



City of Woodinville

CLIMATE ACTION SUBCOMMITTEE – MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 9:00 AM

Meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

Councilmembers Millman and Best-Campbell were present, as was City Manager Buchanan.

Business Items

1. Discussion of past efforts by City

The Committee members discussed the importance of creating an inventory of past “green” efforts by the City. The inventory should also include work or projects whose primary driver was not necessarily “green,” but had those types of benefits nevertheless. One example is the recent sidewalk grinding work, which was driven by the need to address ADA concerns but because the panels were ground instead of replaced, that approach to the project avoided the environmental impacts of disposing of concrete and pouring new.

The Committee discussed asking Staff for an inventory of past green initiatives. There were also questions around some past efforts that were understood to have a green component. Those questions included whether the Civic Campus ultimately was pursuing LEED status, if we had changed the streetlights to LED, and how much the “visioning” for downtown several years ago was shaped by environmental concerns. City Manager Buchanan will work with Staff to try and create an inventory of past efforts.

2. Discussion of short-term projects of interest

Committee members discussed their ideas for short-term efforts the Committee could recommend the Council investigate. There were many ideas:

- The use of rainbarrels at public facilities including City Hall and City Parks. There was discussion that we could deploy a program as other cities have which entails the City procuring rainbarrels at wholesale costs and providing them for sale to the community, at cost. City Manager Buchanan mentioned he thought the City may have done something similar years ago and he would investigate details.
- Members discussed the results of the recent volunteer trash pick-up in downtown that they helped organize and that given the amount of trash picked up along 175th, one idea would be to install trash and recycling bins along 175th to reduce litter. City Manager Buchanan suggested that type of work would likely be included in the Streetscape Master Plan project when that time came and that whether now or then, that type of project would entail additional labor demands that would need to be planned for.
- Work with Public Works staff to better understand fertilizer/herbicide chemical use at City Parks to see if there are opportunities to reduce chemical use. Brandon will inquire with Staff.

- The Committee discussed the mowing schedule for City Parks and whether mowing could be reduced to reduce the amount of fuel used in the process. The change of level of service, and how that reflects the community's expectations, was raised as an issue that would need to be evaluated before current practices were changed.
- Member Millman raised the point that the current Federal infrastructure bill that is being discussed includes a substantial amount of funding for the installation of electric vehicle chargers and it might be something we should look into accessing for new charging points at City facilities given the amount of users of electric vehicles in the community. Also discussed was the feasibility of electrifying the City fleet.
- Member Millman also shared initial research he had done around grants that are available for public entities to install solar panels on public buildings. His research indicated the grants can go to whole systems in buildings, range from 50%-90% of the costs, and that several companies he talked to would need more information to give us a better idea of what a project for us would look like, including size of our building, condition of building systems, etc. City Manager Buchanan raised several points like compliance with public procurement law and the availability of any matching funds. Buchanan agreed to assign a staff member to work with Millman on additional research on this topic.

City Manager Buchanan will add a discussion item to the City Council agenda for the City Council May 18, 2021 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30am.