

Minutes Nov. 21, 2024, 5:30-7:00 pm
Citizens' Climate Lobby –Fiske Room, 1912 Center in Moscow or via Zoom
(Zoom link and contact info for individuals mentioned below are at the end of this Agenda)

Introductions

Paul Spencer, Kent Keller, Steve Flint, Judy Meuth, Bill Voxman, Marilyn Von Seggern, Mary DuPree, Bill Engels, Trish Hartzell, Simon Smith, Leonard Garrison, Margaret Davis, Gisell Zuniga, Mac Cantrell, Danielle Fulcher, Shane Roche, Ashley Hartman, Eric Slusher, Evelyn Simon, Philip Shinn, Shannon Scott, Nella Letizia, Kathy Dawes, Tom Gorman, Lee Anne Eareckson, David Nelson, Eric Odberg

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** “Positioning for Progress” Dec 6 & 7, 2024. FREE! Register now at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/climate-change-conferences/fall/>
- CCL is hosting a **Climate Advocate Lobby Training** right before the Fall Conference Saturday, Dec. 7, 11am ET/8am PT. [Separate registration](#) required.
- Conference **Watch Party** Dec.7, 10-1 at 622 East B in Moscow
 - 4-5 hours, may come late, leave early, time to sit together
 - Bring food or not.
- CCL Palouse **Leadership Group will meet** Dec.19 at 5:30. Are you interested in helping shape our chapter and work? Let Judy or Mary know. Hoping to invite new people to leadership group.

Successes

No on I-2117!

Proposed Harvest Hills Wind Farm in Whitman County

Presenters from Steelhead: Shane Roche (also Ashley Hartman and Eric Slusher).

We will continue our discussion at the January meeting, including local landowners.

- 45 turbines planned
- Seeking endorsement from CCL of the Palouse
- Harvest Hills is the project, the company is Vestas (the world’s largest turbine company based in Denmark) and Steelhead is Vestas’ North American development arm.
- Harvest Hills 45 turbines connecting to 230kV Avista transmission line.
- Payments from HH project provide revenue to farmers and bring in 100s of jobs during construction.
- The process involves meteorological towers, environmental impact statements, land leasing, local approval, permit application either through the state or county (in this case, Whitman County). The county evaluation and permit hearings will take place late 2025 and early 2026. This is when the public can review and comment.
- 85% of turbines are recyclable; the hardest to recycle are the fiberglass blades. Currently research into how to recycle fiberglass is going on.
- The lifespan of an entire turbine is 30 years on average. They will probably be replaced as they go.
- Q and A:
 - County will hold bond so if company dissolves (not likely) the bond will pay to decommission turbines.
 - Height of turbines is 650 feet at top of blade. This height increases the turbines’ capacity and allows greater spatial separation.

- Once the permit application is submitted, the community can have input into making changes.
 - In one hour, one turbine generates enough power to supply a house for one year. Over the year, the entire project will generate enough energy to power 100,000 homes. (There are 8760 hours in a year. Assume conservatively the project is producing at full production 1/3 of the time. Each turbine is 4.5MW, so each hour of full production is 4.5MWhrs. The average household consumes 4.5MWhrs in a year. There will be around 45 turbines in the project.)
 - Avian studies will be public when permit application is submitted.
 - Landowners interested in leasing land for a turbine(s) are working with HH to sign leases. The company will consult landowners on placement of roads. Where a turbine can be sited is limited. Underground electrical wiring may not follow roads. Roads likely will connect to county roads.
 - Solar farms usually take more acreage than wind farms (1 acre for each turbine).
 - The minimum setback for participating houses will be 1500 feet. For non-participating households, the county setback requirement is 4 times the turbine tip height. The tip height will be ~650 feet, so the setback will be 2600 feet (approximately ½ mile) from non-participating households.
 - Is there enough transmission to get the electricity to the grid? Already gone through that w Avista and this area has sufficient capacity.
 - Q: how to respond to critics who want to preserve beauty of Palouse, e.g. Photographers of the Palouse? A: turbines won't be very close to Kamiak Butte, but will be visible in the distance from some viewpoints. This is the only type, and height, of turbine that is possible in this project.
 - The project will be getting money from IRA as tax credits.
1. We use a minimum setback from participating houses to be 1500ft. For non-participating households, the county setback requirement is 4x tip height. We are planning turbines that will have a tip height of ~650ft, so the setback will be 2600ft (~1/2 mile) from non-participating households.

We'll have discussion next meeting before making decision on endorsement and we will solicit the input of landowners in the project area. Shane's presentation will be on follow up email.

The Road Ahead: Discussion; Report from national CCL leaders

From the November monthly meeting, quote from Rebecca Solnit including "There is no alternative to persevering."

Comments from Ben Pendergrass: our basic goal now is to get permitting reform passed during the Lame Duck session. We can ask all our members of congress to support it as there is strong bipartisan support. Our secondary ask may be to support passage of the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act.

