Preparing for Climate Change

by Judy Bevington, Chair LWVWA
Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee

The issue of climate change is everywhere. Daily pictures and reports talk of potentially devastating effects. That may explain why the League of Women Voters of Washington has not one but two committees working on the issue.

The first is the Climate Change Committee which has just begun meeting and will be developing a toolkit for climate change action. To start that effort, the survey on pages 18-19 will be discussed at this month's unit meetings.

The second is the Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee, a lively group of over 30 members who have been discussing a variety of efforts in Washington State to reduce carbon emissions. The Clean Air Rule-making process (CAR), an effort to use executive authority to lessen carbon pollution, has been halted to respond to input from stakeholders. A new draft is planned by the Department of Ecology for spring, with the final to be completed in summer. This approach to carbon pricing has included caps and a modified trading system.

Initiative 732, the carbon tax initiative, unmodified by the legislature, will be on the ballot in November. There was talk of the legislature providing an alternative for the ballot that increased the revenue neutrality of the initiative, but that did not happen. As part of the League's voter service and education work, we will be drafting analyses and summaries to help voters make an informed decision this fall. Which carbon pricing proposals, designed to encourage a clean energy economy, can make it through obstacles such as court challenges and the ballot box?

Rodney Brown, Co-Chair of the Washington State Carbon Emissions Reduction Task Force, will speak at our April 9 luncheon about where we go from here to put a price on carbon pollution. For those unable to attend the sold-out event, we will have a video available for later viewing. For more information on climate change and carbon pollution, visit the LWVWA website: lwvwa.org/positions.html#hot_topics.

Special Waterfront Committee Meeting
on April 15 with Chris Rogers from the Seattle Aquarium
See page 7 for details.
Connecting with the Leadership

As this extremely partisan election season heats up, it may be a good time to remember the League’s nonpartisan policy. I’m sure we all have our preferred candidates and personal views on ballot issues, which of course is perfectly natural—and certainly permitted by the League.

Sue Hughes of the State League has developed some information reminding League members of the League’s nonpartisan policy and how it applies to League members. The first article of the League’s bylaws, from National to local, sets forth the specific name of the League chapter. Ours is the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, which can be referred to as LWVS-KC.

Article II, Purposes and Policy, is the meat of the nonpartisan policy:

Section 1. Purposes: The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2: Political Policy: The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The choice of words is intentional: “the League,” not “League members,” – League members may be as partisan as they like while speaking as individuals, but not if they are speaking for the League (emphasis mine).

So when is someone speaking “for the League”? That can be a little tricky. If one is at a League-sponsored event and mentions a preference for a candidate or party, that is seen as speaking for the League. If one is at a private event, but is identified as a League member, that too can be seen as speaking for the League. Those holding certain visible League positions, particularly the President and Voter Services chair, are expressly prohibited from participat-

ing in any political activity for a candidate or party: they cannot donate to a candidate, attend campaign events, work for a candidate, post yard signs, and so on.

The League takes its nonpartisan policy very seriously. The State has developed a series of steps to deal with possible infractions, including termination from the League.

I don’t want to be alarmist about this, just to caution to think before you speak – the League’s non-partisan reputation must be maintained. If you’re in doubt, it’s probably better to not say anything at all.

Fundraising Event

On a more cheerful note, we are looking forward to this month’s fundraising event on April 9. It Sold Out more than two weeks ahead! We’re very fortunate that Bellamy Pailthorp, environmental reporter for KPLU-FM, will be the moderator. She thinks that climate change is the big issue of our time. She will be an informed and stimulating moderator. We’re doubly fortunate that Jean Godden, long-time League member, former Seattle City Council member, and Seattle Times columnist, will make some special remarks. And of course, as you know, Rod Brown, the keynote speaker, will be interesting and possibly provocative.

We hope this event is a big success. I know I talk about fundraising a lot, but it is a major concern of ours right now. We are thinking about having a fall post-election event, but nothing has been decided yet. In the meantime, there are some small things you can do to help out: if you buy from Amazon, sign up for Amazon Smile. When you purchase items through Amazon Smile (all the same merchandise and prices as regular Amazon), you can select League of Women Voters Seattle Education Fund as your nonprofit of choice, and we will receive 0.5 percent of the price of your purchases. We are also running a

Continued on page 6
## April

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*Units meet during shaded period*

### APRIL
- **The Voter Deadline**
  - Monday, April 4

### MAY
- **The Voter Deadline**
  - Monday, April 4

**Units meet during shaded period**

- **April 1:** Board Meeting
  - Saturday, April 2
  - 9:00 a.m.
  - League Office

- **April 2:** The Voter Deadline
  - Monday, April 4

- **April 3:** International Relations Committee
  - Monday, April 4
  - 12:45 p.m.
  - League Office

- **April 4:** Spring Luncheon
  - Thursday, April 2
  - 11:30 a.m.
  - Town Hall Seattle

- **April 5:** Waterfront Committee
  - Friday, April 2
  - 10:00 a.m.
  - League Office

- **April 6:** Transportation Committee
  - Tuesday, April 5
  - 10:00 a.m.
  - League Office

- **April 7:** LWVWA CER Committee
  - Thursday, April 7
  - 10:00 a.m.
  - League Office

- **April 8:** Education Committee
  - Thursday, April 8
  - 11:00 a.m.
  - League Office

- **April 9:** Econ. & Tax. Committee
  - Saturday, April 9
  - 9:30 a.m.
  - League Office

- **April 10:** Forum: Duwamish River
  - Thursday, April 10
  - 7:00 p.m.
  - Duwamish Longhouse

- **April 11:** Board Meeting
  - Saturday, April 11
  - 9:00 a.m.
  - League Office

- **April 12:** Annual Meeting
  - Thursday, April 12
  - 5:00 p.m.
  - Seattle First Baptist Church
Forum Schedule

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) presents a public forum most months between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled at other locations and times. The tentative schedule of forums for 2015-6 appears at left; check *The Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

### Board Briefs

*by Lori Kessler, Secretary*

_The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on March 5, 2016. This is a summary of their work._

The board is considering whether to endorse, oppose, or take no action on I-123 (Park My Viaduct). To that end, the board heard a presentation from Gerry Johnson and Maggie Walker of the Waterfront Steering Committee in opposition to the initiative. The board voted to defer decision making until a final appeal had been made in writing for input from the Yes on I-123 campaign.

Paneen Davidson brought the board’s attention to the relatively large number of members (approximately 6%) who have been more than 90 days delinquent in paying their dues, and the board discussed whether this could be attributed to rising dues. Outreach chair Zara Kublin suggested that the recruitment of new members should be highly prioritized. She also encouraged the board to consider strategies for team-building and increasing cohesion in order to improve the League’s effectiveness.

Amanda Clark discussed the potential for the League to receive grant funds for the purpose of improving the website, and the board agreed to prioritize this, and work to put together a committee to pursue options for the improvement of the website.

Allison Feher reported a spike in speaker requests coming into the office. She noted that recruitment for the speakers’ bureau was needed, so interested individuals are encouraged to contact the office.

State board liaison Julie Anne Kempf reminded the board of the upcoming state council in Vancouver, WA (June 3-6), which will be a joint council with Oregon. We are invited to send as many representatives as are interested. A request was also made for contributions to the state League story bank on the topic of “why you love the League.”

