



Lane County Climate Action Group **Climate Action Plan Recommendations**

November 2019

Process:

This document represents eight months of work by residents of Lane County concerned about climate change and how to prepare for and respond to its future environmental impacts. This group was formed after the first 350 Eugene Townhall held on February 21st 2019, where participants chose the areas of action we saw as necessary to begin addressing Climate Action. We named our working group “Lane County Climate Action” (LCCA), and made it a new campaign of 350 Eugene. We held monthly meetings and have a list of over fifty participants, who have contributed either at meetings or by adding their suggestions via shared documents. This compilation document is the collection of our voluntary work to help address how Lane County can start planning for the impacts of climate change and developing new strategies to build resiliency in our county. We hope the county leadership will respect the volunteer time put into this document and take its recommendations seriously. When the county staff is ready to discuss these recommendations, we would like to schedule a meeting between county staff and LCCA members to discuss how our ideas will be incorporated into the Lane County Climate Action Plan.

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1. Transportation

Participants: Michael Carrigan, Peter & Martha Dragovich, Cary Thompson, Fred Mallory
Linda Heyl, Patty Hine, Mallory Roe

- Lane Transit District is central in our community – let's make better use of LTD and expand its reach county-wide.
- We want equity to be placed front and center in transportation planning.
- Public transit is funded with business taxes. Can we consider making LTD investments through property taxes and/or bonds?
- Promote alternative and public transit and active forms of transportation such as bicycling:
 - promote carpooling (i.e. non-single occupancy vehicles)
 - Promote car sharing, car ride services that move groups of people
 - discourage any new projects for commuting by single-occupancy cars
- The county should perform transportation carbon audits
- The county should address concerns about trucking and freight, and encourage a swift transition to alternative fuels.
- More electric vehicle charging infrastructure is needed
- Work with the City of Springfield to educate the public on walking, biking, and electric vehicles; encourage more use of LTD
- Lane County and the City of Eugene need to address carbon emissions reduction from the Eugene airport and air travel
- Encourage use of the Bolt Bus (Greyhound) to Portland & Seattle
- Adopt "Complete Streets": a policy for new roads that is not centered only on the single-occupancy vehicle, but includes safe walking, biking, and other forms of transportation.
- Work with state and federal governments to establish electric rail lines for shipping and commercial transport
- Add dedicated bike lanes that are safe to county roads
- School transportation needs to be included and funded in any move to electrification

2. Energy – Old & New

Participants: Linda Perrine, Linda Heyl, Ruth Duemler, Fred Mallery, Cary Thompson, Jim Neu, John, Deb McGee, Patty Hine

Move to 100% Renewable Energy: Recommendations

- Solar funding: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/slsc/property-assessed-clean-energy-programs>
- Joint meeting with all Public Utilities on Solar Expansion in Lane County:
 - EWEB, EPUD, Blachley Lane, Lane Electric Coop, SUB, Central Lincoln PUD
- Solar generation: local, non-local, utility scale
- Wind: inside Lane County? Eastern Oregon contracts
- A Lane County Clean Energy Fund to finance clean energy
- HB 2618: State-funded solar rebates to start in 2020

Energy Conservation & Efficiency – Residences & Businesses

- Energy score for more efficient homes
- Educate the public on energy and resource conservation
- Indoor cannabis growing operations- mandatory carbon offset purchases
- Star light, city nights: motion detector lights after business hours and after midnight for street lighting and public buildings; encourage private businesses to join in

Hydro-electric Dependence

- Hydro power is risky with climate change
- Lane County needs a more resilient energy mix

Grid infrastructure/Transmission/Micro-Grids/Underground Fiber Optic

- Transmission lines: move underground for less vulnerability in storms, fires
- Fiber Optic lines: place underground to rural areas for high-speed internet
- Micro grids/solar: allows rural areas to be less dependent on one power source

Natural Gas/Propane/BioGas use in Lane County: Recommendations

- Lane County Wastewater Treatment Facility – methane capture
- Glenwood & Landfill – methane capture
- Propane to electric appliances transition program

Wood Biomass Cogeneration

- Seneca Sawmill: feeding electricity to EWEB (19.8 MWatts) is not sustainable
- We need carbon neutral electric generation, and this does not qualify

Promote Business Participation in Transition to Clean Power

- Industrial – wood pulp/paper industry must transition from natural gas to clean electric energy
- Commercial – the county must provide incentives to move from gas to electric

Stay Abreast of New Technologies in Lane County, such as hydrogen power and fuel cells.

