

AGENDA**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING****MAY 8, 2023****5:30 p.m.****CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER****313 COURT STREET****And****VIA ZOOM****<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88147760127?pwd=bzF6UVBBS0EvaDIxTEVyRngrbExmQT09>**

Meeting ID: 881 4776 0127

Passcode: 007612

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

During this portion of the meeting, anyone may speak on any subject which does not later appear on the agenda. Up to five minutes per person will be allowed. Citizens are encouraged to ask questions with the understanding that the City can either answer the question tonight or refer that question to the appropriate staff member who will get back to you within a reasonable amount of time. If a response by the City is requested, the speaker will be referred to the City Manager for further action. The issue may appear on a future meeting agenda for City Council consideration.

6. CITY MANAGER REPORT
7. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS
8. CONSENT AGENDA

Items of a routine and non-controversial nature are placed on the Consent Agenda to allow the City Council to spend its time and energy on the important items and issues. Any Councilor may request an item be "pulled" from the Consent Agenda and be considered separately. Items pulled from the Consent Agenda will be placed on the Agenda at the end of the "Action Items" section.

A. Approval of the April 24, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

B. Resolution No. 23-013 Public Works Seasonal Employee Wages

CITY OF THE DALLES**"By working together, we will provide services that enhance the vitality of The Dalles."**

C. Surplus miscellaneous items at City Hall

9. CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD ACTIONS

A. Authorization to Award a new 15 year Contract with OMI for Operation of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. General Ordinance No. 23-1397 An Ordinance Amending The Dalles Municipal Code Title 5 (Offenses) by creating Chapter 5.02 (Smoke-Free Lewis & Clark Festival Park)

B. Climate Resiliency Report

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to carry on labor negotiations.

A. Recess Open Session

B. Reconvene Open Session

C. Decision, if any

12. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting conducted VIA Zoom

Prepared by/
Izetta Grossman, CMC
City Clerk

CITY OF THE DALLES

"By working together, we will provide services that enhance the vitality of The Dalles."



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

AGENDA LOCATION: Item #8 A-C

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Izetta Grossman, CMC, City Clerk

ISSUE: Approving items on the Consent Agenda and authorizing City staff to sign contract documents.

- A. **ITEM:** Approval of the April 24, 2023 Regular City Council meeting minutes.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: None.

SYNOPSIS: The minutes of the April 24, 2023 Regular City Council meeting have been prepared and are submitted for review and approval.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council review and approve the minutes of the April 24, 2023 Regular City Council meeting minutes.

- B. **ITEM:** Resolution No. 23-013 Formally Authorizing Wages for Public Works Seasonal Workers and Adding Wag to the Non-Union Wage Table

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: There are no budget implications, compensation was included in the adopted FY 22-23 City Budget, and included in the proposed budget for FY 23-24.

SYNOPSIS: Item needs to be recorded for future reference.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve Resolution No. 23-013 Formally Authorizing Wages for Public Works Seasonal Workers and Adding Wag to the Non-Union Wage Table

B. **ITEM**: Surplus miscellaneous items at City Hall.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: There are no budget implications

SYNOPSIS: In the process of spring cleaning staff has identified the following items that have no value to the City. Items are either broken, or no longer used.

- 6 folding tables – in ok shape, donate to Chamber of Commerce
- Sharp Copier – no longer works, recycle or garbage
- 6 boxes of green bar – no long use
- Old desk pieces – donate Restore
- Hard drives from old computers – secure destruction
- Large printer – broken, recycle or garbage
- Old no longer used file cabinets – donate to Restore

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve surplus for donation, recycle or throwing away the list of items above.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
APRIL 24, 2023
5:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM/ IN PERSON

PRESIDING: Mayor Richard Mays – via Zoom

COUNCIL PRESENT: Rod Runyon, Dan Richardson
Via Zoom: Scott Randall, Darcy Long, Tim McGlothlin

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Matthew Klebes, City Attorney Jonathan Kara, City Clerk Izetta Grossman, Police Chief Tom Worthy, Finance Director Angie Wilson, Community Development Director Joshua Chandler, Human Resources Director Daniel Hunter, Airport Manager Jeff Renard, Associate Planner Kaitlyn Cook

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mays at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Roll Call was conducted by City Clerk Grossman. Runyon, Richardson present in person; Long, McGlothlin, Randall via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mays asked Councilor Richardson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Richardson invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Richardson and seconded by Runyon to approve the agenda as submitted. The

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motion carried 5 to 0; Richardson, Runyon, McGlothlin, Long, Randall voting in favor; none opposed.

PRESENTATIONS PROCLAMATIONS

Climate Change Committee Presentation

Debi Ferrer and Lisa Gambee, Climate Change Committee Members presented a PowerPoint Presentation (attached).

They said the document was designed as a living document for continued review and use.

Council thanked the Committee the work put into the document. They said they appreciated the links with funding options.

Councilor Richardson, also Chair of the Climate Resiliency Committee, thanked the whole committee. He said it was a diverse group. He said they were proud of the document and hoped Council would adopt the report and direct staff to identify action.

It was move by Long and seconded by McGlothlin to table action on the report until May 8, 2023. The motion carried 5 to 0; Long, McGlothlin, Randall, Richardson, Runyon in favor; none opposed.

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce Tourism Year end Update

Lisa Farquharson, CEO/President The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce reviewed the report that was part of the agenda packet.

Farquharson thanked City Staff for all the work done in preparation for the Cherry Festival; cleaning up the 1st Street parking lot and placing all the road closed and parade signs. She said the town looked great.

She touched on:

- **Lodging:** following national trends; predicted to exceed the 2019 and 2022 numbers.
- **Fam Tours:** goal is at least one tour per quarter; creating the relationship provides discounts on advertising and articles in publications. Multiple Regional Bass tournaments are being booked in The Dalles due to Wild Bass being televised.
- **Datafy:** Continue training to full utilization. 5 week campaign using digital outlets determined by Datafy; will create a dashboard including: impressions, engagement, and clicks with demographics of each user.
- **New Markets:** Cherry Festival trial with Spotify and AudioGo. Results will help to determine how to help other local events.
- **Website:** Explore The Dalles site constantly being updated; videos, itineraries.
- **Tourism Event Grants:** (funded through the TRT funds) 17 event grant awarded -

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- \$29,500 directly invested back into community.
- **Token Wall:** still very active and visitors love it.

Future:

- RFP for Video Story Telling and new commercial for The Dalles to begin in June and continue through the next fiscal year.
- Grant for Systemic support with diversity, equity, and inclusion training opportunities, translation, messaging and communications with focus on local Latinx business community.

Farquharson reviewed the proposed budget for FY 23-24:

FY 22-23 – total budget \$426,702

FY 23-22 – total budget \$439,630

Increase of 4% on six items not every item.

National Inflation – 8.7%

Oregon Inflation – 5%

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

“Darcy” from The Dalles, Oregon said it was her believe that the decisions made by City Council were hurting the community. She said the saying “If you build it they will come” applies to the things being done for the homeless in The Dalles. She said people are being taught they are intitled without working for anything.

She said the current District Attorney (DA) gave a report to the Council at their last meeting. She said the DA didn’t address the rising crime rate in The Dalles, or how many cases are going to trial. Police officer moral is at an all-time low, causing officers to leave the force due to lack of prosecution.

She asked Council to make an abrupt about face on these projects. Saying no one wants to have another Portland or Seattle.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Matthew Klebes reported:

- Met with Library Board, productive and spirited meeting, resulting in path to move forward
- The City of The Dalles has a number of openings:
 - Facilities Manager,
 - Economic Development Officer,

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- Police Officer,
- Construction/Development Inspector,
- Seasonal Utility Worker, and
- Senior Planner
- He said the Executive Assistant position had been filled.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Richardson reported:

- Joint Ad Hoc Climate Resiliency Committee
- Citizen Group regarding proposed high school bond
- Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency Board
- Began reviewing City of The Dalles FY 23-24 Proposed Budget
- Staff Conversations
- Cherry Festival Parade – largest in years

Councilor Runyon reported:

- Columbia Gorge Veterans Museum reopening for season

Councilor Randall reported:

- Attending League of Oregon Cities Conference in Seaside
- Joint Ad Hoc Climate Resiliency Committee
- Met with Mayor and Councilor Long
- Attended KODL Coffee Break with Mayor

Councilor Long reported:

- Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency Board – finalized incentive program
- Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency Budget meeting
- Downtown core up and running with visual improvements
- Meeting with Mayor and Councilor Randall
- Meeting with City Attorney
- Attending League of Oregon Cities Conference in Seaside

Councilor McGlothlin reported:

- Attending League of Oregon Cities Conference in Seaside
- Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency Board
- Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Board
- Cherry Festival – Mayor for the Day – judged Parade entries

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by McGlothlin and seconded by Randall to approve the Consent Agenda as

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presented. The motion carried 5 to 0, McGlothlin, Randall, Long, Richardson, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed.

Items approved on the consent agenda were: The minutes of the April 10, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting; Surplus Public Works vehicles and equipment; Resolution No. 23-012 Concurring with Mayor's Reappointment of Cody Cornett to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Mays retired from the meeting.

Council President Tim McGlothlin presided for rest of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

City Attorney Jonathan Kara read the process for the Public Hearing.

Consent Annexation ANX#83-23 – Toole 1304 West 13th Street

Associate Planner Kaitlyn Cook reviewed the staff report.

Kara called for testimony, hearing none he closed the Public Hearing.

President McGlothlin asked for questions from Council.

Runyon said it was a win-win.

Long thanked Associate Planner Cook for the detailed step by step process.

President McGlothlin asked if any Councilor wanted the Ordinance read in full. No one did.

He asked City Clerk Grossman to read by title only.

