

May 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Announcements

Local Efforts—Elly Claus-McGahan and Barbara Menne

[Green Jobs Symposium](#), hosted by **Workforce Central Tacoma**, aims to create a pipeline for training people into green jobs. **Mayor Woodards** wants to get green companies to **Tacoma**. **Clover Park Technical College** (they built a net-zero house 11 years ago), **Bates Technical College**, **UW-Tacoma** had panels. Students need to be prepared for green jobs and especially to be flexible in learning new tools and technology as it rapidly changes. Relates to [Beyond Zero](#), an inspiring movie about a carpet company that transitioned away from extractive wasteful practices to sustainability. We should get **Tacoma** companies to be better stewards in that way. **Grants Newsletter** for **Climate Conversation**. Can we bring the **EPA Community Change Grant** here? About 10 local organizations (including the **City of Tacoma**, the **Tacoma Tree Foundation**, **Communities for a Healthy Bay**, **350Tacoma**, **Forever Green Trails**) are brainstorming on this. The grant focuses on taking a disadvantaged community and improving it in some way. One way is preparing the workforce, the other is physical improvement —improve roads, put in a climate resiliency hub. East, Southeast Tacoma need bike trails, resilience hubs, climate work forces, community centers...

Tuesday, May 28, 4-7 pm at TCC is the [Climate Justice Summit](#) (put on by the **Sustainable Tacoma Commission**) They are also brainstorming grant options, getting ideas for an environmental justice project. Please attend and bring your ideas!

Tacoma Rail—got three electric locomotives for use at the **Port**. Although they are waiting on the supply chain at this point, they do have the funding lined up. They are putting in charging infrastructure for them and for charging other's electric locomotives.

Tuesday, May 21, 3pm—A very important public input meeting at the **City/Co. Building, 930 Tacoma Ave**, about **Resolution 2024-158S** (for the final Environmental Impact Statement for the **Pierce Co. Comprehensive Plan**). Many property rights advocates will be there speaking up against any changes in zoning, they want to be able to develop rural Pierce County in the usual way. Advocates of the Resolution want more study and to try to lessen the density of development. Those of us who want to stop sprawl and to preserve rural Pierce County land, not destroy it with more roads, really need to present a show of force. Democrats in **County Council** are trying to pass this climate-positive policy and are facing a lot of opposition-- we need to support them. Please show up to testify in support of the Resolution. [More on this.](#) The [Manufacturing Industrial Council](#) of **Tacoma** gave out **Environmental Excellence Awards** to **Acquagga** (machines to destroy forever chemicals PFAS), **Radius** (ferrous metal recycling), and **LRI** (composting city waste).

The Puyallup Tribe has built a non-lithium (hydrogen & bromine) large-scale flow battery manufacturing site w/**Skip Technology** of Portland, bringing lots of green jobs and a green product to Fife. [More on this.](#)

CCL June Conference--Sue Lepore

Takes place June 8-11, student meetings Saturday the 8th, main meetings Sun-Mon 9th & 10th, and lobby meetings Tuesday the 11th. [Registration](#) closes on May 20th. Main topics will be: opportunities for climate policy in Congress, bridging partisan divides, and making climate change a top priority in every 2024 election. The new **Executive Director, Rachel Kerestes**, will be introduced.

Keynote speaker Monday morning is **Jerome Foster II**, co-founder of **WAIC UP**, a climate justice non-profit using art, journalism and civic engagement. He is 22 years old, and one of the major organizers of **Fridays for the Future**. In 2021, he made history as the youngest ever White House advisor, on Climate Justice. (this after 80 weekly climate strikes in front of the White House. He also led **1Millionofus**, registering 1 million young people to vote.

Also featured—a screening and discussion of **“TrueFalseHotCold”** by documentary filmmaker **Ben Stillerman**, based on his conversations with residents of the US county with the lowest belief in climate change (in Utah).

Closing Keynote by **Vera Songwe**, economist from **Cameroon**, former **United Nations** under-secretary, now at the **Brookings Institute/Liquidity and Sustainability**.

CCL Call [clip](#)

The goal of 25,000 climate conversations in Earth Month, April, has been reached! Two bills that CCL supports are advancing in the House: Seedlings for Sustainable Habitat Restoration Act Of 2023, and the Harnessing Energy at Thermal Sources Act (HEATS).

Reports

Tabling Committee, Linda Cohan—

The tabling committee met to focus on simplified tabling/clip-boarding. We brainstormed on various venues to clipboard and not pay the fee for a booth. Such as: farmers' markets, **Taste of Tacoma** (now at the fairgrounds), **Sumner Rhubarb Days June 22-23**, **Old Town Festival May 4**, **Buckley Log Show June 29-30**, **Enumclaw Street Fair**, **Proctor Arts Fest Aug 3**, **Reggae on the Way Festival July 21**, **Fife Harvest Festival October**, **Lakewood SummerFEST July 20**. You can add more events on the calendar on **SLACK**.

