

MINUTES October 17, 2024, 5:30-7:00 pm
Citizens' Climate Lobby –Community Congregational Church, Pullman or via Zoom
(Zoom link and contact info for individuals mentioned below are at the end of this Agenda)

Introductions

Steve Flint, Shannon Scott, Paul Spencer, Kent Keller, Simon Smith, Mary DuPree, Marilyn Von Seggern, Margaret Davis, Brooklyn Cousins, Judy Meuth, Leonard Garrison, Bill Engels, Ronda Skaggs, Tom Jobson, Mac Cantrell, Becky Miller, Jeffrey Hicke, Gisell Zuniga, Rich Alldredge, Harish Varatharaj

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.

Announcements

- CCL Fall Virtual Conference Dec 6 & 7, 2024. FREE! Positioning for progress, where do we go from here is the area of concentration. Register now at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/climate-change-conferences/fall/>
- Lobby Week Dec 9-13, 2024. Virtual meetings with our Members of Congress and staff.
- CCL Palouse Leadership Group will be meeting in the near future. Are you interested in helping shape our chapter and work? If so let Mary and Judy know.
- Climate Book List – Leonard created this list which includes the following:
 - Climate Action Handbook. Practical
 - The Carbon Footprint of EverythingWe'll add this list to the cclpalouse.org web site. Leonard is interested in starting a climate book club. If you are interested, e-mail him.
- REI Cooperative Action Network – Quick way to send messages to policy makers on pending legislation <https://www.rei.com/action/network/climate-action> - Leonard
 - This has many relevant pieces of legislation.
 - Our Healthy Forests group is reaching out to other groups with similar interests. H.R. 8790 (Fix our Forests Act) would allow more clear cutting and undermine efforts to address climate change. It has passed in the House and is headed for the Senate. Please write your senators to ask them to oppose Fix our Forests.
- Bill Engels: On Oct 23 a student group for fossil-free WSU will hold a march from 12-2 in front of the CUB and march downtown to deliver a letter to President Schulz and the Board of Regents. The letter explains that Fossil Free WSU will file a complaint to WA state AG that the WSU Foundation is out of compliance with state law guidelines requiring prudence and charity. Please join the march. CCL is offering WSU students service credit through Center for Civic Engagement.

Successes

No on 2117 campaign: Our group has written >800 postcards; a total of 44000 have gone out. Our group has canvassed > 300 doors in the Palouse area. Nationally, the environmental voter project has logged 48,000 minutes of phone conversations to GOTV.

Jeff Hicke, Role of Forests in Addressing Climate Change

Dr. Hicke is a UI Professor of Earth and Spatial Sciences working at the intersection of climate, forest, insects, and wildfire.

Six ideas for using forest for climate mitigation

- Reduce emissions by avoiding deforestation
 - Conversion of forest to other uses (eg croplands); most deforestation today is in tropics.
- Enhance carbon sinks
 - Enhance forest management, e.g. extending harvest cycles and planting trees. Replacing grassland, cropland with trees usually not effective.
- Natural climate solutions mitigation or adaptation actions that also benefit natural systems by minimizing biodiversity loss
 - Reforestation very impactful
- Afforestation=planting trees where trees never grew before (not a natural solution), e.g. plantings close to irrigation around crop circles.
- Reforestation = allowing land that was previously forested to convert back to forest= a natural climate solution.
 - Reforestation in ID 1 mha, WA 10 mha. In WA maximum potential for offsetting carbon emissions is almost 20%.
- Most sequestration potential is in eastern half of US. WA has more potential than ID.
- Net climate effect of carbon sequestration: cooling. Transpiration (evaporation) also has a cooling effect. Increase vertical mixing of air→ cooling effect
- Darker surface “albedo effect”: Forests would create warming in areas that are now snowy, have bright soils, are grasslands. Tropical forest area’s albedo effect is minimal. Where in the US will the albedo effect offset carbon sequestration? Mostly central-west. East and west coasts are good places to plant trees. Takeaway for ID: Small contribution to national potential, but statewide could offset emissions, but carbon sequestration may be offset by albedo effect. Takeaway for WA: statewide reforestation could offset 18%.
- Long term risks: drought can kill trees as can diseases, wildfires, and human disturbance. Risks of tree mortality can increase with climate change.

Wind Farm in Whitman County – Steve was at a meeting concerning the proposed Harvest Hills windfarm with other concerned groups.

