Office of Energy and Sustainability Update

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

May 25, 2021

Updates

1. Survey results from the SOAP Update

2. Brief updates:
   - Weatherization Program
   - Healthy Forest Project

Sustainable Operations Action Plan Update

- In the process of updating the Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP)

- The SOAP is the climate action and environmental stewardship plan for County government operations

- Approximately 14 employees watched SOAP Update Webinar 1

- Approximately 27 employees watched SOAP Update Webinar 2

- Survey: We received 592 responses from across 25 county departments

Purpose of employee survey:

- Start thinking about climate action planning (GOAL AREAS) and specific actions they would like to see included

- Gauge trends on general direction early on in process

SOAP Survey Results

➢ **How important do you think it is for the county addresses climate change and conserve natural resources in its government operations?**

- 82% think it is important

- 10% do not think it is important to address climate change

➢ **Do you agree that the GOAL AREAs Capture the primary focus areas for the SOAP?**

- 88% agree

GOAL AREA
Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Transportation and Mobility
Energy and Water
Consumption and Materials Management
Green Building
Ecosystems and Open Space
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

SOAP Survey Results

I like the GOAL for this GOAL AREA…   If No, please comment

GOAL AREA	GOAL	AGREE	COMMENTS
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	By 2050, achieve net carbon neutrality for county government operations.	75%	Go further faster
Transportation and Mobility	Increase the efficiency of vehicle fleet and fuel consuming equipment and minimize their greenhouse gas emissions.	82%	Make working remote permanent
Energy and Water	Increase the efficiency of energy and water consumption in county facilities & operations and minimize the consumption of these resources.	89%	Be more aggressive
Consumption and Materials Management	Minimize operational resource use, maximize reuse and recycling, and choose products and services with low environmental and carbon impacts.	89%	Consider lifecycle costs, centralize more purchasing decisions
Green Building	Build, maintain, and operate county facilities consistent with best practices for green building and sustainable development standards.	86%	Use established standards (LEED, Living Building, etc), Consider new ways to configure w/ remote work options
Ecosystems and Open Space	Manage and restore county-owned parks and natural areas to maximize biological carbon storage, promote public health and protect local species and habitat.	89%	Some confusion on terms and what is included/excluded in this category
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	Integrate climate preparedness and resiliency across county government.	86%	Some confusion on terms

SOAP Survey Results

Rank each GOAL in order of priority

GOAL AREA	GOAL	Most Common Priority	2nd Most Common Priority Response	Average Priority Rank
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	By 2050, achieve net carbon neutrality for county government operations.	1	7	2
Transportation and Mobility	Increase the efficiency of vehicle fleet and fuel consuming equipment and minimize their greenhouse gas emissions.	2	3	1
Energy and Water	Increase the efficiency of energy and water consumption in county facilities & operations and minimize the consumption of these resources.	3	4	3
Consumption and Materials Management	Minimize operational resource use, maximize reuse and recycling, and choose products and services with low environmental and carbon impacts.	4	5	4
Green Building	Build, maintain, and operate county facilities consistent with best practices for green building and sustainable development standards.	5	6	6
Ecosystems and Open Space	Manage and restore county-owned parks and natural areas to maximize biological carbon storage, promote public health and protect local species and habitat.	6	1	5
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	Integrate climate preparedness and resiliency across county government.	7	6	7

SOAP Survey Results

Thinking of the GOAL you selected as Highest Priority, what is one action the <u>County</u> could take to achieve that goal?

- Convert to electric vehicles

- Make working remote permanent

- Preserve/restore critical areas, wetland, shorelines, floodplains

- Provide employees pathways to better understand & incorporate sustainable practices

- Adopt more solar or other renewable energy sources

SOAP Survey Results

Select the GOAL where you think your Department/Division/Office can have the most impact

GOAL AREA	GOAL	% Selected
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	By 2050, achieve net carbon neutrality for county government operations.	**8%**
Transportation and Mobility	Increase the efficiency of vehicle fleet and fuel consuming equipment and minimize their greenhouse gas emissions.	**19%**
Energy and Water	Increase the efficiency of energy and water consumption in county facilities & operations and minimize the consumption of these resources.	**9%**
Consumption and Materials Management	Minimize operational resource use, maximize reuse and recycling, and choose products and services with low environmental and carbon impacts.	**41%**
Green Building	Build, maintain, and operate county facilities consistent with best practices for green building and sustainable development standards.	**6%**
Ecosystems and Open Space	Manage and restore county-owned parks and natural areas to maximize biological carbon storage, promote public health and protect local species and habitat.	**8%**
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	Integrate climate preparedness and resiliency across county government.	**7%**

SOAP Survey Results

Thinking of the GOAL you selected as Highest Priority, what is one action <u>your Department, Division, or Office</u> could take to achieve that goal?

