

February 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Chuck Jensen, Barbara Menne, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Mustafa Haziq, Elly Claus-McGahan, Jason Berkowitz, Linda Cohan, Allan Maas, and Peggy LovellFord. This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Action Team Reports

Get Out the Climate Vote Group, Nancy Atwood—We held three very well-attended parties and produced 811 letters for **Greenpeace** for the **CA** primaries! They were shipped to a friend of Nancy's in California for mailing. It's fun doing this admittedly tedious but very effective work with friends in a social setting. And it's very good to feel like you are making a difference. Studies show that handwritten mailings are the most effective outreach of this type. On **Sunday, March 17 at 3-5 pm, Cathy Carruthers** has organized postcard-writing for the campaigns of two local climate action candidates-- **Ryan Mello** and **Jani Hitchen**. (This would not be officially **CCL** work since it endorses specific candidates and **CCL** is nonpartisan, so one's participation will be left up to the individual to decide.) Contact [John](#) or [Nancy](#) for party location address.

Linda Cohan encouraged participation in the [Environmental Voter Project](#) as well, although that is phone banking, not writing. You can get a quick training and begin any **Wednesday at 4 pm**. It's a really great and effective program and an official partner with **CCL**.

Tabling Committee, Linda Cohan—There is an opportunity to participate in the **Sustainable Food Festival** at the **University of Puget Sound** on **April 19**. We've been in contact with **Lily Poe, Project Manager for the Sustainability Services** program there. This looks promising since we are currently trying to establish connections for outreach to local colleges. We could promote their participation in **CCL's** youth-oriented ["Carbon Fee and Dividend Movement"](#) At our **Feb. 12** meeting we continued to discuss ideas about the simplified tabling method (can be done more spontaneously, in more locations, and with fewer volunteers without the whole booth setup.) We'd like to form a sub-committee of 3-4 people to work out the details and set up an action plan. Our next meeting is **Monday, Feb. 26, 7 pm on Zoom**. Please contact [Linda Cohan](#) to attend.

"Go Electric" hub at the [South Sound Sustainability Expo](#), **Barbara Menne**—This large Expo, on **Saturday, April 13** from **10-3** on the **UW-Tacoma** campus, is a regular part of our annual tabling calendar, but this year **Barbara** is working with the organizers to create a distinct information hub for household electrification and related **IRA** tax credits and rebates. The idea is to provide "one-stop-shopping" with representatives from utilities, financial providers, government agencies, contractors, etc., all clustered together in one zone. Barbara showed an example of a red and yellow felt "lightning bolt" sign she'd made, a stand-up array of these could mark off that zone. (attached to traffic cones?) Our booth will have a **"GO ELECTRIC INFO HUB"** banner and we will concentrate on helping people make a personal plan to transition to electric,

pointing out helpful websites such as [Rewiring America](#) and [The Switch Is On Washington](#), with QR codes. Interest and ideas, email [Barbara](#).

Climate Pierce County, Elly Claus-McGahan— The **Pierce County Conversation Group** will meet in **March**, focusing on building decarbonization. They will hear from the same host group as Friday's [Clean Building Symposium](#) (see below) regarding large commercial buildings under the Clean Buildings Act. [Electrify now](#) will also come and talk about residential transition, spotlighting the new [The Switch is on Washington](#) website (where you can put in your zip code and it will tell you what rebates and incentives are available to you.)

[Puget Sound Clean Air Agency](#) was the lead for dealing with the EPA's [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#), a huge federal grant for which they must put together a **priority climate action list** covering this whole area. Unfortunately, **Pierce Co.** is behind in listing ready-to-fund projects. There are many stipulations now for project locations due to environmental justice concerns. (Identifying these projects as they fit with the grants will be a multi-year effort---it depends on the right people staying in their elected positions-- so we need to do our job and *write those postcards!*)

Announcements

Tacoma-Pierce Co. [Clean Building Symposium](#)

Friday, Feb 23 8am -12 pm, University of Puget Sound, Wheelock Student Center Upper Marshall Hall, 1500 N. Warner St #1093. Barbara, Elly and Chuck plan to attend this continuing education program about compliance with **WA's Clean Building Performance Standards**. There will be a panel of public and private entities including **Ryan Mello, Kristin Ang, and Kristi Lynett**.

