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This month's program, "Realistic and Effective Climate Policy: Help make it happen", was presented by Virginia Lohr, Volunteer with Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL), Palouse Region Chapter.

Virginia Lohr is a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a rapidly growing, nonpartisan organization of engaged citizens dedicated to passing revenue-neutral carbon fee & dividend legislation to address climate change. She has lobbied in Washington DC to promote CCL's market-based solution, which would reduce greenhouse gasses significantly while promoting both health and economic well-being.

**"REALISTIC AND EFFECTIVE CLIMATE POLICY: HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN"**

Federal policy is needed to reduce air pollution from burning fossil fuels. All national and international academies of science recognize that the earth gets hotter as carbon dioxide levels rise. Temperature records show that the earth has been above average every year since 1976. Fossil fuels also harm health by adding asthma-causing particulates to the air. Government regulations to control global warming have been unpopular with many and have done little to reduce the problem.

CCL has a market-based policy that scales to the size of the problem, reduces emissions effectively, and would be popular with industries and the public. It is revenue-neutral, so it doesn't raise taxes or grow the government. It places a gradually rising fee on fossil fuels where they enter the economy. It starts at \$15 per ton CO<sub>2</sub> (about 15¢/gal gas) and increases by \$10 each year. Industries have time to adjust as they see fit, rather than as dictated by regulations. A monthly dividend distributes proceeds from the fee equally to American families. Most will receive more money than they pay in higher costs, and that will boost the economy and create jobs.

More than 1000 companies have expressed support for pricing carbon. These include China Steel Corporation, Dow Chemical, Pacific Gas & Electric, and Royal Dutch Shell. A growing number of companies assume carbon will be priced and use an internal price when making decisions about future investments. These include Delta Airlines, Duke Energy, Exxon Mobil, Google, and Nissan.

Virginia suggested that we learn more about revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend policy at [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org) and consider helping to form a local CCL chapter (contact Katie Gieske at [mc\\_gieske@yahoo.com](mailto:mc_gieske@yahoo.com)). Virginia also brought endorsement statements that we can sign as individuals, organizations, or businesses to ask Congress to act on climate change or to ask them specifically to enact carbon fee and dividend legislation.

Thank you, Virginia, for spending this time with the NRC and presenting this innovative and exciting approach to addressing climate change.