

## CEPAC 2025 Accomplishments and 2026 Work-Plan

Dear Mayor, Council, and City Manager,

I am Bryan Sohl, outgoing Chair of the CEPAC.

2025 was a productive year for CEPAC. Our accomplishments included:

- 1) Laying the groundwork for the Carbon Fee Ordinance which was passed by Council Unanimously in January.**
- 2) Initiating a Home Energy Score program.**
- 3) Updating the original 2017 CEAP document.**
- 4) Updating the City's Energy Incentive Structure and Rebate program. These updates were presented to Council and unanimously passed in October.**
- 5) Expanding CEPAC's role in the community.**
  - a. We established a regular meeting with the Executive Directors of ACC, SOCAN, and Rogue Climate.**
  - b. Similarly, CEPAC leadership meets regularly with other City Commission and Advisory Committee leadership.**

Looking forward to 2026 here are CEPAC Work Priorities:

- 1) Expand community awareness of the CEAP Plan, work of CEPAC, and existing incentive programs and the new Home Energy Score Program.**
- 2) Be involved in the upcoming TSP process.**
- 3) Collaborate with City Departments and staff regarding opportunities to Electrify and make more energy efficient City Operations and review our Building Inventory.**
- 4) Educate ourselves about Climate adaptability and Resilience opportunities.**

And we have identified four work priorities that will be long-term multi-year work projects in which CEPAC will be involved:

- 5) Work to Electrify Ashland.**
- 6) Work to make our waste stream more efficient and friendly to recycling, and to develop a viable food composting program.**
- 7) Work to identify climate beneficial programs and conservation measures that can be used by low- and middle-income community members, and renters.**
- 8) Work to reduce emissions in our transportation sector.**

# Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

## Draft Minutes

November 13, 2025, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

### 1. Call to Order

- **COMMITTEE MEMBERS-** Mark Morrison, Sharon Dohrmann, Sidney Brown, Jennie Christopherson, Kip Barrett, Bryan Sohl
- **PRESENT: OPEN POSITIONS: 2**
- **ABSENT:** Gary Shaff
- **CITY COUNCIL:** Bob Kaplan, Jeff Dahle
- **STAFF:** Chad Woodward

### 2. Consent Agenda.

- Minutes- Approved.
  - Motion to approve by Morrison, seconded by Brown. Approved unanimously.

### 3. Updates/Announcements

- Staff Update – Woodward:
  - Brief update on the status of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture loan process and the Home Energy Score progress.
  - Update on Oregon Department of Energy weatherization grant and expected additional funds.
- Council Update –
  - Kaplan provided an update on natural gas franchise versus ordinance discussion and shared that it would be on the upcoming council agenda.
- CEPAC Chair Update – Sohl
  - Reminder that the meeting time will be moved back one hour in January to start at 5 pm.
  - Provided an overview of 2025 accomplishments to jump start the discussion.

### 4. New Business

- 2025 Accomplishments
  - A review of 2025 accomplishments and a discussion of what to include in a final list to present to council. Sohl covered in further detail the

accomplishments which led to a discussion of whether to include small engines gas powered lawn and garden equipment as an accomplishment. Other areas discussed included Carbon Pollution Impact Fee, Home Energy Score program, review the Climate and Energy Action Plan, incentive restructuring, and expanding CEPAC role in the climate community. Sohl was authorized to summarize both the accomplishments and work plan and then to distribute for individual review by CEPAC members.

- Working dinner:
  - Morrison presentation of climate facts and quiz to demonstrate climate impacts from common activities and choice.
  - Morrison presented the committee's roles and responsibilities to help inform the workplan discussion and to improve efficiency in the coming year.
- 2026 Workplan discussion
  - Sohl provided an overview of what people had shared as areas of interest for the coming year. This led to a discussion of the ideas and how to frame the issues so that they were specific enough to avoid being overbroad.
  - Items discussed for the 2026 workplan included: understanding climate adaptability and resiliency efforts and opportunities, providing advisory opinions on the Transportation System Plan (TSP), working on existing city building electrification and expanding community awareness of the CEAP, CEPAC, incentives programs and the Home Energy Score program.
  - Identifying ongoing goals that may not be complete in 2026 were also discussed and included electrifying Ashland, increasing recycling, providing composting options, reducing transportation emissions, and identifying additional low/moderate income pathways for climate work.
  - There was additional discussion of how to schedule out the workplan in 2026 with dedicated and planned topics on the agenda with a greater focus on having time for deliberation.