Planning continues for the League’s fundraising luncheon: Fish, Fruit, Fires & Floods – The Price of Carbon Pollution, taking place on April 9th.
Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC), in both its values and practices, affirms its beliefs and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

LWVS-KC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS-KC subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization’s ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVS-KC affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.
Committees

LWVWA Carbon Emissions Reduction Committee
DATE: Thursday, April 21
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: League Office

Economics and Taxation Committee
DATE: Saturday, April 30
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Education Committee
DATE: Thursday, April 28
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: League Office

International Relations Committee
DATE: Monday, April 4
TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

Transportation Committee
DATE: Tuesday, April 19
TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

Waterfront Committee
DATE: Friday, April 15
TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

Chris Rogers from the Seattle Aquarium will give us an update on the progress of design and planning for the expansion on the upland site, supported by the League. We'll also review other waterfront planning issues. Everyone interested is encouraged to attend.

We encourage participation in our committees by all interested members. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk to community leaders, stakeholder organizations, and experts where you can have direct input on local issues that affect you.

Don’t see a committee that covers your issue? Call the office and let us know. Sometimes people are working more informally without regularly scheduled meetings. If so, we may be able to help connect you with them or help you start your own.

Mission Statement
The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.
A PLAN TO GROW OUR REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER
by Abigail Doerr, Advocacy Director at Transportation Choices Coalition and League Member

Sound Transit is looking for comments on their plan for expanding light rail that will likely be on the ballot this November. Visit www.soundtransit3.org to learn about the draft system plan and provide your comments! The plan, known as Sound Transit 3, will fund the single largest transit expansion in our region, completing the regional network of light rail, expanding commuter rail service, and providing regional express bus service. The Sound Transit Board members want to hear from you before they adopt a final plan in late June!

Sound Transit was approved and established by voters in 1996. Since its creation, Sound Transit has been building the trust of voters to provide high-quality transit service as it grows our regional network. Sound Transit provides 18 miles of light rail, over 80 miles of commuter rail, and 26 regional buses. Following voter approval in 2008, Sound Transit is also planning and constructing an additional 31 miles of light rail. The University Link extension, the latest expansion opened in March, is $200 million under budget and is opening 6 months early. Sound Transit has nearly 35 million annual boarding’s and their services continue to exceed ridership expectations.

The Sound Transit board members are proposing an expansive and visionary package that will link our region together from Tacoma to Everett and from West Seattle to Ballard and more. There is strong public support for more light rail and great demand for more public transit in our region. With an expected 1 million new residents in our region in the next 35 years, Sound Transit is planning and preparing to move people around quickly and reliably. In 1968 and 1970, Seattle and King County voters rejected a similar opportunity that sent a substantial federal investment to Atlanta’s MARTA rail system.

Sound Transit 3 is our opportunity to make up for those votes and plan a system we’ll be able to enjoy and ensure that future generations are benefiting from this essential regional planning.

Public transit is an important part of a functioning transportation system. It helps reduce congestion, taking cars off the road, and offers a reliable alternative to driving alone. Public transit is also great for the planet. Transportation is the single biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and a large cause of ambient air pollution and toxic highway runoff. The more we invest in transit, the easier it is for people to leave their cars at home, leading to clearer skies and streams. Finally, public transportation is good for low-income people. Transportation is the second highest household expense, right after housing. When transit is fast, reliable, and accessible, households spend less on cars, fuel, insurance, parking, and maintenance. Studies show that reliable transportation is the single most important factor in escaping poverty. Families with longer commutes have a worse chance of improving their economic status.

Voters in Puget Sound have an opportunity this November to plan for healthy and prosperous future generations by building out the final piece of our regional transit network. Please take a moment to send Sound Transit your thoughts on the system plan. Ways you can give feedback:

- online at www.soundtransit3.org
- in writing to Sound Transit at 401 S. Jackson St., Seattle WA 98104
- by phone at 206-903-7000
- attend one of the public meetings coming up in April.
The League frequently provides election monitors for resident
councils at public housing facilities and for condominium asso-
ciations. A neutral third-party monitor insure the integrity of
the election.

The candidates usually give a short speech to describe their
qualifications and ideas. The voting usually lasts one to two
hours as residents come and go from the polling location. As
monitor, you confirm that the voters are residents/owners and
give them a ballot.

At the end of the election, the monitor tallies the votes, confirms
all ballots are accounted for and the results are announced. It is
a very interesting experience and the League is always very warmly received by the participants.

Want to join our volunteer team? Call or email the office and we will set you up to shadow one of
our experienced volunteers!

**Help us Register and Educate Voters!**

While April is a brief lull between the caucuses and the
Presidential Primary, we will be going full speed ahead to
begin training for registering voters and getting ready for
a variety of voter service work we will be doing all year.
Trainings are being scheduled but dates were not available
at print time so please call the office to find out when they are. (206) 329-4848.

In addition to voter registration, we will need speakers,
moderators, election monitors and more to meet the
surging demand we are seeing this year. Let us know your
availability so we can schedule upcoming trainings at convenient times for you.

**What Does an Election Monitor do?**

The League frequently provides election monitors for resident
councils at public housing facilities and for condominium asso-
ciations. A neutral third-party monitor insure the integrity of
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The candidates usually give a short speech to describe their
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**An Abbreviated Election Calendar for 2016**

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<td>April 25</td>
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<td>May 16-20</td>
<td>Candidate Filing Week</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Presidential Primary</td>
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<td>July 4</td>
<td>Last day to register online or by mail for August Primary</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>Last day to register online or by mail for General Election</td>
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<td>November 8</td>
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Welcome to New Members:

Colleen Lee attended Grays Harbor College after high school in Aberdeen, Washington. She moved to Seattle, where she applied for a job at Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company (PNB). The interviewer explained that PNB was converting manual records to electronic records, which meant that many jobs would be eliminated. Was Colleen certain she wanted a job that would last only three months? Twenty-five years later, Colleen accepted a buyout from that company, which by then was called USWest. She then began a second career at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) first in the Marine Mammal Lab and later, after getting an accounting degree at Shoreline Community College, in NOAA Finance.

Seventeen years later, Colleen was ready to retire for the second time. After taking a few trips with her two sons and catching up with old friends, she enrolled at the University of Washington for a B.A. in Political Science. She had always been interested in other cultures and governments. It was a great experience because of the subject matter, the professors, and the students. Colleen enjoys traveling with her sons. They spent Christmas week 2015 in London and Paris. She volunteers at the local food bank, helps on church committees and is delighted to be a member of the League of Women Voters, an organization she has admired for many years.

Anne Miller volunteered with the Washington Environmental Council as a 2015 Legislative Intern. Working with inspiring people dedicated to preserving the environment gave Anne a sense that she could take action to address climate change. Becoming part of Seattle’s growing environmental community she began organizing marches and organizing rallies, divestment campaigns, church lobby days, educational forums and discussion groups.

Anne says, “Two years ago, climate change seemed so big and scary that I didn’t see how I could make a difference. But the antidote to fear is action and the antidote to apathy is hope. Working with groups such as the League of Women Voters has given me hope and spurred me to action. Now I see opportunities everywhere I look to get involved, to stand up and speak up. If enough of us do this we can change the world.”

Anne is standing up and speaking up in numerous ways: as a member of the LWVWA Carbon Reductions Committee, the King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee, the 37th District Washington Democratic Environmental Caucus, the South Seattle Climate Action Network, and the Westside Environmental Justice Group, as an organizer for the Mount Bake Meaningful Movies, as a mom, and as an educator.

