

WA Climate Assembly
Learning Session 7
Saturday, February 6, 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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Conference Room 1

Stefanie Krantz

Climate Change Adaptation Planner of the Nez Perce Tribe

Interested Party Presenter

Issues Facing Tribes and Rural Communities

Learning objective: Learn about how climate change and action impacts rural community's needs and rural economic development.

About Stefanie:

Stefanie Krantz is a climate change adaptation planner, a Climate Reality Leader, an ecologist, and a concerned citizen. She lives in far eastern Washington in Clarkston, WA, and works for the Nez Perce Tribe in Lapwai, Idaho. She grew up in rural New Mexico, and has lived and worked in rural communities for much of her life doing everything from searching for exotic invasive pests in farms, to surveys for large solar, wind, and transmission projects, to planning for climate change. She received her Master's Degree in Resource Ecology Management from the University of Michigan in 2005 where she studied biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. She is an avid bird watcher who enjoys traveling and learning first-hand about birds, wildlife, ecosystems, and the impacts of climate change and extreme events on people. When she is not working, she enjoys art, regenerative gardening, and sharing her love of nature with her son.

Presentation summary:

Eastern Washington and Western Washington are dramatically different ecologically, economically, and culturally. Eastern Washington is experiencing the changing climate in different ways than the "west side". Eastern Washington has a much smaller population than coastal areas, but manages a far greater amount of land, and is likely to become an even more critical region for agriculture in the West as the frost free season expands, temperatures rise, and southern states experience more frequent and longer droughts. As such, Eastern Washington has a role to play in carbon sequestration, and renewable energy development.

Rural communities that are already struggling with poverty and food insecurity have lower economic growth than coastal communities, and less capacity for addressing extreme events. Green jobs programs that focus on soil carbon sequestration, resilient agriculture, and renewable energy could make a huge difference for rural communities struggling economically. This talk will examine some of these unique opportunities in Eastern Washington, and focus on some of leadership already

taking place to address these impacts including the contributions of Eastern Washington Tribes, the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Network, and Universities and farmers in Eastern Washington.

Shelly Vendiola

Co-Founder of the Community Engagement & Peacemaking Project
Expert Presenter

A Way Forward - Lessons from the Swinomish Climate Resilience Project

Learning objective: Learn about tribal climate mitigation efforts through community engagement

About Shelly:

Shelly Vendiola (Swinomish/Visayan) and has served over 29 years as an educator, facilitator, activist, and peacemaker. She is co-founder of the native Community Engagement and Peacemaking Project providing facilitation, community engagement strategies and training including strategic planning, dispute resolution, and traditional peacemaking circles.

Shelly is a consultant for many tribal organizations including the Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection - Climate Resilience Project, and the native women's advocacy non-profit Mother Nation. She developed a "place-based" curriculum for Northwest Indian College Native Studies Leadership Program and taught a series of Cultural Sovereignty courses on the history, language, and culture of Swinomish peoples. Shelly formerly served as board president for the Indigenous Women's Network and Campaign Director for the Indigenous Environmental Network. She received formal peacemaking training from Indian Dispute Resolution Services and the San Francisco Community Boards Program. Shelly is greatly influenced by her elders and ancestors and practices indigenous research methodology as a scholar. She practices the ancient meditation of Qigong daily for balance, energy, and mindfulness. She says, "There is nothing permanent in the world but change, the key is how we flow with it!"

Presentation summary:

Following the Swinomish Climate Change Initiative Adaptation Plan in 2010, participants will be presented a summary of the community engagement work that

the Swinomish Protect Mother Earth "community-interest" group is currently working on as a frontline impacted community. The scope of the project reflects upon the accomplishments and ongoing strategies for strengthening or developing meaningful relationships with the Swinomish and surrounding communities. Helpful resources for inclusion and alliance-building will be presented highlighting the vital need to protect tribal sovereignty and thereby uphold traditional values and natural law.

