

Minutes March 16, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm
Citizens' Climate Lobby – Palouse
1912 Center Fiske Room, 412 East 3rd Street, Moscow or via Zoom

CONTACT US: <https://cclpalouse.org/contact-us/>

Attending: Kynan Witters Hicks, Azdren Coma, Steve Flint, Judy Meuth, Simon Smith, Bill Engels, Clare Peine, Trish Hartzell, Bill Voxman, Daniel Howell, Mary DuPree, Mac Cantrell, Paul Spencer, Amelie Schmolke, Margaret Davis, Mason Burns, Eric Odberg, Amy Ries

Draft Values Statement: We are committed to creating a consensus for and the steps needed to achieve fair, effective, and enduring climate change policies, and to a process that is inclusive, non-partisan and respectful of diverse points of view. (Contact Mary or Judy with input.)

Announcements

- **Attend the GPNW Regional CCL Conference this Sunday March 19, 1-4 pm:**
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gpnw-regional-conference-2023-tickets-528478833417> Good opportunity to meet other within-state CCL-ers.
- CCL--P social gatherings: Every 2nd Thursday of the month, 5:00-7:30 pm, Trailside Taproom, 505 SE Riverview, Pullman
- Register for [CCL's June D.C. Nat'l Conference](#) June 10-13 (the 13th is Lobby Day)
- Earth Day Celebration April 22, East City Park in Moscow, 4-7pm Sponsored by NW Sanitation. Will want to table there. If you want to table contact Simon.
- Ask **WA state legislators** to support home electrification for low-income families. More info and an easy way to send a message to legislators at <https://climatesolutions.salsalabs.org/heatpumpsandretrofits/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=09618390-5436-4651-a8e0-6edd4719116b>
- CCL fundraising drive for the national office. We are also adding a donate tab to our Palouse CCL website.
- Website: publishing of CCL-P email addresses, e.g. in minutes? We will publish a version without the email addresses on our website.

Outreach Possibilities

- Earth Day, April 22 (and week), and Arbor Day, April 28
 - WSU doing a campus cleanup: contact Mason for details.
 - City of Moscow has a downtown cleanup on Earth Day
- Host a film screening and discussion (Clare and Annette)

- Two options being currently considered: “Happening: A Green Energy Revolution” and “Elemental: Reimagining Wildfire.” Currently finding a theater and dates. Possible panel of experts for each of those films. We’re also investigating co-sponsors for a film series.

Trish: Hydropower in NW is a blessing but complicated. Energy savings may be lower in NW households. Natural gas is unreliable. We should be able to provide more info about how these changes will affect climate change. Many people are motivated to do the right thing in spite of cost.

Building Electrification and Efficiency Team (BEET) report (Mac, Mary, Kynan, Trish, and team)

The IRA provides many incentives for BEE. Our team’s beginning focus: connecting local contractors and builders with information about IRA and other state and national programs that promote efficiency and technology that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Report on our activities to date

1. Report on discussion with Paul Kimmell of Avista (Mary)

Kynan and Mary met with PK and told him about CCL’s new initiatives. He was very enthusiastic about forest health and electrification as well as very knowledgeable about the IRA, and where in WA and ID to find out what IRA programs are administered in these states. He invited us to come to the Avista Innovation Lab in Spokane; we could arrange a field trip. One of the things we need to think about is how to deal with landlords because they just pass their expenses on to renters. One beneficial thing would be energy audits for homes - then people could decide what steps they could take. PK and Kelly Cooper at City of Moscow have talked about energy audits and IRA money for training. Need to find a nonprofit approved by the state to administer the IRA program.

2. Understanding the role of utilities (Avista) in BEE (Mac).

Mac went to a meeting with Avista. Three states (WA, OR and ID?) have 20-year energy plans. All include priorities to furnish reliable and affordable energy. Avista also considers environmental factors. ID has no general climate plan, whereas WA and OR have climate plans. Cap and trade require that Avista reduce carbon footprint. Coal plant in MT going away. WA planning on using allowances for reducing methane from agriculture. They are planning on synthetic gas but it’s expensive and will create need for more electricity. States’ public utilities commissions make final decisions: each power company has its own plan, and the commissions make the final decisions.

3. Coordinate with Moscow city government to sponsor household energy auditor training (Mary). This will align with Moscow’s Climate Action Working Group agenda.

4. Provide realistic cost/benefit of heat pumps for this area (Kynan):

Heat pumps are 3 – 5X more efficient than conventional heating systems because they produce more energy than they use. Cost savings may not be huge in this region, however. Ductless heat pumps cost around \$4 – 7 thousand. The IRA will cover the

entire cost for low income households, 50% for medium income households and high income household get a \$2,000 tax credit. Heat pumps also provide air conditioning.

5. Work to identify specific BEE programs available to Idaho and Washington and how to apply for them (Mac): Two good resources are daneclimateaction.org (from Dane County Wisconsin) and dsireusa.org which accesses BEE programs right down to the zip code level.