- Steve reported on opposition arguments from a recent meeting: Some opposition is due to the 600 feet-tall wind turbines affecting views. Others cite economics saying that visitors to the area who come to photograph the scenery will no longer spend money on hotels, etc. Developers haven’t been forthcoming about exactly where turbines will be sited. Opponents’ concerns: blades can’t be recycled; big hunks of concrete won’t be removed. There was some shaming of pro landowners. Complex tax issues. Kent lives in the north shadow of Kamiak Butte where a neighbor who supported the wind farm found that the developers weren’t willing to work with him to re-route access roads, so he went from interest to thumbs down. Bill’s farmer friend’s chief complaint is that one subcontracting company would be unethical, not being transparent, pitting farmers against each other, not allowing control after permission given. Also said projects are often sold.
- Some refutations: Originally 90 turbines were proposed but now are down to 45. The turbines would produce a lot of energy because they are very tall and blades can be recycled, though it’s difficult. A lot of objections are solvable.

- Harvest Hills is willing to come to our next meeting. We'll invite them and then invite some of the farmers and others in opposition to a later meeting.
- Question: do we as a group want to establish a precedent of endorsing or not endorsing projects like this?

Election Season Activities

Collaboration for NO on I-2117 with WSU Communications Class – Marilyn, through the Center for Civic Engagement. A class is developing PR campaigns that they'll have ready at the end of the month.

NO I-2117 Postcards and Canvassing — Kent, Bill E, Monique, Shannon, Judy, Nancy, Leonard, Kyle, Simon, Mary, Mac, Steve, Paul, and more!

Candidate forum reports – Steve, Kent, Paul...Paul went to the Joe Schmick and Pam Kohlmeier WA State 9th Legislative District forum. Steve talked to Carmela Conroy (running for WA 05 Congressional District) - receptive to our ideas. She's telling people Project 2025 will be bad for environmental accomplishments so far. Kent went to League of Women Voters forum.

Environmental Voter Project Challenge – Mary

Letters to the Editor, Social Media, etc. - Judy

Sign Waving – Simon. People in WA getting their ballots; letters to editor have a big effect right now. We're not waving signs in Idaho. Sign waving is impactful. Timing will be late afternoon before dark. Saturday afternoon 3 PM onwards. Dress warmly. Text or e-mail Simon: 509-338-5121.

Mary will send a letter to everyone in ID on our CCL mailing list about challenges in ID.

Presentations in classes. Upper level French classes looking for topics. Leonard is going to talk about *rechauffement climatique*.

Ongoing Palouse CCL Initiatives and Actions

- **Lobbying Congress** - Ian (Senator Risch), Mac (Senator Crapo, ID), Judy (Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers)
- **Carbon Pricing and Cash-back** – Margaret Davis (lead)
- **Building Electrification and Efficiency**—Mary DuPree and Mac Cantrell (leads)
- **Forests**—Leonard Garrison (lead)
- **Pullman City** – Azdren Coma, Marilyn Von Seggern
- **Moscow City** – Mary DuPree
 - Saving Green Columns
- **Tabling** – Simon Smith
- **Outreach to rural communities** — Bill Voxman and Kathy Dawes
- **Publications** – Judy Meuth, Pete Haug (print); Website – Joe Pallen; Facebook—Margaret Davis
- **Social Media** – Gisell Zuniga
- **Presentations** - Judy

Continuing Individual Actions

- Watch the monthly national call and guest speaker 3rd Saturday of the month on CCL Community
- Log actions on CCL's Action Tracker: <https://community.citizensclimate.org/actions/home>
- Send photos and info about CCL and our activities to Margaret Davis and Gisell Zuniga

Next meeting Nov 21, 5:30-7, Fiske Room, 1912 Center, Moscow

COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE

Practice talking about the importance of voting

Chat with your friends, family and neighbors about the importance of voting as you help them register and make a plan to vote. Use the exercise below to get ready for these discussions.

- At CCL, we pursue climate solutions through the process of democracy. That means building influence in our communities, lobbying our lawmakers — and voting.
- According to the Environmental Voter Project, an estimated 8 million people who care about the environment did not vote in the 2020 presidential election, and over 13 million skipped the 2022 midterms.
- Unfortunately, when environmentalists and climate-concerned people don't vote, politicians are less likely to prioritize those issues.
- But when more climate-concerned people vote, it makes climate a higher priority in this election and future elections.
- It's important for climate-concerned people of both parties to be consistent voters. That signals to every Republican and every Democratic candidate that they must have a strong position on climate change to win their support.

Contact info <https://cclpalouse.org>

CCL Meeting Zoom joining info Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84989723588?pwd=ejBiUkdZRIIzK3BBZkVXOStwdVJVZz09>

Meeting ID: 849 8972 3588

Passcode: 113356

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84989723588?pwd=ejBiUkdZRIIzK3BBZkVXOStwdVJVZz09>