

November 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Chuck Jensen, Barbara Menne, Sue Lepore, Linda Cohan, Linda Whipple, Nancy Atwood, Michael Humkey, Mustafa Haziq, Peggy LovellFord, Jason Berkowitz.
This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Reactions to Election Results

First, we focused on encouraging state and local results, with **Governor Inslee's** message for a positive note. Then we separated into breakout rooms of 3 or 4 members, to share how we've been feeling and what has helped us cope with the federal results and where to move forward.

Gov. Jay Inslee released the following statement in response to Tuesday's general election results.

"I would like to congratulate all of our state elected leaders. For the first time in generations, voters picked **a full slate of Democrats to lead our nine statewide elected offices**. Their leadership will be more crucial than ever during the next four years, and we couldn't ask for a better team to protect Washington values. Bob Ferguson is a sharp public servant who will be an excellent governor. Nick Brown will be a dynamic attorney general. Washingtonians have only seen a preview of Nick's potential as a fighter for justice.

"Last night, Washingtonians sent an unequivocal message that they want action on pollution and climate change. Washingtonians also made clear they want to preserve the equity of our tax system with the capital gains tax on the super wealthy. When they or a loved one need long-term care, they want the WA Cares Act to be there for them.

"I want to thank Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for their service to our country. **Many are understandably worried about the outcome of the presidential election, but Washingtonians know we've been here before. Washington has strong statutes that protect our values, and when Trump messed with our state we sued him 97 times – only losing two cases on the merits while he was in office.** Our state and others formed enduring alliances for progress during Trump's first term in office, and we will continue to push the needle of progress for a more perfect union."

Elly Claus-McGahan reported on local/county elections and activities.

Elections for the county went well, very happy to be living here! Councilmember **Jani Hitchin** won her race, so it is a majority climate-active **Pierce County Council**. **Marty Campbell** is moving to assessor position, and there's a concern that before he switches over, he may vote for keeping the **rural density bonus**, a major policy in the **Comprehensive Plan** that encourages development in rural areas (bad for traffic, emissions, more roads built, more trees cut down...) Some will write to him about changing his mind on this. It is frustrating how the politics go in spite of our constant efforts to keep sustainability in mind.

The countywide **Pierce County Climate Conversation** group is currently working on creating a model of problem-solving that can be used as a template for our climate issues. Figuring out how you set a goal, and what kind of policies and background information do you have to have

before you get to implementation/funding. First up will be tree canopy concerns, hopefully using that later as a template for other problems such as building electrification. A panel discussion is planned, moderated by **Lowell Wyse** of the **Tacoma Tree Foundation** and planners from **Tacoma** and hopefully from **Bonney Lake** and **Lakewood** too.

Ryan Mello, our new **County Executive**, is very energetic and a great collaborator. He believes that our big problems must be solved on a regional basis and are all connected, whether they be affordable housing, mental health crisis, climate change, building an EV charging network. These are not isolated problems, you cannot solve them in your own silo.

Climate Commitment Act dollars may be shifted around now since budgets will be tighter due to less federal government funding for climate.

The [En-ROADS](#) **global climate simulator** has recently been updated. Maybe it's time to bring this to the attention of our federal leaders again?

Action Reports

Michael Humkey, campus outreach--After some time, he received some response to his first outreach emails from **University of Washington Tacoma** contacts, the Sustainability Commission and Civic Engagement liaisons. Thanks to **Michael** for taking this first step! They are asking for more details about how we want this partnership to work. A group of us will work with him about how best to respond. For instance, we should make sure that they are aware that there is a national campus **CCL** movement, (cfdmovement.org)--they could start their own chapter of that.

Sue Lepore, Social Media--The group approved the idea of changing our **X** account to **Bluesky**.

Sue Lepore, starting a resilience group--These troubled times call for an emphasis on community and support! I recently sent out a query to members about starting a group that may help us process what's going on. The response was very positive, so this Friday the 22nd we will have an initial, organizing meeting at **Cutter's Point** on 6th Ave. and go from there.