Lee Scheingold is a retired clinical social worker and psychotherapist at Group Health and in private practice. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Russian language and literature from Duke University, and her Masters of Social Work from the University of Washington. Her late husband Stuart was a political science professor at the UW for over thirty years. Lee now happily lives at Horizon House, and is active in the Senior Access program at U.W., taking many courses. She has taken many Russian classes, and participated in the UW English Department’s spring quarter in London in 2014. For now, this feels like a productive and useful way to spend her time. She wrote a book, One Silken Thread: Poetry’s Presence in Grief (2013) about the way in which Russian and English poetry participated in her grieving for Stuart. She also has a blog, lee-on-poetry.com. For the moment, her schedule is such that her participation in the League will be from the sidelines.
In Memoriam

MARY E. BARTON - 1929-2016

Mary E. Barton was born on January 3, 1929 in Bozeman, Montana, the only child of William and Muriel Cook. She grew up in Modesto, California and Walla Walla, Washington. She graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1946. Mary met her husband, John, while attending Washington State University. They were married at her home in Walla Walla. After graduation, Mary and John moved to Seattle where John obtained a masters degree in physics and went to work at Boeing. Mary obtained her bachelor’s degree in child psychology from the University of Washington while raising her two daughters, Susan and Ellen.

Mary was active in the League of Women Voters of Seattle during the 60s, when she worked on the campaign to persuade the League to adopt a position on fair housing. Mary participated in sit-ins in an effort to put an end the “redlining” policies of banks and realtors. Mary let her League membership lapse in the late 70s when the family moved to Kirkland and she returned to full-time employment.

After she moved back to Seattle, Mary re-joined the League and worked on a number of projects, including the Privatization Study, voter registration and volunteered for many years at the CIS desk. She was a political junkie and loved to discuss economic and other issues. Her favorite columnist was Paul Krugman, whose articles she saved so she could review them time and time again. She had a great sense of humor, often catching both friends and strangers by surprise with her irreverent quips. Mary passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. She will be missed by all who knew her and especially by her two daughters, Susan and Ellen.

LILA BULEN - 1914-2016

Lila Bulen died on February 6 at age 102. She was a long-time League member and hosted the Southend Unit at her home for several years, as well as the unit’s auction item, a Blue Angels party on Seafair weekend. Lila had a passion for politics, serving as a Precinct Committee person for years, and with her husband Ken, she worked at the polls every election day. She registered many new voters, including young people who just happened to walk by her house. She insisted that I (Laura Weese) bring my daughter, Celia, over to register as soon as she turned 18. Several years ago, when I visited Hyde Park, Franklin D. Roosevelt’s home in New York’s Hudson River Valley, I brought back a replica of a campaign pin for FDR, which Lila wore proudly every day afterwards. Her pastimes included crossword puzzles, and she played Scrabble with me up until December. Lila, you were a great friend and good example for us all!

by Laura Weese
Features

**Resettling Refugees – Examining the Challenges**  
_by Rosalie McCreary and Joella Werlin_

This year, the International Relations Committee is looking at the issue of migration because of the unusual numbers of people from several different areas moving around the globe. Driving our focus, in part, is urgency and controversy over admitting to the U.S. greater numbers of refugees from Syria and other countries of the Middle East and Africa wracked by sectarian upheaval, terrorism and war. A separate, but equally compelling issue is the ongoing plight of families, especially minors, fleeing violence in Central America.

If you are interested in global issues, join the International Relations Committee meetings the first Monday of every month at 12:45 at the League Office, 1620 18th Ave, Suite 101.

The right to migrate was established internationally in 1948 with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 13 of the Declaration states: “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country.” However, while everyone has the right to leave their country, they do not have the right to enter another country. This apparent paradox is the Catch 22 that the growing numbers of unauthorized migrants and destination nations are confronting.

People have migrated from place to place from time immemorial. In addition to the pursuit of freedom, opportunities, challenges and adventure, the migrations of many people were brought about by economic necessity, environmental change, persecution, slavery and conflict. The U.S. has used embassies and consulates to certify adoption of many children, making them citizens before they enter the country.

In 2015, Europe experienced record inflows of migrants at its borders, with over 900,000 recorded in the first 11 months, as compared with 280,000 for the whole of 2014. The swell in irregular migration began in 2011 and 2012, following unrest in Tunisia and Libya. The latest increase is attributed to the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan, and to human rights abuses in Eritrea. Syrians fleeing their country’s four-and-a-half year old civil war made up nearly 40% of migrants entering the EU in the first nine months of 2015. Thousands are traveling across the Balkans now. Does it matter what you call them?

**Who is a migrant?** Anyone moving from one country to another is considered a migrant unless he or she is specifically fleeing war or persecution. Migrants may be fleeing dire poverty, or may be well-off and merely seeking better opportunities, or may be migrating to join relatives who have gone before them. There is an emerging debate about whether migrants fleeing their homes because of the effects of climate change – the desertification of the Sahel region, for example, or the sinking of coastal islands in Bangladesh – ought to be reclassified as refugees.

**Who is a refugee?** The 1951 Refugee Convention, negotiated after World War II, defines a refugee as a person who, “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.” Internally displaced persons are not in this category.

**Who is an asylum-seeker?** Someone who says he or she is a refugee and seeks international protection from persecution or serious harm in his or her home country. Every refugee is initially an asylum seeker, but not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee. The term asylum-seeker does not suggest whether someone is a refugee or not, it simply describes...
the fact that a person has applied for asylum. Asylum-seekers are entitled to stay in a country until their asylum claim is decided, therefore they do not have illegal status even though they may have entered in an irregular way.

**Economic migrant** is someone who leaves his or her country of origin purely for financial and/or economic reasons. Economic migrants choose to move in order to find a better life and they do not flee because of persecution. Therefore they do not fall within the criteria for refugee status and are not entitled to receive international protection.

**Irregular immigrant** is someone who enters a country in a way not in line with administrative requirements, e.g. without a valid visa and/or travel documents or someone who enters legally but continues to stay longer than permitted.

**Refoulement** includes any action that may lead to return of an individual to a territory where he or she may be persecuted for reasons of “race”, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion or where his or her life or freedom may be in danger.

**Resettlement** is organized by the UN Refugee Agency for the most vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country in safety and dignity nor stay in the country of first refuge due to security risks or specific needs (e.g. treatment after traumatic experiences). Resettlement is one of the three durable solutions to the plight of refugees beside voluntary return and asylum followed by local integration. Places for resettlement are provided by countries on a voluntary basis.

The conflicts and harsh regimes in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and a few other countries, have sent migrants of all kinds into migrant camps in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon as well as trekking across Libya and other countries in an effort to get to Europe. As of November 17, 2015, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees reports there are 4,289,792 Syrians that have been driven out of their country by civil war and 681,713 asylum applications in Europe.

The countries of Europe have struggled to achieve a united response to the crisis under the current Dublin Regulation, ports of entry are solely responsible for processing asylum applications. This has placed a disproportionate burden on countries like Greece, Italy and Hungary, where, migrants arrive via the Mediterranean, or Western Balkan routes. Consequently, enforcement is haphazard, and migrants have functionally been given carte blanche to continue on to wealthier EU destination countries, primarily Germany and Sweden, which have higher rates of asylum acceptance.

Travel within the European Union is controlled by the Schengen Agreement. Originally established by four countries in 1985, the Schengen Area now has 26 countries. It was designed to function as though the area is a single country, eliminating border controls with other Schengen members, and strengthening border controls with non-Schengen states. As a result of the ongoing migration crisis, and in light of the terrorist attacks in Paris, a number of countries have temporarily reintroduced controls on some or all of their borders with other Schengen states. As of February 16, 2016, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway and Sweden have imposed controls on some or all of their borders with other Schengen states.


