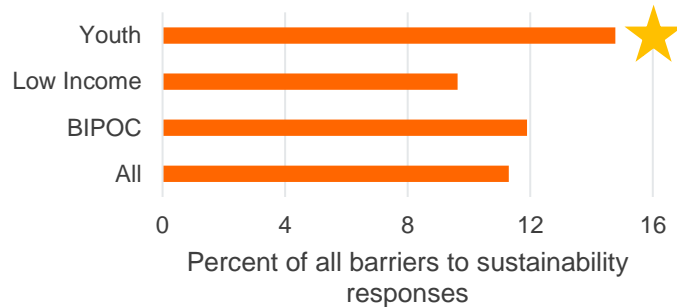


## Key Takeaway

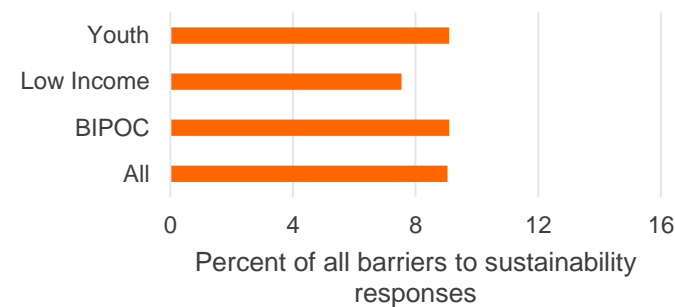
- City walkability and bikeability infrastructure
- Opportunities to live and work in the same neighborhood

# Top Barriers to Sustainability

Lack of government support and influence from special interest groups



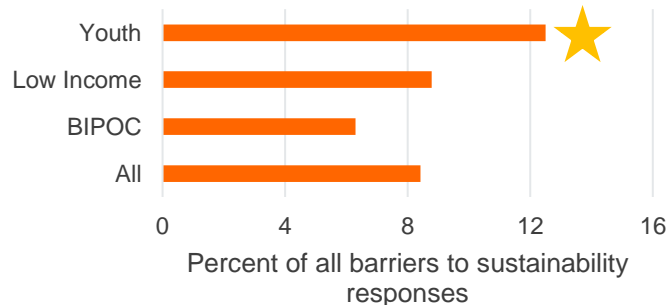
Current social norms and values that do not prioritize sustainability and care



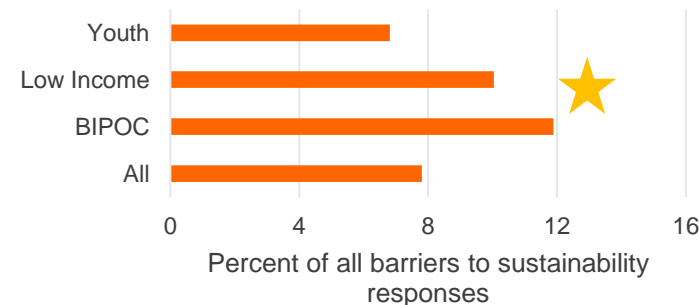
## Key Takeaways

- Improve government accountability & transparency
- Show leadership on climate action
- Lack of basic needs hinders participation and sustainability
- Promote ethics of care

Lack of incentives for businesses to adopt sustainable practices and take responsibility for their environmental impact

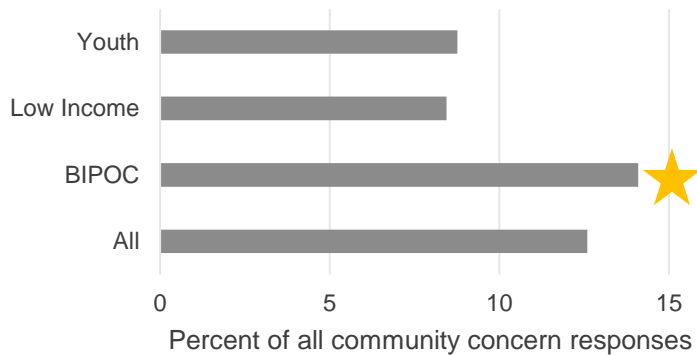


Lack of access to essential services that fulfill basic needs and provide the resources to thrive