Special Ordinance No. 23-598 Annexing Certain Additional Property Located in the Urban Growth Boundary of the City of The Dalles Pursuant to ORS 222.125 (Consent Annexation: ANX# 23-Toole)

It was moved by Long and seconded by Richardson to approve Special Ordinance No. 23-598 Annexing Certain Additional Property Located in the Urban Growth Boundary of the City of The Dalles Pursuant to ORS 222.125 (Consent Annexation: ANX# 23-Toole) by title only. The motion carried 5 to 0; Long, Richardson, Runyon, McGlothlin, Randall voting in favor; none opposed.

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ACTION ITEMS

Special Ordinance No. 23-597 Accepting Real Property Between East 1st Street and East 2nd Street for Public Purpose

City Attorney Kara reviewed the staff report.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Long to approve Special Ordinance No. 23-597 Accepting Real Property Between East 1st Street and East 2nd Street for Public Purpose by title only. The motion carried 5 to 0; Randall, Long, Runyon, Richardson, McGlothlin voting in favor; none opposed.

Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Hangar Lease with Shearer

Airport Manager Jeff Renard reviewed the staff report.

McGlothlin asked if Shearer's ok with the rate increase.

Renard said they were aware. He said no one likes a rate increase, but they we ok with it.

Kara asked if the Lease had gone before the Airport Board. Renard said it had, and was recommended to come before City Council and Klickitat County Commission. He said it was on Klickitat County Commission agenda for Tuesday.

It was moved by Richardson and seconded by Randall to approve the Hangar Lease with Shearer Sprayers contingent on approval by Klickitat County. The motion carried 5 to 0; Richardson, Randall, Runyon, Long, McGlothlin voting in favor; none opposed.

Runyon wanted to remind everyone of the Community Clean Up on May 6th. He said it was an annual event.

He also said the Pioneer Potluck put on by the Pioneer Associate would be happening again this year.

McGlothlin said he had participated in every Cherry Festival in some way. He said this year was well done. He thanked the Chamber for all work that goes into the event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President McGlothlin asked City Attorney Kara to read the Executive Session notice. In accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(e) to consult with those designated to conduct real estate transactions.

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President McGlothlin recessed Open Session at 7:11 p.m.

President McGlothlin reconvene Open Session at 7:33 p.m.

City Manager Klebes summarized the lease with American Cruise Lines (ACL):

- 5 year lease with two 10 year renewals
- ACL honors existing dockings for the 2023 and 2024 seasons
- American Empress would be granted 4 dockings per month of up to 24 hours in duration, in future seasons
- Lease amount \$65,000 annually

He said ACL anticipates returning 60 dockings to the 2023 season.

He said he had worked with the City Clerk, who had a long term relationship with the ship, the City Attorney, and the City's Insurance agent.

It was moved by Runyon, and seconded by Randall to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Lease/License Agreement with American Cruise Lines for dock use as presented. The motion carried 5 to 0: Runyon, Randall, Long, Richardson, McGlothlin voting in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by/

Izetta Grossman, CMC

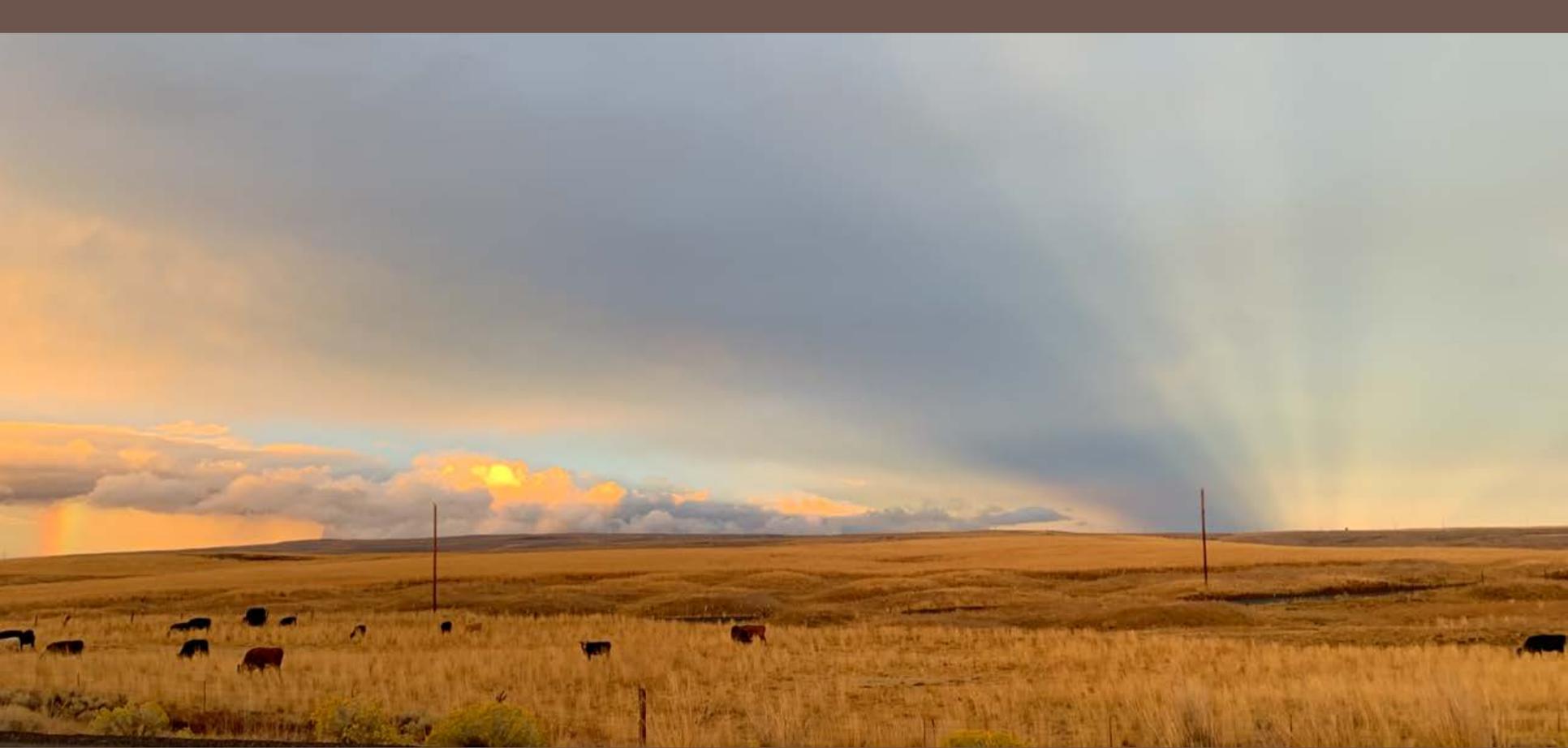
City Clerk

SIGNED:

Richard A. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

Izetta Grossman, CMC City Clerk



Developing Climate Resilience in Wasco County

April 2023

The Dalles - Wasco County Joint Ad Hoc Climate Resiliency Committee

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Necessity



Our community is already experiencing the effects of climate change.

Opportunity



Responding to local climate stress is an opportunity to build a healthier, more resilient community.

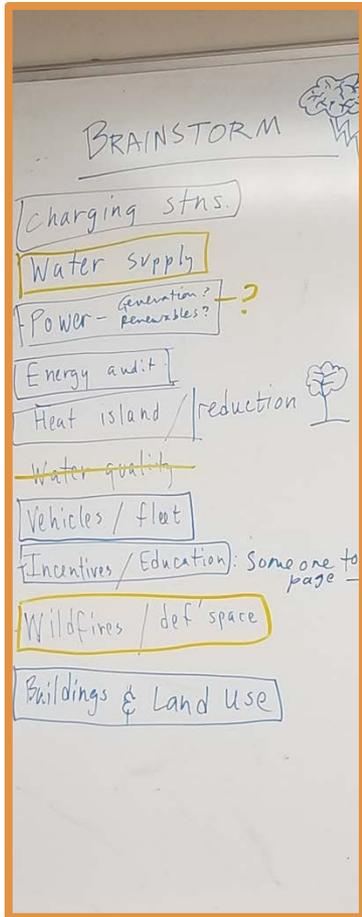
Committee History





The Mission of the Climate Resiliency Committee is to address the increasing impacts of climate change; we will recommend local, affordable, and achievable actions and strategies to the City of The Dalles and Wasco County.

The Process



- We researched what is already happening in our community.
- We researched what other communities have done.
- We drafted an extensive list of possible actions.
- We researched funding opportunities.

Then we compiled it into the **Recommendations For Action.**



THE PROBLEM:

Greenhouse gas emissions have far-reaching environmental and human health impacts.

Greenhouse gas emissions

We value efficient use of energy

- Conduct energy audits of City/County facilities
- Explore a local incentive fund for residential/commercial solar installations and electrification

Greenhouse gas emissions

We value efficient use of energy

- Conduct energy audits of City/County facilities
- Explore a local incentive fund for residential/commercial solar installations and electrification

We value reducing our GHG emissions

- Develop a formal, technically informed, community-wide climate action plan
- Consider directing staff to focus on funding opportunities for local climate action



THE PROBLEM:

Fossil fuel use is a significant local contributor to GHG – and should be reduced.

Fossil fuel use

We value alternative fuel sources that can support a thriving community and economy.

