



# CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION HYBRID MEETING

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**DRAFT AGENDA**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023**  
**5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**

This meeting will be held both virtually and in-person. In person location is the Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St, room 248.

**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 March 16<sup>th</sup>. Please e-mail your comments to [klynett@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:klynett@cityoftacoma.org), put in the subject line "STC Meeting 3/16/2023", and clearly indicate which agenda item(s), if any, you are addressing.

- I. CALL TO ORDER & EXTENDED ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVE MARCH 16 AGENDA AND FEBRUARY 16 MINUTES
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. STAFF UPDATES
- V. GREEN ECONOMY STRATEGY UPDATE- PRESENTATION
- VI. Sustainability Expo and Earth Month- Discussion
- VII. CAP Progress Report draft, including STC Letter- Discussion
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IX. OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT MEETING
- X. ADJOURNMENT



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

**Date:** February 16, 2023

**Commission Members Present:**

Evlondo Cooper, Kendra Stauffer, Lexi Brewer (Co-Chair), Tony Ivey, Matthew Benedict, Laura Svancarek, Margaret Schwertner, Adam Reichenberger

**Commission Members Excused:**

**Commission Members Absent:**

Nikie Walters  
Casey McManus

**Others Present:**

City of Tacoma Commission Support Staff: Beth Jarot (Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability), Lucy Klug (Sustainability Specialist Americorps, OEPS)

**Other Presenters:**

Kyla Wilson (Pierce County), Sara Bowles (Tacoma Power)

Members of the Public: present

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

This meeting was called to order by Commission Co-Chairperson Evlondo Cooper at 5:02pm, including an acknowledgement of the traditional indigenous lands this Commission conducts its business on. The Chair welcomed Commissioners, staff, and members of the public. Then, Evlondo administered a roll call discussion, where Commissioners acknowledged their attendance.

**Unanimous Approval of February 16, 2023 Meeting Agenda**

**Unanimous Approval of January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Public Comment**

No public comments were delivered verbally during this agenda item or in writing prior to the meeting.

**Staff Updates – Lucy Klug, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability (OEPS), City of Tacoma**

City staff, Lucy Klug and Beth Jarot, gave updates on:

- Right of Way Tree Codes – IPS on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

- \$30 tree coupons available through online application thru March 15<sup>th</sup>, with purchase by March 31<sup>st</sup> at 8 participating nurseries.
- New Senior Mgmt Analyst LaKecia Farmer starts on Feb 27
- Climate Data and Grant Analyst (Sustainability Analyst) new position should be posted this week.
- Sustainability Expo Vendor Recruitment OPEN NOW! Ask for shout out of possible organizations and businesses, we can follow up with them.
  - Does STC want a booth?
    - Likely yes, will follow up once they see if enough commissioners are available for that date/time. Will let Kristi or Lucy know (likely Kristi at next month's meeting).
- EnviroChallengers are working the libraries over the next months to promote "If it hits the ground it hits the sound" and recycling with student and adult audiences.
- Professional development series for teachers is starting this week. Working with TPU, Pierce County, PCD. Over 250 teachers have signed up. EC focused on Wastewater and climate change.
- Next Move internship has started this week with 16 high school interns - cohort meeting with Jacqueline every Thursday.

LaTasha Wortham (TPU) echoed the Professional Development series and mentioned the new Tacoma Water coloring book. Will be back next week with more information to share.

#### **Commission Business Items**

**Co-Chair Elections**– Evlondo gave a speech, wants to continue work with Commission, feels confident in role after the year-long term just served. Margaret gave a speech, wants to continue to provide support for Commission. Matthew gave a speech, explained previous time on Commission, highlighted that he wants to allow others to have a chance in the co-chair position but will step up if that's what the STC wants.

Votes on slate for Evlondo and Margaret:

Tony - yes

Laura – yes

Kendra – yes

Adam – yes

Lexi – yes

The commission unanimously voted to elect Evlondo and Margaret as Co-Chairs.

**Pierce County Sustainable 2030 Plan & GHG Inventory Presentation** – Kyla Wilson started the presentation by opening a discussion and asking how much people know about the Sustainability 2030 Plan/if they have read it. After a brief discussion, she explained the actions and focus areas within the plan. She highlighted GHG contributors in Pierce County, and analyzed how emissions are changing over time. She then dove into each section of the plan and discussed some specific actions taking place in the county now (such as expanding tree programs, supporting transit electrification, eelgrass and kept inventory, and workforce training). She closed out the presentation by providing a few discussion questions for the group.

