



Citizens' Climate Lobby Madison Area

Monthly Newsletter

November 15, 2022

Editor: Steve Lewis (lewiss1962@gmail.com)

Hello Madison CCL members and friends,

It's been quite a month! A big thank you to 41 of our members, friends, and family who encouraged 4000 voters to show up at the polls through our Wisconsin Environmental Voter Postcard project. Well done! More big thanks to Bruce Jamison for coordinating the project and Ben Eisenstein and others for helping to make it happen. And thanks to all of you who canvassed, called, worked the polls, and voted. It mattered.

This month's newsletter pulls together several topics falling into the "Now what?" theme. We facilitated pro-climate voter turnout, but the climate crisis continues. What else can we do? We offer some ideas. Our newsletter closes with last week's opening talk by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the COP27 audience in Egypt. It lays out the importance of doing whatever we can. Thanks for doing your part!

- Holly

September-October successes

We didn't note our recent media and lobbying successes in the October newsletter because we devoted it to getting out the vote. So here are our successes for both September and October. Carol Steinhart had four published letters to the editor – one in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, one in the *Wisconsin State Journal*, and two in *The Cap Times*; and Timothy Melin and Steve Lewis had one each in the *Wisconsin State Journal*. For phone calls, 19 were made to Mark Pocan, 53 were made to Tammy Baldwin, and 47 were made to Ron Johnson.

Now what?

By Bruce Jamison

The Inflation Reduction Act and the outcome of the election have influenced the agenda for Citizens' Climate Lobby for the "lame duck" remainder of the 117th Congress and the 118th starting in January.

Bipartisan climate bills still have a chance to pass on their own or as part of a year-end omnibus bill. An omnibus bill is simply a way for Congress to pass a mix of minor pieces of legislation in one vote in an effort to get out of DC for the holidays.

While relatively small in scope, these climate bills are important because they can get Republicans working on climate solutions and get all members used to working across the aisle – something that will be needed given the likely makeup of the next Congress.

Four bills of interest are still in play this year. We are taking a nuanced approach to choosing which bills to pitch depending on party and congressional branch.

CCL staffers Jenn Tyler and Ben Pendergrass do an exceptional job laying out our strategy in [Fall 2022 lobby training #2](#). These former congressional aides are pros. Those who remember Danny Richter's lobby training sessions will be impressed. You'll come away with a much better sense of our organization's direction.

Our chapter energy will be directed toward moving Rep. Mark Pocan on the Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA - HR 2820) and the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE - HR 9049) Acts. More on that below.

Be sure to register and attend the CCL's December Climate Conference, where the strategy for 2023 and beyond will be clarified. All sessions will be virtual, and participation is free.

Yes, a price on carbon is still our #1 strategy. It is just not in play this year.

And, yeah, the approach is more nuanced and complex than we are used to. But we can do it, and I know of no other organization that provides its members with such an extensive array of support tools. Pick up a wrench and have at it!

The CCL December Climate Conference

Going bigger and bolder in the fight for a livable planet

December 3-4, 2022

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

cclusa.org/fallconference

 Citizens' Climate Lobby

Spread the word about our December conference on social media

Help boost attendance at CCL's December Climate Conference by posting about it on your favorite social media when you register. Your post might read something like, "I plan to attend Citizens' Climate Lobby's upcoming virtual conference so that I can be ready to advocate for #BipartisanClimate legislation in 2023. Join me December 3-4 –

it's FREE. Register at [The CCL December Climate Conference](#)." Or simply share CCL's posts about the conference on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn! These posts are "pinned" to the top of each of our social media accounts. For help getting started on social media, check out the trainings available on CCL Community's [Social Media for Volunteers and Chapters](#) topics page.



Write or call Mark Pocan

By Bruce Jamison

Please [write Representative Pocan](#) and ask him to cosponsor the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act, HR 9049, which will help coastal communities including the Great Lakes. The link in the previous sentence provides summary information about the bill and a sample letter.

Write or call? Both are effective – aides tabulate issues they hear about and report up. We tend to urge phone calls when we need a Member of Congress’s immediate attention – for example, when a bill is coming to the floor for a vote. What matters most is that you make contact, and we know many of you are more comfortable writing than making phone calls.

So hit [this link](#) and write your note, right now. Five minutes, tops.

Now that you are warmed up, write Rep. Pocan again. [Encourage him to support the Growing Climate Solutions Act](#) (GCSA, HR 2820) when it comes to the floor or is part of an omnibus bill. Emphasize that it will help farmers take advantage of already existing carbon credit markets and provide oversight by the US Department of Agriculture to keep those markets honest. You might mention that several of his fellow Progressives are among the 94 co-sponsors of this bill.

Monthly Calling Campaign challenge

Tom Umhoefer does the work behind our Monthly Calling Campaign. I asked him and he confirmed, some of us are signed up, some of us even do it monthly. But how about this for a chapter challenge: let’s get 10 more people signed up for the Monthly Calling Campaign by the end of the year? Sign up yourselves if you haven’t; ask friends, partners, family members, or whoever wants to be part of the solution. People want to do something, and 10 minutes per month will do it. If you’re already signed up, remember to call or write!

Subscribe to CCL-Madison's Media Watch

Want to stay current on climate news and opinion, including recently published letters to the editor (LTEs) by members of our chapter? It’s easy. Subscribe to CCL-Madison Media Watch, our special Google group/email list that tracks climate-related content in Madison’s local newspapers and more.

Interested in adding your voice to the media mix? Each Media Watch dispatch contains tips and links for submitting your own LTEs.



Joining the group is easy, and you can adjust your Google group settings to satisfy your preferences as a subscriber. You also can unsubscribe at any time.

To sign up, simply email a request to tom_sinclair@sbcglobal.net.

Commit to having holiday climate conversations

By Holly Jorgenson

Climate advocate Katherine Hayhoe says the most effective action you can take to mitigate climate change is to talk about it. Easy to say, often hard to do. She and Braver Angels trainings encourage us to:

- ask a question or offer a news item
- listen for a response and acknowledge what they've said
- find common ground and appreciate it

[Here are some training sessions on CCL Community](#) to help us navigate the sometimes treacherous waters of holiday dinner conversations.

One thing you can offer is to share what CCL and Congress have accomplished recently. And our biggest success was the passage of the most significant climate legislation ever, the Inflation Reduction Act. Here are a few talking points to get you started:

1. We have been building political will for major climate action in the United States for over a decade.
2. As a result, we've been a significant part of creating the context in which Congress operates on climate change. We haven't done it alone, but we have done it thoughtfully and persistently.
3. Stepping into the 2010 climate policy void (after the cap and trade bill failed), CCL built itself into a powerful grassroots organization. We know we are powerful because other organizations and members of Congress tell us so.

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4. We have advocated for climate policies that are good for the economy and people, and the Inflation Reduction Act is both.
 5. Critical negotiations between key lawmakers would not have taken place if we hadn't been doing our work all those years and in particular over the last 18 months through the budget reconciliation process.

GIVING TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Dollar for dollar match
First \$350,000



DONATE: cclusa.org/give



Citizens' Climate Lobby
Citizens' Climate Education



Support our year-end national fundraiser – first \$350K will be matched

We're asking every CCL volunteer to donate, even if it's a small amount, to our year-end fundraiser. And if you give soon, you can double your impact! The first \$350,000 in donations received on or before Giving Tuesday – November 29 – will be matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to a gift matching pool provided by a group of generous Climate Guardian donors. Please give what you can: [Climate Change | Citizens' Climate Lobby](#).



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres: “Let’s fight together – and let’s win.”

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2022-11-07/secretary-generals-remarks-high-level-opening-of-cop27>