Southeast Asia is also experiencing migration from Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh to Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, who agreed to
receive stranded migrants on the condition that they be relocated within the year. While the countries in question are bound by customary law not to turn away asylum seekers, they – like the majority of governments in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEANN) – are not signatories to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. A coordinated framework for long-term response remains elusive.

**U.S. Issues in Focus:** In 2014, the surge of unaccompanied migrant children and families crossing the U.S.’ southern border reached crisis levels. Nearly 70,000 unaccompanied children were apprehended at the border in 2014, a 77% increase year-on-year. In previous years, the vast majority of unaccompanied children entering the U.S. came from Mexico. Now, nearly 80% originate from Central America’s Northern Triangle countries: Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. A deterrent partnership with Mexico to help stem the overwhelming tide has not worked well. Deportations of unaccompanied minors in Mexico doubled in the first eight months of 2015 while the number apprehended at the U.S. border was cut by half. Mexico has a bureaucracy that is poorly equipped to handle asylum requests. Estimates are that three-quarters of unaccompanied child migrants in Central America now make their journeys with the help of “Coyotes,” paid traffickers who smuggle them across the U.S. border and are susceptible to exploitation and human trafficking. The U.S. Administration’s Central American Minors Program is meant to discourage young asylum seekers from attempting such hazardous trips by allowing them to apply for refugee status from within their home countries. Almost a year after Congress authorized this program, bureaucratic obstacles have prevented any of the 5,400 applicants from reaching the U.S.

The Central American migrant flow appears to be diminishing at this time. According to the *New York Times*, Feb. 2, 2016, “The number of women and children illegally crossing the southwest border into the United States dropped sharply in January, the Department of Homeland Security reported Tuesday, reversing a surge late last year that Obama administration officials feared could become a chaotic influx like the one in 2014.”

A 65% drop from December to January in crossings by families – mostly women with their children from three violence-torn countries in Central America – came after widely publicized raids in the first days of this year in which 121 migrants were arrested for deportation.

The United States offers an additional designation for asylum seekers whose lives are in immediate danger, that of **Parolee**. A Parolee is a person with permission to be in the U.S., but with no permanent status or benefit, needing immediate asylum. He receives placement for 30 days, case management for 90 days, food stamps, and temporary aid. He may hold this status for only one to two years through the CAM program described above.

The current refugee situation is complicated not only by human rights issues, but by the fear of terrorism spreading from the Middle East.

There are no easy answers but the International Relations Committee is striving to understand the challenges. Join the committee for discussion at the League Office the first Monday of the month at 12:45 pm.
Transportation Committee Update
by Janet Winans

The Transportation Committee began our effort to sort out the pros and cons of the coming Sound Transit 3 levy that will be on the November ballot. Karen Kitsis serves as a major advocate for the work completed to date by ST2 and is leading the public outreach for the ST3 ballot issue. We have not yet met with anyone who opposes the issue. The last of the public outreach meetings dealing with the “candidate locations” for the future stations will occur in April. We hope league members will have attended the various local sites with the detailed information about the last stage of those plans.

Sound Transit, or The Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, is a project of the Future and we, the citizens of King, Pierce and Snohomish counties, do have good seats to watch as that future just continues to become our present. Link Light Rail, imagined in 1996, connects SeaTac Airport to downtown Seattle in just minutes as it speeds by backed up traffic on I5. March 19th, 2016, the stations linking downtown to the University District will open, and commuters to and from the University District will have 8-minute trips between downtown and Husky Stadium. The Angel Lake Station south of SeaTac will begin service in fall. All of the projects we can see now in construction were planned for and then funded by the ST2 levy in 2008 and will be completed by 2023, almost all are “coming in” early and under budget.

ST3, which will be on the ballot November 2016, will imagine the future into at least 15 years beyond 2023. From its beginnings Sound Transit has been separate and different from the other mass transit agencies in our counties. First, it is regional. Public officials from Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties serve as board members. King County Executive Dow Constantine is its chair. As such the system must confront the demands of residents from Tacoma to Everett. It designs and builds in its own rights of way, separate from the traditional roads and bridges that are filling with ever more automobiles as the population of people and jobs escalates in our region. But its job is different, as well. It is intended to move people between designated urban centers, from Everett to Tacoma, North, South, and West Seattle, Ballard, Redmond, Bellevue, and Mercer Island, east to west. It is the job of the county and city transit agencies to connect their citizens to those designated stations.

All of this planning involves all of us. The Sound Transit Board includes elected officials from all areas of the 3 counties. The voters of these counties provide authorization to ST to levy taxes for the necessary funding. Karen Kitsis and others like her work to provide the necessary information we need to make that decision.

The public information process is ongoing. Sound Transit has been developing candidate options for siting the stations that will extend service to Everett and Tacoma. As I understand it, the stations will be determined before we vote for the levy, but the major design process can only begin after the proposed sites and funding get voter approval. The budget will include the best estimates for the major contingencies and the projects will be designed using best engineering information and practices depending on the kinds of unforeseen events that just are a part of the future.

Our committee will continue to engage various officials as the ballot language is finalized. We welcome comments from all of our readers, especially those of you who have attended the outreach meetings.
BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs
THE COLLAPSE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION: A VIEW FROM THE FUTURE
By Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway

Oreskes and Conway are historians of science who used their expertise to write this short, provocative work of fiction based on scientific research. Their aim is to dramatize what is happening to the Earth in ways that a work of non-fiction cannot. Fiction provides the freedom to build on and extrapolate from the climate science that exists today.

They picture an historian living more than three hundred years from now who writes in the year 2393. He writes about our era leading up to what would be called the “Great Collapse of 2093”; less than eighty years from now.

What surprises this future historian looking back at our era is that by “the early 2000s, dangerous anthropogenic interference in the climate system was under way. Fires, floods, hurricanes and heat waves began to intensify. Still these effects were discounted.”

This imaginary historian writes, “A key attribute of the period was that power did not reside in the hands of those who understood the climate system, but rather in political, economic and social institutions that had a strong interest in maintaining the use of fossil fuels.” He also writes of ‘think tanks’ “that issued challenges to scientific knowledge they found threatening.”

“The people of Western civilization knew what was happening to them but were unable to stop it. Indeed, the most startling aspect of this story is just how much these people knew, and how unable they were to act upon what they knew. Knowledge did not translate into power.

To the historian studying this tragic period of human history, the most astounding fact is that the victims knew what was happening and why…Western civilization had the technological know-how and capability to effect an orderly transition to renewable energy, yet the available technologies were not implemented in time.”

The historian chillingly describes what happened later in the 21st century as climate disruptions accelerated, heat waves and droughts became the norm, and “control measures – such as water and food rationing and [one-child policies] – were widely implemented.” “Unprecedented heat waves scorched the planet destroying food crops around the globe. Panic ensued with food riots in virtually every major city, [while massive ice breakup added] another two meters to mean global sea level rise.”

“These cryogenic events were soon referred to as the Great Collapse, although some scholars now [i.e.in 2393] use the term more broadly to include the interconnected social, political and demographic collapse” that followed.

The historian, in an effort to explain the contradiction of inaction when there was obviously a climate crisis writes:

“The ultimate paradox was that [monetary] neoliberalism meant to ensure individual freedom above all, led eventually to a situation that necessitated large scale intervention… And so the development that neoliberals most dreaded – centralized government and loss of personal choice – was rendered essential by the very politics they had put in place.”

The authors suggest that scientific truth does not matter as much as does power. It is easy to “reduce” scientific knowledge by showing that each scientist’s area of expertise is narrow, whether it is geology, physics, astronomy or whatever. Hence such a scientist cannot speak for something as broad as “climate science” with a very high degree of confidence.

