

WA Climate Assembly
Learning Session 4
Tuesday, January 26, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Presenter Materials

The presenters have provided their bios, summaries of their presentations. Review of these materials is optional, but recommended.

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Matt Steuerwalt

Partner at Insight Strategic Partners

Teaching Associate Professor at the University of Washington

Expert Presenter

The Economic Costs of Climate Change

About Matt:

Matt Steuerwalt is a partner at Insight Strategic Partners and a Teaching Associate Professor at the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. He was Governor Jay Inslee's Policy Director, Governor Chris Gregoire's energy and climate advisor, and worked for seven years at the Attorney General's Office, primarily on utility consumer protection. He began his career as a consultant in Washington DC, and doesn't miss it at all.

Moji Igun

Founder of Blue Daisy Consulting

Expert Presenter

The Circular Economy and Opportunities for Climate Action

About Moji:

Moji Igun is the founder of Blue Daisy Consulting which offers zero waste + sustainability consulting services to small and mid-sized businesses. She supports her clients in reducing waste by helping them find creative ways to keep trash out of the landfill. Moji is certified as a TRUE Zero Waste Advisor and enjoys drawing connections between zero waste and the broader spectrum of sustainability. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Zero Waste Washington.

Presentation summary:

In the natural world, there is no such thing as waste. Materials are reabsorbed back into the earth in an endless cycle. Systems that are modeled after this framework offer environmental, economic, and social benefits. In this presentation, you will be

introduced to the principles of the circular economy and shown the opportunities for Washington state to pursue bold climate action.

Peter Godlewski

Energy and Environment Government Affairs Director at the
Association of Washington Business

Interested Party Presenter

Note: presentation information to come. Peter will be speaking on the business perspective of climate issues and on the difficulties of balancing environmental and economic interests.

Brad Warren

Director of Global Ocean Health

Expert Presenter

Price and Invest

About Brad:

Brad Warren leads the National Fisheries Conservation Center and its Global Ocean Health program, which helps people who depend on healthy oceans protect their future from climate change, ocean acidification, and related challenges. Rising carbon emissions are eroding the ocean's capacity to keep making dinner for billions. To help tribes, coastal communities, and other "front-line" groups learn how to respond effectively, Warren and team analyzed major climate policies worldwide to compare their effectiveness in reducing emissions, and their effects on communities. As advisors to Tulalip Tribes, Warren and team helped Washington tribes strengthen and shape Washington's 2018 climate initiative, I-1631, to work well where they live. Warren proposed and served on Gov Gregoire's Washington State's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification (2012), among other initiatives to understand impacts, adapt and reduce pollution. Among his recent publications: "Gearing up for Carbon Removal" (NFCC 2019), "Policy Pivot in Puget Sound: Lessons learned from marine protected areas and tribally led estuarine restoration (with several coauthors, in Ocean & Coastal Management 2018), "Building Common Ground: A report on the Snohomish Triple Value Simulation Pilot Study" (Tulalip Tribes 2015).

Presentation summary:

Meeting current emission-reduction targets will require huge investments to transform energy use. But today's wide wealth gaps mean most Americans (and especially most rural, poor, and resource-dependent people) lack the cash to achieve these goals, even when fuel prices rise sharply. That's why careful design of policies to cut pollution is crucial. We compared efficacy of dozens of carbon pricing policies worldwide. Our research suggests that the deepest pollution reductions occur where modest carbon prices raise cash and proceeds are then invested to help people afford to "become the solution." "Revenue-neutral" policies that rely on raising fuel prices appear to lag far behind. Additionally, sector-specific policies also contribute heavily where emissions are falling fastest.

Bob Hallahan

Citizens' Climate Lobby of Whidbey Island

Expert Presenter

Pricing Carbon: the Essential and Obvious Thing to Do

About Bob:

Bob Hallahan was an Eagle Scout as a youth, then attended the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 1990 with a natural science degree. He is an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who also earned a Masters' Degree in National Security from the U.S. Naval War College. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 2012, then began climate work by attending the Climate Reality training in Chicago in 2013. For the last seven years he has led a chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby on Whidbey Island, Washington. He is currently an airline pilot and elected member of his local school board.

Presentation summary:

Bob Hallahan will present the case for a price on carbon, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change puts at the center of the solution set to climate change. How can a price on carbon be done in a way that is effective and fair, while simultaneously producing environmental justice and remaining popular enough to withstand the political see-saw which seems to rip through American governments every election? Is a price on carbon enough, or are there essential wrap-around policies required as well?