

WA Climate Assembly
Learning Session 1
Saturday, January 16, 10:00am-1:00pm
Presenter Materials

The presenters have provided their bios, summaries of their presentations, and additional educational materials in advance of their presentations. Review of these materials is optional, but recommended.

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Preston Hardison

Tribal and Indigenous Sovereignty and Climate Change

About Preston:

Preston Hardison is a retired non-tribal employee of the Tulalip Natural Resources Office of Treaty Rights, where he worked for two decades on defending Tulalip treaty rights to "resources," lands and waters with a focus on salmon and climate change issues. He also represented the Tulalip Tribes in negotiations in various bodies including the World Intellectual Property Organization (negotiations on indigenous rights to traditional knowledges) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya Protocol and Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (negotiations and expert advice on protecting biodiversity and nature's contributions to people). He has worked with national Tribal climate change policy and assessments to the National Climate Change Assessment the Congressional Climate Action Plan. He co-authored guidelines for considering traditional knowledges in climate change adaptation that have been endorsed by the US Department of Interior.

Presentation summary:

There are 29 federally recognized 7 non-federally recognized tribes in Washington State. 22 of the federally recognized Tribes signed one of 6 treaties negotiated with tribes, with 7 designated by Executive Order. There is one tribe recognized by the State of Washington. The federal government only recognizes obligations to the 29 tribes, with significant distinctions between treaty tribes and Executive Order tribes. All Tribes have rights, but this presentation will focus on treaty tribes. In the US Constitution, treaties are the "supreme law of the land" and binding on all states. Tribal treaty rights are not granted to tribes. They are based on inherent sovereign rights that pre-existed the establishment of the US Government and the states, and which were retained upon the establishment of Washington State. Following a brief description of this status and history, the presentation will introduce themes that the Assembly may wish to consider related to climate change impacts on tribes, potential effects of non-tribal responses to the climate emergency. It will close with a brief introduction to some tribal worldviews and how these relate to federal, state, local and citizen responsibilities towards sovereign tribes.

Georgine Yorgey, Washington State University

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Mitigation Opportunities in Washington State (with examples from agriculture)

About Georgine:

Georgine Yorgey is the Associate Director of Washington State University's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, where she has worked since 2009. Areas of work include climate change and agriculture, the food-energy-water nexus, and recovery and re-use of organic wastes in agriculture. Recent efforts include the *Farmer-to-Farmer Case Studies: Enhancing Resilience of Farming in the Pacific Northwest (13 case studies)* and a range of other non-academic and academic resources. Georgine grew up in Corvallis, Oregon and has lived in Washington since 2006.

Presentation summary:

Georgine's talk will provide an overview of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington, and mitigation, with a focus on (and examples from) Washington agriculture.

Shangrila Joshi, Evergreen State College

Ethical Considerations Around Climate Policy and Climate Justice

About Shangrila:

Shangrila Joshi is a Member of the Faculty in Climate Justice at The Evergreen State College. She has a doctoral degree in Environmental Sciences, Studies and Policy (focal discipline Geography) from the University of Oregon, a Master's degree in International Affairs from Ohio University, and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Environmental Sciences from St. Xavier's College, Kathmandu University. Shangrila is a Newar from Nepal, and spent her formative years there, as well as in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Kabul, Afghanistan. Her research has focused on climate policy and politics at the international scale, and in South Asia. Her Ph.D. dissertation examined North-South climate politics leading up to the Copenhagen Climate Conference. She has published this work in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. Her forthcoming book *Climate Change Justice and Global Resource Commons* draws on this work as well as post-doctoral research in Nepal critically examining climate mitigation projects.

Presentation summary:

In this presentation, I discuss climate justice as a multi-faceted and multi-scalar idea, and argue for a commons-oriented climate policy framework. As such, I will discuss the distributive, participatory, recognition-based, and structural approaches to understanding climate inequalities and envisioning just solutions in global and local contexts. I will contextualize this discussion against the discourse of the 'tragedy of the commons'. If the climate crisis is to be thought of as a tragedy of the atmospheric commons, how might we avert such a tragedy? I will address this question while pointing to some missteps that have been taken and some possible remedies.

