Sustainability and Climate Commission

Regular meeting – Thursday, January 15, 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
Elaine Vizka Livingstone	Sustainability and Climate Commission Coordinator
Andria Jacob	Climate Policy Manager, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Pam Neild	Senior Project Manager, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Kyle Diesner	Climate Policy Analyst, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Ingrid Fish	Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Wing Grabowski	Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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6:00 p.m. Meeting introduction and reminders

Sustainability and Climate Commission (Commission) Co-Chair Eesa Taylor opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda, meeting reminders, and working agreements.

6:10 p.m. Public comment

No public comment.

6:15 p.m. Commission updates

Vivian Satterfield, Chief Sustainability Officer, invited Commissioners to the upcoming City Earth Day – Earth in *Motion* - event on Saturday, April 11th at Parkrose Middle School from 12:00-3:00 pm.

Co-Chair José Gamero-Georgeson shared the following two Executive Session updates: 1). The Bylaws Committee is on track to finalize the bylaws draft by March for Commission adoption. 2). The Power to the Youth Retreat is on Monday, February 23rd from 5:00-8:00 pm, and is required for all Commissioners.

6:20 p.m. Briefing: Climate planning and action in Portland 1992-2025

Co-Chair José Gamero-Georgeson reminded Commissioners that assigned Commission reading includes current and previous City of Portland Climate Action Plans (CAP) as well as the CAP Progress Reports. Commissioner questions from the December regular Commission meeting that were not able to be answered during the meeting, have been answered and are posted on the Commission events page. The January Commission meeting was meant to give Commissioners additional time to digest the material presented at last month's meeting and ask questions related to the December meeting presentations.

Climate Policy Manager, Andria Jacob, at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, reviewed key takeaways from her December Commission meeting presentation.

Key takeaways:

- Electric utilities need to decarbonize their energy sources to enable the City to meet its climate goals.
- Electric utility and building code related actions are outside of the City's control.
- She recommended focusing on a few high impact actions and to keep in mind the City's constrained budget situation.
- Housing and economic development are important near-term issues that connect to climate.

Commissioners and City staff discussed the following topics related to Portland's history of climate action planning December meeting presentation:

- PCEF: The Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) supports Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation and the Pathways Analysis. There was also a more specific discussion about the PCEF fund expanding its eligible funding categories to include transportation projects.
- There was also a robust discussion about state-level climate issues that impact the City of Portland. Examples include state preemptions, Portland's leverage with State legislators, building code regulations/exemptions and future Commission state-level advocacy.
- The need to put pressure on the local utilities to decarbonize.

- Solar permitting.
- Advancing climate work in an intersectional cross-disciplinary way. For example, theft & safety impact biking and transit use.
- The Commission discussed the role of the Commission and how the Commission can be most helpful given that climate work is extremely complex and technical.
- Commissioners and City staff discussed the CAP development process and timeline.
- The Commission also discussed difficulties related to implementing unfunded climate-related mandates.

7:05 p.m. Break

7:15 p.m. Briefing: Multnomah County Carbon Emission and Energy Trends

Kyle Diesner, Climate Policy Analyst, at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, reviewed takeaways from his Carbon Emission & Energy Trends presentation, that he shared at the December Commission meeting.

Commissioners and City staff discussed the following topics related to Kyle's Carbon Emission & Energy Trends presentation:

- Clarified what the Pathways Analysis tool can do and how Commissioners can access the tool.
- There was a robust discussion about consumption-based emissions including consumption-based emission goals that could be included in the updated CAP and State wedge analysis/scenarios to reduce consumption-based emissions.
- Policies/actions that reduce consumption-based emissions such as the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule, increasing residential density, decreasing housing size, reducing car use, reducing meat consumption, and low carbon concrete & deconstruction policies. City staff mentioned that a two-year sustainable consumption action work plan exists and would be great to include in our new CAP. There was also discussion about consumption-based emissions being correlated to household income. Higher income folks tend to consume too much, and low-income people tend not to consume enough. This concept is called Donut Economics.
- Upstream system changes tend to lead to meaningful change.
- Goods "production" versus "use" phases and their impact on climate emissions.
- Sectors that City staff have not had the bandwidth to explore include food & beverage consumption and hospital operations which both have climate impacts. Commissioners may weigh-in on prioritizing staff time and City investments.
- Embodied carbon is an opportunity area for City climate work because the state building code is silent on embodied carbon.
- Data center energy use is problematic. Additionally, data center energy use is hard to differentiate from other sectors.

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

Commissioners were encouraged to complete the meeting feedback form. The meeting adjourned.

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Zoom webinar chat

18:07:30 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they), Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Can those online only here everyone using the mics ok?

18:07:50 From Commissioner Maya Puggarana to Hosts and panelists:
Yes

18:07:52 From Com. Leah Almeida to Hosts and panelists:
Yes!

18:07:58 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they), Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
https://www.portland.gov/scc/events/2026/1/15/sustainability-and-climate-commission-regular-meeting

18:39:01 From Commissioner Celeste Ruiz to Hosts and panelists:
I have to head out early, have a goodnight guys!

18:39:11 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they), Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Thanks Commissioner Celeste!

18:49:11 From Comm. Dan Trifone to Hosts and panelists:
Health Department Checking in! We have our plans and putting Climate Justice first that affect Portland and our region!

18:55:08 From Comm. Greg Retsinas to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you for the question, and for the answer.

18:56:40 From Angus Duncan to Hosts and panelists:
Must depart the meeting, but there's lots in Andrea's presentation and answers to follow up on.

18:57:47 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they), Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Thanks Commissioner Angus!

19:17:03 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they), Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Raise your hand for any last questions about the climate action and planning briefing.

19:37:03 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they), Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Can those online only hear Commissioner Stephanie?

19:37:19 From Commissioner Maya Puggarana to Hosts and panelists:
Can she speak into the mic please

19:37:42 From Commissioner Maya Puggarana to Hosts and panelists:
I heard her, it was just quiet

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19:37:42 From Leah Almeida to Hosts and panelists:
It's very quiet for me

19:38:11 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they), Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Hopefully we have it fixed now

19:43:23 From Elaine Vizka Livingstone (she/they), Comm. Coord. to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you Commissioner Stephanie for taking the tech issues in stride.

19:43:24 From Vivek Shandas to Hosts and panelists:
A possible retreat exercise suggestion: Given the development of new tools/data such as consumption based inventories, might be helpful for us to have a collective conversation (with City staff) about the differences in social, political/governance, and technological/data from when the previous climate plan was created.

19:45:24 From Wing Grabowski (he/they) BPS, Meeting support to Hosts and panelists:
Here is the Sustainable Consumption and Production pages Kyle mentioned: https://www.portland.gov/bps/scp

19:52:33 From Comm. Dan Trifone to Hosts and panelists:
It seems like there is an obvious partnership for food and beverage with environmental health at the county.

19:59:00 From Comm. Alina Pawchareune to Hosts and panelists:
Thank you all

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