Tacoma Tree Foundation

This is an excellent nonprofit focused on increasing **Tacoma's** tree canopy (which lags behind other area cities), especially in neighborhoods that most need it. Their [website](#) is really impressive! Spring is almost here—their [calendar](#) is packed! Everything from tree walks (**McKinley Park**), tree shares (**Hilltop**), tree planting events (**Parkland-Spanaway**), educational talks (**Swasey Branch Library**), and the **April 17 Urban Forest for All** breakfast fundraiser with speaker **Hilary Franz**, will take place during the next couple of months. Take a look!

Green Drinks Tacoma

This is a local environmental networking group that meets on the **first Thursday** of every month from **6-8pm**. They now have a fixed location and use of a quiet meeting room at the back of the **Seven Seas Brewery and Taproom, 2101 Jefferson Ave**. The last speaker, **Ryan Spence**, from the **Materials and Industrial Council of Pierce County**, was so engaging that we hope to invite him to be a speaker at our **March** meeting! His message on partnerships and cooperative actions was compelling and timely.

2024 State Legislative Session Update Chuck Jensen

1800 new bills were introduced this year! Today was essentially the last day to move new bills from one house to the other. Unfortunately, most new climate bills, such as three of our four priority bills studied in last meeting, did not move on. Hopefully they will be back for the long session in 2025 and may have a better chance. Sometimes it takes several years!

[The Re-WRAP Act \(Washington Recycling and Packaging Act\)--House Bill 2049](#)

[Hold Oil Companies Accountable—House Bill 2232](#)

[CURB Act \(Cumulative Risk Burden Pollution Act\)—House Bill 2070](#)

However, the clean school bus bill DID pass! [100% Clean School Buses-- House Bill 1368.](#)

There are still a couple of weeks in the session. A step-by-step guide to continue to advocate is available on the [ccltacoma.org website](#). We will be available to [help](#) with questions. **Jason Berkowitz** has also produced a quick how-to video for this. Just [email him](#) to get access.

Efforts to Protect the [Climate Commitment Act](#) from Repeal “NO ON 2117,” a Top Priority this Year!

Barbara Menne, with presentation slides from **Mike Kelly** [here](#)

[Initiative 2117](#)

Prohibits state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading.

Repeals legislation ([Climate Commitment Act](#)) establishing a cap & invest program to reduce GHG emissions.

Funded with \$5 million by one person, Brian Heywood, multimillionaire hedge fund manager. It contains six other conservative initiatives. “Let’s Go Washington” is its slogan/website.

CCL WA has joined the coalition “No on 2117,” along with **Washington Conservation Action, Climate Solutions, The Nature Conservancy, and Clean and Prosperous Washington**, agreeing that this should take top priority for our volunteers this year.

The public needs to be made aware of the many benefits that will result from **CCA** auction revenues and that much will be lost if it is repealed. At present, high gas prices do all the talking for the **2117** campaign, so that on the surface the **CCA** policy is seen as negative. Fossil fuel companies are not, at least not ostensibly, funding the initiative. Perhaps their high prices and outrageous profits just support it indirectly?

Especially worrisome is the **prohibition of ANY type of carbon pricing in the future** if it passes! The national impact of losing the **CCA** could be dire—if **2117** should pass, it would send a chilling signal to **NY** and other states that are considering adopting a similar policy. They would think that if it cannot survive in liberal **WA**, it has no chance in their state. This is very bad for nationwide climate action strategies!

Our efforts will include education, presentations, tabling/clip boarding, postcard writing, letters to the editor, etc. and will continue right up to the fall election. We will keep discussing this effort and see how our chapter can best contribute!