Optional additional materials:

- 2021 Tribal CP Resolution Draft - see attached PDF

Todd Mitchell

Environmental Director at Swinomish Tribe

Expert Presenter

What Does Local Climate Mitigation and Community Engagement Look Like

Learning objective: Learn about tribal climate mitigation action and how Tribes can engage and leverage the State for ambitious climate policies.

Conference Room 2

Allison Osterberg

Senior Planner at the Thurston Regional Planning Council

Expert Presenter

Community Energy Planning

Learning objective:

- *Learn about a County-wide effort to mitigate climate change*
- *Learn about how the County enacts and implements state policies*
- *Learn about what else the State can do to support the County*

About Allison:

Allison Osterberg is a Senior Planner at Thurston Regional Planning Council, with experience in land use and environmental planning. She is the coordinator of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, a partnership among the communities of Thurston County, Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater to identify strategies and actions to reduce local contributions to climate change. Previously, she worked as a planner for Thurston County, where her projects included climate adaptation, comprehensive planning, low impact development standards, and watershed planning. She holds a Masters Degree in Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College.

Presentation summary:

Local governments—cities, towns, and counties—are on the front lines of applying the science of climate change to policy decisions, and have a key role to play in permitting development, protecting public health, and supporting the long-term resilience of communities and ecosystems. At the same time, grappling with the drivers of global climate change involves addressing systems, such as transportation networks and housing markets, that expand beyond a single jurisdiction's boundaries and influence, and can make for tough public discussions about a community's vision for the future. This presentation will cover the role of local government in planning for climate action, as well as some of the challenges and lessons learned from developing a local approach to climate mitigation in the Thurston County region. The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan was completed in

2020 and the project partners are now moving into implementation – more information is available at www.trpc.org/climate?

Dr. Zack Gold

Researcher at the UW Cooperative Institute for Climate, Ocean, and Ecosystem Studies

UAW4121

Interested Party Presenter

The Intersection of Climate and Labor

Learning objective: Learn about the intersection of climate and labor, what labor is doing, and opportunities in the WA State Legislature for labor / climate action strategies.

About Dr. Gold:

Dr. Zachary Gold is a postdoctoral researcher at the UW Cooperative Institute for Climate, Ocean, and Ecosystem Studies (CICOES) and a member of the United Auto Workers Local 4121 Climate Justice Working Group. The Climate Justice Work Group of UAW 4121 advances climate, social, and environmental justice policies at the UW, city, county and state levels; as a labor union, we work in solidarity and in coalition with organizations and frontline communities across Washington state to support a just transition to a regenerative and equitable economy. Currently in his day job as a marine molecular ecologist, Zack researches and develops novel conservation genomics techniques, particularly environmental DNA (eDNA), to better monitor coastal marine ecosystems and endangered species including harbor porpoises and Southern Resident Killer Whales. Zack received his PhD from UCLA studying Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in 2020 and a B.S. in Marine Biology from Stanford University in 2015. Zack has a keen interest in the intersection of science, policy, and equity with a focus on advocating for science and equity informed management decisions. As an avid SCUBA diver, cyclist, former ocean lifeguard, and National Geographic Young explorer growing up in Los Angeles, Zack has a deep passion for coastal communities and the marine environment and strongly advocates for environmental justice and protection of these vital communities and ecosystems.

Presentation summary:

The impacts of climate change can not be understated as all Washingtonians felt this summer in the midst of a raging pandemic. These impacts hit the most vulnerable frontline communities the hardest who are already impacted economically and the least capable of withstanding additional stressors. There is no doubt we have to act on climate change at the local, state, and federal levels. This transition to address climate change is inevitable, but a just transition is not.

In order to adequately address climate change scientists and economists have outlined that major transitions to the energy, agriculture, transportation, construction, manufacturing, and industry sectors that must occur. These transitions are inherently disruptive, and transitioning from an extractive to regenerative based economy has the potential to lead to widespread loss of jobs and income if done poorly. Climate policies have the potential to dramatically impact local economies and frontline communities. Therefore it is critical that climate solutions must not perpetuate economic and social injustices already rampant in our current system - extreme income inequality, environmental racism, and disproportionate impacts of job losses and job creation.