Optional additional materials

<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/07/what-is-climate-justice/>

https://www.sylff.org/news_voices/27127/

<https://civileats.com/2020/07/06/could-putting-farmland-in-the-commons-support-and-justice-and-sustainability/>

<https://www.dw.com/en/cyclone-amphan-victim-feels-abandoned-by-international-community/a-53572416>

Howard Sharfstein & Steve Hollenhorst – Western Washington University Creating a Carbon Conservation Trust Movement

About Howard:

Howard Sharfstein is a retired environmental attorney and former corporate sustainability leader. For more than four decades, Howard has been an environmental professional serving in policy, technical and legal roles. As a practicing attorney, he helped clients fulfill regulatory requirements and he supported complex business transactions.

For nearly a quarter-century, Howard was an in-house lawyer at Kimberly-Clark Corporation (the makers of Kleenex, Kotex, and Huggies) where he managed environmental compliance and advised on numerous renewable energy deals. There he served as counsel to the company's Sustainability Advisory Board and helped the Global Energy Services team develop effective strategies to reduce the company's carbon emission well-beyond its science-based targets.

Howard has been an adjunct professor here at Western since early 2019. He has taught both Environmental Law & Policy and Energy Policy & Politics. Howard is currently leading an independent study program for students to help launch the carbon trust movement. This spring, he will also teach a Business of Energy class.

About Steve:

Steve Hollenhorst is a Professor and Dean of the Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University. Prior to that he was the Associate Dean of the College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho, founding director of UI's award-winning Building Sustainable Communities Initiative, founding director of the UI McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS), and co-editor of the international academic journals *Society and Natural Resources* and the *International Journal of Wilderness*. Prior to that he was on the forestry faculty at West Virginia University. While there he served as Treasurer and Vice-Chair of the West Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He also founded the West Virginia Land Trust and was a founding board member of the Monongahela River Trail Conservancy and the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. He earned his B.S and M.S. degrees from the University of Oregon, and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University. His research is in the areas of land use policy and management; land trusts and conservation easements; and environmental leadership.

Presentation summary:

We propose an institutional framework, organizational design, and financing system -- based on current law and the use of markets -- to acquire and secure legal rights to subterranean and biospheric carbon reserves. Acting on behalf of the public, including future generations, the Carbon Conservation Trust (CCT) system will help stabilize the climate by averting carbon emissions and expanding protected carbon reserves to mitigate atmospheric carbon levels.

The CCT system expands on the approach private non-profit land trusts take to conservation, where non-possessory property interests in ecosystem services are acquired to protect them from development. We propose extending the same legal tools to safeguard the earth's carbon reserves, accumulated over several hundred million years, that stabilize the climate. Combining elements of (i) land trusts, (ii) workforce development programs, (iii) cooperative extension, and (iv) green finance, carbon trusts will function through public/private partnerships, business sponsorships, and multi-stakeholder alliances to develop and implement scalable climate solutions. Successful projects will earn carbon credits by avoiding the conversion of stored carbon into greenhouse gas emissions with measures that credibly certify, properly verify, and legally safeguard carbon assets.

At the heart of the CCT system will be a network of independently chartered, non-profit carbon trusts that work with landowners to protect and augment carbon reserves on their property. Participating landowners will enter covenants that promise to preserve carbon assets on or under the land. In exchange, property owners will receive compensation from sponsors or get validated carbon credits for sale to offset buyers on carbon markets. In fossil fuel country, CCTs will focus on securing fossil carbon reserves. In regions rich in biospheric carbon reserves (such as natural forests, wetlands, and grasslands), emphasis will be on conserving and restoring those landscapes as carbon sinks. In agricultural regions, CCTs will promote carbon farming and agroforestry practices that provide income, build wealth, reduce emissions, and capture and sequester carbon.

