

Tacoma Citizens' Climate Lobby

Creating political will for a livable planet



Core values: focus, optimism, relationships, integrity, personal power, being non-partisan

Back to the Table!

At last, our tablers can promote the CCL fight against climate change in person! What is “**tabling?**” Simply setting up and manning an attractive interactive booth at events such as farmers’ markets and expositions. They engage with folks to spread information about climate change and the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**. There are kids’ activities, sign-ups and petitions. It’s a great way to get started as a CCL volunteer. Join the fun! So far we plan to attend the following events:

June 6 - Tacoma Ocean Fest, Foss Way, 10am - 5pm

Sept 11 - Steilacoom Drive Electric Event, 11am - 3pm

There may be more as the summer goes on, and your suggestions are welcome. Contact [Linda Cohan](#)

Climate 411

Taught by **John Doherty**, and fully enrolled, took place on May 22nd. An in-person, free community class and discussion about climate change and our response to it. It was a great success, and a great mix of (COVID-inoculated) participants. Local **CCL Education** at its best!

Be a 5-Minute Activist!

By participating in the **Monthly MOC Calling Campaign**. Sign up [here](#) to call your federal representative once a month. You will receive a text reminder on your assigned day, with phone number and optional script provided. Easy yet effective. Try it!

Historic State Legislation

In addition to the exciting recent national action on climate, these five bills are now **WA state** laws. Write your state representatives soon expressing appreciation!!

- ***The Clean Fuel Standard Act**
- ***The Climate Commitment Act**
- ***HEAL Act** (environmental justice)
- ***HB1050** (hydrofluorocarbons)
- ***SB5022** (single-use plastics)

ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT

Now called **H.R. 2307**, it has been reintroduced by **Rep. Ted Deutch** and has 57 cosponsors (and counting!) Changes include net zero by 2050 and removal of the regulatory pause.

CCL ANNUAL CONFERENCE “The Push for a Price on Carbon”

will be held virtually **June 12-13**. Great speakers! No need to travel to D.C.! [Details](#)

OUR APRIL MEETING

Lexi Brewer (Chair of the **Sustainable Tacoma Commission** and Manager, **Forests COI** for the Puyallup Watershed Initiative) was a great speaker. We urgently need to help protect mature trees, urban trees, and our PNW high-quality forests! Be a tree advocate and participate in various local tree-related activities. A link to those and to her full presentation slides is in the [minutes](#).

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to **Linda Cohan, John Doherty, and Chuck Jensen!** Their opinion pieces were recently published in the [News Tribune](#). Wow! A record month for CCL Tacoma! **See the full texts below.**

Climate Talk radio program, with interviews and news by **John Doherty**, is on **KTAH** and **KVSH 101.9 FM**, and is archived on our [website](#).

[Ginny Lohr](#) and **Fred Ramey** are doing a great job with interesting **Facebook** posts! Take a look!

[James Morgese](#) creates videos on local climate stories. They are available on YouTube-- [Citizens' Climate Lobby-Tacoma Chapter](#).

The **Fircrest** lobby group has been hard at work! **Nancy Atwood, Mary Forman, Marti Lambert, Jason Berkowitz, Blake Surina, and Elly Claus-McGahan** have obtained endorsements from mayor **Henry George** and council member **Shannon Reynolds**.

There’s a lot more lobby and endorsement news from **Elly Claus-McGahan**, see below.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next chapter meeting
Wed., May 26 6:30-8:30
[Get Zoom link](#)

Book Group Wed., June 2 noon
discussing [Learning to Die](#) in the [Anthropocene](#) by Roy Scranton, and the Netflix documentary “Seaspiracy”
Contact [Sue Lepore](#)

[Tacoma Ocean Fest](#) June 6
10am-5 pm Foss Waterway
Visit the CCL booth!
Details, contact [Linda Cohan](#)

Note that past newsletters are archived on the website under “our chapter”

LOBBYING AND ENDORSEMENT NEWS

The endorsement/lobbying group is working on setting up meetings with **Senator Cantwell's** local staff member and the **Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce**. Please contact [Elly Claus-McGahan](#) if you are interested in either effort. (**Senator Murray** is running for re-election—good to keep that on our radar)

Climate Pierce County, of which **CCL** is a member, presented to the **Pierce County Regional Council** asking the council to become a center of climate collaboration for small cities and towns. It was well-received! **Climate Pierce County** will now work on presenting to city councils and helping to develop a collaboration mechanism for sharing resources and funding for projects.

On Monday, June 7 at 10 am, **Citizens for a Healthy Bay** is hosting a 90-minute workshop for environmental organizations to provide feedback to the **City of Tacoma's** developing **Climate Action Plan**. Check the [website](#) for the meeting Zoom link, which will be available soon.