As union members, we believe all workers, especially frontline workers and those in fossil fuel dependent industries, deserve access and training to meaningful work that provides thriving wages to support fulfilling lives. Unions and union workers as a whole have important foundational beliefs that are core to ensuring safe, equitable, and fulfilling work including job security, fair wages, a safe workplace environment with adequate health and safety precautions, benefits/rights associated with quality work including health insurance, retirement, family care as well as holidays and weekends.

Ultimately, any truly just transition must continue to build and enhance stronger worker protections and ensure that everyone has access to fulfilling work that provides a thriving wage. However, it is important to remember the unique perspectives of different unions as a union of postdocs such as UAW 4121 may have very different priorities and perspectives of the Northwest Carpenters Union which has hundreds of jobs associated with the fossil fuel industry across the Puget Sound. When someone's job, which both provides the only source income and stability as well as meaningful purpose and productivity, is on the line and there is no economic or social safety net or transition for these employees, it is wholly unsurprising that a Union will fight to protect their workers and livelihoods despite the existential threat of climate change. As an academic union whose jobs are not threatened by this transition directly, we often have the privilege to be able to take a step back from an individual worker or local union's perspective and look at the broader and regional and global perspective to recognize that addressing systemic climate change is critical to alleviating broader social problems and all too frequently have ignored

what that means for workers in the fossil fuel industry and the communities they support.

UAW and many other unions within the state argue that a key to a just transition is to say that the ends do not justify the means. These are real jobs, real families, real communities that will be impacted by this transition and thus any transition must ensure that these workers retain the same access to high quality work and benefits, just as we argue that all workers in the state deserve labor rights and dignity of quality work with great benefits and wages. To achieve this, policy designed and implemented to address climate change must center frontline communities, fund worker training and transition programs, ensure labor rights for all workers, provide reparations for previous environmental racism, provide clean and just transportation, focus on climate resilient investments, provide climate friendly affordable housing, and buy clean and buy fair standards where only on materials that are manufactured in a cleaner, less carbon-intensive manner with the best possible labor standards.

Chloe Yeo and Meghan Tinnea

Organizers with The Sunrise Movement

Interested Party Presenters

The Youth Movement for Climate Action

Learning objective: Learn about the youth movement for climate action and their priorities for the WA State Legislature.

About Chloe:

Chloe is an organizer with Sunrise Seattle, a youth-led climate justice organization, where she supports and coaches middle and high school students in starting Sunrise hubs. She graduated from the University of Washington in 2018 and currently works full time as a graphic designer.

About Meghan:

Meghan is a junior at Nathan Hale where she enjoys wrestling and lacrosse, as well as computer programming. She is an organizer with Sunrise Seattle, a member of the Mayor's Youth Climate Council, and president of her school's Climate Justice Club.

Presentation Summary:

Climate change is the most detrimental crisis of our time, and youth are leading the movement. These children are organizing sit ins, banner drops, phone banking, and more for their future. So where are the adults in the room? We need our elected officials to stand with the youth, and pass legislation to hold fossil fuel billionaires accountable. The Sunrise Movement is asking for a Green New Deal, a piece of legislation that works to reverse the effects of climate change, while creating millions of green, new jobs in the process. Climate change is not an individual person's fault and climate solutions should not be framed as such. Meanwhile, fossil fuel executives have understood the effect of their industry since the 1970s, and selfishly continued destroying our Earth for money. Our movement needs the adults in the room to take a stand against climate change, vote for people who care about the future of our youth, and pass legislation to protect it.

Optional additional materials

- <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>
- [More about the Green New Deal](#)

Conference Room 3

Marco Lowe

Director of Government Affairs at the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties

Interested Party Presenter

Local Perspectives on the Building Industry and Climate Mitigation

Learning objective: Learn the building industry and priorities for climate action.