An idea for a sign for our clipboards-- What about *“3 minutes for Clean Air?”* (Once we used *“5 minutes for climate”* but perhaps should steer clear of *climate* as a polarizing word).

Our next event is the [Tacoma Ocean Fest](#), **Saturday June 29 from 12-5**. It will be the standard set-up with a full booth. Please sign up for hours on the sign-up sheet on **SLACK**.

Barbara has some bumper stickers to give out, *“2028 is too late, vote climate!”*

Get Out the Climate Vote Group, John Doherty—

What we do is critically important: greenhouse gas emissions keep increasing, and so do Trump's numbers in the polls. We have already produced over 2000 cards and letters. Everyone here tonight has helped write letters and postcards at one time or another, and our numbers at writing parties are staying strong, including volunteers from outside CCL, friends, family. This is an action that helps us feel like we are doing something, and writing in a fun social setting makes it go quickly. Kudos to **Mustafa Haziq** and **Tom Bookout** who have connected with students, kids, grandkids, to write cards as their school community service. I have started another group from my church. You could recruit other volunteers or even start new groups too, think about family, friends, church/synagogue, book club, etc. The production will really grow if we all use our social networks. John will help you with materials and organization--email [John Doherty](mailto:John.Doherty@climatesolutions.org).

[Progressive Turnout Project](#) is now sending us materials. They encourage people who lean left but are not reliable voters to get out and vote for every election. They aim to send *23 million* cards and letters, so we need to support them!

We are probably not going to get any writing projects with the [Environmental Voter Project](#) but [Linda Cohan](#) does phone banking with them and would be glad to help anyone get started.

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.)

John has ordered 1000 postcards from the [No On I-2117 campaign](#), with the option for 1000 more, to start in June.

Donations for postage and materials are welcome.

Special thanks to **Nancy Atwood** for doing the weekly newsletter and administrative work. And I want to acknowledge **Mary Forman**—she now needs to work from home, but she is the one who originally got us started on this. If you prefer to work from home, we are happy to deliver materials.

NO ON I-2117 Campaign, Barbara Menne--

Played a two-minute video, [“We can't afford it,”](#).

Mike Kelly, the CCL coordinator for this effort, has sent links to the campaign [website](#), [fact sheet](#), presentation, video, pledge, templates, list of coalition members, a social media kit, and a speaker outreach sheet. (if you need a speaker for an event or group meeting just email them—maybe we should organize this for a retirement home presentation?) There is also a state [map](#) with all the **Climate Commitment Act** projects in WA state.

We should look into using the **info cards** (see below) that **Ginny Lohr** created. She has agreed to print another batch for us to distribute at tabling, etc. They are business card size, nice and sturdy, small for people to keep and show. Ginny gave 100 of them to the high school on Vashon to pass out, we could do that here. We should customize the logo and order a bunch once the text is checked to match that of the coalition's (including the flyer and the results from latest polls).

The [Seattle Times](#) Sunday op-ed covered a whole page, supporting **No On I-2117!**



No on I-2117

I-2117 will destroy our landmark climate bill: the [Climate Commitment Act](#) (CCA).

CCA raises money from major climate polluters, and provides a pathway to reduce climate pollution.

We now have funds to reduce effects of climate change.

Initiative 2117 will be on Washington's November 2024 ballot.
Keep the Climate Commitment Act in place: **VOTE NO on I-2117.**



Vote No on I-2117

The [Climate Commitment Act](#) funds projects to reduce the impacts of climate pollution, including:

- reducing wildfire risks
- expanding electric vehicle charging networks
- electrifying school buses, ferries, and terminals
- improving bike, pedestrian, and school zone safety
- helping salmon recovery
- improving air quality
- supporting tribal climate adaptation grants

A Bit More News

Save the Date!

Don't Miss the Boat! Sunday Aug 18

Let's get a CCL Tacoma group to take the FREE Port of Tacoma Boat Tour

Once a year the **Port of Tacoma** gives **free tours** to the public on a particular date. To see photos and a video, click [here](#). They do sell out very quickly, so we need to get our group organized! It would be a nice social and informative outing.

Tickets become available on **July 8**. There are six different times ranging from **9 am to 4:30 pm**. If you would like to take the tour with our group, email [John Doherty](#) before **July 8** so he can coordinate it's time and registration.

Barbara has invited **Ryan Spence** from the **Materials and Industrial Council of Pierce County** to be the speaker at our **June 19** 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**.

Great new improved website (federal information only)-- homes.rewiringamerica.org. [ENroads](#) has really expanded, made lots of updates, lots on methane now.