

November 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, John Doherty, Jason Berkowitz, Linda Cohan, Mary Forman, Jennifer Amado, Claire Hovde.
This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

2022 Review/Accomplishments

Lobbying—

- Meetings & town halls with elected officials: Kilmer, Murray, Cantwell, Strickland, Trudeau, &/or aides
- Participating in state “Lobby Days” in January-February
- Commenting on bills in WA State Legislation session
- Commenting on local issues—city council, county council, other agencies
- Participating in the CCL National monthly calling campaign
- Participating in CCL National Conferences twice a year

Public Education & Outreach—

- Tabling at local events: S. Sound Sustainability Expo, Ocean Fest, Fircrest National Night Out, Hilltop Street Fair, Drive Electric Steilacoom, Climate Change is Here at SAMI, Thriftapalooza.
- Ongoing updating of the tabling booth, flyers, visual aids, interactive resources
- Providing monthly meetings with educational speakers (such as nuclear energy, green hydrogen, the PC Conservation District) & updates on chapter activities & local issues
- Providing & updating a website to promote CCL, educate about climate, & inform about our chapter’s events & activities
- John’s Climate Talk Radio Program weekly
- Setting up & maintaining Twitter, Instagram (Sue), & Facebook accounts (Ginny)
- Giving educational presentations in the region (John and Barbara)

Election work—

- Postcard & letter writing to get out the vote (John and Mary organized)
- Phone & text-banking for Environmental Voter Project (Linda)
- Dedicating two monthly chapter meetings to interviewing candidates in local elections
- Surveying local candidates on climate issues

Member outreach—

- As COVID abated, we sent out surveys about meeting in person again and sought a venue. We tried in-person/Zoom hybrid meetings with little success. We discovered that most attendees are content to continue meeting remotely. It especially works for members who live at a distance or don’t want to drive at night.
- Contacting new members by email & phone to welcome them
- Keeping new members informed directly about meetings & opportunities to participate in actions
- Providing a monthly newsletter of chapter events & activities
- Providing meeting minutes
- Providing a study group to discuss climate issues

- Holding a summer picnic for social time & networking

Supporting & partnering with related climate work in the area —

- Climate Pierce County—ongoing partnership
- Green Drinks—several members attend
- Tacoma Tree Foundation—several members volunteered at their events
- Pierce County Conservation District
- TCC “Climate Crew” student activists—some members attended their meeting

Breakout Rooms

What 2022 activities went well, were effective? What did we learn, what would you change?

Sue, Mary, Nancy: We agreed that **tabling** (especially booth upgrades and eye-catching public-interaction tools) and **postcard writing** were highlights and we’d like to continue with them. We appreciate the professionalism and hard work that goes into our often very **educational chapter meetings** and hope that continues (kudos to Barbara, especially).

John, Linda, Chuck: We also thought **tabling** was really successful (kudos to Linda!) The **candidate interviews** at the meetings were excellent. John’s **Climate Talk** and other outreach activities are great and it would be a good idea for him to report regularly on them. Working with **Environmental Voter Project** was a good new collaboration, it’s an effective, well-run organization. We appreciate the **newsletter, website, study group and minutes** (Sue). Challenges: getting new people to come to our meetings, and also the lack of direction from CCL National as regards the IRA, etc.

Barbara, Jason, Claire: We upped the game with **tabling**, we did more of it, and more of us participated in it. New methods of engaging the public directly were helpful, participatory games and visual aids were good. Our in-member “**email chains**” sharing articles, news and thoughts were appreciated. Emphasis on **local actions**; thanks to Elly. Continue with **election work**, and **lobby meetings** (ask new members to attend).

Book Report

THE BIG FIX: Seven Practical Steps to Save our Planet, 2022

by Hal Harvey (energy policy expert) and Justin Gillis (NYT reporter)

Expand from being GREEN CONSUMERS:

(solar on our roofs, electric cars, heat pumps, plant-based diet, reusable grocery bags, etc.) This is worthy and effective, but can be expensive and we need to think beyond personal lifestyle.

To being GREEN CITIZENS:

Communicate with those in power, “pull the economic levers,” be persistent and bold.
Examples:

School boards--parents demanding electric buses for kids' health (Phoenix, Maryland)
Public utility commissions--to adopt renewable energy and smart grids
Building code councils--for the greenest and most advanced efficiency possible
City halls—for greener urban design reform (“city repair” in Dallas, Portland)
Elected officials and the marketplace, corporations—make industry find new, cleaner ways of producing goods (Buy Clean)
City and county councils—eliminate and replace outdated sources of pollution (protests shutting down coal plants in low-income Chicago neighborhoods)
Financial powerholders--divestment in fossil fuels (college students protesting university endowment funds); ‘Third Act’ – Bill McKibben
Federal government—push to accelerate innovation in new nuclear, geothermal, green hydrogen, energy storage

Remind those in power **that it is their responsibility to make decisions that support the future well-being of the public.**

*Green energy is better for **jobs** and the **economy**. Green energy is better for public **health**.
Green citizen action is **bipartisan!***

2023 Brainstorming for the Future

Lobbying—

Fircrest, attend council meetings and be a voice for climate
Public utilities (Elly Claus-McGahan is now on the board of TPU)
PTA's for school boards (push for electric buses etc.)
More participation *as a group* in WA state legislature lobbying in the January Long Session. We could create some member training for supporting and lobbying for the best climate bills.
Marty Gibbons of League of Women Voters is an expert on current bills and when and how to support them--we could work with him on this.
Permitting reform
South Tacoma Warehouse project is still threatening--work with 350.org to defeat that.

Public Education and Outreach—

Letters to the Editor about issues
Continue tabling at every opportunity and keep upgrading the booth and materials.
Going to Black churches with a presentation on climate and climate justice
Reach out to high schools and colleges, giving presentations to schools and/or mentor students who are interested. (Specifically Lake High School, Jennifer attends and can link us up to a teacher and a group of interested students)
Keep having educational chapter meetings

Member Outreach—

Tabling training meetings, especially for new members, to prepare for speaking to the public about climate and climate activism

Have more members write guest features for our newsletter (LTE's are rarely published in the local newspaper now).

Use the Forum on the website, it's a great way for members to connect and discuss issues.

Support Local Climate Organizations—

Keep meeting with "Climate Crew" at Tacoma Community College, invite them to attend lobby meetings

Tacoma Tree Foundation—increase support; they are very active

Climate Pierce County

Green Drinks

PC Conservation District

Election work—

Fircrest elections, become more involved, support climate champions

Keep having candidate interviews in chapter meetings

Keep doing "Get Out the Vote" postcard and letter-writing

Various Announcements

Lobby Meeting with **Derek Kilmer** TBD Either Wed 12/7 or Thursday 12/8, and either 11:30 am or 4:30 pm.

No meeting in December, and monthly meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month from now on. Next meeting is January 18.

[CCL DECEMBER CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2022](#) free, online Dec. 3 & 4. [Register here](#)

Discussion topics:

- What climate legislation will the new Congress likely take up in 2023?
- What are the prospects for a price on carbon?
- Is CCL really on the inside track with Congress now? What's changed?
- How will CCL be getting bigger and bolder in the fight for a livable planet?

Ended with John's "[Climate Minute](#)"