Women and Climate Change: Connecting Around the World

By Elizabeth Davis, LWVWA Natural Resources Committee

What is the connection between women and climate change? Why are women, particularly those in lesser-developed and rural countries, especially affected by the warming planet? What is our connection with them? How do our actions here affect women’s lives in other countries?

Come to the forum on March 4 to experience dramatic photographs of women around the world and a challenging discussion of these global issues. Phil Borges, social documentary photographer and author of Women Empowered: Inspiring Change in the Emerging World, will bring visual images of women’s lives and climate change impacts as seen on his world travels. Sara Curran, Director of the University of Washington (UW) Center for Global Studies and Chair of the International Studies Program at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, and Lucy Jarosz, Associate Professor in the UW Department of Geography and Department of Women’s Studies, will bring their expertise, experience and travels to a conversation about women’s lives and the myriad ways in which climate change is impacting their lives and the lives of their families.

Building upon the stories, information and insights of these speakers, what are our next steps? To address this question, Jessie Dye, Program and Outreach Director at Earth Ministry, will talk about action at all levels from individual to international, with primary emphasis on state and national action.

The Women and Climate Change forum is part of the Seattle League’s celebration of Women’s History Month in March, and the International Women’s Day on March 8.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has made climate change one of its top legislative priorities; in response, the Natural Resources and International Relations Committees of the League of Women Voters of Washington have collaborated to produce this action forum. We are also happy to have a diverse group of organizations as cosponsors for the forum: American Friends Service Committee Pacific Northwest; Center for Creative Change at Antioch University; Climate Solutions; CoolMom; Earth Ministry; KBCS 91.3 fm Community Radio; SEAPAX; Sierra Club; Sustainable Greenwood Phinney; The Women’s Center at the University of Washington; United Nations Association; UW Center for Global Studies; Washington Environmental Council; and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility.

The forum planning committee encourages you to visit their tables (doors open at 7:00pm, program begins at 7:30pm) before or after the forum to learn from them some of the many avenues for action on climate change issues.

“What is the connection between women and climate change?”
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## Contact Information

**President:** Allison Feher  
**Voter Editor:** Beatrice Crane

**League of Women Voters of Seattle**  
1620 18th Avenue, Suite 101  
Seattle, WA 98122

- Phone: (206) 329-4848  
- Fax: (206) 329-1273  
- info@seattlelwv.org  
- www.seattlelwv.org

**Office Hours:**  
Weekdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**League of Women Voters of Washington**  
4730 University Way NE # 720  
Seattle, WA 98105  
(206) 622-8961  
lwvwa@lwvwa.org  
www.lwvwa.org

**League of Women Voters of the United States**  
(202) 429-1965  
lwv@lwv.org  
www.lwv.org

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President’s Message

March is Women's History Month, and we often take this opportunity to look back and see how far we’ve come. Last year we began the celebration of 100 years of suffrage in Washington State, and this year we are beginning the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. Two tremendous milestones to be proud of and grateful for.

This year we are looking forward rather than back: Our topic is how climate change affects women around the globe and the prospects for the future. There is a Chinese saying that women hold up half the sky. When I read about the lives of women who are struggling due to drought, famine, flood and rising water levels, I wonder how they manage to do so when it seems the sky is falling. We need to do more to ease their burdens.

We are also taking a different approach to this month’s forum—the presentation will be a call to action rather than a study of the issue. The League has studied the environment, water, energy, conservation and waste extensively over the years and from those studies we have developed positions that support a variety of actions that, if taken, would help reduce climate change. At the national level, climate change has been adopted as one of the action priorities for our organization because “global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation.” (from the League of Women Voters of the United States website, lwv.org). Even small things can make a difference if a lot of us agree to do them. For example, we heard from a speaker at the TRY release party on February 7 that conservation efforts have pushed back the need to develop additional water resources in our area by five to ten years. That’s a huge savings in our tax dollars that can be put toward other needs. Included in this Voter are a number of ways that you can take action to help limit or reduce climate change.

Another change we are making this month is the venue—we will be at Town Hall, a larger space to accommodate our numerous cosponsors. I encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors. The presentation promises to be inspiring and informative, and to provide concrete ways that you can take action, both at home and through the political process.

Finally, you may have noticed this Voter is pretty hefty this month—that’s because we’ve got so many people working on so many great projects. Read all about it and come join us!

Sincerely,

Allison Feher

Mission Statement
The League of Women Voters of Seattle, 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.

The League of Women Voters of Seattle serves the greater Seattle area, including the cities of north King County as well as east King County from Bothell to Bellevue.
### March/April

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#### MARCH

**International Relations Committee**
Monday, March 1
12:45-2:45 p.m.
League Office

**Lunch with Lilly Ledbetter**
Thursday, March 4
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
The Westin Hotel, Seattle

**Forum: Women and Climate Change**
Thursday, March 4
7:30 p.m.
Downstairs at Town Hall, Seattle

**Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Domestic Violence**
Thursday, March 4
5:00 p.m.
King County Courthouse, 3rd and Yesler

**Board Meeting**
Saturday, March 6
9:00 a.m.
League Office

**International Women's Day March**
Saturday, March 6
12:00 p.m.
Powell Barnett Park, MLK Way S and E Alder St.

**International Women's Day Rally**
Saturday, March 6
2:00 p.m.
Occidental Park, S. Washington St. and Occidental Ave. S

**April Voter Deadline**
Monday, March 8

**International Women's Day Celebration**
Monday, March 8
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
1609 19th Ave., Seattle

**Social Justice Committee**
Saturday, March 13
1:00-3:00 p.m.
League Office

**Economics and Taxation Committee**
Saturday, March 27
9:00 a.m.
909 E Newton St. #D9

#### APRIL

**“Democracy in Action”**
Thursday, April 1
Town Hall, Seattle

**Board Meeting**
Saturday, April 3
9:00 a.m.
League Office

**May Voter Deadline**
Monday, March 8

**Books, 6504 20th NE**

**Economics and Taxation Committee**
Saturday, March 27
9:00 a.m.
909 E Newton St. #D9
League Forums

The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) presents a public forum each month between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Most of the forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, although we try to schedule one on the eastside every year. The tentative schedule of upcoming forums for 2009–2010 appears to the left; check your Voter or the LWVS website, seattlelwv.org, each month for up-to-date information.

Please note that in both March and April, we have scheduled events at Town Hall, Seattle, rather than in our traditional church settings. In March, there will be a special forum on Women and Climate Change, presented jointly by the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) Natural Resources Committee and the LWVWA International Relations Committee. In April, the spring fundraiser of the LWVS Education Fund will take place at the time normally occupied by a League forum; see page 8 for more information.

We will be back at Seattle First Baptist Church in May for a forum on the Port of Seattle Study.

February Board Briefs By Brita Butler-Wall, Secretary

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) met on Saturday morning, February 6. This is a brief summary of their work.

Membership: LWVS currently has 752 members, with 689 in good standing.

Budget discussion: Treasurer Judy Bevington reviewed the budget and expenditures and noted mid-year discrepancies with projections for each line item.

Units: In January, 149 members in 18 units met to discuss program planning. Judy Bevington shared members’ comments from recordings and discussions with the board.

Program: In lieu of a League Forum in April, the Ed Fund is scheduling its Spring Fling to be held on Thursday evening, April 1, at Town Hall, based on a proposal by Laura Weese and input from the board.

The board edited and adopted the proposal from Nora Leech on our privatization positions based on consensus regarding our privatization study.

Nora Leech and Maria Brusher were appointed to a reading committee to review materials for the March Climate Change forum. Reading committees were appointed for the unit reports on program planning and state budget.

Action: The board voted to support the process of improving communications between the Seattle School District and the community. The Board approved of the continuing participation of Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis as a LWVS representative to the Community Values Coalition (forming) in the meetings on the Community Values statement. At a future meeting, the Board will discuss more fully the actual recommendations included in the statement.

The board endorsed the International Women’s Day Rally & Celebration on March 6 and 8.
Committees

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
DATE: Monday, March 1
TIME: 12:45–2:45 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

Anyone interested in participating is welcome. Any last minute tasks relative to our Women & Climate Change forum will be handled with dispatch! For discussion, everyone is invited to bring one article on an I-R topic which has recently caught your attention.

For more information, email Ellen Berg or Peggy Saari: ellenzberg@msn.com or peggysaari@comcast.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
DATE: Saturday, March 13
TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
DATE: Monday, March 15
TIME: 12:00 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

The Education Committee will continue its research into the different aspects of teacher quality. In February, we heard about teacher preparation. At this meeting, Jennifer Wallace, the Executive Director of the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) will talk to us about its role in teacher preparation and certification. Here is a quick summary of its stated purpose:

The PESB was created in 2000 as primarily an advisory board to the Governor, Legislature, State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction on the full range of policy issues related to certified education professionals, including teachers, principals, superintendents and educational staff associates. In addition, the PESB was charged with creating alternative routes to teacher certification and administering new basic skills and subject knowledge assessments for teacher certification. Five years later, Governor Gregoire signed into law ESSB 5732, which gave the PESB responsibility and authority for policy and oversight of Washington’s system of educator preparation, certification, continuing education and assignment.

It should be an interesting discussion and all members are welcome. Please contact committee chair Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis if you want more information or have questions.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
DATE: Tuesday, March 16
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: League Office

The showing of the film The Cats of Mirikitani, followed by discussion, is the fourth in our series of films, books, and exhibits with immigration themes. Please join us for this cogent film about a Japanese immigrant who “loses” his citizenship and finds himself homeless on the streets of New York. Mirikitani expresses himself through his art, selling it on the sidewalk. Through his paintings, one learns his stories; through those stories, one experiences Mirikitani as a fellow human being.

Co-chairs
Barbara Reid, (206) 329-4848
Barbara Yasui, (206) 329-4848

CIVICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE
DATE: Thursday, March 18
TIME: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Vios Pub at Third Place Books, 6504 20th N.E.

Do you love short term projects? Then come to this meeting to help us plan the League Education Fund Program, “Democracy in Action,” which will take place on April 1. For more information, contact Dana Twight: dctwight@uwashington.edu or (206) 329-4848.

ECONOMICS AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
DATE: Saturday, March 27
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: 909 E. Newton St., D-9

For more information, call Nora Leech at (206) 329-4848.
HELP WANTED

REQUEST FOR CIS VOLUNTEERS!
Have a little extra time and want to become involved with the League? Come join us on the Citizen Information Service (CIS) desk. If you like to talk on the phone and greet people who come into the office, we have just the right spot for you. We currently need someone who would be willing to commit three hours a week, preferably Wednesday morning, to answer our phones for us. We will train!
Call Cynthia Howe at (206) 329-4848 or email her at howe.john@comcast.net.

HELP THE LEAGUE REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT!
We’d like to provide rides and carpool opportunities to members to Forums and other special events. We are looking for a volunteer Transportation Coordinator who enjoys creating efficient systems and solving logistical puzzles. The Transportation Coordinator will start by devising an easy-to-use system for matching riders with drivers. The Transportation Coordinator would then fine-tune the system and roll it out to the general membership. It might mean training other volunteers and overseeing it throughout the year. Please contact Lindsay Cummings or Kelly Powers at the office—(206) 329-4848.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY EVENTS

LUNCH WITH LILLY LEDBETTER

The League of Women Voters of Seattle has endorsed the following events in recognition of International Women’s Day, March 8.

Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Domestic Violence
Date: Thursday, March 4
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: King County Courthouse, 3rd & Yesler

March
Date: Saturday, March 6
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Place: Powell Barnett Park, Martin Luther King Way S. & E. Alder St.

Rally
Date: Saturday, March 6
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Occidental Park, S. Washington St. & Occidental Ave. S.

Celebration
Date: Monday, March 8
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Place: POCAAN, 1609 19th Ave., Seattle

Date: Thursday, March 4
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Place: The Westin Hotel, 1900 5th Ave., Seattle
Tickets: $50; purchase online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/91307, or call 800.838.3006.

This event is part of a series called Opening Doors for Women and Girls, presented by the University of Washington’s Women’s Center. It will feature a conversation with Lilly Ledbetter, whose long struggle for equity in the workplace led to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, signed into law by President Obama in January, 2009.
Presented by the League of Women Voters
With Nancy Amidei, Jerry Large, Paul Loeb

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

How can we create a better, more democratic society?