This book is based on sound scholarship, with pages of notes for those wanting verification. Oreskes and Conway make it clear that the world we live in will become increasingly dismal unless we do all we can to prevent it now!

Opinions in this review are personal and do not necessarily represent those of the League.
Preparing for a Changing Climate
UNIT MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Announcements/Volunteer Sign Ups
- Discussion and Questionnaire

The questions below are part of LWVWA’s efforts to develop a Climate Change toolkit. Please treat these as consensus questions.

**What do you see as the top climate change impacts to your local community?**

Please rank from top concerns (#1) to lesser concerns (#9). Be sure to include a rank for Other Impacts (will be defined in the next question). The examples in parentheses are for clarification and are not meant to be inclusive.

- _____ Human Health (e.g., heat and air quality resulting in respiratory and pest-born illnesses)
- _____ Community Infrastructure including Housing and Transportation (increased damage/disruptions from flooding, wildfires, mud slides, etc.)
- _____ Water Quantity and Quality (e.g., snowpack, stream flows, sediment load, water temperature, etc. impacts.)
- _____ Agriculture (farms, forests, etc., crop yields, pest management, water availability, etc.)
- _____ Energy Generation and Distribution (e.g., hydroelectric power, transportation of fossil fuels, power disruptions from extreme weather events)
- _____ Tourism & Recreation (outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, camping, wildlife, winter sports, etc.)
- _____ Coastal Communities and Ecosystems (sea level rise, storm surge, increasing ocean acidity impact on shellfish and commercial fishing, overall species destruction/increase)
- _____ Cultural Problems (e.g., tribal relocation/loss, water allotment struggles, economic changes, employment shifts, etc.)
- _____ Other impacts? (define below)

Please describe your particular concerns for each of the above impacts in detail.

Human Health:

Community Infrastructure including Housing and Transportation:

Water Quality and Quantity:
Agriculture:

Energy Generation and Distribution:

Tourism and Recreation:

Coastal Communities and Ecosystems:

Cultural Problems:

Other impacts? (if you have any):

**What are some opportunities for your community to reduce top concerns and provide solutions to climate change?** What are some co-benefits to these opportunities? For example, if “Energy Generation and Distribution” is a top concern, a solution might be to incentivize solar and wind power, with co-benefits that include economic growth from jobs making and installing solar panels, and health benefits from reducing air pollution.
Editor’s Note:
The following pages contain reprints of Executive Summaries from two reports. The full reports can be found online at:

Preparing for a Changing Climate
Washington State’s Integrated Climate Response Strategy April 2012
Washington State Department of Ecology
www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1201004.html

State of Knowledge: Climate Change in Puget Sound
UW Climate Impacts Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rising levels of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases have warmed the earth and are already causing wide-ranging impacts, from rising sea levels, to melting snow and ice, to more drought and extreme rainfall. Scientists project that these trends will continue and in some cases accelerate, posing significant risks to human health, our forests, agriculture, freshwater supplies, coastlines, and other natural resources that are vital to Washington State’s economy, environment, and our way of life.¹

By taking action now to respond and adapt to changing climate conditions, Washington can significantly limit the damage and reduce the long-term costs of the climate-related impacts that are expected to grow in number and intensity in the decades to come. If no action is taken, potential costs to Washington from climate change impacts are projected to reach nearly $10 billion per year by 2020 from increased health costs, storm damage, coastal destruction, rising energy costs, increased wildfires, drought, and other impacts.

The Need for Action

Our state and societies around the globe need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid worsening climate impacts and reduce the risk of creating changes beyond our ability to respond and adapt. Washington State is addressing this challenge and has adopted policies to reduce energy use, limit greenhouse gas emissions, and build a clean energy economy. Some changes in climate—and impacts on our state—are unavoidable, even if we reduce greenhouse gas emissions today.

Preparing for a Changing Climate: Washington State’s Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy, lays out a framework to protect our communities, natural resources, and economy from the impacts of climate change and build our capacity to adapt to expected climate changes. It describes how existing and new state policies and programs can better prepare Washington to respond to the impacts of climate change. It calls on state agencies to make climate adaptation a standard part of agency planning and to make scientific information about climate change impacts readily accessible to decision makers in the public and private sectors. It also recommends that state agencies strengthen existing efforts and build partnerships to help local and tribal governments, private and public organizations, and individuals reduce their vulnerability to climate change impacts.

¹Climate Leadership Initiative (2010).
Washington’s Changing Climate and Risks

While Washingtonians have experience dealing with natural weather variability, climate change is moving us beyond a range where past experience can provide a reliable guide for what we might expect in the future.

- Climate change could have severe consequences to human health and will likely increase the number of people exposed to illness and injuries due to declining air quality and more frequent and severe heat waves, drought, wildfires, and flooding.

- Our communities and transportation, energy, and other infrastructure could face increased damage costs and disruptions from more frequent and severe flooding, wildfires, changes in energy supply and demand, and other climate impacts.

- Coastal communities and ecosystems could face increased risks from sea level rise and storm surge. Increasing ocean acidity poses risks to our shellfish industry and could alter the marine food web.

- The quantity and quality of water available for communities, irrigation, fish, hydropower generation, recreation, and other uses will be affected by declining snowpack, changes in seasonal streamflow, and increases in summer demand for water.

- Fish, wildlife, and natural systems will face increased stress. Climate change will more likely damage and destroy certain types of habitats, increase threats to certain species such as coldwater fish, alter natural patterns such as animal migrations or flower blooms, and alter the presence of pests and invasive species.

- Washington’s farms and forests will be threatened by increased disease, pests, weeds, and fire, along with reduced summer water supplies. Climate change impacts could affect crop yields and benefit or damage different crops.

To manage the potential risks, safeguard our communities, and protect our assets, we need to understand the vulnerability of natural and human systems, as well as the costs and benefits of action versus inaction, and plan alternatives accordingly. This document identifies seven high-priority, overarching response strategies that can help Washington State adapt to climate change:

1. Protect people and communities most vulnerable to climate impacts by increasing state and local public health capacity to monitor, detect, plan, and respond to emerging threats and climate-related emergencies. Also increase awareness of climate risks among the public and health-care providers.

2. Reduce risk of damage to buildings, transportation systems, and other infrastructure. Identify vulnerable areas and take proactive steps to reduce risks to infrastructure, avoid climate risks when siting new infrastructure and planning for growth, and enhance capacity to prepare for more frequent and severe flooding, rising sea levels, wildfires, and changes in energy supply and demand.

3. Reduce risks to ocean and coastlines. Help communities prepare for rising sea levels and storm surge and protect people and property. Prevent the degradation of habitats and create opportunities for upland habitat creation. Reduce shellfish vulnerability by reducing land-based contributions of carbon and polluted runoff to the marine environment.

4. Improve water management by promoting integrated approaches that consider future water supply and address competing water demands for irrigated crops, fish, municipal and domestic water needs, and energy generation. Implement enhanced water conservation and efficiency programs and incorporate climate change realities into agency decision-making.
5. **Reduce forest and agriculture vulnerability** by enhancing surveillance of pests and disease. Promote and transition to species that are resilient to changing climate conditions, conserve productive and adaptive forest and farmland, and reduce forest and wildland fire risk in vulnerable areas.

6. **Safeguard fish, wildlife, habitat, and ecosystems** and improve the ability of wildlife to migrate to more suitable habitat as the climate shifts. Protect and restore habitat and sensitive and vulnerable species. Reduce existing stresses from development, pollution, unsustainable harvest, and other factors.