Commission follow up and questions included: Increasing mass transportation as an alternative to needing EVs, 27% tree loss as a GHG contributor in Pierce County, challenges with promoting EV from a personal consumer perspective, Pierce Transit ballot for a sales tax in 2024

**Tacoma Power Income Qualified Rental Program Presentation** – Sara Bowles kicked off the presentation with a brief overview about why conservation is beneficial. She then explained the income qualified rental program and how customers can benefit. She highlighted that this program aims to support municipal goals, TPU equity goals, CETA low-income goals, and address the split incentive challenge. She displayed the qualifications for the program, as well as new offers within the program (such as insulation, upgrading heating systems, and upgrading single-pane windows). Finally, she explained the steps to participate in this program and best practices learned since starting the program.

Commission follow up and questions included: How to prevent home owners deciding to end the lease early and move back into home, what happens with a change in tenant, clarification of participation qualifications, asked if the Affordable Housing Consortium has been a contact they are connected with yet

#### **Public Comment**

There was one comment by a community member who thanked Lexi for her continued commitment and leadership in STC. They also wanted to thank Mattew for being willing to lead, as well as lead from the back.

#### **Objectives for or before the Next Meeting**

- Draft CAP Progress Report, including STC letter
- Earth Month/Expo update and how STC can engage
- Possible Home in Tacoma update
- Possible Green Economy Strategy update
- ADDED: Extended roll-call

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Commission unanimous approved an adjourned at 6:59pm.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be held hybrid on Thursday, March 16 2023, at 5:00pm, on zoom and at Tacoma Municipal Building, room 248

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Lexi Brewer and Evlondo Cooper, Co-Chairs

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Lucy Klug, Staff / Note Taker

# **Sustainable Tacoma Commission** (STC)

3/16/2023 Hybrid Public Meeting

## **Welcome**

**Commissioners**

**Members of the public**

**Presenters and staff support:**

LaKecia Farmer, Kristin Lynett

City of Tacoma, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Pat Beard

City of Tacoma, Office of Economic Development

Ryan Donahue

Green Economy Consultant

Leah Michaelson

City of Tacoma, Environmental Services Department



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 ʔ'uyayus həlgwəʔ gwəl ʔ'uʔ'axwəd həlgwəʔ tiit bədədəʔs gwəl tixdxw həlgwəʔ tiit ʔiisəds həlgwəʔ gwəl ʔ'uʔalalus həlgwəʔ gwəl ʔ'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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# Roll Call (Extended)

## Commission Members

Matthew Benedict

Lexi Brewer

Evlondo Cooper (Co-Chair)

Tony Ivey

Casey McManus

Adam Reichenberger

Margaret Schwertner (Co-Chair)

Kendra Stauffer

Laura Svancarek

## Introduction Prompts

- Name, pronouns (if used)
- Who taught or inspired you to care for the Earth?

# Agenda – 3/16/2023

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- IV. **STAFF UPDATES**
- V. **GREEN ECONOMY STRATEGY UPDATE- PRESENTATION**
- VI. **SUSTAINABILITY EXPO AND EARTH MONTH- DISCUSSION**
- VII. **CAP PROGRESS REPORT DRAFT, INCLUDING STC LETTER-  
DISCUSSION**
- VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
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- X. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Motion)



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# 2/16/2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

(Motion)



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# Public Comments



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# Staff Updates

- LaKecia Farmer- Welcome!
- Leah Michaelson
  - Small grant program
- STC new commissioner process and timeline



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# Important Dates

- March 22, IPS
  - Home in Tacoma
- April 18
  - City Council Study Session CAP 2022 Progress Report
- April 26
  - IPS STC Interviews



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# Other Business Items

1. Green Economy Strategy Update
  - Presentation
2. Sustainability Expo and Earth Month
  - Discussion
3. CAP Progress Report draft, including STC Letter
  - Discussion



# Green Economy Strategy Update— Presentation

## Presenters

**Ryan Donahue**

Green Economy Consultant

Switch to that presentation now



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# Sustainability Expo and Earth Month– Discussion

## Presenters

### **Leah Michaelson**

Environmental Services Department,  
Senior Communication & Marketing Analyst

Remember to take poll!



