

Hillsboro Environmental Stewardship Committee

Meeting Summary #3, 2023-2024

March 21, 2024/4:00-6:00 PM

Genentech (4625 NE Brookwood Pkwy, Hillsboro, OR 97124)



Attendance

Members Present:

Anthony Martin, Chair; Audrey O'Brien; Catherine Tran; Christian Robertson-Lofthouse; Cynthia Westby; Dacia Bakkum; Elizabeth Case; Hannah Cruz; Jason Robertson; KJ Lewis; Mac Martin; Mia Hocking; Michelle Knoke; Robin Straughan; Tasha Johnson; Tina Chang; Vinod Singh; Debby Garman (guest); Geoff Bastian (guest)

Members Absent:

Abiral Shakya; Allison Puch Cahuich; Fawn Bergen; Jeff Pazdalski; Jessica Dorsey; Kieren Sikdar; Laura Trunk; Nina Carlson; Scott McEwen; Tina Bailey; Zuly Muñoz

Summary

Genentech Tour

Chang (90 min)

Tina Chang, and her colleagues Rhyne and John (Safety, Health, and Environment Group), provided an overview of Genentech activities and sustainability practices. Genentech's primary goal is to produce increasingly effective cancer treatment drugs using biological medicine processes (cells vs chemicals). The company (14,000 employees) merged with the European-based Roche (94,000 employees) in 2009. The Hillsboro operation is a relatively new addition but expanding rapidly. To date, the company has developed 35 contiguous acreage it owns in North Hillsboro, representing about 490,000 sf of buildings. In addition to its primary operations center that produces universal therapies, the company opened a new Innovative Therapies building in 2021. Innovative Therapies can produce small batch or even single batch therapies that treat very specific scenarios or individuals.

Genentech and Roche have aggressive sustainability goals including becoming true carbon neutral by 2050. They are pursuing that goal through every area including energy reduction, conversion to clean energy sources where feasible, and through more effective water and air use and output. Genentech was the very first Cleaner Air Oregon permittee.

One of Genentech-Hillsboro's most recent innovations is a Solar Battery and Backup project. Having already invested in a 1.2 MW solar array, the company has now added an 11 MWh battery backup system, the largest of its kind on PGE's energy grid. The backup system is capable of running the energy needs of all five existing operations buildings for up to two hours, something not possible using the previous diesel generator. The backup battery is charged by the panel array, meaning it requires no new energy consumption, and the panels themselves can provide between 10-50% of total operating power.

The resulting carbon output savings is estimated to be about 450 tons, or the equivalent of 100 cars removed from the road. Combined, the array and backup battery required a \$16 million investment by Genentech which leveraged a 30% federal energy tax credit. The project is expected to pay for itself in energy savings over a period of years and the proof-of-concept success will be exported to other Genentech facilities around the world.

After the presentation, the Committee toured a portion of the main facility covering production, bottling, testing and other operations areas.

Welcome/Introductions

Robertson (10 min)

Following the tour, Jason Robertson led a round of introductions. He added that there were a number of new members, and this was the first time many had met in-person. Due to the nature of today's logistics, more formal introductions will occur at the next meeting.

Member Highlight

Cruz (15 min)

Hannah Cruz, Senior Stakeholder Relations, and Policy Manager for Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) provided an overview of the nonprofit's roles and activities. Established as an independent nonprofit and funded in large part through utilities, ETO serves about 2.4 million customers affiliated with PGE, NW Natural, Pacific Power, Avista and Cascade Natural. The service area encompasses the most populated areas of Oregon State and a small portion of southwest Washington State. Their primary role is to provide cash incentives and support that help people and business save electricity and natural gas, reduce costs and/or install renewable energy systems and storage.

ETO is currently spearheading joint work with the City. "Solarize Hillsboro and Cornelius" is a current initiative to reduce barriers to solar installation with a focus on equitable participation. ETO also supports the City's home energy score program and a variety of other financial incentive programs. Since 2002, it is estimated that ETO partnerships and projects in Hillsboro have yielded over \$7 million in incentives and prevented an additional 2.274 metric tons in carbon output. [View ETO's presentation slide deck here.](#)

Indicator Discussion

Robertson (20 min)

