

# Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC)

## Draft Minutes

February 12, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

51 Winburn Way Ashland, OR 97520

### 1. Call to Order

- **COMMITTEE MEMBERS-** Mark Morrison, Sharon Dohrmann, Jennie Christopherson, Kip Barret, Maya Baerg
- **PRESENT: OPEN POSITIONS: 2**
- **ABSENT:** Sidney Brown, Gary Shaff
- **CITY COUNCIL:** Jeff Dahle
- **STAFF:** Chad Woodward

### 2. Consent Agenda.

- Minutes- Approved.
  - *Motion to approve by Dohrmann, seconded by Baerg. Approved by Dormann, Baerg, Morrison, and Barret. Passed 4-0 (Christopherson arrived after the vote).*

### 3. Updates/Announcements

- Staff Update – Woodward:
  - Staff reported on the progress of home energy scoring, with 10 scores completed and many more in process, noting that the program needs to reach 166 scores by May to utilize all the grant funding. Staff shared information about the carbon pollution impact fees for new building permits, with 10 new permits issued, 6 of which indicated plans to use no gas. A brief update that new incentives were being utilized and an upcoming focus would be the CERTA Weatherization Grant.
- Council Update – Dahle:
  - A recent meeting was a joint council/parks commission as they continue to work on increasing communication between both bodies. Council has been doing code updates for the city's municipal codes. They have reviewed electric rates increases to help maintain electric infrastructure which is in the process of being adopted. A brief overview of city land processes and possible divestment was discussed. It was noted that a discussion of the Avista franchise agreement will occur at an upcoming meeting.

### 4. Old Business – Expand Awareness of City Incentives and Programs

- The CEPAC committee discussed the importance of outreach and education for both homeowners and contractors to effectively promote the incentives. The importance of educating installers about incentives, as they significantly influence homeowner decisions was also covered. There was question of whether outreach money was part of the incentives proposal previously passed by the committee and later council. Staff did not recall any but would review and provide information moving forward.
- The committee then focused on challenges and potential improvements to the city's incentive programs. The conversation covered contractor perceptions and permitting processes. The committee covered ideas including ways to streamline the permitting process for energy-efficient upgrades, reducing or eliminating permit fees and conducting focus groups with contractors to better understand their concerns and needs.
- There was discussion of providing an advisory opinion to city council to investigate the permitting process to make it more efficient for contractors and potentially reducing permit costs. The group agreed to gather more data on permit timelines and common process issues before making formal recommendations to the City Council.
- The group then discussed what questions staff might want to move forward with regarding the perceived concerns. This led to guidance for staff to investigate permit timelines and common errors or delays for projects related to incentive-eligible upgrades (e.g., heat pumps, panel upgrades, water heaters), and report findings to the committee.
- The committee then made plans to hold an additional study session on March 10<sup>th</sup> focused on outreach strategies and potential permitting process impediments for incentive projects.

**5. New Business – Preparatory discussion for March topic of Adaptability and Resilience.**

- Discussed the next meeting for March 12th to discuss adaptation and resiliency with Chris Chambers from Ashland Fire Department as a guest speaker to address city wildfire actions. A brief overview and conversation about what the committee would like to learn about lead to some general guidance for the guest speaker to cover existing programs and activities.

**6. Meeting Adjourned at 6:55.**