

March 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Elly Claus-McGahan, Linda Cohan, Jason Berkowitz, John Platt, Carolyn Queener, John Doherty, Caranda Prater.

This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Action Team Reports

Tabling, Linda Cohan—Our next meeting is in person, **Saturday 3/25 at 1-3 pm at the Moore Library, 215 S 56th St.** We have been focused on updating our flyers, visual boards, and handouts. A mock-up of a science board using CCL National's graphics was shown. We have watched video training sessions about CCL's various new areas of focus. We are going to try new eye-catching banners and even an inflatable T-rex with a "don't be a fossil" label! Our next tabling event is the **Tacoma Sustainability Expo on Earth Day, April 22** at the **UW Tacoma campus**. To join tabling committee activities, please notify [Linda Cohan](#). All are welcome!

Supporting Tacoma Tree Foundation, Barbara Menne—a tree-potting event was on Friday the 10th and another is Saturday the 18th. The **Pierce County Conservation District** gave them 1,200 bare-root plants and volunteers are needed to put them all in pots for future giveaway events. Check out the TTF [calendar](#).

Lobbying, Elly Claus-McGahan—**Ellie Gittelman** is moving into CCL state leadership, so her spot as co-liaison for **Senator Maria Cantwell** is now open. Contact [Elly Claus-McGahan](#) if you're interested in this exciting opportunity!

Climate Pierce County, Elly Claus-McGahan—Efforts continue to establish a Pierce County Climate Co-operative between area jurisdictions to address climate change and network on climate policies. There's a need to find applicable grant opportunities in the databases (state Depts. of Ecology and Commerce, for instance) for them. **Please let her know if you could volunteer some time to search for SPECIFIC applicable grants.** This information could be shared with small jurisdictions with little time or expertise to find them. There is a lot of federal/state funding to be tapped, and a Dec. 2024 deadline to update Comprehensive Plans. A lot of federal and state grants require partnerships as well, such as for charging stations, clean air, clean buildings, etc.

Announcement

CCL's Greater Pacific Northwest Regional Conference takes place on **Sunday, March 19, 1-4pm on Zoom**. There will be breakout rooms by state. [Free registration](#).

CCL March Monthly Call: Reverend Mitch Hescox of the **Evangelical Environmental Network** Author of [Caring for Creation, the Evangelical's Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment](#), 2016. Refreshing and positive to see that they believe in science and that climate change is real. Supportive of the IRA. They have already engaged in activism against methane pollution, plastics, and pollution in frontline communities. Their website is [creationcare.org](#). Watch the recorded presentation [here](#).

2023 State Legislative Session Report

Chuck Jensen gave a report on major climate bills prospects. Next cutoff date is March 29, and the last day of the session is April 23, so by the time of our next meeting we will know much more about which bills are likely to pass. Descriptions from [League of Women Voters update](#).

WRAP ACT (HB1131/SB5154), Washington Recycling and Packaging Act, did not pass out of committee this year.

We can continue to support the following bills as they pass each step in the process. Bills that are still “alive”--

HB 1192/SB 5165 Improving electric power system transmission planning.

HB 1216/SB 5380 Clean energy siting. Streamlines the permitting process for Clean Energy Projects of Statewide Significance.

HB1181/SB5203 Climate components to update the GMA Growth Management Act Comprehensive planning for how we develop/cluster housing, to address climate and environmental justice concerns.

HB 1329/SB 5366 Preventing utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat. Requested by the Attorney General. Prohibits utilities and landlords from terminating water or electric service to any residential user during days for which the National Weather Service has issued certain heat-related alerts.

HB 1012 Creating an extreme weather response grant program. This bill will provide funding for communities with a demonstrated lack of resources, to meet the costs of responding to community needs.

HB 1282/SB 5322 Buy clean, buy fair - environmental and labor reporting for public building construction. The bills require analysis and reporting on the cradle to grave embodied carbon of new buildings and significant renovations funded by the state. Labor practices are also required in the reporting.

HB 1176/SB 5247 Creating a Washington Climate Corps. Project to create climate-related service opportunities for young adults and displaced workers, to build low-carbon and climate-resilient communities and ecosystems while providing education, workforce development, and new career pathways.

Understanding the Climate Commitment Act

Barbara Menne gave a presentation on the **CCA** and its fund distribution. This **WA state cap and invest policy** passed two years ago (second only to the **cap-and-trade** program started in **California**), but just took effect last month with the first of its quarterly **auctions of allowances**. It sold 6.2M allowances (\$50) and raised \$300M from about 100 polluting businesses like oil refineries. Hoping to eventually raise \$1.7B. (Utilities get free allowances, but if they improve

their emissions, they can sell those, thus incentivizing them to go cleaner.) Washington's **CCA** leads the nation in its strong **environmental justice** commitment.