About Marco:

Marco began his career as part of Gary Locke's successful 1996 gubernatorial campaign in Washington State. After catching the political bug, Marco worked for several elected officials directly or on their campaigns, including Governor Locke and Seattle Mayor's Nickels and McGinn.

In 2006 he left Seattle to pursue a master's in public administration. After graduation he has worked in both the public and private sector in various roles and cities on both coasts. He is currently the head of Government Relations at the Master Builders

of King and Snohomish Counties and developing several missing middle housing projects in Seattle. Marco also teaches classes at Seattle University's MPA program and frequently serves as a political commentator in the media. In 2020 he authored the book "Powershift" detailing the critical nation of political transitions between Election Day and taking office.

Mason Rolph

President of Olympia Community Solar

Interested Party Presenter

Yes, Solar Energy Works in Washington - But Only for Wealthy Homeowners

Learning objective: Learn about how WA can invest in solar energy through current net metering laws and other policies.

About Mason:

Mason Rolph serves as the President of Olympia Community Solar. Mason, a graduate of The Evergreen State College, has consulted on community solar policy for The Coalition For Community Solar Access and Common Energy; a community solar administrator in New York. He has co-authored publications with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Smart Electric Power Association (SEPA). He received the Sam Garst Climate Champion award by Climate Solutions in 2018.

In 2018 Mason founded Olympia Community Solar (OCS), a non-profit charity with the mission to steward an equitable and accessible transition to clean energy. OCS recently completed construction of their Hummingbird Community Solar Project, a 117 kW solar array with 99 participants. OCS is working with Representative Jessica Bateman on House Bill 1046, an effort to create a state regulated community solar program. OCS is raising funds to provide solar energy training resources to incarcerated people around Washington State.

Presentation summary:

This presentation will dispel common myths about solar, educate assembly members on the current policy framework for solar in Washington, and identify areas for policy improvement. I'll describe why solar is effective in the PNW and steps the state is taking to recycle solar products. I'll outline the costs and benefits the average rooftop solar customer faces. I'll outline barriers to rooftop solar and how to overcome them, and finally I'll present some overarching policy recommendations to improve Washington's solar policy.

Optional additional materials:

- [Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan](#) (Solar related actions are on page 78 of the plan)
- [SolSmart Program](#): A department of Energy technical assistance program for cities and counties to create solar friendly local markets.
- [How Solar Net Metering works \(video\)](#)
- [How Virtual Net Metering works \(video\)](#)
- [National Renewable Energy Laboratory - Community Solar Resources](#)
- [Washington's Net Metering Law \(RCW 80.60\)](#)
- [House Bill 1046 - Community Solar Program](#)

Sara Holzknecht

Washington State Campaign Organizer for Oceana

Co-Founder of 350 Eastside

Interested Party Presenter

Building Electrification

Note: presenter is submitting a recorded presentation

Learning objective: Learn about the health, safety, and climate risks associated with natural gas use in our homes and businesses, as well as the opportunities for advancing climate resiliency with a move towards electrification

About Sara:

Sara Holzknecht is the Washington State Campaign Organizer for ocean advocacy NGO Oceana, as well as a co-founder of 350 Eastside, a chapter of 350.org on Seattle's Eastside. She holds a Masters of Science in Energy and Climate Policy from Johns Hopkins University, where her recent thesis focused on how to utilize renewable energy generation to advance climate adaptation and resilience. She is also part of the effort to establish a new Public Utility District in east King County via ballot initiative in 2022, replacing Puget Sound Energy's majority fossil fuel energy mix. She can be reached at sara@350eastside.org.

Presentation summary:

My presentation will highlight the need for building electrification and moving away from natural gas as an energy source. I would highlight the health, safety, and climate risks associated with natural gas use in our homes and businesses, as well as the opportunities for advancing climate resiliency with a move towards electrification such as transitioning to heat pumps. I will focus on legislative opportunities in the current 2020-2021 session, including HB 1084, which would phase out natural gas in new construction by 2030 and all buildings by 2050.

