

# Climate Change Tools and Response

2023 Regional Rendezvous

Taos, New Mexico





# Agenda

Why Become a Climate Change Coordinator.

Responsibilities of Climate Change Coordinator.

Actions Climate Change Coordinators can coordinate.

Contact information for volunteering as coordinator.

# Why Become a Climate Change Coordinator?

To protect native trout, wild trout, salmon and their watersheds from the impacts of climate change by:

- ✦ Designing projects to slow the harmful effects of temperature and rainfall extremes.
- ✦ Incorporating climate change into your chapter's strategic plan.
- ✦ Promoting angler science— stream temperature and flow monitoring.
- ✦ Discussing climate change with legislators during stream walks or in-district visits.
- ✦ Nonpartisan anglers' voice on climate change adaptation and mitigation.



# Why Become a Climate Change Coordinator?

To help your chapter or council plan projects to address climate change, such as:

- Improving climate change education/awareness messaging based on best available science.
- Positioning TU as a nonpartisan anglers' voice on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Encouraging non-traditional members to join TU.





Primary responsibility:

Communicate consistent TU science based message to raise awareness or to advocate for a Trout Unlimited position.

- Stay current on TU national climate change policies and keep chapters/councils informed
- Coordinate education and local non-partisan advocacy for members and the public on local support for policies and bills.
- Good communication skills and a basic understanding of climate change are beneficial.
- Climate change can be divisive so be respectful of other's opinions.



Become familiar with and share:

- Tools and resources on the Climate Change Workgroup page.
- Science on emissions from burning fossil fuels, alternatives to fossil fuels, and proposals to help transition from fossil fuel to low carbon energy alternatives.

🔗 Coordinate with the following volunteer and climate change resources:

- NLC Climate Change Workgroup
- Volunteers Ops (Beverly Smith, Jeff Yates, Maggie Human)
- Science staff (Helen Neville)



## Actions:

Communicate climate change awareness at the council/chapter “grassroots” level.

Coordinate with Conservation Chairs to design habitat projects that incorporate measures to slow climate change and adapt to temperature and rainfall extremes.

Foster communication between Climate Change Working Group and councils & chapters.

Provide contacts for questions, tools, tips, and climate change facts.



## Actions 2:

Engage in streamside conversations about the impact of higher temperatures, flooding and drouth on fishing.

Organize a stream tour/fishing event incorporating climate discussion for elected officials.

Participate in monthly Climate Change Work Group calls.



## One More Action to Consider:



- Consider partnering with organizations, such as Citizens' Climate Lobby, to promote climate legislation to reduce emissions and preserve coldwater fisheries by:
  - Advocating,
  - Making presentations,
  - Calling legislators,
  - Writing op-eds and letters to the editor.

# Become a Climate Change Coordinator

To serve as a Climate Change Coordinator or join the Workgroup:

- Contact Jeff Holzem, Jeff 2002h@ [yahoo.com](mailto:Jeff 2002h@yahoo.com) or
- Russ Collins, [Russ@dftu.org](mailto:Russ@dftu.org).
- To learn more, check out the Workgroup's web page:

– [Climate Change Workgroup - National Leadership Council - Trout Unlimited](#)

[bit.ly/3YVkzPA](http://bit.ly/3YVkzPA)



# What Do You Understand and Believe?



## Helen Neville's Take Away Messages

- Climate change is here.
- Much of the work we do to reverse human impacts and sequester carbon is highly effective.
- We must reduce emissions.
- We urgently need to do more of all!

## How Did We Get Here?

- Global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, principally CO<sub>2</sub>, have increased dramatically since the beginning of the industrial revolution
  - Global mean concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> is now above 400 ppm; unprecedented
- The principal source of CO<sub>2</sub> is fossil fuel emissions
- Mean surface temperatures have increased dramatically due to the increased absorption of radiant energy with increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases
  - Impacts are multidimensional: sea surface rise, glacial retreat, increased wild fires, increased severe storms, drought, ...

# What Actions Do PPTU and the Mid-Atlantic Council Wish to Take?



- Adapt
  - Habitat and flow restoration projects in the Mid-Atlantic
  - Stream flow, temperature, and oxygenation monitoring
- Sequestration
  - Tree planting projects
    - <http://www.tu.org/plantforourfuture>
- Mitigation
  - Political advocacy and lobbying
    - Local
    - State
      - EmPOWER Reform (Support) HB864 – This bill seeks to upgrade the 2008 EmPOWER legislation by setting measurable greenhouse gas reduction goals increase incentives for low income households to become more energy efficient.
    - Federal

# Who Do You Wish to Partner With?

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- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay / Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Nature Forward (Formerly Audubon Naturalist Society, est. 1897)
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network
- HoCo Climate Action
- Interfaith Power and Light
- Citizen's Climate Lobby

## Why Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)?

### **Nonpartisan**

We build relationships with everyone, even those who oppose us.

### **Nonprofit**

Volunteer driven organization with 501c(3) and 501c(4) status.

### **Solution and Laser Focused**

We are for a solution:  
Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend Program

### **Respect, appreciation and gratitude**

We treat everyone with respect, appreciation and gratitude.



**Citizens' Climate Lobby**

## CCL Chapters in the United States – 450+



# Collaboration with Citizen's Climate Lobby



## Levers of Political Will

These are the five core activities that all Citizens' Climate Lobby **chapters** leverage to bring citizens into the political process and to ensure their contribution is constructive and makes more good possible. We call these activities the “levers of political will.”

1. **Lobbying:** We train citizens how to lobby in support of our **Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal** by building friendly relationships with our federally elected representatives.
2. **Media relations:** We train citizens how to engage with and influence the media. We write **letters to the editors and op-eds**, meet with editorial boards and work to place stories in all forms of media.
3. **Grassroots outreach:** We recruit and educate the public on climate solutions, citizen advocacy and how to participate with one's government.
4. **Grasstops outreach:** We seek to educate, build partnerships with and gain the support of community leaders and non-governmental organizations, both nationally and locally.
5. **Chapter development:** It is through the growth and management of the **local CCL group/chapter**, that it becomes possible to push on the other four levers for building political will.



Annual Conference and Lobby Day  
and Congressional Education Day