7. **Support the efforts of local communities and strengthen capacity to respond and engage the public.** Identify existing and new funding mechanisms to support adaptation work at the local level, and ensure a coordinated and integrated approach among levels of government and society. Support research and monitoring and ensure scientific information is accessible and responds to needs of decision-makers.

The response strategy describes these overarching strategies and presents additional strategies and actions in the following areas:

- Human health
- Ecosystems, species, and habitats
- Ocean and coastlines
- Water resources
- Agriculture
- Forests
- Infrastructure and the built environment
- Research and monitoring
- Climate communication, public awareness, and engagement

**Moving Forward**

This response strategy clearly outlines our path forward to prepare for a changing climate here in Washington State to safeguard the communities, economy, and quality of life that we value—now and for future generations. Implementation of this Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy requires the support of state agencies in developing both near-term and long-term actions to move forward and carry out this strategy—in coordination with local governments, federal agencies, tribal governments, research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Efforts are already underway in Washington State and across all levels of government and society to address the impacts of climate change. Many options with low or no costs can be implemented today that will significantly improve our prosperity now and in the future. In other cases, the costs of preparing our natural and built environments to cope with the impacts of changing climate will be more substantial. Such costs are far less, however, than costs of inaction.

By taking action now, we can protect Washington’s people and natural areas from climate change risks, protect our jobs, ensure our continued economic competitiveness, and help build resilient communities.
State of Knowledge:
Climate Change in Puget Sound

Prepared by the
Climate Impacts Group
University of Washington
November 2015

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From the peaks of the Cascades and Olympics to the saltwater of the Sound, climate shapes the physical landscape of the Puget Sound region and where and how people, plants and animals inhabit that landscape.

In addition to important natural variations, we know now that the Earth’s climate is changing, and expected to continue to change in ways that will alter our local environment, the nature and health of our ecosystems, and the risks and opportunities facing our communities.

This report summarizes the current state of knowledge concerning observed and likely future climate trends and their effects on the lands, waters, and people of the Puget Sound region. It describes:

- Changes in the key factors shaping our local environment: temperature, precipitation, sea level, ocean chemistry, and natural variability,
- Implications for Puget Sound lands: freshwater resources, landslides, sediment transport, agriculture, and ecosystems,
- Consequences for Puget Sound’s marine waters: coastal and marine ecosystems, water quality, and circulation,
- Impacts on the region’s population: health, tribes, and infrastructure, and
- Climate risk reduction activities underway in climate-sensitive sectors across the Puget Sound region.

This report, State of Knowledge: Climate Change in Puget Sound, is designed to be an easy-to-read summary that both complements and points to the foundational literature (peer-reviewed science, community and agency reports, and publicly available datasets) from which it draws.

*Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen.*

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Key Drivers of Change**

*Climate variability and change will affect the Puget Sound region by altering key climate-related factors shaping the local environment.*

- **TEMPERATURE:** The Puget Sound region warmed in the 20th century: all but six of the years from 1980-2014 were above the 20th century average (Figure ES-1). Additional warming for the 21st century is projected to be at least double that experienced in the 20th century, and could be nearly ten times as large (Figure ES-2). *(Section 2)*

- **PRECIPITATION:** There are no statistically significant trends towards wetter or drier conditions (evaluated for seasons and years) over the 20th century. Large year-to-year and decade-to-decade variations in precipitation are expected to continue, and to be much larger than the long-term changes projected for the 21st century. *(Section 2)*

- **HEAVY RAINFALL:** Future occurrences of heavy rainfall are projected to be more frequent and more intense. This will exacerbate flood risks in many watersheds. *(Section 2)*

- **SEA LEVEL:** Over the last century, sea level rose at many locations along the shorelines of Puget Sound. Rates vary, however, as local land motion, weather patterns, and ocean currents can amplify or mask regional trends in sea level. Sea levels are projected to rise over the coming century, with a wide range of possible future amounts, depending on the rate of global greenhouse gas emissions. Increases in sea level will amplify the risk of coastal flooding. *(Section 4)*

- **OCEAN ACIDIFICATION:** As a result of accumulating carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere, the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Puget Sound are experiencing a reduction in pH, a process known as acidification. This acidification is projected to continue. *(Sections 7 and 11)*
• **NATURAL VARIABILITY:** Seasonal, year-to-year, and decade-to-decade variations will remain an important feature of local climate, at times amplifying or counteracting the long-term trends caused by rising greenhouse gas emissions.

**Puget Sound Land Areas**

*From the mountaintops to the shorelines of Puget Sound, these climate changes will cause changes in the region’s water cycle, natural resources, and ecosystems.*

• **SNOWPACK AND STREAMFLOW:** Warming will cause a greater proportion of winter precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow. Snowpack is projected to decline, causing the spring peak in streamflow to occur earlier in the year. Winter streamflow is projected to increase in snow-influenced watersheds, while most locations are projected to experience a decline in summer streamflow (Figure ES-3). *(Section 3)*

• **LANDSLIDES AND SEDIMENT TRANSPORT:** Changes in rainfall, snowpack, and streamflow may lead to an increase in landslide risk, erosion, and sediment transport in fall, winter, and spring, while reducing the rates of these processes in summer. Quantitative projections of the likely changes in sediment transport and landslides are limited, in part because it is challenging to distinguish climate change effects from non-climatic factors such as development patterns and forest management. *(Section 5)*

• **FLOODING:** Both the extent and the frequency of flooding is projected to increase. Heavy rain events are projected to intensify, increasing flood risk in all Puget Sound watersheds. Continued sea level rise will extend the reach of storm surge, putting coastal areas at greater risk of inundation. In snow-accumulating watersheds, winter flood risk will increase as the snowline recedes, shifting precipitation from rain to snow. *(Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5).*
**Salmon:** Warmer streams, ocean acidification, lower summer streamflows, and higher winter streamflows are projected to negatively affect salmon. The persistence of cold water “refugia” within rivers and the diversity among salmon populations will be critical in helping salmon populations adapt to future climate conditions. *(Sections 10 and 11)*

**Timing of Biological Events:** The timing of many biological events (e.g., leaf emergence in spring, plankton blooms in lakes, spawning runs for salmon) can be altered by warming. Because each species will respond differently, climate change may cause important biological interactions to become unsynchronized. *(Sections 9, 10, and 11)*

**Species Distributions:** Many species will exhibit changes in their geographic ranges, with some species experiencing expansion, while others experience contraction or migration. For example, declining snowpack is expected to lead to a decline in montane meadows as forests expand into higher elevation habitats. Range shifts will vary among species, and will be affected by non-climatic factors such as development and management patterns. *(Sections 9 and 10)*

**Forests:** Over the long-term, climate change is expected to alter the distribution and abundance of some tree species in the Puget Sound region. Growth of Douglas-fir and other species in relatively warm lower-elevation forests (where growth is currently limited by summer water availability) may decrease. In contrast, growth of cold-climate, high-elevation species such as mountain hemlock (where growth is currently limited by mountain snowpack) may increase. Increases in the risk of large wildfires...
and altered ranges and timing of insects and fungal pathogens will affect the vigor, growth, and distribution of forest species in the Puget Sound region. *(Section 9)*

- **AGRICULTURE:** Warming is expected to increase the length of the growing season. Along with higher temperatures, increases in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations could increase the production of some crops. However, increases in heat stress, decreases in summer water availability, increases in flood risk, and changes in the range and timing of pests may negatively affect crops and livestock. *(Section 8)*

