

# Jefferson County Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

Meeting #1 Notes

## PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANIZATION/ROLE
Ginny Ades	Evergreen Sustainability Alliance
Claudia Aguilar	Jeffco Inclusion Diversity Equity Accessibility Task Force
Kayla Betzold	City of Wheat Ridge
Debby Bower	Jeffco Public Health
Lynn Coppedge	Brendle Group
Mark Danner	Jeffco Facilities Management
Harriet Hall	Jeffco Board of Health
Enessa Janes	City of Arvada
Andy Kerr	Jeffco Board of County Commissioners
Jabez Meulemans	Jeffco Facilities Management
Kevin Morse	Jeffco Sustainability Commission
Kate Newman	Jeffco Deputy County Manager
Amy Raaz	Jeffco Inclusion Diversity Equity Accessibility Task Force
Jim Rada	Jeffco Public Health
Marika Sitz	Jeffco Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity Manager
Shelby Sommer	Brendle Group
Paul Sutton	Town of Morrison
Ciarra Thompson	Jeffco Public Health
Jerry Tinianow	West Urb
Taryn Teeples	Jeffco Human Services
Jonathan Wachtel	City of Lakewood
Jeff Wong	Jeffco Sustainability Commission
Theresa Worsham	City of Golden

## MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Meet the project team and committee members
- Understand project background and goals
- Explore existing conditions related to climate action
- Identify how we can center equity in engagement and in the plan

## AGENDA

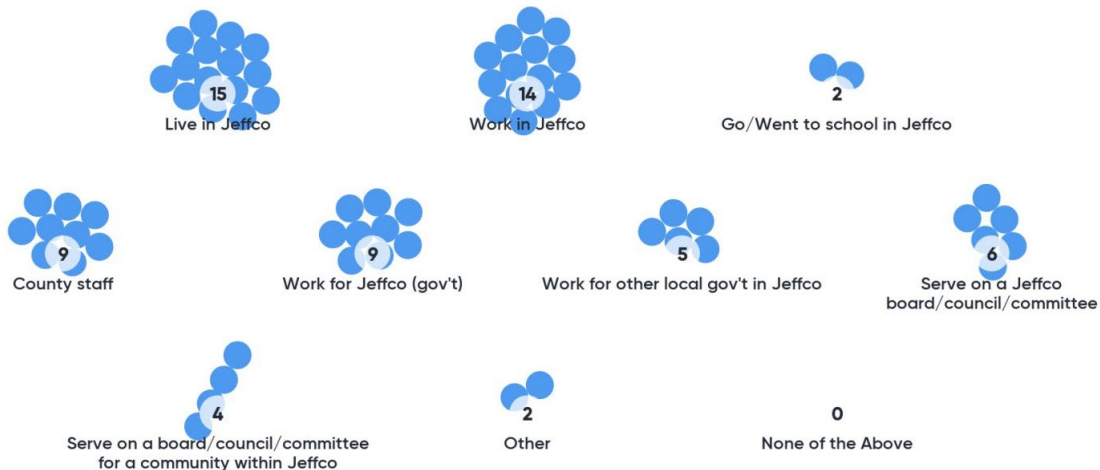
TIME	ITEM
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Welcome & Introductions
3:45 – 4:05 p.m.	Project Orientation
4:05 – 4:35 p.m.	Our Start Line
4:35 – 4:55 p.m.	Our Equity Lens
4:55 – 5:00 p.m.	Next Steps

