



Research Overview



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In 2010/2011, Renton's Department of Community and Economic Development partnered with Cascadia Consulting Group to develop a clean economy strategy. Specific goals of the project were to design a strategy to help the City:

- *Reduce operating costs for both the City and the community through energy-saving and resource-efficiency measures.*
- *Understand greenhouse gas impacts and identify cost-effective steps to reduce emissions and save energy.*
- *Capitalize on opportunities for funding and investment, including federal grants, state infrastructure funding, and other investments in the region.*
- *Identify new initiatives for a competitive, clean local economy and fulfill Renton's commitment to stay "ahead of the curve."*

METHODOLOGY

To build on Renton's accomplishments and identify opportunities for future action, Cascadia interviewed city staff and community leaders, conducted a greenhouse gas inventory, and identified relevant regional and national trends.

1. Interviews

In September 2010, Cascadia facilitated a project kick-off meeting with key City staff to gather input and ideas, identify efforts already underway in the city, understand priorities, and determine how to engage staff in the effort. Sixteen staff representing six City departments participated in the meeting, and Appendix A includes the meeting materials.

Cascadia also conducted phone interviews with 12 staff members from key departments to learn more about current practices, policies, and programs; potential barriers; and opportunities to increase energy efficiency, sustainability, and renewable energy in City operations and the broader community. Appendix B provides the staff interview guide.

Kick-Off Attendees

Alex Pietsch

Community & Economic Development

C.E. "Chip" Vincent

Community & Economic Development

Eric Wallgren

Fire & Emergency Services

Gregg Zimmerman

Public Works

Jay Covington

Executive

Kelly Beymer

Community Services

Kris Sorensen

Community & Economic Development

Lys Hornsby

Public Works

Mehdi Sadri

Finance & Information Technology

Neil Watts

Community & Economic Development

Peter Renner

Community Services

Preeti Shridhar

Executive

Raymond Sled

Public Works

Rich Perteet

Public Works

Suzanne Dale Estey

Community & Economic Development

Todd Black

Community Services

Cascadia worked with Renton's Economic Development Director to identify business and community leaders to interview regarding their interests and efforts related to a clean economy and sustainability. Cascadia interviewed 10 organizations: Aero-Plastics, Boeing, IKEA, PACCAR/Kenworth, the Renton Chamber of Commerce, the Renton School District, Renton Technical College, Valley Medical Center, Walmart, and Wizards of the Coast. The discussions focused on the green attitudes and culture within the interviewee's organization, specific sustainability efforts and barriers within the organization, perceptions of City efforts, and recommendations for future consideration. Appendix C provides the employer interview guide.

2. Greenhouse gas inventory

To help the City of Renton understand current energy use and impacts and identify opportunities for savings, Cascadia conducted a greenhouse gas inventory for both municipal operations and the Renton community as a whole. Cascadia worked with staff to establish 2009 as the base year (based on best available

data) and calculated emissions from the activities of businesses, organizations, and people that resided within the City's boundaries during that base year. Department staff helped assemble the necessary data. In October 2010, Cascadia conducted a greenhouse gas inventory training to outline the data collection process and establish lead contacts for data collection for the following sectors:

Municipal inventory: employee commuting; business travel; vehicle fleets; golf course equipment; and energy use (building, streetlights, traffic lights, water delivery).

Community inventory: energy use (residential, commercial, industrial); transportation (vehicle miles and airline); and waste and recycling.

Cascadia used ICLEI's Clean Air and Climate Protection (CACCP) software in combination with established protocols and standards to prepare the inventories. Appendix D provides a detailed summary of the methodology and findings for Renton's municipal and community greenhouse gas inventories.