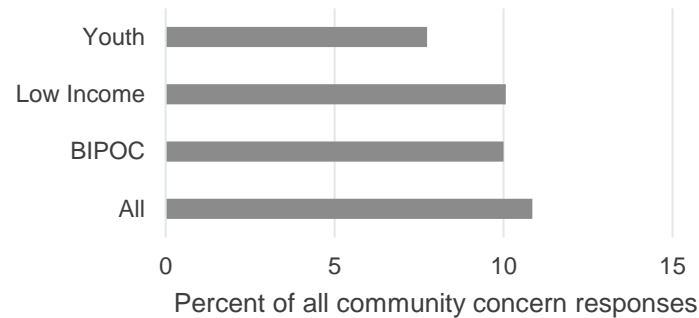


# Community Concerns

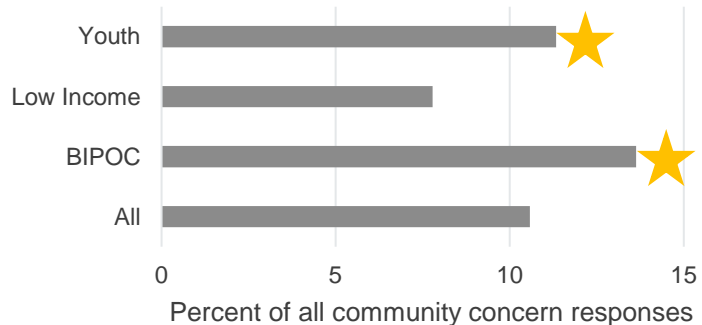
I am concerned about inequity and injustice in the community



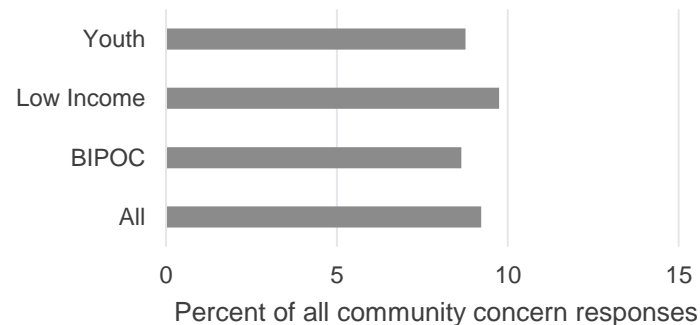
I am concerned about homelessness and access to housing



I am concerned about pollution in the community and the health of our ecosystem



I am concerned about climate change impacts on our community and fossil fuel industries.

