

How Will Seattle Become a Carbon Neutral City?

(updated Tuesday 7/6/10)

Purpose and Background: In 2010, the City Council established carbon neutrality as one of its [sixteen Council priorities](#). This commitment builds on Seattle's history of environmental leadership including efforts in 2000 to create the [first carbon neutral electric utility](#), and the 2005 effort to get cities across the nation to commit to meet the Kyoto Protocol targets for greenhouse gas reduction and Seattle's [Climate Action Plan](#).

In 2010, the Council will work with the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) and a team of consultants to examine the science of achieving carbon neutrality. This will include conducting an analysis of reduction potential by emission sector and the development of a strategic framework for action planning. The Council also recognizes there is a wealth of projects and initiatives happening in our community today that are enabling our city to reach its climate protections goals. To highlight and support this existing good work, and to gather ideas from a broad set of residents, the Council is seeking recommendations from community members on what Seattle is and should be doing to continue on the path towards carbon neutrality.

The Task: Develop recommendations by sector for what the City of Seattle should be doing in the next 1-3 years to move the city towards carbon neutrality.

- a. What should individuals be doing?
- b. What should the non-profit and private sector be doing?
- c. **What programs and policies should the city support or adopt in the next 1-3 years to be on the path towards carbon neutrality?**

The Council is seeking recommendations for each of the following sectors (recognizing there is overlap). Sectors are encouraged to collaborate and to share information, ideas and recommendations:

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| a. Transportation | e. Schools |
| b. Green Jobs | f. Neighborhoods |
| c. Land Use | g. Food Systems |
| d. Energy | h. Zero Waste |

Who to Engage: As broad and diverse set of organizations and residents as possible. We would like you to determine the best way to reach folks – online, in person, at your regular meetings. Be inclusive! Be creative!

Each sector should nominate an individual be the lead point of contact for logistical coordination. Please identify this lead and share their name and contact information with us (someone who has the time and capacity to do some organizing and who works well with a diverse group of folks).

What we are asking you to share:

- 1) A 10-15 minute presentation of recommendations at a City Council event at the end of July at a Town Hall on September 14 in the evening.
- 2) A 1-2-page summary of recommendations for your sector, along with any supporting documents.
- 3) A list of everyone you engaged (residents and organizations) to develop recommendations. Please also include contact information for those who would like to stay involved with Seattle's carbon neutral work.

Questions or Ideas for another sector to include? Contact Esther Handy or Sierra Hansen in Councilmember Mike O'Brien's Office: esther.handy@seattle.gov, sierra.hansen@seattle.gov, 684-8800 or Phyllis Shulman in Councilmember Conlin's Office: Phyllis.shulman@seattle.gov, 684-8805.