

Agenda – February 15, 2018
Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby

5:30-7:00pm, Umpqua Bank Meeting Room, 225 N. Grand Ave., Pullman

Introductions and Additions to the Agenda - *Undo Your Part*

Review of Minutes

Announcements

- Upcoming Greater Northwest CCL Conference in Boise, March 10-11. Carpooling.
- CCL International Conference and Lobby Day in Congress in Washington DC, June 10-12

Action Items from January meeting and updates from interest groups

- Media publications
- Outreach
- Lobbying

Campaign for letters to Members of Congress

- "Grass tops" contacts
- City Council updates
- School Districts

National Call – Paul: Celia Paris, Assistant Professor in Political Science at Loyola University. She is currently working on a book manuscript that explores whether Madisonian ideals for deliberative and collaborative political decision-making have lost their appeal. Titled *Madison's ABCs: Why the Public Still Values Accomplishment, Bipartisanship, and Civility in Congress*, her book argues that the desire for a more Madisonian approach to politics remains alive and well in the American public and that citizens value accomplishment, bipartisanship and civility. See Paris' talk at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/monthly-speakers/>

National Actions for the Month

- *Undo Your Part* – Share and pass the motivation on.
- Lobby locally – Members of Congress will be home on spring recess March 24-Apr 8

Laser Talk

Responding to Criticism (on the other side of the Agenda)

Next meeting March 15 at the Senior Center in the 1912 Center in Moscow

Responding to criticism

COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

As the Climate Solutions Caucus has grown and become more visible, we've seen an increased number of criticisms of it, and we can expect this trend to continue as it is in the news more often. How should we respond when someone is attacking the Climate Solutions Caucus? What is the best way to turn a critique into an opportunity for a useful dialogue? How can we prevent our emotions from coloring our response? If the critique comes from an environmental or non-governmental organization, your first step is to alert Stephanie.Doyle@citizensclimate.org who manages CCL's partnerships. As with all criticism, it's best to respond as generously as you can.

Pair up with a buddy in your chapter and take turns reading the roles in the two exercises below.

Exercise 1 - The public scenario where what you say will be public. If a news reporter or media interviewer opens the conversation with a criticism, you should acknowledge and appreciate what you heard, and then pivot to some positive talking points.

Reporter: Why hasn't the Climate Solutions Caucus done anything?

You: I agree that we all want to see climate action as fast as possible. CCL supports the Caucus because it's a safe place for members of Congress from both parties to work on climate solutions, which is exactly what we need to get legislation passed. As these legislators work together, and welcome more members of Congress into the caucus, we're confident they will identify and pass strong bipartisan climate legislation.

Exercise 2 - The private scenario. Your neighbor, who knows that you are a CCL volunteer, tells you about an article she saw. Now is a great time to employ the 'Effective Communications' skills that you may have learned in a 'Motivational Interviewing' webinar.

Neighbor: I was thinking about coming to the next CCL meeting, but then I saw an article in Think Progress about how many people think the Climate Solutions Caucus is full of Republicans who are just trying to look good while they go ahead and tear down environmental protections. I can't support that.

You: It sounds like some people whose views you respect think the Climate Solutions Caucus is the wrong way to go, and this is worrying you.

Neighbor: Yes. I don't want to do the wrong thing. This is just too important.

You: I sure agree with you on that, and it can be hard to know what is the best approach sometimes.

Neighbor: So why do you think Republicans will do the right thing on climate?

More resources

[Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's webinar on getting prepared to be interviewed](#)

[Motivational Interviewing in the Learning Center](#), and the [monthly Action Team Webinars](#)