- Provide strategically placed recharging stations and priority parking for electric vehicles – both public and agency fleets

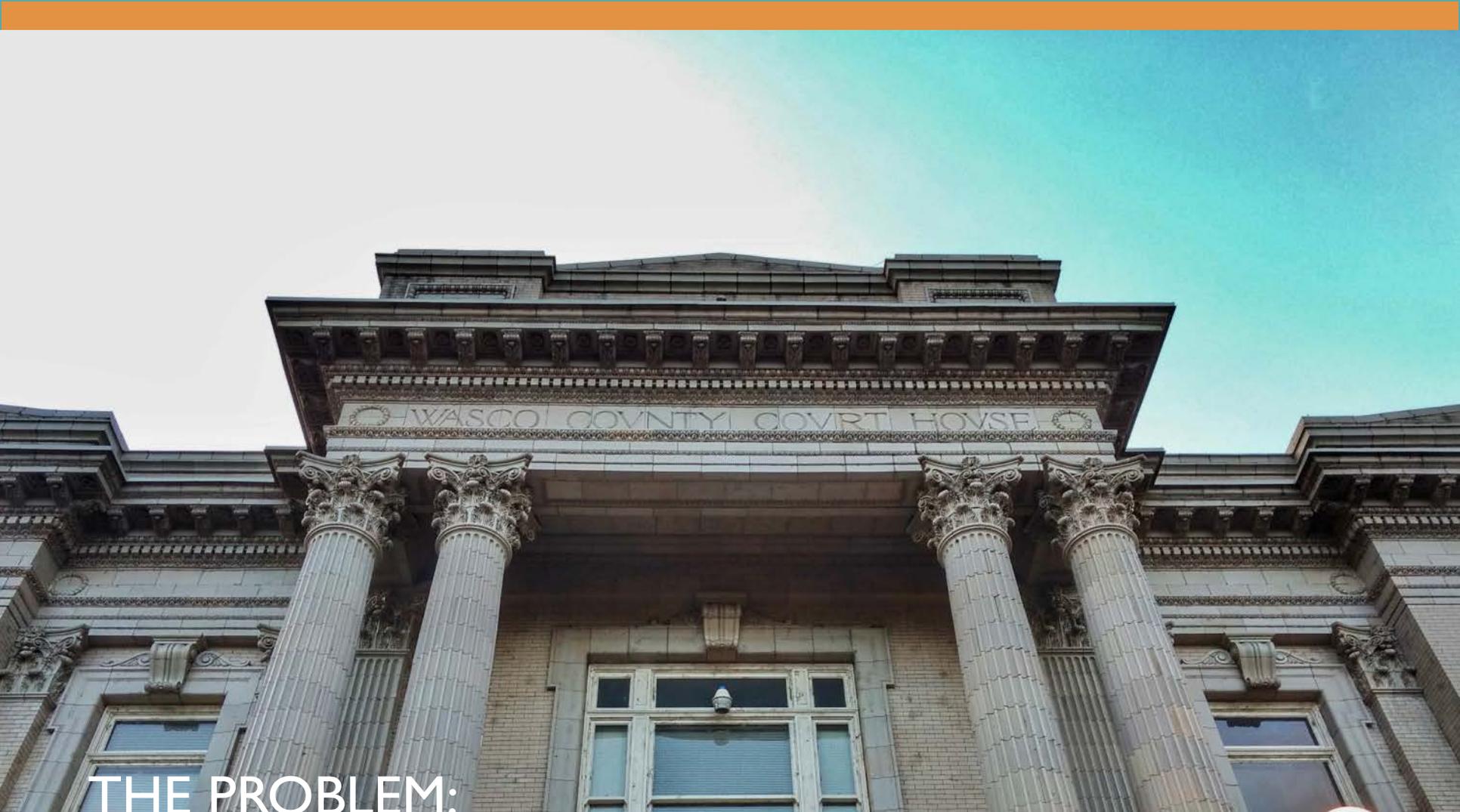
Fossil fuel use

We value alternative fuel sources that can support a thriving community and economy.

- Provide strategically placed recharging stations and priority parking for electric vehicles – both public and agency fleets.

We value encouraging multiple types of transportation to reduce fuel dependence and promote local air quality.

- Prioritize multi-modal transportation and links to trails/paths.



THE PROBLEM:

The built environment can both generate a large percentage of GHG emissions, and offer opportunities to buffer climate impacts.

The built environment

We value a built environment that is both resilient to extreme weather and minimizes GHG emissions.

- Identify solutions for reducing built environment emissions starting with city/county facilities.
- Review local codes and design standards to appropriately support and incentivize programs/actions



THE PROBLEM:

Climate change will result in increasing average temperatures, and erratic and extreme weather events.

Increasing average temperatures

We value safe spaces to congregate that will lower urban heat island effects.

- Increase the tree canopy throughout The Dalles

Increasing average temperatures

We value safe spaces to congregate that will lower urban heat island effects.

- Increase the tree canopy throughout The Dalles

We value other opportunities for reducing GHG emissions.

- Partner with utilities to provide education, incentives for home energy audits, electrification and energy efficiency.



THE PROBLEM:

Ongoing changes – in Northwest climate patterns, natural resource concerns, state and national policies, and local priorities – require continued attention.

Ongoing changes require attention

We value local governments and leaders being diligent on climate change.

- Form a local stakeholder group to explore collaborative policies, outreach and action.
- Schedule regular climate impacts and actions review, involving both staff and elected officials.

Ongoing changes require attention

We value local governments and leaders being diligent on climate change.

- Form a local stakeholder group to explore collaborative policies, outreach and action.
- Schedule regular climate impacts and actions review, involving both staff and elected officials.

We value follow-through on critical issues, starting with water supply.

- Prioritize analysis and funding of water systems.

A scenic landscape featuring a winding asphalt road with yellow double lines curving along a stone retaining wall. The wall has several arched openings. In the background, a large blue lake is nestled between rolling, dry hills under a bright blue sky with wispy clouds. Green trees are visible on the left and right sides of the road.

The good news:
Funding is available that
creates a “win-win-win”
for our community.

Win #1: Extending taxpayer dollars

City of The Dalles and Wasco County can leverage a wide range of grant funding, which makes taxpayer dollars go further!

- Oregon Department of Energy – grants to communities of up to \$1MM for climate resiliency projects.
- Oregon Department of Transportation - \$100MM over next 5 years for public EV charging stations
- The Arbor Day Foundation – up to \$20k for community green space
- Climate change education grants available through Oregon Community Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust and Gray Family Foundation

Win #2: Actionable Recommendations

The recommendations outlined in *Developing Climate Resilience in Wasco County* can assist local government operations in becoming cleaner, more efficient, and more resilient.

Win #3: Increasing quality of life



By thoughtfully and meaningfully acting on the many opportunities to mitigate climate impacts, we can realize the benefits of efficiency, resilience and improved quality of life for our communities.



Thank you for your consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-013

A RESOLUTION FORMALLY AUTHORIZING WAGES FOR PUBLIC WORKS SEASONAL WORKERS AND ADDING THEM TO THE NON-UNION WAGE TABLE

WHEREAS, the City of The Dalles has employed seasonal workers on a temporary basis each year; and

WHEREAS, the City does not have an established wage approved by Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has approved a wage table for non-union employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Wages. The City Council hereby adopts and approves the wages for seasonal workers as follows:

- A. Seasonal Worker Without Commercial Driver’s License: Seasonal workers hired by the Public Works Department, or other Department not otherwise approved, shall be paid wages at seventeen-dollars (\$17) per hour. Wage rate will continue until Council approves otherwise.
- B. Seasonal Worker With Commercial Driver’s License: Seasonal workers hired by the Public Works Department shall be paid wages at twenty-one-dollars (\$21) per hour. Wage rate will continue until Council approves otherwise.
- C. Wages on Adoption To Be Added to Non-Union Wage Table: On adoption of this resolution staff will add the approved wages to the Non-Union wage table, where they will remain for future consideration by Council on approving new wages tables.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption by the City Council and approval of the Mayor, with wage rates retroactive to July 1, 2022.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF MAY, 2023

Voting Yes, Councilors: _____
 Voting No, Councilors: _____
 Absent, Councilors: _____
 Abstaining, Councilors: _____

AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS 8th DAY OF MAY, 2023

SIGNED: _____ ATTEST: _____

 Richard Mays, Mayor Izzetta Grossman, CMC, City Clerk



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

AGENDA LOCATION: Contract Review Board #9A

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dave Anderson, Public Works Director

ISSUE: Renewal of Contract with Operations Management International (OMI) to operate the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant

BACKGROUND: The current wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) operations contract with OMI (Jacobs) expires June 30, 2023. It is a 10-year contract that was extended by another five years due to the timing of the last treatment plant upgrade project. OMI has operated the City's wastewater treatment plant for the last 30 years.

The City Council previously authorized staff to enter into exclusive negotiations with OMI for a new operations contract. On December 12, 2022 staff presented options to the City Council for renewal of the contract. At that meeting, the Council directed staff to proceed with the negotiation of a 15-year contract which was to be based upon a combination of Direct Costs and a Management Fee, just as the OMI contracts have been for the last 30 years. Those negotiations have been completed and the resulting proposed contract is presented here for Council's consideration.

Like the prior contracts with OMI, the proposed contract contains two components which are negotiated annually and separately from each other. The Direct Costs element of the contract represents the actual costs estimated to be needed to operate the plant each year. The Management Fee portion, which accounts for the costs to manage the contract and provides the profit margin to OMI, is to be adjusted annually throughout the life of the contract based upon a specific CPI-factor plus a certain percentage; during periods of high inflation, the annual adjustment to the management fee is to be negotiated at some level less than the CPI.

The first-year Total Cost of the proposed contract is \$1,359,289 which is 9.9% higher than the current year. This Total Cost is comprised of Direct Costs equalling \$1,172,069 (+10.9%) and a Management Fee of \$187,220 (+4%). The CPI for All Urban Consumers was 6.4% for the period of January 2022 through January 2023. The proposed cost

increase in Direct Costs, which is greater than the most recent-year CPI, is needed, in part, because the contract costs fell significantly behind inflation last year. The Direct Cost increase for the current year contract amendment was 4.2% when in fact the January 2021 through January 2022 CPI was 7.5%. This situation was not unique to the OMI operation; the City experienced similar inflation in its operation of the Wicks Water Treatment Plant with treatment chemical costs increasing as much as 70% in FY2022/23. In addition to catching up with inflation that has already occurred, the proposed Direct Cost value anticipates that there will continue to be increases in costs during the contract year.

With the proposed contract renewal, OMI will provide some value-added services. The first value-added item is the completion of a Biosolids Study. The treatment processes currently in place at the City's WWTP produce biosolids which are 3-4% solids and land applied as fertilizer for disposal. It has gotten to be very expensive in terms of labor, equipment, maintenance and fuel costs to haul 97% water to fields located up to 35 miles away for land application. This study would identify options and provide expert recommendations for the best long-term solution for biosolids hauling and disposal. The value of this study would be \$90,887. OMI has offered to conduct this study for free.

