

# Winters Climate Action Commission

## *Introduction*

The Winters Climate Action Plan Development Board was charged with designing a standing commission to oversee the implementation of the Winters Climate Action Plan. We propose the following general structure: five members drawn from a broad cross-section of the residents and stakeholders of the city, advisory to the City Council. Its role will be threefold.

- First, it will identify opportunities and funding to bring climate-friendly projects and businesses to Winters, and funding for upgrades to existing infrastructure.
- Second, it will serve as a resource for City staff, residents and businesses to advise them on how to make ongoing or proposed activities as climate-friendly as possible, while keeping the unique cultural and social values that make Winters the place it is.
- Third, it would coordinate community outreach and education efforts to increase awareness of ongoing efforts and opportunities to make better choices for the future livability of the region and the planet, while also making Winters more livable and attractive.

We believe that the Winters Climate Action Commission (WCAC) should contain a wide and representative range of expertise and lived experience, since Winters is a diverse city. The effects of climate change fall disproportionately on less-privileged groups, so we believe all voices need to be represented on the WCAC. Ideally, we envision a commission with technical expertise (i.e., scientists and/or engineers), representation from high school or college students, seniors, farmers and farmworkers, and the local business community. Forming such a wide-reaching commission will be a challenge, and a broad and bilingual advertisement of the application process and opportunity to serve is crucial.

To be effective, it will be critical that the WCAC have relationships with several other entities and stakeholders. We suggest that the WCAC should have a representative on the City of Winters Design Review Committee, to help with projects at the early stages. We also think that the WCAC should have liaisons from the City Council, the City Planning Commission, the Winters Putah Creek Committee, the Hispanic Advisory Committee, and the Winters Senior Commission on Aging. The WCAC should also keep abreast of decisions made by the Yolo County Climate Compact.

The next page contains suggested wording for a charter document.

## ***Winters Climate Action Commission Charter***

### ***Mission***

The City of Winters Climate Action Commission is an advisory body to the Winters City Council dedicated to promote and guide the implementation of the Winters Climate Action Plan in order to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gases to build a more livable and sustainable community.

### ***Membership and structure***

The five members will be chosen by the City Council, after being recruited from the City and nearby areas by a public application process, and should inclusively represent all parts of the city. Members will serve renewable, staggered three-year terms. Staggering will be achieved by varying the terms of the founding members. The Commission shall select its chair and vice chair/secretary from among its members.

Members will have a diversity of experience and expertise. If possible technical expertise should include agricultural or horticultural, scientific, engineering, and cultural. Members will include students, seniors and representatives from communities of color.

The WCAC will have a representative on the City of Winters Design Review Committee. Also, the WCAC will have liaisons from the City Council, the Winters Planning Commission, the Winters Putah Creek Committee, the Hispanic Advisory Committee, the Winters Senior Commission on Aging. We expect that a member of the WCAC will attend meetings of the Yolo County Climate Compact.

### ***Duties***

- Inform the city and other partners about current regulations and relevant science
- Suggest climate-informed projects, project modifications, and project alternatives
- Identify funding opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts
- Seek input from residents via meetings and surveys to guide actions
- Coordinate education and outreach to all communities in the city
- Work with local businesses to make their operations more climate-friendly