

President's Message  
By Georgina Armstrong  
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The Edmonds Climate Advisory Board came together when five local climate activists became concerned that the same fate as befell the City's original Climate Action Plan (CAP) might also happen to its update, the 2023 CAP

When it was adopted on March 21, 2023, the city council said it was "All in on the Call to Action" - even though, unlike its predecessor, it did not include an implementation plan. Additionally, there was no standard form of Implementation Matrix that normally includes who is overseeing an action item, the source of any required funding, the timeline for its completion, etc.

The nascent CAB immediately went to work on lobbying the council to hire a Climate Action Manager. While it failed to garner the required number of votes, it was nonetheless the right decision for the CAB to make as it reflected its purpose: To support the implementation of the City's climate policy - the CAP.

Fast forward 18 months, and the CAB is now a nonprofit, has participated in numerous meetings at City Hall on the Climate Element in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update (including lobbying for emissions reduction and resiliency sub-elements, and supporting the City's "Mission to Lead" role, both locally and regionally), presented a Climate Action Commission Plan in a meeting with Mayor Mike Rosen, provided input to the Washington Department of Commerce on the Growth Management Act's rulemaking process, and developed the organizing documents to become a 501(c)3 organization.

We have now launched our website, the highlight of which is the publication of the CAB's Progress Report on the Edmonds 2023 CAP update. Given that the City had no funding or enough staff to take on such a report, the CAB saw no reason why it couldn't investigate how much progress was made in 2023 and 2024 in order for the community to know where the City stands today in its work to lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and prepare Edmonds for climate impacts on our people, infrastructure and economy.

We have also provided an analysis of why more has not been accomplished, and the ideas we envision of working with our regional partners who are ahead of us on just about every aspect of climate action. We have provided a comparison chart showing the current progress being made by nine regional jurisdictions, and the CAB has begun to meet regularly with two of them: the climate action committees of Bainbridge Island

and of Lake Forest Park. In the near future, the CAB will be inviting other cities from our region to join this regional group.

Regardless of whether you think that climate change is a naturally evolving phenomenon or is caused, as scientists contend, by the fossil fuel emissions mankind is generating, one fact stands out above all others: Our world is changing and we need to change with it if future generations are to thrive, or even survive. Speaking of which, the CAB's plans this year include investigating the best strategies for becoming a more resilient city in the face of future climate impacts, and what specific risks and vulnerabilities we may expect in the future. Understanding those risks will enable us to be better prepared for an emergency.

Having a plan that adapts to the new normal will put us in a far safer position to survive whatever climate change has in store for us.