

It's happening.

What now?

Climate Change Research and Action in Washington State
January 13, 2016

Panel Presentations: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Longhouse 1007B

Keynote Presentations: 2:30 to 5:00 pm
COM Building Recital Hall



*League of Women
Voters of Thurston
County*



10:00 to 11:00 am – Longhouse, 1007B

Current Research on Regional Impacts

An overview of current research into the expected impacts of climate change on Washington State and the marine coastal regions.

Moderated by Tiffany Webb, MES



Tiffany Webb is a graduate student in the Master of Environmental Studies Program at the Evergreen State College. Her recent thesis research and internship work has focused on the intersections between environment and prisons with an emphasis on environmental and social justice. Through the Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP), Tiffany coordinated a monthly science and sustainability lecture series in Washington state prisons from 2013-2015. She is currently finalizing her thesis titled "Connecting Environmental Justice and Prisons: A Critical Look at the Sustainability in Prisons Project".

She holds a B.S. in Earth System Science and has conducted climate change research with groups including the NASA DEVELOP National Program, ICIMOD (the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development), Washington State Department of Ecology, and CATHALAC (Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para America Latina y el Caribe). She has also been involved in community activism and organizing for over five years and brings a grassroots perspective to her professional and academic work.

Lara Whitely Binder, UW Climate Impacts Group

[State of Knowledge Report – Climate Change in Puget Sound](#)



Lara Whitely Binder is an outreach and adaptation support specialist at the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group (CIG). Since joining the CIG in 2000, Lara has worked extensively with communities, organizations, and individuals in the Northwest to address the impacts of climate variability and change. Lara also assists the CIG with its efforts to disseminate information on climate impacts and risks to decision makers, and conducts research designed to support adaptation.

The Climate Impacts Group is an interdisciplinary research group that focuses on advancing understanding and awareness of climate risks, and working closely with public and private entities to apply this information in decision making. Expertise within the Climate Impacts Group's core staff and its affiliated network of scientists and technical experts includes climate dynamics, climate and hydrologic modeling, ecosystems modeling, impacts and vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, and climate communications and outreach.

Terrie Klinger, WA Ocean Acidification Center

[The WA Ocean Acidification Center](#)

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Terrie Klinger is Director of the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, Co-Director of the Washington Ocean Acidification Center, and holds the Stan and Alta Barer Endowed Professorship in Sustainability Science in honor of Dr. Edward Miles. Trained as a marine ecologist, she studies ecosystem-based approaches to managing natural resources in the ocean, the ecological effects of environmental stressors, such as ocean acidification and habitat loss, and how rocky intertidal communities respond to and recover from disturbance. She leads a graduate training program focused on how oceans are changing worldwide and what that means to the human communities connected to them. The Pacific Northwest is her primary study area, including the Puget Sound, the San Juan Archipelago, and the outer coast of Washington. She received her Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm – Longhouse, 1007B

Carbon Tax and Cap Policies

An overview of current and proposed plans to contain and/or account for the costs of greenhouse gas emissions at the sources.

Moderated by Kristin Eberhard, Sightline Institute



Kristin Eberhard, senior researcher, is a proud policy wonk. She researches, writes about, and speaks about climate change and energy policy. Before joining Sightline, Kristin worked at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), leading its California climate work in San Francisco, then moving to its Southern California office to help the largest municipally owned utility in the country get off coal and onto energy efficiency and renewables. She also taught courses on climate change and energy at Stanford Law School and UCLA School of Law.

Kristin graduated with honors from Stanford University, cum laude from Duke University School of Law, and earned a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment. She loves biking with her husband and son.

Yoram Bauman, Carbon WA

[Carbon WA Revenue-neutral Carbon Tax Proposal](#)



Yoram is a PhD environmental economist--and "[stand-up economist](#)"--and the founder of the [CarbonWA.org](#) campaign to put a revenue-neutral carbon tax on the ballot in Washington State in November 2016. In 1998 he co-authored (with Alan Durning of Sightline Institute) the book [Tax Shift](#), which [helped inspire the revenue-neutral carbon tax in British Columbia](#). He is also the co-author (with Shi-Ling Hsu) of a [2012 NY Times op-ed piece about the BC carbon tax](#) and the co-author (with Grady Klein) of the [Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change](#) and the two-volume [Cartoon Introduction to Economics](#). He lives in Seattle with his wife Laura and their 1-year-old daughter Zadie.

