

MINUTES Jan 15, 2025, 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)

Values Statement: We are committed to working towards fair, effective, and enduring policies to address climate change, and to a process that is inclusive, non-partisan, and respectful of diverse points of view.

Introductions

Judy Meuth, Steve Flint, Margaret Davis, Bill Engels, Mary Dupree, Mac Cantrell, Marilyn Von Seggern, Simon Smith, Kent Keller, Tom Benneman, Chloe Belfer-Sanford.

Announcements

- Jan 20 - Fossil-Free WSU meeting Tuesday 5 PM CUB WSU 406 Bill will send out an email for zoom attendance.
- Jan 12 - Feb. 26. For WA and ID residents: The US EPA, US Dept of Energy, and WA Dept of Ecology want your feedback on communications and public engagement related to cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Site – Fill out this short survey available Jan 12 - Feb. 26, 2026. https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=F-LQEU4mCkCLOFfcwSfXLSXB1OjiPz9GoYvZKi1ghmFUNjdXVUdFNkJOU1Q1TVWWOUFKRFo3MDk2QSQIQCN0PWcu&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&route=shorturl
- Jan 22, 5 pm – CCL BRIDGE Live Session. From Intuition to Insight: How we all make meaning. Jan 22, 5pm Pacific, <https://community.citizensclimate.org/events/item/24/20075>
- Mar 30 – Apr 15. Spring recess for Congress.
- CCL Summer Conference and Lobby Day in DC: July 26-28, 2026

Action Alert – Preserve NCAR Funding - Congress is staring down their next deadline to fund the government for 2026. If they don't pass a bipartisan spending bill by Jan. 30, we're heading for a partial government shutdown. The administration would like to cut funding for the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). It is funded out of the NSF appropriations committee; the administration doesn't have control but is pressuring Congress to cut so we should ask our members of congress to protect it. NCAR collects important data. In October we lobbied for keeping NASA and NOAA and that funding was retained. There is some bipartisan push to keep the funding. LTEs will help, but may not be in time. The margins in congress are thin. Tell your members of Congress to retain this funding critical for climate science and solutions. cclusa.org/ncar

CCL Monthly Call – Mary: there is usually a guest speaker at the monthly call. Next time Mary can't attend. M. Davis volunteered to attend instead and report back on the call.

CCL BRIDGE Advocacy Program – Judy

Building Relationships in Dialogue, Growth, and Engagement — program designed to strengthen communication skills and deepen relationships with congressional offices <https://community.citizensclimate.org/BRIDGE/Unit-1>. Live session - From Intuition to Insight: How we all make meaning, Jan 22, 5pm Pacific, <https://community.citizensclimate.org/events/item/24/20075>

This program is based on change theory - how people decide to change. It is similar to the Braver Angels approach. The first unit is on trying to figure out why people believe what they believe and how to change beliefs.

Energy Permitting Reform – This is the most important clean energy and climate policy opportunity in the 119th Congress. To learn more, check out trainings at <https://community.citizensclimate.org/events/item/24/20073> Even many of the projects remaining from the IRA won't happen until permitting reform can be done. Recently the Trump administration paused offshore wind projects – this has not happened before – and the Democrats have now refused to work on permitting reform until the wind projects are un-paused. Although there are several permitting reform bills proposed, CCL is saying that, for our support, they must 1) increase transmission capacity, 2) speed up building time, 3) provide certainty in spite of presidential decisions, and 3) promote community engagement. Some states have sued- some projects have been restored, and some not. We need to call our representatives and write LTEs. We need to have assurances that a project will not be stopped. Go to the permitting reform page at CCL (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/our-climate-solutions/clean-energy-permitting-reform-2/>) to start the new training series. Energy prices are going up in certain regions because

of AI. Mention your member of congress in LTEs! Over 90% of approved projects are clean energy because they are cheaper and faster to build.

Energy Efficiency and Electrification Fair, April 4, 2026 – Leonard, Mac, Mary, Margaret, Simon, Judy

Mac: We are working on getting sponsors and exhibitors. There is good progress getting sponsors (Avista, City of Moscow, Inland Power, Moscow Building Supply, etc. Now we need to get contractors and other exhibitors. Bill will contact NW Electric. We need 40 exhibitors and have fewer than 10. We need to get it out more, please let everyone you know know about it. Chloe mentions getting info out via Sunrise Palouse social media at WSU. Simon contacted KRFP – We will buy several months of public service announcements from the station.

Mac - We want food trucks – let us know if you know of possibilities. Marianna's tamales has already been contacted.

It would be nice to have a subcommittee to work on the logistics at the fairgrounds. For example, will we want a banner and how much in advance do we need to order it?

LTEs – Speaking Up – Judy

Note: The volume of LTEs is important.