The second value-added service to be provided by OMI is an analysis of the WWTP's Renewable Energy Capacity. A similar study was conducted in advance of the plant improvements completed in 2019; that study used estimates, experiences in other plants, and technology specifications coupled with pilot testing at the City's plant to project the feasibility and capacity of the City's systems. Since that time, there have been challenges meeting those renewable energy projections and some unanticipated consequences to treatment processes have resulted. It will be beneficial to re-analyze the renewable energy potential at the WWTP using actual data to identify any additional improvements that may be needed to optimize the renewable energy opportunities at the plant. The value of this analysis, also to be provided at no cost, would be \$36,735.

With a contract renewal, OMI has also offered to support the City's upcoming efforts to renew its WWTP discharge permit with DEQ, which expires in 2023, by assisting with any additional required sampling. Lastly, OMI has offered to utilize its proprietary "Pro-2D" modeling to more-thoroughly evaluate the plant's treatment capabilities to, in part, inform refinement of the City's Capital Improvement Plans.

The proposed contract closely mirrors the one that it will be replacing in most areas. Some of the key elements of the contract that outline OMI's scope of work are:

- OMI is responsible to pay any fines or civil penalties which may be levied by a regulatory agency for violations of the plant's permit.
- OMI must staff the plant seven days per week.
- OMI must provide a response time of personnel to the plant within ½ hour in emergencies, the same as the City requires for its Water and Sewer systems On-Call Operators.
- OMI provides all routine preventive maintenance on the plant.
- OMI and the City jointly maintain the City's Industrial Pretreatment Program, OMI surveys the industrial users at least once every 3 years, assists in the evaluation of new industrial dischargers, and inspects and monitors permitted dischargers.

- OMI performs quarterly inspections of all facilities that are required to have grease traps (facilities with commercial-size kitchens, currently there are about 50 of them) and provides a report to the City summarizing the findings.
- OMI and the City will share in certain unanticipated cost increases greater than 10% that may occur throughout the course of a contract year.

The proposed contract includes strengthened language about OMI's responsibilities to perform proper maintenance to City-owned vehicles and equipment that it operates. The contract is to be renewed annually through the City Council's authorization of a contract amendment, as has historically been done. Additionally, since the two value-added studies were offered by OMI in consideration of a longer-term contract (15 years rather than 5 or 10), there is language providing that the City will pay to OMI a declining early-cancellation fee based on the depreciated value of those studies throughout the contract period.

Staff recommends entering into the proposed new contract with OMI for a term of 15 years, renewable annually, like we have ultimately done for the current agreement. The term of the new contract would begin July 1, 2023.

BUDGET ALLOCATION: The proposed FY2023/24 budget includes \$1,376,865 for the contracted operation of the City's wastewater treatment plant. The first-year cost of the proposed contract is \$1,359,289 which is less than the amount proposed to be budgeted. It is anticipated that, with adoption of the FY2023/24 budget, there will be adequate funds for this contract.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. **Staff Recommendation:** *Authorize the City Manager to enter into a new 15-year contract with Operations Management International (OMI) for operation of the City's wastewater treatment plant with a first-year cost of \$1,359,289.00.*
2. Deny authorization to enter into a new 15-year contract with Operations Management International (OMI) for operation of the City's wastewater treatment plant and provide direction to staff.



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

AGENDA LOCATION: Action Item #10A

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Matthew Klebes, City Manager

ISSUE: Adopting General Ordinance No. 23-1396, an ordinance amending The Dalles Municipal Code Title 5 (*Offenses*) by creating Chapter 5.02 (*Smoke-Free Lewis & Clark Festival Park*)

BACKGROUND: North Central Public Health District's (NCPHD) Tobacco Prevention & Education Program Coordinator Neita Cecil delivered a presentation to Council at its February 13, 2023, regular meeting, indicating NCPHD's official request of the City is to adopt an ordinance barring smoking and vaping at Lewis & Clark Festival Park. According to Ms. Cecil, this request is supported by (at least) community partners including YouthThink, Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District, North Wasco County School District 21, and The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Following the presentation, Council directed staff to investigate best practices implemented by other cities and to return to Council with an instrument prohibiting smoking at the Lewis and Clark Park. Staff researched and determined an ordinance was the most appropriate mechanism to implement Council's policy directive here.

The City Attorney and I developed the ordinance attached to and made part of this Staff Report. In summary, the ordinance prohibits smoking and vaping at the Park at all times, authorizes and directs the City Manager to post "No Smoking or Vaping" signs at the Park, and directs The Dalles Police Department to enforce its provisions but directs officers to make educating the public of the prohibition as their initial enforcement method. The ordinance also imposes a \$100 fine for violations.

The only proposed exceptions to the ban are smoking in a closed and enclosed vehicle and smoking in a *Designated Smoking Area* when the Park is closed for an approved and specially permitted event.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: There may be costs associated with signage but NCPHD has indicated they may be able to assist in this area. Staff time associated with any enforcement

COUNCIL ALTERNATIVES:

1. **Staff recommendation:** *Move to adopt General Ordinance No. 23-1396, an ordinance amending The Dalles Municipal Code Title 5 (Offenses) by creating Chapter 5.02 (Smoke-Free Lewis & Clark Festival Park), as presented.*
2. Make modifications to then move to adopt General Ordinance No. 23-1396, an ordinance amending The Dalles Municipal Code Title 5 (Offenses) by creating Chapter 5.02 (Smoke-Free Lewis & Clark Festival Park), as amended.
3. Decline formal action and provide Staff additional direction.

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 23-1396

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE DALLES MUNICIPAL CODE
TITLE 5 (*OFFENSES*) BY CREATING
CHAPTER 5.02 (*SMOKE-FREE LEWIS & CLARK FESTIVAL PARK*)**

WHEREAS, smoke-free areas tend to support both tobacco users who want to quit and former users who want to remain smoke-free, all while reducing youth exposure to tobacco use;

WHEREAS, tobacco-related disease is the primary cause of preventable death in Oregon, and 287 tobacco-related deaths occurred in Wasco County from 2017 through 2020;

WHEREAS, tobacco waste is a major source of non-biodegradable litter, and cigarette butts are the most common form of litter collected in cleanup programs worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds prohibiting smoking at the Lewis & Clark Festival Park promotes the public health, safety, and welfare by discouraging the inherently dangerous activity of smoking near non-tobacco users and children, by protecting the recreating public from exposure to secondhand smoke, by mitigating the risk of tobacco-related litter and the risk of fire from discarded tobacco waste, by reducing the potential for children to wrongly associate smoking and tobacco use with a healthy lifestyle, and by affirming and promoting a healthy environment in The Dalles.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE DALLES
ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Title 5 (*Offenses*) shall be amended by adding Chapter 5.02 (*Smoke-Free Lewis & Clark Festival Park*), which shall read as follows:

Sections:

5.02.01	Findings and Applicability.
5.02.02	Definitions.
5.02.03	Prohibited Acts.
5.02.04	Signs.
5.02.05	Waste.
5.02.06	Exceptions.
5.02.07	Enforcement and Violations.

**Chapter 5.02
SMOKE-FREE LEWIS & CLARK FESTIVAL PARK**

5.02.01 Findings and Applicability.

A. Findings. The City Council finds:

1. smoke-free areas tend to support both tobacco users who want to quit and former users who want to remain smoke-free, all while reducing youth exposure to tobacco use;
2. tobacco-related disease is the primary cause of preventable death in Oregon, and 287 tobacco-related deaths occurred in Wasco County from 2017 through 2020
3. tobacco waste is a major source of non-biodegradable litter, and cigarette butts are the most common form of litter collected in cleanup programs worldwide; and
4. prohibiting smoking at the Lewis & Clark Festival Park promotes the public health, safety, and welfare by discouraging the inherently dangerous activity of smoking near non-tobacco users and children, by protecting the recreating public from exposure to secondhand smoke, by mitigating the risk of tobacco-related litter and the risk of fire from discarded tobacco waste, by reducing the potential for children to wrongly associate smoking and tobacco use with a healthy lifestyle, and by affirming and promoting a healthy environment in The Dalles.

B. Applicability. This Chapter and its restrictions shall apply to the Park, at all times, irrespective of whether it is open, reserved for a permitted event, or closed.

5.02.02 Definitions.

A. As used in this chapter, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms and both their singular and plural and noun and verb forms, as applicable, mean the following:

1. *Cigarette* has the meaning given that term by ORS 323.010(1).
2. *Device* means any battery- or electrically-powered thing made or adapted for a particular purpose.
3. *Inhalant delivery system* has the meaning given that term by ORS 431A.175(1)(a)(A).
4. *Park* means the parcels depicted in Wasco County Assessor Map 1N 13E 3 BA as Tax Lots 100, 500, and 600, commonly known as *Lewis & Clark Festival Park*, including (without limitation) its public amenities and recreation areas, parking lots, sidewalks, and all immediately adjacent public rights-of-way under the City's regulatory control.
5. *Smokes* or *smoking* has the meaning given that term by ORS 811.193(1) (b)(A), but does not include activities regulated by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. § 1996 *et seq.*).
6. *Tobacco products* has the meaning given that term by ORS 431A.175(1)(b).

7. *Uses an inhalant delivery system* has the meaning given that term by ORS 811.193(1)(b)(B).

5.02.03 Prohibited Acts.

- A. Smoking and Vaping Prohibited. No person shall smoke or use an inhalant delivery system at the Park.
- B. Permits. The City Manager shall include reference to this Chapter and its restrictions in all Park use application forms and permits.

5.02.04 Signs.

- A. City Manager Authority. The City Manager shall determine the number, content, physical characteristics, and locations of “No Smoking or Vaping” signs posted at the Park; provided, however, the City Manager shall cause at least one such sign to be posted at both the Park’s main entrance and another conspicuous location within the Park.
- B. No Defense to Enforcement. The absence of a “No Smoking or Vaping” sign in any area of the Park shall not justify a violation nor preclude enforcement of this Chapter.