CCTs will deploy a trained workforce of carbon protectors (CPs) to secure a legal interest in carbon reserves and help landowners capture and sequester additional carbon through tree planting, forest protection, biochar production, and regenerative agriculture. CPs will work directly in-house for carbon trusts, independently under contract or on a fee basis, and as consultants providing technical assistance to carbon trust stakeholders. Universities, colleges, and trade schools will play a vital role in the workforce training and advancement for CPs.

At the national level, an Association of Carbon Conservation Trusts (ACCT) will provide advocacy and governance, including accreditation, best practices, performance standards, and training materials for CCTs and their workforce of CPs. The ACCT will also promote policies and processes that use carbon markets to transform forests, agricultural fields, and fossil fuel reserves from potential carbon emission sources to protected carbon reserves. Going forward, we will enlist thought leaders to help develop a pilot carbon trust based in Washington's Whatcom and Skagit counties. This experience will inform a founders' conference in late 2021 to establish the ACCT and start accrediting and scaling CCTs in other regions.

Christi Carey, Phreddie Lane, Mark Waschke, Extinction Rebellion

Climate Change and Human Wellbeing

About Christi:

Christi became interested in the proliferation of plastic pollution decades ago. When plastic bags were introduced, around 1980, she made her first cloth bag and does not utilize plastic bags. She is currently an organizer and active member of Extinction Rebellion, Bellingham. This group attempts to educate the public about climate related issues through social media and events. In her professional life, she has focused on empowering and encouraging all people, but particularly students and youth with challenges. She is a life-long learner, and enjoys sharing, collaborating, and laughing. Counseling experience in the mental health field and foster care system, as well as teaching all types of psychology classes provides a foundation for relating to all people. Teaching various accounting and business classes and providing financial education to both adults and youth and offering tax preparation services also contributes to the foundation of her academic and social service activities. Teaching experience includes facilitating both in-person and distance learning college level classes since 2008 and substituting at the high school level since 2009. She is President and CEO of Teens, Training, and Taxes, which is a non-profit organization created to prepare taxes for the public for a nominal fee, and to offer financial education to youth and adults with challenges. Teens, Training, and Taxes will collaborate with non-profits, including Restorative Community Coalition located in Bellingham, Washington, to assist people who are impacted by any negative event, including climate-related events. She is also a board member of Restorative Community Coalition. She has held the National Certified Counselor accreditation (NCC) since 2005 and achieved the Accredited Financial Counseling certification (AFC®) in 2014. She has held the Arizona Substitute Teacher Certification K-12 since 2009, substituting at Ponderosa High School, Coconino County Juvenile Detention, and Coconino County Jail. Academic achievements include a master's degree in counseling, a master's degree in financial counseling, and a doctorate in educational leadership.

About Freddie:

Freddie Lane is a documentary filmmaker and photographer who graduated from Chemawa Indian Boarding School in 1986. As a former member of the Lummi Council, Freddie advocates for treaty rights, rights of nature and environmental protectionism. He has worked for Lummi

Nation and the tribes newspaper, 'Squol Quol' from 1996 to 2008 and continues his work in public relations and communications with youth filmmaking workshops & consulting. Lane has logged over 48,000 miles with the House of Tears Carvers beginning in 2002 with the Healing Pole Journey to 'Kwel hoy' 'We draw the line' fighting pipelines & coal ports and saving the orca whale 'Lolita' from the Miami Seaquarium. Freddie has directed the Lummi Stommish Water Festival for over 22-years and directed the Paddle to Lummi 2007 Tribal Journeys, with 65,000 attendees and 72-canoes and host at the Paddle to Lummi 2019.