**5. Adjourn-6:00 pm**

# Everyday Activities: Carbon Impact Reality Check

Understanding the true carbon footprint of common activities





# Idling Your Car

0.5

Gallons Per Hour

Average gasoline consumption while idling

190

Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>

15 minutes daily idling over 170 school days (21.25 gallons total)

380

Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>

30 minutes daily idling over 170 school days (42.5 gallons total)

One gallon of gasoline produces 9.07 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

# Transportation Comparison

2200

Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>

6,200 miles in average ICE vehicle annually

35

Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>

6,200 miles in EV on Ashland electricity annually

1.38

Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>

Single trip to Portland (222 miles) in EV on Ashland electricity



# Air Travel Emissions

Commercial aircraft emit around 90 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger per hour, or 150–250 grams per mile. High-altitude emissions have double the climate impact due to radiative forcing.

## Medford to Portland

222 air miles roundtrip

430 Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>

## Portland to Boston

2,537 air miles one way (5.5 hours)

1780 Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>

## Portland to Auckland

Long-haul international flight

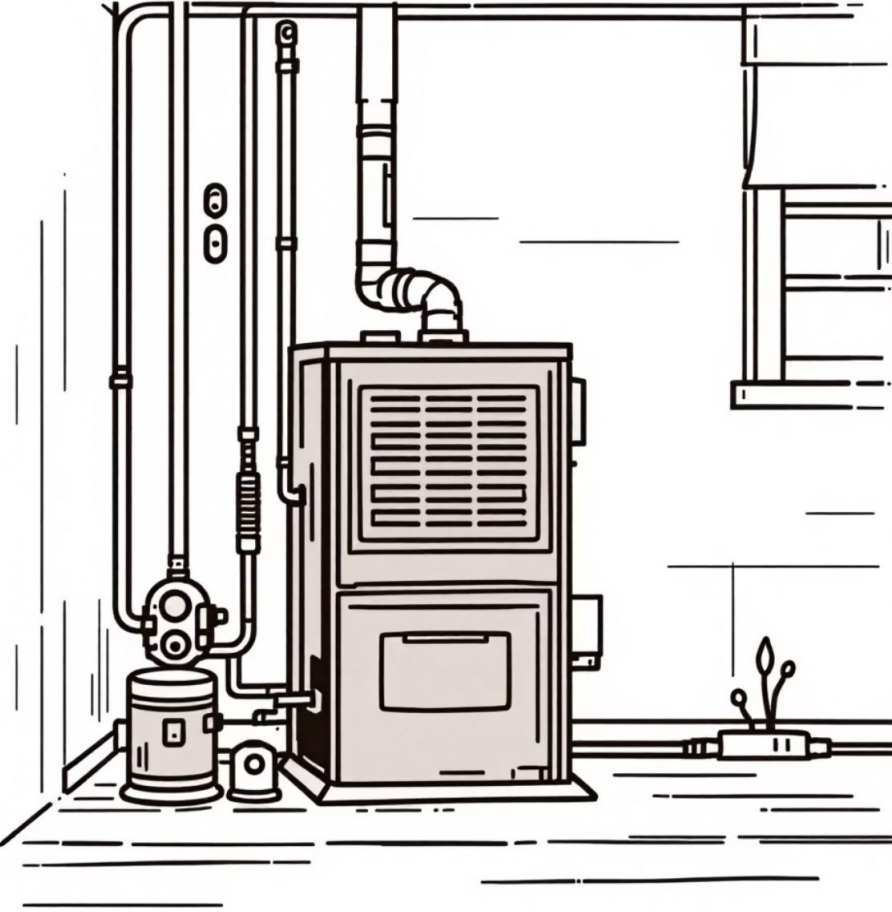
4740 Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub>

☐ Short-haul flights emit up to 50% more CO<sub>2</sub> per mile than long-haul flights due to frequent takeoffs and landings.

# Home Heating Choices

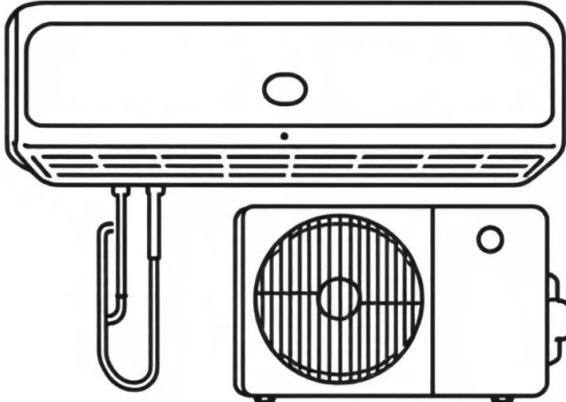
## Natural Gas

500 therms of natural gas produces **2600 Kilograms CO2**



## Heat Pump Efficiency

- COP 2.0 on Ashland electricity: **97 Kilograms CO2**
- COP 3.0 on Ashland electricity: **65 Kilograms CO2**



