

# accomplishments 2016

## Together we are leading the northwest on climate and clean energy policy.

Climate Solutions spent 2016 at the forefront of statewide coalition organizing for action on climate and clean energy in Oregon and Washington. Working among a robust community of partner organizations in various sectors, we provided strategic and policy leadership, field organizing, business engagement, communications outreach, and fundraising support for Renew Oregon and Washington State's Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy.

### Oregon leadership

In March, Oregon became the first U.S. state committing to eliminate the use of coal-fired power by 2035 and to double the amount of renewable energy to 50% by 2040. Climate Solutions and our partners in the **Renew Oregon** campaign secured this major policy victory with the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Act through both deep partnerships and nimble action. This law also reaffirms commitments to energy efficiency programs, encourages new investments in electrification of our transportation sector, and creates a community solar program.

Our coalition also fought hard to defend and begin implementation of the **Oregon Clean Fuels Program**, which aims to reduce the carbon intensity of Oregon fuels by 10% over a ten-year period, ultimately saving 1.4 million metric tons of carbon each year on average.

In Portland, we advocated for a proposed ordinance **banning new bulk fossil fuel infrastructure** in the city, which will be the strongest such policy in the nation. We also advocated for another proposal providing prospective home buyers with home energy scores. Both measures will serve the city's goal of reducing carbon emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; both are expected to become law after final votes this month.

### Washington leadership

Climate Solutions and allies continued negotiations to **phase out coal** from Colstrip—Puget Sound Energy's coal power source in Montana, and some of the dirtiest power plants in the country. In early 2016, we succeeded in advancing legislation that facilitates the closure of two of Colstrip's generators Units 1 and 2. Shutting down these two units will eliminate five million tons of carbon

emissions annually, the largest single reduction in the Northwest.

We endorsed two successful ballot measures in Washington this fall. The first, **I-1433**, will raise the state minimum wage to \$13.50 over four years (see KC Golden's Oct 25 blog post "Economic security is a core climate solution"). Climate Solutions also showed strong support for **Sound Transit 3**, a package of measures expanding mass transit and boosting transit-oriented development in Puget Sound communities.

While the **Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy** did not pursue a carbon pricing ballot measure in 2016, our diverse group of climate advocates stands strong. Together we look forward to achieving meaningful victory on carbon reduction as a result of our collaboration and movement-building.

## Together, we are advancing solutions for a low-carbon future.

**NEW ENERGY CITIES:** Our New Energy Cities program continues to work closely with the **King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)**, a voluntary coalition of King County and 13 cities united in their goal to cut carbon emissions in half by 2030. Projects include a roadmap to achieve 90% renewable electricity by 2030, commercial energy benchmarking, and a workplace electric vehicle charging campaign.



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In 2016, New Energy Cities formed a partnership with Stockholm Environment Institute and began working together with the communities of Everett, WA (Snohomish County) and Olympia, WA (Thurston County). Our existing partnership with Tukwila is showing encouraging progress, with city leadership and staff eager to make deep carbon reductions in their community.

**BRIGHT FUTURE:** This spring, we launched the Bright Future initiative to demonstrate that the rapid transition to clean energy and a low-carbon economy is possible, practical, and necessary. The clean energy transition is—to a widely underappreciated degree—already on, but more people need to know about it. While our political system continues to offer alarmingly weak and tentative responses to how we will transform from a fossil to clean economy, the spectacularly hopeful news is this: people, communities, businesses, and energy markets are beginning to offer much more satisfying answers. Since the spring, we have been publishing and promoting new in-depth articles and content that demonstrate the pathways to accelerate the transition to a clean energy future.

## ***Together, we are building a powerful movement for climate action and a just transition to a clean energy economy.***

2016 was a big year for Climate Solutions' efforts to build a people-powered movement to fight fossil fuel infrastructure in our region through the ever-growing Power Past Coal and Stand Up to Oil coalition campaigns.

Through **Power Past Coal**, more than 27,000 people demonstrated solidarity with the **Lummi Nation**, asking the Army Corps of Engineers to deny a coal export permit at Cherry Point based on Lummi treaty rights. The achievement of that result in May 2016 was perhaps the biggest fossil fuel victory of the past half-decade in the country. The permit denial not only definitely killed this coal export proposal, but also served as a powerful vindication of native rights.

After an oil train derailment and fire in **Mosier, OR** this June, Climate Solutions played a key role in helping local communities respond to media asking on the dangers of oil trains. We also helped call on Governors Brown and Inslee to establish moratoriums on oil train traffic until the cause of the derailment could be identified.

Also in June, our coalition submitted more than a quarter of a million comments opposing a coal export megaproject in Longview, WA, and helped turn out more than 1,000 people to attend public hearings on the proposal.

We worked with the **Stand Up To Oil** campaign to oppose what would be the largest oil transport facility in the United States: the Tesoro-Savage terminal in Vancouver, WA. Earlier this spring, we delivered a record-breaking 276,296 comments opposing the project.

We also saw the final nail in the coffin for the coal export terminal at **Port of Morrow**. Proponents dropped their appeal of the State of Oregon's permit denial. The company, should they wish to pursue this project in the future, would have to re-start the process all over again.

In each of these cases, we worked with partner organizations to ensure good publicity and turn out for public hearings, and coverage which highlights the dangers of fossil fuel transport and the breadth of local opposition to these projects. The incredible media coverage we earned this year included a *Time Magazine* article about the "Thin Green Line" of Northwest fossil fuel resistance. We also continued to garner in-depth coverage from national outlets including the New York Times and NPR, as well as local and regional media.

## ***We are raising our profile and building organizational strength.***

**SUCCESSFUL SIGNATURE EVENTS:** **Jeff Johnson**, President of the Washington State Labor Council, keynoted our annual reception in Olympia, WA this April. We presented the Sam Garst Climate Champion Award to **Ellicott Dandy** of OneAmerica in recognition of her work to research and promote equitable, inclusive, and transparent solutions to climate change.

Our May 4 annual breakfast in Seattle featured **Aimée Christensen**, founder of the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience and CEO of Christensen Global Strategies, on the opportunities for building a brighter future together as we tackle climate change and grow the clean energy economy.

**DONOR APPRECIATION:** Our 350 Club major donor appreciation receptions and telephone briefings this year gave Climate Solutions' supporters opportunities to learn directly from experts and compelling speakers. Topics included: 2016 State of Climate Solutions; how Oregon can drive greater greenhouse gas reductions and expand small scale renewable energy through more efficient homes and buildings; and the 10th Anniversary of the Clean Energy Initiative (I-937) passing in Washington and what's next after its final requirement year of 2020.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Climate Solutions is now wrapping up a year-long effort to develop a new comprehensive Strategic Plan to guide our work through 2020.

**EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION:** In 2016, we intensified efforts to scrutinize our own work through an equity lens and to ensure the presence of anti-oppression commitments at the heart of our work as an organization. With the help of consultants and the participation of staff and board members, we conducted a racial justice-focused assessment of our systems and structures. We also formed an internal staff-board Equity, Diversity and Inclusion team to help stay the course as both individuals and the organization learn, listen and grow as we work to undo race, gender, and class oppression in our society, and to articulate how such inequities impede climate progress.

**REFINING OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT:** Our communications staff was invited to participate in Netroots Nation's New Media Mentoring project, helping us to refine our social media and audience engagement practices, and to adopt improved strategies and tools for connecting with and mobilizing our audiences.