

People for Climate Action-Seattle

March 13, 2022

Dear Seattle Councilmembers:

RE: Climate Action

People for Climate Action-Seattle would like to thank the Council for creating the Select Committee on Climate as part of the Council's governance structure. This is an important step to ensure that Seattle takes the actions needed to keep our communities safe and meet its 2030 carbon reduction target.

Although the 2013 Climate Action Plan was updated in 2018, progress in implementing the Plan seems to have stalled. The impacts of a warmer climate have, however, accelerated. The findings of the UN Working Group Assessment on Climate, released this February, emphasized that ecosystem impacts are occurring with greater speed than anticipated, and that dense urban areas are particularly at risk. We need to act now to reduce our emissions..

Given the urgency facing us, it is promising that several City officials have already signed a [Climate Pledge](#), creating a place of consensus from which to build. The Select Committee has the challenge of making City officials as well as the public aware of the seriousness of the climate crisis and the actions the city must take to reduce harmful effects.

We would like to emphasize the following:

1. Measurement of GHG reductions should be performed annually, and effectively communicated to the public through a timely, accessible dashboard.
2. This is a time-sensitive crisis. We need actions that produce deep carbon reductions as soon as possible.
3. Health concerns, particularly in disadvantaged populations, are a high priority. Addressing these inequities means phasing out fossil fuel (including natural gas) combustion and increasing urban forest cover.

4. Budget shortfalls should not be used as an excuse for failure to act aggressively. Seattle has a reservoir of wealth in the community that could provide resources for timely actions.

5. It is crucial that the public understand and support these actions. People for Climate Action-Seattle has a committee dedicated to educating the public and is willing to help grow this support.

We appreciate the work of current and past Mayors and Councilmembers to set the stage for the Select Committee on Climate to accelerate City efforts, bringing all City departments together to reduce GHG emissions and protect our population from the harmful effects of a warming climate.

Sincerely,

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on behalf of People for Climate Actions-Seattle