3. Food/Agriculture

Participants: Pam Driscoll, Deb McGee, David Tvedt, Tom Peck, Linda Perrine, David Babcock

1. Incentivize organic, regenerative agriculture in Lane County and transition from growing food for animal feed to growing it for local human consumption
 - a. Prioritize carbon sequestration steps for agriculture
 - b. Provide training for Lane County farmers
2. Reforest unused farm, forest & pasture land as soon as possible
 - a. Identify County lands (public & private) for reforestation
 - b. Offer incentives for County land-owners to reforest private lands
 - c. Enforce reforestation (2 year interval) of harvested timber land
 - d. Promote reforestation with annual tree start festival, repotting events, and other ways for the community to engage with County reforestation goals
3. Make large-scale composting and manuring financially and practically feasible
 - a. Provide compost pickup and distribution service
 - b. Expand the "Love Food, Not Waste" program county-wide
 - c. Subsidize commercially-produced bulk compost so farms can afford to use it generously
 - d. Provide trainings for homeowners, farmers, and commercial facilities
 - e. Improve collection of farm animal waste to central facilities for manuring, and ensure its availability and distribution at reasonable prices
4. Expand the Willamette Farm and Food Guide to be distributed throughout Lane County
 - a. Add gleaning opportunities from all rural residents who have excess grown food
5. Victory Gardens for All - teach community members how to grow gardens and promote the sharing of this knowledge. (See YouTube video: "The Power of Community" on how Cuba survived the oil embargo and transitioned to permaculture/organic gardening)
6. Food storage and distribution
 - a. There is a need for more local and regional sources of canned, dried, and preserved foods, for emergencies and regular use
 - b. Improve food bank distribution and reach county-wide
7. Water availability and efficiency for agriculture
 - a. Review and reconsideration of water rights in Lane County (e.g., when drought conditions happen, what is the county's priority for water allocation?)
 - b. Prioritization of community member's water rights over commercial and industrial organizations
 - c. The County should have the authority to manage water rights: a renegotiation of state and county administration of water resources is in order
 - d. Water rights should not be given for recreational cannabis

8. Protect and expand natural systems that help biodiversity, water quality, healthy ecosystems, and wildlife, via shading, water filtration, etc. This may include planting native plants in riparian areas.
9. The County should prepare ten-, twenty-, and thirty-year food security plans with more stressful weather in mind.
10. Develop a Lane County Land Trust; transition privately-owned land to public ownership and stewardship
11. Management/ownership of farmland: Lane County needs to consider moving farmland into County public ownership. Reasons include:
 - a. Removing the very high cost of land acquisition for new farmers
 - b. Keeping farmland in the public domain so it is not subject to market forces, or turned over to non-farm uses
 - c. Food is a human right
 - d. Forest land is publicly owned, farmland should be too
 - e. Transitioning agriculture to a publicly owned and managed system of agriculture will ensure quality food is affordable by everyone and promote social equity
12. Diversity in food production: agriculture needs to become more resilient in times of extreme weather events and changing climate
 - a. Transition grass-seed farms to food production in an organized manner
 - b. Fewer commodity crops (sold globally), more staple crops (sold locally)
13. Subsidize hemp agriculture and processing plants for building material, nutritious hemp seeds, hemp oil plastics, textiles, etc.
14. Pay farmers to provide insect/pollinator habitat, diverse native plants in addition to crops

4. Forestry/Timber

Participants: David Babcock, Tao Orion, Al LePage, Robin Bloomgarden, Lisa Arkin, Monica McLellan

Lane County should:

1. Improve the State of Oregon "Forest Practices Act"
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Working/Pages/FPA.aspx>
 - a. Minimum rotation of 80 years for private lands
 - b. Prohibit tree replanting with mono-culture stands of Douglas Fir: fire prone, destroys biodiversity
 - c. Prohibit aerial spraying of herbicides in public and private forests
 - d. Create buffer zones to stop logging within 100 ft of water ways
 - e. Strengthen/clarify policy around no clear-cutting/selective thinning only
 - f. Lane County Commissioners should advocate to the State for changes in forest management that make use of the best and latest forest biology for healthy, biodiverse, and more resilient forests
 - g. Prohibit logging on public forests except for the health of the forest, not for timber revenue.
 - h. Promote FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification, inspections and methods of forest management across Lane County. Provide education in FSC to private forest owners.

2. Reforest unused farm, forest, and pasture land as soon as possible with multiple species for healthy, biodiverse ecosystems.
 - a. Incentivize private landowners to reforest with diverse tree and plant species.
 - b. Identify land previously cleared for pasture, grass seed, etc., for reforestation/ wildlife habitat
 - c. Encourage County residents to plant trees and pollinator plants, and to reforest their land, with tree propagation events, free tree giveaways, training people in tree propagation, ensuring the diversity of native trees being offered, and encouraging school groups, churches, NGOs, etc. to be active in reforestation plans
 - d. Encourage K-12 education to provide lessons in the value of forests, the need to replant cleared land, what carbon sequestration does to reduce atmospheric carbon

3. Use county lands for maximum carbon sequestration and biodiversity
 - a. Ban for-profit logging on county public lands
 - b. Promote biodiversity on county public lands
 - c. Ban aerial herbicide spraying in Lane County
 - d. Ban herbicide use on all public lands in Lane County

4. Lobby state legislature for land use and forestry policy on state lands within the county.
 - a. Other potential lobbying targets/partners:
 - i. <http://oregoncounties.org/natural-resources-committee/>
 - ii. <https://www.lcog.org>
5. Stay out of the Association of Oregon and California Counties (AOCC). County staff and commissioners need to remain aware of the policies of this organization, options for alternative forest management (i.e. the Forest Stewardship Council) and carbon sequestration forest practices. County should not be funding an organization that is a private entity with no transparency with taxpayer money.
6. Lobby the State Legislature for county funding through the return of former timber taxes (mid-1970s to 1999)
7. Adopt county-wide policies for forest fire management and post-fire restrictions on salvage logging
8. Take a much stronger protective stance in land use policy and oversight
 - a. a. Resist the expansion of Eugene's urban growth boundary to promote urban density and maintain healthy county lands
 - b. Greatly strengthen and expand ecological criteria in land use policy, including consideration of biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and impacts on water.
 - c. Enforce 2 year replants after clear cutting if State of Oregon does not enforce
9. Act more aggressively to protect drinking water sources
 - a. Ban clear-cutting within watersheds
 - b. Ban aerial spraying within watersheds
 - c. Enact and enforce similar measures with regard to agriculture and industry
10. Support the enforcement of the Endangered Species Act
 - a. Conduct species inventories
 - b. Perform biodiversity monitoring

5. Justice, Labor & Training

Participants: Tom Peck, Linda Heyl, Patty Hine

Recommendations

1. Upgrade to electric and fuel efficient vehicles for trucking, public transportation and waste management.
2. Redesign roads to accommodate smaller vehicles and bicycles in order for safe and reliable alternatives to be accessible for the majority of working people.
3. Retrain people from the fossil fuel economy to participate in a new renewable energy economy. Rural jobs will be highly impacted and few alternatives exist for family wage jobs; therefore, retraining workers in forestry and large scale agriculture to more regenerative methods should be a priority. This should include FSC forestry certification and methods, organic certification and methods in agriculture, more movement of forestry waste to farms for carbon sequestration without having to purchase at retail prices from Lane Forest Products or Rexius.
4. Transition planning and training needs to follow "No one left behind!" principles. It must prioritize people of color, the homeless, the disabled, and other marginalized citizens as well as the traditional workforce. "Everyone who wants a job, gets a job!"
5. Protect low income communities from environmental degradation and pollution. Incentives, clean energy funds, and other programs should be targeted at low-income parts of the county as first priority.
6. Lane Community College and union apprenticeship programs must design training programs in order to provide our displaced workers with the skills to transform our housing, energy sources, transportation, food sources, and culture into a clean energy economy. These training programs can include but are not limited to solar energy panel assembly and installation; wind, water and thermal energy production; electric car production and repair; light rail installation and maintenance; small-scale farming technology; restoration of forests and water quality; residential and commercial fire- resistant construction and retrofitting. Research opportunities with the University of Oregon can provide tools and accountability to these programs, and artists and musicians can provide needed community education and involvement.
7. Our medical community will need additional training and resources in order to treat the increase in negative health effects such as asthma, heart disease, respiratory distress, heat stroke and diseases like Malaria, Dengue, Lyme disease, Cholera and many others.

8. The Lane County Climate Action Plan development must include the voices of all community members, to include marginalized citizens, labor unions, business groups. Interested groups include solar installers, timber producers, agriculture (Farm Bureau and Organic Farmers) and fishing associations (e.g. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen), conservation and environmental groups, etc. The county should create advisory committees representing all vested interests and require their participation. Climate change will affect everyone, therefore all parties need to be engaged for the long-term in solutions.

9. Implement a Clean Energy Fund such as Portland recently passed.

6. Biodiversity & Rights of Nature in Lane County

- The county should conduct a survey of the biodiversity of Lane County and designate areas that need to be protected and/or restored.
- Adopt the principles of the Rights of Nature: rivers, forests, wetlands, animals, and plants should have legal rights
- Create protected biodiversity reserves in Lane County, especially riparian zones, wetlands, etc.
- These reserves should be trial areas to give rights to plants, animals, watersheds, soil, and atmosphere, so we can learn how to legally defend them and prosecute crimes committed against them. Lane County needs attorneys who are trained to prosecute violations of the rights of nature
- Interconnect fragmented lands that are separated by development and private land with corridors and rights-of-way.
- Lane County Board should pass a resolution in support of the Forest Water Protection Act
- County should have enforcement authority for replants of clear cuts when the State of Oregon is enforcing the 2-year interval
- Lane County should challenge Oregon's Forest Practices Act as unsustainable and biased to maximizing timber over health forests
- Ban aerial herbicide spraying in forests
- Ban herbicides on all Lane County land; re-train farmers to not use pesticides
- Ban herbicide spraying along roadsides
- Restore public lands: wildlife gardens, school grounds, gardens, pollinator habitat- native plants, species also great to educate kids on the importance of biodiversity and wildlife habitat creation/protection
- Study ALL Lane Co. public lands for opportunity to create wildlife habitat for abundant biodiversity (Habitat loss is the number one reason for species extinction)
- **County should be able to enforce state rules when state does not** (forests, wetlands, etc.)

References:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf>

Relevant Local Organizations to assist in Biodiversity & Rights of Nature:

- Oregon Wild
- Cascadia Wildlands
- Beyond Toxics
- Audubon Society of Lane County ph. 541-485-2472
- Center for Biological Diversity
- BOGS – Campbell Center nature group
- Walama Restoration
- Society for Conservation Biology
- Community Rights Lane County/Rights of Nature
- Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)

7. Justice & Land Use, Air & Water Quality

Participants: Hassan Rasheed, Ruth, Jim Neu, Deb McGee, David Babcock, Al LePage, Paul Atkinson, Ted, Pat Boleyn, Linda Perrine

1. Clear cuts need to stop; transition to thinning. Forest policy can't be left to the state in an era of climate change.
 - a. Lane County needs to determine what new policies it can enforce to move private land timber management to carbon sequestration priority use
 - b. Stop clear cuts for wildfire management, since leftover slash dries and burns easily
 - c. Lane County needs to monitor the two year replant regulation and report violations to the state if necessary
 - d. Lane County must push for extending the tree lifetime before harvest interval

2. We want the county commissioners to:
 - a. Protect agricultural land
 - b. Create Urban Farm Zones
 - c. Create conservation easements near urban growth boundaries
 - d. Consider putting remaining good farm land into public trust so it never goes on the real estate market again
 - e. Class 1 soil has mostly been given away to non-agricultural uses; protect what remains
 - f. Create Community Land Trusts with 99 year leases to young farmers
 - g. Lane County Planning department/commission is development minded! When will we decide that development needs to be high-density, and saving land for healthy ecosystem services and nature is a priority?
 - h. Ensure city planning departments and the County Planning Department work together for improved land use policies

3. Planning for growth in a smart way:
 - a. County planning officials need to be hired based on experience, not appointed

4. County commissioners, staff, and planners all need to start applying an environmental justice lens to any new development
 - a. The biggest Industry polluters in Lane County need to be brought into compliance for air and water quality
 - b. Identify and implement ways to improve environmental justice and equity in low-income areas of the county

5. Habitat Management Plans for private land in Lane County
 - a. No "Surprise Clause" (similar to Endangered Species Act)

6. Nature Conservancy land around Buford Park
 - a. Plan is to restore the land and then sell it; Lane County should consider acquiring this land
7. Lane County Staff needs to re-evaluate all county lands and determine future uses with Climate Change in mind
 - a. Preserve what is needed for more local food production
 - b. Determine how to incentivize private timber properties to preserve trees for carbon sequestration
 - c. Identify smart growth locations for higher density housing and low-income housing
8. Regulate high-density housing in all Lane County cities and towns; plan for climate refugees
9. Provide education on birth control and one less child population strategies
10. Encourage more smaller groceries in rural locations and urban neighborhoods
11. Modernize the rail system in Lane County to accommodate other delivery locations
12. Incentivize solar systems in all new housing developments
 - a. Update codes to allow rooftop solar & fixed mount solar systems
13. All county vehicles need to be electric
 - a. Mandate a timeline for all trucks to move to electric vehicles, including 18 wheelers
14. Support 2020 Forest Waters Protection Act Ballot Initiative
15. LRAPA does bad job of monitoring GHG pollutants
 - a. Need to put an upper limit of 10,000 Mtons on GHG air pollutants from single source
16. SUB and EWEB should do a better job of monitoring water pollution coming from industry
17. Lane County needs to support residential solar financing through Property Assessed Clean Energy programs (allows solar financing to be added to home mortgage)
18. Planning Department is inconsistent in interpreting rules for development: we need paid staff with clear regulations to enforce

