

# Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

## Draft Minutes

January 12, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

### 1. Call to Order

- **COMMITTEE MEMBERS-** Mark Morrison, Sharon Dohrmann, Sidney Brown, Jennie Christopherson, Gary Shaff
- **PRESENT: OPEN POSITIONS: 3**
- **ABSENT:** Kip Barrett
- **CITY COUNCIL:** Bob Kaplan, Jeff Dahle
- **STAFF:** Chad Woodward

### 2. Consent Agenda.

- Minutes- Approved.
  - ***Motion to approve by Dormann, seconded by Brown. Approved by Morrison, Brown, Shaff, and Dohrmann. Christopherson abstained.***

### 3. Updates/Announcements

- Staff Update – Woodward:
  - Home Energy Score program officially launched with 5 trained assessors and 18 people in queue.
  - Carbon Pollution Impact Fee implementation for 2026, triggered by building permit application dates
  - Weatherization grant award of \$120,000 (increased from \$18,000) for windows, insulation, and air sealing
  - Electric-ready incentive uptake: 1 panel upgrade, 4 circuits,
  - Income qualified – 2 heat pumps, and 1 EV application
- Council Update – (note very few meetings due to holidays)
  - Kaplan shared about the electric rates presentation and ensuing discussion at the council meeting.

### 4. Old Business

- Brief review of the year's workplan and the goal of having more deliberation during meetings.

## 5. **New Business**

- Discussed key barriers – contractors and realtors often unaware of available incentives. Discussion about expanding awareness of existing energy incentives and climate programs, with members identifying key outreach strategies including creating targeted fact sheets (for realtors, contractors, and rental property owners, and homeowners), exploring social media advertising using the committee's budget, and potentially tabling at community events like the farmer's market. The discussion also covered sharing information with realtors to further move the Home Energy Score forward and having a focus on high-priority incentives: heat pumps, electric-ready upgrades, income-qualified programs, EVs, and e-bikes.
- More information was shared by community partner Ashland Climate Collaborative on the ability to use their networks and knowledge to continue sharing climate information with the community.
- Planned a work-study session for January 28th to develop these materials with input from invited stakeholders, aiming to finalize recommendations at the following CEPAC meeting, while coordinating efforts with the Ashland Climate Collaborative to avoid duplication and leverage their existing marketing expertise with emphasis on reaching people at key decision points like home purchases and equipment replacements.
- Created the following tasks:
  - Morrison: Send emails to Real Estate Association, contractors, and rental owners association to invite them to the January 28th work-study session
  - Woodward: Send RVRA the redacted home energy score sample and press release, discuss with building department about attaching incentive information to electric permit, find out from fire department about logistics and requirements for tabling at farmer's market.

## 6. **Meeting Adjourned at 6:50.**

# **Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)**

## **Work Session - Draft Minutes**

January 28, 2026, 11:30-1:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

### **1. Call to Order**

- **COMMITTEE MEMBERS-** Mark Morrison, Sharon Dohrmann
- **STAFF:** Chad Woodward
- **Other Attendees:** Candace Turtle, Rick Barth Felice Ana De Ni Aodagain, Damon (HVAC contractor), Garret (?), John (general contractor)

### **2. Topic: Incentives & Programs Awareness and Outreach.**

- Candace provided an overview of offerings and services from the Ashland Climate Collaborative along with background on how and why the organization was formed.
- Morrison then led an open conversation about incentives awareness. One contractor shared that the best way to reach them was to direct email them when something new is happening. They also shared that the current website works well as a repository of information and is easy to use. Another contractor shared how most new homes are going all electric and that working in the residential sector to electrify is easier than the commercial sector.
- A brief discussion about how best to distribute incentives – to installers vs to homeowners. One contractor noted they like the model of reimbursing homeowners so that they are not involved and floating the money while waiting for reimbursement.
- Woodward clarified that multiple circuit upgrades are available per house based on the circumstances and that a circuit upgrade can be combined with a panel upgrade.
- A question on whether the incentive amount seemed adequate to motivate installers was answered as a definite yes by one contractor, but they have been too busy to focus on it.

### **3. Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm.**