

Tacoma Citizens' Climate Lobby



Creating political will for a livable planet

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

PREVIOUS MEETING

Our **December** meeting was a festive **Holiday Potluck!** Members old and new and their families enjoyed great food and fun to celebrate another busy year of climate activism.

CCL NEWS

PERMITTING REFORM

Without it, “80% of the potential carbon pollution reductions from the **IRA** will be lost. We need Congress to work across the aisle and get this done!” Take action now, [email your members of Congress](#).

2024 WA STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

It has begun! This year’s “short session” opened **Jan. 8**. Lobbying for the state’s best climate legislation is one of **CCL Tacoma’s** most important goals for 2024.

A few early ‘**hotlists**’ of prioritized bills (such as 100% clean school buses, defending the [Climate Commitment Act](#), recycling and packaging reform, and the [CURB Act](#)) can be found through the links below:

[WCA Environmental Priorities Coalition](#)

[Sierra Club legislative agenda](#)

[350.org WA legislative priorities](#)

It’s exciting to engage in advocacy on the state level!

Learn how to get started at our **Jan. 17** meeting. We will discuss the hotlist bills and how to support them. Check out the **how-to step-by-step guide** provided on p.3!

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Jan. 7—Tabling committee members **Debra Grady** and **Linda Cohan** are pursuing contacts with local colleges for outreach of various kinds, including promoting participation in **CCL’s** exciting new youth initiative, the college **“Carbon Fee and Dividend Movement”**. Join our next tabling meeting on **Feb. 12**.

Jan. 9—**Nancy Atwood** reports that **Fircrest’s** new mayor and mayor pro-tempore are good on climate issues! Full details, **p. 2**

Jan 10-Feb. 26—Your input is needed! Don’t miss the public comment period on the **Draft Pierce Co. Comprehensive Plan**. See **Elly Claus-McGahan’s** report, **p.2**

February—Our postcard-writing group will get back to work, getting out the climate vote for this crucial 2024 election! Our [website](#) will post dates soon.

You (and all who live in Pierce Co.) can still sign the **TUFF petition** to city council to protect **Tacoma’s** tree canopy.

If you’d like to write something for the newsletter about a climate topic important to you, contact [Sue Lepore](#)

You can help [Ginny Lohr](#) post on our [Facebook](#) page by sending her photos (captioned, please).

Past newsletters are archived on the website

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 pm
Chapter Meeting on Zoom
Program: Lobbying for Climate Action in the 2024 WA State Legislature Session [Click for zoom link](#)

Saturday, Jan 20, 11am Tree Walk and 6:15 pm Concert,
[Tacoma Tree Foundation](#)
“From the Forest to the Sea”
Schneebeck Auditorium,
University of Puget Sound

Wednesday, Feb. 7 noon
CCL Study Group meeting
discussing articles that we email ahead of time. Join us on Zoom!
Contact [Sue Lepore](#)

Thursday, Feb. 8, 6 pm
Green Drinks (a local environmental networking group), Check our [website](#) for location.

Monday, Feb. 12, 7 pm Tabling Committee meeting on Zoom.
Contact [Linda Cohan](#)

Visit us on [Twitter \(@CCLTacoma\)](#) and [Instagram \(ccl_tacoma\)](#).

Good News in Fircrest!--Nancy Atwood

The City Council selected its new mayor, **Shannon Reynolds**, on January 9th. This is great news for us because Shannon has been talking about tree canopies & similar topics since she was elected over six years ago. She is science-savvy and not shy about explaining the facts. The new mayor pro tempore is **Nikki Bufford**. While Nikki's main focus is on equity, she is knowledgeable and concerned about climate change issues and, as you know, equity and climate change work together. Both women will serve for two years. Congratulations to both!

Public Comment on the Draft Pierce County Comprehensive Plan--Elly Claus-McGahan

It's HERE!

Public Comment Period on the draft Pierce County Comprehensive Plan documents is from January 10th to February 26th.

During this time, members of the public will help the County choose which approach it uses for land use, housing, transportation, facilities, climate change, and the environment for the next 20 years. The community will be able to provide input through written comments, an online 'open house', and in-person meetings around the county. Dates for these meetings can be found on our project website: piercecountywa.gov/CompPlan. Draft documents and dates are [here](#). The Plan gives advocates the basis for holding the County accountable when development plans are in the works that are counter to the vision. This is our chance to inform the vision of the future and encourage living more lightly on this planet we love.

For the last two years, Pierce County staff have been working with the public, elected officials, and subject matter experts to draft amendments to our Comprehensive Plan. To better understand the benefits and trade-offs of these changes, Pierce County has studied three options for the future:

1. **'No action'**. This is our 'business as usual' scenario.
2. **'Centers and corridors'** builds on existing plans to support more affordable housing by allowing more homes to be built in the urban areas of the County. It also takes steps to make our transportation more efficient and our community more resilient to climate change.
3. **'High-capacity transit'** would create dense neighborhoods within a half mile of high-capacity transit lines. It would make bigger investments in different types of transportation and the preservation of rural areas and forests lands to help the County prepare for climate change.

A place to start is reading the [DEIS Impact Summary](#). Alternative three does the most to minimize the environmental impact of expected growth due to population growth. If you love policy then read the Draft Policy statements for any of the [12 areas](#) that matter to you.

Commenting can be as simple as voicing your support for one of the three alternatives with a few comments on why, or more involved as in suggesting policy statements within one of the twelve areas. A large searchable bank of Climate policy statements is housed at the WA Dept of Commerce: [Model](#)

Measures: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=ee1c332f795d42afb83e24fa79744aee>, a great resource. If you are interested in digging deeply into one of the 12 areas, please let [Elly, drelly@sound-decisions.org](mailto:Elly_drelly@sound-decisions.org), know. Climate Pierce County is helping coordinate an effort to give robust input to the County for the final Comprehensive Plan.

Our State Legislators Need Your Input on Climate Bills!

The 2024 session just started. Now's our opportunity to support the most effective legislation addressing the climate crisis. 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. So...let's push the good bills over the finish line this year!

How does it work?

First –link up with organizations that find and assess bills, monitor their progress, and facilitate community input (“public testimony”). [Washington Conservation Action](#) does that very well in my experience, but also state chapters of the [League of Women Voters](#), [350.org](#), [Audubon](#), [Sierra Club](#), and [The Nature Conservancy](#). There should be a button to click to tell them you want to be notified about taking action.

Second—identify your district's state representatives and senator. Find through <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>

Making public testimony online

When you are alerted by your organization, you will receive descriptions and ID numbers of bills and when to submit your testimony. Often they provide shortcuts, but if not,

- Go 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 to get your district representatives' names; 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.”
- Type 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.

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

Urge your family and friends to advocate for bills as well. Get the message out!

Of Further Interest

Brian Stewart of [Electrify Now](#) put together a great video presentation for AARP on electrification of households/IRA rebates, etc. Some of us saw him speak at the **CCL State Conference in September**. He's excellent: very clear and accessible! Check out this [YouTube link!](#) (Starts at minute 3:20)