



CITY OF BEND

Meeting Minutes

Environment and Climate Committee Meeting

Location: Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street

Date: March 13, 2025

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) was called to order at 11:01 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

1. Roll Call: Kavi Chokshi, Kellie Jensen (arrived late; online), Laura Tabor, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Nick Millar (online), Ray Hartwell, Rory Isbell, Scott Nordquist, Smita Mehta (online)

Madalyn Paquette (ex officio)

Absent: Sasha Sulia (ex officio)

2. Public Comment (2 minutes each)

Sheri Wheeler, Bend resident, spoke against tree removal at Murphy Crossing and Ponderosa developments.

John Heylin, Bend resident, spoke about ways to implement priorities from the Climate Action Plan.

3. Staff Updates

Slides included:

- Committee member update: Andrew Calise relocating and resigned
- Welcome new Bend-La Pine School District (BLSD) ex officio – Madalyn Paquette
- April 4 Council Stewardship Committee:
 - Review biennium priorities with Council
- Engagement update
 - Website launch next week
 - Newsletter launch in April
 - Tabling at Earth Day Fair

4. BURA Investment Strategy – Jonathan Taylor, Urban Renewal Manager

Taylor provided an overview of the Bend Urban Renewal Agency (BURA).

Slides included:

- 2025-2027 Investment Strategy
- The 2025-2027 Investment Strategy is intended to provide short-term guidance for the Bend Urban Renewal Agency on the deployment of resources in tax increment investment areas.
- Guiding Principles
 - Strategic
 - Sustainable
 - Measurable
 - Aligned
- Housing Development
 - BURA 2030 Goals
 - Housing Development Vision
 - BURA Strategy
 - Initiatives
 - Site Specific Program
 - Annual Housing Market Update
 - New Homeownership Funding Opportunities
- Entrepreneurial Development
 - Proposed 2030 Goals
 - Entrepreneurial Development Vision
 - BURA Strategy
 - Initiatives
 - Neighborhood Market Analysis
 - Small Business Funding Opportunities
 - Catalytic Investment Fund
- Infrastructure
 - Proposed 2030 Goals
 - Infrastructure Vision
 - BURA Strategy
 - Initiatives
 - Franklin Undercrossing
 - Greenway and Trail Development
 - South Bend Central District Improvements
 - Construction Impact Fund
- Business & Land Development
 - Proposed 2030 Goals
 - Infrastructure Vision
 - BURA Strategy
 - Initiatives
 - Site Specific Program
 - Site Assistance Program
 - Land Development capacity assessment
 - Land Purchase

- Business Retention and Expansion Strategy
- Beautification & Enhancement
 - Proposed 2030 Goals
 - Beautification & Enhancement Vision
 - BURA Strategy
 - Initiatives
 - Streetscape Enhancements
 - Façade and Landscape Beautification Program
- Administration
 - Governing Documents Update
 - Explore Expanding Advisory Group Focus
 - North Bend Area Investment Analysis (April – October)
 - Expand Target Sector Analysis (Supply Chain Focus)
- Area map
- ECC Policy Question
 - In 2025, the City of Bend and Bend Urban Renewal Agency will be creating both an Economic Development Strategy Plan and Investment Strategy.
 - How would ECC like to be involved in the coming months?

Taylor explained that Council has requested feedback from multiple advisory bodies on all aspects of an economic development strategy and an investment strategy.

Lacy outlined the process for ECC's involvement. After receiving this initial presentation, Taylor will return next month to facilitate a discussion on specific areas of interest. Lacy presented the option of assigning this to a working group.

Taylor stated that the intention is to bring this back to Council in June 2025, but there is flexibility to extend the timeline in order to include meaningful input from advisory bodies.

Taylor suggested ECC focus on investing in resilient infrastructure, climate friendly areas, and incentivizing electrification in new development.

Chair Buckley asked Taylor to narrow the scope and ask ECC a specific policy question. Additionally, Chair Buckley asked Taylor to send more information for ECC to review.

ECC was supportive of assigning this discussion to a workgroup.

Members Isbell, Baunsgard and Nordquist volunteered for the workgroup.

Next steps were identified:

- Taylor will develop a policy question and specific feedback
- ECC will develop a working group
- ECC will have a full-committee discussion at the April ECC meeting

The committee recessed at 11:40 and reconvened at 11:49 a.m.

5. Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Update Review – all

Lacy led the committee through a review of the CCAP strategies/actions (see **CCAP Action and Report Information**), calling for any issues or questions with the strategies/actions, prior to adopting the list.

Member Chokshi expressed concern that the actions were too vague and broad and asked for clarification on the timeline.

Lacy recommended viewing the list of CCAP actions as a broad agenda for the next five-year period. Lacy advised that the list should not include a full work plan or action items.

Member Chokshi requesting changing the abbreviation for the “Materials & Waste” actions from “W” to “M” and asked whether the Materials & Waste strategies/actions should be listed in descending order of priority or kept in the same order as the past CCAP for consistency.