What issues prevent our moving ahead?

What ideas will propel us forward?

WHEN: April 1st (Thursday) @ 7:30pm
WHERE: Seattle Town Hall downstairs

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK, hosted by the League of Women Voters, will bring together great minds and perspectives to talk about the challenges facing our democracy and what we can do about them.

Nancy Amidei directs the Civic Engagement Project, which provides advocacy training to non-profit organizations throughout the country.

Jerry Large is a columnist for the Seattle Times.

Paul Loeb is the author of The Impossible Will Take a Little While and Soul of a Citizen. A newly revised edition of Soul of a Citizen will be available for purchase and author signing.

VIP Reception 6:30 pm; $90*
General admission; $25
Students: $10
All funds benefit the League of Women Voters of Seattle Education Fund (LWVS Education Fund)

Let’s work together to make democracy work!

* The LWV celebrates its 90th year in 2010.
LEAGUE NEWS

League/Community News

LEAGUE MEMBERS VISIT FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL’S PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY
BY LAURA WEESE, CO-PRESIDENT, LWVS ED FUND

On Thursday, January 21, League of Women Voters of Seattle members Kelly Powers and Laura Weese visited Franklin High School’s Public Service Academy. They spoke to two sophomore classes at the invitation of their teacher, Jocelyn Mitchell, about what the League of Women Voters is and does.

The mission of the John Stanford Public Service and Political Science Academy (to use its official name) is to “encourage and empower young people to become honorable and active citizens and leaders in our society.” The Academy enrolls 50 students in each high school class from sophomore through senior years, 150 students in all.

Sophomore students get an introduction to public service and work in groups on research projects. This year students chose projects including homelessness, youth violence, teen pregnancy and problems facing senior citizens. The group studying homelessness took sandwiches to homeless people in Pioneer Square and interviewed them for their study. The group looking at senior citizen issues visited senior centers and talked to people there. Each group presented a written and oral report on their work.

Juniors work on an “Olympia Project,” including researching a bill, lobbying for it at the legislature and taking a trip to Olympia. They also do community service work on urban issues. Seniors have a “D.C. Project,” which involves Congressional lobbying and a trip to D.C., if fundraising efforts are successful.

Contributions from the community help to pay for field trips to Olympia and Washington, D.C., plus a two-day unity-building retreat to Camp Sealth on Vashon Island for entering sophomores. An annual fundraising breakfast is held at a downtown hotel featuring inspiring public sector leaders such as Gary Locke, a Franklin graduate, as well as talks by students in the program.

Franklin’s program is a great model which might well be extended to other high schools. The success of the program is even more impressive considering the demographics of Franklin's student population: 60% eligible for free and reduced price lunch, 95% people of color and a large number, perhaps 40%, first generation immigrants.

TRY RELEASE PARTY
BY DENISE SMITH, CO-PRESIDENT, LWVS ED FUND

The Seattle League held the first TRY release party on Sunday, February 7 at the Mercer Island Community Center. This event was planned to celebrate the publication of the 2010 They Represent You: Directory of Elected Officials, and the fact that the Seattle League has published this brochure as a public service for over 50 years. We also used this opportunity to thank those we include in the directory—those elected officials who dedicate their time and skill to making government work by serving in local government. This year we focused on local cities and towns, sending personal invitations to the mayors and city council members of the 39 local jurisdictions in King County.

The afternoon’s program consisted of a discussion of local influence on regional government and regional planning. Past Mercer Island council member Aubrey Davis spoke of how local government and citizen involvement helped alter the federal highway plan for I-90, and won a national award in the process. Current Bellevue Mayor Don Davidson discussed the large number of regional committees and their governance, focusing on regional water and wastewater.

Members of the Mercer Island, Bellevue and Issaquah Evening Units assisted with party logistics. The Issaquah evening unit provided the refreshments, including a large chocolate cake decorated to celebrate the League’s 90th birthday.
THE BUDGET:  CITY OF SEATTLE
BY JAN O’CONNOR

The Citizens Budget Conference on January 31, 2010 kicked off Seattle’s budget process in anticipation of adopting a budget for 2011-12 before Thanksgiving. This conference is sponsored by the City Neighborhood Council and Seattle Center, in cooperation with the Mayor, the City Council, the Budget Office, and Department of Neighborhoods. Sessions were moderated by Neighborhood Council representatives but presentations were made by city staff.

A large crowd gathered at noon to visit the table displays staffed by representatives from city departments. I took the opportunity to question a staffer about the use of park department activity centers, the funding of the arts, the requirements and pay scale for police department recruits, etc.

The attendees were greeted at 1:00 by City Councilmember Jean Godden, chair of the Finance & Budget Committee, and Mayor McGinn.

Beth Goldberg, acting budget director, reviewed the city’s financial status. Seattle is affected by the same revenue shortfalls being experienced nationally. Sales tax revenues, B&O taxes, property taxes, utility taxes and the real estate excise tax (REET) were down last year and continue to decline. Certain steps to meet the shortfall, such as drawing down the rainy day fund, drawing down fund balances, deferring purchases and furloughing staff, were taken during the 2009-2010 budget process. These sources are of limited value in preparing the 2011-2012 budget.

Some declines were of special interest. Reducing the amount of garbage produced is a worthwhile goal, but less garbage produces less revenue. Using less water or electricity produces less revenue. Since producing less garbage and using less water and electricity are generally accepted goals, it seems that the operation should be structured so that achieving those goals results in lower costs.

Other departments have committed sources of revenue. For instance, the Department of Transportation is spending funds being collected through the Bridging the Gap property tax levy that expires in 2011. The Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs receives most of its funding from taxes on tickets. Many other government services are funded by federal funds or grants for specific purposes. If you are concerned about the fate of a particular program, check out its funding source.

The majority of general fund dollars are allocated to public safety. Why crime declines or increases during certain conditions or in certain cities is a question that is worth some serious public scrutiny. There is some evidence that public safety may be related to factors other than the number of policemen.

Mayor McGinn was urged to reconsider the way cuts were to be made within city departments.

After the introductory financial overview, staff members from eleven city departments met in separate venues with District Council moderators to discuss the program and budget of their departments.

The afternoon closed with a panel led by Councilmember Godden as the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. This is the first of many opportunities for the public to comment on the budget. I would suggest that if you are interested in a specific city service, check out the sources of funds for that activity and its current sources of funding, and then decide what the best course of action might be.

THE CENTRAL WATERFRONT PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
BY JAN O’CONNOR

League of Women Voters of Seattle member Jan O’Connor has been appointed to the newly-established Waterfront Partnerships Committee, which will advise the mayor and the City Council on managing the waterfront. This is her second report on its progress. See the February Voter for more information on the committee.

The committee held its second meeting on January 21, 2010. Two major points were made by speakers.

1. A major portion of the area along the waterfront is a street. Highway 99 is a state-owned highway that must be maintained.

2. Although there is a lot of space for public development, the park department is hard pressed to meet its current maintenance and operation needs. A question that must be addressed is what kind of management and funding organization can be developed that can cope with the planning and funding of a project with such diverse interests.
Seattle City Council members formally resumed work on revamping the Multifamily Code (MFC) with a February 3 “kickoff” hearing that publicized the issues on which they intend to focus, and their tentative public-hearing and work-completion schedule. The MFC is important because it governs the design and construction rules for projects ranging from low-rise townhouses to high-rise residential towers located in neighborhoods throughout the city.

The Code was last updated in the 1980s, prior to passage of the city’s Comprehensive Plan and numerous individual neighborhood plans. During Seattle’s recent building boom, our neighborhoods have been besieged by years of bad design that burdened us with, among other things, big buildings squeezed onto skinny lots, and bulky, badly-designed townhouses that gobbled up open space and provided little or no curbside appeal. The MFC is being updated in response to public outcry over the ways in which current residential zoning has allowed Seattle neighborhoods to be redeveloped; city officials hope the revised Code will provide better quality projects that result in predictable and positive outcomes for the areas in which they are located.

Taking into account public comments received last year, PLUNC currently is contemplating improvements to the Code that should result in: better designed residential buildings that are more compatible with their respective neighborhoods, a wider range of housing types to provide both greater compatibility and more affordable-housing options; neighborhood open space preservation/improvements, and construction projects that encourage sustainability.

The preliminary hearing schedule (subject to change) is as follows:

LATE FEBRUARY / EARLY MARCH — Several public hearings will be held to discuss recent adjustments made to the Multifamily Code’s legislative language. It is expected that some of these meetings will be held in city neighborhoods.

APRIL — Following the public hearings, Seattle’s Department of Planning and Development will provide a draft of the MFC’s revised language, and submit the proposed legislation to a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review.

MAY /JUNE — More hearings will be held to determine if the Code’s new legislative language needs further revision.

JUNE /JULY — The full Seattle City Council will hold final deliberations and vote on whether to enact the revised Multifamily Code.

For further information about the MFC hearing schedule and other related issues, please contact Councilmember Sally Clark’s office at (206) 684-8802 and ask for David Yeaworth, or access her web site at sally.clark@seattle.gov. Additionally, the Daily Journal of Commerce ran an article on the MFC (particularly as it affects “low-rise” development) in the January 27, 2010 edition. And a comprehensive overview of last Fall’s “white hat/black hat” presentation, plus public feedback on proposed Multifamily Code changes, is available online at: www.greatcity.org/wp-content/uploads/bigPDF/CORA-MFhousingStudy-FinalReport%209-24-09.pdf.
Voter Service

SEATTLE LEAGUE CALLS ATTENTION TO MAIL-IN BALLOT ISSUES
BY KELLY POWERS, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Beginning in 2009, King County joined the rest of the state and switched to voting entirely by mail-in ballot. To be counted, ballots had to be postmarked by election day or delivered to a 24-hour ballot drop box by 8 PM on election day. Voters could drop off their ballots in one of 19 ballot drop boxes in King County. 24-hour neighborhood drop boxes allowed people to vote without paying postage, drop off ballots at odd hours, and submit ballots directly to King County Elections. It is estimated that over 20% of ballots were cast using ballot drop boxes in the November Election.

Fast forward three months to the Special Election on February 9, 2010. With King County budget woes, the King County Elections Department decided to remove 17 neighborhood drop off boxes as a cost saving measure. Only two ballot drop boxes were provided in King County: at King County Elections office in Tukwila and at the King County Administration building in downtown Seattle. Voters could also drop off ballots at one of the county’s three accessible voting sites during their business hours, but one of these sites was also at the Tukwila location, and the other two, at Bellevue City Hall and Seattle’s Union Station, were only open on election day and the day before.

These changes were not widely announced. Just months after switching voters to all mail-in ballots, King County changed the way to vote with very little fanfare. Campaigns were forced to get the word out themselves.

A King County library staff person reported that voters were returning their ballots in library book drop slots in the hope that the ballots would make their way to King County Elections in time.

Brita Butler-Wall, League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) Board member, represented the LWVS and spoke at a press conference called by the Schools First! campaign for the Seattle schools levies, endorsed by LWVS. Sharon Rodgers, past-president of the Seattle PTSA Council, spoke on behalf of the Schools First! campaign.

Butler-Wall explained the League’s concerns: that the under-communicated changes would mean that some ballots would not be postmarked or received in time to be counted, and that paying for postage would prove to be a barrier for some voters. While sympathetic to the severe budget constraints facing local governments, the League urges King County Elections to make voting methods predictable and clearly communicate changes, in order to insure that ballots are mailed in time to be counted, and that everyone who qualifies to vote and wants to vote can do so.

The press conference was held at the King County Administration Building, and several Seattle Leaguers were present: Judy and Gary Bevington, Nora Leech, Sarah Luthens and her daughter Viola, and Kelly Powers and her 4th grade daughter, Ruby Powers.
THANKS FROM MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to every member for all that you to make the League run every day. Here are few highlights from February....

Thanks to Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Nancy and Charles Bagley and Marian Wolfe for participating in the League Afternoon phone bank to get out the vote for the Seattle school levies. Leaguers sure know how to show up and get the job done.

Thanks to Brita Butler-Wall for speaking last-minute on behalf of the League at a press conference highlighting the problems with eliminating the neighborhood ballot drop boxes for the February Special Election, and to Judy and Gary Bevington, Nora Leech, and Sarah Luthens with adorable baby Viola in tow, for creating the crowd.

