

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION VOTERS

The Political Voice for the Environment

Winter 2008 Newsletter

The **Priorities** go to Olympia

Environmental partnership for legislative success



Each year, the environmental community in Washington comes together to select four legislative priorities. By focusing our efforts we are more able to effectively advocate for policies that will protect the health of our state. This upcoming legislative session, Washington Conservation Voters will be working closely with our partner organizations to advance the four 2008 *Priorities for a Healthy Washington*.

This year's *Priorities* address a range of issues, from local farms and urban forests to climate change and community planning. The **Local Solutions to Global Warming** proposal helps address one of the largest sources of global

warming pollution in our state – transportation pollution. The **Climate Action & Green Jobs** bill creates a structure and timeline for implementing the state's global warming pollution reduction goals, and creates a program to prepare Washington workers for good jobs in the clean energy economy, providing pathways out of poverty for lower-income communities. You can read more about the climate *Priorities* in "Time for Action on Climate."

Though global warming is a critical issue at this time, there are other environmental and public health issues of equal importance. Child-Priorities • continues on page 2

Time for Action on Climate

Washington's environmental community is hard at work to address the challenge of global warming and we're bringing solutions to Olympia, participating in Governor Gregoire's Climate Advisory Team and actively engaging our members and citizens. After months (years!) of work on all fronts we're starting to see results. Global warming is getting more attention than ever and will be a major issue in the upcoming elections.

After nine months of deliberation, the state

Climate Advisory Team issued a draft report containing key recommendations for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, creating new "green collar" jobs and encouraging local governments to build compact and transit-oriented communities.

This year two of the *Priorities for a Healthy Washington* bills specifically deal with global warming and are supported by the Climate Advisory Team's recommendations. Climate • continues on page 3

The Scoop

Thumbs down: EPA to CA: "You've got no right" The EPA won't let California enact its new vehicle emissions limits that were a major step in addressing global warming. WA was one of the 16 states waiting on this ruling so we could move ahead with implementing the 2005 Clean Cars *Priority*. With over half our state's global warming pollution coming from transportation, we need these new standards. The good news? Governor Gregoire will join CA in suing the EPA.

Thumbs up: Bring on the Biodiesel A biodiesel station will be opening in downtown Seattle (South Lake Union, to be exact). This is yet another important step towards cleaner emissions in WA.

Thumbs down: Hanford in the dumps Voters in WA overwhelmingly banned the import and disposal of offsite waste at Hanford by passing initiative 297. However, the federal government continues to ignore voters by pushing to start shipping highly dangerous wastes from around the nation. Shipping in even more waste when we still haven't been able to address the current mess? No way!

Thumbs up: Water conflict to water resolution Fish and farmers (and many others) have reason to celebrate as an agreement was signed in December for the restoration of Manastash Creek near Ellensburg. Six years of often tense negotiations between farmers, environmentalists, tribal staff, state agencies and others has led to an agreement that will both restore the creek as well as provide the water needed by local farmers.

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! With the upcoming legislative session followed by the mid-year release of our 2007-2008 Legislative Scorecard and then a critical election cycle, this will be a busy year at Washington Conservation Voters. Many issues, especially global warming and clean energy, are making headlines and are already an important part of the presidential debates. This is the time to show the power of environmental voters.

Washington Conservation Voters plays a unique and important role for the environment in all cycles of the political process, from getting legislation passed to campaigning in elections. This winter, we will work to pass our four *Priorities*, two of which are focused on climate change; then we will report back to you in our Scorecard in the spring.



The Scorecard is your single best way to stay on top of the Legislature. We will give you the information necessary to evaluate the performance of your legislators so that come election time, you will be able to translate your environmental values into political action. Stay tuned for this critical report.

The great success of pro-environment candidates over the last three years has proven that Washington voters care deeply about the health of the state and expect the same from their elected officials. In light of how deeply global warming resonates with voters, we are on the cusp of making huge, lasting progress in 2008. This is the time for us to set a course that will make a difference for generations to come.

Regardless of your passion—whether it is preserving forests and trees, saving endangered salmon, cleaning up nuclear waste, or protecting your family from toxic chemicals—get ready, because 2008 is the time for you to make a lasting difference.

This is a year of great promise. At Washington Conservation Voters, we are looking forward to working together with you to make 2008 a year to remember.

Best,

Kurt Fritts

Executive Director



Local Farms - Healthy Kids brings good food into our schools.

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hood obesity is on the rise and our local farms are being out-bid by large out-of-state produce providers. The **Local Farms-Healthy Kids** legislative proposal will remove institutional barriers between schools and local farms so that our children can eat healthy food at school and our school districts can support our state's agriculture. We're also advocating for healthier cities through the **Evergreen Cities** proposal. Expanded urban forests are beneficial to the health of our state because trees reduce runoff, which is a top Puget Sound pollutant. Also the right trees in the right place can reduce energy costs and associated greenhouse gas emissions for business and home owners in the state.