- More/better recycling & composting at county facilities

- Convert to electric vehicles

- Make working remote permanent

- Replace old buildings with new highly efficient buildings

- Use less paper/convert to electronic files

SOAP Survey Results

Are there actions your Department, Division, or Office could take to address racial equity and social justice in the SOAP?

- 61% said YES

Ideas:

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training

- Restructure hiring processes (bias blind hiring, actively seek out BIPOC/disadvantaged communities

- More non-English signage & documents

- Gender equity in employee pay

- BIPOC representation on focus groups, advisory boards, committees, etc.

- Continue to allow video attendance by the public to meetings and judicial hearings

SOAP Survey Results

General feedback from respondents:

- Employees ready to see draft plan with goals, strategies, actions

- Costs vs benefits are very important to weigh

- Include interim goals

- Be more aggressive with goals

- Continued education & involvement of employees needs to happen

A few notes: SOAP Update Webinars 1 & 2 addressed the above items. Prioritization of goals and action items will be integrated into the Plan, including consideration of resource needs and anticipated benefits/impacts. Targets, including interim targets will also be included.

Climate Action Advisory Committee – SOAP Survey Results

GOAL AREA	Priority Rank	Comments
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2	Be more aggressive, have interim goals
Transportation and Mobility	1	Be more aggressive
Energy and Water	5 (tie)	Focus goals on GHG reduction impacts
Consumption and Materials Management	7	
Green Building	4	Include LID practices
Ecosystems and Open Space	3	Increase tree canopy
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	5 (tie)	

Additional Comments from CAAC:

- Focus on fleet electrification
- Utilize active community engagement and education for multiplier effect
- Embed social cost of carbon in decision making
- Consider a SOAP structure w/ GHG emissions and Adaptation & Resiliency at the top, and the other goals contributing to these two
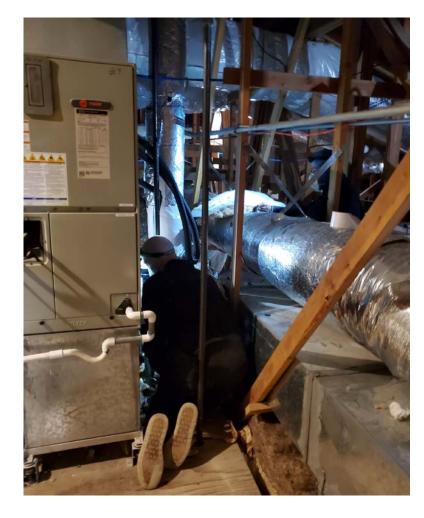
SOAP Update - Timeline

TIMELINE	DESCRIPTION
Fall 2020 – Winter 2021	Greenhouse gas emissions inventory, data collection, and analysis
Winter 2021	Strategic planning begins
Winter – Spring 2021	Employee and stakeholder engagement, survey, and input sessions
Spring 2021	Data cohesion and analysis
Summer 2021	Plan development and issue initial draft
Fall 2021	Department and stakeholder input, revisions, and issue second draft
Fall 2021 – Winter 2022	Final draft issued and adoption process

Weatherization Program

- Program is fully operational; still with COVID-19 safety measures in place

- Production is ramping-up quickly

- Welcome to our new hire!: Aiden Coker

- Completed Deferral Pilot Project and have begun a new Ductless Heat Pump pilot project

- Additional federal and state funding for Weatherization work anticipated

Weatherization Program

- Weatherization measures completed on the Evaluation and Treatment Facility

- Partnership between Wx, Facilities, and Compass Housing

- Doubled levels of attic and duct insulation and replaced bathroom exhaust fans

- Completed air sealing, weather stripping, and low-flow aerators.

Healthy Forest Project

UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP EVENTS:

- **June 16:** 6pm to 8pm Forest Steward Orientation (on-line)

- **June 26:** Volunteer event at Lake Stickney

- **July 10:** Volunteer event at Meadowdale Beach park

Snohomish County Healthy Forest Project 20 Year Plan: Coming in late June