## NOTES

1. Welcome & Introductions
  - a. Today's Objectives
    - i. Meet the project team and committee members
    - ii. Understand project background and goals
    - iii. Explore existing conditions related to climate action
    - iv. Identify how we can center equity in engagement and in the plan
  - b. Group Introductions: Name, Pronouns, Role, Organization
    - i. Lynn Coppedge, Brendle Group, Project Manager
    - ii. Shelby Sommer, Brendle Group, Executive Project Manager
    - iii. Jerry Tinianow, WestUrb, Research Lead
    - iv. Jabez Meulemans, Jeffco, Sustainability Coordinator, County Staff project manager
    - v. Kate Newman, Jeffco, Deputy County Manager, Supports Sustainability Commission
    - vi. Mark Danner, Jeffco, Director of Facilities Management
    - vii. Jim Rada, Jeffco, Environmental Health Services Division Director, ensuring environmental justice and health equity are considered throughout this process
    - viii. Kevin Morse, Jeffco Sustainability Commission, Sustainability Commission Chair, C-PACE Capital Provider
    - ix. Jeff Wong, Jeffco Sustainability Commission, Sustainability Commission Member, former commission chair
    - x. Debby Bower, Jeffco Public Health Community Engagement Coordinator; leaving early to get to a community event
    - xi. Marika Sitz, Jefferson County, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager; gets to work across the county on equity issues
    - xii. Ciarra Thompson, Jeffco Public Health, Health Equity Coordinator; newer position (started in Sept 2021); bringing a health equity lens to the work we're doing
    - xiii. Taryn Teeples, Jeffco Human Services; Works with Head Start - health, safety & nutrition services
    - xiv. Amy Sanchez Raaz, Jeffco Diversity Equity Accessibility Task Force; resident and works in Jeffco, very active in community

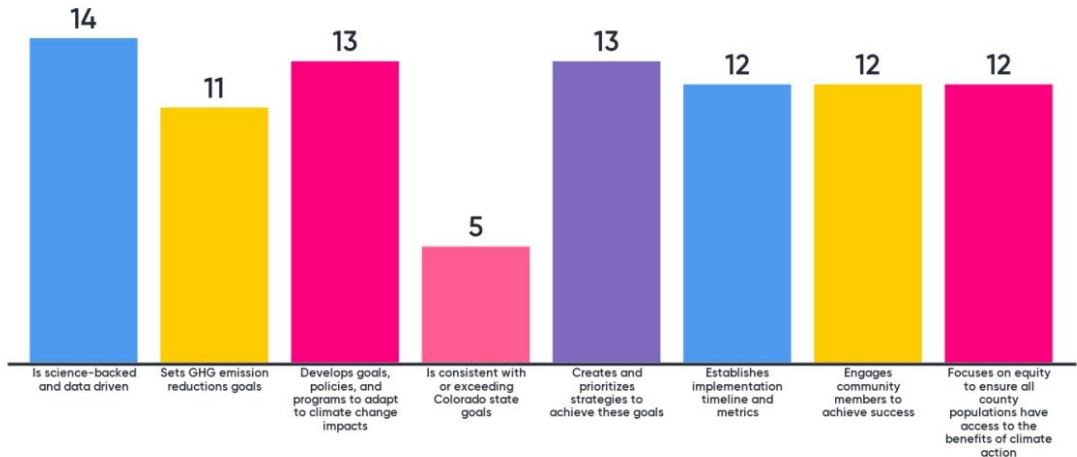
- xv. Claudia Aguilar, Jeffco Diversity Equity Accessibility Task Force; lives in Jeffco, pastor of a church in Denver; has studied the intersection of faith and justice
  - xvi. Harriet Hall, Jeffco Board of Health, Board of Health Member; retired CEO of Jefferson Center of Mental Health; also a member of the Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee; cares about climate action from a grandmother perspective
  - xvii. Andy Kerr, Jeffco Board of County Commissioners, County Commissioner; thrilled to be moving forward on the CAP, interested in leaving the world a better place for his children
  - xviii. Jonathan Wachtel, City of Lakewood, Sustainability Manager; helped build the sustainability program starting in 2012; has watched the evolution of the sustainability movement; excited to see what can be done at the county level; thinking about the world that we'll be leaving his kiddos
  - xix. Theresa Worsham, City of Golden, Sustainability Coordinator; has been with the city for 18 years - excited about the collaboration opportunity; dropping off early
  - xx. Enessa Janes, City of Arvada, Previous Community Resilience Officer; Director of Vibrant Community Neighborhoods; PhD in climate related disasters
  - xxi. Kayla Betzold, City of Wheat Ridge, Sustainability Coordinator; role created in 2020; manages Sustainable Wheat Ridge Committee
  - xxii. Paul Sutton, Town of Morrison, Town Board, Faculty Geography & Environment at University of Denver, works with UN on indicators for Sustainable Development Goals, briefly worked with ICLEI and RAQC, looked into GHG inventories for towns, interested in reducing GHG emissions through local government
  - xxiii. Ginny Ades, Evergreen Sustainability Alliance, President, Board of Directors; very active in getting the Jeffco sustainability commission going; active in encouraging sustainable behaviors in the Evergreen community; compost and community gardens programs; working on a business certification program; lots of opportunities to collaborate
- c. Activity results (see next page)