Generally, I'm thinking it should be:

In person, at the same place and time, every week-- just come when you can, whoever shows, shows. (No reminder emails needed!)

Not necessarily CCL business, just a general focus on current events and how we feel about the state of the world, what if anything makes us feel better.

Not limited to CCL members, invite anyone you think this would benefit.

I realize this timing probably won't work for those of us with jobs, I apologize in advance and would encourage you to try to start a weekends/evenings group.

Chuck Jensen, LTE's--After this election, we really need to speak out about the importance of climate change action in the face of climate deniers in the new administration. So in the next 7-10 days, let's try to get a letter to the editor published in the **Tacoma News Tribune**! There's a [link](#) on their website about how to submit. If three or four of us each submit one, maybe one

of them will get in. It must be less than 150 words but can be much shorter than that. The **CCL** national website has a good guide for how to write an LTE.

Barbara Menne, CCL priority advocacy actions—During this “Lame Duck” period, **CCL** is prioritizing the following messages to send to our members of **Congress**:

- **Pass the Senate Permitting Reform Bill**
- **Pass the RISE Act (wind power permitting)**
- **Defend the Inflation Reduction Act’s funding and policies**
- **Climate still needs to be a priority issue for government**

CCL Community offers a streamlined way to take these actions on the website. After you log in and hit “take action,” there will be a “Write Congress” screen, where you enter your address and zip and a readymade customizable message appears for you to sign and send.

Linda Cohan, [Environmental Voter Project](#)—Just because the general election is over, that doesn’t mean the **EVP** has stopped its work! It’s an amazing, effective organization and a close ally of **CCL**. Early results show that 710,739 of the voters they targeted voted early and were first-time voters. Founder **Nathaniel Stinnett** explains their winning strategy:

“our goal is not to win one-off elections, but rather to change the underlying electorate by a) identifying states with large populations of non-voting environmentalists, b) investing in detailed voter research, and then c) using every election as a behavioral intervention opportunity to grow the power of that state’s environmental movement.”

So it’s a year-round effort, they work on down-ballot elections in key states as a way to get people in the habit of voting, and in every election. **Linda** has volunteered for them for quite a while, and highly recommends it.

Announcements

Saturday, Dec. 7, CCL National’s Virtual Conference, [“Positioning for Progress.”](#)

“Join us at our fall virtual conference for an insider’s look at what Congress is expected to tackle on climate change.”

Speakers include **John Curtis** (Senator elect, UT), **Rachel Kerestes** (CCL Executive Director), **Adam Met** (Musician from the band AJR, Planet Reimagined), **Ben Stillerman** (documentary filmmaker, Social Cohesion Project), **Ben Pendergrass**, CCL VP of Government Affairs)

[Register](#). If you can’t make it, they usually offer recordings on YouTube a few days later.

Our December meeting will be a **Holiday Dinner on **Sunday, Dec. 8, 4-6:30 pm**.** We are still looking for a centrally-located venue, so far we have some possibilities like party rooms at **Doyle’s Pub** or **RoundHouse Pizza**. We would be ordering their food, not making it a potluck. **Mustafa, Chuck, and Barbara** will set up plans. Check our [website](#) for developments!

In **January's** meeting we'll focus on the **State legislature 2025 long session (Jan-April)** and which climate bills to study and support. Some groups like [Washington Conservation Action](#) And [350wa.org](#) have good packaging that makes it really easy to know what bills are up for public online commenting and how to do it with just a few clicks. Check out their websites to get on their email alert lists!

We need to draft an appreciation letter to 6th district Representative, steadfast climate champion, and **CCL** friend **Derek Kilmer** who is leaving **Congress** after 13 years. He will be working for the Rockefeller Foundation as Senior Vice President of US. Program and Policy team. Contact [Elly](#) or [Chuck](#) to help draft it. They can bring the finished letter to the **December** party to sign!