**Box ES-1. Projected changes in several key physical drivers.**

- **Average annual temperature:** By the 2050s (2040-2069), the average year in the Puget Sound region is projected to be +4.2°F (range: +2.9 to +5.4°F) warmer under a low greenhouse gas scenario and +5.5°F (range: +4.3 to +7.1°F) warmer under a high greenhouse gas scenario (RCP 4.5 and 8.5, respectively),⁹ relative to 1970-1999.⁸

- **Heavy Rainfall:** By the 2080s (2070-2099), the wettest days (99th percentile or 24-hour precipitation totals) in the Pacific Northwest are projected to increase by +22% (range: +5% to +34%) for a high greenhouse gas scenario (RCP 8.5), relative to 1970-1999.⁵

- **Declining Spring Snowpack:** By the 2040s (2030-2059), the average year in the Puget Sound region is projected to have −23% (range: −34 to −6%) less April 1st snowpack under a low greenhouse gas scenario (B1), and −29% (range: −47 to −4%) under a moderate greenhouse gas scenario (A1B), relative to 1970-1999.⁹

- **Sea Level Rise:** By 2050, relative sea level in Seattle is projected to rise by +6.5 inches (range: -1 to +19 inches) for a moderate, low, and high greenhouse gas scenario (A1B, B1, and A1FI, respectively), compared to 2000.⁶ Sea level rise at other locations may differ by up to 8 inches by 2050, due to different rates of uplift or subsidence.

- **Higher Storm Surge Reach.** Although storm surge is not projected to increase, sea level rise will cause the same events to have a greater impact. In Olympia, a +6 inch rise in sea level (the middle projection for 2050 is +9 inches) would cause the 100-year surge event to become a 1-in-18 year event.⁷

---

A Greenhouse gas scenarios were developed by climate modeling centers for use in modeling global and regional climate impacts. These are described in the text as follows: "very low" refers to the RCP 2.6 scenario; "low" refers to RCP 4.5 or SRES B1; "moderate" refers to RCP 6.0 or SRES A1B; and "high" refers to RCP 8.5, SRES A2, or SRES A1FI – descriptors are based on cumulative emissions by 2100 for each scenario. See Section 1 for details.
Puget Sound’s Marine Waters

Climate change will affect the saltwater habitats of Puget Sound, driving changes in its currents, chemistry, and ecosystems.

- **COASTAL HABITATS:** Sea level rise is projected to expand the area of some tidal wetlands in Puget Sound but reduce the area of others, as water depths increase and new areas become submerged. For example, the area covered by salt marsh is projected to increase, while tidal freshwater marsh area is projected to decrease. Rising seas will also accelerate the eroding effect of waves and surge, causing unprotected beaches and bluffs to recede more rapidly. *(Sections 4 and 5)*

- **HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS:** Warmer water temperatures, both in the North Pacific Ocean and in Puget Sound, will likely make harmful algae blooms more frequent and severe, and will extend the season when they can occur. Ocean acidification may increase the toxicity of some harmful algal blooms. *(Sections 7 and 11)*

- **MARINE ECOSYSTEMS:** A combination of climate-related stressors will affect marine organisms and habitats, including warmer water temperatures, loss of coastal habitat due to sea level rise, ocean acidification, and changes in water quality and freshwater inputs. Some species, like salmon and shellfish, are likely to be negatively affected by these changes; other species, such as eelgrass, may benefit. *(Section 11)*

- **CIRCULATION IN THE OCEAN AND IN PUGET SOUND:** Future changes in the circulation of Puget Sound and the near-shore Pacific Ocean are unclear. Changes in the timing and amount of river flows may affect the ability of Puget Sound’s surface and deep waters to mix. Ocean upwelling may change, but projections are not conclusive. Short-term variability in upwelling (ranging from seasons to decades) will likely be more important than long-term changes related to global warming throughout the 21st century. *(Section 6)*

---

B Projected change for ten global climate models, for 2050-2069 relative to 1970-1999, based on a low (RCP 4.5) and a high (RCP 8.5) greenhouse gas scenario.

C Projected change for ten global climate models, for 2040-2059 relative to 1970-1999, based on a moderate (A1B) greenhouse gas scenario.

D The study evaluated precipitation totals on days with the top 1% (99th percentile) in daily water vapor transport, the principal driver of heavy rain events in the Pacific Northwest. Projections are based on an analysis of 5 global climate model projections and a high greenhouse gas scenario (RCP 8.5), evaluated for 2070-2099 relative to 1970-1999. Projected changes in intensity were evaluated for latitudes ranging from 40 to 49N. Although global models are coarse in spatial scale, previous research has shown that they can adequately capture the dynamics that govern West coast storms and heavy precipitation events.

E Projections are a particular class of global climate models called “Earth System Models”. These model the carbon cycle, and can therefore provide estimates of the amount of CO2. The numbers give the range among all models and two scenarios: both a low (RCP 4.5) and a high (RCP 8.5) greenhouse gas scenario.
People

The Puget Sound region is home to a growing population and a rich diversity of cultural, institutional, and economic resources, many of which will be affected by climate change.

- **TRIBES:** Rooted in place, tribes are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Puget Sound’s tribal communities face a wide range of climate-related risks, including sea level rise, more frequent and larger floods, impacts on culturally-important species such as salmon and shellfish, a greater risk of wildfires, and changes in the forest, coastal, and marine ecosystems on which they rely.

- **BUILT ENVIRONMENT:** The developed areas of Puget Sound and the transportation, drinking water, wastewater, and energy systems that serve the region’s population will face an increasing risk of a variety of extreme weather events (e.g., heat waves, flooding, wildfire). Consequences include flooding of low-lying infrastructure, damage to energy transmission, and higher maintenance costs for many transportation and other elements of the built environment. *(Section 12)*

- **HUMAN HEALTH:** More frequent heat waves and more frequent and intense flooding may harm human health directly. Warming may also exacerbate health risks from poor air quality and allergens. Climate change can indirectly affect human health through its impacts on water supplies, wildfire risk, and the ways in which diseases are spread. Risks are often greatest for the elderly, children, those with existing chronic health conditions, individuals with greater exposure to outside conditions, and those with limited access to health resources. *(Section 13)*

Climate Risk Reduction

*Actions taken today to reduce climate risks will play an important role in determining the future consequences of climate change.* Actions underway in Puget Sound include:

- **ASSESSING VULNERABILITIES:** Many Puget Sound communities and organizations are assessing their specific vulnerabilities to climate change. For example, the Jamestown
S’Klallam tribe has recently completed a vulnerability assessment, finding that scenarios for moderate and high severity sea level rise raise flood risks for Highway 101 near Discovery Bay, potentially preventing the Tribe’s access to the highway for 12-24 hours.\(^8\) (Section 12)

- **PARTNERSHIP BUILDING:** Agencies, organizations, and communities in Puget Sound are working collaboratively with stakeholders to identify options for responding to climate change. For example, the North Cascadia Adaptation Partnership is a U.S. Forest Service / National Park Service collaboration that joined with city, state, tribal, and federal partners to increase awareness of climate change, assess the vulnerability of cultural and natural resources, and incorporate climate change adaptation into current management of federal lands in the North Cascades region.\(^9\) (Section 9)

- **CLIMATE-INFORMED PLANNING:** Puget Sound communities and practitioners are incorporating climate change impacts into planning and decisions. For example, plans by the Port of Bellingham to redevelop the 228 acre Georgia Pacific site near downtown Bellingham include raising site grades approximately +3 to +6 feet in areas with high value infrastructure as a buffer against sea level rise.\(^10\) (Sections 4 and 12)

- **IMPLEMENTING ADAPTATION:** A number of Puget Sound communities have begun to implement changes in policies, practices, and infrastructure that are designed to increase climate resilience. For example, projections for increased flooding and sediment loading in the Skagit River led to design changes for the City of Anacortes’ new $65 million water treatment plant. Completed in 2013, the new plant includes elevated structures, water-tight construction with minimal structural penetrations, no electrical control equipment below the current 100-year flood elevation, and more effective sediment removal processes.\(^11,12\) (Sections 3, 5, and 12)

**Looking Forward**

Understanding the likely local effects of climate variability and change is the first step towards characterizing, and ultimately reducing, climate risks. To help catalyze and support climate risk reduction activities aimed at developing a climate resilient Puget Sound region, this report summarizes existing knowledge about observed climate change and variability in the Puget Sound region, likely future climate changes, and the current and possible future impacts associated with these changes. It is intended to serve as a credible source to inform discussions within the region about the risks associated with climate change and choices for adaptation.