# What perspectives are you bringing today?



- i. Other responses
  1. Science-based perspective
  2. Parent
2. Project Orientation
  - a. Global climate change background
    - i. Atmosphere keeps the planet warm; concentration of GHG gasses is creating global warming
    - ii. Climate changes we're experiencing in CO include extreme heat, drought & wildfires, decreasing water availability, changes in precipitation timing
    - iii. These changes then create impacts across our society, economy, and environment
    - iv. If we continue as we have been, we can see a range of 7+ degrees Fahrenheit increase by the end of the century
    - v. Key definitions
      1. Mitigation - efforts to reduce GHG emissions to lessen degree of future warming
      2. Adaptation (also referred to as resiliency) - preparing now to reduce the severity of negative impacts
      3. Example - cooling centers to help make sure that people who do not have a place to go can escape high heat
  - b. How we got here - County Climate Action Plan (CAP)
    - i. Aug 2020- request to Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to develop a CAP
    - ii. Sept 2020 – BCC resolution committing to climate action
    - iii. 2021 secured funding - grassroots from Sustainability Commission fundraising - followed by procurement of consulting services
    - iv. Jan 2020 - contracted with Brendle Group & West Urb for CAP
  - c. The County identified eight project goals, which does this group see as priorities?
    - i. Activity results (see next page)

