

April 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Chuck Jensen, Barbara Menne, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Mustafa Haziq, Jason Berkowitz, Linda Cohan. This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Action Team Reports

Get Out the Climate Vote Group, Nancy Atwood—We continue to gather twice a month and our total so far is 1,840 postcards and letters, including take-homes! (If you prefer to work from home, we are happy to deliver materials). The next parties are **May 5** and **19** at John's house. We are now working on postcard-writing for the campaigns of two very climate-friendly local candidates-- **Ryan Mello** and **Jani Hitchen**. (Since this endorses specific candidates and **CCL** is nonpartisan, participation is the individual's decision.) We hope to start working with the [Environmental Voter Project](#) in May. Donations for postage and materials are welcome. Contact [Nancy](#) for any questions.

Tabling Committee, Linda Cohan—

"Go Electric" hub at the [South Sound Sustainability Expo](#), **Barbara Menne**—This went smoothly, our two booths looked great and the weather was nice. Perhaps attendance was down a bit, but we all had a decent number of interactions with people and the hub concept itself was really successful (Barbara's brainchild, a distinct information hub for household electrification and related **IRA** tax credits and rebates, providing "one-stop-shopping" with representatives from utilities, financial providers, government agencies, contractors, etc., all clustered together in one zone marked by lightning bolt flags). We gave out at least 50 of our "make a plan" infosheets for electrification.

Induction stoves were a major point of education and questions. The samples of cookware with a testing magnet drew people in. Another point of education was that the "all-electric" of 20 years ago is not sustainable now, it needs next level components. The event organizer was extremely appreciative of our help with organizing the hub, and the other vendors in our section (heat pump, solar panel providers, the Switch is On) seemed very pleased as well. The **No on Initiative 2117** campaign flyers also drew some attention.

Thanks to tablers **Barbara Menne, Linda Cohan, Chuck Jensen, Elly Claus-McGahan, Peggy LovellFord, Jason Berkowitz, Sue Lepore**. After months of preparation, a job well done!

The tabling committee will meet soon to set up a date and place for our initial foray into simplified tabling/clipboarding, and to discuss plans for standard booth tabling at the **Tacoma Ocean Fest June 29, Fircrest National Night Out Aug. 6, the Hilltop Street Fair Aug 24**, and other venues. Many towns (**Fife, Lakewood**, for instance) in the area have street fairs during the summer, we should check those out.

Letters to the Editor, Chuck Jensen—**Bridget Mousaw** has written a letter to the editor, in response to the article "greenhouse gases continue steady climb..." Hopefully to be published

soon! An op-ed on **Earth Day** (via **Chuck's** friends at the **League of Women Voters**) is also under consideration.

Announcements

Barbara has invited **Ryan Spence**, from the **Materials and Industrial Council of Pierce County**, to be the speaker at our **May 15** chapter meeting. His message on partnerships and cooperative actions will be compelling and timely. Be thinking about what our interests are about partnering with businesses and the business sector's point of view on **I-2117**.

The CCL National Conference, "Making Moves and Moving Congress," will be on **June 8-11** in **Washington D.C.** It's always an inspiring experience. Recordings of many of the presentations and speeches will be available shortly afterwards.

Having climate conversations is the [current volunteer push from CCL national](#), with an Earth Month pledge of 25,000 conversations. They have produced helpful how-to's and also a handy [tool](#) for recording conversations that may also be useful for our tabling stats.

Today was the kickoff day for the coalition campaign **"NO ON 2117."** Chuck read the following email from **CCL WA** leaders:

"Our state's landmark climate bill, the **Climate Commitment Act (CCA)**, is at risk and we need your help!

A single hedge fund millionaire used over \$6 million of his own money to pay to gather enough signatures to qualify Initiative 2117 for the November 2024 ballot. This initiative would repeal the CCA and bar the Legislature from creating any future carbon pricing system. Washington CCL is part of a broad [NO on I-2117](#) coalition publicly launching today.

Already, **NO on 2117 has raised \$4.8 million from over 1,000 grassroots donors.**

We need your help!