[Link to presentation slides](#)

How cap and invest works:

- 1) **Places a statewide cap on emissions from our biggest polluters**
- 2) **Sale of allowances (permits to emit 1 MT of CO₂e) generates revenue**
- 3) **Billions of dollars of future investments in transportation, buildings, air quality and more.**

Where the revenue goes—principles must be followed, including environmental justice

- 1) **Use CCA funds for their intended purpose to support meaningful climate action and community resilience**
- 2) **Prioritize investments that reduce climate pollution**
- 3) **Uphold tribal sovereignty through consultation and direct investments**
- 4) **Elevate overburdened community priorities and environmental justice through investments that directly benefit these communities**
- 5) **35% of revenue must go towards overburdened communities and 10% must go towards tribes**

Focus is particularly needed on emission reduction in:

- 1) **Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicles**
- 2) **Commercial Buildings (80% still use gas heating)**
- 3) **Residential Buildings**

Clean buildings funding

- 1) **\$130M** Funding for low- and middle-income (LMI) whole home clean energy retrofits
- 2) **\$70M** Commercial rebates for schools, minority-owned businesses, buildings in LMI neighborhoods
- 3) **\$46M** Weatherization and ventilation improvements

Clean Transportation

- 1) **\$130M** Point-of-sale Vehicle Incentive Program for Zero-emission Medium- and Heavy-duty (MHD) Vehicles
- 2) **\$40M** Innovative Demonstration Projects for MHD
- 3) **\$80M** Incentives for MHDZ Vehicle Charging & Fueling

Invest in Air Quality and Health Disparities Improvement (health disparities due to proximity to diesel pollution and industrial zones)

- 1) **\$12M** Reduce Air Pollution in Overburdened Communities grant program
- 2) **\$38M** Participatory Budgeting & Grantmaking to Reduce Health Disparities
- 3) **\$10M** Air Quality Monitoring

Natural Climate Solutions

- 1) **\$3.2M** Natural and Working Lands Carbon Sequestration Strategy

- 2) **\$10M** Carbon Sequestration Demonstration Projects for Private, Tribal, and Local Government Forest Landowners
- 3) **\$80M** State Owned Lands and Carbon Sequestration

Group discussion of chapter goals

Our chapter brainstormed this list last November. How are we doing? Do we want to add, subtract some things? Time allowed for only a few comments, [see them here in red](#).

Lobbying

- WA state legislature--participation *as a group* in lobbying for climate bills. [Feel that we made a good start on this in 2023—with January’s chapter meeting program, word of mouth and website and newsletter promotions. Participation has increased.](#)
- Fircrest council meetings [Very important now that a climate-denying group seems to be in ascension there and good climate candidates and programs are being discouraged.](#)
- Public utilities [Elly Claus-McGahan is now on the board of TPU](#)
- School boards/electric buses
- Permitting reform (state electeds? county council?)
- South Tacoma Warehouse project (city council?)

Public Education and Outreach

- 1) Continue tabling at every opportunity, upgrading training and booth. [Now in the process of some intense work on this with very good participation!](#)
- 2) Forming relationships with Black churches/ dialogues on climate justice
- 3) Letters to the Editor
- 4) Presentations, discussions with schools, colleges, other community groups. [John Doherty continues his great work in this sphere.](#)

Member Education and Outreach

- 1) Educational chapter meetings. [This is ongoing, there has been a significant educational component to every meeting so far](#)
- 2) Tabling training meetings. [Going on currently](#)
- 3) Encourage members to write for our newsletter, help with social media. [John Platt has volunteered to write for the newsletter.](#)
- 4) Use the Forum on the website for easier member networking

Supporting Local Climate Organizations

- 1) “Climate Crew” at Tacoma Community College [Has not continued since November](#)
- 2) Tacoma Tree Foundation. [Promoted in our newsletter and website, some attend](#)
- 3) Downtown on the Go [Promoted in our newsletter and website](#)
- 4) Climate Pierce County [Elly Claus-McGahan is head](#)
- 5) Green Drinks. [Barbara Menne attends regularly, promoted in newsletter and website](#)
- 6) PC Conservation District

Election work (this is a seasonal activity)

- 1) Candidate interviews in chapter meetings
- 2) "Get Out the Vote" postcard and letter-writing
- 3) Fircrest elections

Parting thoughts

Elly Claus-McGahan--If you have a good idea, share it with a local elected official! You never know where it might lead. She wrote the County Council about the frustrating delay in train service to Seattle and Ryan Mello's proposal of an electric or hydrogen ferry to Seattle as a sustainable alternative. The reply was positive--"it's worth looking into!"

Linda Cohan--What is going to happen to all the old discarded ICE vehicles; maybe we could rehab them, connect them with tarps in a parking lot and make homeless shelter/housing out of them?

Carolyn Queener--How about we give away "green" freebies at our tabling booth? Something sustainable like bar shampoo or laundry detergent sheets? Could ask that they be donated. Or start a campaign for salons to use responsible products.

Caranda Prater—website for those sustainable products: adropintheocean.com