It is important to recognize that this report does not serve as a crystal ball for predicting our future. The actual impacts of a changing climate will arise from the complex interactions between climate and our critical natural and human systems, but also with a multitude of non-climate factors, including development choices, patterns of energy and water consumption, land use decisions, and other economic and social factors.
The region's best future will be achieved if the early steps toward climate risk reduction can be connected and enhanced. Decisions that consider climate risks, the interactions among these risks, and the connection between these risks and non-climate stressors offer the opportunity to maintain the integrity of the ecosystems that we treasure, the reliability of the infrastructure on which we depend, and the well-being of this generation and future generations in the Puget Sound region.

# Unit Meetings

(Unit times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)
Meetings are open to all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Leader email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, April 11</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST HILL</strong> – Adele Reynolds</td>
<td>206-621-4867</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Horizon House, Forum &amp; Social Room 900 University St., Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:adelereynolds@netscape.net">adelereynolds@netscape.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH SEATTLE</strong> - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya</td>
<td>206-763-9430</td>
<td>NO MEETING THIS MONTH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:hedgwolfe@aol.com">hedgwolfe@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:montoyaviv@gmail.com">montoyaviv@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-695-2620</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, April 12</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND</strong> – Bonnie Rimawi</td>
<td>425-820-7127</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bellevue Library, Room 6 1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:bonnierim@aol.com">bonnierim@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, April 13</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORtheast SEATTLE</strong> (formerly View Ridge) – Kay Beck</td>
<td>206-523-3127</td>
<td>12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kbeck25@comcast.net">kbeck25@comcast.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Directions:</em> Go into the Park through North entrance at 74th and drive EAST toward water. At the STOP sign, turn LEFT to park in front of the Brig, or RIGHT, for more parking. There will be a speaker.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING</strong> - Kathy Pugh and Marlis Worthington</td>
<td>503-580-1240</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Magnolia Church of Christ 3555 W McGraw St, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ckp1966@comcast.net">ckp1966@comcast.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:marliswr@hotmail.com">marliswr@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-283-7147</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, April 14</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MERCER ISLAND</strong> – Cynthia Howe</td>
<td>206-236-0593</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Emmanuel Episcopal Church 4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:howe.john@comcast.net">howe.john@comcast.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ISSAQUAH</strong> – Margaret Austin</td>
<td>425-392-5760</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Echo Room, Issaquah City Hall 130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret.austin@comcast.net">margaret.austin@comcast.net</a></td>
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</table>
(Unit times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)

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<tr>
<th>Unit Leader email</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, April 14 continued</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD</strong> – Connie Reed</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>University House, Auditorium 4400 Stone Way N, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:clcathy@skynetbb.com">clcathy@skynetbb.com</a></td>
<td>360-802-6799</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hostess: Cathy Dormaier call or email for directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH CENTRAL</strong> – Jan Orlando</td>
<td><a href="mailto:orlanre@aol.com">orlanre@aol.com</a></td>
<td>206-524-0936</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. Hostess: Edith Miller 6902 32nd Ave NW, Seattle 206-784-3619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, April 16</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY</strong> – Alice Peterson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peterson-alice-jack@msn.com">peterson-alice-jack@msn.com</a></td>
<td>206-524-5530</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Hosts: Joan and Kim Peterson 6537 Dibble Ave NW, Seattle 206-789-7447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, April 18</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, April 19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEST SEATTLE</strong> – Ethel Williams/Pat Lane</td>
<td><a href="mailto:etheljw1@q.com">etheljw1@q.com</a></td>
<td>206-932-7887</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. Daystar Retirement Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:plain11@juno.com">plain11@juno.com</a></td>
<td>206-932-1578</td>
<td>2615 SW Barton, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, April 20</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH KING COUNTY</strong> – Toni Potter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net">antoniapotter@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>206-365-8949</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Third Place Commons Mtg Room 17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY</strong> – Kathy Jorgensen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kjorgensen@juno.com">kjorgensen@juno.com</a></td>
<td>253-859-8349</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Foundation House 32290 1st Ave S, Federal Way</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Board & Committee Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Amanda Clark</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>1st VP</td>
<td>Ginna Owens</td>
<td>206-215-1408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>2nd VP</td>
<td>Janet Winans</td>
<td>206-550-6483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Lori Kessler</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-16</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Cindy Piennett</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directors</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-16</td>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Paneen Davidson</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>Voter Editor</td>
<td>Katie Dudley</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-16</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Pat Griffith</td>
<td>206-285-2452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-16</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Julie Anne Kempf</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>Zara Kublin</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-16</td>
<td>Voter Services</td>
<td>Amelia Woolley</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All board members listed above are also members of the Education Fund Board.

Education Fund Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
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</thead>
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<td>206-329-4848</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Lori Kessler</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Candis Litsey</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nominating Committee

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<th>Term</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Ellen Barton</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Carol Goldenberg</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Susan Jones</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paneen Davidson and Katie Dudley have been appointed to serve on the nominating committee.

Off Board Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campaign Finance</td>
<td>Jean Carlson</td>
<td>206-774-6649</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carlson.jean@gmail.com">carlson.jean@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS Coordinator</td>
<td>Cynthia Howe</td>
<td>206-236-0593</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howe.john@comcast.net">howe.john@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LWVWA Carbon Emissions Red.</td>
<td>Judy Bevington</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:gbeving@eskimo.com">gbeving@eskimo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LWVWA Carbon Emissions Red.</td>
<td>Raelene Gold</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:raelene@seanet.com">raelene@seanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics &amp; Taxation</td>
<td>Nora Leech</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:nleech2002@yahoo.com">nleech2002@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Joanna Cullen</td>
<td>206-329-8514</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfoxcullen@gmail.com">jfoxcullen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Carol Goldenberg</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:carolsamgo1@gmail.com">carolsamgo1@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Janet Winans</td>
<td>206-550-6483</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetwinans@earthlink.net">janetwinans@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfront</td>
<td>Nancy &amp; Charles Bagley</td>
<td>206-282-1578</td>
<td><a href="mailto:candnbagley@comcast.net">candnbagley@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

No Forum This Month

Please be sure to join us next month at a special location:

DUWAMISH LONGHOUSE
AND CULTURAL CENTER
4705 W MARGINAL WAY SW
SEATTLE, WA

Please call or email the office if you would like a ride or can provide one. There is no bus service to this area.

May Forum:

The Communities of the Duwamish and the River that Runs Through Them

Thursday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Contents printed on recycled and/or sustainably harvested paper.