Thanks to Maria Brusher and Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis for attending a meeting on how get League news into neighborhood blogs. It was successful!

Thanks to Victoria Bennett for rowing the big oars to get the per member payment (PMP) report completed for the National League of Women Voters.

Thanks to Laura Weese for cultivating a League relationship with the Franklin High School Public Service Academy. She gave a presentation on the League featuring an exercise using the TRY to two sophomore classes entering the Public Service Academy.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

It’s wonderful to see the breadth of experience and interests our members bring to the Greater Seattle League. Please join me in welcoming them to our forums, units and committees.

Amanda Swartz is an insurance investigator. She has a BA in Romance languages from the University of Maine, is fluent in Spanish and French and has advanced skills in Dutch, Italian and Portuguese. Amanda is working towards a graduate degree in Criminal Justice and Terrorism. She lives in Issaquah and looks forward to working with women who find community activism important.

James Erickson is a new member of the University House/Wallingford unit. He was a professional army officer who retired after 29 years and served 2 years in the military reserves. He also worked 12 years as an administrator at the University of Kansas Medical School and Center. He is interested in Port and Transportation issues as well as International Relations, Immigration, Health Care and City Government issues. He enjoys advocacy at all levels of government.

Micaline Tomeo graduated last May from Yale University with a Bachelor’s degree in political science. She recently moved from the Spokane area and joined the League as a way to get to know Seattle. Micaline has been attending committee meetings as well as the Census forum planning meetings. She has just started working on the 2010 Census for the federal government. We look forward to learning about
her experiences working on the census. She lives in Belltown in downtown Seattle.

Paul Pruitt is a retired minister and clergyman who served as a Washington State Legislator. He is currently a board member on Health Care for All Washington, and Washington Religious Campaign Against Torture. He enjoys participating in the Horizon House/First Hill Unit with his wife Mary Margaret. He enjoys being well informed on significant issues and legislation, continuing opportunities for voter registration and candidate forums.

Rebecca Ponzio is an Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator for the Puget Sound Partnership. She has a Masters in both Urban Planning and Public Policy from the University of Washington. She has worked in salmon recovery for the past three years and in environmental management for the past nine years. She looks forward to opportunities to engage in reinforcing our democratic process via forums, education, conversation and volunteering. She lives in West Seattle.

Ruth Eller is a retired jewelry historian and has worked with museums, historical societies and colleges cataloging collections and lecturing. She founded the Southbury, Connecticut chapter of the League and was elected to the town Library Board three times. She served on many community projects. Ruth belongs to the Horizon House/First Hill unit and appreciates the continued careful consideration of issues and appropriate action.

Sue Mecklenburg is a former LWVS Board member and is currently a Vice President of Corporate Responsibility at Starbucks. She is a past commissioner on the City of Seattle Youth Commission, a Leadership Tomorrow board member, a member of the advisory board for the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business, and a member of the Business and Biodiversity Council. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Northwestern University and her MBA from the University of Washington. She lives in Seattle’s Madison Park area and is looking forward to introducing her daughter to the League experience.

In Memoriam

In memoriam and with gratitude for their contributions and commitment to the League and the community at large ….

Mary “Maxine” ASMUSSEN lost a two-year battle with lung cancer February 3, 2010. Maxine was a longtime Seattle resident and member of the North End Afternoon unit. Her fellow unit members remember that she thoroughly read the League materials and was always prepared to participate fully in the unit discussions. She was a retired teacher and an avid bridge player. She was very interested in politics and worked to make her community a fair and just place.

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Action and Advocacy

THE STATE WE’RE IN

By Nora Leech, Economics & Taxation Committee Chair

The following chart graphically lays out our current state of affairs regarding who pays local taxes as a percent of family income. The League position is that taxes should be based upon ability to pay, but in our state it is the inverse. The poor pay a much higher percent of their income to support local government than do the most prosperous citizens. This is because our state depends largely on sales and excise taxes, which results in a grossly unfair and regressive system. The sales tax supplies over 55% of our tax revenue to the state general fund. The poor pay close to 18% of their income, while the rich pay close to 3%. You will notice that our neighboring states are doing much better than we are regarding sharing the costs of government equitably—something we must strive for.
Washington

State & Local Taxes in 2007
Shares of family income for non-elderly taxpayers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Group</th>
<th>Lowest 20%</th>
<th>Second 20%</th>
<th>Middle 20%</th>
<th>Fourth 20%</th>
<th>Top 20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income Range</td>
<td>Less than $20,000</td>
<td>$20,000 – $37,000</td>
<td>$37,000 – $62,000</td>
<td>$62,000 – $99,000</td>
<td>$99,000 – $198,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Income in Group</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>$28,200</td>
<td>$49,900</td>
<td>$78,900</td>
<td>$132,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sales & Excise Taxes
- General Sales—Individuals: 13.1% 10.0% 8.3% 6.7% 5.1% 3.3% 1.8%
- Other Sales & Excise—Ind.: 4.4% 3.6% 3.2% 2.6% 2.0% 1.3% 0.7%
- Sales & Excise on Business: 3.9% 2.7% 2.2% 1.8% 1.3% 0.8% 0.3%

Property Taxes
- Property Taxes on Families: 4.2% 2.7% 2.9% 2.8% 2.5% 2.3% 1.1%
- Other Property Taxes: 4.8% 3.7% 3.0% 2.4% 1.8% 1.2% 0.8%

Income Taxes
- Corporate Income Tax
- Personal Income Tax
- Other Income Taxes

TOTAL TAXES
- Federal Deduction Offset

TOTAL AFTER OFFSET

Note: Table shows 2007 tax law updated to reflect permanent changes in law enacted through October 2009.
Washington

State & Local Taxes
Features, Developments, and Comparisons

**Progressive Features**

✔ Provides a refundable earned income tax credit (EITC) contingent upon state appropriation

**Regressive Features**

✗ No personal income tax
✗ Comparatively high reliance on sales taxes
✗ Comparatively high combined state and local sales tax rate

**Recent Developments**

▲ Increased cigarette taxes
▲ Created a refundable EITC equal to 10 percent of the federal credit contingent upon state appropriation

**States without a Broad-Based Personal Income Tax**

![Map of the United States showing states without a broad-based personal income tax.](image)

**Change in the Composition of Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Non Tax</th>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finances

Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States

Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy – November 2009
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION ON MARCH 16

The King Conservation District, an agency promoting sustainable use of natural resources, will hold a public election for an open position on its board of supervisors on March 16, 2010. All registered voters in King County are eligible to vote (except residents of Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton, Pacific and Skykomish). In Seattle, the polling location is at the Seattle Public Library (downtown Main Branch) at 1000 Fourth Ave. Poll hours are 10:30 AM to 7:30 PM. For north and east King County, the polling places are the Shoreline, Bellevue Regional and Carnation branches of the King County Library.

As part of a statewide look at Conservation Districts, the King County South League is putting together some additional information. As soon as it is available we will post it on the website. The following is from the District’s website, www.kingcd.org:

The King Conservation District (KCD) is a natural resources assistance agency authorized by Washington State and guided by the Washington State Conservation Commission. Our mission is to promote the sustainable use of natural resources through responsible stewardship. A five-member Board of Supervisors is responsible for all District programs and activities. We educate landowners, schools, scientists, consultants and agencies in how to recognize problem situations and how to avoid creating them. We also provide technical assistance in solving their problems. We promote conservation through demonstration projects, educational events, providing technical assistance and, in some cases, providing or pointing the way to funds which may be available for projects. The KCD has no regulatory or enforcement authority. We only work with those who choose to work with us. All landowners within the District boundaries are entitled to free information and technical assistance for water quality protection, wildlife habitat enhancement, farm management plans, soil and slope stability information, native plant products, manure exchange information, volunteer opportunities, stream restoration/enhancement assistance and many other natural resource topics.

The draft budget for 2010 shows projected expenditures of $6.4 million.

COURT RULING AFFIRMS THE CONSTITUTION

BY BY CATHERINE AHL, EDUCATION CHAIR, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON (LWVWA)

On Feb. 4, Superior Court Judge John Erlick ruled that the State of Washington is in violation of Article IX, Section 1 of the State Constitution, “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders…” The lawsuit, brought by the McCleary and Venema families and the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS), a coalition of which LWVWA is a member, asked the court to define paramount, ample, all and education.

Judge Erlick reaffirmed the Supreme Court’s 1978 ruling that paramount means “preeminent, supreme and more important than all others” and that funding education is “the State’s first and highest priority before any other State programs or operations.” Ample means “considerably more than adequate or sufficient” – “to be ample so no public school has to rely upon local levies, PTA fundraisers, private donations, or other non-State sources.” All means “each and every child… not just those children who enjoy the advantage of being born… more privileged, more politically popular, or more easy to teach.” Education means “the basic knowledge and skills needed to compete in today’s economy and meaningfully participate in this State’s democracy.”

As the plaintiffs asked, the Judge ordered the state to determine the actual costs of providing all children with an education and to fully fund that actual cost with stable and dependable state sources – and to proceed with real and measurable progress. It was a total victory for Washington’s schoolchildren.
At our January program planning meeting, I asked participants to sign a petition asking the national League (LWVUS) to make arms control an Advocacy Priority. The response was resounding—almost everyone in attendance, and more at subsequent unit meetings signed. Thank you—as it turned out, arms control placed fourth in the tally of issues members across the country asked to be awarded priority status, and our League certainly did its part.

Arms control will not have as much attention as priorities receive, but it will receive far more than it recently has, because it has been placed on the Legislative Watch List. Announcing the Board’s decisions, LWVUS President Mary Wilson explained: “This Watch List includes issues which need to be monitored for action opportunities in the 111th Congress.”

Global climate change and health care reform are now and will continue to be Advocacy Priorities. Campaign finance reform, a long-time LWV interest and the issue getting most support in the tally of members’ concern, will also be an Advocacy Priority.

A number of factors besides member interest determine these priorities. One, which in these straitened times is particularly important, is whether the existing staff has the expertise to advocate on an issue. On arms control, it once did but no longer does. Perhaps it someday will again, but for now the LWVUS Arms Control Task Force has offered to be as helpful as it can be as the staff and Board begin to monitor this issue for action opportunities.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS), 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 recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS 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 affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.
Interviewed on Bill Moyers’ show some months ago, Wangari Maathai looked and sounded impressive. I was thrilled by her story as well as by the way she presented herself. In her memoir she shows us the exceptionally difficult path she followed from her parents’ small farm to her exalted position as the first African woman environmentalist and the first to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

In *Unbowed*, we learn that the Kenya of her youth was green and fertile, that her mother farmed the land, and food was as nutritious as it was bountiful. During the time that she was allowed to attend school with her cousin, and later when she won scholarships to a Kenyan boarding school and thereafter to a college and then university in the US, her country was changing. British colonialists had turned the country toward a cash-based economy, and had taken public land and used it to grow cash crops. Later, the Kenyan government too often lived on corruption and a colonial-like sense of entitlement as it took public land for the private gain of those in power.

Maathai shows how easily her husband, and later politicians and government employees, could take advantage of a woman who was “too well educated,” “too un-womanly,” “too strong.” As she researched cow diseases, she realized that the land and rivers of her childhood had changed. Family farms and natural forests were gone, and industrial farms growing cash crops such as tea and coffee were depleting the land of the nutrients the cattle and people needed. Soil erosion was rampant. When she asked the government to stop the destruction of the countryside, she was either ignored or put down. No one took her seriously.

She decided to start the Green Belt movement to grow indigenous species of trees and to give women a chance to earn a little money. It was difficult. The women needed to learn how to do the work; Maathai needed to find sources of money. When corrupt officials began to destroy the trees, she needed to find ways to stop them.

In 1989 she learned that President Daniel arap Moi was planning to build a skyscraper complex in Uhuru (Freedom) Park in the heart of Nairobi. The park was “a large green swath amid the bustle of crowds and the concrete and steel of the metropolis.” Like Central Park in New York City or Hyde Park in London, it provided a natural environment and a breath of fresh air. Ironically, the park named to celebrate Kenyan independence was “subjected to land-grabbers in the government.”

