Sustainability and Climate Commission

Regular meeting – Thursday, February 19, 2026 – meeting minutes

Commissioner attendance

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
José Gamero-Georgeson – D1	x		Charity Fain – D3	x	
Damon Motz-Storey – D1	x		Stephanie Kaza – D3	x	
Celeste Ruiz – D1	x		Dan Trifone – D3	x	
Jessica Zahn – D1	x		Leah Almeida – D4	x	
Alina Pawchareune – D2	x		Sriya Chinnam – D4		x
Maya Puggarana – D2	x		Angus Duncan – D4	x	
Greg Retsinas – D2		x	Luna González González – D4	x	
Vivek Shandas – D2	x		Eesa Taylor – D4	x	
Galen Whalen – D2	x		Dana Visse – D4	x	
Nora Apter – D3	x		Suze Wehr – D4	x	

Alternate attendance

Name	Present	Absent
Garrett Wong – D2	x	
Carla Chen – D3	x	
Holland Burd – D4	x	
Skai Dancey – D4		x

Staff attendance

Name	Role/bureau
Vivian Satterfield	Chief Sustainability Officer, Sustainability Office
Elaine Vizka Livingstone	Coordinator, Sustainability Office
Ingrid Fish	Strategic support, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Wing Grabowski	Meeting and engagement support, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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Agenda

6:00 p.m. Meeting introduction and reminders

The Chief Sustainability Officer, Vivian Satterfield, opened the meeting. A Co-Chair José Gamero-Georgeson provided an overview of the agenda and noted that most of the meeting would be a work session focused on reflection, action, and Commission structure.

Meeting reminders were reviewed and working agreements were reiterated.

6:10 p.m. Public comment

Mike Houck, Executive Director at Urban Greenspaces Institute, submitted written testimony in advance of the meeting. Their testimony emphasized two primary points:

- Their previous experience, on sustainability commissions, highlighted the need for adequate staffing and resources to accomplish climate goals.
- The Commission faces a significant task of developing the updated Climate Action Plan (CAP), including ensuring that climate resilience is fully integrated.

Testimony stressed the importance of prioritizing adaptation alongside mitigation, noting that the community is already experiencing climate impacts such as extreme heat and ecological disruption. The Commission was encouraged to advocate for sufficient staffing and resources and to consider site visits to local climate resilience projects.

Written testimony was shared via email and meeting chat and will be included in the public record.

6:15 p.m. Commission updates

Chief Sustainability Officer, Vivian Satterfield, provided the following updates:

- An upcoming presentation to the Climate, Resilience and Land Use City Council Committee will include updates on Commission progress, Climate Action Plan (CAP) development, youth commissioner recruitment, and the Policy and Implementation Committee.
- City Council committee restructuring is underway. Sustainability-related topics will shift to a new committee, titled City Life, beginning in April.
- CAP development will begin with a youth-centered framework, with the broader CAP process expected to span approximately 1.5–2 years.
- A Climate Justice Audit including past climate work processes, achievements, findings and recommendations will be released publicly following Council and administrative review. The City Administrator's response to the audit will be available on February 25th.
- During the recent legislative session, several climate-related bills did not advance. City staff have been monitoring and evaluating proposed legislation.
- City leadership issued a joint statement in response to federal action affecting the Endangerment Finding Rule.

Commissioners discussed:

- City of Portland position regarding the climate resilience superfund bill being considered during the legislative process.
- Interest in learning more about the Climate Justice Audit process and findings.
- Concern about Council committee changes and the future of climate-focused discussions at Council.

Commission Co-Chairs updated the Commission on the following:

- Progress on bylaw development, which is anticipated to move to legal review by mid-April.
- Details regarding the upcoming youth retreat, which will focus on shaping the youth framework for the CAP.

6:20 p.m. Discussion: Policy and Implementation Committee

Commissioners discussed the purpose and potential scope of the proposed Policy and Implementation Committee. The proposed intent of the committee is to advance near-term climate policy priorities while the CAP development process is underway.

Reflections on past and current climate work

Commissioners noted:

- The City has extensive data and analysis on climate challenges and solutions; the issue is not lack of information but implementation.
- Decentralization across bureaus embeds climate work broadly but may create coordination challenges.
- There are opportunities to better align with regional partners and existing funding mechanisms, including ongoing implementation efforts.
- Clean electricity remains foundational to achieving climate goals.
- Some existing actions lack specific timelines or accountability mechanisms.
- Climate work intersects with housing affordability, economic development, public safety, and transportation.
- Budget constraints require careful prioritization and strategic focus.
- Public understanding of existing climate investments remains limited.