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# CAP Progress Report draft, including STC Letter – Discussion

## Presenters

**Kristin Lynett and LaKecia Farmer**

Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability

Sustainability Officer and Senior Sustainability Analyst



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# CAP Progress Report draft, including STC Letter – Discussion

## Summary of Mayor's Letter:

- Progress report helps set stage for new, equitable priorities and investments
- The previous year showed positive impacts from collective action
- Putting people, particularly frontline communities, first



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# CAP Progress Report draft, including STC Letter – Discussion

## High-level Progress Report Overview:

- The CAP is about delivering benefits to communities and the report is about transparency
- Making progress on 10 jumpstart actions
  - Significant progress examples:
    - The Climate Leaders Cohort pilot
    - Food access projects
    - Community Building Decarbonization Strategy to be completed in 2023
    - Tacoma following WA State Building Code Council amendments
    - City Council approved the Green Economy Specialist position as part of the 2023-24 budget.
  - Information gathering and initial progress examples:
    - Significant investments needed for bike and pedestrian network citywide
    - Green building not identified in Home in Tacoma 2022 progress, but affordable housing likely will be addressed in Home in Tacoma 2023 project
    - Right of Way tree codes updates under development
    - Plans underway for wood waste diversion from the landfill
    - Grant to plant trees in Tacoma Mall Neighborhood, but no action or funding identified in 2022
- Next steps:
  - Solid start in funding for 2023-24 CAP actions and hope to double grant dollars in next 3 years via new funding from newly implemented Federal and WA State laws.



# CAP Progress Report draft, including STC Letter – Discussion

## **STC Potential Letter Ideas (4-5 sentences):**

- STC role is to bring accountability and vigilance for implementation of the CAP and its transparent progress
- The first year showed movement as well as identified significant gaps
- Hopeful for the next two years on progress for short term goals while still holding the vision for the entire CAP



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# Public Comments



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# Objectives for Next Meeting (April 20)

## Meeting items:

- CAP Progress Report 2022
- Recognize departing Commissioners
- Home in Tacoma- tentative
- Right of Way Tree Codes - tentative



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# Adjournment

(Motion)



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# Green Economy Strategy

Community & Economic Development  
**Sustainable Tacoma Commission**

**March 16, 2023**

**ITEM #**





# Overview



- Approximately 4 in 10 Tacoma families with children not economically self-sufficient (pre-Covid, Seattle metro area)
- Tacoma's evolving industry mix makes it difficult to generate family-sustaining jobs (ongoing shift towards low-wage healthcare, warehouse jobs)
- Demand for green products by both government and businesses is an opportunity to change our economy in support of our families and climate action goals





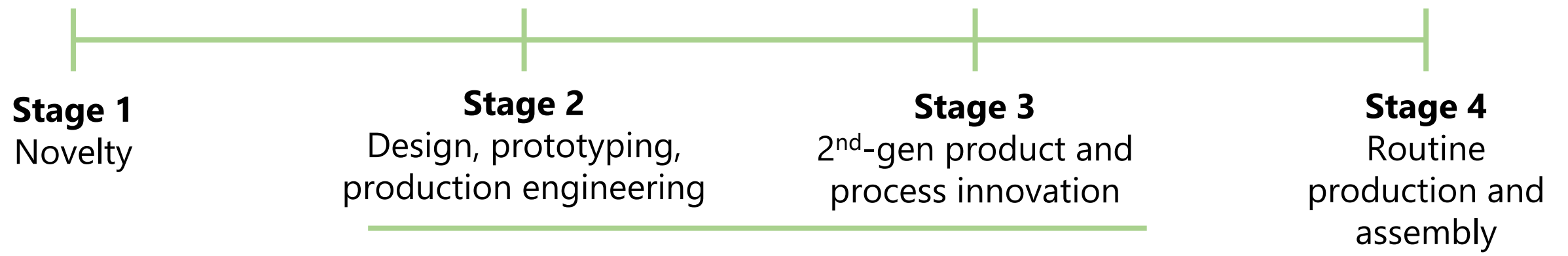
# Methodology & Definitions

- **What is Tacoma's competitive position?**  
(Analysis of 15 peer cities)
- **Who is doing green work? What high-quality green jobs are growing?** (Analysis of Pierce County workforce)
- **How can Tacoma grow traded-sector jobs that bring new revenue to the city?**
- **How does Tacoma need to organize to sustain and secure catalytic funding?**
- Received guidance from broad-based advisory committee, interviewed local practitioners and national experts





# Tacoma's Sector Opportunities



Tacoma needs to be a center of innovative **manufacturing**



Where does Tacoma have economic assets and policy advantages?

