

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM
February 11, 2026

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
NW, Issaquah

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Don McQuilliams, Chair
Alix Lee-Tigner, Vice Chair
Nancy Davidson
Mina (Alexandra) Jun* - absent
Prajakta Ghatpande
Tom Anderson
Keith Gonzales
Kiran Pan*
Tommy DuBeau

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Jared Schneider, Emergency Manager

Anne Newcomb, Alternate
Jonathan Smith, Alternate

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MCQUILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair introduced the minutes, which were included in the agenda materials. The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

- a) Minutes of January 14, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VYNNE MCKINSTRY summarized written comments submitted by CONNIE MARSH.

ANN FLETCHER provided comments on the ICAP tree canopy target. FLETCHER expressed support for the new actions proposed within the Natural Systems and Community Resilience sections of the ICAP. FLETCHER encouraged the City to stick with an aspirational target that drives creative solutions to expand Citywide tree cover.

DAVE KAPPLER provided comments in support of evaluation of the distribution of trees across the City. KAPPLER noted that the benefits of trees can help the City recover from climate emergencies like floods and assessing distribution of trees, especially in downtown Issaquah, is important to ensure that the benefits of trees are felt by all community members.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **2024 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (I)**
Presented by:
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator

REEDY provided a presentation on the 2024 communitywide and government operations greenhouse gas inventory. The City saw a 2% decrease in communitywide GHG emissions and a 4% decrease in government operations emissions. REEDY discussed driving factors of emissions changes, major findings from the most recent inventory, and highlighted how the inventory is impacting the ICAP update.

Board Member DAVIDSON asked whether the communitywide inventory included emissions from highways going through Issaquah. REEDY clarified that the inventory does include emissions from vehicles on thru roads as the transportation emissions are measured based on geographic boundaries of the City. Board Member ANDERSON asked for clarification on the proportion of EVs included in the emissions data and recommended the City track EV registrations in the City moving forward. REEDY noted that the City can consider tracking EV registrations in the future and that the transportation emissions are based on regional models. In response to questions from Board Member GHATPANDE and SMITH, REEDY explained how different emissions sources are measured and how City actions are related to these emission trends.

b) Emergency Management Overview (I)

Presented by:

Jared Schneider, Emergency Manager

SCHNEIDER provided an overview of emergency management efforts at the City of Issaquah and discussed how the emergency management efforts connect with climate action. SCHNEIDER framed Emergency Management programs in three categories, emergency response, community preparedness, and risk reduction. SCHNEIDER shared details on specific programs and their impact preparing the Issaquah community for climate change.

Board Member ANDERSON asked about coordination between Eastside Fire and Rescue IWARN and the CERT program. SCHNEIDER provided context on how Eastside Fire and Rescue and the City of Issaquah work together on programming. Board Member GHATPANDE asked if the City tracks engagement numbers in preparedness efforts. SCHNEIDER highlighted what data the City is collecting and discussed how the CERT program has expanded over the last few years. Board Member SMITH recommended the City provide programming on earthquake preparedness efforts.

c) ICAP Update - Natural Systems & Water Resources and Community Resilience & Wellbeing (D)

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

VYNNE MCKINSTRY presented on the Natural Systems & Water Resources and Community Resilience & Wellbeing Focus areas of the ICAP update. VYNNE MCKINSTRY summarized the staff presentation to the Planning, Development, and Environment (PDE) Council Committee and noted next steps on the ICAP update. VYNNE MCKINSTRY highlighted potential options for the updated Natural Systems target and the suggested Natural Systems actions.

Board Member DAVIDSON acknowledged the challenge of reaching the 55% tree canopy target and recommended the City explore creative solutions to meeting this target, including through a system similar to carbon credits. In response to a question from Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS, VYNNE MCKINSTRY and REEDY explained how the Tree Equity score is determined and what applying the Tree Equity score would mean for evaluating tree distribution. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS, DAVIDSON, ANDERSON and SMITH recommended keeping the 55% tree canopy target, even if this target is difficult to achieve. Board Members GONZALEZ and NEWCOMB supported a goal related to Tree Equity score to represent the distribution and ecological benefits of trees and expressed support for a no-net loss goal, acknowledging that a no-net loss goal will require work to maintain the canopy. Board Vice-Chair LEE-TIGNER supports the addition of a Tree Equity score goal and recommended staff consider an additional goal that goes beyond measuring trees to broader ecological systems. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS

summarized that the Environmental Board provided mixed support for changing the 55% Tree Canopy Target but did express support for a target related to Tree Equity Score.

Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked for staff to clarify which Public Works plans are referenced in the ICAP update. Board Member SMITH asked for staff to consider actions related to reducing waste in the natural environment. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that most waste reduction actions would be housed in the Materials and Consumption section of the ICAP. Board Vice-Chair LEE-TIGNER asked if the Public Works department could bring the Storm and Surface Water plan to the Environmental Board in the future.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY discussed the proposed actions in the Community Resilience & Wellbeing focus area as well as a proposed update to the target for this focus area. Board Members ANDERSON and SMITH recommended that staff continue to add clarity to the proposed target, specifically as it relates to how the satisfaction rating is determined and how a baseline would be developed. Board Member GONZALEZ expressed support for the proposed target and suggested that additional metrics might be valuable. Examples proposed include metrics related to wildfire risk or flood management. SCHNEIDER explained that the City does have potential metrics related to this topic that could be good fits for the focus area. Board Member DAVIDSON noted that the proposed target was too low and that staff should consider additional metrics to more fully capture climate resilience preparedness.

Board Member DAVIDSON expressed concern that the actions are going to be difficult to measure as they have been written. Board Member ANDERSON noted that it can be difficult to find contractors who can support community members build resilience on their private property and recommended that the City develop a pre-approved list of contractors who can work on these efforts. Board Member DUBEAU asked for additional clarification on the action related to implementing recovery efforts that reduce future exposure to climate risks. SCHNEIDER and REEDY provided details on how these efforts could be incorporated into City programs. Board Member GONZALEZ recommended clarifying that improving resilience in community spaces extends to infrastructure in addition to facilities. Board Members GONZALEZ and SMITH discussed the action related to enhancing local food systems and how this action would fit within the Community Wellbeing focus area.

REPORTS

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided other announcements including that Environmental Board Member applications were open and that the Sister Cities Commission was considering potential climate resilience project topics.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that a Save the Light Rail Event would be held on February 24th.

REEDY summarized the Metrics Committee and expected timelines for recommendations to the Environmental Board.

Draft Environmental Board Workplan

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

INQUIRIES