CCL has a designated person to help with letters to the Editor, Charlotte Ward. There is also a great resource on writing LTEs and LTE topics at <https://community.citizensclimate.org/tools/write-letters-to-the-editor#/63/>

- Tom from Spokane: Spokesman Review is interested in broader coverage on issues. The submission form may ask for what prior published article you're referring to. Letters that refer to previous articles are more likely to be published. Rebuttal letters help develop their readership. It's good to tie your topic to personal experience, a local issue, having an action to recommend, etc.
- Some pertinent topics:
 - NCAR funding.
 - New Year, healthy climate. Asking congress to take bipartisan action, if you can thank MOCs for something it would be helpful.
 - Interview with Bill McKibben on NPR about his new book “[Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization.](https://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=fis-1039694603-6acf3499821e40b95a1000266649033:fis-1039694603-6acf3499821e40b95a1000266649033-enclosure-audio)” <https://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=fis-1039694603-6acf3499821e40b95a1000266649033-enclosure-audio>
 - Permitting Reform – there are several policies introduced. CCL is not backing any particular one but asks for four things (see above). Locally, the wind turbines issue, our recent wind storm and the susceptibility of the grid, possibilities for balcony solar, general local population growth, we need more energy, the US needs energy, the low snow pack threatens hydro sources. Alternative sources need to be developed. The reason for the locations of the proposed wind turbines is because of existing transmission infrastructure. In Whitman County in late 2024 a proposed solar farm was canceled because of no transmission close enough. Judy will send out information regarding LTEs in the follow-up email, and if you write a letter, let us all know about it.

Communication Exercise – (near end of agenda) - Judy

Ongoing Palouse CCL Initiatives and Actions

Lobbying at State Level: 1) Washington State SB 5727 would support subsidies for home battery systems to get more people with electrical storage capacity that can be called on by utilities. 2) ESSB-5466 - To create the Washington Electric Transmission Authority, a statewide hub that accelerates planning, upgrades, and new transmission lines.

- **Lobbying Congress** - Ian (Senator Risch ID), Judy (Rep. Baumgartner, WA)
- **National CCL Initiatives: local team leaders:**
 - **Carbon Pricing:** Carbon Border Adjustments— Margaret Davis (lead)
 - **Building Electrification and Efficiency**—Mary DuPree and Mac Cantrell (leads)
 - **Healthy Forests**—Leonard Garrison (lead)
 - **Permitting Reform**
- **Pullman City** –Marilyn Von Seggern, Stephan Flint

- The city is updating its comprehensive plan. They don't expect it to be done for a few years. They are going chapter by chapter and having public meetings. Marilyn will be sending out the climate related chapters for comments. With respect to climate, it is pretty good – they are getting input from the state.
- Steve: The Environmental Resilience Commission plans to have a climate action team but are changing the name and responsibilities. In two weeks, we'll be asking the Pullman city council to be sponsor for the EEE fair and we hope they will help with publicity.
- **Moscow City** – Mary DuPree
 - *Saving Green Columns* - we have 3 in the hopper.
 - Sustainability Commission has openings in Moscow - would anybody like to be on that commission? Contact the mayor.
- **Tabling** – Simon Smith
- **Agriculture and rural issues**—Judy Meuth, Bill Voxman, Kathy Dawes
- **Publications** – Judy Meuth; Website – Joe Pallen; Facebook—Margaret Davis
- **Social Media** – Margaret Davis
- **Presentations** – Simon Smith, Judy Meuth

Continuing Individual Actions

- Watch the monthly national call on the 2nd 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

COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE: How CCL Makes an Impact - Judy

The Prompt

Imagine someone asks you: “*What’s the deal with CCL — what are you working on right now?*” or “*How can regular people even make an impact on Congress anymore?*”

One response could be: “*The political moment feels pretty volatile right now. Between everything happening in government and the accelerating climate impacts, a lot can feel out of our control. But one thing isn’t — how we show up in conversations with the people who make decisions.*

That’s why CCL is training volunteers in three areas:

- *understanding how people form beliefs and what actually motivates them,*
- *building communication skills that create trust instead of conflict, and*
- *helping members of Congress move step-by-step toward climate leadership instead of expecting big leaps all at once.*

A lot of groups focus mainly on pressure. Our approach is different — we work to change the conditions that allow lawmakers to act, by making sure climate action feels important, feasible, and politically safe in their world. That’s what keeps doors open and lets real progress keep moving forward, no matter who’s in office.”

Take a couple of minutes to jot down how you might respond to the question in your own words. The example above highlights a helpful structure that 1) acknowledges the moment 2) names what's in our control 3) explains CCL's strategy and 4) connects to how they can make a difference. When ready, turn to a partner (or pair up in Zoom breakout rooms). One person asks: “**So what is CCL up to right now?**” The other gives their **20–30 second response**. Switch roles.

Next meeting Feb 19, 5:30-7, Community Congregational Church, Pullman

Contact Info: (Contact Information Removed)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85948476493?pwd=9oBlwOswUuteymndoJST9UonkX1Jj0.1>

Meeting ID: 859 4847 6493, Passcode: 939133

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcPzsxgRxy>