

## **Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby Meeting June 16, 2022**

Community Congregational Church, 525 NE Campus Ave, Pullman, and Zoom

Participants: (in person) Judy Meuth, Paul Spencer, Mary DuPree, Mac Cantrell, Amelie Schmolke, Kynan Witters-Hicks, Simon Smith, Bill Engels; (zoom) Maggie Smith, Pete Haug, Marilyn Von Seggern, Hayleigh Holmgren, Casey Johnson, Lauren Fins

### **Announcements**

CCL--P social gatherings:

- Every 2nd Thursday of the month, 5:00-7:30 pm, Trailside Taproom, 505 SE Riverview, Pullman (next time: 14 July)
- June 25th starting at 4:00 pm at Mac's: 622 East B in Moscow

Judy recommended the CCL monthly speaker series, particularly the June speaker. Previous talks are recorded too. Neil Chatterjee, Former FERC chairman. A vocal supporter of carbon pricing, he took a bipartisan approach during the Trump administration to forming energy policy and shares his climate story, why he supports carbon pricing and how we can prepare the grid for the transition to clean energy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzNfpFHLMEc>

Mary related a message from Ian Shlater (from Moscow's Climate justice league) who will be meeting with the Moscow School Board. The topic will be the application for a rebate for electric school buses and the installation of solar panels on school district buildings. Ian is looking for financial support from local organizations/businesses for the solar panels. SEL was suggested as possible contact.

### **CCL Conference Reports**

- Hayleigh is a CCL intern. The June conference was a very busy event where she helped at the registration desk, event organization, etc. She got to meet the CCL coordinators, directors, and many chapter leaders.
- Mac was energized by the conference after the tough year with respect to lack of legislation moving forward. During the conference, it was pointed out that there is still time for a reconciliation bill this session which may include climate legislation. Part of it could be reduction of methane emissions and a push for renewable energy. The carbon fee and dividend may not happen but a collection of smaller actions may be realistic. The idea is still around, with some Republican representatives talking about "carbon cash backs."
- Carbon border adjustments are a very important strategy which might encourage carbon pricing. Also, carbon pricing may be seen as favorable for bringing in government funding. The Republican leadership is now acknowledging climate change and that action is needed (which was not the case a few years back).
- For CCL, the current recommendation is not to talk too much about carbon pricing right now due to the high gas prices but emphasize clean energy credits. A study suggests that around 30% reduction of emissions by 2030 can be achieved with carbon credits. Madeleine Para (CCL Exec Dir) announced that CCL will add two more goals to its mission (in addition to carbon fee & dividend): building the clean energy economy and nature-based solutions. These new initiatives may also appeal to more people (who might not be interested in policy).
- Feedback from folks not part of CCL at the conference was that they see CCL as the largest and most effective organization working bipartisan and that can move legislators.

### **Lobbying Reports**

Mac – a meeting with Sen. Crapo's office is planned. One topic of the lobby meeting will be the National Climate and Resiliency Strategy bill.

Judy – a lobby meeting with Rep. McMorris Rodgers is scheduled for the coming week.

## **CCL--P strategy for upcoming political campaign season**

- **Volunteer for attending a specific town hall or forum and asking, “What’s your climate plan?”** or another climate question.
  - Volunteer to coordinate our CCL-P presence at WA district 05 town halls, forums, etc. – Casey is coordinating attendance of meetings of ID representatives
  - Volunteer to keep a calendar of campaign events that can be posted on our CCL—P website: Kathy will keep up the calendar for ID representatives, Paul for WA
  - Note that some of the campaign events may be tied to community events
- **Help get more people to vote**
  - Increase [Voter Participation](#) by phone banking with the [Environmental Voter Project](#). Log your work with EVP in the Action Tracker under Grassroots Outreach - Phone / Text Banking.
  - Ensure everyone you know is registered to vote and send unregistered folks to [vote.org](#) or [rockthevote.org](#).
  - Train to register voters – it is very easy and anyone interested could just go through the material at a social event. There was a suggestion to add voter registration to tabling (as separate forms available during tabling events). Mary is interested in helping with this; Simon is fine with adding this when he is tabling.
- **Use CCL’s [Midterm Media Kit](#)** when you interact with the media via LTEs, op-eds and news coverage.
- **Log all activity** into the Action Tracker <https://community.citizensclimate.org/actions/home>

**Communication Exercise** – questions for town halls and similar events (see end of the notes)

Some thoughts from the group:

Bill suggests a question: “How is your climate plan better than your opponent’s plan?”