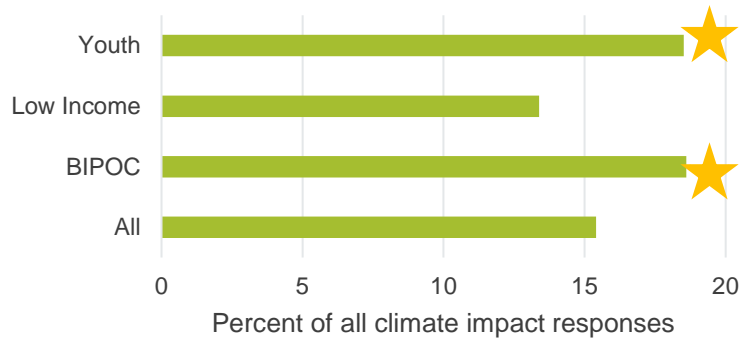


## Key Takeaways

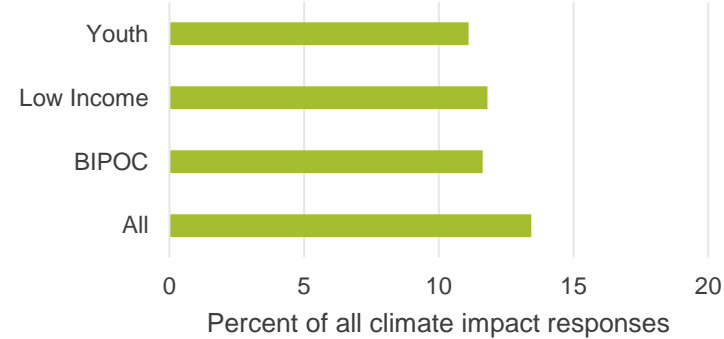
- Address intersections of environmental and social justice
- Strategies that address pollutants and housing affordability

# Climate Impacts of High Concern

Changes to ecosystem function and impacts on wildlife



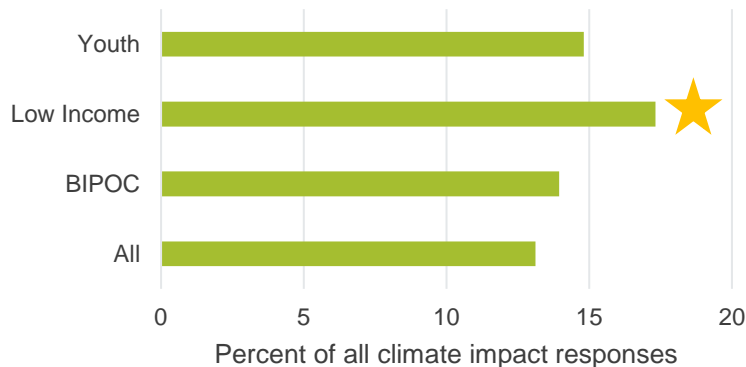
Access to freshwater



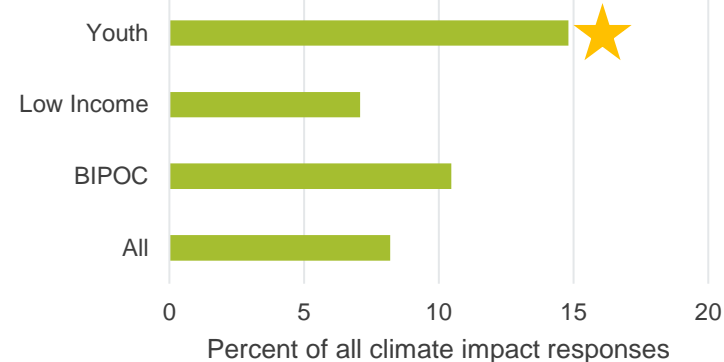
## Key Takeaways

- Focus on co-benefits of climate action
- Focus on ecosystem impacts, air quality, water availability, and wildfire in climate change context

Air quality



Impact on forests and increased susceptibility to wildfires



# EJ Leaders Phase I Feedback

- Strengthen collaboration and consultation with Tribal leadership
- Focus on the inequitable impact of other air and water pollutants
- Highlight the interdependency of natural and human systems and illustrate climate change's ecological impacts
- Monitoring and reporting methods: increase transparency and opportunity for community leadership and participation

# Reflections on Community Roles: EJ Leaders Workgroup

## Strengths & Lessons

- Entirely frontline community members
- Authenticity and trust remain challenging
- Stewarding group's space, relationships, and productivity is a learning experience
- Takes a lot of staff time!
- Hopeful about the "investment" and its potential outcomes: depth and quality of input, long-term relationships and community capacity/leadership, Plan ownership



# Reflections on Community Roles: EJ Leaders Workgroup

## Changes in Phase II

- Shift from team- and context-building to strategy and action development, Plan section drafting
- Need to be prepared to slow down, address Workgroup needs and priorities, while steering toward mutually valued deliverables/outcomes for community

