

January 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Mustafa Haziq, Elly Claus-McGahan, Jason Berkowitz, Linda Cohan, John Doherty, Debra Grady, Marti Lambert, and new members Allan Maas, Craig Stokes, and Peggy LovellFord.

This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Clip from CCL National January Monthly Call, Flannery Winchester

To watch, [click here](#).

Flannery Winchester (CCL Senior Director of Communications) kicked off the new year with a celebratory 2023 list of members' activities, incredible numbers such as:

220,112 members in 383 chapters nationwide

21,388 supporters in international chapters

1,343 meetings with Congress

109,409 messages to Congressional offices

2,773 outreach events (tabling, presentations)

2,142 published media hits

Action Team Reports

Tabling, Linda Cohan—At our **Jan. 1** committee meeting we continued to discuss ideas about putting together a simplified tabling method without the whole booth setup; something that can be done more spontaneously, in more locations, and with fewer people. We also discussed our current use of **Slack** as a more organized communication tool than email. We will have our next meeting on **Feb. 12** on **Zoom**, and another meeting in person soon after that to work on the new simplified setup. Please contact [Linda Cohan](#) if interested.

We will of course continue to table with the regular booth at the usual local events such as **Ocean Fest** and the **Sustainability Expo**. Do we want to investigate tabling at the [Asian Pacific Cultural Center](#) New Year event at the **Tacoma Dome** on **Feb. 24 at 11-6**? There's a \$30 fee.

Linda and **Debra Grady** have put feelers out in the local colleges for outreach opportunities, especially to promote participation in **CCL's** youth-oriented ["Carbon Fee and Dividend Movement"](#).

Debra at **University of Puget Sound** has been requested for an interview for the campus newspaper regarding her work with **TUFF (Tacoma Urban Forest Friends)** and is investigating ways we could participate in the campus' sustainability initiative in **February**.

Mustafa Haziq is working with better scheduling methods, using the scheduling tool **Doodle** or a simple reusable spreadsheet template. Any suggestions, please contact [Mustafa](#).

TUFF, Debra Grady—**TUFF** gave comments to **City Council** tonight Jan. 17 about the **Home in Tacoma** landscaping plans, to stress the need to work around the existing trees rather than cut them down and plant saplings.

Get Out the Climate Vote Group, John Doherty—Last year we sent out nearly 2000 postcards and letters! This election year we plan to do even more. Handwritten postcards or letters have been shown to be the most effective form of public issue messaging. It's fun doing this admittedly tedious but very effective work with friends in a social setting. And it's good to feel like you are making a difference. Our parties are on **Sundays from 3-5**; so far we are scheduled for **Jan. 28** and **Feb. 4**. Contact [John](#) or [Nancy Atwood](#) for party location addresses.

Linda encouraged participation in the [Environmental Voter Project](#) as well, although that is phone banking, not writing. It is a really great and effective program and an official partner with **CCL**.

Electrification Project at the Sustainability Expo, Barbara Menne—This large Expo in **April** on the **UW-Tacoma** campus is part of our annual tabling calendar, but this year **Barbara** is working with the organizers to create a distinct hub with a focus on electrification and **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 area of the exposition. There may be a panel of speakers as well. Interest and ideas, email [Barbara](#).

Lobbying, Elly Claus-McGahan—**Elly, John, and Barbara** met with **City Council Member at-large Kiara Daniels** last month. She shared practical suggestions on environmental justice and community outreach to an unusual degree, and it was much appreciated. A meeting with **City Council Member Olgy Diaz** may be organized soon, if you are interested in lobbying, contact [Elly](#).

Climate Advocacy in the 2024 State Legislative Session.

See PowerPoint slides [here](#)

Major achievements in climate legislation have been made by the Washington state legislature in the past few years, for example:

- ▶ [Clean Energy Transformation Act \(CETA\)](#) (2019)
 - ▶ Eliminates GHG from our electricity sources by 2045
- ▶ **Amended state GHG emission limits** (2020)
 - ▶ Requires GHG emissions near zero by 2050
- ▶ [Clean Fuel Standard](#) (2021) reduce transportation carbon intensity
- ▶ [WA Climate Commitment Act \(CCA\)](#) (2021) Cap & Trade & Invest
 - ▶ Sales of allowances underway
- ▶ **Reducing methane emissions from landfills** (2022)
- ▶ **Reducing GHG emissions in buildings** (2019, 2022)
 - ▶ Down to 20,000 sq ft.

To build on those accomplishments, here are some of the top priority climate bills we need to work on during 2024's “short” session:

100% Clean School Buses-- House Bill 1368

- ▶ **ZEV (zero emission vehicle) purchase requirements:**
 - ▶ By 2030, 70% of all new school bus purchases & contracts must be ZEVs.
 - ▶ By 2033, ALL new school bus purchases & contracts must be ZEVs.
- ▶ **Grant program:**
 - ▶ ZEV school bus grant program to school districts for bus purchase & installation of charging infrastructure.
- ▶ **Potential Benefits**
 - ▶ **Reduced air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions:** School buses are major source of air pollution, especially near bus routes.
 - ▶ **Cost savings:** Upfront cost of ZEVs is higher than diesel buses, but ZEVs have lower operating & maintenance costs in long run.

