



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

André Baugh, Chair

Katherine Schultz, Vice Chair
Karen Gray
Don Hanson
Mike Houck
Gary Oxman

Howard Shapiro, Vice Chair
Michelle Rudd
Chris Smith
Teresa St. Martin
Margaret Tallmadge

September 19, 2014

Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1211 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Hales and City Council Members:

On August 26, 2014, the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) voted unanimously to recommend City Council's adoption of the joint City & Multnomah County Climate Change Preparation Strategy, and the associated Climate Change Preparation Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment.

Staff has briefed and updated the PSC throughout the development process. Staff has shared content updates, an overview of public comments received on the draft and how that feedback was incorporated into the final documents.

PSC members commend staff for creating a well-researched and strategic Climate Change Preparation Strategy. PSC members specifically appreciate the Climate Change Preparation Strategy's alignment with the Portland Plan framework for equity. The preparation strategy considers the impacts and unintended consequences that under-served and under-represented Portlanders may experience as a result of climate change. The Climate Change Preparation Strategy also prioritizes preparation actions in communities most likely to be vulnerable to climate change impacts such as the urban heat island effect.

Although it is important to adequately prepare for the impacts of climate change, continuing to reduce carbon emissions is also a key direction. As such, the City's existing Climate Action Plan and this new Climate Change Preparation Strategy are fundamentally linked. The PSC is pleased to see that key findings and actions from the Climate Change Preparation Strategy will be integrated into the City and County's updated Climate Action Plan that is expected later this winter.

The PSC applauds the City and County's work to conduct risk and vulnerability assessments for key sectors, including infrastructure and the built environment, natural systems, and health and human services. This plan is an excellent example of cross-bureau and cross-jurisdiction collaboration, and we ask that the City work with surrounding jurisdictions, particularly with Metro, as responding to climate change is clearly an issue of regional import.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of this strategy.

Sincerely,

Andre Baugh
Chair, Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | www.portlandoregon.gov/bps
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100, Portland, OR 97201 | phone: 503-823-7700 | fax: 503-823-7800 | tty: 503-823-6868

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper.