

Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby
Sept. 16, 2021, 5:30-7:00 pm on Zoom

Participants: Mason Burns (new to our group, WSU architecture student), Mary DuPree, Margaret Davis, Paul Spencer, Judy Meuth, Bill Engels, Simon Smith, Virginia (Ginny) Lohr (Tacoma), David Muise (Coeur d'Alene), Jennifer Sizemore, Pete Haug, Lynn Weaver, Tom Besser, Joe Vaughan, Nicole Xiao, Amelie Schmolke

Announcements

- Benefit Concert for CCL Palouse – 7:30pm, Oct. 1, 1912 Center's Lecompte Auditorium.
James Reid is performing with other musicians, vaccination proof and masks are required (~100 people fit in the venue, \$10 per ticket, \$5 for students)
- CCL speaker to Moscow League of Women Voters on Wed, Sep. 22
Mary announced for Kathy; please join; link to zoom is available through the Moscow League of Women Voters web site
- Climate change walkout—11:30am-1pm Sept. 24 East City Park Moscow
By Moscow High School, joined by UI students, they will be walking from the High School to East City Park; CCL will probably have a speaker; Simon will be tabling at the event; the more people can join, the better (see also below)
- Engaging students webinar from CCL: 5 PM Sept. 23 [CCL Engaging Students](#)
Target group: high school and college students
- Action on fossil fuel divestment at WSU
Bill gave presentation to students recently together with Simon, showed an outline of a campaign based on what Gonzaga did (divestment strategy); students were enthusiastic about this action; Bill and Simon will join the meeting of the WSU Board of Regents to ask for WSU's fossil fuel divestment. Bill put together information from other universities on divestment.
Please join in this action: send an email to Bill if interested (email: mongolengels@yahoo.com)
- Pullman 2040 will have a public forum on 29 Sep about 2040's work. Simon will give a brief update of CCL's collaboration with 2040. Everyone is invited to join. Mary noted that this event would be a good platform to advocate for a Moscow-Pullman transit.

Communications Exercise—The Border Adjustment

We conducted the communication exercise in groups of 2 (see exercise at the end of the notes). Feedback from the exercise:

- EU's border adjustment will start 1 Jan 2023; Canada is designing their own, probably starting around the same time
- Simon: What would countries have to do to avoid EU's border adjustments – details not fully clear, basically the adjustment would have to be paid if CO2 is priced less than in EU
- David: observed that people's eyes are glazing over if he is talking about fee and dividend, let alone border adjustments – Mary: pictures help, keep it simple at first, start talking about the benefits, see also Energy Innovation Act website <https://energyinnovationact.org/>; Lynn: People have

processing/decision fatigue (thank you Covid). Asking them what they know and what they are curious about might be a good strategy. Tabling the conversation for a better time may be their preference.

CCL—Palouse Reports and Actions

- Nov. 15-19 Lobby Week and WA state lobbying
 - Joe and Judy were at Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodger's town hall in Colfax which was focused on agriculture; most of the meeting was devoted to folks from a local USDA office
- Observations:
- CMR commented on inflation, calling it a tax
 - Judy asked a question about the Growing Climate Solutions Act (which CCL had brought up in the latest two lobby meetings with her and her office). CMR replied that she will look it up.
 - Judy was in a lobby meeting with Sen. Cantwell's staff: Discussion revolved around pricing carbon, especially via a bipartisan bill.
 - CCL conference (which is free) will happen before the lobby week
 - Judy invites folks to join the lobby meetings with our Representative (ID/WA)
- CCL-P Leadership team: Pullman—Simon, Marilyn, Judy, Amelie, Kynan; Moscow—Kayla, Trish Mac, Mary. Major goals: increase student involvement at schools and universities; Tik Tok video to reach broader audience (Trish); support smaller CCL groups in the region; have CCL presentations ready to go; build Progressive support for EICDA; reach out more to local Conservatives, especially through Ag. Conservative contacts could be local Republican parties, and RepublicEN.

Anyone interested in joining a specific action?

Joe: suggests contacting conservative environmental groups: e.g., RepublicEN, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited

- Moscow and Pullman Chamber of Commerce/Ag meeting and plans

No news since last meeting: Judy is asking for help organizing the Ag meeting

Joe: farmers often do not connect weather patterns with climate change because they have to deal with erratic weather anyway, and do not see a larger pattern

Judy: Some farmers in the area are aware of the change, looking back decades or even 100 years (back when the climate was ideal for wheat in the area)
- Pullman and Moscow city climate actions update

Mary: Moscow City Council will have a workshop on Mon, 29 Sep about developing a city climate action plan. One important question: include the entire community or only the city operations? (meeting not open to the public)

Simon: Our survey for Pullman is now (nearly) finalized and will be posted soon (in collaboration with the city); final draft version of the comprehensive plan is now available, announced in last council meeting; Simon was there and thanked them for working on the climate issue, particularly the involvement of Mike Urban; climate goals are included in the draft comprehensive plan
- Publications

Judy presented the letters to the editor and op-eds from the past 2 months (lots), emphasizes sending letters to multiple newspapers

- Grassroots – Tabling at Farmers’ Market and other opportunities this fall

Tabling - Simon: Due to constraints at the county fairs, we won’t table there; ongoing tabling at farmers markets.

