

WA Climate Assembly
Learning Session 6
Tuesday, February 2, 6:00pm-8:00pm
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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Lauren Breynaert

Coalition Director of the Climate Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy
Expert Presenter

History of Climate Policies in WA State and Opportunities in the 2021 Legislative Session

Learning objective: Learn about the history of climate policies, including carbon pricing and other related policies (e.g., CETA), in WA State and about upcoming priorities in the current 2021 legislative session and beyond.

About Lauren:

Lauren is dedicated to working in and growing the environmental justice and climate justice movements at the intersection of racial and economic justice. Lauren has worked with national and statewide coalitions and campaigns including the Moving Forward Network, a national environmental justice coalition, and the Climate Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy. Lauren is currently the Coalition Director of the Climate Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, a statewide climate justice coalition based in Washington state with partners including environmental advocates, labor unions, community of color-based organizations, health professionals, and faith communities, working with tribal nations, committed to building a resilient climate justice movement and passing equitable solutions to the climate crisis. Lauren's work with the Climate Alliance has helped change the conversation in Washington state from whether we should take action on climate, to demonstrating how it should be done: with a broad coalition that includes frontline communities and impacted workers, and climate policy solutions that support the just transition of impacted workers, low-income communities, and communities of color who disproportionately bear the impacts of pollution and of the transition. Lauren was born and raised in Washington State and currently resides in the town of Port Angeles, Washington with her partner and dogs Odi and Tucker.

Optional additional materials:

- <https://waclimatealliance.org/resilientfuture/>

Eric dePlace

Director of the Thin Green Line Program at the Sightline Institute

Expert Presenter

Fossil Fuel Transport

Learning objective: Learn about the history of fossil fuel transportation policies, why they are needed, and how they link to other carbon emissions reduction policies and strategies.

About Eric:

Eric de Place is director of the Thin Green Line program at the Sightline Institute, devoted to shedding light on coal, oil, and gas development in the Pacific Northwest. During nearly two decades at Sightline, Eric has earned a reputation as an authority on a range of issues, as well as an effective advocate who shapes public policy at the state and local level. His successes include research-based efforts to roll back oil industry tax loopholes, halt dirty energy projects, defeat right-wing property rights initiatives, expose shady PR firms, advance regional climate policy, and much more. He has published more than a thousand pieces of popular writing and technical analysis on sustainability issues and his work has been featured in hundreds of news media stories, including at Time magazine, the New York Times, Washington Post, Fox News, CNN, Vox, NPR, the Guardian and scores of other outlets.

In addition to working with Sightline, Eric also runs an independent consulting practice founded on the belief that well-crafted research can capture the imagination to drive change. In that capacity, he recently designed and launched a new progressive think tank for Appalachia, the Ohio River Valley Institute, where he serves as a senior research fellow.

David Mendoza

Director of Public Advocacy and Engagement at the Nature Conservancy

Expert Presenter

Environmental Justice Policies and Opportunities in the 2021 Legislative Session

Learning objective: Learn about environmental justice and how it can manifest in climate mitigation policies at the state level, the environmental justice task force, and upcoming priorities.

About David:

David is the Director of Advocacy and Engagement for the WA chapter of Nature Conservancy overseeing state and federal lobbying and policy communication staff. Prior to TNC, he served as the Director of Legislative and Government Affairs for Front and Centered, a WA statewide coalition of organizations rooted in communities of color and people with lower incomes focused on environmental justice. In this role, David helped shape climate policy in Washington State and played a critical role in developing the HEAL Act. He has served on the state Environmental Justice Task Force.

From 2014 through 2017, David served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the Seattle Mayor's Office of Policy and Innovation. His policy portfolio included the development of 12 city ordinances including; cannabis regulations, labor standards, implementation of the Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative and policies related to Uber/Lyft and AirBnB, among others. Prior to working in the Mayor's office, David served as a Policy Counsel for the House Democratic Caucus in Olympia, WA. While there, he advised Democratic Representatives on issues related to the Labor & Workforce Development Committee and the Government Accountability & Oversight Committee. This latter committee was tasked with liquor, gambling, tobacco and marijuana regulations.

His other experience includes working at Puget Sound Sage where he wrote the first research report making the case for a \$15 minimum wage at Sea-Tac Airport. His volunteer experience includes serving as a Commissioner for the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission from 2011-2014 and as the 2014 President of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington. He is a graduate of Pitzer College and Seattle University School of Law and is a licensed attorney in California.

Presentation summary:

David will cover the origins and work of the recently concluded WA State Environmental Justice Taskforce and touch on current legislation incorporating taskforce recommendations.

Tim Trohimovich

Director of Planning and Law at Futurewise

Expert Presenter

Community organizing and Growth Management Act

Learning objective: Learn about priorities and opportunities in the Growth Management Act and its update in how it can support climate mitigation policies.

About Tim:

currently the Director of Planning & Law, joined Futurewise in 2001. He focuses on policy, education, technical assistance, and land use and environmental law. He has over 30 years of planning experience. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the Washington and Oregon Bar Associations, and the Bar Association of the United States Supreme Court. In 2011, Tim was one of three instructors of the year for the University of Washington's Professional and Continuing Education Program. He co-wrote a chapter for Planning the Pacific Northwest published in 2015 by the American Planning Association.

Optional additional materials:

- See attached "Washington Can't Wait" PDF

Dr. Vandana Asthana

Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Eastern Washington University

Expert Presenter

WA's Climate Action in the Broader International Context

Learning objective: Learn about how WA can be a leader in the US for climate action, framing it how policies can lead to benefits outside of WA State, including for other states/provinces. Learn about how WA State's ambitions fit within the broader international policy conversations about climate change.

About Dr. Asthana:

Dr. Asthana is currently Professor, Government Department at Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA. She was the former Chair of the Department of Political Science at Christ Church College, in Kanpur, India and has a PhD in Political Science from Kanpur University and a PhD in Natural Resources and Environmental Science, from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. She is a board member of the South Asian Studies Association, a California based nonprofit public corporation that works to connect South Asian scholars from all parts of the world through conferences, discussion panels and the Brown Bag Radio broadcast. Her areas of research are in South Asian security with a focus on nontraditional threats and human security with special reference to water, environment and development.

Presentation summary:

It wasn't until the United Nation's framework Convention on Climate Change 1992 that nations officially acknowledged that the world needed to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent largescale human induced impacts with the climate system. Nations negotiation which led to the signing of two important accords the Kyoto Protocol 2005 and the Paris Agreement of 2015. The Paris agreement came just after the IPCC 2015 Assessment Report that warned about rising temperatures at current rates and warned that a 2degree Centigrade Rise would have hazardous consequences for both the developing and the developed world. The Paris agreement signed by 195 countries committed to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees C above preindustrial levels. This presentation speaks to Washington State's commitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement and its efforts and challenges to decarbonize the economy to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Washington can be well positioned to lead climate action but there is still a lot more work to be done.