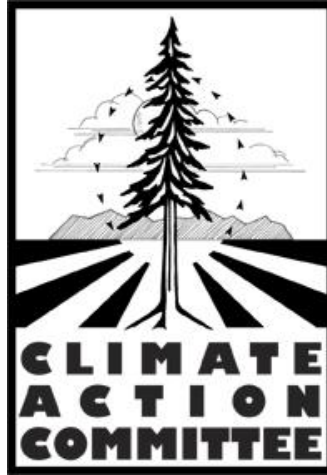


Climate Action Committee Update to Board of County Commissioners Re Recommended Goals



FEBRUARY 26TH, 2024

Overview

In 2008, the City and County jointly adopted a goal to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, using a 2005 baseline

In 2020, the CAC approved an updated emissions inventory of 2018 emissions, and in 2021, a summary of the top opportunities to reduce those emissions.

In 2022, the CAC approved the 2001-2016 Forest and Tree GHG Inventory.

Overview

Based on the latest inventory data, climate science and policies, the CAC approved two new recommendations to the BOCC and City Council regarding emissions and carbon sequestration goals:

New (Sector-Based) Emissions Goals

By 2030: Emissions 58.7% below 2018 levels

By 2050: Emissions 95% below 2018 levels

Overview

New Carbon Sequestration Goals for Jefferson County, excluding the Olympic National Park and Wilderness areas (ONPW)

By 2030: a 20% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline of 1.6 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ (MMTCO₂)/year, up to 2.0 MMTCO₂

By 2050: an additional 20% increase to 2.3 MMTCO₂/year, for a total of 40% increase above 2011-2016 baseline

New Emissions Goal Rationale

The 2018 GHG inventory data showed we were making great progress:

A 39% reduction from 1990 levels, ahead of the 2020 goal of a 15% reduction, and **well on our way to the 80% below 1990 by 2050.**

However, **globally, we are not on track** to keep warming below the 1.5°C increase in temperature the IPCC and the Paris Agreement recommends.

New Emissions Goal Rationale

The CAC adopted the Science-Based Target for our fair share of global emissions to meet the Paris Agreement as calculated per ICLEI:

- **A 58.7% absolute (not per capita) reduction in GHG emissions from 2018 by 2030**

Recommended High Impact Activities (same as modeled in CAC's Reduction Opportunity Report):

- **Electric Vehicle Adoption**
- **Reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled**
- **Increasing commercial & residential building efficiency and electrification.**

New Emissions Goal Rationale

For 2050, the **IPCC recommends all organizations be net zero.**

- However, **we already meet that target**, since our forests sequester 13 times more GHGs than the amount reported in our 2018 emissions inventory.
- But that doesn't mean we get a pass on reducing emissions.

We recommend following the Washington State **goal of a 95% reduction of emissions by 2050**

New Emissions Goal Summary

Year	GHG Emissions (Metric tons)	% reduction from 2018	Percent reduction from 1990 level	
1990	441,560 est.	N/A	N/A	
2018 GHG Emissions	275,083	N/A	38%	
2030 Emissions Goal	113,609	58.7%	74%	
2050 Emissions Goal	13,754	95%	97%	