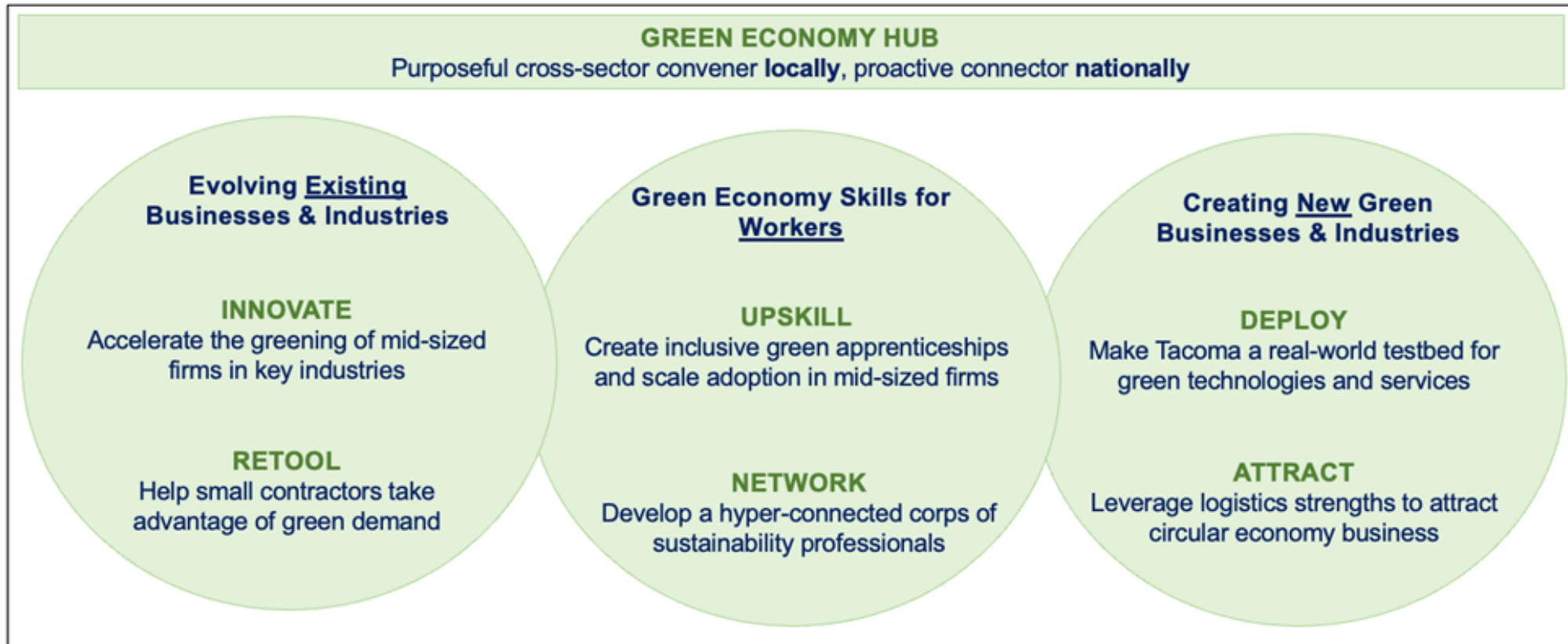
Where are there high-quality jobs?