# Pet Ownership Impact

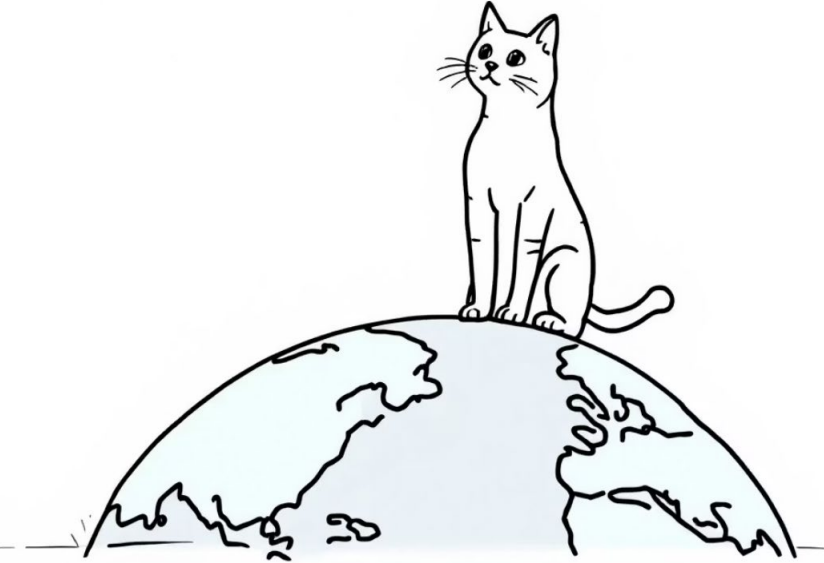
Annual greenhouse gas emissions from pets (Netherlands study):



A line drawing of a dog sitting in a forest. The dog is facing right. In the background, there are several trees of different shapes and sizes. A wavy line representing smoke or steam rises from the ground in the center of the scene. The ground is indicated by a series of horizontal lines.

Average Dog

340–1421 Kilograms GHG emissions per year



A line drawing of a cat sitting on top of a globe. The globe is shown from a perspective that highlights the continents. The cat is facing left.

Average Cat

150–251 Kilograms GHG emissions per year

# Food Waste to Landfill

22

Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub> Annually

10 pounds of food waste per week (520 pounds/year) sent to landfill

One ton of food waste generates 0.86 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions in landfills.

Small changes in daily habits—from reducing idling time to composting food waste—can significantly reduce our carbon footprint



Gemini



**Gemini - direct access to Google**

Created with Gemini

# Ready for Trivia?

QUIZ Link ^



# The Climate and Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

Establishment, Composition, and Responsibilities

Reference: Ashland Municipal Code - Ch. 2.13.010

# What is CEPAC?

A standing advisory committee established by the City Council to guide climate and environmental policy.



## Climate Change

Expertise in climate science and mitigation strategies



## Environmental Issues

Knowledge of ecological systems and conservation



## Public Health

Understanding of environmental health impacts



## Energy Efficiency

Experience in sustainable energy practices



## Renewable Energy

Expertise in clean energy solutions



# Who is on CEPAC?

The Committee is encouraged to include representatives from key community partners:

## Solid Waste Franchisee

Representative from the City's solid waste franchisee brings expertise in waste management and recycling operations.

## Southern Oregon University

Academic perspective and research capabilities from the university community.

## Ashland School District

Educational insight and youth engagement through school district representation.



# CEPAC's Core Responsibility

The CEPAC shall be responsible for **assisting the City** in advancing climate and environmental goals through strategic guidance and recommendations.

- ☐ The following slides detail the specific responsibilities that define CEPAC's role in supporting Ashland's climate and environmental initiatives.

# Responsibility 1: The Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP)

Making recommendations on strategies, actions, and programs related to the **implementation and updating of the Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP)** in furtherance of its climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

CEPAC serves as the primary advisory body for CEAP implementation and evolution.



# CEAP Advisory Issues

CEPAC shall advise the City Council on these critical areas:

01

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## Best Available Science

Modifications to benchmarks, targets, or actions in the CEAP to incorporate the best available science.

03

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## Implementation Progress

CEAP implementation progress for the community and for City operations.

05

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## Community Education

Climate education for the community.

02

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## Amendment Process

Process for considering amendments and updates to the CEAP.

04

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## Long-term Integration

Integration of long-term social, economic, and environmental goals into the CEAP.

06

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## Implementation Steps

CEAP implementation steps.



# Responsibilities 2 & 3: Information and Planning



## Providing Information

Providing information to staff and the City Council to ensure that benchmarks, targets, or actions incorporate the **best available science and practices**.



## Planning Recommendations

Providing recommendations to ensure that City of Ashland planning efforts incorporate **long-term climate and environmental goals**.

# Responsibilities 4 & 5: Collaboration and Advocacy



## Assisting Other Committees

Assisting other City of Ashland advisory committees and commissions in addressing issues that have a **climate or environmental nexus** .



## Educating and Advocating

Educating and advocating for Ashland's climate and environmental goals throughout the community.

**Your Role:** As CEPAC members, you serve as both advisors and advocates, bridging technical expertise with community engagement to advance Ashland's environmental future.