5.02.05 Waste.

- A. Disposal. No person shall dispose any waste (including ash and cigarette butts) within the Park and generated from the act of smoking or using an inhalant device.
- B. Contraband. No person shall carry into the Park any smoking receptacles (including ashtrays).

5.02.06 Exceptions.

- A. Motor Vehicles. The restrictions of this Chapter do not apply to persons within an enclosed and closed motor vehicle.
- B. Designated Smoking Area. The restrictions of this Chapter do not apply to persons within the *Designated Smoking Area* incidental to an approved and specially permitted event as described in this Section. Any permit applicant seeking to completely reserve the Park for an event may request use of the *Designated Smoking Area* for their event. The City Manager shall determine the location of the *Designated Smoking Area* and may move it in their discretion; provided, however, such area shall be clearly marked, set aside for no other purpose, and be situated away from common areas (i.e., not located near entrances, exits, walkways, lobbies, picnic sites, recreational fields, shelters, gazebos, restrooms, activity areas, and similar amenities or uses). In all cases, the permittee shall be responsible for providing appropriate receptacles for the disposal of all waste generated from the act of smoking or using an inhalant device.

5.02.07 Enforcement and Violations.

- A. Enforcement. This Chapter shall be enforced by the City of The Dalles Police Department. Any Police Officer enforcing this Chapter should make educating the public of the existence of this Chapter and its restrictions as their initial method of enforcement; provided, however, ignorance of this Chapter and its restrictions shall not justify a violation nor preclude enforcement of this Chapter.
- B. Violation. Any person violating any provision of this Chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars.
- C. Remedies Cumulative. The remedies provided by this Chapter are cumulative and in addition to any other remedies available at law or equity.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be effective 30 days after adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8TH DAY OF MAY, 2023,

Voting Yes	Councilors:	_____
Voting No	Councilors:	_____
Abstaining	Councilors:	_____
Absent	Councilors:	_____

AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS 8TH DAY OF MAY, 2023.

Richard A. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

Izetta Grossman, CMC, City Clerk



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

AGENDA LOCATION: Action Item #10B

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Matthew Klebes, City Manager

ISSUE: Climate Resiliency Plan

BACKGROUND: At the April 24th City Council meeting the Wasco County Joint Ad Hoc Climate Resiliency Committee presented their report to the City Council. After hearing the presentation, the City Council directed the committee to bring the report back to the City Council at the next meeting to allow sufficient time to review.

The report is presented here for your consideration as part of an effort to mitigate local climate change impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and seize opportunities for community benefits. At the previous City Council meeting it was noted that this report is only the start of the conversation regarding Climate Resiliency. If the council accepts the report, staff will work over the next several months to evaluate its recommendations for possible action.

BUDGET ALLOCATION: None at this time.

COUNCIL ALTERNATIVES:

1. **Staff Recommendation:** *Move to accept the Climate Resiliency Report and direct staff to evaluate recommendations for potential implementation.*
2. Direct staff to research specific items in the report for future consideration.



Developing Climate Resilience in Wasco County

Final | Approved by Committee 4.13.23

Report of The Dalles - Wasco County Joint Ad Hoc Climate Resiliency Committee
Wasco County, Oregon



Executive Summary

The Dalles-Wasco County Joint Climate Resiliency Committee recommends that local governments set policies, budgets, and projects, and show leadership, to buffer adverse local climate effects, while improving government operations and quality of life. The Committee's recommendations for action are grouped under five problem/opportunity statements in this report:

- A. Green House Gas (GHG) emissions have far-reaching environmental and human health impacts.
- B. Fossil fuel use is a significant local contributor to GHG – and should be reduced.
- C. The built environment can both generate a large percentage of GHG emissions, and offer opportunities to buffer climate impacts.
- D. Climate change will result in increasing average temperatures, and erratic and extreme weather events.
- E. Ongoing changes – in Northwest climate patterns, natural resource concerns, state and national policies, and local priorities – require continued attention.

Introduction

The Dalles and Wasco County are already experiencing the initial impacts of climate change. We should take action to prepare for larger impacts and adapt to them – while also potentially creating local jobs and improving our quality of life in the process.



Recent examples of the local climate change impacts include the 2021 Northwest-wide “heat dome” with its record high temperatures, and the late snowstorm of April 2022. Climate scientists predict we can expect less-predictable seasons and more extreme weather variability; warming average temperatures, the threat of hotter summers; less snowpack, and thus, a less consistent community water supply; and, more frequent and destructive wildfires, threatening both our homes and our air quality.^[1]

These climate effects paint an unsettling picture.^[2] We can expect stresses on both people and infrastructure. While this global problem is too much for any community or country to resolve, we cannot wait or hope for a solution from state or federal government. Responding to local climate stresses is an opportunity to build a healthier and more prosperous community in the face of these changes.

A number of local entities are already engaged with climate issues, though overall, efforts are modest. See Appendix B. The City of The Dalles has taken important steps in securing future water supplies with improvements now underway. Nevertheless, The City of The Dalles (COTD) and Wasco County (WC) governments must take more energetic actions to buffer our community against some of the expected effects of climate change. There are feasible, affordable, and local policies, programs, and leadership opportunities that could reduce our vulnerability to the extremes of erratic seasons and weather – and also improve our quality of life.

We believe that actions by COTD and WC (together, “local government”) would demonstrate important leadership, and secure a “triple win” for our community:

- Mitigating or buffering some of the expected impacts.
- Making some local government operations cleaner, more efficient, and/or more resilient.
- Increasing our community’s quality of life.

This brief report lays out several paths we believe could help achieve the triple win for The Dalles and Wasco County in the face of climate change. The time to take action is now, as national and state policy priorities seem to be aligning with many of the CRC’s recommendations, and allocating significant funds for them. (See Appendix A for potential funding sources.)

[1] For a brief graphical overview of Northwest climatic changes in coming decades, see this story map: <https://uw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=0fca8dcc02e84279a2fa10a6a5f07481>

For additional scientific grounding on Northwest climate impacts, see:

- US Climate Resilience Toolkit for the Northwest: <https://toolkit.climate.gov/regions/northwest>
- USDA’s page “Climate Impacts in the Northwest”:
<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northwest/topic/climate-change-impacts-northwest>
- University of Washington’s Climate Impacts Group: <https://cig.uw.edu/>

[2] Almost uniquely unsettling: One study suggests The Dalles is just one of two communities in the Northwest to be simultaneously threatened by climate-intensified wildfire, drought, and flooding.

<https://www.opb.org/article/2021/02/25/cascadia-mapping-shows-communities-most-vulnerable-to-effects-of-climate-change/>)

Call to Action and Next Steps

The Committee encourages the CoTD City Council and WC Board of County Commissioners to adopt this report as a part of a policy to mitigate local climate change impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and seize opportunities for community benefits.

The Committee recommends directing staff or securing a technically informed consultant to poll the community for feedback to help set priorities among these recommendations, to be accomplished by mid-summer 2023. The consultant or staff should then review the recommendations with partners to identify actions based on feasibility, and those with resources already allocated, as well as including any additional recommendations that arise from their work. Within the prioritization, staff should weigh differential impacts of climate change on those who are particularly vulnerable, and offer actions to address inequities in impacts and resources.

This set of recommendations, in other words, is not the final word on climate change and The Dalles and Wasco County. We hope, rather, that this is a start. These recommendations are a mix of ideas large and small. Some are already in discussion in local government, others have not yet been raised to our knowledge.

We encourage The Dalles and the greater community of Wasco County to thoughtfully and meaningfully act on opportunities to mitigate climate impacts and realize benefits of efficiency, resilience, and improved quality of life.

Respectfully submitted for consideration,

The members of the Joint Climate Resiliency Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

[Problem Statements are in orange, Value Statements are in green, action items are bullets]



Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have far-reaching environmental and human health impacts.

We value efficient use of energy.

- Conduct energy audits of City/County Facilities.
 - Evaluate solar installation at local government buildings.
- Explore a local incentive fund for residential/commercial solar installations and electrification that replaces fossil fuel use.
- Host workshop to share ROI, lifecycle cost analysis, and incentives, for residents, businesses considering local solar installation.

We value reducing our GHG emissions, to help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

- Develop a formal, technically informed, community-wide climate action plan
 - Include interested local governments (city, port, school district, county, etc.).
 - Set GHG emissions targets for local governments, other participating entities.
 - Incorporate emissions goals into capital improvement plans for City/County
 - Include tree canopy, urban heat island, electrification, solar power and other locally actionable elements in the plan.
- Consider directing staff, and possibly sharing staff resources with other organizations, to focus on numerous funding opportunities available for local climate action.



Fossil fuel use is a significant local contributor to GHG – and should be reduced.^[1]

We value alternative fuel sources that can support a thriving community and economy.

- Right-size public fleets to electric vehicles where duty-cycle allows.
 - Consider “clean diesel” or other fuel sources where electric is not available.
- Provide strategically placed recharging stations and priority parking for electric vehicles -- both the public, and public agency fleets.
- Assess and experimentally implement an EV car-share program like CRuSE.

We value encouraging multi-modal transportation to reduce fossil fuel dependency and promote local air quality and health.

- Prioritize multi-modal transportation and linkages to trails/paths.
 - Create and budget for annual investment in walking (multiuse) trails and lanes, with emphasis on cross-community commuting, recreation, and safe routes to school.
 - Support/build an expanded multi-use urban path system linking Riverfront Trail to both N-S and E-W paths, shopping, schools.
 - Build several pedestrian/bike "nodes" or trailheads with appropriate safety, lighting, to access urban paths -- e.g., downtown plaza.
 - Evaluate commercial district and arterial street designs (lanes, sizing, traffic calming) to encourage safe use of bikes and pedestrians.
 - Encourage use of The Link public transit system.