1. **Educate yourself about I-2117** and talk with your friends, family and neighbors about the benefits of the Climate Commitment Act and why it's important to vote NO on I-2117 in November.
2. **Pledge to vote NO on 2117 in November** to protect our clean air and water, forests and farmland, jobs, and transportation investments. A yes vote for 2117 shifts the burden of paying for the impacts of pollution onto communities, workers, and families, and strips away billions of dollars in investments to address climate change across our state.
3. **Volunteer to help CCL** with writing postcards, making phone calls, or tabling at local events to defeat 2117.

Please feel free to forward this email to others in your network who might be interested. If you have questions or suggestions, please post them to us [here](#).

Thanks!”

Ellie Gittelman, Gwen Hanson and Mike Kelly
WA State CCL State Coordinators

Ginny Lohr will be tabling this weekend at the **Dig Deep Earth Day** celebration on **Vashon Island**, and shared some prepared fact sheet cards their group made up with the main points of this campaign--what the Initiative is, and what we have to lose if it passes. [File](#)

Earth Day Commemoration-- Sharing Our Stories of Activism

Which activist goes with which set of memories? See if you can guess!

**Barbara Menne, Linda Cohan, Chuck Jensen, Nancy Atwood,
Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Jason Berkowitz, John Doherty**

___ I went to DC twice and met with Kilmer’s staff. But the event that really inspired me was in 2018, a keynote address in Eugene OR for [Our Children’s Trust](#), a legal action for 19 youth (including James Hanson’s grandchild) who were suing the US government because it did not protect them from pollution brought on by climate change. The action went fairly far through the court system. The speech really captivated the audience! I was really moved by that-- in my 8 years of activism, that was probably one of the most stirring moments that I’ve had being in-- an assembly with 1200 people all standing and clapping for this particular legal action on the part of this bunch of young people.

I didn’t get involved until I met Barbara down in Portland in 2016. We were both drawn to attend the CCL regional meeting there but were the only ones from Tacoma so we decided to start our chapter. All in all we really have got some amazing people in our group.

___ I’ve been an avid recycler and reusable bag user all my life, really. When I considered moving to Tacoma I heard that there was a CCL chapter starting here, which influenced my decision. Election day 2016 was a real bad day for me. I called up a friend to commiserate and decided for the first time ever to become involved in something, homelessness? climate change? I wonder if it’s real? I went to see a speaker and signed several environmental groups’ clipboards, but CCL was the only one that got back with me, so that’s how I got involved. What I’ve loved the most, besides meeting all of you, which has just been amazing, is working on a small scale in my little city. Even though it’s very small, it seems to have more impact than I could make on a national level.

___ The election of Trump brought into clear focus how formidable the national challenges in addressing climate change were—and I felt called to become more active and joined CCL at that time. Climate activism can be a challenge with few rewards, can feel like one step forward, one step back. One of the unexpected benefits of my activism has been my personal evolution. Keeping going in the face of little progress, not overextending myself, still taking time for friends, family, and appreciating the beauty in the world. The biggest plus for me has been the

wonderful people I've met and the strong friendships that have resulted from working with like-minded people to make the world a better place. I think back with nostalgia attending early CCL Tacoma meetings at Barbara's home. From those humble beginnings we have become known and respected in Tacoma, we've become more sophisticated in our understanding of what works, what doesn't and what we can and cannot do. I hope I can look back knowing that I did what I could with active optimism, and at the same time was able to see and appreciate the beauty in the hearts of people and the world we live in.

___ I went to school and lived in Arizona, majoring in AG. Then when I discovered organic gardening, I realized the studies were wrong and what we were doing to the planet. I lived outside of Prescott and there were a group of people who all seemed to have landed there around the same time and had small "Little House on the Prairie" homesteading projects. My first activism has been with CCL. In 2017, I saw something about carbon fee and dividend in the newspaper which led me to you guys and it's been great! My favorite event was marching with Sunrise in Tollefson Plaza, inspired by Greta Thunberg. Being around the young kids, the tribes, everyone coming together and making a statement. I feel like we are not marching enough, we should fill the streets with people, do more of that!