# Which of these project goals do you see as top priority?



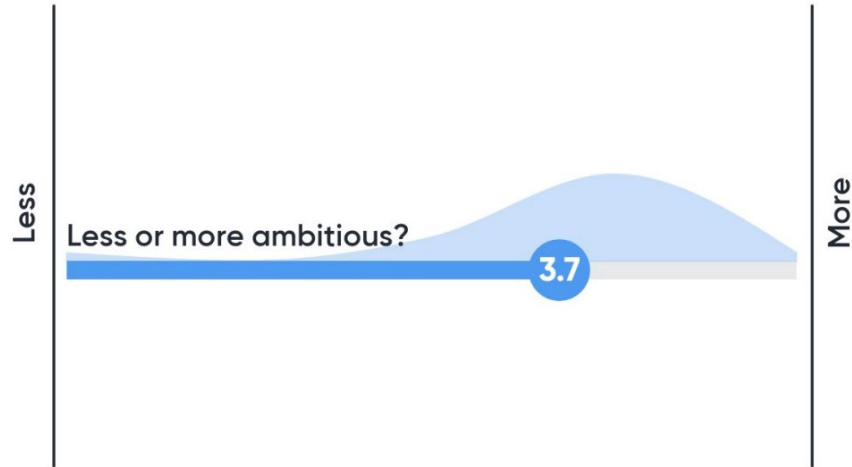
## 3. Our Start Line

### a. Jeffco's GHG Emissions

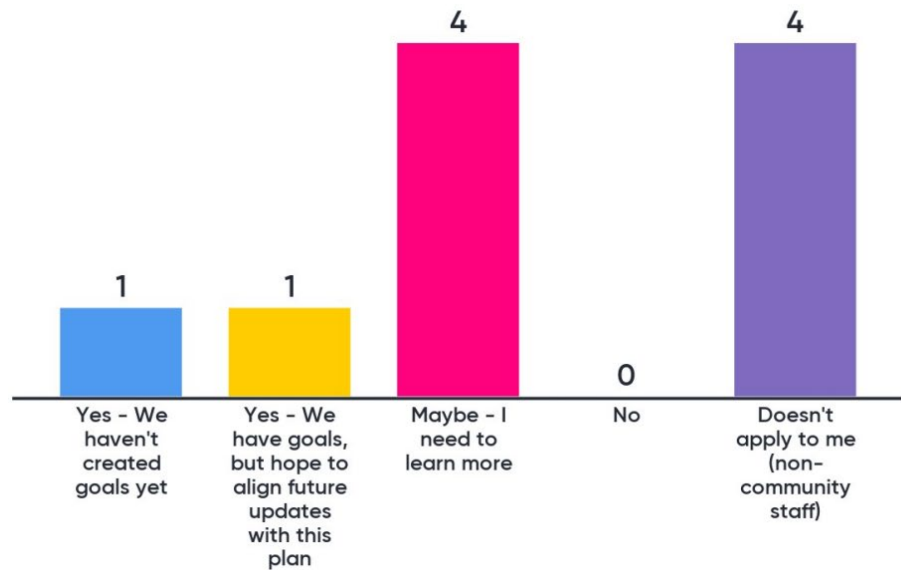
- i. Developed in coordination with ICLEI
- ii. Emissions primarily come from Transportation, Electricity, Natural Gas, Propane, Kerosene
- iii. Jeffco inventories included the entire county (full population)
- iv. Growth in transportation emissions, declining electricity emissions
- v. Business-As-Usual - what is happening if we do nothing else to address emissions
- vi. Adjusted Business-As-Usual - emissions drop because energy providers are providing cleaner electricity; expect continued fuel efficiency standards
- vii. Goal-setting context (will discuss goals in more detail at next meeting)
  1. Race to Zero - science-based targets: about 60% reduction in absolute emissions
  2. State of CO GHG Emission Reduction Goals: starts with a 2005 baseline - 90% drop by 2050; state is not on track to meet its goals
- viii. Looked at where state needs to go from 2019 and applied to Jeffco as an illustrative example of how the county could look at goals
  1. State has a way to go - what is meant by that?
    - a. Reducing emissions, but not on track to meet 2025 goal yet
  2. How does that compare to science-based targets?
    - a. Those are even more aggressive, did not overlay on chart, but could moving forward if that is of interest
- ix. How well does the County measure the GHG emissions

1. Had ICLEI conduct this for the County
  2. Based on actual data as available (e.g. utility providers); some is more of an estimate
- x. Activity results:

## How ambitious should Jeffco's climate goals be in comparison to the State's?



## For community staff, are you hoping to align your community's climate goals with this plan?



- xi. Climate Exchange monthly state call - how other states are doing. Call is tomorrow (March 30) at 1 pm MDT. <https://climate->

[xchange.org/event/march-state-climate-policy-network-national-call-2022/](https://www.exchange.org/event/march-state-climate-policy-network-national-call-2022/). All are invited to listen in! About half of states do not have goals, many are not on track for 2025 or 2030 goals.