**Clean Energy**  
**Maritime**

**Industrial Symbiosis**

**Green Buildings**





# Green Economy Hub



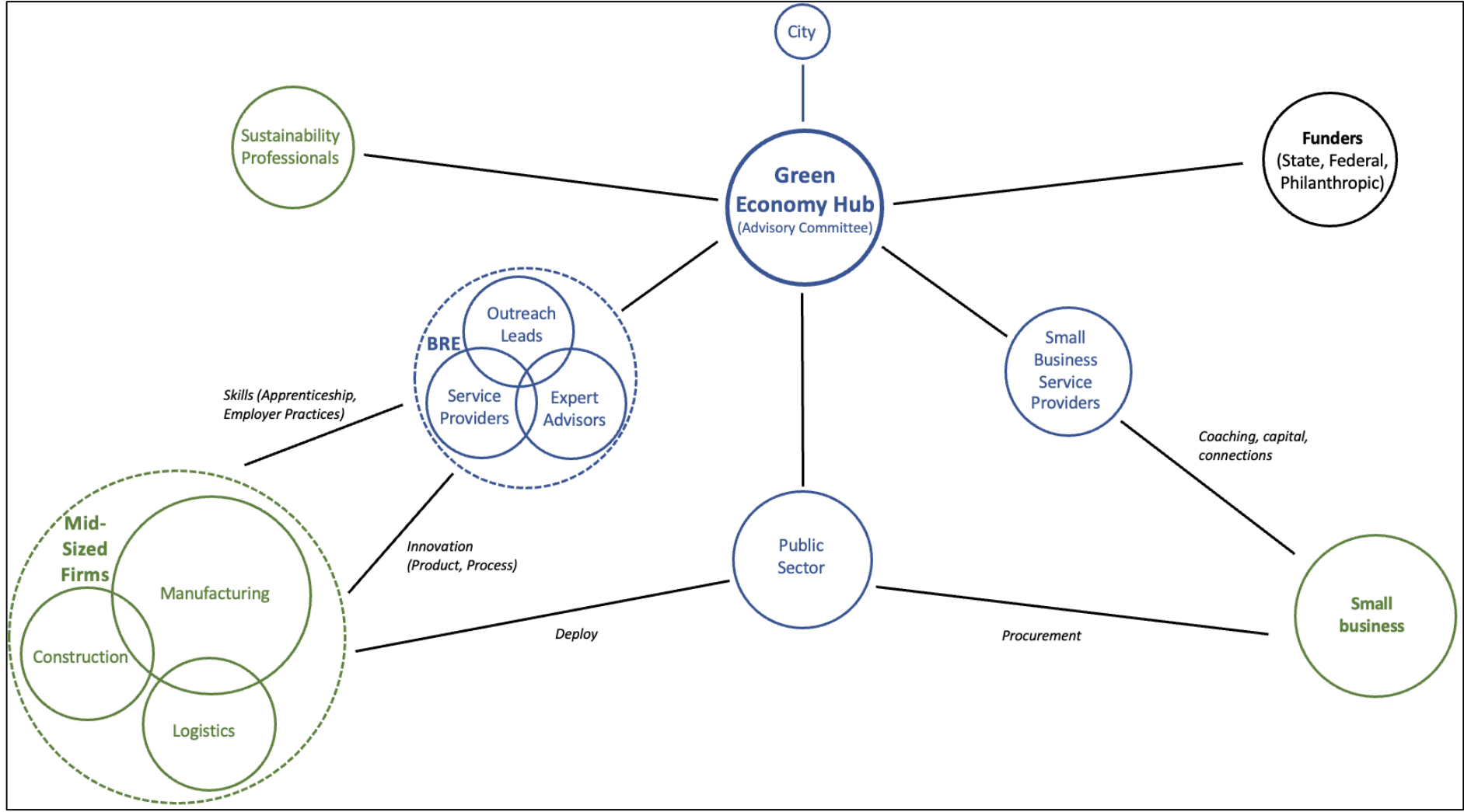
Collaboration is the key to strategy success – including securing catalytic investment.

The Hub will be a broad-based working group including diverse stakeholders from industry, government, institutions, workforce, philanthropy, environmental and more.

*We thank our Advisory Committee, the basis for the Hub:*

Steve Atkinson, Tacoma Long-range Planning	Sarah Bonds, Economic Development Board
Frank Boykin, MIC & MBDA	Michael Catsi, Tacoma Public Utilities
Katie Condit, Workforce Central	Kristi Lynett, Tacoma Environmental Services
Steve Nicholas, NWSA/Port of Tacoma	Andrew Strobel, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Brian Young, WA Department of Commerce	

# The Green Economy Hub





# Next Steps/Recommendation



- Staff recommends the Economic Development Committee forward the Green Economy Strategy to the City Council with a recommendation for adoption.
  - Prioritize these efforts in CED's workplan
  - Bolster City efforts to obtain government and philanthropic funding to support outcomes



# Green Economy Strategy

Community & Economic Development  
**Sustainable Tacoma Commission**

**March 16, 2023**

**ITEM #**