The carbon border adjustment will be only part of the EICDA that could be passed in the new Congress. Income from that will most likely go to government expenditures rather than dividends to citizens.

There are a number of Republicans who don't want the entire Inflation Reduction Act reversed; there is lot of money going to Republican districts partly because wind and solar projects tend to be in rural areas, so they will try to hold onto that money. Money that has already gone to states but not yet spent

is unlikely to get clawed back. CCL will look at which provisions of the IRA have created most benefits against climate change. It seems that building efficiency and electrification and electric vehicles are most effective. A letter from 18 house republicans to Mike Johnson asked to retain the IRA. Republican Utah senator-elect John Curtis will be keynote speaker at the virtual conference on Dec.7.

Suggested Actions—all facilitated at cclusa.org with suffixes below

1. Thank Pres. Biden for IRA etc., reinforce climate goals in next 2 months: /Biden
2. Ask your current members of Congress to act on climate change: /write
3. Spread the CCL word on social media: /stw
4. Help fundraise for CCL: /pledgeit
 - a. Note cce donations tax deductible, ccl not tax deductible. Welcome donations for our chapter.
5. Text friends and family to help grow CCL
6. Write an LTE to keep climate on MOC's and others' minds: /LTE

Ongoing Palouse CCL Initiatives and Actions

- **Lobbying Congress** - Ian (Senator Risch), Mac (Senator Crapo, ID), Judy (Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, WA)
 - The team for McMorris Rodgers (led by Judy) includes Gisell, Steve, Bill Engels and Kent and will meet with the McMorris Rodgers office soon. Ian Schlater is liaison to Sen. Risch. The Crapo team, Mac, Leonard and others, will meet with Crapo's office Tuesday Dec 10 at 11 AM.
- **Carbon Pricing and Cash-back** – Margaret Davis (lead)
- **Building Electrification and Efficiency**—Mary DuPree and Mac Cantrell (leads)
- **Forests**—Leonard Garrison (lead) There is a Pacific northwest group of ccl chapters working to to build alert list for any rules coming out... let leonard know if you want to receive those alerts.
- **Pullman City** – Azdren Coma, Marilyn Von Seggern
- **Moscow City** – Mary DuPree climate action in Moscow to put solar on city shop.
 - Saving Green Columns upcoming: efficient laundry practices, transportation. Ideas for future topics? Community food systems, more?
- **Tabling** – Simon Smith
- **Outreach to rural communities** — Bill Voxman and Kathy Dawes
- **Publications** – Judy Meuth, Pete Haug (print); Website – Joe Pallen; Facebook—Margaret Davis
 - Bill Engels had articles on I-2117 in Whitman County Gazette and other papers
- **Social Media** – Gisell Zuniga
- **Presentations** – Marilyn Von Seggern and Judy Meuth worked w WSU students to create social media re. No on 2117. Good education. Went to clubs and sports teams and sororities, etc.
- **Gisell:** The WSU ESA contacted Gisell about Earth Week- the club wants to set up a meeting next semester.

Note: New website online! Cclpalouse.org

Continuing Individual Actions

- Watch the monthly national call on the 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 Jan.16, 5:30-7, Fiske Room, 1912 Center, Moscow

COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE

Practice inviting a friend to attend the Conference Watch Party with you

You will soon establish relationships with new members of Congress (MOC) and further relationships with returning MOCs. To build your chapters' capacity to effectively advocate climate policy to your MOCs, you need to be good at

inviting people to join, learn and act. You can use the dialog below to practice making that ask, or adapt the dialog into your own words or even develop your own exercise.

Imagine you've just called a friend to invite them to join you at the watch party. Start by gently turning the conversation to climate change and ask an open question. If you hear interest, invite them to join you at a CCL activity such as our Fall Virtual Conference, a chapter SOCIAL or a grassroots event.

You: "I haven't seen you in ages, so I thought I'd give you a call."

Your friend: "Hi, great to hear from you! What's new?"

You: "I was doing election work last month and now I'm recovering. Also, I got together with my Citizens' Climate Lobby friends in June to advocate for policy. What do you think about the recent news that climate change made Hurricane Helene worse?"

Your friend: "Yeah, that was distressing. The hurricanes are the worst I've ever seen. I'm getting more worried about the future."

You: "It sounds like you're concerned that extreme weather will continue to get worse due to climate change?"

Your friend: "You're right. What more can I do to help? We have solar panels and an electric vehicle."

You: "Would you like to watch our CCL Fall Conference with me and my chapter on Saturday, December 7? You'll learn what more you can do to help and meet my awesome CCL friends!"

Your friend: "I think I'm free that Saturday. Can you text me the location info?"

Contact info <https://cclpalouse.org>

CCL Meeting Zoom joining info Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84989723588?pwd=ejBiUkdZRllzK3BBZkVXOStwdVJVZz09>

Meeting ID: 849 8972 3588

Passcode: 113356

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdfZJY7ruZ>