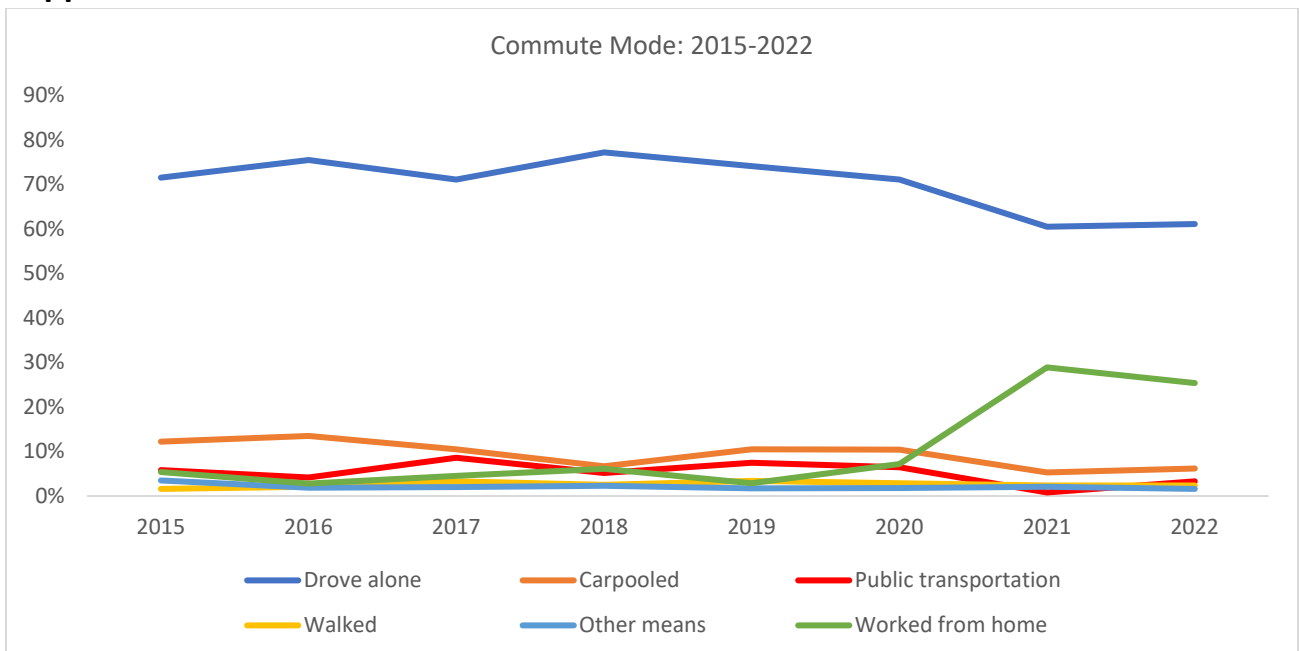
Jason Robertson provided an overview of remaining Energy and Mobility Indicators due for Committee review. He recommended keeping 5 of 6 "as-is" and supplementing the 6th (single-occupancy vehicle) with two additional data points that may yield additional insights: inflow-outflow data (where Hillsboro workers are coming from or traveling to for work) and commute mode (how, specifically, Hillsboro workers travel to work). The table of review indicators is inserted below, followed by the recommended supplemental indicators.

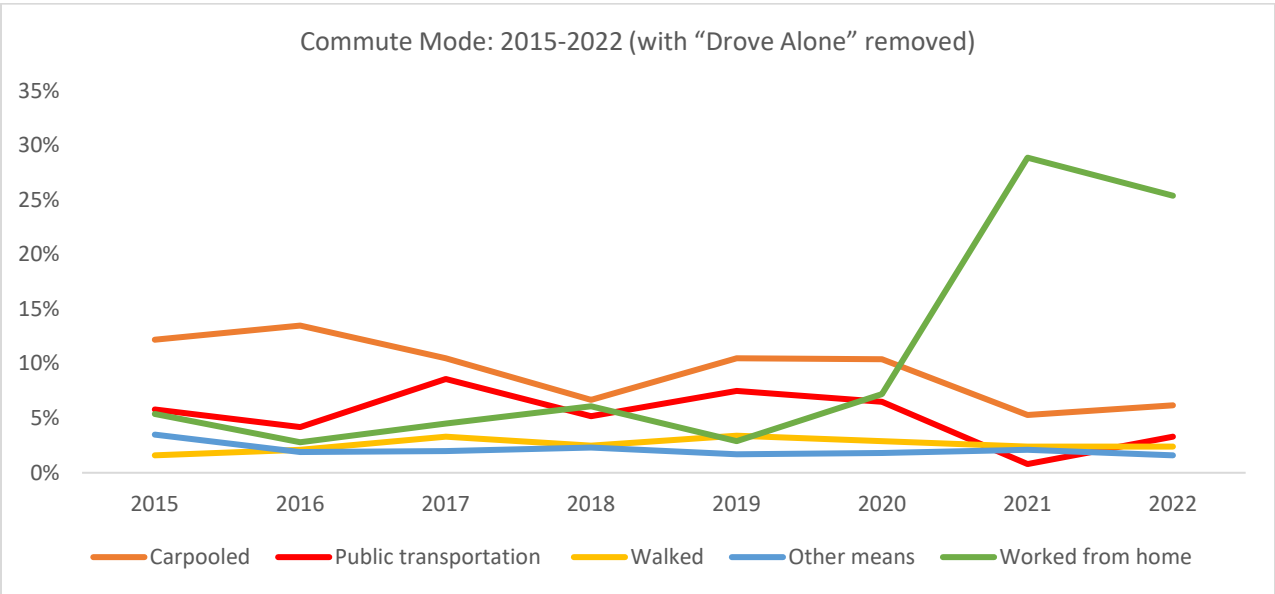
The Committee agreed to review the indicators post-meeting and contact Jason or Dacia only in the event they did not agree with adding the supplemental indicators.

