

August 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Chuck Jensen, Barbara Menne, Sue Lepore, John Doherty, Elly Claus-McGahan, Linda Cohan, Nancy Atwood, Maura White, Linda Whipple, Michael Humkey, Mustafa Haziq.
This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Action Team Reports

“Get out the Vote” Postcards, Nancy Atwood & John Doherty—Twice a month we meet at postcard-writing parties and write, address, and stamp postcards for various causes--some local, some in swing states-- [Environmental Voter Project](#), the [Progressive Turnout Project](#), and the [“NO on I-2117” campaign](#) (the statewide effort is to send out 40K on this, our group has done 1000 so far, with 500 more to go). All in all, we’ve completed a total of several thousand! Some folks are working from home, too. Contact [Nancy](#) if you’d prefer to do that, and/or if you’d like directions to attend our next party **Sunday the 25th from 3-5 pm**. Statistics prove that it makes a difference in turnout. And we have quite a fun time doing the “boring” work together, with a bit of conversation and humor. Thanks go to **John** for hosting and **Nancy** for communicating with us all in her weekly newsletter, and to both for organizing. On **Nov. 3, 4-7 pm**, there will be a celebratory **“We DID get out the vote”** party at **John’s**. An invitation will go out tomorrow!

Facebook, Nancy Atwood—In tandem with a change in management of our chapter’s Facebook page last month (we appreciate **Ginny Lohr’s** many years on the job), **Nancy** and **Jason Berkowitz** started a new, public page to replace the old non-interactive one. It’s going well, with increased members, posts and comments. Although anyone can post, one’s first posting must be approved by an administrator. Help with posts, for instance for tabling events or meeting announcements, would be appreciated! (**Maura** and **Linda C** volunteered for that)
Q-- whether it’s OK to post politically-related subject matter, since **CCL** is nonpartisan?
A--If it has to do with climate change, or just facts about races it seems OK, but not actual political endorsements based on party. That is definitely an issue to be careful about.

Here’s the link: [Citizens’ Climate Lobby Tacoma](#).
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1551428448797891>

You might see the old page first (with a **CCL** logo), scroll down to where you see the photo of **Tacoma**, that’s the new one. (It’s not easy to get the old one taken down; still working on it!)

Tabling, Linda Cohan--

On **July 23** we tried out the simplified tabling format at the **Pt. Defiance Zoo** entrance. It seemed to be pretty successful. We passed out information about **NO on I-2117**, the informative little business-sized cards and other handouts, to a lot of people.

Mustafa would like to partner with someone to do simplified tabling in the future. The mobile, quick-contact approach with handouts has the opportunity to make a real impact. It might be easier to get it going if we could schedule a regular time, like every other Saturday?

Our next tabling event is the [Hilltop Street Fair](#) on **Saturday, August 24** from **11-7**. (Rain or shine!) It will be the standard set-up with a full booth (**#522** in **People's Park**), with emphases on **electrification** and the **NO on I-2117** effort plus general election drives, voter registration, etc. It's long, so if you'd like to help even for just a brief shift, please sign up with [Linda](#). It's a very fun event, very diverse, with food, arts, music, networking with community groups and even candidates. You don't need to be an expert to start tabling! You can learn by being there and watching others. Or, just drop by and say hi!

[The Steilacoom Drive Electric Event](#) is the very next day, **Sunday from 4-7**. **Chuck** will go late after postcarding. The **NO on I-2117** campaign will be well-covered by other groups, such as [Indivisible](#), so we will not try to table there after the long day at **Hilltop**.

Announcements/Opportunities

[CCL Electrification Month](#)—a special national focus for August. There are several workshops and training resources on **CCL Community**, how to promote electrification, how to talk to people about making their transitions, etc. The overall national goal is to have 3000 conversations in the month of August-- through tabling, or any kind of contact we have with neighbors, friends, family.

This deals specifically with home/school electrification issues--encouraging people to upgrade their appliances with clean energy options, using rebates and tax credits from the [IRA](#). This topic is a great response to the frequent question: what can I do personally about the climate crisis? According to [Rewiring America](#), 42% of energy-related emissions result from individual "kitchen table" decisions—how we heat and cool our homes, cook our food, drive...so we need to let people know this, help them think about making the transition to clean options such as heat pumps, induction stoves, EVs, and know that there is financial help from the government. Our chapter will tally up our conversations for the big national list, so notify [Barbara](#) about your conversations. This weekend we should have quite a few more from tabling at the **Hilltop Street Fair**!

