

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County
Observer Report
Tacoma City Council Study Session

Date: 2/16/2021

Observer: Ann Williams

Members Present: Blocker, Ushka, Beale, Walker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy

Members Absent: Woodards

This report covers item I on the day's agenda, the status of the Climate Action Plan. The most recent action plan was operational from 2016-2020 and a final report on the results is expected in April. A few highlights include the fact that there was good to great progress on 43 of the 69 goals and only 6 for which there was no action. Tacoma Public Utilities reported that the Tree Coupon Program resulted in about 4000 trees planted in the county and 600 in Tacoma. They developed extensive public education materials about electric vehicles. They met their energy conservation goal in 2018 and have continued to exceed it. Tacoma Water has met its goals.

The sources of Tacoma's 2019 carbon emissions are as follows: transportation 44%, industrial buildings 30%, residential buildings 10%, commercial buildings 9%, and waste 6%. One caveat here is that our totals and the distribution of sources do not take account of the carbon footprint of the things we buy from outside the city and import. Those emissions are accounted for at the production source.

A new Environmental Action Plan is in phase II of a three-phase development process, with the draft expected in 9/2021. The goals will be created based on the need to get to zero emissions by 2050 with an interim goal of 50% reduction by 2030. It should be noted that continuing "business as usual" would result in an estimated 14% reduction by 2050. This reduction takes account population growth.

The principles underlying the plan include leading with justice and equity, local and urgent action, build transformational solutions, prioritize health and other benefits, base decisions on science and transparency and accountability.

Some topics that will be covered include the new green economy, building and energy, adaptation, consumption and material management and natural systems and local foods.