This is an ambitious agenda for a short legislative session. We hope you will join us in advocating for these issues during the 2008 legislative session. Sign up for our email alerts at www.wcvoters.org so we can keep you posted on the progress of the *Priorities*.

Quick Look

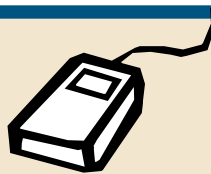
2008 Priorities for a Healthy Washington


- Climate Action & Green Jobs
- Local Farms – Healthy Kids
- Local Solutions to Global Warming
- Evergreen Cities

To learn more, visit www.environmentalpriorities.org



On the web:



- Get updates on the Priorities and other hot issues by signing up for our email alerts at www.wcvoters.org
- Our new website with enhanced election tools will be launching this spring...stay tuned!
-  1 Sky Washington is a campaign that brings diverse groups and individuals together to accelerate the adoption of climate solutions. Find out more at the newly launched website www.1skyyashington.org.

Climate • continued from page 1

Climate Action & Green Jobs, one of the 2008 *Priorities for a Healthy Washington*, addresses four of the key recommendations in the CAT report regarding the overall framework for Washington's climate program. The **Climate Action & Green Jobs** bill will allow Washington to capitalize on accelerated investments in clean energy technologies and businesses by establishing a program to prepare Washington workers for good jobs in the clean energy economy.

"The Climate Advisory Team has recognized the need for strong state leadership to reduce our global warming pollution and ensure Washington businesses and workers seize the historic opportunities presented by the clean energy revolution," said KC Golden, policy director of Climate Solutions and a member of the CAT. "We need to make sure that this is not just another report. The challenge now is to roll up our sleeves and make sure that these recommendations result in concrete action."

The other environmental community *Priority* that specifically addresses climate change, **Local Solutions to**



Global Warming, would give cities and counties the support and flexibility they need to help reduce global warming pollution in the design of our communities and transportation systems. By encouraging compact and transit-oriented growth, we can ensure that our communities are sustainable for decades to come.

"The choices made in local land use and zoning plans about where a growing population will live and work and how they will get around have a huge impact on global warming emissions," said Futurewise Acting Executive Director Aisling Kerins. "By making good decisions about how our neighborhoods, cities and counties grow we can reduce global warming pollution."

"We need to make sure that this is not just another report. The challenge now is to roll up our sleeves and make sure that these recommendations result in concrete action."

Profile of a Conservation Voter: Board Member Jessica Matlock



New board member, Jessica Matlock, visiting Vancouver Island.

Jessica Matlock is a new member of the Washington Conservation Voters' state board. She works for the Snohomish Public Utilities District as the Government Relations Director. She brings a long history of passion for the environment and politics and a variety of experiences that will be a great asset in her new leadership role.

Growing up on a ranch in Colorado, Jessica saw how her own parents balanced the management of the ranch with protecting the environment. Her interests in environment and policy led to a career where she can protect the environment by striking the same sort of balance that her parents demonstrated.

Jessica has worked as an environmental consultant, protected marine life in her time with the coast guard and now is the government relations director for the Snohomish Public Utilities District. She worked on the Hill in Washington, DC serving as an advisor on energy and natural resources policies. Prior to that, she has held a number of government relations positions with the Bonneville Power Administration, including that of power marketing specialist, constituent account executive for the state of Idaho, and fish and wildlife project manager. She also previously served as a city planner for the City of Portland, Oregon.

Jessica is excited to be joining the board of Washington Conservation Voters because she knows that when it comes to protecting the environment, politics matter. She believes that everyone has a responsibility to protect the environment. "It's critical," she says, "to bring these issues to the forefront of legislative agendas and to use the Washington Conservation Voters scorecard to hold elected officials accountable."

Outside of her work and activism, Jessica is an outdoor enthusiast. An avid hiker, mountain biker and rock climber, Jessica loves Whidbey Island and the Spider Meadow area for backpacking. She also enjoys taking her dog to Magnuson Park.

Washington Conservation Voters is the political voice for the environment. Washington Conservation Voters promotes a healthy environment by winning elections, advocating for change, mobilizing the public, and holding elected officials accountable.

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION VOTERS

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Winter 2008 Newsletter

See What's Inside

2008 Environmental Community
Priorities

State-based solutions to global
warming

Profile of a Conservation Voter
and more!

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make the 2007 event a huge success.



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2008 ANNUAL BREAKFAST
OCTOBER 14, 2008