Climate action, urgency and near-term opportunities

Commissioners discussed:

- Preparing for extreme heat events and prioritizing protections for vulnerable communities in the hottest areas of the city. Strategic use of data can be helpful with this work.
- Recognizing and communicating existing climate investments and funded projects.
- Maintaining dedicated climate funding (Portland Clean Energy Fund/PCEF) for its intended purposes.
- Identifying high-impact mitigation strategies alongside adaptation.
- Leveraging City authority where possible while acknowledging state and federal constraints.

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- The importance of youth engagement and long-term leadership development.
- Prioritizing climate work that advances affordability.
- Uplifting climate-related issues linked to current City Council considerations.
- Need to understand the full climate context including past successes, barriers (to determine best use of resources moving forward) and opportunities to advance climate priorities.
- Need to move climate work forward to address urgency while updating the Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- Elevate clean electricity commitments and hold utilities accountable to meet goals.

Several Commissioners emphasized the need for urgency and for developing a focused package of near-term recommendations for City Council consideration. Others noted the importance of establishing clear values and a decision-making framework before advancing specific policy proposals.

7:00 p.m. Break

7:10 p.m. Duties: Policy and Implementation Committee

Co-Chair José Gamero-Georgeson summarized key themes from the discussion and reviewed the draft "all-up" committee document. Proposed amendments were discussed.

Key discussion points included:

- Clarifying that the committee will both identify and advance near-term climate policy priorities.
- Determining appropriate committee size (5–10 members to avoid quorum issues).
- Ensuring all committee work returns to the full Commission for discussion and approval.
- Meetings will be public and recorded.
- The committee may be ongoing or time-limited; duration remains to be determined.
- Ensuring youth engagement within committee membership.
- Considering geographic and other forms of representation.
- Avoiding overly prescriptive topic lists in the initial charter to allow flexibility.
- Including both mitigation and adaptation in scope.
- Considering work beyond the existing Climate Emergency Work Plan where appropriate.
- Clarifying that committee agendas are set in coordination with staff leadership, consistent with City code.

Commissioners discussed whether Policy and Implementation committee youth membership requirements should be mandatory or flexible depending on availability. There was also discussion about whether the committee's scope should focus strictly on City authority or also consider regional and state-level actions.

Official Commission Vote: Co-Chair José Gamero-Georgeson proposed a vote to create the Policy and Implementation Committee as amended.

Vote Results:

- Affirmative: 17 (unanimous)
- The vote to create the Policy and Implementation Committee passed as amended.

7:55 p.m. Duties: Commissioners feedback form

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Commissioners were encouraged to complete the meeting feedback form.

The next regular Commission meeting will take place Thursday, March 19th. The Power to the Youth retreat is scheduled for Monday, February 23rd.

The meeting was adjourned.

Zoom webinar chat:

18:00:46 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
https://www.portland.gov/scc/events/2026/2/19/sustainability-and-climate-commission-regular-meeting

18:03:47 From Comm. Dan Trifone to Hosts and panelists:
we are getting major echo

18:04:01 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Documents for public comment

18:04:27 From Comm. Charity Fain to Hosts and panelists:
The echo is really bad.

18:05:00 From Comm. Galen Whalen (he/him) to Hosts and panelists:
co-chair Eesa could you please mute?

18:07:36 From Pam Neild (she/her) BPS to Hosts and panelists:
No echo online anymore

18:10:53 From Comm. Dan Trifone to Hosts and panelists:
everyone online can hear each other and you in the room

18:29:30 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
We have a little over 10 minutes for each section: reflection, action, and structure.

18:34:23 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
5 minutes left for reflection.

18:35:47 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
This is the last comment for reflection.

18:44:18 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
5 minutes left for action discussion.

18:54:48 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
5 minutes left for structure discussion.

19:04:16 From Comm. Charity Fain to Hosts and panelists:

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Stephanie turned her mike on and we can hear conversations

19:15:49 From Angus Duncan to Hosts and panelists:
Topics

19:15:51 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
You can see the static version here if you want to scroll through:
https://www.portland.gov/scc/events/2026/2/19/sustainability-and-climate-commission-regular-meeting

19:22:06 From Comm. Nora Apter to Hosts and panelists:
Purpose: The Policy and Implementation Committee identifies and advances near-term climate policy priorities.