Wangari Maathai fought back. She wrote open letters to President Moi about rumors of a “tower sixty stories high that would house KANU [the ruling party] and its mouthpiece, the Kenyan Times, as well as a shopping mall and a parking lot for thousands of cars. Other letters followed to organizations in Kenya and abroad. As the issue became ever more controversial in the country, the government evicted Maathai and the Green Belt organization from their already cramped and ramshackle building.

Blacklisted, Maathai moved eighty Green Belt workers onto her own small property: a bungalow and garden where she had grown sweet potatoes and grazed two goats. In the following years she was threatened by police raids and once publicly threatened with forced genital mutilation. Maathai enlisted help from overseas: the *New York Times* and other papers sent journalists, the UN and foreign investors questioned the government’s use of funds. Eventually she won, and the park was saved.

Maathai continued her fight for the rights of all Kenyans, for open and responsible government working for a healthy, natural environment. Some chapters read like adventure stories as she finds ways around roadblocks and the worst of government sponsored abuses. Wangari Maathai has shown people around the world how effective one woman can be, fighting against corruption and for open government and a healthy productive future.

*The opinions in this review are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.*
A Powerful, Lovely Lobby

Some say a woman doesn’t reach the peak of her irresistible charm until she is at least forty. Well, this week in St. Louis, the League of Women Voters has been celebrating its fortieth anniversary, and I find myself in a long queue of admirers wishing these dynamic ladies well. I use the word “dynamic” advisedly. The ladies of the League have got their wagon in forward gear and are steady on the climb.

The League of Women Voters sprang from the suffragette movement. It is a little dizzying to contemplate that it was scarcely more than two generations ago, in November, 1920, that American women voted in a national election for the first time. The fact that their judgment did not seem to be any better than their men’s, and that we got Harding anyway, is beside the point. The League has probably done more than any single nonpartisan organization to provide political education to all hands. In contributing to the growth of the citizen by producing antitoxins to the poisons of prejudice, chauvinism, chicanery, and sheer political cussedness, these females of the species have surely proved more deadly than the male.

While the DAR was turning its orchid-purple passions loose in the petrified forest of the past, the League with dispassionate purpose was plowing the fields of change, in order to cultivate a crop of realism and common sense with which to face the present and the future. Almost invariably, they have tackled the toughest issues of the times. They helped get better food and drug laws. They supported the Tennessee Valley Authority when foes of public power tried even more frenziedly than today to cripple it with the tag of creeping socialism. They backed Lend Lease against the America Firsters in World War II. They have consistently defended the United Nations, reciprocal trade, and civil liberties, although I wish they could have been a little more resolute on racial issues. On the local level, they have fought City Hall and won better urban zoning, charters, schools, health services, and tax reforms. How they have been able to do all these things without tearing themselves apart, in the frightening image of the contentious American clubwoman, is beyond me, but they have.

While they have been scrupulously nonpartisan in their approach to issues—Democrats and Republicans working side by side—this has not destroyed their individual loyalties; indeed, the major parties found the League a valuable training ground for party activity. Perhaps the League’s greatest single contribution to good government has been its sustained campaigns to get out the vote. Some of these have verged on the extreme. In restaurants in Toledo, Ohio, in 1924, the waiter brought, not only the menu, but information on the date of the primaries. The day after the primaries, the waiter would inquire whether the diner had voted. The League of Women Voters has the quaint idea that the people, who are the government, should actively participate in it. “Voters of America, arise,” the ladies seem to be saying, “you have nothing to lose but your franchise.” No small loss, that…
March Program: Women and Climate Change

PREFACE

The League of Women Voters believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We are engaged in a nationwide campaign of advocacy and education to support that advocacy. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is collaborating with Oxfam to produce materials about climate change and its effects upon people, especially women, around the world. Oxfam began as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, founded in Britain in 1942. Today, Oxfam International works around the world to reduce poverty and injustice. This issue of the Voter contains articles produced by LWVUS and Oxfam, as well as from other sources, and information about taking action on individual, state, national and international levels.

These materials were collected and presented by the Women & Climate Change Committee, Elizabeth Davis and Toni Potter, co-chairs

Reading Committee: Maria Brusher
Allison Feher
Nora Leech
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Discussion questions for March unit meetings: Women and Climate Change

1) From your own personal experiences, have you seen or do you know of examples of the ways in which climate change has affected women around the world? What organizations do you know of that are helping women in poorer, less developed countries?

2) In what ways is climate change an issue of international relations? Discuss any of the following topics, or others which seem important to you on this question: international conferences and agreements; different viewpoints of developed and developing countries over energy use; conflict over resources such as water; inequities in the severity of adversity between rich and poor countries; development assistance.

3) Population increase on the earth results in more and more climate change gas emissions: more use of fossil fuels, more driving, greater energy consumption, etc. Educating women in the United States and in other countries seems to result in smaller families and reduced population growth. Discuss the implications of these two statements, and how you can support education for women.

4) What is your city doing to reduce global climate change gas emissions (land use, planning, transportation, bike paths, trails, tree preservation, etc.)? What action, if any do you think local Leagues might take to support your city in lowering its carbon footprint?

5) Would you be willing to reach out to the organizations you belong to and engage them in discussions about the State Budget and our current tax structure?

6) Would you be willing to serve on a League committee in your city or county devoted to reducing climate change and preparing for adaptation to the climate changes we cannot stop?
CLIMATE CHANGE & WOMEN

When natural disasters strike, they hit poor communities first and worst. And since women make up an estimated 70 percent of those living below the poverty line, they are most likely to bear the heaviest burdens. At the same time, women are often left out of the conversation about adapting to climate change, even though they are sometimes in the best position to provide solutions. In most poor communities, women play dual roles. As providers, they usually work in agriculture or other informal sectors, and they collect food, water, and fuel. As caretakers, they look after the children, sick, and elderly; the home; and the family’s assets. As a result, women often have invaluable knowledge about adapting to erratic environmental changes. When women are included equally with men in disaster preparedness training, their survival rates improve. However, socially constructed roles and responsibilities usually put women at a disadvantage in preparing for climate change. Women have less access to resources, are frequently unable to swim or to leave the house unattended, and are less likely to migrate to look for shelter and work when a disaster hits. Statistically, women (and children) are more likely to die than men during disasters. In addition, after the floods, droughts, and storms, women often encounter domestic and sexual violence and are deprived of essential services. Relief efforts regularly shortchange female health needs, such as obstetrical care. Girls drop out of school to save on school fees or to spend more time fetching water. Taken in combination, these circumstances contribute to a cycle where women are unable to participate in decision-making about climate change solutions. But it doesn’t have to be this way. If women are included in decision-making in their own communities, the special needs of both women and men can be met.

How can you help women fight climate change?

➢ Ask Congress to provide financial and technical assistance to help vulnerable communities. US climate legislation must help poor people here and in developing countries adapt to climate change and build up their resilience. Programs established by legislation should respond to the different impacts climate change has on men and women.

➢ Ask Congress to support legislative language that empowers women to make decisions about national climate change plans. US climate legislation must stipulate that women are at the heart of the planning and implementation of adaptation projects so that their roles and resources are taken into account.

“We went to sleep the night before, and woke up in the morning with water everywhere. The only thing we were able to save was the roof of the house.” — Magdalena Mansilla, a 51-year-old farmer in Lambayong town, Sultan Kudarat, in the south Philippines. She has lost her home in floods twice in four years, in 2008 and 2004.*

WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

When women participate in decision-making at national and community levels, they can help devise effective climate change solutions that build stronger communities.

• In Kenya, where communities were suffering from lack of natural resources, Wangari Maathai started the Green Belt Movement to plant trees, replenishing resources and reducing vulnerability to climate change. Her movement spread worldwide.

• During a drought in Micronesia, women were able to find a new source of potable water before government officials recognized them as leaders in the answer to the problem.

• Women have been taking an active role in what are traditionally considered “male” talks in responding to disasters, e.g., following Hurricane Mitch in Guatemala and Honduras in 1998. When women were included as equal participants in disaster preparedness plans in the small town of La Masica, Honduras, for example, no one died after Mitch hit the area.

• In a CARE project in Bangladesh, women prioritized climate preparedness strategies that could be implemented close to home such as homestead gardening and duck rearing; in the project, which recruited female field officers, women made up 58 percent of total project participants.

• As part of a joint project between Oxfam America and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, local women administer a surveillance system that helps anticipate needs before droughts hit in Ethiopia.

• One grassroots women’s organization and Oxfam America partner located in the US Gulf Coast, Coastal Women for Change, is creating homegrown solutions to help families, seniors, and low-income people prepare for the next, inevitable storm. The solutions include hurricane preparedness kits, coordination with transit companies to provide buses for evacuations, and advocacy at the local government level for evacuation plans that include low-income neighborhoods.

Oxfam America fact sheet published Dec. 15, 2008,
www.oxfamamerica.org/publications/climate-change-and-women-fact-sheet
GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED
*Climate change, global warming, and the greenhouse effect* are related but distinct concepts.

*Climate:* Climate means the overall (average) patterns of heat, cold, precipitation and wind over time; it is distinct from weather in that it reflects trends rather than conditions at any particular point in time. For example, the fact that it is raining today is weather; if the numbers of rainy days and the amount of rain over time has increased, that indicates a change in climate.

*Greenhouse effect:* The earth’s surface, warmed by the sun, heats the atmosphere above it. Some of the heat energy escapes into space, while some is absorbed into the atmosphere. A portion of this captured energy is radiated back to the earth’s surface. This absorption by gases is known as the greenhouse effect because – as in a greenhouse (although the mechanism is different) – the net effect is a warming of the earth. Without the natural greenhouse effect, the earth’s average temperature would be below freezing.

*Greenhouse gases:* The atmospheric gases that absorb outgoing radiation from the earth include both natural and synthetic compounds. The most significant gases are water vapor and carbon dioxide, but also include methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons. As a result of human activities – primarily the burning of fossil fuel in power plants and vehicles, as well as deforestation - carbon dioxide concentrations have increased in the atmosphere from about 280 parts per million (ppm) in the year 1750 to 379 ppm in 2005, exceeding any level of natural concentration in at least the past 650,000 years. Carbon dioxide emissions increased by 80% between 1970 and 2004. These increasing concentrations trap more of the heat emitted by the earth’s surface; like a blanket, they cause a gradual warming of the earth.

Relative contributions of greenhouse gases from various activities in the U.S. are:
- Electricity Generation: 32%
- Transportation 28%
- Industry 20%
- Agriculture 7%
- Commercial 7%
- Residential 6%
(Ref: Pew)

Most of the contributions come from industrialized nations, with plenty of power plants and cars. The seven largest emitters are the United States, the European Union, China, Russia, Japan, India and Canada.

*Global warming* has the potential to create global and regional climate change, involving changes in temperatures and precipitation. These two terms are used interchangeably to reflect the influence of human activities on the warming of the earth and the resulting changes in climate.

SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS
While researchers debate or find uncertainties about individual elements of the science of global climate change, there is overall scientific consensus that human-induced climate change has happened, is happening, will continue to happen, and that most of the effects are not desirable.

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):* Since climate change is a global problem, the United Nations Environmental Panel and the World Meteorological Organization established the IPCC in 1988 to assess the “scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.” This panel provides periodic summary reports on scientific knowledge regarding the extent and effects of climate change. The latest report was written by 450 scientists from 130 countries, with 800 contributing authors and 2500 expert reviewers.

The IPCC is recognized as the most authoritative scientific voice on global warming. In December, 2007, the IPCC and former Vice President Al Gore were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.” IPCC reports are used as source material throughout this document.
OBSERVED CLIMATE CHANGES

The latest series of IPCC reports issued in 2007 indicate numerous changes already observed as a result of global warming (Ref: IPCC).

• The average global surface temperature increased by 1.3°F in the past 100 years. The increases are greater at extreme northern latitudes (e.g., the Arctic). Land regions have warmed faster than the oceans. Eleven of the last twelve years are among the twelve warmest years since global records were begun in 1850. The average temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere during the second half of the 20th century were higher than any other 50-year period in the last 500 years, and likely the highest in the past 1300 years.

• Sea level has risen a total of 3.5 inches since 1961, with contributions from thermal expansion (water expands as it warms) and melting glaciers and ice caps.

• Total snow and ice cover has decreased. Arctic sea ice area has shrunk by 2.7% per decade since 1978, with larger decreases in summer of 7.4% per decade.

• Precipitation increased significantly in some parts of the world (including eastern North America) and declined in others; areas affected by drought have increased since the 1970s.

• Hot days, hot nights, and heat waves have become more frequent; cold days and nights have become less frequent. The frequency of heavy rainfalls has increased, as has the incidence of extreme high sea levels (i.e., storm surges).

• Many natural systems are being affected by the increased temperatures; for example, ground instability from melting permafrost, earlier arrival of spring, and northward expansion of plant, insect and animal ranges.

• Intense hurricanes have increased in the North Atlantic. Although the earth’s temperature and climate have sometimes been affected by natural factors, the IPCC has determined that most of the warming observed recently is due to human influences.

FUTURE IMPACTS

The IPCC has also summarized assessments of future trends. Complex computer models are used to predict future changes in temperature, precipitation, sea level rise and other climate variables based on various inputs. Scientists have a high degree of confidence in these computer models because they are based on accepted physical principles and because they reproduce observed features of current climate and past climate changes.

The models are most accurate on large scales (e.g., continental) but less accurate on smaller scales. When making future predictions using computer models, scientists use a range of variables based on assumptions about the future. For example, a key input is how much carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases will be emitted in the future. Greenhouse gas emissions could increase by anywhere from 25% to 90% by 2030 in the absence of strong emissions-reduction efforts. The result of a series of model runs will be a range of expected impacts, e.g., a range of possible temperature increases within the 21st century. This range results from uncertainties in future estimates of socio-economic conditions. For example, to project the range of greenhouse gas emissions, the modelers consider such variables as the future world population, whether developing countries will achieve the wealth of the industrialized world, and how efficiently energy will be used. The IPCC report indicates that the following future changes are likely to occur:

• Depending on the emission scenario, computer models predict that temperatures could increase 2°F to 11.5°F, with the “best estimate” range of 3°F to 7°F, by 2100. Because of the inherent inertia of the earth’s climate systems and the long life of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, temperatures would still rise about 1.1°F in the 21st century even if greenhouse gas concentrations stabilized at year 2000 levels. Temperatures in the United States are projected to be higher than this global average.

• Sea level will continue to rise, with models predicting a rise of seven to 23 inches by 2100, barring unexpected abrupt events associated with the Greenland and Antarctic ice caps. Sea-level rise would worsen flooding, storm surges, and erosion of coastlines; islands are some of the most vulnerable areas. Coastal flooding is likely to affect many millions of people, possibly causing large migrations. In the U.S., vulnerable areas include the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic coasts, and low-lying areas such as North Carolina’s Outer Banks,
Florida’s coast, and much of Southern California. (Ref: Pew).

• Rising temperatures will warm land masses and extreme northern latitudes the most, producing reduced snow cover, thawing of permafrost, and decreases in sea ice. Some projections indicate Arctic late-summer sea ice could disappear by the end of the 21st century, endangering species such as seals and polar bears which depend on sea ice. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife service has proposed listing polar bears as “threatened” to help protect the species from melting ice and other threats.

• The frequency of hot extremes, heat waves, and heavy precipitation is likely to increase. A heat wave in Europe in 2003 killed 53,000 people.

• Precipitation is expected to increase in high latitudes and decrease in most sub-tropic land regions. Water availability will increase in some locations and decrease in some dry and semi-arid regions (including the Mediterranean basin, western United States, and southern Africa) This impact is projected to affect between 75 and 250 million people in Africa alone by 2020. Lack of precipitation likely will increase the risk of wildfires.

• Glaciers and snow cover will continue to melt; many cities depend on runoff for their drinking water.

• There is a significant risk of increasing species extinction with increasing temperature. For example, an estimated 20% to 30% of all species will be at increased risk of extinction if the temperature increases by an additional 2.7ºF to 4.5ºF.

• The intensity of hurricanes and cyclones is likely to increase.

• As more carbon dioxide is dissolved in sea water, oceans are expected to become more acidic, which could have negative impacts on marine shell-forming organisms (such as coral reefs). Formations such as coral reefs help protect coastal communities from high waves (e.g., tsunamis).

• The health of millions of people is expected to be affected by increasing malnutrition, the spread of infectious diseases, and extreme weather.

• Food production will decrease in some areas (up to 50% in some African countries by 2020). On a longer term, warmer temperatures could affect agricultural production in the Southeast U.S. and the southern Great Plains. (Ref: Pew)

• According to the Nobel Foundation when it awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Al Gore and the IPCC: “Extensive climate changes may alter and threaten living conditions of much of mankind. They may induce large-scale migration and lead to greater competition for the earth’s resources. Such changes will place particularly heavy burdens on the world’s most vulnerable countries. There may be increased danger of violent conflicts and wars, within and between states.” Social, economic, agricultural and health consequences of climate change will most significantly impact the world’s poorest regions, as well as the most vulnerable citizens (the poor, children, and the elderly) throughout the world.

Beyond projections that focus on gradual changes, there is the concept of a tipping point, in which smaller-scale changes cause escalating impacts as some changes reinforce other changes in spiraling feedback loops. These scenarios are possible, but are not given the same likelihood as “best estimates” by the IPCC. For example, one oft-cited disaster scenario is the possibility of the complete melting of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets. According to the IPCC, if global average temperatures are sustained over “millennia” above 3.4ºF to 8.3ºF compared to pre-industrial levels, the Greenland ice sheet could melt completely, which would raise sea levels about seven meters (23 feet) globally. However, some of the factors affecting ice melt are not fully understood, and even partial loss of ice sheets could lead to significant sea-level rise; the IPCC concludes that “more rapid sea level rise on century time scales cannot be excluded.”

ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Adaptation to Climate Change: Since the temperature of the earth has already risen somewhat and will continue to go up even if greenhouse gas levels are stabilized, some level of adaptation to the effects of climate change will be necessary. Many possible methods for adaptation are listed in the IPCC report by sector:

• Water: Expanded rainwater harvesting; water storage and conservation techniques; water reuse; desalination; improve water use and irrigation efficiency.

• Agriculture: Adjust planting dates and crop variety; crop relocation; improve land management.

• Coast infrastructure: Relocation of population;
seawalls and storm surge barriers; dune reinforcement; protect existing natural barriers; create wetlands as buffers against rising sea levels.

- Human health: Heat-health action plans; emergency medical services; safe water and improved sanitation. Many of these measures have benefits beyond responding to climate change: for example, improving water use and cropland management has health and economic benefits. Relying on adaptation to respond to climate change has limits because some nations have a lower adaptive capacity, and financial, social and environmental resources may already be stretched. And it’s a continuous game of catch-up: As society adapts to changes in one decade, the impact on the earth may continue to worsen, perhaps until a point of permanent, irreversible change is reached to which society cannot adjust, if nothing is done.

Mitigation of Climate Change: The IPCC concludes that “unmitigated climate change would, in the long term, be likely to exceed the capacity of natural, managed and human systems to adapt.” Therefore, the total amount of greenhouse gases must be reduced to lessen the predicted impacts of climate change as well as reduce the risks of reaching a potential tipping point. Stabilizing carbon dioxide concentrations at 350 to 400 ppm would require a reduction of 50 to 85% in emissions by 2050, holding the global temperature rise to 3.6°F to 4.3°F above pre-industrial levels. Reducing greenhouse gases will also have many associated benefits: e.g., reductions in energy use and cost, dependence on foreign oil, and other pollutants that have a direct impact on human health. Estimates for costs associated with stabilizing carbon dioxide emissions range widely; the IPCC presents an estimate of slowing average annual global growth of gross domestic product by 0.12% through 2050. Regardless of the actual numbers, the longer society waits to reduce emissions, the more it will eventually cost to adapt and, belatedly, to mitigate. Many of the potential mitigation techniques are available for implementation today; many others are expected to be available by 2030 with advances in technology. The IPCC lists mitigation methods in the following areas.

- Energy supply: e.g., improved efficiency; switch from coal to gas; nuclear power; renewable heat and power (hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and bioenergy). By 2030: Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS); advanced nuclear power; advanced renewable energy (e.g., tidal and wave energy, solar photovoltaics).
- Transport: More efficient vehicles; hybrid vehicles; cleaner diesel vehicles; use of biofuels; rail and public transport systems; nonmotorized transport (cycling and walking); land use and transport planning. By 2030: Second generation biofuels; higher efficiency aircraft; advanced electric and hybrid vehicles.
- Buildings: Efficient appliances, lighting, heating and cooling devices; improved insulation; solar heating and cooling. By 2030: Integrated design of commercial buildings, including intelligent meters that provide feedback and control; solar photovoltaics integrated into buildings.
- Industry: More efficient electrical equipment; material recycling and substitution; process-specific technologies. By 2030: Advanced energy efficiency; CCS.
- Agriculture: Improved crop and grazing land management to increase soil carbon storage; restoration of degraded lands; improved livestock and manure management to reduce methane emissions; improved nitrogen fertilizer application techniques to reduce nitrous oxide emissions; dedicated energy crops to replace fossil fuel use; improved energy efficiency. By 2030: Improvements of crop yields.
- Forestry: Reforestation; forest management; reduced deforestation. By 2030: Tree species improvement to increase biomass productivity and carbon sequestration.
- Waste: Landfill methane recovery; waste incineration with energy recovery; composting of organic waste; recycling and waste minimization. The report also notes that “changes in lifestyle and behavior patterns can contribute to climate change mitigation across all sectors.”

Societal Response
International, national and local effort is needed to set limits on greenhouse gas emissions, invest in researching the science of climate change and the technology for solutions, and set efficiency standards
for vehicles, buildings, and appliances.

**International Response:** The first assessment report of the IPCC was issued in 1990. The United Nations subsequently created the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to start negotiations on a worldwide agreement to limit greenhouse gases. This convention eventually led to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, which required signatory parties to reduce emissions. Reduction targets varied by country, and are six to eight percent below 1990 levels for the largest emitters by the end of the agreement in 2012. Developed countries are assigned specific emission targets; developing countries have monitoring and reporting requirements, but no mandatory reductions.

In 1997, The U.S. Senate passed a resolution by 95 to 0 stating that the U.S. would not enter into an agreement that harmed the economy and that did not require “meaningful involvement” by developing countries. The current U.S. administration announced in 2001 that it would not sign the Kyoto Protocol, citing expense and the lack of requirements for developing nations. The agreement became enforceable in 2005 with the signature of 55 countries; 175 countries have now ratified it. The U.S. and Australia were the lone hold-outs among developed nations; Australia signed the agreement in December 2007 after a change in administration.

**The Developing Nations Dilemma:** The Kyoto Protocol did not assign emissions reduction targets to developing countries because the developed nations had the highest historic and current emissions of greenhouse gases. Per-capita emissions in developing countries are still relatively low: China has emissions that are 20% those of the U.S. on a per-capita basis, and India only five percent. Industrialized countries developed their wealthy economies without limitations on emissions; developing countries argue they should have the same opportunity. On the other hand, China and India are already significant economic competitors with the U.S., and overall emissions of greenhouse gases from developing countries will eclipse those from developed countries by 2018 (Ref: Pew).

The UN held a summit in Bali in December 2007 to begin planning for an agreement to follow Kyoto, which expires in 2012. The U.S. rejected inclusion of binding commitments for industrialized nations, preferring voluntary targets. The resulting document is a roadmap for negotiations to be completed by 2009; items to be negotiated include emissions targets for industrialized countries, potential softer targets for major developing countries, transfer of clean technology to developing countries, halting deforestation, and helping poorer nations adapt to impacts of climate change such as rising sea levels and reduced crop yields.

**Individual nations:** To comply with the Kyoto Protocol, European countries created a market-based approach. In the “cap-and-trade” approach, a nationwide cap is placed on greenhouse gases, and allowances can be traded. Apart from Kyoto, China is working on improving energy efficiency and expanding renewable energy.

**United States’ Response:** The U.S. has five percent of the world’s population, yet emits 25% of the world’s greenhouse gases. Our per-capita emissions are twice that of the European Union and Japan, and five times the world average. The stated goal of the U.S. is a voluntary reduction of 18 percent in U.S. greenhouse gas intensity (the ratio of emissions to gross domestic product) between 2002 and 2012. By this measure, greenhouse gas emissions will still increase by 12% in this timeframe as the economy grows; by contrast, European Union emissions are expected to remain flat or decrease. (Ref: Pew)

Some steps are being made: President Bush signed a bill in 2007 that will increase vehicle fuel mileage to 35 mpg by 2020, a 40% increase over the current standard of about 25 mpg, and the first increase in 32 years. The bill also mandates an increase in fuel ethanol and calls for improved efficiency standards for light bulbs, home appliances and commercial buildings. The U.S. spends $1.7 billion a year on climate change research, half the total global expenditures.

Numerous bills in Congress would address climate change. In December 2007, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act cleared the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The bill would address greenhouse gas sources accounting for 80% of U.S. emissions, and require a reduction of 70% by 2050. Several bills have also been introduced that would adopt a “cap-and-trade” approach. Advocates including Al Gore have called for a “carbon tax” to
establish a strong incentive for reductions in the use of fuels and emissions of greenhouse gases.

Many businesses in the U.S. and throughout the world are also taking action. Increasing energy efficiency can yield significant savings and improve profits. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions can also enhance a corporation’s public reputation. Many companies see government action as inevitable and imminent, and want to deal proactively with any new potential system. By engaging the issue, they have an opportunity to influence climate-change legislation. Some companies also see the business opportunities in making green products. For example, the Sierra Club and United Steelworkers believe that companies in Ohio can be positioned to create hardware components for alternative energy (e.g., wind turbines), creating up to 23,000 new jobs.

CONCLUSION

Scientists have concluded that the earth is heating up in response to human activity since the industrial revolution, that global climate change is occurring, and that it is certain to continue into the future. Although there are some uncertainties associated with how quickly the earth will warm and what the exact effects and timing of those effects will be, it is virtually certain that this climate change will have significant negative effects if we do not drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Even though the worst of these changes may not occur in our lifetimes, what we set in motion now will have irreversible impacts on future generations.

By reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases – primarily from our energy usage – we can reduce the amount of future warming and associated effects, and we can reduce the risk of potential disasters. Strong action is needed at every level – international, national, state, local and individual.

REFERENCES & FURTHER INFORMATION:
- Pew Center on Global Climate Change, “Climate Change 101: Understanding and Responding to Global Climate Change.” http://www.pewclimate.org/policy_center
- U.S. Conference of Mayors, with information on climate change: www.usmayors.org
- Environmental Protection Agency climate change information: www.epa.gov/cpd.html

Written by: League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area Natural Resources Committee – Jeff Davis, with Dell Heitkamp, Helen Hunter, John Hunter, Pinky Kocoshis, Chris Moran, and Rina Saperstein.

This is a reprint of an article published by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area in March 2008. Sections of the article relating to Ohio and the City of Cincinnati have been omitted.

“Global sea level is rising, and faster than expected. We need to honestly discuss this risk rather than trying to play it down.” - Professor Stefan Rahmstorf, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, March 2009.
CLIMATE CHANGE & SECURITY

It begins with changes in weather: higher temperatures; rising sea levels; more frequent droughts, floods, and storms. But climate change is more than environmental shifts. Because of its human consequences—including widespread hunger, water shortages, forced migrations, and disease—it threatens to undermine global stability and security.

The severe weather effects of climate change will jeopardize the fundamentals we need for stable, secure lives: the water we drink, the food we eat, the health services that protect us from disease, even the land we live on. These threats affect every country on earth, but the hardest hit will be the poorest and most vulnerable nations, where governments are often the least equipped to respond. And where leadership falls short, conflict and violence can occur. Forty percent of international conflicts over the past six decades have been linked to fighting over natural resources. Climate-related stresses, like water shortages and floods, have contributed to existing conflicts in countries like Sudan and Somalia. One study, conducted by a panel of retired US generals and admirals, found that climate change could increase the risk of violent conflict in 46 countries—and named climate change a “serious threat multiplier for instability” in some of the most volatile regions of the world. As drought increases and food production declines in Latin America and Africa, many people will be forced to migrate from rural to urban areas. This pressure to move will lead to more people crossing national borders, including those of the US and Europe. Meanwhile, US agencies, including state and local governments and the military, will be called upon to respond to more severe natural disasters here and abroad. If we act now, we can prevent much of the human cost of climate change. We can also save money by responding proactively instead of reacting to crises as they unfold. By funding adaptation projects, which help build people’s resilience to these harmful effects, we can save lives and strengthen vulnerable communities worldwide—while also ensuring a safer and more peaceful future.

Mukelabai, 25, is still stunned as she looks at what remains of her home. “We put all our children in the canoe and paddled about 25km. We could not save our crops, so we have no food. We are eating nothing.” - Mukelabai Liywalii, whose family was driven out of their home by floods, Zambia, April 2009.

RESOURCES UNDER THREAT

Water. By 2025, 40 percent of the world’s population will be living in countries experiencing significant water shortages—which in turn could worsen existing tensions over water in conflict-affected regions like the Middle East.

Food. Nearly a billion people worldwide already suffer from hunger—and scientists estimate that grain production will fall by approximately 10 percent for every 1.8°F rise in average global temperature. Such losses are expected to be most pronounced in the drier regions of South Asia and Africa.

Health. The World Health Organization predicts an expansion of the range of contagious diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, and salmonella. In some areas, water shortages will add to disease outbreaks, since good health is closely linked to adequate supplies of clean water.

Land. Sea-level rise could potentially displace tens of millions in low-lying nations like Bangladesh, while the shifting weather patterns elsewhere will mean that people can no longer use their land for farming and pasture. Studies estimate that up to one billion people could be forced to move from their homes by 2050.
TACKLING THE PROBLEM

Adaptation projects use local know-how to build people’s resilience, taking a cost-effective approach to helping poor communities here and abroad facing the worst effects of climate change. Because these projects protect the essential resources of life, they also increase global safety and security:

In Bangladesh, one project helps 7,500 households stockpile food in flood-proof storage, harvest rainwater, and create floating vegetable gardens in waterlogged areas—meaning fewer people will be forced to migrate when floods become more severe.

In North Darfur, Sudan, a community-led project combines traditional water conservation and seed-sowing methods, along with home gardens and new cultivation techniques, to protect village food supplies during times of hunger and conflict.

In Tajikistan, drought-resistant plants, greenhouses, and irrigation systems help local farms withstand drought. The project also builds peace in the region by helping civic leaders work with neighboring Central Asian nations to share water resources fairly and efficiently.

HOW WE CAN LEAD

These projects are helping to protect vulnerable people, one community at a time. But the US now has an opportunity to lead on a global scale. We must fully integrate climate change into our national security strategies, and we must commit to playing a greater role in addressing climate change in order to help avoid its destabilizing effects. Most important, US legislation must set aside financial and other assistance to help poor and vulnerable communities build their resilience to the crisis. This federal legislation should then provide a framework that helps the US influence global negotiations on a climate deal. For the US, investing in adaptation projects is not only a way to save lives but also a smart investment in the future. For every dollar we spend now, we can save money required for disaster response and for dealing with the consequences of preventable conflicts. And when we help the world’s most vulnerable communities, we are also investing in long-term stability and security—making the world safer today and for generations to come.

Oxfam America Fact Sheet published March 15, 2009

“We used to get three good rains. Now we don’t even get two. There’s no more rainy season, just the hurricane season. As soon as people see clouds forming, they put together their stuff and head for the hills.” - Gary Novamn, farmer, Gonaives, Haiti, April 2009.

“Climate change is a threat multiplier and one of the greatest threats to development: 53 per cent of African disasters are climate-related and one-third of African people live in drought-prone areas. By 2020 yields from water-fed agriculture in Africa could be down by 50 percent.” - Dr Balgis Osman-Elasha, Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, Sudan, Copenhagen Science Conference, March 2009.
PEOPLE-CENTERED RESILIENCE

SUMMARY
Worldwide, 1.7 billion small-scale farmers and pastoralists are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. They live on marginal rural lands characterised by conditions such as low rainfall, sloping terrain, fragile soils, and poor market access, primarily in Africa and Asia. Such farmers are vulnerable because their farms depend directly on rainfall and temperature, yet they often have little savings and few alternative options if their crops fail or livestock die.

Many are already hungry, making them particularly vulnerable. World hunger currently stands at 1.02 billion people, its highest level ever. Over 60 per cent of hungry people are women, and hunger remains predominantly rural, though cities are catching up. Given existing hunger and looming climate change, donors and national governments must take immediate action to help vulnerable farmers build their resilience in order to improve their food security despite climate shocks.

Achieving farm resilience requires building up the resilience of vulnerable farmers by developing their skills, expertise and voice while supporting their use of agro-ecological farming practices. A resilient farm can cope effectively with climate shocks while also producing more. Building resilience depends not just on how farmers manage resources, but on how well local, national, and global institutions support farmers.

The clearest evidence that sustainable agriculture remains limited is the widespread degradation affecting agricultural lands, with only localised pockets of environmental restoration. Around 384 million hectares of cropland in the developing world is degrading, affecting 1.4 billion people. In Africa, 65 per cent of agricultural land is degraded. Yet even after farms have ‘collapsed’ due to soil degradation, they can often be restored, and then resume a sharply higher level of productivity and capacity to cope with shocks.

Agro-ecological practices can empower vulnerable small-scale farmers, offering them both greater control over their lives and an accessible means of improving their food security, while decreasing their risk of crop failure or livestock death due to climate shocks. Vulnerable farmers can use agro-ecological practices to build resilient farms and improve their livelihoods, achieving multiple benefits: 1. improved food security; 2. adaptation to a changing climate; and 3. mitigation of climate change.

This mitigation potential is significant. It is estimated that agriculture could ‘fix’ gaseous carbon – and hence reduce net greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) – at a rate of 2–3bn megatonnes of carbon per year for the next 50 years. Measures for doing this would include restoring degraded soils and planting trees. Vulnerable farmers may often live in poverty, but they could be powerful partners in the struggle against climate change.

While the potential is huge for win-win-win outcomes, farmer adoption of agro-ecological practices is constrained by various barriers coupled with policy frameworks that emphasise external input-based strategies and largely neglect sustainable agriculture. Vulnerable farmers also face growing threats to their land from big businesses that seek to produce food or biofuels. Increasing land scarcity and anticipated price rises for these products are fuelling a flurry of interest in acquiring developing-country land. Some 120 hedge funds, retirement funds, agribusiness companies, and private equity funds have recently invested in agricultural land in developing countries. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) estimates that 15 to 20 million hectares (an area the size of Uruguay) have been under negotiation since 2006.

To secure ‘win-win’ outcomes instead of adverse outcomes, we must invest in marginal communities in order to build people-centred resilience. People-centred resilience consists of five principles which should guide how investments in vulnerable farming communities are designed and implemented. They are:

1. Restored and diversified natural resources for sustainability.
2. Responsive institutions grounded in local context.
3. Expanded and improved sustainable livelihood options.
4. Sound gender dynamics and gender equality.
5. Farmer-driven decisions.

Following these principles ensures that investments support farmers in their efforts to become food-secure and adapt to climate change. Four institutions central to delivering people-centred resilience are: secure land rights; dynamic farmer associations; responsive agricultural advisory services; and public support for environmental services.

Official development assistance (ODA) to agriculture has fallen by some 75 per cent over the past two decades, from a high of approximately $20bn per year in the mid-1980s to $4bn per year in recent years. Donors currently spend twice as much on emergency response efforts as they do on agriculture. However, preventing crop failure via proactive agricultural investment is estimated to cost about one-fifteenth as much per person as sending food aid to hungry people once farm production collapses. Farmers living on marginal lands have been largely neglected, as have sustainable agriculture strategies.

Vulnerable small-scale farmers are also affected by policy addressing both climate change mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The World Bank estimates that the cost of helping developing countries adapt to climate change will average between $75bn and $100bn per year for the period 2010–2050. In all, Oxfam calculates that at least $150bn per year is needed to address critical adaptation and mitigation needs for developing countries.