The Re-WRAP Act (Washington Recycling and Packaging Act)--House Bill 2049

- ▶ **Establishes producer responsibility program requiring consumer product producers to:**
 - ▶ fund statewide residential recycling services
 - ▶ redesign packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable
 - ▶ remove deceptive or misleading claims about recyclability
- ▶ **Department of Ecology** provides oversight and enforcement.
- ▶ **Creates Deposit Return System (DRS)** of 10 cents for beverage containers monitored thru online account for each consumer.
- ▶ **Requires minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements for containers.**

Hold Oil Companies Accountable—House Bill 2232

- ▶ **WA has highest oil industry profits in entire country**
- ▶ **WA has no tool to protect consumers from fossil fuel industry price gouging**
- ▶ **Need law requiring oil companies to be more transparent about profits & prices**
- ▶ **Bill creates watchdog team**

CURB Act (Cumulative Risk Burden Pollution Act)—House Bill 2070

- ▶ **Integrates environmental justice considerations into certain project decisions.**
- ▶ **Requires additional monitoring for pollutants that affect public health but currently go unaddressed.**
- ▶ **Specifies which communities have been disproportionately harmed, & which protections they should receive.**
- ▶ **Directs WA Dept. of Ecology to deny new permit applications that add pollution & to work with those applicants to reduce pollution.**
- ▶ **Elevates the voices of frontline community participation in the permit evaluations process.**

Additional Bills to be Aware of:

- ▶ **HB 2253 – [Fair Access to Community Solar](#)**—lowers energy costs allowing equitable access to solar projects or purchasing programs, within a geographic area, in which the benefits flow to multiple customers such as individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other groups.
- ▶ **HB 1391 – [Energy Upgrade Navigator Bill](#)**- Numerous energy efficiency and electrification rebates, incentives, and tax credits are available but knowing which benefits you qualify for and how to layer all of the programs is confusing for consumers. This creates an inclusive, accessible information hub.
- ▶ **HB 1282 – [Buy Clean, Buy Fair](#)**--Establishes reporting requirements for manufacturers on carbon content & working conditions.
- ▶ **HB 1868 - Reducing emissions from outdoor power equipment**-- Did you know? One hour of running a gas leaf blower can contribute as much smog-forming pollution as driving a passenger car 1,100 miles!

(OPPOSED)--[Initiative 2117](#)-- Prefer NO ACTION by legislature before election

- ▶ 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.

Engaging in Advocacy on the State Level

This is our opportunity to support the most effective legislation addressing the climate crisis on a state level. It has been remarked by elected officials that communications from even a few of their constituents can make a big impact on their decision-making. Time to take action! And remember to encourage your friends and family to do so too. Let's make all of our voices heard!

Here's a step-by-step guide (it's also 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.

How does it work?

First –link up with an organization that finds and assesses bills, monitors their progress, and facilitates community input (“public testimony”). 350wa.org, [Washington Conservation Action](#), [League of Women Voters](#), [Climate Reality](#), or state chapters of [Audubon](#), [Sierra Club](#),

and [The Nature Conservancy](#); any group(s) you choose! Click the button provided on their websites to be put on their **legislative action alert lists**.

Second—it's helpful to identify your legislative district's state Representatives and Senator if you don't know them. Find through <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>

Then—Enter your public testimony online

When you are alerted by an organization, you will receive **descriptions** and **ID numbers** of bills and **when** to submit your testimony. And as a proposed bill goes through the various stages of the legislative process, you may be prompted to submit testimony for it **more than once** if you choose to do so. Some like to make a list of their actions just to keep track.

***The action alerts often provide shortcuts, in which case you just follow the prompts and hit “submit” and you're done!**

But if not,

- Go directly to leg.wa.gov and:
- Click **“BILL INFORMATION”**
- Type the four-digit bill number in the slot for **“Search by Bill Number,”** then click **“Search.”**
- Click **“COMMENT ON THIS BILL,”** it's a button to the far right.
- Put in your address, it will show your district representatives' names to select; that way they are informed of your testimony—the statistics are very important for them.
- Put in your personal contact information.
- Under **“Position,”** click **“SUPPORT.”**
- If they ask for a comment, type or copy and paste a brief supportive comment in the box below--it can be very short and sweet, i.e. *“We must give salmon the healthy environment they need to thrive!”*
- Click **“SEND COMMENT.”**
- That's it!! You will get a thank-you message, but better yet, you will feel great that *you took action!*

Want to do more?

Send your own letters or emails directly to your elected officials about specific bills and issues.

Attend webinars about bills, and/or lobby meetings with legislators or their staff.