The **Non-Interim Tideflats Regulations** got shifted to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability (**IPS Committee**). They've been asked to incorporate amendments and get back to the council by August 31. In the meantime, the Interim Regulations are back in play, and the amendment to stop the expansion of existing fossil fuel companies failed. Making sure our voice is heard by the **IPS Committee** this summer is important to close down fossil fuel expansion and encourage the growth of renewable fuel at the Port. Contact [Elly Claus-McGahan](#) if you want to be part of that effort.

OP-ED and LETTERS to the EDITOR

Linda Cohan, April 22. Positive Earth Day signs for Tacomans, other Earthlings with 9 years, 8 months to go

Today, as we observe Earth Day 2021, there is true cause for celebration. After decades of increasingly ominous warnings from scientists world-wide, 2021 may be the year that humanity takes decisive action on climate change. This is great news! The impressive increase in actionable goals is heartening, but the ominous warnings are still there. We Earthlings have yet to commit to taking the necessary steps to ensure that global temperature rise remains below the potential tipping point of 2 °C.

On the world stage, more than 110 countries including the European Union, Japan and South Korea have pledged carbon neutrality by 2050, and China by 2060. President Biden kicked off his ambitious U.S. climate plan with dozens of executive actions. Major corporations such as Amazon, GM and Ford are making commitments to a net zero carbon future. The U.S. returned to the Paris Agreement, setting the stage for all attendees to step up their emissions reduction pledges before the important COP26 Conference this November in Glasgow, Scotland.

Washington state enacted a 100% Clean Energy Bill in 2019 requiring utilities to produce fossil-free electricity by 2045. A number of climate bills are being debated in the current legislative session scheduled to end this weekend, including a Clean Fuel Standard, various carbon pricing policies, and bills that address environmental justice. The Pierce County Council recently passed a solid Sustainability 2030 plan, and the Tacoma City Council passed a Climate Emergency Resolution in 2019.

Why are so many countries and American government bodies setting these ambitious carbon reduction goals? Scientists are reporting that 2020 tied 2016 as the hottest year on record world-wide and that greenhouse gas emissions are already surpassing pre-COVID levels. A landmark 2018 UN report concluded that in order to avert the worst damage to Earth's life-supporting ecosystems, we need to halve our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050.

Noting that we currently have nine years and eight months until 2030 ends, how will we do that? A growing number of scientists have concluded that the fastest, most effective and durable solution is to put a price on carbon pollution. Business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable, and the American Petroleum Institute support a market-based approach over a regulatory approach. Further,

former Federal Reserve chairs and Nobel Laureate economists call a carbon tax the “most cost-effective lever to reduce emissions. With the Biden administration’s focus on climate as the “number one issue facing humanity,” Congress should seriously consider a number of bills drafted by senators and representatives, both Democrat and Republican. Republican Senators Murkowski, Graham and Romney have spoken out for pricing carbon. US Rep. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor, supports the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, a bill which returns the revenue stream directly to American households.

So this week, while you enjoy the splendor of spring in the Pacific Northwest, celebrate the hopeful progress on sustainable climate goals worldwide. Then let your members of Congress know that public polling finds a clear majority of Americans want Congress to do more to address global warming. Urge them to pass climate legislation now.

John Doherty, April 30

Climate Change

A column recently published in [The News Tribune](#) asks if we have lost the battle on climate change. The evidence he points to isn’t encouraging. It further shows that no matter how well-meaning (and I count myself among the well-meaning) we may be in our individual efforts, they are inadequate to the task of preventing the impending catastrophes of climate change.

Yet - Harvard researcher Erica Chenoweth and Fulbright Scholar Maria Stephan have published extensive peer-reviewed research showing that dedicated, peaceful activists comprising just 3.5% (or even less) of the total population can bring about major social and political change.

Their research shows that the way to winning this battle is via energized, aware and focused people pulling together to influence the political process. So don’t declare fossil fuel pollution-driven climate catastrophe the winner quite yet. I encourage those who are climate aware but not active to jump into the political process.

Chuck Jensen, May1

West Coast Wildfires

Re: “World leaders pledge climate cooperation,” (TNT, 4/23). President Biden is to be commended for doubling our country’s commitment to pollution reduction at the virtual climate summit. In stepping out from Donald Trump’s dark shadow, he is willing to declare US leadership in driving down global emissions. California has had below-normal rainfall for the last two winters, and 50 of the 58 counties are declared “drought disaster areas.” In an NPR broadcast of April 23, Cal Fire reported 1,200 wildfires since Jan. 1. Last year’s comparable number was 733. And the state went on to set a record with 4.2 million acres destroyed. Could it be that COVID-19 will not be the only reasons we are still wearing masks this summer in Puget Sound?