

# Liberty Lake Climate Element: GHG Mitigation Workshop Summaries

## Buildings and Energy Use

The Buildings and Energy Use workshop was held on January 29 from 2-4pm at the Trailhead Golf Course in Liberty Lake, WA. In addition to the staff and consultants on the project team, there were 11 attendees from partner organizations that work with, are affected by, and/or have the ability to influence policy that impacts buildings and energy use in Liberty Lake.

### Agenda

- Introductions & workshop goals
- Workshop and Climate Element introduction
- Emissions inventory results & forecast
- How to reduce emissions from buildings and energy use
  - Weatherization
  - Appliances
  - Building size
  - Local generation (solar)
  - Green power

### Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Matt Kelly	Simpson Engineering
Michele McCollum	Avista
Brian Henning	University of Gonzaga, Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment
Chris McCary	City of Liberty Lake
Jerod Howard	Hoist
Dane Knudson	Hoist
Jerrol Olson	Central Valley School District
Lance Beck	Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce
Joey Gunning	Greater Spokane Incorporated
Mark McAvoy	City of Liberty Lake
Joe Frank	Greenstone Development

## Discussion summary

### General

#### Opportunities:

- Following the exact language approved by the state in Commerce's Menu of Measures will make it easier for builders to comply with polices in the Climate Element.

#### Barriers:

- Increasing requirements or mandates that increase the cost of doing business in Liberty Lake may result in businesses moving over to Idaho.

### Improving weatherization

#### Existing or ongoing efforts that support weatherization:

- Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP) weatherization program is a no cost program that helps low-income residents increase the energy efficiency of their homes.

#### Opportunities:

- Buildings in Liberty Lake are fairly new (i.e., subject to or built under higher energy efficiency requirements). The city could target efforts to increase weatherization of older buildings and/or mobile homes.
- Educate residents about existing weatherization programs, like SNAP.
- Update building codes to require higher levels of efficiency in new buildings.

#### Barriers:

- Cost was the most common barrier and was mentioned by most workshop participants.
- Weatherization can be an intrusive process in existing buildings (e.g., adding insulation to walls requires the contractor to open up the walls).

### Encouraging energy efficient appliances

#### Existing or ongoing efforts that support energy efficient appliances:

- Avista offers rebates for energy efficient appliances.

#### Opportunities:

- Promote existing utility rebates for energy efficient appliances.

Barriers:

- Costs.
- Technology – i.e., cold climate constraints on heat pump functionality.
- Concerns about lack of political support.

## Encouraging smaller, attached housing

Existing or ongoing efforts that support smaller, attached housing:

- Liberty Lake allows ADUs.

Opportunities:

- Providing incentives such as a density bonus, tax incentives, and/or adding an overlay to the zoning code.

Barriers:

- Costs. \$10,000 per hookup no matter the size of the house. The City has no control over those rates.
- The Sewer and Water District requires separate sewer and water hookups for ADUs, which can be cost prohibitive.

## Increasing local solar generation

Existing or ongoing efforts that support local solar generation:

- Greenstone Development is putting solar on all the new homes it builds.
- Big buildings are subject to Building Performance Standards, and solar can help meet those.

Opportunities:

- Including solar as an opt-in option when building homes (e.g., include projected generation information (kWh) in the menu of options).
- Liberty Lake is a relatively high-income community, so many residents can afford to make that investment.
- Grants are available to put solar on existing buildings.
- Putting solar canopies in parking lots can generate energy locally and provide resilience benefit by mitigating urban heat island effect.

Barriers:

- Cost, particularly for lower-income households (e.g., mobile homes).
- Concerns about lack of political support.

## Green power – RECs

Existing or ongoing efforts that support green power purchases:

- Avista offers a renewable energy program (My Clean Energy).

Opportunities:

- Access to federal, state, and local cost share programs.
- Educate residents about Avista's existing program.

Barriers:

- Higher energy cost to purchase renewable energy from Avista.