

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM
April 22, 2026

MINUTES

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave
SE

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 – excused absence
Keith Gonzales – excused absence
Kiran Pan*
Tommy DuBeau – excused absence
Anne Newcomb
Jonathan Smith

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MCQUILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

STEVE PEREIRA shared public comment regarding the ability of the city to set standards and regulations that are more stringent than county or state policies. PEREIRA encouraged the Environmental Board to consider strong actions to help the City reach climate goals including energy audits, transportation restrictions, and state lobbying. PEREIRA asked the Environmental Board to consider writing a letter supporting climate action to City Council.

SRIDHAR KRISHNAN asked the Environmental Board to consider additional actions that can help bridge the gap between anticipated emissions and the 2030 targets as laid out in the ICAP.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Issaquah Climate Action Plan Review (D, A)**

Presented by:

*Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator*

Board Member DAVIDSON expressed support for comments related to documenting actions that are deemed to difficult to pursue at this time. VYNNE MCKINSTRY agreed to incorporate as this section would help future staff and Boards consider these actions if the situation changes over the life of the plan. VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared background of the ICAP update process and highlighted major questions to be discussed during the meeting.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY summarized major Climate Action Plan updates that were incorporated into the ICAP narrative. Board Member DAVIDSON supported most of the major changes presented but expressed concern about removing a section related to “what you can do”. Board Member DAVIDSON

and NEWCOMB and Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked for staff to include a more robust call to action in the ICAP as a means to encourage community engagement in climate action. Board Members NEWCOMB, DAVIDSON, and SMITH and Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked for increased language related to wildfire resilience within the community resilience actions. The suggested actions would cover wildfire mitigation measures that reflect regional plans and best practices.

Board Member NEWCOMB asked for the inclusion of load shifting in action BE 1.1, the inclusion of policy language in OM 1.2, and calling out Green Issaquah in NS 1.3. Board Member NEWCOMB recommended considering whether green roof options should be a part of CR 1.3 due to wildfire risks. Board Member NEWCOMB supports bringing departments together to collectively complete actions.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that the updated tree canopy target was incorporated but asked if the Environmental Board would be supportive of changing the target date to 2050. VYNNE MCKINSTRY also summarized conversations related to setting a water use target and high priority measure. Board Member DAVIDSON asked for the Water System Plan to come to the Environmental Board when setting goals or targets. The Board supported the proposed target and water measure (seasonal irrigation). Board Member NEWCOMB shared details about tree planting potential and expressed support for adjusting the tree canopy target date to 2050. Following discussion, Board Members supported adjusting the target to identify a minimum acreage of trees to be planted by 2035 (150 net acres) to achieve a 53% tree canopy target by 2050.

REEDY highlighted major changes to the Implementation section and Implementation table within the ICAP. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked if staff believe there is flexibility to not move forward with actions that are not feasible. REEDY and VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that the way the ICAP is written does provide flexibility. Board Vice Chair LEE TIGNERS expressed support for 10 year plan. The Board supported the structure of the implementation plan. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted written concerns from ANDERSON regarding the proposed length of the plan, but the Board generally was comfortable with the ten year plan given the opportunity for mid-point review.

Board Member SMITH recommended including language related to reducing consumption such as reducing the number of vehicles in a household. Staff agreed to look at adding an additional measure, Board Member SMITH also recommended strengthening targets and actions related to keeping roadsides clear. Board Vice Chair LEE Tigner recommended including language related to reduce consumption within MC 1.1 or in OM 1.7. Board Member SMITH recommended highlighting what is covered and what is not covered by the ICAP in the executive summary. Staff agreed to prepare this section.

Board Members conditionally approved the content of the ICAP update with the changes discussed during the meeting with the caveat that the Board approve a letter of recommendation to City Council at their June 10th meeting prior to Council decisions.

b) Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Presented by:

Don McQuilliams, Board Chair

Alix Lee Tigner, Board Vice Chair

Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS presented certificates to Board Members NEWCOMB and SMITH and thanked them for their participation and contributions on the Environmental Board.

REPORTS

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

VYNNE MCKINSTRY asked if Board Members would be interested in discussing potential changes to the official Environmental Board Rules and Regulations relating to the timeline of elected Board leadership and the location of future meetings.

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Board Member SMITH shared about his project developing litter reduction posters with high school student design labs.

Board Member NEWCOMB shared about her experience implementing wildfire reduction improvements and strategies at her home.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

INQUIRIES