

Comment to Clallam BoCC – 2-13-2018

I will address the draft resolution proposed yesterday by Commissioner Ozias on climate. I consider his proposed resolution, a reasonable, yet limited, implementation of an existing county action plan, and work plan. Commissioner Ozias proposes a three-pronged approach:

1. The first follows directly from Board of Commissioners Resolution 27 of 2016, which was passed and adopted by Commissioners Chapman, Ozias and Peach to move forward with climate related actions.
2. The second is a key component to Board of Commissioners Resolution 35 of 2009 which is the Climate Action Plan adopted by a former board, which remains unimplemented.

The Climate Action Plan set carbon emission targets for the operations of County government. These targets are no longer considered safe enough to prevent catastrophic destruction from an unstable climate; however, even with these soft targets, we have no idea of where we are in terms of meeting them. Do the current Commissioners want to rescind this resolution? If not, it's time to get on with it!

Furthermore, the Revised Code of WA makes a greenhouse gas emission reduction policy a prerequisite in getting many types of capital and economic development funding from the state and, increasingly, an adopted climate action plan is also required or provides an advantage in winning grants and loans. Cursory examination of our Climate Action Plan implementation will be embarrassing.

3. The third is a sensible effort to involve the broader community in thinking about how we can collectively mitigate and adapt to climate change, in a collaborative forum that would consider costs and benefits, community synergies, and strategies that may work through many channels, including those not requiring government action.

With the federal government failing to act to protect the American people from climate change, it's incumbent on the rest of us to step up.

Please be forward-looking when dealing with these issues.

Michael Clemens