Hazelhoff, Aja

From: Keith Ervin <keithervin@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 11:36 AM
To: PCD_OneSeattleCompPlan
Subject: Comp plan comments from People for Climate Action Seattle

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Dear Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development:

I am writing to you on behalf of People for Climate Action Seattle. We are a volunteer organization with over 200 members, dedicated to helping Seattle meet its climate goals. This letter contains our suggested changes to the proposed Comprehensive Plan. While the plan is in many ways an excellent work, we hope it will be modified in the following ways before it goes to Council:

- The Growth Strategy should be improved to allow more housing in the city, and should stipulate zoning changes that would double the 100,000 units of new housing in the current draft to 200,000. Allowing people to live in the city reduces their carbon footprint by 10 times, compared to the alternative of pushing them out to the urban growth boundary, as found by Shoreline during their recent rezone for the new Link stations.
- The Climate Element should include intermediate GHG reduction goals for 2035, 2040, and 2045 in addition to the existing goals in 2030 and 2050. These goals should be further divided into reduction percentages for transportation and reduction percentages for buildings. This will allow City planners to focus on their domains, as well as providing some accountability to the public.
- The Plan should prioritize mode shift over electrification for decarbonizing our transportation. We should switch to walking, biking, and transit where possible, and electrify trips that can't be shifted. This is much more cost effective than prioritizing electrification, both for the City and for residents, and will in the long run lead to much faster and more efficient transportation.
- The Plan is missing any mention of work from home as a climate policy, and yet it is one of the main policies that transportation analysts at the Puget Sound Regional Council have identified as critical for meeting our carbon emission reduction goals, and is also cited as the main reason for the recent reduction in emissions on the eastside. Work from home should be added to the Plan as a strategy for reducing emissions.
- Many of the goals are quite vague and refer to "reducing greenhouse gas emissions". These should be tightened up: how much do we expect to reduce them by? As written, any reduction would qualify as meeting the goal. There is a huge difference between a 2% and a 98% reduction, and writing the goal this way makes them both equivalent. The goals need to be much more specific so we can judge our progress.
- The Plan does mention trees as a climate resilience feature, which is good; it should particularly recommend large shade trees on the south and west sides of buildings to provide cooling and reduce the load on the electrical grid.

These points are critical first steps for getting Seattle on the path to meeting its climate goals. As we look ahead to a summer of drought that will likely also be full of wildfire smoke, there are many reasons that this is

important. The UW Climate Impacts Lab has some forecasts for what the Pacific Northwest is likely to be like under various different scenarios of warming, and this is not a future any of us would want to see. Regional water supplies, hydropower, transportation, public health, forests, fisheries, and agriculture are all at risk. Climate change has already come, it will get worse particularly if we do not reduce our emissions, and it will exacerbate all the other problems we are currently experiencing. Homelessness, affordable housing, public safety: all of these problems will be more intractable as global warming increases. Therefore, we are asking for these changes in the Comprehensive Plan, in order to better position us for the future.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Ervin
on behalf of People for Climate Action Seattle