___ I first got concerned the first Earth Day, it has been part of my life for many years. It was brought up a lot when I was teaching horticulture at WSU, and I gave students assignments to do with climate change. Toward the end of my career we had 12 months in a row that broke heat records, so I decided I had to retire at 65 instead of 72 because climate isn't waiting! It's more important for me to work full-time on climate.

My husband started a CCL chapter in Pullman/Moscow. He also signed up with 350.org and Bill McGibbon to a sit-in in front of the White House. He got arrested and put in jail, which was good publicity and an incredible experience! He actually had a wonderful time in lockup-- spending 2-3 days with McGibbon and other famous people, singing, doing book reviews... I got the story put on the front page of the local paper, his mother found out, and expressed her pride on social media! Another good memory is of Earth Day 2018 when CCL people came and tabled on Vashon, collecting signatures for initiative 1631 to put a price on carbon that year. It sure would have been a lot better if it had passed at that time. We do what we can, you never know when what you do will have an effect. It's hard to keep motivated but you have to keep trying, just do something.

___ I grew up in CA, so in our daily lives there was always an awareness of issues like water shortages and restrictions on usage. In college and later there were a lot of protests, anti-Vietnam War, Nuclear, Iraq... I actually got arrested in college although I was really just a bystander--that was very scary, a defining moment. I kept going to protests sometimes but wasn't seriously involved with them. I engaged in a lot of sociology projects for schools, community gardens, etc., then went back to college later to study geology. There I saw what the glaciers were telling us-- the science was clear! I got involved doing "listening projects" where you just stand in a public place with a sign about an issue and listen to what people had to say on the topic. It was through one of those projects (one on environmental racism) that I first heard about CCL, so I went to the regional CCL conference in OR, met Chuck, and started this

chapter in 2016. It has meant a huge amount to me, working and thinking together with this group. I've learned a lot about being more upfront, speaking out in public more, overcoming the shyness of my youth.

___ Although I recycled, gave money to Greenpeace to "save the whales," and as a family volunteered at our local nature center, I can't say I was an environmental activist until moving to Tacoma and joining CCL. Most exciting times include my first exposure to WCA's work lobbying the state legislature; learning about bills and talking to elected officials. And it was pretty entertaining and thrilling when the IRA finally passed! I have experienced a lot of personal growth dedicating myself to helping the cause and supporting this great group of activist friends in every way I can. This work has been a creative outlet for me too, which I have really enjoyed. Yet the other development is that I have learned how truly dire the situation is. I have no more illusions that we can "win this," but we can still strengthen our communities and keep things from being worse. And for me, it's just impossible not to try.

___ I've always been drawn to the environment even though I grew up in Texas. In college I was involved in "Greeks Going Green," setting up a bunch of recycling bins around the fraternity house and taking all the beer cans from there and nearby to the recycling center. That made for a smelly car! In 2008 I took a class at the Univ of GA about electrifying the fleet--many years before EVs were what they are now; they've come a long way. I found CCL through a Google search "Tacoma /climate /help." I've learned a lot from each of you and really value what you all bring and the time you put into it. You never cease to impress me. I'd love to retire now to dedicate myself to this full time and am very jealous of those of you who can do that, I wish I could do more.

And to cap it off, Jason treated us to a false origin story generated by chatgpt!

On a rainy day in Nashville, I ducked into a coffee shop and found myself sitting next to Al Gore. Intrigued, I struck up a conversation and shared my recent experience witnessing devastating coral bleaching at the Great Barrier Reef. My vivid description and passionate plea for urgent action struck a chord with him.

Our talk quickly turned to solutions. I proposed "Green Voices," a grassroots campaign to empower youth advocacy through art and social media, which sparked a light in Gore's eyes. Inspired, he noted down every detail, later crediting our conversation with giving him a fresh perspective on environmental advocacy.

He invited me to collaborate on his next big project, a documentary aimed at highlighting the power of individual action in tackling climate change. Working together, we inspired a global movement, proving that even a simple coffee shop chat can change the world.

That day, I not only influenced one of the greatest environmentalists but also became a beacon of hope and action for the planet.