Pending Energy and Mobility Indicators for ESC Review

Indicator	Status	Recommendation
# of public zero emission vehicle (ZEV) fueling stations per capita	New, solid.	Keep as-is.
Community-wide emissions of greenhouse gases	Will need to consider % reduction goal eventually. An “every 5-years” indicator for now, due to cost of data compilation.	Keep as-is for now.
# of miles of bike lanes on arterial and collector streets	New, solid.	Keep as-is.
# of miles of sidewalks on all streets	New, solid.	Keep as-is.
% of housing units located within ¼-mile of frequent public transit line	New, solid.	Keep as-is.
% increase in non-single occupancy vehicle (SOV) transport alternatives	New, solid. Info collected ACS (lagging source). Question: Supplement with Transportation Mode and Inflow/Outflow?	Supplement with Mode and Inflow/Outflow.

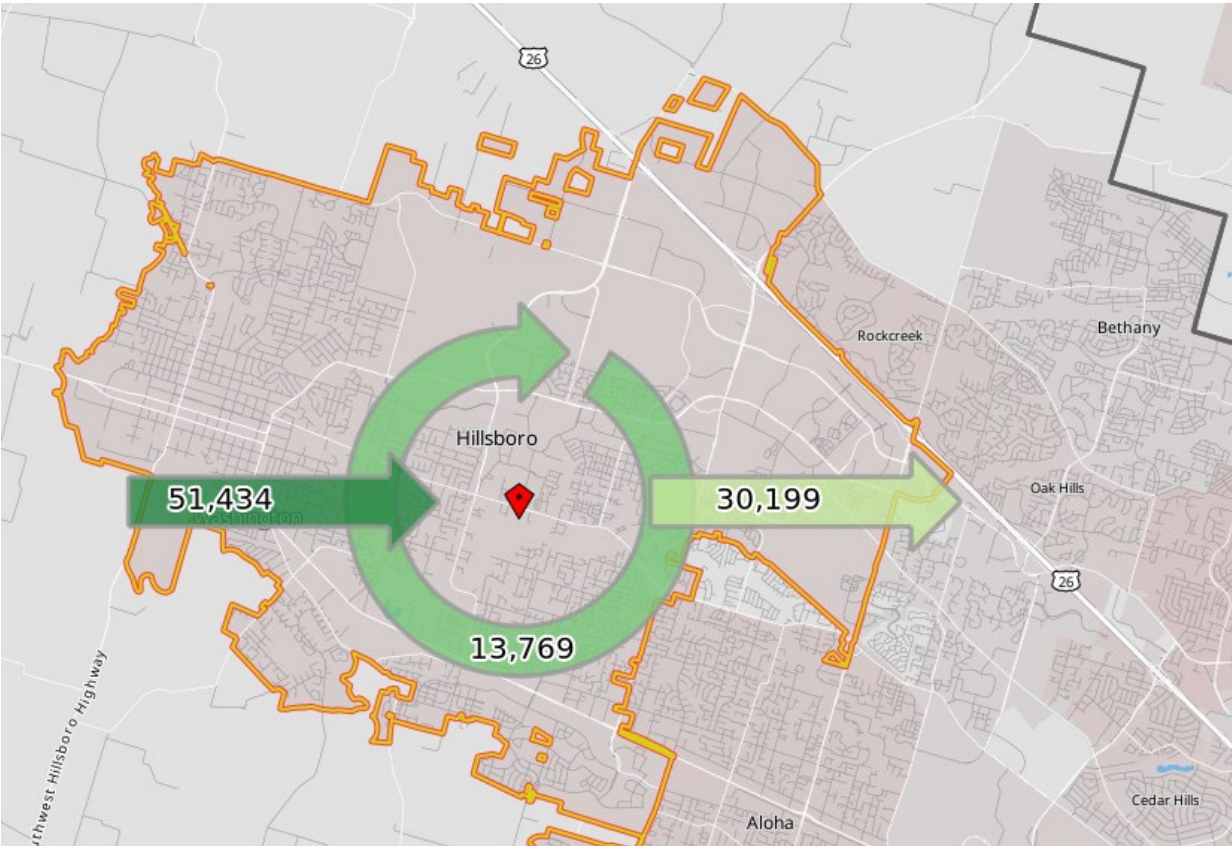
Supplemental Indicators





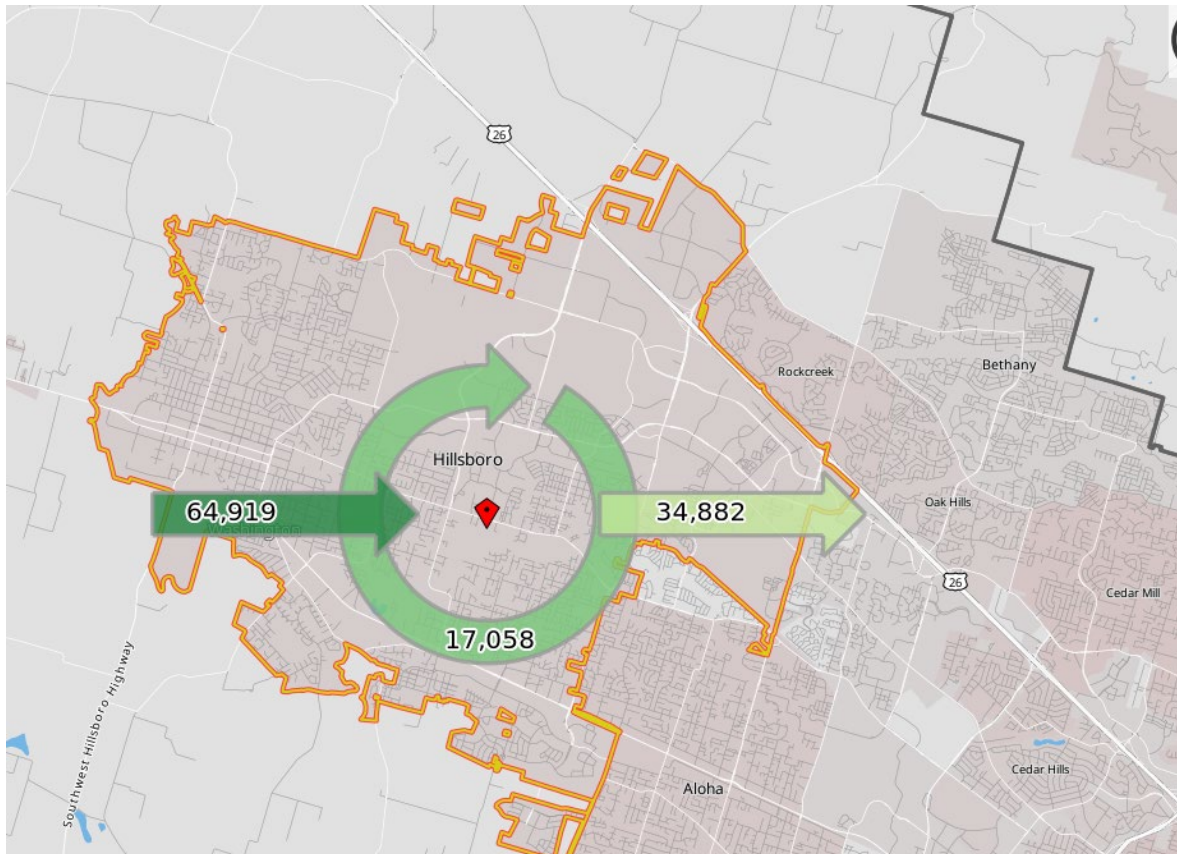
2011:

95,402 Workers: In-Commute (54%), Out-Commute (32%); Live/Work (14%)



2021:

116,859 Workers: In-Commute (56%), Out-Commute (30%); Live/Work (14%)



Other Agenda Items

Jason Robertson noted that the Hillsboro 2035 Community Engagement Committee is underway with community outreach for the upcoming plan update. Because Environmental Stewardship is a major plan focus area, he encouraged the Committee to start brainstorming groups or audiences that members might contact for their fresh ideas on improving sustainability citywide. He said the Committee would discuss the outreach topic further at its next meeting.

Due to time constraints, Robin Straughan was unable to present updates on City committees and actions related to climate stewardship. She offered to send the updates as part of the meeting summary package. [They can be accessed here.](#)

Councilor Anthony Martin thanked Committee members for their time, and the Genentech team for their invaluable information and insights. He reminded members to reach out to him directly anytime to pose questions or share ideas.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 16, 4-5:30pm, Location TBD.