Sarah Rees, WA Department of Ecology

[Washington State Clean Air Cap and Reduce Rulemaking](#)



Sarah Rees has over twenty years of experience in air quality and climate change matters. She currently serves as the Special Assistant to the Director for Climate Policy at the Washington Department of Ecology. In that capacity, she is responsible for managing Ecology's policies, programs, strategies, and projects that address climate change. Sarah also worked at Ecology earlier in her career, where she led the development of statewide air quality rules, clean air plans, and GHG reporting initiatives. Prior to her current role at Ecology, Sarah led the Policy and Regulatory Analysis Division within EPA's Office of Policy in Washington, DC, where she advised EPA's Administrator and senior

management on the development of several high profile regulations, including major actions affecting the electric power sector. Trained as a chemical engineer, Sarah practiced environmental law for several years before obtaining a PhD in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University.

Jeffrey G. Johnson; President, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO and member of the governing board of the Alliance for Jobs and Green Energy



Jeff Johnson [was elected](#) President of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, in December 2010 and was [sworn into office](#) on Jan. 5, 2011. Prior to that, since joining the WSLC staff in 1986, Jeff had served as special assistant to the president, lead lobbyist, research and organizing director, and as shop steward for his staff unit, which is part of Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 8.

Jeff's work at the Washington State Labor Council has focused on legislation that improves the lives of working people through increasing collective bargaining and organizing rights; economic justice and anti-poverty measures; strengthening our workers' compensation, unemployment insurance and employment standards; improving our health care system; and protecting the rights of farm workers and immigrant workers. He has represented labor on a number of committees, both internal (WSLC Diversity Committee; Workers' Comp. Labor Caucus; UI Labor Caucus; Affordable Housing and Homeless Task Force) and external (Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; Governor's Council of Economic Advisors; Washington Aerospace Partnership; Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board).

1:00 to 2:00 pm – Longhouse, 1007B

Regional Solutions-based Action

Even though climate change represents an enormous challenge, we can make a difference. This panel will highlight examples of on-going work to chart new directions within our communities.

Moderated by Stephen Buxbaum – Evergreen Faculty and former Mayor of Olympia



Stephen Buxbaum served as Mayor of the City of Olympia, Washington from 2012 to 2015 and the Olympia City Council from 2010-'11. He currently teaches part time in Evergreen's Masters of Public Administration and Evening and Weekend Studies programs. Buxbaum has more than thirty years of management experience in the non-profit and public sectors focusing on community and economic development programs and policy. His background includes extensive work on farmland preservation, sustainable agriculture and water conservation beginning in the 1970's and '80's. He has worked at local, state and federal levels of government in Washington State and Washington, D.C. As an executive manager for the state of Washington, he oversaw financing of hundreds of affordable housing, community facilities and public works projects. During his career he has managed some of Washington State's most successful grant and loan programs, including the Housing Trust Fund and the Community Development Block Grant program. He has served in cabinet and sub-cabinet positions on homelessness, farm worker housing and rural development. In 2005, he received a fellowship to attend Harvard University's program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Recently he attended the Local Leader's Summit and COP 21 in Paris, France where he represented the City of Olympia as a member of the Compact of Mayors – a group of elected officials from across the planet committed to directly addressing climate change.

Graeme Sackrison, Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT)



Graeme is a long-time resident of Thurston County. In 1966 he graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in economics. Following college he spent four years in the Air Force. He's retired from the Washington State Employment Security Department where he last worked as the department's legislative liaison. Graeme spent thirteen years on the Lacey City Council, six of those as Mayor. He and a River Ridge teacher, Bob Simons, initiated the Lacey Alternative Energy Fair and its Electrathon, featuring student designed and constructed electric vehicles in an endurance competition. That event is changing to the STEM Fair, with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Graeme is also one of the founding members of the Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT). Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) is a local non-profit dedicated to creating a healthy and sustainable future for Thurston County by encouraging action, coordinating action and taking action on climate change.

Andy Suhrbier, Pacific Shellfish Institute
[The Pacific Shellfish Institute](#)



Born in Astoria Oregon, Andy has been a NW resident for a majority of his life with brief stints in Texas and Alaska. Since 2000, Andy has been involved in the Pacific Shellfish Institute's marine benthic/water quality sampling and analysis, mapping of marine habitats, data analysis, project development and management. Current projects include the potential of polyculture systems; interactions of shellfish culture with the natural environment; the impact of organic pollutants, and bacterial contaminants on bivalve shellfish; efficiencies of production, and disease and environmental stress studies of shellfish. Interacts with shellfish producers regarding growing areas and methods in California, Oregon and Washington. Developed shellfish certification standards for the west coast shellfish industry for the certification entity: "The Food Alliance". Maintains a coast-wide water quality monitoring related to ocean acidification, part of Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS).