About Mark:

Mark was raised on a working dairy in Western Washington. He has operated a tree trimming business for over 40 yrs. He worked with USDA Forest Service contracts, which included cone picking in genetically superior trees [silviculture] and precommercial thinning in naturally regrowing stands of previously logged units. Mark has been doing serious soil rebuilding and carbon sequestering [on a small scale] here on the west side of the state of Washington and has done a small tree planting projects on private land with very challenging conditions in Eastern Washington. Mark has been an activist, starting with the Occupy movement, as participant and organizer, with Shell No, Standing Rock, Bernie '16', and now Extinction Rebellion, acting as administrator of multiple Facebook pages, such as XR Regeneration WG B'ham and others. Looking Seven Generations out is not an abstract concept: it is survival.

Presentation summary:

Freddie Lane will discuss how he educates people using documentary filmmaking and photography. He will explain how, as a former member of the Lummi Council, Freddie advocates for treaty rights, rights of nature and environmental protectionism. He uses his work in public relations and communications with youth filmmaking workshops & consulting to educate and inform the public. Lane will discuss how art is a very important part of Lummi tradition and that he has traveled 48,000 miles with the House of Tears Carvers, beginning with the Healing Pole Journey to 'Kwel hoy.'" He will discuss the movement 'We draw the line' fighting pipelines, coal ports, and saving the orca whale 'Lolita' from the Miami Seaquarium. Freddie will discuss community activist activities, such as Lummi Stommish Water Festival, Paddle to Lummi and Tribal Journeys.

Christi Carey will discuss energy inefficiency in cities including how to change building codes. She will also discuss city-wide pollution and recycling. She will give examples of how a city could approach and manage these issues. Building codes for

single-family dwellings are very restrictive and complicated. They could be more efficient statewide and zoning could be adjusted to allow tiny homes and smaller prefab homes, including community gardens. Trash disposal and recycling could be made more convenient and ubiquitous for residents.

Jennifer Atkinson, University of Washington Climate Grief

About Jennifer

[Jennifer Atkinson](#) is an Associate Professor of environmental humanities at the University of Washington Bothell, and the creator and host of "[Facing It](#)," a podcast exploring the emotional toll of climate disruption. She also co-coordinates the [Existential Toolkit for Climate Educators](#), an international collaboration of activists, educators, mental health professionals and climate scientists who are developing resources to navigate the psychological dimensions of ecological loss. Jennifer's seminar on "Climate Anxiety & Eco-Grief" was among the first college courses of its kind in the U.S. and has been featured in [The Washington Post](#), the [Los Angeles Times](#), [NBC News](#), [The Seattle Times](#), and [Grist](#). She is also the author of [Gardenland: Nature, Fantasy and Everyday Practice](#). Jennifer holds a PhD in English from the University of Chicago, and currently lives in Seattle where she's taught at the University of Washington for the past 11 years.

Presentation summary:

We usually focus on the physical impacts of climate change, but ecological disruption is also taking a huge emotional toll. This talk explores the mental health dimensions of climate disruption, and offers strategies for navigating the range of emotions we feel in response to this crisis: from anxiety and grief to anger, guilt, apathy and hope. Professor Atkinson draws from her experience teaching a seminar at the University of Washington that helps students and faculty manage the anxiety that can arise from environmental loss. For additional strategies for developing the resilience to stay engaged in climate solutions, please see Atkinson's podcast, "Facing It": <https://www.drjenniferatkinson.com/facing-it>

Optional additional materials

[Facing It](https://www.drjenniferatkinson.com/facing-it): a podcast about climate grief and eco anxiety. Hosted by Jennifer Atkinson, PhD. This podcast explores the psychological toll of climate change, and why our emotional responses are key to addressing this existential threat. In each episode of "Facing It," Atkinson explores a different way we can harness despair to activate meaningful solutions. <https://www.drjenniferatkinson.com/facing-it>

Resources on Eco-Grief and Climate Anxiety:

<https://www.drjenniferatkinson.com/resources>