

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Steve Bernheim <stevebernheim@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2021 10:50 AM  
**To:** Comp Plan Update  
**Subject:** CLIMATE CHANGE COMMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
**Attachments:** CLIMATE CHANGE COMMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.docx

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Please see attached comments on the subject of climate change.

I believe the county requires a Citizens Task Force on Climate Change, among other things.

Steve Bernheim, Box 305, Olga 98279

## CLIMATE CHANGE COMMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

I propose the addition to the county's comprehensive plan of a stand-alone section devoted to the subject of global warming and its impact and effects on planning and community. ***The proposed text is below.*** Policies in brackets such as [GOVERNANCE] are proposed to be included also verbatim as new policies within the corresponding sections of the county's comprehensive plan.

This proposed amendment – a stand-alone, complete additional section with separate policies directly transferrable to existing sections of the current comprehensive plan – 1) sets an example with its response to climate change, 2) addresses negative effects before they become crises, 3) encourages voluntary efforts, and 4) authorizes incentives and regulations if necessary to reduce the County's carbon footprint.

### **Proposed stand-alone section devoted to the subject of global warming and its impact and effects on planning and community**

Goal 1: The County will strengthen the sustainability of San Juan County's economy, natural environment, and communities by responding and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Policy 1-1 [GOVERNANCE]: The County will convene a climate impact advisory committee in 2021 to consist at least of experts in energy conservation and energy efficiency or carbon emission reduction, and representatives from San Juan County and interested community members. The CIAC will be tasked to:

- Adopt a 2022-2030 San Juan County Climate Protection and Energy Conservation Action Plan establishing carbon emission targets that meet or exceed state and federal climate impact goals;
- Evaluate San Juan County's compliance with targets set forth in the 2022 San Juan County Climate Protection and Energy Conservation Action Plan;
- Updating the Climate Plan, at minimum every five years, or as needed to meet targets;
- Recommending updates to the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan and County Code to achieve San Juan County's emission reduction targets; and
- Ensure that San Juan County government operates to meet or exceed goals and targets resolved in the Climate Protection and Energy Conservation Action Plan.

Policy 1-2 [GOVERNANCE]: The County will update San Juan County land use policies and development regulations to support renewable energy development goals.

Policy 1-3 [GOVERNANCE]: The County will consider potential long-range climate change implications in the course of its planning and implementation because San Juan County's economic sectors, ecosystems, water resources, infrastructure, emergency management, and public health and safety all face climate change related risks in the future. The County should:

1. Identify the County's vulnerability to climate change, including the resilience of natural and built environments; and,

2. Examine the County's adaptive capacity to cope with and mitigate climate change and take advantage of any beneficial opportunities.

Policy 1-4 [CAPITAL FACILITIES/GOVERNANCE]: The County will encourage adoption of conservation and sustainability practices by energy conservation and increasing the use of renewable, net-neutral carbon energy in San Juan County facilities and County vehicles, with a goal of net zero man-made carbon emission by 2030.

Policy 1-5 [ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT]: The County should develop strategies that encourage a diversified and sustainable economy that is resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Policy 1-6 [WATER RESOURCES]: The County will act to promote the efficient use, conservation, and protection of water resources.

Policy 1-7 [TRANSPORTATION]: The County will by 2030 achieve a 50% reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the county from 2020 levels by expanding availability and use of public transportation, pathways for pedestrians and self-propelled vehicles, and public education.

Policy 1-8 [LAND USE AND RURAL]: The County will establish land use patterns that minimize transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and encourage preservation of natural resource lands and the protection of water resources.

Policy 1-9 [UTILITIES/GOVERNANCE]: The County will by 2030 reduce landfill waste from San Juan County government facilities to by 90% from 2020 levels.

Policy 1-10 [UTILITIES/HOUSING]: The County will develop strategies and practices to reduce energy use by public housing residential customers to near zero and will by 2030 help achieve island-wide reduction in electric energy use by 50% from 2020.