[1] Transportation contributed 35% of Oregon’s GHG in 2021, according to the state. See: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/Pages/GHG-Inventory.aspx>



The built environment can both generate a large percentage of GHG emissions^[1], and offer opportunities to buffer climate impacts.

We value a built environment that is resilient to extreme weather and minimizes GHG emissions.

- Assess government buildings for durability under extreme events (long "heat domes", dense wildfire smoke).
- Identify solutions for reducing built environment emissions starting with city/county facilities.
- Review local codes and design standards to appropriately support and incentivize increased energy efficiency, solar panels (both residential, commercial, and potentially shading over parking lots), low-water landscaping, and use of gray water.
- Consider installing a demonstration lattice wall (aka green wall) on appropriate government buildings.

[1] The built environment – residential and commercial buildings – emit approximately one-third of Oregon’s GHG, according to the state. See: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/Pages/GHG-Inventory.aspx>



Climate change will result in increasing average temperatures, and erratic and extreme weather events.

We value safe spaces to congregate that will lower urban heat island effects.

- Increase tree canopy throughout The Dalles to offset increased temperatures and increase livability.
 - Analyze current city-wide tree canopy and develop an Urban Forest Management Plan to improve canopy cover, lower heat island effects, promote walkability, and address tree canopy benefits equitably.
 - Re-orient staff (public projects, maintenance, transportation staff and engineers) to understand large shade trees as critical infrastructure.
 - Budget and support public maintenance of streets, sidewalks, underground utilities, and other infrastructure impacted by large shade trees, to preserve those trees.
 - Consider hiring permanent tree maintenance and tree-planting position.
 - Consider city mini-grants to assist homeowners in planting trees; and maintaining large-diameter, "heritage" trees.
 - Consider support for cooling and heating shelters open during extremes in weather.

We value other opportunities for reducing GHG emissions.

- Partner with solid waste entities, health organizations, and environmental agencies to study fugitive emissions from the landfill and ways to capture for potential reuse.
- Partner with utilities to provide education, incentives for home energy audits, electrification, and energy efficiency.

We value empowering citizens to learn more about climate change.

- City/county host central contact point of contact for relevant climate info, carbon footprint reduction measures, incentives, etc. for residents, such as web site; and, potentially, a single staff point of contact (possibly shared across organizations).

We value support for other organizations and residents to reduce their carbon footprints, and to become more climate-resilient.

- Assess potential for a climate action revolving loan program (for nonprofits, education, et al, to institute renewables and other climate practices in alignment with a formal climate action plan).

Ongoing changes – in Northwest climate patterns, natural resource concerns, state and national policies, and local priorities – require continued attention.

We value local governments and leaders being diligent on climate change.

- Form a local multigovernmental, interagency stakeholders group or steering committee to explore collaborative climate policies, outreach, and action.
 - Invite participation by other local governments with significant infrastructure, vehicle fleets, and energy system responsibility.
 - Invite nonprofit groups that are working on these issues.
 - Incorporate climate impacts and mitigation opportunities into analysis of budgets and projects.
- Engage with regional technical groups, such as the “Public Sector Round Table” of Northwest public utilities.
- Schedule semi-annual or annual climate impacts and actions review (whether referencing this report or an alternate local technical plan), involving both staff and elected officials.
 - Invite state or regional climate impacts researchers to share data and outlook for near-future climate effects.
 - Consider forming a scientific steering panel or advisory group to make annual assessments and recommendations for next-actions.

We value follow-through on critical issues, starting with water supply.

- Prioritize analysis and funding of water system storage, leak-reduction, and conservation efforts, both in The Dalles and for Wasco County’s rural communities.

Appendix A: Climate Resilience Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities

Oregon – General Categories

Oregon Department of Energy -

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Pages/index.aspx>

This is the first place to start when looking for technical assistance and funding for a variety of projects. Examples range from help to homeowners such as rebates for solar installations, to rebates for landlords to install energy efficient heat pumps, to energy audits for rural small businesses and agriculture, to grants to communities of up to \$1,000,000 for renewable energy or climate resiliency projects. Subscribe to selected updates from the ODOE here - <http://web.energy.oregon.gov/cn/a6n53/subscribe>

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Climate Change and Public Health Program

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/HealthyEnvironments/climatechange/Pages/index.aspx>

The program offers a great deal of technical assistance related to the intersection of public health with climate adaptation and mitigation. There may also be some grants awarded through regional public health departments.

Oregon Global Warming Commission

<https://www.keeporegoncool.org/>

This commission, formed in 2007, has as its mission to recommend ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions, and to help the state, local governments, business, and Oregonians prepare for the effects of climate change. Thus far, all effort toward achieving greenhouse gas emissions goals has been voluntary, and has fallen short of meeting its interim targets. SB 522, Modernization of the Global Warming Commission, would, if passed, expand the scope of the commission, increase staffing to better serve Oregonians, update state greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals, and require state agencies to report on progress toward achieving those goals. The OGWC will likely continue to be an important resource for information and technical assistance.

Federal Funds – General Categories

There are many opportunities for federal funding via recently passed federal legislation relating to infrastructure and climate action.

Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments and Other Partners

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA-V2.pdf>

This is essentially 500 pages of funding opportunities for a variety of infrastructure projects, not all related to climate change, but a significant number could apply. For example, there is funding for electric vehicle charging stations to help build out a national network of 500,000 vehicle chargers. There is capital funding available for low or no-emissions public and school bus projects. There is funding for a variety of projects related to clean energy, improving the resilience of the grid, carbon sequestration, and much more.

Guidebook to the Inflation Reduction Act's Investments in Clean Energy and Climate Action

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Guidebook.pdf>

This is 180+ pages of funding opportunities, ALL of which are related to Climate Action.

Trees and Green Infrastructure

There is a growing number of funding opportunities for Green Space or Street Tree projects, particularly when those projects prioritize environmental equity within communities, and when communities have tree or green infrastructure plans in place.

The Arbor Day Foundation

The Arbor Day Foundation has long been promoting trees in communities. While they do provide many small trees to individuals for Arbor Day, they also have some corporate partners that help with large grants (\$20,000) to organizations in the form of community green space awards. <https://www.arborday.org/programs/BankofAmericaGrant/>

Oregon Community Trees

<https://www.oregoncommunitytrees.org/>

Mission is to promote healthy urban and community forests through leadership, education, awareness and advocacy. This organization will assist community groups, local governments, and schools with their expertise and limited resources. OTC offers small grants of up to \$500 to cities to boost their Arbor Month activities.

<https://www.oregoncommunitytrees.com/grants>

Oregon Department of Forestry Urban and Community Forest Program

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/urbanforests.aspx>

This program offers expertise of urban forestry staff, tools for communities such as the [Urban Forestry Toolkit](#) and [TreePlotter Inventory](#) software, as well as [grants](#).

Education

Here are just a few of the many funding sources available in Oregon related to education about climate change.

- [Oregon Community Foundation](#)
- [Meyer Memorial Trust](#)
- [Gray Family Foundation](#)

Community Resilience And Climate Justice

NOAA Climate and Societal Interactions grants (from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

<https://cpo.noaa.gov/Funding-Opportunities/CPO-Climate-and-Societal-Interactions-CSI-Division-Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-BIL-Funding-Opportunity>

Supports collaborative research and community engagement projects that improve climate adaptation planning and action.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development Economic Resilience Programs

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/economic_resilience

The Office of Economic Development (OED) offers a wide range of funding and other assistance in a variety of categories. Here are just a few: Financing High-performance infrastructure, Community Resilience, Multi-family Better Buildings Challenge, and the

Renew300 Initiative, which aims to help federally assisted housing properties manage utility costs through the installation of onsite or community-based renewable energy technology.

US Climate Resilience Toolkit

<https://toolkit.climate.gov/content/funding-opportunities>

This website is a clearinghouse for a variety of funding opportunities for communities to increase climate resilience.

EPA Environmental Justice Funding and Technical Assistance

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

This website is a clearinghouse for funding opportunities and technical assistance related to Environmental and Climate Justice.

EPA Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/building-blocks-sustainable-communities>

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities provides quick, targeted technical assistance to selected communities using tools that are designed to address a variety of challenges in many different local contexts. The purpose of delivering these tools is to stimulate a discussion about growth and development and strengthen local capacity to implement sustainable approaches.

Transportation

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

There are a variety of funding opportunities available through ODOT. Here are a few:

- **Small Urban and Rural Carbon Emissions Reduction Projects -**

\$13 million is available in 2023 under an ODOT-managed competitive grant program. Eligible projects must reduce emissions from transportation and be in urban and rural areas of the state with populations fewer than 200,000. This is part of the federal [Carbon Reduction Program](#) that will bring \$82 million to Oregon over the next five years. [Here is more information about this project](#). ODOT is hosting a webinar for potential applicants on March 15 at 2 pm. Someone from The Dalles and Wasco

County really should attend to help our community apply for these funds. Here is the link to register.

- **Connect Oregon**

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Programs/Pages/ConnectOregon.aspx>

This state initiative specifically invests in “non-highway modes of transportation. Previously, this included bicycle/pedestrian and transit projects, though these will have different funding sources going forward. Future projects will include aviation, rail, and marine projects.

- **Oregon’s Five Year EV Charging Infrastructure Roadmap**

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/climate/Pages/NEVI.aspx>

\$100 million has been committed by ODOT over the next five years to public EV charging stations. Local governments and businesses can express their [interest in hosting public charging stations here](#).

The Built Environment

Oregon Energy Grants, Loans, Rebates and Incentives

<http://www.energy-grants.net/>

This website is a clearinghouse for funding opportunities specifically for homeowners and small business owners to increase energy efficiency of their residences and businesses.

Federal Homeowner Tax Credit FAQs

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2022-40.pdf>

This Fact Sheet issues frequently asked questions about energy efficient home improvements and residential clean energy property credits.

