

June 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Barbara Menne, Sue Lepore, Chuck Jensen, Nancy Atwood (and Zion!), Linda Whipple, Cathy Carruthers, Linda Cohan, Jason Berkowitz. This was an in-person meeting at the University Place Atrium.

Action Team Reports

Postcard writing, Cathy Carruthers—Currently we are supporting [Anders Ibsen for Mayor of Tacoma](#). He is well-known, experienced, and definitely dedicated to climate action. You don't need to be a resident of **Tacoma** to join in. Soon we will expand to [Brian Yambe](#) for **County Council**. (This is political work that we engage in as individuals, not **CCLers**. If you would rather work on something **CCL**-approved, there are [Progressive Turnout Project's](#) get out the vote postcards to swing states and some [Environmental Voter Project](#) cards). It's a fun social time in **Cathy's** cute little "office" house at **1020 S. 72nd St.**, with snacks and chats to keep us going! *Cathy will be out of town next week*, but normally we meet **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays 12:30-2:30** and every **1st and 2nd Sunday at 1-3**. Please try to carpool as parking is limited to the back drive, there is no street parking. Any questions or interest in alternate times or in working from home, just contact [Cathy](#).

Tabling, Linda Cohan and Barbara Menne—

We are looking for additional venues for tabling this summer, we have a long gap before the [Hilltop Street Fair](#) on **Aug. 23rd**. Earth GAY July 26? The EV event Aug. 24?

Announcements

Annual CCL Tacoma July potluck picnic

Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 til dark

Junett Community Garden at N. Junett & N. 16th St.

Bring a potluck dish to share, table service, a lawn chair if you like
and a drink (lemonade and water provided).

Families are welcome, it's a social event not a business meeting.

I

This CCL national news just came from our state group leaders:

"Rachel Kerestes has notified the board of directors and staff that she will resign her position as Executive Director effective July 15. Rachel came into her role at a time of crisis for CCL and together with the board, made key moves to stabilize the organization. We are grateful to her for her considerable efforts. The CCE and CCL boards have offered **Ricky Bradley**, VP of Operations, the role of interim Executive Director, and he has accepted the offer. Ricky will officially assume the role on July 16, but beginning now, will work closely with Rachel and the boards on the transition."

“Before this news, Group leaders put together a [letter to Rachel and the board asking CCL to be more active in defending democracy](#). Some Washington GLs have signed on and we want you to be aware of this if you weren’t already and encourage you to participate as you see fit. No telling how the change in leadership will impact this issue, but as many of you know, Ricky has already been very active in explaining CCL’s current stance.”

We discussed how difficult this time is for climate lobbying, dealing with an Administration and Congress intent on defeating all climate policy bills and rolling back the great progress that was made with the IRA. “Democracy” has always been CCL’s “solution” to the climate crisis, but now it is extremely difficult to adhere to the bipartisan stance we are supposed to take. It is hard to know where to set our priorities when the attack on our democracy seems more urgent than anything else.

Getting our messages out-- brainstorming session

We want to find ways to do more as CCL volunteers, and engaging more often in communication could be one way. Research shows that it does make an impact. Let’s up our game in this realm of activism, trying to make it more habitual. There are so many options and they have a broad range of levels of difficulty. Working together, we can use them all, for many purposes. Our discussion began with a detailed look at the possibilities and methods.

Types of Messages

Appreciation: An example is the letter we all signed at the Holiday party and sent to Derek Kilmer, thanking him for his years of service and friendship with CCL. We can send thanks to anyone who is working hard for the environment, and we can offer them our support. Leaders from federal, state, local on down--it can be about a specific vote they took or issue they dealt with, or just a general thank you. Their job is very hard, especially now, especially nationally. Any support and praise would be welcome! We could broaden it to include other local climate groups, offering partnership.

To sway or influence: We do a lot of this during the state legislative sessions, to support or oppose a bill (emails are often all set up and easy to do by just pushing a button). Often called “the ask.” This can be sent to an official or just to the general public—social media is full of these. It could take the form of a general message about something that should be stopped, exposed, corrected, supported...

Information: Part of our outreach/educational branch, for instance at tabling or presentations. It shows others what we’re about and hopefully sparks their interest. Often seen in our website and newsletter offerings, such as the ARTivism page. A scientific fact, an upcoming event, an inspiring restoration of nature, a valuable resource, a group to get involved with. It’s good to spread some positive news.

Types of media

In person—simply our presence can be a message, like at a town hall or lobby or council meeting, a tabling conversation, or just talking to a friend or neighbor. Our resilience group, (our version of the “Climate Café” global movement) is all about that.

Phone calls—CCL no longer has the monthly call program (to our US Senators and representatives), but it is still effective to leave a message with elected’s office staff. They definitely do keep statistics on public opinion.

Letters, postcards—actual paper mailings carry a certain weight! A stack of signed petitions (part of a tabling event) were recently delivered in person and got quite the respectful notice! Postcard-writing, which has become one of our favorite group activities, does tend to be focused on elections, but we could modify that to a straightforward environmental message.

Email—these can go straight to an official, be on any topic, and range from a composition (with or without AI assistance) to a pre-written message ready to go.

LTES and opeds—these take the most effort, but there’s no need to be too intimidated. Readership and publication numbers have decreased, but they can still be effective. CCL Community has tutorials, suggested topics, talking points, etc. Perhaps we could work in small writing groups to create some. Several of our members have written them in the past, often with a personal tone, which is most effective.

Website and newsletter—are full of all three kinds of messages, to the general public and/or members. Suggestions and opinions/features can be submitted any time!

Social media—is a really good place for us to start trying to increase our activity, since at the easiest level it entails no more than a “like” or “repost!” On another level, several of us have been coming up with more posts and photos and comments lately. Again, suggestions for topics, events, ideas, issues, photos to post would be really welcome, even if you don’t feel comfortable posting them yourself.

Ideas for projects

Appreciation to Kristina Walker and Sarah Rumbaugh, city council, for backing the Reforest Tacoma project.

Appreciation to other local climate groups/ partnership and support

Posts or letters to the editor about Reforest Tacoma, home electrification, Communities for a Healthy Bay’s “Dirty Dozen” report.

Email to the chapter roster with a simple poll questionnaire about next steps.

Appreciation to our city council and county councilmembers and Ryan Mello, county executive , as well as our state and federal senators and representatives for all they do.

Post information on statements and stances of local candidates this fall