

# Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting Summary

## May 5, 2022, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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**Attendees:** Anthony Martin (Chair), Audrey O'Brien, Fawn Bergen, Jeff Pazdalski, Laura Trunk, Mac Martin, Mia Hocking, Tasha Johnson, Tina Chang, Tony Varela, Troy Gagliano, Vinod Singh, Tina Bailey

**Special Guests:** Amy Meaut, City of Hillsboro; Zuly Munoz, Community Action; Debby Garman, Hillsboro Community Member

**Staff/Support:** Peter Bandom, Dacia Bakkum, Jason Robertson

**Absent:** Simon Christenson, Tom Arnold, Nina Carlson, Kieran Sikdar, Justin Green, Hannah Cruz, Matthew Barnett, Randy Olsen, Naim Ferris, Allison Puch Cahuich

### Welcome + Council Updates

Committee Chair, Councilor Martin, welcomed the group and shared some City Council updates.

- The City offsets 100% of electricity with renewable energy credits, updated agreements for the offsets. Moving forward with efficient water heater rebate incentive program for lower income community members.
- The City is partnering with Beaverton and Washington County to use ARPA funds for COVID-related community support.
- The City's new Supplier Diversity Program was codified and will help elevate minority, veteran, and women-owned businesses.
- The City will continue to provide funding for the PCC Future Connect program that provides scholarships and support for Hillsboro students who identify as first-generation or low-income.
- HiLight, Hillsboro's high-speed internet and digital voice service will be expanding into a new area soon. For more information visit [Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/Services/HiLight](https://Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/Services/HiLight).
- The City is partnering with Centro Cultural to provide a Community Digital Literacy Training Program.

Councilor Martin encouraged Committee members to reach out any time about issues of interest or concern, or to simply share ideas about how we can be even better.

### Member Spotlight: Hillsboro Water

Amy Meaut, Project Specialist with the City of Hillsboro Water Department, provided an overview of the City's Water Conservation Program.

Hillsboro Water has numerous water conservation measures that make up its robust water conservation program. Promotion and funding is required by the Oregon Water Resources Department and approved in a Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) to grant access to water rights.

### Residential Rebate Program

1. High-Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate – up to **\$75** per toilet, with a limit of two toilets per household.
2. Washing Machine Rebates – **\$50** for Energy Star certified washing machines.
3. Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Rebate – up to **\$200** for WaterSense certified irrigation controllers.
4. Smart Water Meter Rebate – Up to **\$150** for a qualifying smart water meter.

Device	# of Rebates Given Since 2012	Estimated Water Savings (Gallons)	Notes
High Efficiency Toilets	3,942	15,827,130	Gallons saved based on replacing 3.5gpf toilet. Based on average 5 flushes per day.
EnergyStar Washing Machines	1,304	5,221,600	Gallons saved based on 10-gallon savings, 400 loads per year.
Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers (started in 2014)	272	2,067,200	EPA states standard estimate of savings is 7,600 gallons per year per controller.

### Smart Water Meter Rebate – NEW!

As of April 1, 2022, residential customers can apply and receive up to \$150 for purchasing and installing a new smart water meter monitoring device.

### Customer Benefits of Smart Water Meters

- Track home water use 24/7 on a smartphone app.
- Detect small leaks.
- Gain real-time information on consumption.
- Set water usage goals and budgets for households.
- Receive push notifications suspicious water activities.
- Determine which appliances are using water.

### Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (ICI) Program

Developed to help non-residential customers improve water efficiency through larger scale water use audits and cost-share funding for water saving measures.

## 2021-2022 Projects

Three irrigation customers will receive a free Irrigation Audit provided by a local landscape business. This is to help offset increasing irrigation rates in 2022.

- Additional cost-share funding will be available to implement water saving measures.
- Turfgrass removal, toilet replacements, irrigation audits, mulch, and water efficient plants.

## Educational Outreach

EarthCapades – Live, interactive, and personalized online environmental theater experience.

- 22 shows performed at 12 schools including 3 Title 1 schools
- Estimated reach of 4,500 students

Will Hornyak – A local storyteller

- Provides a live assembly program titled “Living Streams: A Story for Healthy Watershed”
- Hillsboro School District elementary students
- Performed at two schools to date, additional scheduled

Children’s Clean Water Festival

- Virtual for 2022, planning an in-person festival for 2023
- Increased languages to include Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, and Chinese
- Creating new content for page
- Teachers will receive link April 25
- Each water provider will receive a link for a marketing tool kit to promote the website

Annual Calendar Contest

- Each year the Water Department partners with local elementary schools to illustrate a water theme calendar; this year will be the 17<sup>th</sup> year
- 2023 theme is “Go with the Flow”
- Calendars will be distributed in December 2022 to all participating schools

## Home Water Audits

<b>Indoor</b>	<b>Outdoor</b>
Assess the type of plumbing fixture and appliances that are installed	Teach customers how to use their water meter to check for leaks
Supply free high-efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators via the mail or delivery	Review home irrigation schedule
Review and explain customer’s Utility Bill	Address broken sprinkler heads and prevent excessive runoff

Offer tips and resources for water conservation tips	Provide information on winterizing
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**Member Spotlight: Community Action**

Zuly Muñoz, Energy Conservation Specialist with Community Action, shared information about the Low-Income Weatherization Program (WAP) and energy conservation services provided by Community Action.

The WAP provides weatherization and energy conservation services at no cost to households at or below 200% of federal poverty income level. Federal, State and Public Purpose funds provide funding for the program. They serve about 200 homes per year through the cold weather program and are starting to investigate hot weather weatherization options as well.

Eligibility Requirements

- Washington County resident.
- Meet income guidelines; 200% Federal Poverty Level.
- Own or rent the home. If rental, landlord authorization is required.
- Live in a house, mobile home, condo, duplex, triplex, and fourplex.

Weatherization Measures Provide

- Insulation
- Duct sealing
- EPDM Roof
- Pressure Balancing
- Air Sealing
- Heating Systems
- Exhaust Fans
- Windows
- Water Heaters
- Replacement Doors\Windows
- CO & Smoke Alarms

Process

- Intake - Applications are qualified based on income, ownership, and previous weatherization services.
- Wait List - Households with elderly persons, persons with disabilities and children eighteen years of age and under, veterans, high energy burden, and high residential energy usage receive priority.
- Education/Audit - Robust education is provided on energy saving and health & safety topics. Diagnostic testing is performed to identify weatherization needs.
- Installation - Licensed contractors install weatherization measures.
- Inspection - Ensure that installations meet State specifications and regulations.

Partnerships

- Utility Assistance: Emergency funds for non-functioning heating or cooling systems
- City of Beaverton: Small and large critical repairs for City of Beaverton residents
- Energy Trust of Oregon: Energy conservation incentives
- City of Hillsboro: Energy efficient water heater incentives for City residents

## Hillsboro Energy Efficiency Grant Program – Heat Pump Water Heater Incentive

### Process:

- Energy Auditor identifies home as a good candidate
- Client contacts *Community Energy Project* to obtain a Home Energy Score
- New energy efficient heat pump water heater is installed and inspected
- Community Action requests \$1,000 incentive from the City of Hillsboro
- Client sees a reduction in water heating costs!

### Contact Information

- 503-906-6550
- [weatherization@caowash.org](mailto:weatherization@caowash.org)

## **Programming + Reporting**

### Meeting Logistics

Peter shared results from the survey about meeting in person or via Zoom. Overall, there was a mixed response from the group. We will wait and decide when we get closer to the fall meeting and continue online only for now. There is some interest in doing a different kind of hybrid – meet in-person when there is an outside or low-risk field trip; or remain online only when covering business-only.

Tina Chang offered a Genentech tour. Vinod is open to Far West Recycling tour, depending on situation with COVID.

### 2019/2020 Annual Report Concept

Jason proposed a combined annual report concept that would ensure a recorded/posted accounting of 2019 and 2020 progress featuring implementation partner achievement. He said it was important to note those efforts, with reporting on a revised set of indicators moving forward. Dacia showed how we could present those highlights in a concise report while also portraying indicator trends. Peter said we plan to adopt and begin on the new Committee-adopted indicator set later this summer. The Committee agreed to move forward.

Vinod: is there some record of indicator changes and why? Yes, it is included in all prior HSTF meeting summaries, and we will incorporate future changes into all new reports.

### 2021 Partner Survey Update

Jason shared some highlights from the annual partner survey. He included features from all Vision focus areas to ensure the Committee had insights into the activities taking place across the broader Hillsboro 2035 spectrum. Preliminary (surveys still coming in) highlights include:

### **Economy and Infrastructure**

- New City-HSD Hillsboro Works Program creates internships for students at Hillsboro businesses
- Washington County Chamber launched the Veterans Business Council (VBC) to empower and connect veteran businesses and workforce
- US Bank (2<sup>nd</sup> & Main downtown) to be redeveloped with 4 restaurant tenants, rooftop bar and outdoor plaza space

### **Education and Community Involvement**

- New City Diversity, Equity + Inclusion and Community Engagement Managers
- Community Foundation launching Young Professionals Council Fall 2022
- Civic Leadership Academy developed recommendations on how to promote volunteerism and enhance City's volunteer program

### **Environmental Stewardship**

- Community Action completed energy efficiency measures for 26 Hillsboro homes at a value of \$339,282
- 957 Hillsboro homes have received a Home Energy Score
- Hillsboro Public Works extended bike routes along Jackson School Rd, 18th Ave and Connell; added pedestrian signals at Rosedale Elementary (67th Ave) and Century Blvd

### **Health Wellness and Safety**

- Kindergarten Readiness Partnership Innovation Grant provides \$500,000 for projects supporting families, caregivers, educators of young children
- Project Homeless Connect served over 400 individuals experiencing homelessness at the Hillsboro Day Center (30-60 individuals a day)
- Bienestar broke ground @ Nueva Esperanza which will provide affordable housing for 150 families in a beautiful neighborhood close to amenities (near Hidden Creek Community Center)

### **Livability and Recreation**

- Murals in process for 10th Ave., Main Street, and M&M Marketplace (Cultural Arts District); Bridge of Land and Sky coming later 2022
- Public Works installed info kiosks in downtown, Orenco, and Tanasbourne; added City logo on street signs at gateway intersections
- Multiple segments of Crescent Park Greenway Trail have been purchased and constructed

## Member Announcements

- Community advocate Debby Garman was nominated as one of three community volunteers of the year for 2021 by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters
- Edwards Vacuum is the newest Westside Transportation Alliance Partner
- PGE launched a new Income Qualified Bill Discount Program  
<https://portlandgeneral.com/news/pge-launches-new-income-qualified-bill-discount-program>
- Clean Water Services has been monitoring PFAS chemical levels in local streams since 2019; all meets DEQ and EPA standards. Mac shared a related article with the group:  
<https://www.biocycle.net/a-dose-of-pfas-reality/>. Several sites in Washington County also monitor for COVID
- Metro Household Hazardous Waste collection events scheduled again after being shut down for COVID
- Hillsboro School District Auction - July 19 at the facilities warehouse on Witch Hazel Road. Items can be viewed virtually ahead of time
- The Washington County woodstove changeout program is coming back, after time-off during COVID. City of Hillsboro has been a major financial supporter of the program since its inception in 2015

## Upcoming Events

- PlanetCon – A Free Recycling, Reuse, and Sustainability Fair  
Century High School North Parking Lot, 2000 SE Century Boulevard  
June 25, 11am – 2pm  
[planetcon.org](http://planetcon.org)
- Latino Cultural Festival  
Ron Tonkin Stadium, 4460 NE Century Boulevard  
Sunday, June 5, 12-7pm
- Hillsboro 2035 Community Partner Celebration  
Hidden Creek Community Center, 5100 NE Hidden Creek Drive  
Thursday, June 9, 5-7pm
- La Strada Dei Pastelli Chalk Art Festival  
Downtown Hillsboro between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday July 16, 10am – 6pm  
Sunday, July 17, 10am – 6pm

## Public Comment

Debby Garman thanked the Committee for recognizing her award nomination, even though she does not need it to be passionate about and continue doing environmental stewardship advocacy.