

Climate Crisis Checkmate: A Strategy for Rapidly Aligning Utility Programs Around 2050 Performance Outcomes

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Overview

Hypothesis

Proof

Implications

Discussion



Hypothesis

The climate crisis is rapidly driving decarbonization policies that will leave utility programs obsolete by the end of the decade



Why believe us?

Poppy Storm

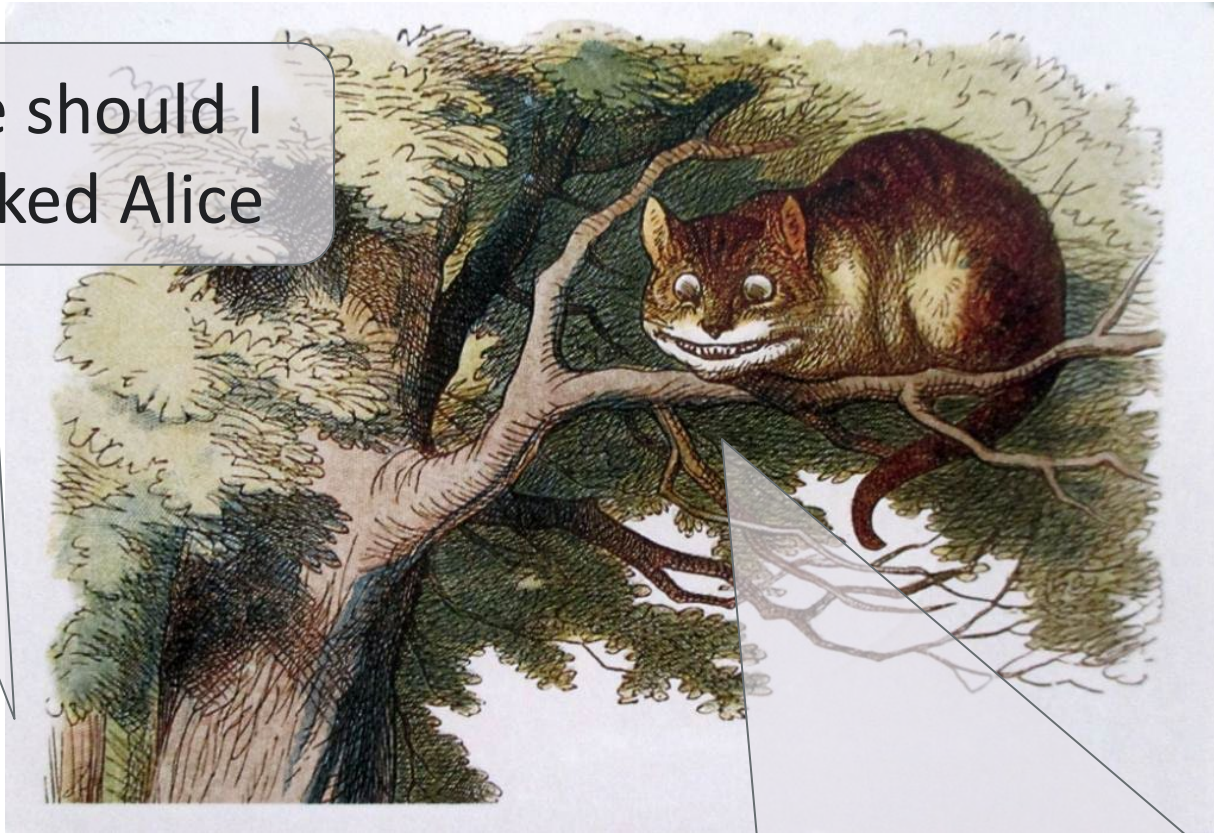
Director, 2050 Institute

Advised State of WA and City of
Seattle on development of energy-
and carbon-based targets for
Building Performance Standards
Led building sector research and
development for WA State Energy
Strategy




Outcome-based policies and programs

"Where should I go?" asked Alice



"That depends on where you want to end up." replied the Cheshire Cat. Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland



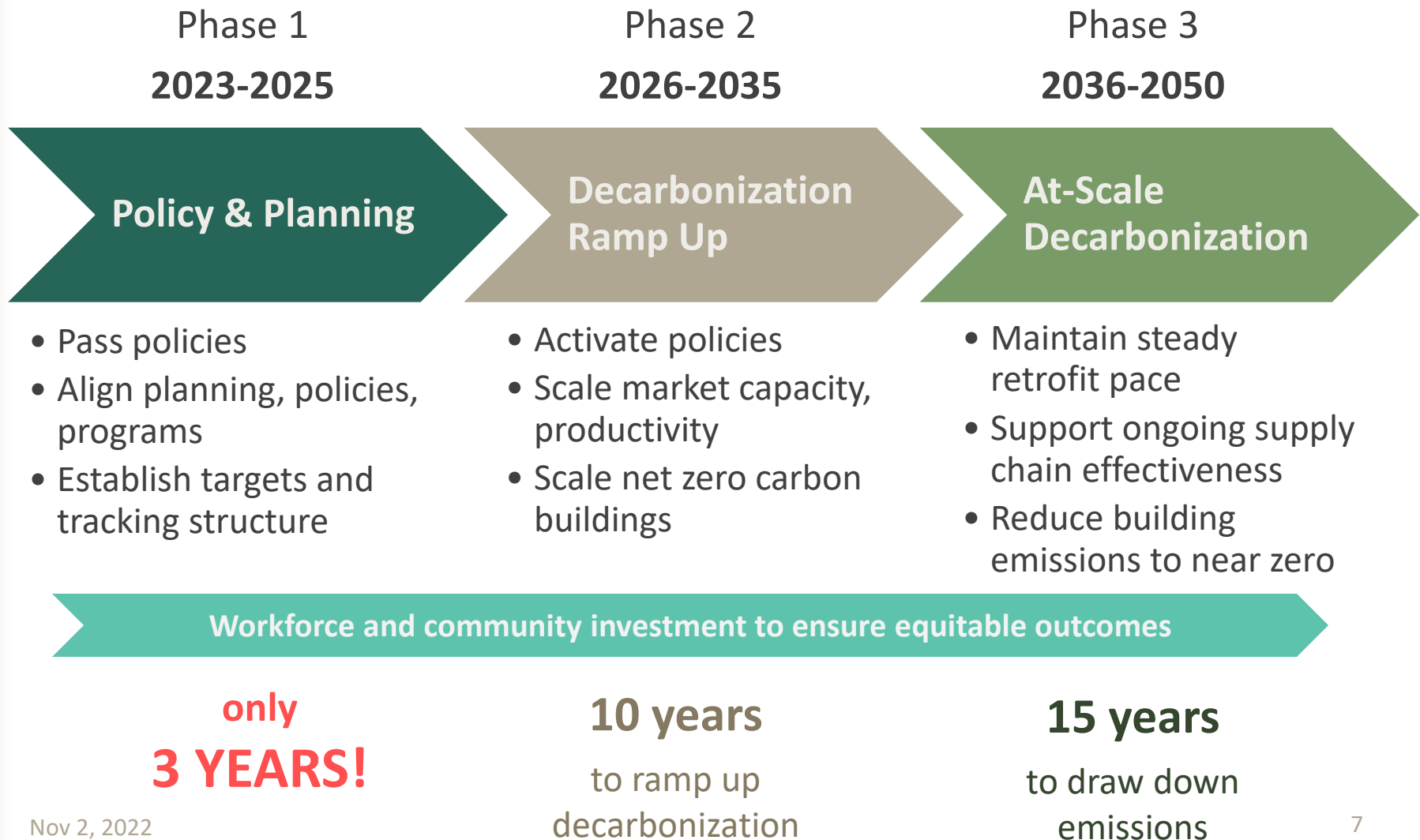
State Energy
Strategy,
Codes &
Standards

City Climate
Action Plan
& Policies

Utility IRP &
CPA

2050
Net Zero
Emissions

Three Key Phases to Decarbonize Buildings



Utility Program Implications



- Will utilities play a fundamental role in decarbonization?
- How to help the market transform by 2035?
- What changes to programs and evaluation are needed in the face of climate action mandates?

Utility Planning & Program Recommendations

- Strategic alignment of Seattle City Light planning and programs with policy trajectory
- Program changes needed *now*



“It's a poor sort of
memory that only works
backwards,' says the
Queen to Alice.”

Lewis Carroll, Alice in
Wonderland



Fundamental Transition for Evaluation



Get started now

Leverage existing program tracking,
utility meter, benchmarking,
demographics data

Calculate *time* of energy savings and
GHG emissions reductions

Identify underserved customers and
largest energy users

Call to Action!



- Uncomfortable? Good!
- Given what I've shared, do you think current best evaluation practices are up to the task?
 - ☐ What would you change?
 - ☐ What are the barriers?
- What can we do now to meet the urgency of this moment?



Thank You!

- Thank you IEPEC and Seattle City Light
- Thanks to my co-authors
 - Poppy Storm, 2050 Institute
 - Julie Banerjee, Seattle City Light