

Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

Draft Minutes

July 10, 2025, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

1. Call to Order

1.1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS– Bryan Sohl, Mark Morrison, Kip Barrett, Gary Shaff, Sharon Dohrmann, Sidney Brown, Jennie Christopherson, Eric Ahnmark

PRESENT: OPEN POSITIONS: 1

ABSENT:

1.1. CITY COUNCIL:

1.2. STAFF: Chad Woodward

2. Consent Agenda

2.1. Minutes– Approved. Motion to approve made by Shaff. Seconded by Barrett. Approved unanimously.

3. Public Forum: Electronic Comments attached below.

4. Updates/Announcements

4.1. Council Update – N/A

4.2. Staff Update – Chad Woodward. City staff provided updates on the USDA RESP pledge of revenues, noting progress in discussions with leadership to establish necessary requirements, with a potential resolution involving language and documentation from the water division. The first year of the carshare program funding, under the current grant, resulted in 808 hours of use with 15 active users. Staff suggested exploring options to reduce costs, such as potentially owning their own car instead of using a contractor service. CEPAC also discussed the possibility of more advertising the car share program and considering different vehicle options, like pickup trucks, to meet specific user needs.

4.3. Chair Update – Bryan Sohl. Discussion about membership and student membership. Christopherson to see if daughter is still interested.

4.4. Other Committee Members: Eric Ahnmark – Waste Characterization Study.

Ahnmark shared preliminary data from seven 200-pound waste samplings, showing that current programs divert about 25% of waste from landfills. A future food scrap program could raise diversion rates to 72%, though results depend on full community participation. Even in ideal conditions, diversion would reach around 153 pounds per sample, including 53.9 pounds of recyclables—lower than San Francisco’s benchmarks but still promising. The discussion included the lack of clarity on what is recyclable and how this may

change moving forward with the Recycling Modernization Act and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

5. Old Business

5.1. Urban, Land Use, Transportation: Committee members raised concerns about CEPAC's limited role in shaping the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and stressed the need for early, active involvement to meet climate goals. Ashland proposed reaching out to the Planning Commission and Transportation Advisory Committee to request collaboration, with escalation to City Council if necessary. Funding challenges were also discussed, including limited federal support and RVTB service cuts. The group agreed that transportation funding should be addressed within the TSP process and emphasized the importance of early planning for bike and pedestrian infrastructure before 2050. The committee discussed a motion to send a letter to the Planning Commission and the Transportation Advisory Committee.

5.1.1. Motion to send a letter requesting collaboration with Planning Commission and Transportation Advisory Committee on the Transportation System Plan made by Brown. Seconded by Morrison. Approved unanimously with Barret abstaining.

5.1.2. Environment instead action plan

5.2. Gas Power Lawn and Garden Equipment: The committee discussed the gas-powered lawn and garden equipment plan, focusing on education and incentives for electric alternatives and a possible phase out. The group decides to remove specific incentive figures from the current proposal and revisit the topic in a future meeting when more budget information is available.

6. New Business

6.1. Document Summary Concept. Finally, they briefly touched on a proposal for submitting summaries with lengthy documents to help committee members stay informed. Proposal to include 2–3 page or 800-character summaries for lengthy shared documents to improve accessibility. This was agreed upon as best practice without a formal motion or vote.

6.2. City Facilities Tour There was general interest in pursuing this from members.

7. Adjourn–6:00 pm

Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

Work Session – Draft Minutes

7-9-2025, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

1. Call to Order

1.1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Bryan Sohl, Sidney Brown, Gary Shaff

1.2. CITY COUNCIL: N/A

1.3. STAFF: Chad Woodward

1.4. OTHER: Linda Peterson-Adams

- 2. Discussion:** The meeting focused on transportation in the city. The discussion covered the current state of affairs, including loss of revenue at the state and federal levels; and included the impacts on local transit. The conversation moved to the Transportation System Plan (TSP), including the fact that financing only included 4 pages in the previous TSP. There was a discussion about moving to the system that is desired from the system that exists and. Finally, there was a discussion of asking CEPAC to endorse submitting a letter the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission asking to play an equal role in the TSP.

3. Adjourned

Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

Work Session – Draft Minutes

8-27, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

1. Call to Order

1.1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Bryan Sohl, Mark Morrison, Gary Shaff

1.2. CITY COUNCIL: N/A

1.3. STAFF: Chad Woodward

1.4. OTHER: Canace Turtle

- 2. Discussion:** The meeting focused on decarbonizing existing buildings in the city. Staff answered questions about the state of various programs including our home energy audit program, the USDA RESP loan, funding opportunities, and the implications of recent federal executive orders. The discussion then moved into the use of incentives and the possible future use of ordinances like those recently adopted elsewhere to help maintain climate progress.

3. Adjourned

Comments for 7-10-2025 CEPAC Meeting

Full Name	Bob
Subject	pedestrian and bicyclist improvements/funding
Message	I would love to see our city prioritize greater access for pedestrians and bicyclists, including putting aside funds for such improvements. I would love to see Ashland's downtown's becoming more pedestrian and bicyclist friendly.

Comments for 6-12-2025 CEPAC meeting

Full Name	Leah
Subject	Bike-able Ashland
Message	
Full Name	Climate Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC) , I support dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements that make it safe for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bicycle and roll around town. Thank you!!
Subject	Len
Type of Testimony	bicycle and pedestrian improvements
Full Name	I support dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements in Ashland. Better human-powered mobility around town will lead to a healthier, happier and greener city.
Subject	Risa
Type of Testimony	To CEAP "Streets for Everyone"

I fully support additional expenditures that may be necessary to allow the city of Ashland to continue its' progress in creating a more walkable and rideable place for ALL of us to live and thrive. This is a "quality of life" value that is supported and utilized by our citizens and the many visitors who visit our community because it is becoming more and more "friendly" and safe for those of us who enjoy recreating and having an alternative mode of transportation in our town. Thanks very much!
