

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

CONSENT AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Laura Tucker, Environmental Health Specialist

DATE: June 3, 2024

SUBJECT: **RESOLUTION Re:** Updated Climate Emissions Goals and New Sequestration Goals

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The Climate Action Committee (CAC) is requesting approval of a joint resolution by the BOCC and the Port Townsend City Council to update sequestration and emissions goals for Jefferson County based on the best science available as compiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). On April 24, 2024, the Commissioners met with the leadership of the CAC and approved a motion to accept the recommended emissions and sequestration goals listed in the Analysis section below.

ANALYSIS:

The recommended sequestration goals are as follows:

1. By 2030: Increase carbon sequestration in Jefferson County (excluding the Olympic National Park and Wilderness areas [ONPW]) to 2.0 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ (MMTCO₂)/year, a 20% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline of 1.6 MMTCO₂/year.
2. By 2050: Increase carbon sequestration in Jefferson County (excluding ONPW) to 2.3 MMTCO₂e/year, a 40% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline of 1.6 MMTCO₂/year.

The recommended reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are as follows:

Reduce Community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to

- 58.7% below 2018 levels by 2030
- 95% below 2018 levels by 2050

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal impact currently identified.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Resolution re: Updated climate emissions goals and new sequestration goals.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

5/30/24
Date

STATE OF WASHINGTON
County of Jefferson

Joint Resolution of the Board of County	}	
Commissioners and the Port Townsend	}	
City Council Setting an Updated Climate	}	County Resolution No. _____
Emissions Goal and New Sequestration	}	
Goal, Repealing and Replacing County	}	City Resolution No. _____
Resolution No. 44-07 and City Resolution	}	
No. 07-022	}	

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) of Jefferson County Washington (“County”) and the City Council (“Council”) of Port Townsend, Washington (“City”) do hereby jointly resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change will have far reaching effects on public health, local economies, food production, water supplies, and power production; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend jointly appointed a Climate Action Committee (CAC) in March 2008, charged with developing a Climate Action Plan which would provide recommendations for achieving a community standard of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to levels 80% lower than 1990 levels by 2050 with preliminary reduction targets to be set for earlier years (County Resolution 44-07 and City Resolution 07-022); and

WHEREAS, the CAC completed the 2018 GHG inventory which found that the community of Jefferson County has made great progress toward achieving locally adopted goals. However, the global community is not on track to reduce emissions sufficiently to keep warming below the 1.5°C increase in temperature that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommends, and which was agreed upon in the 2015 Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, using the 2018 inventory as a baseline, in 2022, members of the CAC worked with the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) to create a Science-Based target for Jefferson County that is designed to represent each community’s fair share of the global emissions to meet the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the CAC adopted a motion at its December 12, 2023 meeting to “Recommend the City Council and BoCC approve updated GHG emissions reduction goals based on the IPCC recommendations and science-based targets: 58.7% reduction from 2018 baseline levels by 2030 (absolute) and 95% below 2018 levels by 2050 (absolute) with reference to our previous goals using 1990 baseline data.” (The absolute indicates total emissions, regardless of population changes); and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the Climate Action Committee approved a Jefferson County Forests and Trees Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2001-2016 and Next Steps. That inventory found that the forests and trees across Jefferson County were sequestering (or removing) more than 13 times the amount of greenhouse gases that were being emitted, as measured in the 2018 Inventory of Greenhouse Gas

Emissions. Therefore, opportunity to impact the net greenhouse gas contribution of Jefferson County – and Washington State – is highly influenced by the forests and trees across Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, based on the forest inventory, the CAC adopted a motion at its December 12, 2023 meeting recommending that the City Council and BoCC set two new targets for increasing carbon sequestration in the county:

1. By 2030: Increase carbon sequestration in Jefferson County (excluding the Olympic National Park and Wilderness areas [ONPW]) to 2.0 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ (MMTCO₂)/year, a 20% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline of 1.6 MMTCO₂/year.
2. By 2050: Increase carbon sequestration in Jefferson County (excluding ONPW) to 2.3 MMTCO₂e/year, a 40% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline of 1.6 MMTCO₂/year; and

WHEREAS, increasing carbon sequestration reduces overall net GHG emissions and is critical to tackling climate change; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase sequestration provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, saving money, and reducing tax burdens for governments, businesses and citizens; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Port Townsend City Council and the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, State of Washington, commit to collaborate on the following joint goals:

Reduce Community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to

- 58.7% below 2018 levels by 2030 (absolute)
- 95% below 2018 levels by 2050 (absolute)

Increase Sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions to:

- 20% increase above the 2011-2016 baseline of 1.64 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ (MMTCO₂)/year, up to 2.0 MMTCO₂ by 2030
- And by an additional 20% increase to 2.3 MMTCO₂/year, for a total of 40% increase above 2011-2016 baseline by 2050

The provisions of this Joint Resolution supersede the community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal set forth in the 2007 Joint Resolution (County 44-07, City 07-022).

This Joint Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners and the City of Port Townsend.

Severability. If any one or more section, subsections, or sentences of this Resolution are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Resolution and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS _____ day of _____, 2024

JEFFERSON COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kate Dean, Chair

Greg Brotherton, Member

Heidi Eisenhour, Member

SEAL

Attest:

Carolyn Gallaway, Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:

Philip C. Hunsucker
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS _____ day of _____, 2024

David Faber, Mayor
City of Port Townsend

Attest:

Alyssa Rodrigues, City Clerk