# Reflections on Community Roles: Ambassadors

## Strengths & Lessons

- Contributed approx. 200 responses from their social networks
- Compensated frontline community members, accepted all applicants
- Built relationships for Phase II
- Need better tracking, reporting, and engagement tool-specific training



**Changes to role for Phase II**

# Where does all the Phase I input go? How is it used?

## Processes for Incorporating Community Input and Guidance

- Strategies and Actions considered during Phase II will be cross-referenced with a list of community (1) priorities, (2) barriers, and (3) SJ/EJ considerations
  - Based on frequency and uniqueness of responses
- 2-way learning with community members as they provide input about Strategies and Actions in workshop-style events
- Staff, consultants, contractors, and community participants are receiving Phase I input – we are embodying these needs, concerns, and insights as we move forward

# Lessons Learned & Next Steps for Phase II

## Final Lessons for Engagement:

- More direct staff-led engagement
- Adapt community participation roles based on experience, scope

## Phase II Scope:

- Develop low carbon scenarios
- Gather community input on actions & strategies
- Develop actions & strategies to meet climate goals

# Preparing Phase II Engagement

## When:

- Mid-April to mid-June 2021
  - Recruitment/scheduling: March
  - Input analysis, reporting, plan drafting: July
  - Plan finalization and adoption: late summer and autumn

# Preparing Phase II Engagement

## **Purpose of Phase II Engagement:**

- Build and deepen relationships and partnerships
- Center frontline communities' voices and priorities
- Train and educate community members to build community capacity
- Provide community with the information and context they need to give informed feedback
- Develop climate strategies/actions that serve community vision, social justice

# Preparing Phase II Engagement

## **Outcomes We Want from Phase II Engagement:**

- An inclusive, just, authentic, and purposeful process
- Quality and representative input that focuses on frontline communities
- Improved community relationships and capacity
- Increased civic engagement and established channels with future climate justice action
- Increased internal knowledge/support for climate justice action
- A Plan that feels like it belongs to the community and reflects its diversity, perspective, and priorities

# Preparing Phase II Engagement

## **Potential Approaches to Achieve Phase II Outcomes & Purpose:**

- Partnering with community orgs to host workshops & interactive presentations
- City/CHB hosted workshops & interactive presentations
- City presentations to CBCs
- Ambassadors serving as host/connector

## **Other potential tools:**

- One-on-one interviews
- Focus groups
- Surveys



# Preparing Phase II Engagement

## New/Adjusted (Potential) Phase II Engagement Roles and Activities

- **Robust social media engagement:** more and paid posts, including post-sharing and post-drafting by partners
- **Event surveying:** pre- and post-surveys for events to clarify individual knowledge, assess benefits of informational activities at event, and provide depth in input
- **1-1 conversations:** staff-led, casual conversations with key partners, community leaders, and frontline community members to supplement depth and equity in engagement
- **Focus groups:** focused input from frontline communities
- **Ambassadors:** shift toward "host" / "connector" role

# Preparing Phase II Engagement

## Phase II Ambassador Role in Detail

- **Who:** frontline individual or organization
- **Role:** host / connector
- **Activities:**
  - Partner, individual, or staff-led workshops
  - Social media posts and emails: surveys
  - Be interviewed, surveyed
- **Deliverables:** vary by role, skillset, social network
- **Not changing:** paid, emphasis on frontline
- **Considerations:** quality over quantity, staff time/resource limitations

# Preparing Phase II Engagement

## Targets

- **Social media:** 4-6 paid posts, 10-20 partner organization posts
- **Events:** 8 City/CHB-led workshops, 6 community-hosted workshops
- **1-1 conversations:** 10+
- **Focus groups:** 1-3
- **Ambassadors:** 5+ key organizations, 10+ frontline community members
- **EJLW:** 6 meetings, draft section of Plan, regular and substantive input
- **Overall goal:** substantive input from a large, representative sample of Tacomans

