

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:00 PM
March 25, 2026

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave SE

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

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

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Sam Tarvin, Solid Waste Program Analyst

Anne Newcomb, Alternate – excused
absence

*Youth/young adult members.

SPECIAL MEETING

Please note, this agenda also serves as the special meeting notice pursuant to RCW 42.30.080.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to complete a review of the draft targets and actions for the Issaquah Climate Action Plan.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MCQUILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONNIE MARSH asked the City to focus more on efforts to make helping the environment fun and cool. MARSH suggested increased emphasis on an education and social media campaign to encourage people to take action because it has a “coolness” factor. This change would be to address dryness in the current proposed climate action plan.

ANN FLETCHER noted that the Buildings and Energy section of the Climate Action Plan could be improved and strengthened. FLETCHER expressed concern about the potential removal of two actions, home energy score and small building benchmarking, from the proposed Climate Action Plan. FLETCHER supported an end-of-life replacement requirement for the replacement of heating and cooling equipment. FLETCHER asked that the Environmental Board continue discussion of the tree canopy target to encourage bold action on the expansion of tree canopy cover. Finally, FLETCHER noted support for actions related to multifamily charging and sustainable funding sources.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) ICAP Targets and Actions Review (D)

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided a summary of the March 17, 2026 City Council Planning, Development, and Environment Committee (PDE) meeting on the ICAP update and highlighted their feedback for discussion at the Environmental Board. VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared comments by Board Member NEWCOMB on the tree canopy target submitted over e-mail. REEDY shared slides to summarize the Metrics Committee recommendations. Board Member DAVIDSON recommended the City consider more quantitative metrics related to advocating for PSE grid resiliency. VYNNE MCKINSTRY discussed pre-identified specific actions and targets for board discussion.

Board Members expressed agreement with the elevation of the GHG Reduction target to a plan level target (Attachment A: Row #1).

Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS supported the discussion of dedicated funding streams but requested staff document which funding streams are evaluated (Attachment A: Row #9). Board Member GONZALEZ asked about the role of community partners and nonprofits in dedicated funding support. Board Member SMITH asked staff to update the language of the action to clarify the word “sustainable” and avoid confusion with other meanings of the word in the ICAP.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided additional background to the action related to reducing localized pollutants (Attachment A: Row #10) including the experience of Seattle and Kirkland on natural gas landscaping equipment bans. Board Members SMITH and DAVIDSON asked that the action remain broad to allow it to be used to address more than air pollutants. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS and Board Members GONZALEZ and DAVIDSON supported example details in the action but requested it stay general to keep flexibility in implementation.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided additional detail on the PDE discussion of a benchmarking program for buildings under 20,000 sq feet including that the PDE Committee did not think this was as impactful a program to move forward (Attachment A: Row #22). VYNNE MCKINSTRY also shared that the PDE Committee did support a time of replacement requirement for heating and cooling equipment (Attachment A: Row #25). Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS and Board Members DAVIDSON and GONZALEZ, expressed concerns related to the cost and impact of a time of replacement mandate and requested that this concern is made clear in the action language. Board Member SMITH asked staff to clarify the language for ease of understanding.

Board Member DAVIDSON expressed support for the action related to dark sky requirements (Attachment A: Row #26). Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked how safety concerns would be balanced in a dark sky requirement. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that safety concerns would be evaluated in the policy assessment phase.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared both the support and concerns raised by the PDE Committee, the Transportation Advisory Board, and the Planning and Policy Committee related to adjusting parking requirements (Attachment A: Row #39). Board Members did not have any questions related to the proposed language.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided more details on the multi-family charging requirement action and the PDE Committee recommendation (Attachment A: Row #46). Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS supported the action as written to encourage EV capable development without going as far as EV ready. Board Member GONZALEZ asked if staff would consider options to pair EV capable development with parking maximum allowances as an incentive. Board Member SMITH expressed safety concerns for extensive buildout of EV charging infrastructure related to fire safety.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY explained the proposed tree canopy target and the data informing the staff recommendation. Board Member GONZALEZ acknowledged the importance of proactive work to

maintain no-net loss. Board Members ANDERSON and DAVIDSON and Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS expressed concern with the no-net loss goal and supported an ambitious goal to strive for. Board Member DAVIDSON asked for staff to consider the preservation of timberland as a creative means to expand tree cover. Board Member GONZALEZ noted that the City should ensure it is thinking about ecosystems holistically that recognizes the benefits of ecosystems that are not solely trees. Following discussion, the Environmental Board recommended adjusting the Tree Canopy Target to 53% by 2035 to preserve an ambitious target while recognizing constraints and concerns raised by other board members.

Board Members expressed support for the action related to enhancing wildlife resilience (Attachment A: Row #63). Board Member DAVIDSON noted that the action related to innovative land acquisition and projects is an opportunity to save trees and would like to see it retained (Attachment A: Row #64). Board Member ANDERSON noted that the City could expand outreach for creative land conservation programs such as deeding of private property to conservation land. Board Member DAVIDSON recommended adjusting the language of the innovative tree protection action to include the possibility of agreements in addition to acquisitions.

Board Members supported the addition and framing of the Community Wellbeing targets.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY asked for board members to identify any additional actions they would like to discuss. Board Member ANDERSON asked what the current requirements for construction waste diversion are. TARVIN shared the current requirements and noted that the intent of actions related to construction diversion is to better track and enforce diversion efforts. Board Member SMITH asked for the inclusion of an ordinance for the elimination of plastic signage used for advertising and elections. TARVIN noted that staff can explore opportunities to address this issue. TARVIN noted that the goal of the action on Attachment A: Row #58 is intended to address the source of plastic waste and expressed that additional litter code changes could otherwise be explored. Board Member ANDERSON recommended staff measure miles of bike lanes as a high priority metric.

Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked staff to add reference to social media campaigns and individual actions in the action related to public engagement (Attachment A: Row #3). Board Member GONZALEZ asked if the City can expand the action related to regional partnerships to include national partnerships (Attachment A: Row #5).

VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared next steps including the goals for incorporating Environmental Board comments into the draft plan.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared that that the Regular April Environmental Board meeting would be switched from April 8th to April 15th or 16th due to scheduling constraints and staff readiness to discuss topics.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared that the ribbon cutting for the Pickering Barn solar system will be held on April 7th. Board members are invited to join.

Board Member DAVIDSON shared details of a conversation held with City staff related to the definition of streams versus ditches and how planning related to streams and ditches is addressed in projects.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

INQUIRIES