

Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Structure

The Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee is being established by the San Juan County Council to ensure coordination and communication of actions across departments and to feed into existing County advisory committees and commissions. The committee will advise on policy, help set priorities, and harness the momentum of existing work to help steer the County's climate action plan. The goal is to provide opportunities for cross-pollination of ideas and to increase collaboration around climate and sustainability efforts throughout San Juan County. The committee will be guided by [Resolution 20-2020](#).

The committee shall work to gather a diversity of perspectives as it looks through the lens of climate impacts. This will include thoughtful consideration of the socio-economic impacts which cut across age, race, gender, and class. The committee will agree to work from the best available science on climate change, as well as draw on traditional knowledge systems of local Tribes who have incorporated adaptive capacity into their lifeways since time immemorial as well as demonstrating local leadership in climate action across the Salish Sea region today. The County will work with Tribes on a government-to-government basis to gather input and facilitate engagement with the formation of the County's Climate Action Plan.

Powers and Duties

1. Provide review and recommendations to the San Juan County Council and San Juan County Department of Environmental Stewardship on issues related to the preparation and adaptation for, the prevention and mitigation of, and the resilience to, impacts of climate change.
2. Support the development and implementation of a county-wide Climate Action Plan, assisting with updates to the Plan as needed.
3. Facilitate connection and communication with their networks around the committee's work.
4. Identify and encourage actions with partners and individuals within the county to support the Climate Action Plan.
5. Participate in education and outreach efforts around climate action and stewardship efforts in the county.

Composition and Membership

The committee will be comprised of a core citizens' group encompassing an intersection of backgrounds in critical sectors, as well as an auxiliary group of technical experts from existing committees who will act as liaisons between their respective committees. Core committee membership shall be composed of eight to twelve members with a minimum of two and max of three members from each residency district, plus one County staff and one youth representative

All members except youth representative serve in staggered 4-year terms with a two-term limit, with a one-year separation period after a second term before eligibility to re-apply. In order to establish staggered terms, initial terms will vary: at least 2 members will be appointed to a two-year term, up to four members will be appointed to three-year terms, and up to 4 members will be appointed to four-year terms.

If a member vacates the position during the term, a new member shall be appointed to complete the unexpired portion of that term. A committee member may be re-appointed at the completion of a term. Written recommendations shall be delivered to the County council for consideration when filling a vacancy.

For the initial start-up year, the current Director of the Department of Environmental Stewardship will act as the committee chair. After one year, the committee will elect a chair annually. One County Staff will continue to hold a position on the committee.

The committee will include one youth member, age 16-19, to bring the youth perspective on climate issues and actions. Youth representatives will serve 2-year terms. The youth member will be a voting member of the board and will carry the same responsibilities. The committee will endeavor to recruit 1-2 additional members under age 30 to ensure a diversity of perspectives.

Desirable candidates will bring a multi-faceted perspective to help round-out the expertise areas represented by the Committee Liaisons. We are seeking to recruit candidates with an intersection of backgrounds in of the following areas: renewable energy, construction and green building, transportation, agriculture, economic development, ecology and climate change. We will seek to recruit a representative from Orcas Power and Light (OPALCO) as a critical partner in this process.

Core Committee

Meets bimonthly (every other month)

- 2-3 representatives from each district
- 1 County Staff
- 1 youth representative (2-year term)
- All members except youth representative serve in staggered 4-year terms with a two-term limit, with a one-year separation period after a second term before eligibility to re-apply.

Committee Liaisons (Non-voting)

Meets quarterly

- Representatives to liaise with the following committees: Marine Resources/ Salmon TAG, Clean Water, Solid Waste, Land Bank, Parks, Agricultural Resources, and Planning
- Terms determined by originating committees

Council Representative: Cindy Wolf

Requirements

All committee members must provide proof of Covid-19 vaccination per San Juan County requirements. All committee members must be registered voters in San Juan County, with the exception of the youth representative.

Process & Timeline

To apply, please complete the [Citizen Advisory Committee Application](#) by February 15, 2022, and submit to Ingrid Gabriel at ingridg@sanjuanco.com. Interviews will be on-going, and recommendations for appointment to the committee are expected to be brought to the County Council in March.