Potential State Legislation

Buildings

The 2022 Oregon Legislative Session resulted in the [Resilient Efficient Buildings Task Force](#) with the goal of reducing climate pollution from our built environment. The REBuilding Task Force held 17 public meetings over nine months and was made up of more than two dozen members from across Oregon, representing a variety of stakeholders: lawmakers, health



experts, contractors, architects, local governments, community organizations, labor unions, climate experts, consumer watchdogs, and representatives from electric utilities and the gas industry. Their task was to produce recommendations for legislation related to the Task Force's goal. Here are the four bills that resulted. Note that these are not in their final form, but it's thought they are very likely to pass in some form, due to the bipartisan nature of the task force. If these bills pass, there will be additional technical support and funding for

- **[SB 868](#) Healthy Heating and Cooling for All**

This bill aligns energy efficiency programs with state climate goals, sets a heat pump target for the state, supports workforce development, and improves navigation of federal and state incentives for energy efficiency and retrofits of homes and businesses. Here is a [one-pager](#) from the bill sponsors while the bill text is being drafted.

- **[SB 869](#) Build Smart from the Start**

Buildings are the second largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon. An existing Executive Order (20-04) requires the Building Codes Division to evaluate and report on Oregon's current progress toward achieving goals for new residential and commercial buildings, and options for achieving that goal. This bill would codify this executive order into law and do a few other good things, too. Here is a [one-pager](#) from the bill sponsors while the bill text is being drafted.

- **[SB 870](#) Building Performance Standards**

Older buildings consume more energy and produce more carbon emissions than newer buildings. This bill will establish building performance standards for large commercial buildings to reduce their energy use and climate emissions over time, requiring them to meet energy and emissions reduction targets over time from a flexible menu of improvements. It is modeled after [Washington State BPS](#), which passed in 2019. Here is a [one-pager](#) from the bill sponsors while the bill text is being drafted.

- **[SB 871](#) Smart State Buildings**

This bill removes barriers to accelerate energy retrofits and upgrades in state buildings, allowing the state to lead by example, and demonstrate how increasing resilience and efficiency and transitioning to clean energy is feasible, affordable, and beneficial. Here is a [one-pager](#) from the bill sponsors while the bill text is being drafted.

SB 522 - Modernization of the Global Warming Commission

This bill would, if passed, expand the scope of the commission, increase staffing to better serve Oregonians, update state greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals, and require state agencies to report on progress toward achieving those goals. The OGWC will likely continue to be an important resource for information and technical assistance.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/SB522>

HB3016 – Green Infrastructure / TREES Act

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/HB3016>

This bill, currently in the Oregon legislature, has received its first public hearing with overwhelming support. In fact, there is currently no opposition to it. If passed, the bill will provide grants to Oregon communities specifically to assist with improving their urban tree canopy. This is a well-drafted bill that incentivizes communities to hire local workforce for their green infrastructure projects, it addresses the well-documented disparity in tree canopies between affluent and less affluent neighborhoods, and it provides technical assistance communities will need (from the Oregon Department of Forestry) to plan and implement their projects successfully.

HB 2990 – Community Resilience Hubs

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Overview/HB2990>

This bill would provide funding for local communities to plan and build resilience strategies that make sense for their community, to help build local resilience and adapt to climate change.

Appendix B: Local Climate Asset Map

The table below compiles organizations and their climate mitigation/adaptation actions.

Organization	Climate Impact Actions
CONSUMPTION AND WASTE	
Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling https://tricountyrecycle.com/ 541-506-2632	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household Hazardous Waste collection events Recycling information Composting and other waste reduction information
The Dalles Disposal https://www.thedallesdisposal.com 541-298-5149	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential Collection of yard waste, Commingled Recycling and Glass Commercial collection of cardboard, organics, recycling, construction and demolition debris
Dirt Hugger Landscape Supply https://www.dirthugger.com/ 541-946-3478	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce organic compost using locally available feedstocks such as fruit, wood and beer yeast. By composting, organics don't go to the landfill where they create methane, a greenhouse gas 23 times more harmful than CO₂.
Gorge Gleaning http://gorgegleaning.com/ 541-490-6420	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect fresh fruits and vegetables from public, private orchards and backyard gardens to donate to hunger relief groups in the Columbia River Gorge
BUILDINGS AND ENERGY	
Mid-Columbia Community Action Council https://www.mccac.com/energy-and-utility-assistance 541-298-5131	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide weatherization services to reduce home energy usage Energy Education classes Transitional Housing & Shelter Services (shelter for homeless)
Northern Wasco County People's Utility District https://www.nwascopud.org/ (541) 296-2226	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Impact Resources: Educational programs and project funding to support terrestrial and aquatic improvements https://www.nwascopud.org/about/kids/ https://www.nwascopud.org/programs-and-services/mcnary-fisheries-compensation-committee/ 	

Organization	Climate Impact Actions
	<p>https://www.mcnary.fish/what-we-do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sources of Electrical Energy: Hydroelectric power, renewable energy options, and the history of power resources in the District https://www.nwascopud.org/about/power-sources/ https://www.nwascopud.org/programs-and-services/pure-power-program/ https://www.nwascopud.org/local-power-supply/ ● Electric Vehicles: Information about the technology, GHG reduction potential, incentives, and features https://www.nwascopud.org/programs-and-services/electric-vehicles/ ● Energy Efficiency Upgrade Programs: Rebates for weatherization, appliances, heat pumps, and commercial buildings https://www.nwascopud.org/programs-and-services/energy-efficiency-and-rebate-programs/ ● Net Metering for Renewable Energy: Customers service policies for Net Metering available to Residential and Commercial customers https://www.nwascopud.org/wp-content/uploads/Customer-Service-Policy-March-2022.pdf Policy 41 at page 24 https://www.nwascopud.org/residential/residential-rates/ https://www.nwascopud.org/commercial/commercial-rates/
NW Natural	
<p>Website: nwnatural.com 503-610-7954</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Energy Efficiency Upgrade Programs: Rebates for weatherization, heat rated fireplaces, water heaters, commercial buildings, residential single and multi-family buildings. https://www.nwnatural.com/ways-to-save/savings-programs https://www.energytrust.org/commercial/multifamily-cash-incentives/ https://www.energytrust.org/commercial/existing-buildings-oregon-cash-incentives/ https://www.energytrust.org/residential/incentives/ https://energytrust.clearesult.com/explore_app/ ● Smart Energy programs: <i>Commercial & Residential-</i> Mitigating carbon emissions from the natural gas use through projects that reduce or prevent the release of greenhouse gasses. https://www.energytrust.org/residential/incentives/

Organization	Climate Impact Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developed Low Carbon Pathway- Our mission to work with stakeholders on a voluntary carbon savings goal of 30% by 2035, and be a carbon neutral energy provider by 2050. https://www.lesswecan.com/ ● Vision 2050- Destination Zero- NW Natural report on carbon neutrality future. https://www.nwnatural.com/about-us/the-company/carbon-neutral-future ● Complimentary Equipment inspections- Tech will perform annual equipment inspection for residential and commercial sites. Tech can identify areas where improvements or repairs can be performed for better equipment efficiency. https://www.nwnatural.com/business/services/inspections-tune-ups/schedule-inspection ● <u>Facts and Analysis About Our Energy System</u> NW Natural is committed to effectively addressing climate change by actively supporting sound energy policy informed by facts and transparent analysis in service to those that depend on us.
Wasco Electric Co-Op https://www.wascoelectric.com 541-296-2740	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Offers weatherization audits ● Offers rebates on energy efficient items like windows and doors, insulation, washer/dryer, smart thermostat, heat pumps, etc.
NATURAL RESOURCES / SYSTEMS / LAND USE	
Columbia River Gorge Commission http://www.gorgecommission.org/ 509-493-3323	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate Change Action Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
City of The Dalles Beautification Committee Tree Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Beautification Committee is working with the City to pursue a Tree Project. The mayor and the city council are in support of this and have given the Beatification Committee \$20K this budget cycle to start the Tree Project. Some of the things being considered right now are a tree inventory, a canopy cover inventory, hiring an arborist to help figure out why the downtown trees aren't surviving and what we need to do differently (probably it will involve larger wells and reliable irrigation). We are also considering the scope of the project. Right now, the group wants to target the downtown area to create shade, lower summertime temps, and improve the appearance of the downtown area. Trees sequester and store CO², a greenhouse gas, and certain trees

Organization	Climate Impact Actions
	<p>remove significant particulate pollutants from the environment.</p>
<p>Oregon Department of Forestry https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/index.aspx 503-945-7410</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate Change and Carbon Plan - excerpt from <i>Principles section</i>: Climate change is a serious threat. We have less than a decade to alter behaviors if we want to avoid catastrophic impacts. We must be innovative, creative, and proactive in working toward solutions, not simply react to the results of climate change. ● Climate Change page: https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/climate-change.aspx ● Landscape Resiliency Program - The Landscape Resiliency Program was established through Senate Bill 762, Section 18 (2021) to improve forest restoration and resiliency. This grant program will fund landscape-scale projects that reduce wildfire risk on public and private forestlands and rangelands, and in communities near homes and critical infrastructure through restoration of landscape resiliency and reduction of hazardous fuels. ● Firewise USA residential fire protection program by the National Fire Protection Association - Every year, devastating wildfires burn across the United States. At the same time, a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. While these fires will continue to happen, there are things you can do to protect your home and neighborhood as well as your family's safety. The Firewise USA® program is here to help you get started.
<p>Wasco County Planning Department https://www.co.wasco.or.us/departments/planning/index.php 541-506-2560</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designated management agency for the Miles Creek Subbasin and John Day Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans ● Works collaboratively with partners on natural hazard planning, including Wasco County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan ● Implements Statewide Climate Change Land Use Planning goals and policies
<p>City of The Dalles Community Development Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designated management agency for urban portion of Miles Creek Subbasin TMDL