Jessica Schilke, Compass Group/Microsoft
[Urban Farming at Microsoft](#)



Jessica Schilke has been studying sustainable food production for over a decade. Attending the Evergreen State College from 2011 to 2014, she focused her studies and research on aquaponics and permaculture. Bringing her passion for food systems to the Microsoft campus in Redmond as the Director of Urban Farming, her team is growing produce in cafes that serve more than 40,000 meals daily. The Urban Farm at Microsoft is working to innovate local agriculture, providing a model for producing food next to the kitchen, while reducing the carbon emissions, and water use. Partnering with passionate people on campus, her team is also exploring technology to democratize urban agriculture.

Sarra Tekola, Women of Color Speak Out



Sarra Tekola is a climate and racial justice activist. She has a bachelors in Environmental Science from the University of Washington. She has conducted research on climate change, ocean acidification and climate communication in various labs, universities and states. Growing frustrated with the lack of action in the scientific field, she transitioned from climate science to climate advocacy, policy and activism. She now works as a legislative assistant for Seattle City Councilmember O'Brien's office working on sustainability issues, but the real climate action she is engaged in is outside of this work. She is a member of Got Green's climate justice steering committee where they prioritize the voices of the most marginalized in climate policy, as well as fight false regressive solutions posed as climate solutions. She was

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involved in the successful Shell No activism, was a leader in Divest UW when it divested from coal, and is a member of Woman of Color Speak Out, a group of activists who teach about climate change from a decolonial perspective. She is also active in the autonomous Black Lives Matter movement, where she connects issues of police brutality and gentrification with environmental racism. Sarra recently came back from the Paris COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference, where she was part of the It Takes Roots delegation, a group of people of color and indigenous voices that advocated for the rights of the most marginalized voices that mainstream environmental advocates frequently overlook.

Keynote Presentations – COM Building, Recital Hall

2:30 to 3:30 pm

Rhys Roth, Center for Sustainable Infrastructure at The Evergreen State College



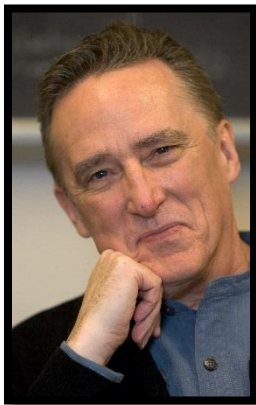
Rhys co-founded [Climate Solutions](#) in 1998, and helped it grow into the Northwest's most important and influential nonprofit group addressing climate change. In 2013, Rhys was honored as a "Sustainability Trailblazer" by the Sustainable Path Foundation, which said Rhys has "arguably done more than anyone in this region to put the issue of climate change on the radar." Late in 2013, he returned to his alma mater, The Evergreen State College, over 20 years after graduating with a Masters of Environmental Studies, to lead the College's new [Center for Sustainable Infrastructure](#) to help bring innovation, new tools, and sustainability excellence to infrastructure planning and investment in the Pacific Northwest. He authored the Center's inaugural report, "[Infrastructure Crisis, Sustainable Solutions](#)," in November 2014.

[Infrastructure Crisis, Sustainable Solutions](#)

[Five Big Goals Research Program: Mapping a Transformative 2040 Infrastructure Vision](#)

4:00 to 5:00 pm

John Byrne, PhD, Center for Energy and Environmental Policy at the University of Delaware



Director of the [Center for Energy and Environmental Policy](#) (CEEP) and Distinguished Professor of Energy and Climate Policy at the University of Delaware. He is chairman of the board of the [Foundation for Renewable Energy and Environment](#) (FREE), an international organization established to promote a better future based on energy, water and materials conservation, renewable energy use, environmental resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.

Dr. Byrne has contributed to Working Group III of the United Nations-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 1992 and shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with the Panel's authors and review editors.

- [Paris Agreement: A landmark climate change policy architecture reached.](#)
- [A Polycentric Response to the Climate Change Challenge Relying on Creativity, Innovation, and Leadership.](#)
- [Sustainable Energy Utility: Understanding the Basics.](#)