- b. Climate Change Resilience
    - i. Flooding and wildfire are the most frequent and devastating hazards
      - 1. A recommendation: if we incorporate an equity lens into our assessment of hazards, the highest impact climate hazards are likely to change
        - a. FEMA has calculated hazards as loss of property instead of loss of life
        - b. Extreme heat, drought, air quality will likely increase
  - c. Climate Action Plan Sectors
    - i. All areas overlap and relate to some degree; not intending to exclude areas, but do need an organizing structure
    - ii. Counties have different/limited roles in some of these sectors; need to focus on what the county government can do in coordination with other partners/organizations
    - iii. Focusing on Climate Action, not all things sustainability
    - iv. Potential subtopics - we welcome your ideas and suggestions if something is missing
  - d. Anticipated Impacts by Sector
    - i. Left side of slide - some of the sectors present greater emissions reduction potential than others - important for the emissions mitigation solutions
      - 1. Through the project we will do more detailed analysis
    - ii. Right side of the slide - how much are each of the sectors are vulnerable to climate change impacts/hazards
    - iii. Emissions reduction potential of ecosystems - low?
      - 1. In what areas does the county have greater or lesser control?
      - 2. Lots of potential of GHG emissions releases from pine beetle burn
  - e. Related Countywide Efforts
    - i. Is the County looking at aligning with the Hazard Mitigation Plan or expanding on it?
      - 1. Lots of related plans; we're looking at all of them
      - 2. Many components in existing plans that we can leverage and further connect and amplify
  - f. Examples of Related Community Plans
    - i. Lakewood is formally reporting to CDP; unsure if others are
    - ii. County sitting side by side with communities; opportunity to coordinate and build on successes; not looking at telling what communities to do
4. Our Equity Lens
- a. We're leaning on Colorado Health Department of Public Health & Environment's (CHDPE's) definition of climate equity
  - b. Activity results (see next page)

# Which perspectives can you provide for this process based on personal or professional experience?



People of color



Indigenous persons



Lower-income households



Youth



Older adults



Differently abled persons



Those who don't speak English at home



Those facing health challenges

- i. Clearly a gap in terms of Indigenous person perspectives
- ii. We'll use this to help us determine where our gaps are so we can focus engagement
- c. Other was to define which areas we should target efforts to for equitable climate action
  - i. Federal Justice40 Initiative
    - 1. Commits 40% of federal climate investments to disadvantaged communities (light blue shaded ones are disadvantaged per this tool/definition)
  - ii. CDPHE Climate Equity Framework
    - 1. Darker Census Block Groups may be most disproportionately impacted
- d. Activity results (see next page)



# Which populations do we need to involve to reach our equitable engagement goals?



- i. Note that we will have youth representation at future meetings through Jeffco intern
- ii. Additions to list of populations we need to involve
  1. Renters
  2. Major employers
  3. Big truck owners
  4. Faith-based orgs
- e. Group Discussion: Equitable Engagement & Plan Outcomes
  - i. Paul - want polluters to pay, those who pollute the most need to reduce the most
  - ii. Jonathan - in the end, implementation is a different ballgame; if we don't translate this to the departments, decision-makers, etc. then all the intent and best efforts may fizzle; how do we make sure this isn't ignored
  - iii. Ginny - would love to see funding as an outcome so that implementation in different communities doesn't rely on coming up with funds
  - iv. Claudia - seems like she's the only Latine and person of color not employed by the county; need to include those most impacted in decision-making (including undocumented workers); Zoom calls are not going to work; opportunities to go to churches, large landscaping companies
  - v. Marika - re-highlight point about hearing community feedback versus decision-making power; how to better represent communities in this space and not reinforce an inequitable hierarchy
  - vi. Jonathan - big topics, connecting a ton of dots between science, land use, behavior change, etc. - lines aren't straight between topics; how to involve people at the big picture level versus very specific questions and targeted engagement; how to ask the right people the right questions

- vii. Enessa - spectrum of engagement; each type serves a different purpose - what is the purpose of the engagement and what do we want to hear?
        - viii. Paul - can see inequities (e.g., EV incentives, counting property losses instead of lives lost); real equity is that we need to effectively address climate change; implementation will be challenging and important - hope this plan gives a meaningful path forward
      - f. Planning process is quick; need to leverage the stakeholder model to draw on existing connections and perspectives
- 5. Next Steps
  - a. Upcoming project activities
    - i. Share ideas for stakeholders by April 4 at: [This Google Doc](#) and indicate if you think they should be invited to the Sector Focus Groups
  - b. Next Steering Committee meeting
    - i. May 24, 330-5pm
    - ii. Location to be determined