# Questions for Commission

- Feedback or reflections on Phase I results? How should this inform Phase II?
- Thoughts on how to engage (frontline) communities in Phase II? (Virtual)
- For Phase II, engagement budget = \$18.5k. What should we do with it?
- Who are community members and partner organizations that you know that we should engage as potential Ambassadors (hosts, interviewees)?
  - Who can you be the engagement lead/point-of-contact for?
  - Who do we feel we don't have connections to?
- Who should create and how do we prioritize the actions? (Role of community vs. staff/expert consultants)

# Next Steps

## **Staff or STC**

- Send messaging to Commission to help recruit & engage
- Clarify budget available for activities, community participants
- Recruit Ambassadors and partner organizations
- Promote and support community workshops



**City of Tacoma  
Sustainable Tacoma Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** February 18, 2021

**Commission Members Present:**

Matthew Benedict, Elly Claus-McGahan, Katin Kendrena, Nikie Walters, Ashley Sloan, Phil Coughlan, Evlondo Cooper, David Thompson (left 5:50pm), Gabe Moaalii (left 5:45pm), Lexi Brewer (joins 5:15pm), Tony Ivey (joins 5:15pm)

**Commission Members Excused:**

Emily Pinckney, Grace Hope

**Commission Members Absent:**

None

**Others Present:**

Commission Support Staff: Kristin Lynett, James Parvey, LaTasha Wortham, Leah Michaelson, Kyla Wilson, Patrick Babbitt

Public: None

**Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Lexi Brewer at 5:16 p.m. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public and shared virtual meeting practices and requirements.

**Approval of February 18, 2021, Meeting Agenda**

**Motion:** To adopt meeting agenda as written. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

**Seconded by:** Evlondo Cooper

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, David Thompson

**Approval of January 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To adopt meeting minutes as written. Motion made by Evlondo Cooper.

**Seconded by:** Matthew Benedict

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, Grace Hope

### **Public Comment**

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

### **Staff Updates**

Patrick provided a brief refresher on the last Commission meeting's agenda topics, and directed Commissioners to hyperlinks where they can give input about Commission priorities, subcommittees, and opportunities to improve the Commission in the new year. He also asked Commissioners to help promote the Sustainability Small Grants program, which funds community-led sustainability projects that are vetted by staff and the Commission. He also noted the Planning Commission's March 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing about the proposed Tideflats and Industrial Land Use Regulation Amendments, which the Commission has expressed interest in and written a recent letter of recommendation about. Finally, he announced that the 2021 Sustainability Expo event has been canceled and that staff are preparing virtual Earth Month activities. Responsible staff will visit the Commission in March to discuss Earth Month event planning.

Kristin, LaTasha, and James shared briefly about their staff presentation to Tacoma City Council on February 16 about Climate Action Planning. They noted that Council was generally very supportive about the planning process and interested to hear about its implementation in line with past policies, including the 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution and 2020 Anti-Racist Systems Transformation Resolution. Patrick will forward their presentation file to the Commission for their awareness.

Staff thanked Commissioners for their work outside meetings, including subcommittees.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Lexi reported that the Climate Action Planning subcommittee is meeting monthly to become more familiar with other communities' climate action plans. In addition, she reported interest in the Planning and Development Services Department providing their standardized Tideflats Subarea Planning process presentation to the Commission. Patrick confirmed that Steven Atkinson, who works in that department, will be presenting to the Commission in March on this topic. Related to climate and decarbonization, James noted that the Decarbonization Resolution (draft) will go to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee in March and that staff are currently seeking the Mayor's support for the Resolution. So far, City Council feedback has been supportive.

Phil, Nikie, and Lexi reported the Planning Commission recently discussed the use of impact fees in Tacoma to help pay for different environmental impacts due to development pressures. The Commission is interested to track this conversation.

Patrick announced a waste prevention- and recycling-focused subcommittee will be convened in the first or second quarter of 2021.