6. Identify and communicate with contractors (Trish, Mark). Team is working on a list; Moscow-Pullman Building Supply holds a contractors appreciation day in September and we are welcome to table there.

Discussion:

Should we focus on WA since they have more money to support BEE actions? Given that there are more perks in WA, should we focus more on WA where we'll have impact? No: we do not want to give up on Idaho, and many incentives are federal. Also wind and solar are cheaper now.

Should we add solarization in our work? Yes. Nez Perce Tribe is training people in solar energy; we could ask them to talk to us about it.

Mac: Avista has an energy usage calculator but it may not be accurate.

Upcoming events elated to healthy forest action

1. Spread the word and get volunteers to ongoing tree-planting activities. We created a public google calendar and we have been gathering data from other groups (PCEI, Conservation district etc.) regarding the time and location for tree planting work. We can send a link to CCLers when the calendar has more information about events scheduled for Earth Day (Apr 22) and other plantings that occur throughout April.
2. We are planning activities that focus on urban planting as many other groups typically focus on reforestation or planting in riparian areas. The goal is not to plant a lot of trees, but plant trees that we can protect (perhaps cage) and monitor care (watering) until the tree is established. Action 1: Arbor Day on Fri Apr 28 with the Moscow Tree Commission; Action 2: Sat Apr 29 planting trees at the Palouse Prairie School.

Ongoing Palouse CCL Initiatives and Actions

- Carbon Pricing and Carbon Border Adjustments – Simon Smith and Margaret Davis (leads)
- Electrification and Efficiency – Mac Cantrell and Mary DuPree (leads)
- Healthy Forests — Trish Hartzell (lead)
- Presentations
 - Elem to High School Team – Nancy Nelson, Simon Smith
 - Simon and Judy did a presentation for the Environmental Club at Moscow HS. HS students are getting lots of info about climate change, but not about solutions – therefore a lot of anxiety can build up. Generally, they are upset with governments and the older generation. Results of psychological research suggest

we have to figure how to moderate the news feed, look for good news, and convey that it's okay to feel sad and angry.

- Pullman City – Judy Meuth
 - Azdren has been appointed to the new Pullman Environmental Resilience Commission.
 - Whitman County plans to rezone an area for an ag research park. The biggest renter would be a biodiesel production plant. Feedback on this proposal has been divided. We are not going to ask for a CCL position. You can weigh in to Pullman city council on the county's Pullman rezoning application any time but public input period will be posted.
- Moscow City – Mary DuPree
- Member of Congress liaisons – Mac Cantrell (Crapo) , Judy Meuth (McMorris Rodgers)
- Tabling – Simon Smith
- Outreach to rural communities — Bill Voxman
- Publications – Judy Meuth, Pete Haug (print),
 - Amelie and Simon both had letters in the Moscow Pullman Daily News
 - Simon also in the Whitman County Gazette.
- Website – Joe Pallen
- Social Media – Margaret Davis, Mary Conniff

Continuing Individual Actions

- Speak Up – Tell your members of Congress what you want
 - <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/get-loud-take-action/introduce-yourself/>
- Watch the monthly national call and guest speaker 3rd Saturday of the month on Community)
- Log actions on CCL's Action Tracker: <https://community.citizensclimate.org/actions/home>
- Send social media info to Margaret (maddvm101@gmail.com), Mary conniffmary@gmail.com
- Sign up to write an LTE

Next meeting is April 20, 5:30-7 pm, 525 NE Campus Ave., Pullman

March 16 CCL Meeting Zoom joining info

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87443904465?pwd=YTdtanpwT3ZmVGJTL1R6d085VUFaQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 4390 4465

Passcode: 944275

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,87443904465#,,,,*944275# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE: Practice describing benefits of building electrification

Chat with others about CCL's policy agenda. Ask if they'd like to hear about the benefits of building electrification and efficiency.

Talking points

Lower household energy bills

The average household can save around \$600 on its yearly energy bills by installing heat pumps and induction stoves. Additionally, electrification protects us from future spikes in energy prices due to unstable fossil fuel prices.

Efficiency benefits low-income households

Making homes more energy efficient by weatherizing them reduces energy waste and bills. Low-income households, which spend disproportionately more income on home energy, could save up to 35% on their energy bills through weatherization projects.

Cleaner air inside our homes and buildings

Fossil fuel-powered appliances create air pollution that contributes to serious respiratory problems, like asthma, particularly in children. Unfortunately, in many homes, the air we breathe inside is dirtier than the air outside. Electrification not only reduces the warming caused by fossil fuels, it ensures the air we breathe while sleeping, cooking, and spending time with family indoors is cleaner and better for our health.

Good jobs in construction

Building electrification and efficiency will create good-paying career opportunities for construction workers, plumbers, heating and cooling installers, electricians, and more. These jobs will be created in every community in America and can't be sent overseas.

Additional Resources

- CCL's [Benefits of Reducing Carbon Pollution with Building Electrification and Efficiency](#)
- CCL Community's [An Introduction to Building Electrification and Efficiency](#) training
- CCL Community's [Advanced Training on Building Electrification and Efficiency](#)