Candidate Interview/September Meeting Decision—

Barbara: Candidates are set now for Election Day here. In the past, our chapter held candidate forums in key races (mostly Port Commissioners and County Council). We invited candidates on each side for interviews, answering our questions on climate action.

Should we do this again this **Sept. 18**? Let's discuss if it is worth the time and trouble for our small group. It takes a lot of work! Are the benefits great enough?

Discussion:

--Is it very beneficial to the candidates? How many people actually see the interview recordings? (Videos are posted on our website and Facebook for outreach to the whole membership of over 600).

--The benefits can go both ways. The candidates become acquainted with us and have a relationship with us and know that **CCL Tacoma** exists and cares about these issues. Our goal is not just to influence the voting public, but to influence the candidates too. A kind of lobbying.

Partnering with [League of Women Voters](#):

--They host a very extensive online forum during September and October each year. **Chuck** is on their board and says they are very open to accepting climate-related questions (climate is not usually addressed in their questions). They are also nonpartisan, in fact if either of the two candidates doesn't show up, they cancel that particular forum. The exact dates are being set now; **Chuck** will keep us informed.

Discussion:

--Partnering with them is the best way to have more impact on the general population. For a small group it's best to partner with a bigger one, since the format and organization are already in place with **LWV**. We can share the workload since we have so little time and could benefit greatly.

--Chuck said that **LWV** would even add our name as a **co-sponsor**, so would still get recognition.

--Maybe partner with other climate groups in the area—put together a climate-specific forum? Since time is short, let's work with **LWV** this year and maybe start organizing something with other environmental groups for the next election while notifying them now about what we are planning to do. They could also help produce the questions.

We voted in favor of partnering with LWV this year.

A sub-committee was formed to create the questions: **Linda W, Linda C, Elly, Mustafa, Maura, and Chuck**.

[NO on I-2117](#) State-wide Campaign—

The purpose of **I-2117** is to overturn our state's [Climate Commitment Act](#) (a very successful polluter-pay program that pays for good climate change mitigation all over WA. See [Map of benefits](#)). The Initiative even plans to prohibit the same kind of bill from being made into law in the future! Other states in the nation look to us, a green state, as a potential example of what they could enact, and if ours is repealed that would discourage nationwide action.

CCL WA is part of a large statewide coalition of environmental groups supporting this campaign which is organized by [Washington Conservation Action](#). They've raised \$4M and done lots of organizing. **Chuck** says we expect a good result!

Our chapter is fully on board with these efforts, especially with tabling and post carding.

Chuck will get some handouts from the state campaign group for **leafleting** on doorsteps in all the legislative districts in **Pierce County**. He will be hosting a training session for doing that on **Sept. 7-8**. He will get more information about that and keep us in the loop. **Maura, Elly, Nancy, and Barbara** are interested.

Barbara will make a sign to use for a perfect lead-in to discuss the **CCA** at **Hilltop** Saturday, "Have you applied for your 200 dollars?" This is regarding a very exciting recent **TPU \$200 credit** from a grant program funded by the **CCA** that has been going out on recent **Tacoma Public Utilities** energy bills. There's a very short application, with acceptance based on income, and a deadline of **Sept. 2**. Note--not all utilities are doing this (esp. small co-ops with lack of manpower, they aren't forced to), one must check on utilities other than **TPU**.

From **Barbara**--In a related issue, there's another **Initiative, I-2066**, that opposes the state's proposed reductions in the use of natural gas vs electric. Recently we were told that it is

detrimental to pair the two initiatives in conversations with the public. It tends to make the public less sympathetic with the whole “**NO**” campaign--they end up deciding to pass all the initiatives instead! So, we should keep talk about **I-2117** separate as an issue.

Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024--Chuck

We need to get permitting reform going, because solar and wind is being developed in the central US but its transmission to urban centers has been held up by permitting delays. This bill was introduced by two Senators from coal states, Joe Manchin and John Barrasso. So it includes lots of permitting leases for coal, oil and gas as well as the renewables. Only 20% is actually permitting reform, the rest is leases for fossil fuels! Very disappointing but it passed on a bipartisan basis.

Linda: Was very controversial among **CCL** members because of this, but **Dana Nuccitelli**, **CCL's** policy research coordinator, is very emphatic that overall, this bill is pro-climate and will promote clean energy. We do have to have fossil fuels for the near future anyway. If this bill moves on, then changes could be made later to make it more climate-friendly. [FAQ link](#)

Housekeeping--Can we possibly have a recurring calendar invite for these meetings?
Maura will support that with access to a shared calendar.