

April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Barbara Menne, Sue Lepore, Elly Claus-McGahan, Suzi Crawford, Peggy LovellFord, Chuck Jensen, Nancy Atwood, Jason Berkowitz. This Zoom meeting screen was enhanced with closed captions.

Action Team Reports

Lobby Meeting Report, Elly Claus-McGahan

Apr 1, Gig Harbor--we met with **Alexa Brenner, Representative Emily Randall's Pierce Co. Field Representative**. It was a very cordial get-to-know-you meeting and we expect to have a good working relationship with Alexa and **Rep. Randall, (Derek Kilmer's replacement)**.

Attending - **CCL-Tacoma: Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Elly Claus-McGahan, Linda Cohan, Sue Lepore.** **CCL Bainbridge Island: Lee Nathan.**

What we learned:

- Rep. Randall is on the Natural Resources Committee and subcommittees: Indian and Insular Affairs, Federal Lands
We can contact Alexa to invite Rep Randall and Alexa to public events we are hosting
- Rep Randall wants to hear from us on legislative issues and asks. We can share those with Alexa or phone or email. She wants to know what her constituents are thinking.

What we shared:

- What our chapters do: tabling, No on I- 2117 postcard writing, presentations, lobbying
- Statistics about **CCL National**, **CCL Tacoma** and CCL Bainbridge.
- 2 national Lobbying events each year, this year July 19-22 in DC and in November Virtual.
- PC Climate Conversation and what it does – connection to County Executive Ryan Mello.
- Clean Energy Credits and IRA impacts – several handouts and **NYT article**
- **Yale Climate Communications' Six Americas** – how public opinion has shifted on climate concern
- House of Rep. **Climate Solutions Caucus 2024** as possible source of climate allies
- **En-ROADS** as a learning tool on climate solutions and their impacts globally
- **CCL-Tacoma** – **Climate activism** and other resources

Our ask on Permitting Reform:

- CCL seeks bills that garner bipartisan support for durability
- Main lobbying goals for Spring 2025:
 - Protect clean energy tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act
 - They account for 45% of the projected GHG reductions
 - Pass new Permitting Reform legislation
 - Without, 80% fewer GHG reductions would be realized due to clean energy project not getting built
 - Transmission lines have been expanding 1% per year, but to meet our clean energy goals, needs to triple by 2050

- Currently Environmental Impact Statements take 4.5 years to complete and a new transmission line can take a decade to build
- 95% of new energy projects currently awaiting permits are for solar, wind or battery storage, less than 5% are natural gas projects

What CCL would like to see in new legislation?

- Speed up the pace of new clean energy projects
- Triple our clean electricity transmission by 2050
- Allow local communities to give input early in the process

Climate Pierce County Report, Elly Claus-McGahan-- We have recently updated the area's Comprehensive Plan website, making sure that the area's cities' and municipalities' comprehensive plans are current. It is being used by staff all around **Pierce County** to see what other cities are doing code-wise in terms of critical areas. Originally the plans did not even mention climate on the list of policies! With support from **Ryan Mello** and others, we went to the **P.C. Regional Council** with a presentation and slides about all the impacts on the area and said they really needed to include it and plan for it collaboratively (this became the county-wide **Climate Conversations** program). As of now there is nothing specifically about wildfire as an impact, and they are very general about what they include for climate measures. The current task is to look up concrete language on wildfire preparedness and other missing climate measures using a **Dept. of Commerce** database. Elly will also meet soon with the **Pierce Conservation District** wildfire expert to advocate for a community wildfire preparedness plan to be set up and made fully available to the public.

A second effort is to use the next two years to get climate action across the finish line, because we now have a very supportive county council makeup and **Ryan Mello** is now county executive; but in two years that could change. They are looking for input from us about what actions are important to us. For instance, large buildings and warehouses that come into the area—they do ecological damage and should be required to mitigate that, to fully comply with regulations re: SEPA and health impact studies, and more. So little is asked of them now; just some tree and stormwater regulations that are very weakly enforced. Measures must be taken to require roof and parking lot mitigation, especially for the heat island effect. A slate of options could be drawn up for roof treatments such as: a green roof for pollinators, a solar or solar-ready roof, a roof with white heat-reflecting paint. For parking lots: permeable paving, many more trees, etc.

State legislative session will end April 27th. We can still advocate online for priority bills. Here's an encouraging message from **Washington Conservation Action!** **"Great News: Two of our priority bills, HB 1150: The Recycling Reform Act and SB 5450: Sewage Spill Right to Know Act passed the floor this week and are headed to the governor's desk!** We could not have achieved this without your action-taking!"

Tabling, Barbara Menne—Tabling season has begun! The [Earth Day Celebration Sat Apr 12](#) at **Meridian Habitat Park, Puyallup**, was a very busy family-fun time. We used the **Yale Climate Communications “6 Americas”** activity (survey on attitudes about climate change), which is always revealing (and encouraging) to participants as they find out that so many people are as concerned as they are. Thanks especially to **Peggy**, we got over 30 signatures for [CCL’s current priorities](#): letters to **Members of Congress** on either retaining the clean energy tax credits from the **IRA** (if Republican), or promoting **Permitting Reform** (if Democrat). The [South Sound Sustainability Expo](#) is on **Sat Apr 26 from 10-3** on the **UW-Tacoma** campus. We will get signatures again plus talk about home electrification. Contact [Linda Cohan](#) if you want to help!

Katharine Hayhoe Message from the Greater NW Conference Feb. 2025

To watch, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G85_kriE9-8

We watched this inspiring video of a talk by **Katharine Hayhoe**, CCL friend and advisor, about communicating with others about climate change and especially how to help them find a way to become “activated,” not just concerned. 2/3 of people are worried but only 8% are activated on climate. They say no one has asked them and/or they don’t know what they can do. A good way to engage them is not with doom and gloom facts, which just paralyzes, but with a vision of a future worth fighting for and a community to work with. Another tip was to find out what especially interests the person, link climate change to that, and then to suggest a way for them to plug in related to protecting that interest. Her approach can help us get some pointers for more effective outreach during tabling, etc.

Another useful link is for **Good News/Bad News**. Sharing good climate news can restore peoples’ energy and resolve to help.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Puj4YXeBtpfS6DZuUFYXG5zL2oVP3iZECTfeXE7XwW4/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.tw7awd577sk9>

How specifically can we implement these ideas for our tabling outreach? We can post some Good News reports and display some inspiring books. **Sue Lepore** and **Peggy LovellFord** will try to put together a list of local groups for people to plug into by **April 26**. So far we have the list below. Suggestions? Email [Sue](#) or [Peggy](#).

Audubon (Tacoma Bird Alliance)
Green Drinks
Downtown on the Go
Tacoma Tree Foundation
Pierce County Sustainability
Parks Tacoma (formerly MetroParks)
Surf Rider Foundation
Community for a Healthy Bay
Harbor Watch
Mountaineers Tacoma

Sierra Club
Pierce Conservation District
Green Tacoma Partnership
Friends of Pierce County
350.org
Climate Reality
TUFF, Tacoma Urban Forest Friends
Native Plant Society
Forever green council