Presenting - We should identify ‘allied’ and other groups and ask them whether we can give short presentations to introduce CCL and our goals. Possibilities: WSU Environmental Sustainability Alliance; Pullman 2040 (Simon has been working with this group); Chambers of Commerce; Devon Felsted invited CCL to present at Pullman Kiwanis.
- Outreach to Idaho Conservation League; Idaho Power

Mary: she is trying to convince them to support carbon pricing mainly focusing on Idaho Power: they will have to have their 20yr plan approved with the state and could support pricing if they can make the point that the consumers receive the dividend
- Moscow HS Climate Justice League

Nicole: Invited all CCL members to join Moscow High School student walkout, to table, to give a presentation at the Sept. 24th walkout at Moscow’s East City Park, 11:30-1pm. Focus will be the Ready for 100 (Sierra Club initiative) action to influence the Moscow sustainability committee. One goal is to have 100 emails to city council (showing QR code during walk-out). Idaho-wide youth initiative (Climate Justice League), Nicole started local group earlier this year; starting in Oct, they will shift to focus on the upcoming CCL lobby meetings with congress.
- Kayla is working with the new sustainability center (at UI); the center leader would like to include material from CCL
- National updates:

Senate Finance Committee is now considering carbon pricing for the reconciliation bill. Constant drum beat of putting carbon pricing in place is very important right now (for the next coming months) to keep this initiative from being dropped by the Senate committee or the entire reconciliation process.

Contact President Biden to support this.

Contact Democratic Senators to support it.

CCL members can join phone banking to contact people in districts of Democratic Senators) – see link below

Sen. Crapo may be open to our message, it is a good idea to contact him. He is also important because he is on the Senate Finance Committee.

Rep. Simpson may also be open.

Currently, it is up to the Democrats to get the reconciliation bill moving.

Judy: Let representatives know that we are ready for a carbon price, phrase it simply.

Write LTE asking members of Congress to support carbon pricing -

Judy (judymeuth@gmail.com) and Pete (peterlaoshi@gmail.com) can look over LTEs if someone wants a second eye on their letter.

Additional comments

- Simon suggests reaching out to our CCL email list and announce the walk-out from Moscow High School

- Mason: He is involved in WSU Environmental Sustainability Alliance which could potentially survey students about their interest in the Pullman-Moscow transit.

Double our Impacts!

- Double our Monthly Calling Campaign members and calls. Sign up for Monthly Calling Campaign: www.cclusa.org/mcc
- Submit LTE's or an op-ed now on "Why Carbon Pricing?" or other topics. See topic ideas at [LTE topic ideas document](#) and cclusa.org/lte-topics. See how-to's for letter writing at cclusa.org/lte

Continuing Individual Actions

- Log actions on CCL's Action Tracker: <https://community.citizensclimate.org/actions/home>
- Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R. 2307 -
Write President Biden to let him know of broad support for carbon pricing and the EICDA (Postcards: President Biden, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20500; Emails: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/white-house/>)
- Join phone/text banks to persuade Democratic senators to keep carbon price/dividend in the Reconciliation Bill <https://community.citizensclimate.org/bulletin/2101/235> NOW!
- Send information for Facebook posts to Margaret Davis (maddvm101@gmail.com)

Next meeting Thursday, October 21 from 5:30 to 7, probably by Zoom

Practice talking about carbon border adjustments!

COMMUNICATION EXERCISE

Europe's carbon border adjustment will penalize U.S. manufacturers for the U.S.'s lack of a carbon price. Let's get ready to talk about carbon border adjustments at tabling and presentations, with community leaders and the media, with friends and family, and in November Lobby meetings.

Suggestions for how to practice

Instructions: Take turns reading the border adjustment talking points below out loud. Afterward, take turns prompting each other with the underlined part, asking, can you say this talking point in your own words?

Put everyone into breakout rooms, two people per room, for six minutes. When everyone comes back together, ask a few people to share what they learned.

Border adjustment talking points

Adjusting prices at the border. One of the pillars of effective carbon pricing is a carbon border adjustment on imports from nations that don't have an equivalent price on carbon.

Protecting U.S. businesses. A border adjustment would help U.S. businesses compete with industries in countries where there is no carbon pricing. It would also remove the incentive for U.S. businesses to relocate overseas to avoid a U.S. carbon fee.

The EU is beating the U.S. to the punch. The European Union, the world's second largest economy, is beating the U.S. to the punch by imposing a border adjustment of its own, due to go into effect in 2023.

Maintaining trade balance. With U.S. businesses facing the likelihood of tariffs on the carbon footprints of their goods, the tables are turned - the U.S. now has a strong incentive to enact a price on carbon to maintain trade balance with Europe.

Follow our lead. When the U.S. and EU both price carbon with a border adjustment, these two economic giants will pressure other nations to follow their lead.

Additional Resource

CCL Community's [Understanding Border Carbon Adjustments](#) training and its [list of 14 helpful readings](#).