Main Room

Jason Herbert

Director of Government Affairs and Member Relations of Energy Northwest
Expert Presenter

Nuclear Energy and Climate Mitigation

Learning objective: Learn about the potential of nuclear energy and its pros and cons.

About Jason:

Jason is the Director of Government Affairs and Member Relations at Energy Northwest. His responsibilities include managing the agency's state and federal legislative engagement and communicating with member utilities, trade associations and key stakeholders. Jason navigates complex policy matters and works with policymakers to advance agency priorities. Prior to joining EN, Jason spent a decade working in the U.S. House of Representatives, consulting on energy and environmental policy, and advising political campaigns. In Congress, he advised members on numerous policy issues and held several senior staff positions.

Marnie Boardman

Climate Change Coordinator

Climate and Health Section, Office of Environmental Public Health
Sciences, Division of Environmental Public Health, Washington State
Department of Health

Expert Presenter

Statewide Health Disparities and Climate

Learning objective: Learn about the WA Health Disparities Map, an ongoing project led by the WA Department of Health, and how the State tracks disparities in environmental health.

About Marnie:

Marnie Boardman has coordinated climate change and health activities at the Washington State Department of Health since November 2015. She and her colleagues aim to identify and build awareness of the risk climate change poses to health and the evidence-based strategies that can prevent and avoid the worst climate-related health impacts. The Climate and Health Section seeks to support development of data driven, community-informed plans to prepare for and address climate change in ways that most effectively and equitably prevent health risks and promote wellbeing for all.

Marnie previously managed the Washington State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), part of national population health survey, and worked for the Washington Tracking Network supporting community environmental health assessment and indicator development.

Marnie came to DOH 15 years ago after completing a Public Health Prevention Specialist fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prior to obtaining a Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan, she worked for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

Optional additional materials: (please see PDFs)

- Attached is Figure ES1 from the USGCRP Climate and Health Scientific Assessment, “ES1. Examples of Climate Impacts on Human Health”. This figure and additional information can be found at <https://Health2016.globalchange.gov>. Chapter 1, Section 1.3 provides a good overview of how changing health trends in the US. I especially recommend seeing Table 1.1 “Current estimates and future trends in chronic health conditions that interact with the health risks associated with climate change” in that same chapter:

<https://health2016.globalchange.gov/climate-change-and-human-health>.

(close to the end of Chapter 1, full text)

- Washington State Health Assessment (2018):
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/78945-SHA.pdf> The WA SHA 2018 is a large document. **Pages 12-17 in the Exec Summary** broadly discuss social determinants of health and health disparities in Washington, and there is a small section discussing climate change and health, as well the relationship between our built environment and health. Key health indicators across many topics flesh out the bulk of the report (see the table of contents). These key health indicator estimates are provided for the state and for each county.
- Also attached is a short overview of the Environmental Health Disparities *topic* on the Information By Location *tool* on the [Washington Tracking Network](#). There are other topics on the IBL as well, including a roll up of indicators called the “Social Vulnerability to Hazards” index.

Sameer Ranade

Civic Engagement and Policy Manager at Front and Center

Interested Party Presenter

HEAL Act

Learning objective: Learn about the HEAL Act, or the Health Environment for All Act, in the WA State Legislature.

About Sameer:

Sameer has extensive work experience in government, nonprofits, and elections, having worked stints in Congress, the White House, the Washington State Legislature, on five successful election campaigns, and with seven non-profits in the energy and environmental advocacy field. He also ran for an open seat in the Washington State House in 2016 on a climate justice platform. He is a renowned expert on climate change mitigation and EJ policy. He currently works as a Civic Engagement and Policy Manager for the climate justice advocacy coalition Front & Centered and serves as an EJ Advisor to the Board of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. He holds an MPA from UW and a BA from WSU.

Presentation summary:

Sameer’s presentation will describe the process of developing SB 5141- the HEAL Act, and explain what the legislation would do. The HEAL Act is a policy that would embed EJ principles into the mission of the state government and is currently under

consideration in the Legislature.