### **Commission Business Items**

### **Officer Nominations**

Patrick introduced the annual nomination process for Commission Officers, meaning Chairpersons, Co-Chairpersons, or Vice-Chairpersons. He discussed time commitments, qualifications, duties, and the 1-year (renewable) length of term. Lexi discussed her interest in continuing as Chairperson with Commission support. Nikie and Evlondo asked Matthew whether he was interested in serving as a Chairperson.

### **Nomination of Chairpersons**

**Motion:** To nominate Lexi Brewer to be considered for election, scheduled for the Commission's March meeting, to serve as Chairperson for the following 12 months. 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:** Lexi Brewer

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, Grace Hope

**Motion:** To nominate Matthew Benedict to be considered for election, scheduled for the Commission's March meeting, to serve as Vice-Chairperson for the following 12 months. Motion made by Lexi Brewer.

**Seconded by:** Nikie Walters

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** Matthew Benedict

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, Grace Hope

### **Small Grants Program Update – Leah Michaelsen, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma**

Leah introduced new Commission members to the program, which the Commission makes funding recommendations for. The program funds community-led sustainability projects aligned with Environmental Services Department utility goals. Funds are reduced this year due to COVID-19-related budget cuts. Projects are awarded a maximum reimbursable amount of \$5,000. Applications are accepted quarterly, so Quarter 1, 2021 applications are due March 31. The Commission will work with staff to award and notify projects by April 30. Learn more at [https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/environmentalservices/grants\\_and\\_sponsorships/sustainability\\_small\\_grant](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/grants_and_sponsorships/sustainability_small_grant). Commissioners were asked to help spread information through their social networks to encourage participation.

### **Tideflats Subarea Planning and Non-Interim Regulations Letter of Recommendation Drafting**

Lexi provided a draft letter outline, based on the Commission's January 2021 letter regarding the same topic. This letter serves as a follow-up letter to that one, based on additional information that has become available. The letter speaks to the draft non-interim Tideflats regulations. It urges Tacoma City Council to take action to preserve the possibility for a low-carbon future through stringent non-interim regulations. It expresses strong, general support for the non-interim regulations as drafted, with additional specific recommendations. Again, the Commission asks that City staff and City Council keep equity at the forefront of decision-making.



Finally, the letter repeated science and policy context relevant to decision-making, which was provided in the prior letter regarding the same topic. The letter was adopted with recommendations written, directing a subcommittee to collaborate with staff to fill in context and put it on letterhead for delivery to City Council.

**Approval of Tideflats Subarea Planning and Non-Interim Regulations Letter of Recommendation**

**Motion:** To adopt letter with recommendations as written, with a subcommittee and staff filling in missing context and preparing it in a letter format. Motion made by Elly Claus-McGahan.

**Seconded by:** Evlondo Cooper

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

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Absent:** Emily Pinckney, Grace Hope, Gabe Moaalii, David Thompson

**Decarbonization Resolution – Kristin Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma**

Kristi shared an updated draft of the Resolution compared to the version the Commission had last seen. Staff, City Council Members, and others have been able to provide guidance and input to the draft Resolution at this stage. The Commission recommended that cooking decarbonization should be added to the impact assessment called for by the draft Resolution. The draft Resolution is headed to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability committee on March 3 and to City Council in April.

**Climate Action Planning Update – Patrick Babbitt and Kristin Lynett, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma**

There being no time for this agenda item, it was determined that staff would deliver the update in an electronic file to Commissioners.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made during this agenda item.

**Objectives for or before the Next Meeting**

- Climate Action Planning: Adaptation Strategy update
- Commission Officer elections
- Tideflats Subarea Planning update
- Earth Month events planning update

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m. with a motion made by Matthew Benedict and seconded by Grace Hope. The motion carried unanimously by present Commissioners. Emily Pinckney, David Thompson, Katin Kendrena, Ashley Sloan, Elly Claus-McGahan, and Tony Ivey were absent for this vote.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held virtually on Thursday, March 18, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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Lexi Brewer, Chair

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Patrick Babbitt, Staff / Note Taker