Agro-ecological practices can simultaneously deliver food security, adaptation, and mitigation. However, such outcomes are not presently forthcoming from existing institutional mechanisms. For instance, only 14 per cent of the projects supported by the EU’s €1bn commitment on food security projects for vulnerable farmers in 2009, included an agro-ecological component, while 51 per cent included agro-chemicals. Meanwhile, current funding for climate change adaptation in vulnerable communities is tiny. Major investments in vulnerable farmers are needed to reverse these trends and ensure that farmers have the tools to build their resilience and contribute to food security in the long-run despite growing climate shocks.

Given these challenges, Oxfam recommends that donor nations and developing-country governments:

- Invest more and more wisely in agriculture to accomplish multiple goals. New public investments in agriculture emphasizing agro-ecological approaches are essential to improving food security, helping vulnerable farmers adapt to climate change, and mitigating climate change.
- Commit to providing $150 bn in mitigation and adaptation funding across sectors above and beyond the 0.7 per cent of their budgets that donor nations have committed (but not necessarily delivered on) as ODA.
- Foster ‘people-centred resilience’ to help vulnerable small-scale farmers achieve food security and adapt to climate change.
- Capture the vast potential of developing-country agriculture to deliver mitigation. Vulnerable farmers and pastoralists – including particularly vulnerable groups such as women – should be treated as key partners in the struggle against climate change.
- Prioritise investments in small-scale farmers working on marginal and degraded lands.
- Scale up proven community-based measures. Notably, foster agro-ecological practices.
- Target public investments to fill the gaps left by the private sector. Investments in food security and adaptation should emphasise marginal areas where investors find few profitable opportunities, yet where vulnerable farmers are concentrated.
- Address institutional constraints facing female farmers. Train extension agents to meet the specific needs of female farmers and recruit new female extension workers. Increase tenure security for women through low-cost, rapid, and transparent community land registration. Improve women’s access to inputs, technologies and financial services.
- Gather gender-based statistics, given the importance of gender to understanding the critical dynamics of reducing food insecurity and adapting to climate change.
- Harness the large overlaps between adaptation and mitigation measures within agriculture.

*Oxfam America briefing paper published November 16, 2009*

[www.oxfamamerica.org/publications/people-centered-resilience](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/publications/people-centered-resilience)
WHAT IS THE LEAGUE’S POSITION ON GLOBAL WARMING?

The League of Women Voters believes that global warming is a serious problem that requires immediate action. It supports the goals of both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. In order to avert the potentially serious consequences of a warmer climate, the League supports Senate ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Before the protocol is brought before the Senate, however, the world’s leaders must fairly and equitably negotiate the committed participation of developing nations.

The U.S. government should move ahead immediately—without waiting for Senate ratification of the Kyoto agreement—on initiatives to reduce domestic emissions of heat-trapping gases, as such actions will not only reduce the threat of global warming, but also combat local air pollution, increase energy security and create new jobs nationwide.

This position is taken from a report issued by LWVUS in September 1998. The report may be found at www.lwv.org. This is not a formally adopted position but is derived from the Natural Resources positions in the publication Impact on Issues.

COAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In August 2008, LWVUS called for a moratorium on new coal-fired electric power plants. The following is from a statement in support of the moratorium:

Coal is the single largest source of global warming pollution in the U.S. A thickening “blanket” of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere is trapping solar heat and warming the earth’s surface. Most of the CO2 comes from burning fossil fuels. Coal is the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel, producing more CO2 per million Btus of energy than burning oil or gas. Coal-fired power plants are responsible for 33 percent of CO2 emissions in the U.S.

Restricting CO2 emissions from coal-fired power plants is imperative.

The League of Women Voters is calling for a ten-year moratorium on the new construction of coal-fired electric power plants. This will allow the coal and power industries more time to test carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies and to determine whether the long-term storage of CO2 is feasible and safe. The League will work at all levels to help policy makers and the public understand that investing in climate-friendly energy technologies is essential if we are to avoid irreversible damage to our planet.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON STATE

In 2007, several leading environmental and clean-energy groups filed to intervene in the permitting process for Energy Northwest’s proposed 680-megawatt coal-fueled facility in Kalama, Washington. To meet the standards of SB 6001, which was the result of Initiative 937, Energy Northwest would have had to capture and permanently store a third to a half of the plant’s carbon emissions. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission turned down the permit needed to build the facility.

Some people would like to see the TransAlta, a generation plant fueled by coal in Centralia, Washington, closed because it is the state’s largest single source of global-warming pollution. Governor Gregoire is negotiating an agreement with TransAlta to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Several environmental groups think these negotiations are not transparent enough and are concerned that reductions in greenhouse gases may not happen as soon as they might. In addition, Earth Justice filed a petition asking the EPA to block the renewal of an air pollution permit for the TransAlta plant.

Meanwhile, Coal Free Northwest, a part of the Sierra Club, has worked to stop the state subsidies for the coal burned in the plant. Below is background material written by Doug Howell of Coal Free Northwest:

The 2010 Washington State Legislature is considering (HB3077, SB6573) to remove the use tax exemption for coal. This exemption benefits only TransAlta, a foreign-owned corporation which operates a coal-fired power plant in Centralia.

• Removing the coal tax credit will add $20M to WA
State Programs over next 5 years. Closing this use tax loophole will generate an estimated $4M/year, or $20M over the next 5 years, for Washington State programs. These funds could be directed towards investments in clean energy development and job training to spur family wage job development in alternative energy sectors in Lewis County.

•The Legislature passed the coal tax credit in 1997, with the condition that 70% of the coal come from a local mine to help preserve the mining jobs at Centralia. Under threat of a lawsuit, and to encourage purchase of the coal plant by TransAlta, the Legislature revoked the 70% condition. However, it relied on a private agreement between the company and IUOE (labor union) to ensure protection of local jobs in Lewis County.

•TransAlta closed the Centralia Coal Mine in 2006, laying off more than 600 workers, but continues to utilize the tax credit each year. TransAlta now buys coal from the Powder River Basin, based in Wyoming and Montana.

•No local jobs will be affected by closing the tax loophole. TransAlta, which made $3.1 billion in revenue last year, will most certainly continue operating the Centralia power plant with or without the coal tax exemption.

•Other states are revoking coal tax exemptions. Maryland Governor O’Malley recently proposed repealing the sales tax exemption for coal, even for coal mined in Maryland (Jan 26, 2010).

•TransAlta is the state’s biggest single polluter and is one of the dirtiest coal plants in the nation. TransAlta’s coal-fired power plant is Washington’s single biggest source of greenhouse gases, haze-causing NOx, and the neurotoxin mercury.

•Greenhouse Gases: In a 2007 study ranking the 50 largest polluting electrical utilities, the TransAlta plant was found to be the 13th worst in the nation for carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions with an annual rate of 2,566 lbs of CO2 per megawatt-hour. CO2 is the gas most responsible for the rapid increase in global warming.


•Haze: TransAlta’s puts out approximately 12,000 tons of nitrogen oxides each year. The National Parks Service has found that haze pollution from the TransAlta coal plant damages more protected wilderness areas than any other coal plant in America.

(Source: http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/SEP_MoreEnviron.cfm)

•Mercury: The TransAlta coal plant produces approximately 350 pounds per year, depending on the grade and volume of coal burned at the plant. The Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse estimates a single gram of mercury can pollute a 20-acre lake. TransAlta’s mercury is enough to poison up to the equivalent of 3 million acres of lake each year. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin which causes brain damage and developmental disorders and is especially dangerous to infants, nursing mothers and woman who are pregnant or may become pregnant. (Source: http://www.thelympian.com/news/story/807767.html)

“\textit{The rich are still swimming in their pools while we are dying of thirst... We have got no toilets. I can’t wash my children. I can’t cook. I can’t clean the mess off the floor. And the worst thing is, we have got almost nothing to drink.}”

- Graciela Martinez, mother to a family of eight, Mexico City, April 2009
GREEN ENERGY IN THE NORTHWEST

The following is an executive summary from a report issued by the NW Energy Coalition, a coalition of over 100 organizations doing policy and advocacy work in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. It suggests actions that should be taken in our region to make our energy production and use more environmentally sound.

A Bright Future awaits Pacific Northwest families, businesses and communities. We can reach it by taking the clean-energy path. This report shows that we can act together to:

- Assure reliable, affordable, safe and coal-free energy.
- Create thousands of new jobs and income opportunities in cities, towns and countryside.
- Replace some hydropower to help restore salmon.
- Turn our cars and trucks into clean machines that also store electricity.
- Build tomorrow’s economies.
- Curb our dependence on foreign fuels.
- Lead the fight against global warming.

We have built the foundation by saving far more energy and money in the last 20 years than experts thought possible. We are building new renewable-energy facilities at forecast-defying speed.

**By ramping up current efforts we can turn our energy, transportation and salmon challenge into an opportunity for a bright future.**

To do its part in fighting global warming, the Northwest electric system must reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions 15% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050. That will require developing more of our energy efficiency and renewable energy potential but also – and critically – steadily retiring all the coal-fired power plants that now provide only 22% of the region’s electricity but produce 87% of the power system’s carbon-dioxide emissions.

The power system also must meet new demands as our population and economy grow, help restore endangered salmon and provide electricity to cars and trucks. To do this, we must save or develop 6,500 average megawatts (aMW)1 of new carbon-free electricity by 2020 and another 19,100 aMW by 2050.

**Energy efficiency** is the powerhouse. We can save enough energy to meet all normal demand growth, roughly 60% of our total new power needs. An enforceable regionwide target to acquire 340 aMW of low-cost energy efficiency per year through 2050 is a reasonable goal given Northwest utilities’ current solid energy-saving programs already in place, and the fact that saving energy is cheaper and creates more jobs than any other option. Energy efficiency isn’t sexy; it just works.

**New clean renewable sources** – wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, etc. – will provide the rest of our new power needs. Much of what we need by 2020 is already in the pipeline, mostly in the form of wind power. After 2020, falling costs will likely make solar the growth leader.

In parallel, we can create a **smart grid** to deliver these clean resources. A smart grid will shift from integrating fossil-fueled power with hydropower, to integrating dispersed renewable sources in new ways. The transition is already underway, and will be accelerated by new policy innovations and some new transmission lines. And as our **cars and trucks go electric**, their millions of batteries will act as a giant, dispersed storage system helping to provide back-up for the entire electric grid.

We can also build salmon and the salmon economy into our future, by replacing about 1,000 aMW of existing hydropower with new clean sources. This will allow removal of the four lower Snake River dams, or making equally effective alternative hydrosystem changes, to restore salmon and fishing and river-based jobs throughout our region. This energy strategy **creates more jobs and prosperity** than any alternative. Carbon-free alternatives create up to four times as many jobs as fossil fuel options, create them in all parts of our region, employ local workers and keep millions of dollars circulating here that now leave the region or country. Lower energy bills due to efficiency measures help everyone, especially low-income families. And more salmon also means more jobs.
Some changes are needed to achieve this brighter future. To begin with, President Obama and the U.S. Congress should quickly set carbon emission limits consistent with scientists’ recommendations and establish mechanisms to meet them, along with incentives and penalties.

But the Northwest must not wait for national action. The region can adopt Bright Future’s carbon-reduction and clean-energy targets and start working toward them immediately. We need:

1. Regional leadership from the Bonneville Power Administration. BPA should set a regional floor of 340 aMW of new energy efficiency and 270 aMW of new renewable energy a year.

2. A strong regional plan. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council’s 6th regional plan should call for enough energy efficiency and renewable energy to meet all demand growth and wean the region from coal power.

3. Extension of state renewable energy standards. The federal government or the states (including Idaho) must adopt or extend renewable portfolio standards now in place in Oregon, Montana and Washington State.

4. Prohibition of new coal plant construction or extending the lives of existing ones. Only by weaning ourselves of coal-fueled power can we reach our greenhouse-gas reduction goals. Working together, we can create this Bright Future for ourselves and our children. We can keep the lights on, the goods moving, the good jobs growing, the rivers running and salmon swimming in the Pacific Northwest.

ACTION STEPS YOU CAN TAKE
BY TONI POTTER, CO-CHAIR, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE OF LWVWA

TAKE ACTION ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL
Sign up to receive Action Alerts directly by email. Don’t miss an opportunity to take action! It’s easy to sign up, and the League will never share your email with others. Go to http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/mlm/signup/.