Syris Valentine

Africatown Community Landtrust

Expert Presenter

Achieving Equity through the Just Transition

Learning objective: Learn more about the just transition framework and how this framework supports equitable climate mitigation. Learn about opportunities in the WA State Legislature to apply a just transition lens.

About Syris:

Syris Valentine, formerly Tyler, is a Real Estate and Eco-Innovation Project Manager with Africatown Community Land Trust and an EcoDistricts Accredited Professional. Syris graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Earth and Space Sciences, and before joining Africatown, he has spent several years splitting his time between community organizing for STEM equity and climate justice and working in Seattle's space technology industry. At ACLT, Syris' focus is on ensuring the Black community is well positioned to take advantage of Seattle's upcoming Green New Deal while also assisting in the development of affordable housing. Syris' is focused on the development of William Grose Center for Cultural Innovation at Fire Station 6, which will become an epicenter for Black innovation in Seattle, and he is also working toward the creation of the Africatown EcoDistrict which will serve as a master planning tool for community scale sustainability in the Central District of Seattle.

Presentation summary:

My presentation (though it would be more accurate to call it a speech) for the climate assembly covers a variety of bases in a short period of time to address and go beyond the learning objectives requested of me. I start by surveying why it is, given the climate solutions which already exist in abundance, we still can't make progress on climate change. This then parlays into a discussion about the nature of capitalism, why it obstructs climate action, and how we need a new economic model if we are to have any chance of escaping irreversible climate change. The key to this new economic model lies in the Just Transition, which I briefly describe. In my view, the Just Transition is a framework for shifting our economy from one of extractive, exploitative, linear economics to community-based, regenerative, circular economics.

After I briefly describe the Just Transition, I dive into a discussion of how communities can participate in the Just Transition through the creation and operation of community climate coalitions. The majority of my presentation then covers how these coalitions can be created, what actions they can take, and how they can fund them. I then discuss how the state can support climate coalitions and

community-based climate actions, and I close with an overview of how climate coalitions build the political power we need to pressure state and national governments to enact legislation that supports aggressive climate action.

Katelyn Roedner Sutter

Manager for U.S. Climate, Environmental Defense Fund

Interested Party Presenter

State-Level Emissions Data and Washington 2030 Goals

Learning objective: Learn about WA emissions reduction targets and what is needed to achieve them.

About Katelyn:

Katelyn Roedner Sutter leads Environmental Defense Fund's climate work in California and strategic climate engagement in other Western states, including Washington. Katelyn's focus is on advancing policies that establish and implement long-term greenhouse gas emission reductions and improve local air quality. Katelyn also contributes to EDF's work on international climate policy. Prior to joining EDF, Katelyn worked in California's San Joaquin Valley with environmental justice and faith communities on local climate, air quality, land use and transportation issues.

Optional additional materials:

- WA Gap Analysis (see PDF attached in email)

Dr. Steven Ghan

Climate Scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Expert Presenter

En-ROADS Climate Change Solutions Simulator

Learning objective:

- *Learn about wedge analyses and review opportunities across the board in how WA can reduce emissions and make the most impact.*
- *Learn about how the En-ROADS tool and how it can be used to support the deliberative sessions.*

About Dr. Ghan:

Steven Ghan is a widely published and highly cited climate scientist with a doctorate in Meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is internationally recognized for his expertise in representing the effects of aerosol particles on clouds and climate in global climate models. He leads the Tri-Cities Washington Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, and is an En-Roads ambassador.

Presentation summary:

En-ROADS is a climate policy simulation model that gives everyone the chance to design their own scenarios to limit future global warming. You can try your own experiments and assumptions, and get immediate feedback on the likely impacts. This talk will introduce participants to En-Roads and demonstrate how they can use it to educate themselves on the impact of various climate policies on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Since it is freely available, participants can try it out on their own or in their deliberation sessions.

Optional additional materials:

- <https://en-roads.climateinte>