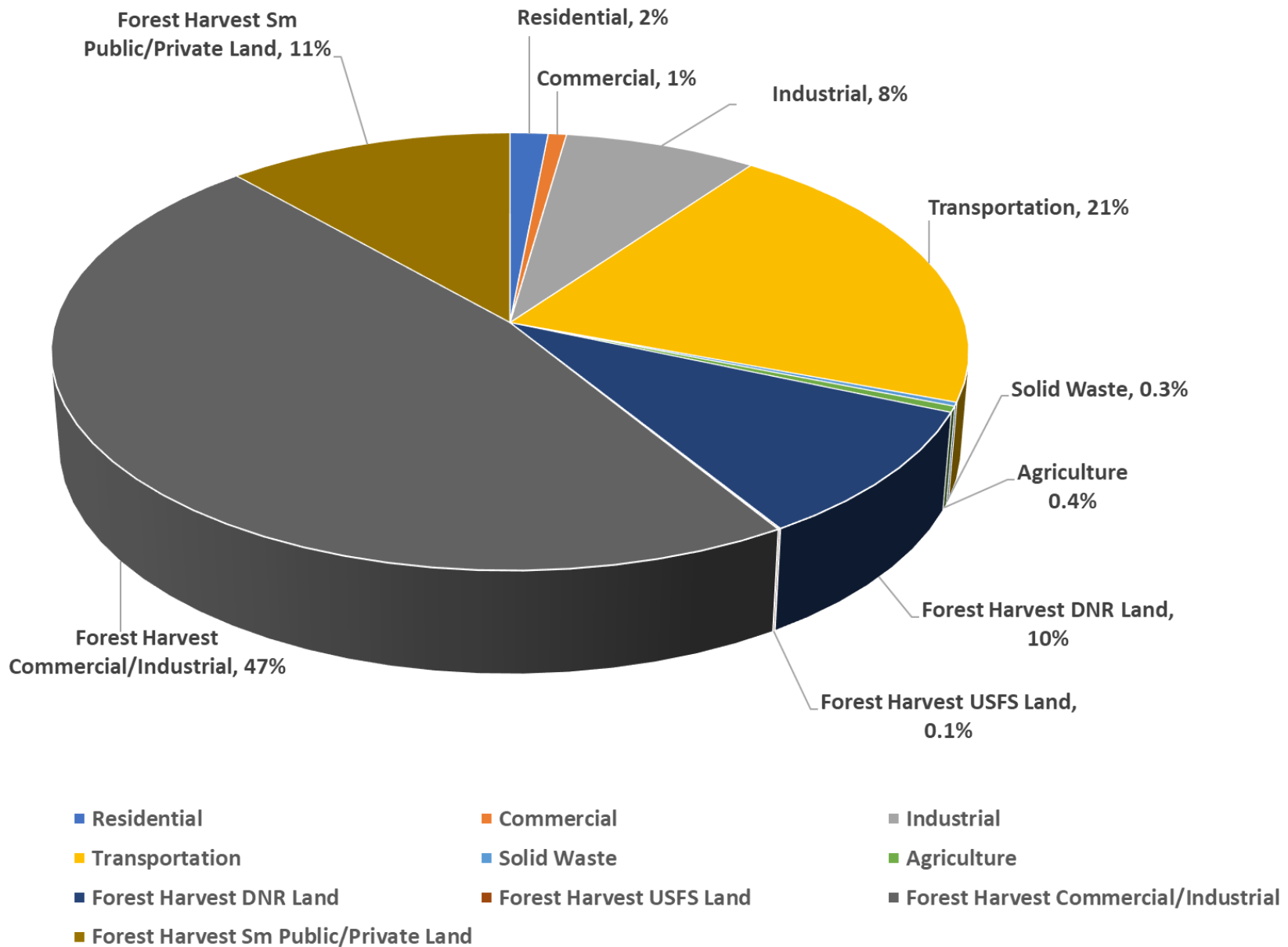
Carbon Sequestration Recommendation

Forests in Jefferson County have been identified as high-carbon-priority, based on their **potential carbon sequestration** and **low vulnerability to drought or fire**.

Our forests and trees across our county are **sequestering (or removing) more than 13 times** the amount of **greenhouse gases emitted in the county**

Additionally, **emissions from forest harvest is a significant percentage of man-made emissions** in the County (not including CO₂ removals from forests).

Jefferson County Human Caused CO₂ Emissions Sector-based and Forest Harvest (2018, 2011-2016)



Carbon Sequestration Recommendation

The Jefferson County Forest and Trees GHG Inventory shows for 2011-2016, for the entire county, the **CO2 sequestered** is equivalent to reducing **Washington State's** total current **GHG emissions** (102 MMT in 2019) **by 3.6%**.

The proposed **2030** goal for Jefferson County (excluding the ONPW) would provide **an additional 0.3% reduction in of current WA GHG emissions**.

Carbon Sequestration Recommendation

The proposed **2050** goal would provide an **additional 0.6% reduction** from the State's current GHG emissions levels.

By 2050, the Recommended Goals for Jeff Co would provide a total of 4.2% reduction in WA's current GHG emissions

Carbon Sequestration Recommendation

USFS Land in Jeff Co sequestered 5.0 mtCO₂/acre in 2011-2016. **This is higher than any other ownership.**

If **that same rate was applied to:** DNR, commercial/industrial, small private/public, and county-owned areas (455,651 acres) of the county

- **and all other areas were held constant** at 2011-2016 levels,

- that would result in a **76% increase** in the carbon sequestration per year for the county excluding ONPW areas.

Proposed Goal for Carbon Sequestration

New Carbon Sequestration Goals for Jefferson County, excluding the Olympic National Park and Wilderness areas (ONPW)

By 2030: a 20% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline of 1.6 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ (MMTCO₂)/year, up to 2.0 MMTCO₂

By 2050: an additional 20% increase to 2.3 MMTCO₂/year, for a total of 40% increase above 2011-2016 baseline

Other WA Counties

- King County - Forest Carbon Program includes offering both **Urban and Rural Forest Carbon Credits**
- Whatcom County – Climate Action Plan has a goal to “**enhance carbon storage and sequestration**”
- Pierce County – GHG Plan includes conserving lands for carbon sequestration, and **increasing the use of carbon sequestration BMPs**
- We don't know of any county that has established a carbon sequestration goal

Local Efforts Under Way

Jefferson County Forestry Feasibility Study:

Calls for “sustainable forestry program that will reduce fire risk, Improve forest health and biodiversity, **Increase carbon sequestration**”

Jeff. Co. working with DNR to leverage Climate Commitment Act funding **to add forest areas into the state’s new carbon sequestration program**

City of Port Townsend - awarded \$500K from USFS for an **Urban Forestry Plan and tree planting** in CastleHill neighborhood.

Opportunities to Increase Carbon Sequestration

Work with DNR to do trust land transfers or reconveyance to County ownership

Support forest management on private lands through education, policies and opportunities such as:

- Forest Carbon Works which offers carbon credit payments for small landowners
- Continue to fund County forestry programs to include carbon management

Other Opportunities

- **Engage Washington Congressional delegation and 24th Legislative District** on carbon policies, including **carbon pricing**.
- Encourage and incentivize **planting of trees** for long term establishment in un-forested areas.
- Consider expanding the **tree ordinance** to encourage retaining standing trees when practical.

Forest Management Co-Benefits

- ❖ Stormwater management/mitigation
- ❖ Enhanced water quality and conservation
- ❖ Temperature mitigation
- ❖ Public health benefits
- ❖ Protects biodiversity, provides food and habitat for wildlife
- ❖ Increases employment from non-timber forest products and tourism

Questions and Discussion

Backup

Carbon Sequestration Recommendation

2011-2016 CO₂ Removal by Ownership per Acre