Contact your senators:


The LWVUS opposed the first Murkowski amendment to the Clean Air Act, which was defeated. We need to continue to oppose moves to change the act just as the EPA is finally beginning to use it to cut dangerous pollution that is causing global climate change.

The LWVUS has also been lobbying for the Cap and Trade Bill, which passed in the House, but is stuck in the Senate. When the Obama administration formally signed on to the Copenhagen accord last week, it pledged to reduce emissions “in the range of” 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020—but only if such a reduction is first passed into law by Congress.

National organizations that work on climate change:
Natural Resources Defense Council, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Sierra Club.

TAKE ACTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL
From the LWVUS Impact on Issues:
“The League supports U.S. efforts to assist other nations in their population planning programs, in accordance with the culture and mores of each country. The League also emphasizes strongly the importance of programs for nutrition, health, employment and education.”

Organizations that support education of girls:
World Education.com, Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy, Greg Mortenson’s Pennies for Peace

Microlending organizations:
The Grameen Foundation.org, Accion.org, Finca International

Organizations which help support renewable energy in developing countries:
SunOvens, Solar-aid, Solar Cookers International
Organizations which promote population control:
Worldwatch.org, Zero population growth.org, Center for Environment and Population.org
International aid organizations:
Oxfam.org, Care.org, Heifer Foundation.org
International climate change organizations:
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
The above list is for illustrative purposes only. LVWS does not evaluate or endorse any of the organizations included.

TAKE ACTION ON THE STATE LEVEL
It is always important to read the Climate and Energy part of the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter. Check it now. An important part of 2010 session of the state legislature remains. As of this writing the following bills are still alive:

   HB 2561   Energy cost savings & jobs
   HB 2416   Establishing energy efficiency standards for consumer products
   SSB 6656  Implementing a pilot program for energy conservation

You can check a bill’s current status on the legislature’s website, www.leg.wa.gov, by clicking on Bill Information and putting the bill number in the box provided.

Use the Legislative Hotline to send messages to legislators: (800) 562-6000. The people that answer are very helpful in finding your legislator and the bill you are interested in.

You can watch legislative sessions and even some committees on the Washington State Public Affairs Network, TVW Channel 23 or tvw.org.

TAKE ACTION ON THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL:
Seattle City Light is the only large utility in the US that is greenhouse gas emissions free. Help keep it that way by participating in Green Up, Seattle City Light’s voluntary green power program for residential and business customers. By enrolling in Green Up, customers purchase green power for a portion of their electricity use and demonstrate their support for wind power and other new renewable energy projects in the Northwest. Choosing green power reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, improves air quality and helps reduce the growth of climate-warming emissions. Seattle City Light has a data connection for its customers to use Microsoft Hohm, a free online application to track energy usage and get personalized recommendations for improving energy efficiency. Learn more about this product at www.seattle.gov/light/conserve/hohm.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE)’s voluntary Green Power Program makes it easy for you to buy renewable energy equal to the amount of electricity you use. When you choose Green Power, you’ll support independent renewable energy projects – including wind, solar and biomass – located right here in the Pacific Northwest. In 2009, PSE’s Green Power Program was awarded Program of the Year by the U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. Still, electricity from coal-fired generation makes up about one-fifth of PSE’s total long-term electric supply. This coal generation occurs out of the state of Washington, but PSE customers are supporting it.

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Under the leadership of Dennis McLerran, PSCA has been a national leader in reducing climate change and has developed several programs which can use public support. PSCA, in partnership with Puget Sound Energy and Mike Town of Redmond High School, has developed the Cool School Challenge, a climate education program designed to engage students and teachers in practical strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Inspired by the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, the Cool School Challenge teaches students how to assess their school’s greenhouse gas emissions, and then pledge to reduce those emissions by a certain percentage by a certain time, through improved energy efficiency, reduced consumption, increased recycling and changes in transportation behaviors. Ask your school board to start such a program in your district.

The Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition (PSCCC) is a voluntary, public/private partnership that works to advance the region’s environmental and public health, energy security and economic development by promoting policies and practices that reduce
petroleum consumption in transportation. Ask your city council if your city is a member. If not, lobby for them to join.

Join the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) transportation committee, which meets from 10-12 on the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the LWVS office. They cover state, regional, county and local transportation issues, including alternative means of transportation such as bicycling and walking. They have commented on the 420 Plan of the Puget Sound Regional Council, which conducts long-range planning for growth management, transportation and economic development. The Draft Transportation 2040 Plan, an action plan for transportation in the central Puget Sound region for the next 30 years, is available for review and comment at www.psrc.org/transportation/t2040/. The comment period runs from January 22 to March 9, 2010. Make a comment as an individual. Comments will be summarized for the Transportation Policy Board on March 11, 2010.

Join or start a Sustainable Neighborhood Group. There are websites for northeast Seattle, south Seattle, Greenlake and Wallingford.

TAKE ACTION AS AN INDIVIDUAL

1. Be politically active. Changes in laws can lead to significant reduction of greenhouse gases.

2. Buy green power from your utility.

3. Walk or use public transport. If you must drive, carpool or do more than one thing each time you drive. Don’t use a motorboat. Use a canoe or kayak.

4. If you or someone else must buy a car, remember that it is very important to get one that gives you highest miles per gallon.

5. If you must fly or drive, buy mitigation from a trusted source. An option is the Bonneville Power Green Tag Program, which helps pay for wind farms, etc.

6. During the heating season, turn down the thermostat to 58-60 degrees if you are going to be away more than seven hours, as well as overnight. Have the thermostat at 68 degrees when you are at home. Wear an extra layer.

7. Install double pane windows, storm doors and solar hot water heaters.

8. Change your furnace and heat pump filters every other month during the heating season. Regular furnace inspection and cleaning—yearly if you heat with oil and every other year if you heat with gas—will postpone the need to replace your furnace and will save an estimated 10 to 15 percent of your fuel costs. (See www.aceee.org, Home Energy Checklist for Action.)


10. If there are “instant on” electronics in your home (TVs, VCRs, DVDs, computers, radios) in your home, plug them into a power strip so you can turn them off completely when you are not using them. “Instant on” costs consumers seven percent annually.

11. Turn off your computer when you will not be using it for more than four hours.

12. Dry your clothes on a line in warm weather.

13. Turn your hot water heater down to 120 degrees (no lower). If your water heater was made before 2000, wrap it in water heater wrap to conserve heat. Any newer water heater has enough insulation; you will void the warranty if you wrap it.

14. When a light bulb burns out, replace it with a compact fluorescent (CFL) one. The new CFLs are brighter and smaller, fit more fixtures, and contain less mercury.
### Unit Meetings

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<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, March 8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Southend</strong> - Sam Scharff</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webcats@speakeasy.net">webcats@speakeasy.net</a></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Lila Bulen 3716 Cascadia Ave. S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Hill</strong> - Jeannette Kahlenberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kahlenb@gmail.com">kahlenb@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Mary Margaret Pruitt Horizon House, 900 University St. Sky Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capitol Hill/Montlake</strong> - Jan O’Connor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oconnor.js@gmail.com">oconnor.js@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>7:15 pm</td>
<td>Ginny Nicarthy 333 16th Ave.  (between Jefferson and Alder)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Issaquah Evening</strong> - Ann Thornton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anninissaquah@gmail.com">anninissaquah@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>King County Library System Service Center, 960 Newport Way NW, Iss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, March 9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bellevue</strong> - Bonnie Rimawi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bonnierim@aol.com">bonnierim@aol.com</a></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Bellevue Regional Library, Rm. 3 1111 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Seattle Day</strong> - Ethel Williams/Ann Bowden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:etheljwl@q.com">etheljwl@q.com</a></td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Ann Bowden The Kenney, 7125 Fauntleroy Way SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Seattle Eve</strong> - Barbara O’Steen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbarajosteen@yahoo.com">barbarajosteen@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Joanne McGaw 6341 5th Ave NE #310</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, March 10</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North End Afternoon</strong> - Jo Dawson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:warrenandjo@comcast.net">warrenandjo@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Jo Dawson 2148 N 115th St Potluck, Unit fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magnolia/Queen Anne/Ballard/Fremont Eve</strong> - Bettina Hosler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:glencoe1985@aol.com">glencoe1985@aol.com</a></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Barbara Reid 316 NE 54th St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>View Ridge</strong> - Gail Winberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:winbergeng@comcast.net">winbergeng@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>12:45 pm</td>
<td>Gail Winberg 6004 NE 60th St.</td>
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<td>Location</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, March 11</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Issaquah Day</strong> - Margaret Austin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barrie.austin@comcast.net">barrie.austin@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Issaquah City Hall &amp; Police</td>
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<td>130 E. Sunset Way, Coho Room</td>
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<td>(upstairs) <strong>Note time change</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kirkland/Redmond</strong> - Sheila Hoff</td>
<td><a href="mailto:srhoff123@yahoo.com">srhoff123@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Liv Grohn</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>338 10th Ave., Kirkland</td>
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<td>Call for directions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mercer Island</strong> - Lucy Copass/Cynthia Howe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lucyco@speakeasy.org">lucyco@speakeasy.org</a></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Mercer Island Presbyterian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:howe.john@comcast.net">howe.john@comcast.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>3605 84th Ave. SE, Mercer Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shoreline</strong> - Juliet Beard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:juliet@windermere.com">juliet@windermere.com</a></td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>Richmond Beach Congregational Church, NW 195th St. and 15th Ave. NW</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North Central</strong> - Jan Orlando</td>
<td><a href="mailto:olanre@aol.com">olanre@aol.com</a></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Edith Miller</td>
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<td>6902 32nd Ave NW</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>University House - Wallingford</strong> - Barbara Denis/ Judy Coskey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bdenis340@comcast.net">bdenis340@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>University House</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:tjcoskey@msn.com">tjcoskey@msn.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>4400 Stone Way N</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, March 17</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North King County</strong> - Rejean Idzerda</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idzerda@comcast.net">idzerda@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Lake Forest Park Third Place Books</td>
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<td>17171 NE Bothell Way</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, March 20</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ballard/Queen Anne/Magnolia Day</strong> - Kim Peterson</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Judy Ostrow</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3604 NW 60th St</td>
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### Board & Committee Contacts

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Directors</th>
<th>Education Fund Board</th>
<th>Off-Board Positions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>President</strong> Allison Feher</td>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Membership</strong> Kelly Powers</td>
<td><strong>Co-President</strong> Denise Smith</td>
<td><strong>CIS Coordinator</strong> Cynthia Howe</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008–2010</td>
<td><strong>1st V.P. Outreach</strong> Maria Brusher</td>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Director</strong> Christal Wood</td>
<td><strong>Co-President</strong> Laura Weese</td>
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<td>2008–2010</td>
<td><strong>2nd V.P. Program</strong> Nora Leech</td>
<td>2008–2010</td>
<td><strong>Treasurer</strong> Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis</td>
<td><strong>Treasurer</strong> Kris Bushley</td>
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<td>2008–2010</td>
<td><strong>3rd V.P.</strong> Sarah Luthens</td>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Secretary</strong> Dorothy Y. Sale</td>
<td><strong>Secretary</strong> Jayne Freitag-Koontz</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008–2010</td>
<td><strong>3rd V.P.</strong> Sarah Luthens</td>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Officer</strong> Barbara Reid</td>
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<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>4th V.P. Voter Editor</strong> Beatrice Crane</td>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Officer</strong> Barbara Yasui</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Secretary</strong> Brita Butler-Wall</td>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Officer</strong> Dorothy Y. Sale</td>
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<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Treasurer/Unit Coordinator</strong> Judy Bevington</td>
<td>2009–2011</td>
<td><strong>Officer</strong> Dorothy Y. Sale</td>
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<td>Economics &amp; Taxation</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Social Justice Committee</td>
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<td>International Relations</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>Port Study</td>
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<td>Privatization Study</td>
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LWV SEATTLE: MARCH FORUM

Women and Climate Change

Town Hall (downstairs)
Seneca and 8th Ave.
Thursday, March 4
6:30 Unit Briefing
7:30 Forum

Speakers include
Phil Borges, photographer and author
Sara Curran and Lucy Jarosz, University of Washington professors
Jessie Dye, Earth Ministry

All forums are free and open to the public.