Members Jensen and Mehta, members of the Waste & Materials Working Group, were supportive of listing the Materials & Waste strategies/actions in descending order of priority.

Buckley suggested adding incentive targets or program intentions for actions, such as the mobility hub, some of the incentive programs for employers, and transportation behavior.

Committee members raised questions about the scoring system for the Cobenefits column, which was developed by Parametrix, but agreed to keep the column rather than remove it.

Member Isbell moved to recommend that the Council adopt the proposed CCAP update actions as the 2025 CCAP Update. Member Hartwell seconded the motion.

The voice vote passed 10-0:

Yes: Kavi Chokshi, Kellie Jensen (online), Laura Tabor, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Nick Millar (online), Ray Hartwell, Rory Isbell, Scott Nordquist, Smita Mehta (online)

No: none

Slide:

Edits made based on the committee’s discussion are indicated below. Additions in red, removals in strikethrough.

- Proposed FY25-27 CCAP Priorities:
 1. Develop and execute an outreach and education program
 2. Develop and launch an Energy Navigator program
 3. Develop electrification policies
 4. Expand public EV charging infrastructure
 5. **Develop and implement a waste reduction and reuse program initiatives**
 6. Encourage Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction **in City land use and transportation planning**
 7. Demonstrate clean energy leadership at City of Bend
 8. **Launch a community partner grant program**
 9. **Identify and secure a sustainable funding source for CCAP implementation**

Lacy removed priorities 8 and 9 from the Proposed FY25-27 CCAP Priorities list as they were also listed as implementation recommendations.

ECC made edits to priorities 5 and 6 to increase specificity.

Lacy outlined next steps:

- Council has adopted a draft framework
- Staff will develop the Council Goals Work Plan
- ECC will present priorities list to Council Stewardship Subcommittee – April 4, 2025
- If Subcommittee is supportive of priorities list, Lacy will program the priorities into the Council Goals Work Plan
- Council adoption of Work Plan and budget – Spring 2025

Member Baunsgard moved to recommend to the Council the proposed CCAP priorities. Vice Chair Tabor seconded the motion.

The voice vote passed 10-0:

Yes: Kavi Chokshi, Kellie Jensen (online), Laura Tabor, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Nick Millar (online), Ray Hartwell, Rory Isbell, Scott Nordquist, Smita Mehta (online)

No: none

Slide:

Edits made based on discussion are indicated below. Additions in red, removals in strikethrough.

- CCAP Implementation Recommendations
 - Establish a permanent and sustainable funding source: create a permanent funding source(s) to support implementation of CCAP projects and programs **that require additional resources**. This may involve creating a new revenue source. ~~The funds would be used for programmatic expenses for outreach and education and contracting out programs and initiatives.~~
 - Create a Community Partner Grant Program: develop a grant program to facilitate community partner-led CCAP action implementation. This program will provide grants to community-based organizations running programs that help achieve CCAP actions.

Isbell suggested that the last sentence in the first recommendation is too limiting. Lacy removed the sentence and rephrased the recommendation.

Vice Chair Tabor moved to recommend the proposed CCAP implementation recommendations to the City Council. Member Baunsgard seconded the motion.

The voice vote passed 10-0:

Yes: Kavi Chokshi, Kellie Jensen (online), Laura Tabor, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Nick Millar (online), Ray Hartwell, Rory Isbell, Scott Nordquist, Smita Mehta (online)

No: none

6. Electrification Policy Update – Cassie Lacy, Senior Management Analyst

Slide:

- Proposed Electrification Policy Work Plan
 - 1. Launch outreach and education initiative (planning funding for as part of budget)
 - Website/social media/outreach events – spring launch
 - Energy Navigator Program – summer/fall launch
 - Builder education - TBD
 - 2. Develop incentive/disincentive to encourage electrification (Fall 2025-Winter 2026)
 - Uses a stakeholder group with representatives from industry, impacted parties, utilities, and other stakeholders
 - Determine what and how to incentivize electrification
 - Discuss revenue source, if needed (e.g. fee)
 - 3. Monitor regulatory pathways for restricting gas (Ongoing)
 - Update on legal context at end of year

Lacy postponed discussion to the next meeting due to limited time.

7. Agenda Review

Slide:

- Agenda Review
 - April 2025
 - BURA investment Input
 - Climate Action Partner Grant Program
 - Stewardship Subcommittee meeting: share FY25-27 CCAP priorities
 - Council Meeting: Environment & Climate Goal Update and CCAP Update Adoption
 - May 2025
 - Community Partner Grant program follow up
 - Energy Navigator program update and feedback
 - June 2025 - TBD

Chokshi suggested limiting the BURA presentation time at full committee meetings and recommended assigning the BURA topic to a subgroup.

Isbell suggested adding VMT reduction input from City staff to the May or June agenda.

Chokshi requested an update from the school district at an upcoming meeting.

8. Adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Bontje
Deputy City Recorder



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