

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heidi Cody, Alliance for Community Engagement, Vancouver resident, 718-986-2348
Cathryn Chudy, Alliance for Community Engagement, Vancouver resident, 971-221-4180
Rebecca Ponzio, Washington Environmental Council, 206-240-0493
Dan Serres, Columbia Riverkeeper, 503-890-2441

Community Groups Celebrate Passage of Vancouver Climate Action Framework

December 5, 2022 (Vancouver, WA) — Community groups are celebrating Vancouver’s City Council’s unanimous vote to adopt an ambitious Climate Action Framework. Developed over two years, the Framework puts forward the City’s integrated approach to meeting city-wide carbon-neutrality by 2040. The Framework includes actions to invest in clean energy infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in the building and transportation sectors, and protect Vancouver’s health and safety.

Key elements of Vancouver’s Climate Action Framework:

- A goal to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2040;
- Committing to increase walking, biking and transit;
- Transitioning to cleaner vehicles via electrification and other low-carbon fuels;
- Increasing tree canopy and improving natural systems;
- Investing in energy efficiency, weatherization and low-carbon power for our buildings;
- Improving land use to concentrate growth and increase housing options, and
- Integrating equity as a guiding principle of implementation.

Community member testimony at the public hearing overwhelmingly supported Vancouver’s Mayor and Council adopting the Climate Action Framework, demonstrating widespread community support to adopt this groundbreaking roadmap to ensure a more equitable and resilient future for Vancouver.

“Passing this ordinance not only demonstrates that the city cares about the environment but also that it listens to the concerns of the communities who are most affected by fossil fuels,” said Xaviera Martinez-Ziegenfuss, President of SW WA LULAC. “In a world where climate injustice also targets communities of color, it is exciting to see our city working with those same communities towards a brighter, cleaner future.”

“Vancouver Washington is serious about emissions reduction,” said Don and Alona Steinke of Climate Action Southwest Washington. “With strong support from the community, the City has developed a framework to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2040. We are very proud of the City Manager’s Office, the City Council, and our community.”

“Thank you for taking a bold step that addresses the climate crisis head on,” said Mark Leed, Chair of Sierra Club, Loo Wit. “Our community can work together to make this ambitious goal for carbon-neutrality by 2040 happen, realistically.”

“Vancouver has quickly established itself as a leader among Columbia River communities working to address the disparate impacts of the climate crisis, first by passing a prohibition on new large-scale fossil fuel facilities, and now by approving the Climate Action Framework,” said Dan Serres of Columbia Riverkeeper. “The Framework offers tangible steps for improving the health, safety, and resiliency of residents already facing the impacts of climate change.”

“Climate action must prioritize community health, safety and resiliency and that is exactly what Vancouver gets by establishing this exciting Climate Action Framework,” said Rebecca Ponzio, Climate and Fossil Fuel Program Director, Washington Environmental Council/ Washington Conservation Voters. “This robust framework combines climate action into the work of governance and puts Vancouver in a leadership seat on climate.”

“We are elated to see yet another climate and public health victory come out of Vancouver City Council,” said Karissa Halstrom of Sunrise SWWA. “In passing this Framework, Council is taking the concerns of our generation seriously, as well as those of us who often do not have a voice in these matters and who would be the most affected by inaction.”

“Bird conservation in a changing climate requires bold and smart planning for climate change. By taking action to quickly move to net-zero carbon emissions, the Vancouver CAF provides the solutions to make a difference, for birds and people,” said Susan Saul, Conservation Chair, Vancouver Auduon.

“Passing the CAF is a great step forward, and demonstrates our Council’s commitment to reaching climate goals. ACE and the environmental community have worked hard to get us to this stage. However, there is still much work to be done to implement the goals and put necessary ordinances and regulations into effect. We will continue to shepherd those steps,” said Peter Fels, an Alliance for Community Engagement member.

Resources:

- **Download the Climate Action Framework** and related documents on the City of Vancouver’s website at: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/cmo/page/climate-action/>
- Alliance for Community Engagement letter to Vancouver City Council supporting Climate Action Framework
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dq_bCxd_3mOrtNQxTvHfpEhd1HF6nXVE19TgSxoNoJc/edit