**Mission Statement Thoughts**

Our mission statement should act as a "litmus test" or gate, providing the boundaries around our work so we're effective with recommendations. It will help us balance what is important with what is achievable.

A first "gate" could be the impact of climate change on the community. **Heat, fire, and flooding were mentioned as the top three impacts** in The Dalles and Wasco County. We have seen increasingly extreme temperatures and fires in our county over the past five years, and while flooding is not as evident there are impacts to water quality (i.e decreased fish in the Deschutes River due to water temperature, reduced snowpack on Mt Hood, lower stream levels in our watersheds?). How do these impacts affect quality of life, both in the short term and long term.

A second gate could be whether the recommendation is "local" (which is partially answered by the fact this is a city-county committee). For instance, our recommendations are not based on solving an impact in the Columbia Gorge, but in The Dalles and Wasco County.

A third gate could be funding. Are there grants available for a project, or does the recommendation create savings for the organization that implements it? Could a portion of the savings be reinvested into future projects?

A fourth gate could be whether the recommendation is achievable. How high is the likelihood that a recommendation would be adopted?

With any mission statement we choose, our work should be data driven. Who are the experts we can bring in for a particular focus area? What data supports our recommendation? What resources are available, and where has it been done before?

Finally, it would be interesting to have our recommendations cover four levels:

1. How might the city or county implement the idea within their own organization?
2. How might the city or county implement the idea on behalf of the community?
3. How might citizens or other organizations implement the idea?
4. What policy might the city or county consider creating and adopting?

Here's an example of a mission statement, and how it might play out:

*In an effort to combat the increasing impacts of climate change, the Climate Resiliency Committee will research and offer recommendations to the city and county that are local, affordable, achievable, and scalable.*

If we look at the impact of high temperatures, we might choose the focus area of encouraging electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions (*impact*). An infrastructure requirement for electric

vehicles is electric charging stations for home, work and within the geographic area for visitors. We would talk with our local experts at Northern Wasco County PUD and Wasco Electric Co-op about the feasibility and availability of electricity for vehicle charging (*achievable*). We could do research on the electrical vehicle industry through Forth (a non-profit organization in Portland focused on electric transportation), and attend their Leveraging Federal Charging Investments Workshop to see about funds to offset the infrastructure costs *(affordable)*. We might then make the following recommendation for the four different levels (*scalable*):

1. Recommend that the City and County install charging stations in their parking lots for employee use.
2. Recommend that the City and County install charging stations strategically throughout the county for citizens and visitors to use.
3. Provide information for citizens on the cost of having a home charging station and what programs might be available to offset the purchase of a station.
4. Suggest the city and county consider adopting a policy that encourages purchase of electric or hybrid vehicles for their fleet.

These same recommendations could be extended to other cities within Wasco County for consideration, extending the impact of the city/county effort.