## **Updates on more Palouse CCL actions**

- **Outreach**
  - Tabling – Simon is tabling at the Moscow Farmer’s market and other events
  - Lentil Fest - Simon will sign up CCL for the Lentil Parade in Pullman (August 20, morning): the goal is to have a larger crowd walking in the parade than last time (2019) because a larger crowd emphasizes larger support of climate action (does not need to be CCL specific).
  - Palousafest – Mary is planning on tabling there (also August 20, in the afternoon; event for U of Idaho students).
  - RepublicEn tour to meet with conservative groups – Mac is helping RepublicEn with planning a tour by Bob Inglis in the area. An event for farmers is planned on 13 July at Whitman Farm (please get the word out to local farmers); also, Bob Inglis will be available for meetings with local organizations (e.g., conservative-leaning churches, Rotary Clubs, etc.) or community/business leaders. Suggestions are welcome.
  - Presentations – Simon gave a presentation to the scouts (and their parents) a couple of weeks ago.  
Kynan, Trish, Simon and Mac presented to the Sacred Heart Congregation in Pullman (Bill is a member) on May 25. The presentation style was more like a panel, Mac thought a conversation-style presentation would be more effective than a presentation.
- **Social Media** - Send information and PHOTOS for social media posts to Maggie Smith ([margaret.d.smith@wsu.edu](mailto:margaret.d.smith@wsu.edu)); photos are especially important, also articles of interest. Mac

suggested to look into the material from the CCL national conference and to post some of this, particularly the climate poem by Amanda Gorman

- **Pullman Climate Change Survey** – Judy gave a quick update: the first draft of the report is being revised. We need a date for a presentation to the city council. The Pullman climate commission is doing its preliminary work to set up a Climate and Sustainability Committee.
- **Moscow CAP** – Mary: contact City Council members by July 18 with comments on the draft.
- **Grasstops** – Meet with community leaders to build relationships and support. This might be more successful now than a few years ago (when CCL-P tried it first) because more people might be open to CCL ideas now (and talk about them publicly). Please suggest contacts of local business and community leaders. Such leaders could also be interested in a meeting with Bob Inglis (see above).
- **Media**—
  - Publications – Judy presented 3 LTE from the past months, sent around the sign-up sheet for the rest of the year
  - Website use <https://cclpalouse.org/> - Mary gave a brief overview of the updates to the webpage: please have a look, it's even better than before

### **Continuing Individual Actions**

- Watch the monthly national call and guest speaker: Live 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of each month or videos and podcasts of current and past speakers are at

[https://community.citizensclimate.org/resources/item/19/426?\\_ga=2.197942575.1438046020.1618256436-2089400949.1565803294](https://community.citizensclimate.org/resources/item/19/426?_ga=2.197942575.1438046020.1618256436-2089400949.1565803294)

- Log actions on CCL's Action Tracker: <https://community.citizensclimate.org/actions/home>

- Send information for social media posts to Maggie Smith ([margaret.d.smith@wsu.edu](mailto:margaret.d.smith@wsu.edu))

- Sign up to write an LTE

**Next meeting Thursday, July 21, 5:30 to 7pm, in Moscow's 1912 Center and by Zoom**

### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE: Ask a candidate an effective question**

**Example questions** (preface each question with an appreciation)

Conservative audience: "What's your preferred approach for addressing climate change?"

Conservative audience: "I've heard talk about a pollution fee. It makes sense that if you want less of something, like pollution, you should charge a fee. But, I don't want the government to grow. If we wind up with a pollution fee, what will you do to ensure that the government returns the fee to American households?"

Mixed audience: "How can we make a larger place at the table for renewable energy in a timely way, while respecting the fact that U.S. businesses need predictability for their pricing?"

Mixed audience: "A majority of Americans, on both sides of the political spectrum, believe Congress should be taking steps to deal with the threat of a warming planet. What emissions-reducing plan do you support?"

Mixed audience: "How do you think we can best transition to a clean energy economy?"

Liberal audience: "We need to cut our carbon emissions so we don't leave big problems for our kids and grandkids. I think a market-based solution will be quicker and more effective than a regulation. What can you do in Congress to help the United States be a leader in the transition to clean energy?"