Organization	Climate Impact Actions
https://www.thedalles.org/department/community_development_planning/index.php 541-296-5481	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively with partners on natural hazard planning, including Wasco County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan • Implements Statewide Climate Change Land Use Planning goals and policies
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District	
http://wascoswcd.org/ 541-296-6178 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</i> - Conservation cover is a permanent vegetative cover usually located on past grain cropland. Plants that produce high volumes of organic matter are recommended when this practice is applied to increase carbon sequestration, build soil health, improve water quality and strengthen benefits to wildlife or pollinator habitat. • <i>Residue and Tillage Management (No-Till / Direct Seeding)</i> - No-till limits soil disturbance to manage the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and plant residue on the soil surface. No-till may increase soil carbon sequestration while reducing emissions from the field and delivering the co-benefits of reducing fossil fuel use, increasing plant-available moisture, and improving water quality. No-till reduces the amount of soil carbon released into the atmosphere when compared to soil disturbance practices, while also reducing emissions and sequestering carbon. • <i>Prescribed Grazing</i> - Prescribed grazing is managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing or browsing animals to achieve specific ecological, economic and management goals. Prescribed grazing may sequester carbon in perennial biomass and soils while delivering the co-benefits of enhancing or maintaining desired plant species for forage, improving water quality, increasing stocking rates and livestock vigor, and building soil health. • <i>Riparian Forest Buffer (CREP)</i> - A riparian forest buffer is an area covered by trees or shrubs that is located along a body of waterbody (i.e. stream). Riparian forest buffers may generate carbon sequestration in perennial biomass and soils while generating the co-benefits of improving water quality, restoring diversity of riparian plant communities, providing wildlife habitat, and improving stream conditions for certain species. • <i>Tree and Shrub Establishment</i> - This conservation practice establishes woody vegetation by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding or through natural regeneration. Established trees or shrubs may increase carbon sequestration in perennial biomass and soils while delivering the co-benefits of maintaining or increasing plant diversity, establishing wildlife or pollinator habitat, reducing erosion, and improving water quality. 	

Organization	Climate Impact Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management</i> - This practice supports land managers in establishing and maintaining upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife. Examples include creating food plots and planting cool season grasses or legumes, forbs, trees, or other woody vegetation depending on the target wildlife species. Upland wildlife habitat may increase carbon sequestration in perennial biomass and soils while generating the co-benefits of improving wildlife and plant species diversity, increasing wildlife and pollinator habitat, and improving water quality. ● <i>Forest Stand Improvement</i> - The manipulation of species composition, stand structure, and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation. Pre-commercial thinning is the removal of non-merchantable trees (either due to size, condition, or species) to maximize site's potential for remaining trees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Benefits Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve and sustain forest health and productivity. ○ Reduce damage from pests and moisture stress. ○ Initiate forest stand regeneration. ○ Reduce fire risk and hazard and facilitate prescribed burning. ○ Restore or maintain natural plant communities. ○ Improve wildlife and pollinator habitat. ○ Alter quantity, quality, and timing of water yield. ○ Increase or maintain carbon storage. ● <i>Provide Technical and Financial assistance to landowners in Wasco County.</i> Through cost share programs and financial payments through both NRCS and FSA by enrolling into programs that include the conservation practices above.
TRANSPORTATION	
Mid-Columbia Economic Development District https://www.mcedd.org/ 541-296-2266	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduces carbon emissions by providing public transportation (The Link) ● MCEDD Energy & Project Manager
NETWORKS	
Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network https://cgcan.org/about/	<p>The Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network (CGCAN) educates, organizes and motivates Columbia Gorge activists to reduce and eliminate fossil fuel usage and climate change, at all levels from individual to global. We encourage clean local renewable energy, conservation, community sustainability and resilience throughout our National Scenic Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Political Action/Direct Action ● Education/Personal Footprint ● Community Footprint ● Divestment

Other Community Climate Action Plans

- Hood River Energy Plan - <https://www.mcedd.org/industry-development/special-projects/>
- Port Townsend / Jefferson Co, WA Climate Action Committee - <https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/637/Climate-Action-Committee>
- City of Bend Climate Action Plan - <https://www.bendoregon.gov/city-projects/sustainability/community-climate-action-plan>
- Eugene Climate Action Plan 2.0 - <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4284/Climate-Action-Plan-20>
- CRGC Climate Action Plan (draft) - <http://www.gorgecommission.org/initiatives/climate-change>
- Oregon Climate Action Plan – EO 17-20 https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_17-20.pdf
 - Two Year Progress Report March 2022 - https://assets.nationbuilder.com/reneworegon/pages/1321/attachments/original/1647119874/Two_Year_OCAP_Progress_Report_2022.pdf?1647119874
- Ashland Climate Action Plan - <https://ashlandor.org/climate-energy/climate-plan/>
- Corvallis Climate Action Plan - <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/community/page/corvallis-climate-action>
- Acton, MA CAP - <https://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7404/CAP-Blueprint>

Resources

City of Hood River Energy Audit

<https://cityofhoodriver.gov/analysis-city-energy-use-summer-2020/>

Grant Resources

<https://www.nwascopud.org/programs-and-services/energy-efficiency-and-rebate-programs/>

<https://www.nwascopud.org/programs-and-services/electric-vehicles/>

<https://www.commuteoptions.org> (Kim Curley, Kathy Fitzpatrick)

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/CREP.aspx>

<https://oregoncounties.org/oregon-department-of-energy-announces-12-million-in-grant-funding-for-renewable-energy-and-energy-resilience-projects/>

<https://www.energy.gov/funding-financing>

<https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/current-funding-opportunities>

<https://energycommunities.gov/funding-opportunities/>

<https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/fundraising-for-climate-change>

Appendix C : The Committee Process

The Dalles City Council and the Wasco County Board of Commissioners established the Joint Climate Resiliency Committee in June 2022. The committee's purpose was, by resolution, to "Provide recommendations to the City Council of the City of The Dalles and the Wasco County Board of Commissioners for possible regulations, programs, or policies regarding climate resiliency for the community." The committee was given a one year period.

Members of the committee include:

- Lisa Gambee, Wasco County, County Clerk;
- Tyler Stone, Wasco County, Administrative Officer; who was later replaced on the CRC by Wasco County Planning Director Kelly Howsley-Glover;
- Scott Randall, City of The Dalles, City Councilor;
- Dan Richardson, City of The Dalles, City Councilor – elected as committee chairman;
- Eric Hansen, City of The Dalles, Assistant Public Works Director;
- Brian Reel, Oregon Department of Forestry, Stewardship Forester;
- Ryan Bessette, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District, District Technician;
- Bruce Schwartz, Citizen
- Debi Ferrer, Citizen.

Additionally, several citizens and representatives of agencies such as Northern Wasco County PUD and Northwest Natural participated in many of the CRC meetings. The committee met monthly, and later appointed a subcommittee to make additional working meetings on specific points. Committee members early on discussed how to approach such a potentially overwhelming topic as climate change. By consensus, after initial discussions, the committee agreed to a mission statement:

"The Mission of the Climate Resiliency Committee (CRC) is to address the increasing impacts of climate change; we will recommend local, affordable, and achievable actions and strategies to the City of The Dalles and Wasco County."

Local, affordable, and achievable – these became guiding principles of the group. We did not define those precisely, but rather used them as a "gut check" on whether a proposed area of work or topic of discussion was within our purview. National policies? No, not local and not something we were likely to make any achievable progress on. Local government vehicle fleets' electrification? Yes: local, and at least potentially affordable, certainly achievable. Whether a given policy or area of work is actually affordable is, of course, up to staff and especially elected leaders.

The question of how a community might address climate change is not a new question. Communities around the Northwest have been wrestling with this question for years. There are a number of reports and plans written in the past 10 years. Among these are, for example, the Corvallis Climate Action Plan (2017) and the Hood River Energy Plan (2018).^[1]

There is a large field of literature with regard to climate plans. Washington State published a plan for how local governments could create a climate plan.^[2] One useful short document – we recommend staff and elected leaders to review this – is Bend’s “A Primer on Climate Action Plans: What are Other Western and U.S. Cities Doing?”^[3]

CRC members read several of these Northwest climate plans for ideas. There are a number of common themes or project ideas committee members harvested for consideration in The Dalles/Wasco County. The CRC also welcomed participation from several technically informed individuals, including representatives from Northern Wasco County PUD, public works departments, Wy’East RC&D, and Haley Ellett, management analyst with the city of Hood River and formerly a key staff person in development Hood River’s Energy Plan. Between these various sources, CRC members came up with nearly 100 potential projects or policies for COTD/Wasco County to explore. Over several discussions and iterations, the list was condensed into the current form.

There are two very significant climate impacts the Climate Resiliency Committee’s members decided not to investigate: Potential stresses to water supply, specifically to the city of The Dalles; and, increased frequency and intensity of wildland fires. These are arguably two of the most severe likely effects of global warming as felt in Wasco County. However, the City is already moving to markedly increase its water storage capacity via aquifer-recharge, and also study the larger issue via the ongoing “water system master plan study,” now underway. Likewise, there are statewide and local efforts to help residents reduce wildland fire hazards and adapt to more fire-prone conditions. The Committee felt it unnecessary to spend additional time emphasizing the need for these two areas of work.

The Committee’s resulting set of recommendations, above, are outlined as a series of value statements and areas of staff-work and policy considerations to begin addressing various other problems in a systematic fashion. Committee members wish to emphasize that this report’s recommendations are not comprehensive. The CRC did not have the resources, expertise, or time to write a “climate plan.” This report is a set of policy ideas and initiatives to explore – one of which could be a more comprehensive, technically rich climate plan. This report is a first effort to direct policy considerations and, potentially, on-the-ground staff-work. We hope other local governments, non-for-profits, agencies, and citizens draw inspiration for joining this conversation about gaining the “triple wins” in the face of climate change.

[1] See: https://hrccd.hoodrivercounty.gov/images/uploads/documents/Hood-River-Energy-Plan_6-18-18.pdf

[2] See: <https://mrsc.org/stay-informed/mrsc-insight/october-2020/climate-change-what-can-local-governments-do>

[3] <https://www.bendoregon.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=27470>