19. Fires on timberland can spread to residential areas; we need adequate buffer zones
20. Learn the lessons of CAP development from Eugene early so they are not made with Lane County CAP work. Work with the community from the outset.
21. Lane County outside the urban growth boundary:
 - a. Allow small/tiny homes on large acreage
 - b. Allow composting toilets & water catchment
 - c. Allow ADU's: Accessory Dwelling Units
22. Fund wetland mitigation and bank reinforcement
23. Car inspections should be required in Lane County as they are in Portland
 - a. Reduce smog, force compliance with clean air regulations
 - b. Need LRAPA to enforce new EPA regulations for wood stove particulates coming in 2020
24. Efficient Woodstoves Transition Program
 - LRAPA policy & EPA Emissions Limits need to be enforced along with 2020 new rules
 - EPA's New Source Performance Standards for wood stoves:
 - Since 2015: 4.5 grams of smoke per hour (g/h)
 - On May 15, 2020: NSPS will be lowered to 2.0 grams/hr
 - Transition from wood-burning home heating to clean electric options by 2050; provide incentives if necessary
25. Lane County needs new plans for the treatment of road water, including runoff to swales along roadsides filled with natural materials to treat water

7. Emergency Preparedness and Climate Resiliency

Topics to include

- Water (drinking water and for fires and other purposes)
- Food
- Health/Illness/Mental Health
- Education: in schools and for adults; outreach thru churches
- Emergencies: fires, floods, droughts, hot days, heavy rain/snows
- Cultivate regional self-sufficiency and foster regenerative culture

Actions

Planning process

- Identify LC communities of color, economically disadvantaged residents and other vulnerable community groups, and establish process from planning input that will prioritize their needs
- Build from work LC is already doing
- Seek input from local experts:
 - OSU Extension Services
 - GEOS Institute <https://www.geosinstitute.org>,
 - Post Carbon Institute <https://www.postcarbon.org>,
 - Resource Innovation Group <http://www.theresourceinnovationgroup.org>)
 - Lane County Staff
- Every LC employee has climate-related responsibilities in their job – raise awareness about this
- ER Management team has huge planning role to play
- Public Health Department has huge planning role to play
- Water Resources and On-Site Wastewater has huge role to play

Planning for Resiliency

- Proactive water conservation program
- Pre-Planning ahead of next drought on how water rights will be prioritized when not enough to go around
- Proactive support for residential on-site solar and wind generation and storage for household use
- Proactive program for on-site solar and wind generation and storage at designated community shelters (i.e. schools, LC buildings)
- New apartments to have cooling as well as heating (i.e. heat pumps)
- Shading and saving riparian zones – creeks and rivers
- Reforesting
- Re-localizing food systems inside Lane County
- Trauma-informed care training for Public Health staff
- Undergrounding electric wires in towns

Emergency Preparedness

- Establish community shelters prepared for climate-related events (i.e. hot days, smoky days, fires, floods)

- Assure adequate water supplies for response to fires (i.e. grey water reclamation, catchment storage)
- Assure adequate infrastructure for emergency situations, both for officials and for residents
- CERT training (<http://www.preparelane.org/readiness-training.html>) and Community Mapping programs
- Lane County dams need an independent safety inspection and report made public to prioritize which dams are in need of emergency maintenance, earthquake preparedness
- Communication planning and equipment
- Public safety and security
- LC ER response public health teams
- Food and drinking water

Research

- Lane County may already have some of these programs in place
- How do county residents get their drinking water – all wells? What about in towns?
- How is the water table holding up – for people, trees and agriculture?

8. Environmental Education in Lane County schools

Recommendations

- Expand Environmental Education programs in Lane County
 - i. Student Success Act funding should include new Environmental Education programs
 - ii. Curricula need to include climate change and earth regeneration education
- Add a week-long Outdoor Science Camp for all 5th and 6th grades in Lane County schools, and incorporate more outdoor learning time at all grade levels
- Add tree planting and stewardship events at schools
- Add biodiversity gardens at schools
- Add vegetable gardens at schools