19:22:38 From Angus Duncan to Hosts and panelists:
Language on item 2: Topics: Priority Measures to reduce emissions in 1) Transportation Emissions; 2) Land Use/Zoning policies; 3) building energy use/generation systems; 4) distributed low-carbon electricity generation and demand management systems

19:25:38 From Comm. Alina Pawchareune to Hosts and panelists:
Addition to 2:

19:26:43 From Comm. Alina Pawchareune to Hosts and panelists:
**Addition to 2: landscaping past and current climate related policies that were not successfully passed or implemented.

19:26:53 From Stephanie Kaza to Hosts and panelists:
Addition to 2 list: consumption-based emissions

19:27:11 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Please remember to raise your hand to have amendments to document.

19:27:36 From Comm. Galen Whalen to Hosts and panelists:
Addition to 2: Current climate health impacts and mitigation strategies

19:28:45 From Comm. Charity Fain to Hosts and panelists:
Hold work sessions that include but not limited to the following:

19:29:41 From Stephanie Kaza to Hosts and panelists:
City staff roles: 1. The Chief Sustainability Officer sets committee agendas in coordination with committee leadership.

19:29:54 From Comm. Dan Trifone to Hosts and panelists:
Hold work sessions that include but not limited to the following topics: Prioritization of actions on mitigation and adaptation.

19:30:21 From Commissioner Suze Wehr to Hosts and panelists:

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Addition to 2: Identify primary obstacles related to political process as they apply to current ongoing climate targets

19:30:39 From Comm. Nora Apter to Hosts and panelists:
Suggested Alt amendment:
2. Hold work sessions that include the following topics:
Climate Emergency Workplan review and gap assessment;
Assessment of existing City priorities and alignment opportunities;
Opportunities to inform and influence state-level actions;
Funding strategies and budget alignment.

19:33:12 From Commissioner Suze Wehr to Hosts and panelists:
Related to providing regular updates to full commission: include identifying opportunities for SCC advocacy in the next 6 months related to existing city council priorities

19:33:34 From Comm. Nora Apter to Hosts and panelists:
v3 (language aligns with the sectors included in the Climate Emergency Workplan) "2. Hold work sessions that assess and consider opportunities to advance near-term policy actions identified in Climate Emergency Workplan including but not limited to electricity supply; buildings; transportation; industry; land use; embodied carbon."

19:38:43 From Co-Chair Eesa to Everyone:
Committee membership also must include at least two (2) youth commissioners

19:41:55 From Comm. Maya Puggarana to Hosts and panelists:
Maybe it would help to work through the document in order.

19:42:57 From Co-Chair Eesa to Everyone:
Edit: Committee membership also must include two (2) youth commissioners, representing different districts

19:46:41 From Comm. Luna González González to Hosts and panelists:
2. Hold work sessions that assess and consider opportunities to advance near-term policy actions including but not limited to those identified in the Climate Emergency Workplan.

19:46:50 From Stephanie Kaza to Hosts and panelists:
v4 Hold work sessions that assess and consider opportunities to advance near-term policy actions identified in but not limited to the Climate emergency Plan.

19:48:04 From Comm. Nora Apter to Hosts and panelists:
Workplan*

19:51:49 From Wing Grabowski to Hosts and panelists:
Proposed alternate amendment to #3:
Updates should be communicated to the full Sustainability and Climate Commission in a manner that is accessible and prioritizes the building of knowledge essential to creating a framework for the Climate Emergency Workplan.
19:52:03 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:

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^From Commissioner Leah

19:56:53 From Co-Chair Eesa to Everyone:
New Wording: Committee membership may include up to two (2) youth commissioners

19:59:26 From Commissioner Suze Wehr to Hosts and panelists:
++ to Comm. Maya's note

20:00:14 From Comm. Maya Puggarana to Hosts and panelists:
Is it essential to vote in this meeting?

20:00:54 From Comm. Maya Puggarana to Hosts and panelists:
Which can be amended next meeting, correct?

20:02:39 From Comm. Nora Apter to Hosts and panelists:
There's a word missing in the amendment to the Purpose: The Policy and Implementation Committee identifies *and* advances near-term climate policy priorities.

20:03:04 From Comm. Nora Apter to Hosts and panelists:
climate *policy* priorities

20:05:40 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they) Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
https://forms.office.com/g/dSfVsnfnvg

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