



# **Study Mission 5.0: Brussels & Beyond**

## **Lessons From Europe's 20 Years of Carbon Markets**

May 2025

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# Dear friends and collaborators,

Since 2021, Clean & Prosperous Institute (CPI) has taken delegations of Pacific Northwest climate and clean energy leaders on study missions to jurisdictions across North America. Our study missions offer an unparalleled opportunity for delegates to create connections, learn from experts in partner jurisdictions and businesses, and bring ideas back home to Washington.



This year, CPI was proud to take 40 lawmakers, businesses, Tribal leaders, and community organizations on our first trip outside of North America on our Study Mission 5.0: Brussels & Beyond.

On the heels of our resounding defeat of Initiative 2117, which threatened to repeal Washington's carbon market, we traveled to the capital of the European Union (EU) to learn from the longest-running carbon market in the world. To date, the EU's carbon market has helped the 27 member states successfully reach a 37 percent reduction in carbon emissions compared to 1990 levels, and the bloc is on track to meet their 55 percent reduction goal by 2030.

Alongside our briefings with the EU, we also learned about innovative clean manufacturing efforts from partners like LanzaTech, VDL Bus and Coach, and the Port of Antwerp-Bruges. After Belgium, we traveled to Reykjavík, Iceland to visit the world's largest direct air capture facility, Climeworks' Mammoth project.

Given the federal government's stark retrenchment on America's climate commitments, this year's study mission took on a new urgency. Our delegation was not only there to learn. We needed to serve as climate ambassadors, showing international partners that subnationals like Washington state remain committed to the clean energy transition during this moment of heightened concern about the United States' ambition to address global warming.

We know that climate change is a global challenge with local solutions. Subnational entities like Washington state will continue to be crucial to transitioning to a clean energy future with shared prosperity for all.

Thank you to our delegation for serving as collaborative climate ambassadors on this study mission. And a massive thank you to our sponsors for making Study Mission 5.0: Brussels & Beyond possible.

We hope you enjoy the lessons we learned on our study mission. If you have any questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out.

**Sincerely,**  
**Michael Mann**  
Executive Director  
Clean & Prosperous Institute

# Delegation Testimonials

“ While our federal government retrenches, Washington state remains committed to addressing the climate crisis while growing our economy and creating jobs. We were proud to represent Washington state as we built foundational relationships with international partners, including the European Union, based on our shared and steadfast commitment to protecting human and environmental health. ”

— SENATOR SHARON SHEWMAKE &  
REPRESENTATIVE BETH DOGLIO

“ The opportunity to bring an incredible delegation of climate ambassadors to the European Union to learn from the world’s longest-running carbon market will benefit Washington’s communities for decades to come. We gained unparalleled insight into challenges and opportunities coming our way as we continue to advance equitable climate action and reduce barriers to clean energy projects at home. ”

— DAVID MENDOZA, DIRECTOR OF POLICY & GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS FOR THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN WASHINGTON

“ Washington’s Climate Commitment Act is built on evidence-based best practices in climate policy from around the world, including the EU. This trip showed European policymakers that placing a cap on pollution and investing the resources directly into clean air, clean water, free transit, wildfire prevention and building a lower carbon economy is the right direction for our future. The study mission continues to build the foundation for strong partnerships and collaboration with California, Québec and the EU in the years ahead. ”

— FORMER SENATOR REUVEN CARLYLE, FOUNDER OF EARTH FINANCE  
AND BOARD MEMBER OF THE CLEAN & PROSPEROUS INSTITUTE

“ The Cowlitz Indian Tribe is grateful to be working in partnership with Washington state to advance Tribal energy sovereignty while addressing the harmful impacts of climate change. Since time immemorial, our people have depended on the health of the lands and waters that sustain our ancestral homelands. The Clean & Prosperous Institute’s study mission offered exciting and valuable insights into future opportunities to continue the Tribe’s legacy of environmental stewardship and prosperity through programs like the Climate Commitment Act. ”

— CHAIRMAN BILL IYALL OF THE COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE

# By the numbers

Notable data points from Europe's efforts to be climate-neutral by 2050.

**37%**

Emissions reduced below 1990 levels in Europe

**€230b**

Funding generated by the EU ETS since 2013

**100%**

Electricity produced by renewable energy in Iceland

**43%**

Passenger car EV market share in Belgium

**164,000**

Jobs supported by the Port of Antwerp-Bruges



# Key Takeaways

1

**Subnational entities like Washington state now have a primary role** in combating the climate crisis and transitioning to a clean energy economy. Subnationals can - and must - build relationships with international partners, including our nation's largest trading bloc, the European Union.

2

**Carbon markets like the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and Climate Commitment Act (CCA) are a central strategy** to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and investing in the clean energy transition. The ETS has helped the EU achieve significant, timely greenhouse gas reductions while investing billions of euros in cutting-edge decarbonization technologies through the [EU Innovation Fund](#). A [report](#) from the World Bank underscores the growth of carbon pricing internationally: Twenty-eight percent of global emissions are now covered by a carbon price, compared to five percent in 2005.

3

**Clean manufacturing is a key driver of emissions reductions**, but it requires innovation, investment from public and private partners, and streamlined, reduced barriers in order to be successful, economically viable, and sustainable.

4

**Ambitious emissions reductions targets can be met**, but political courage and willpower is absolutely essential. We met so many incredible leaders - including the all-female political leadership of Iceland - who are making Europe's climate and clean energy goals a reality.

# To Brussels & Beyond

## Washington's Climate Leadership on the Road



Clean & Prosperous Institute's fifth annual Study Mission took a bipartisan delegation across the Atlantic to explore Europe's two decades of experience with carbon pricing through the EU ETS.

The ETS, credited with reducing emissions across the 27 member European Union by 37 percent from 1990 levels, served as a core focus of the trip. Through high-level briefings with the EU Directorate-General for Climate Action and other climate leaders, we examined the history, evolution, and future ambition of the ETS and its role in driving decarbonization.

Key topics included sustainable aviation fuel, transportation decarbonization, investment strategies from the Social Climate Fund, and the planned

implementation of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

We also conducted on-the-ground visits to key decarbonization sites, including the ArcelorMittal steel plant in Ghent and innovative climate tech hubs around the EU capital.

On our return leg through Iceland, we toured the Mammoth project, the world's largest direct air capture facility, gaining firsthand insight into the future of carbon removal.

This mission brought together business, policy, and legislative leaders from the Pacific Northwest to deepen our shared understanding of how cap-and-invest programs can deliver powerful emissions reductions and economic opportunities at home.



# Day 1

## Carbon Market Briefing with the EU

The study mission delegation traveled to the Berlaymont Building - the headquarters of the European Commission - to meet with the EU Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA). DG CLIMA provided an extensive briefing to the delegation on the EU ETS, which is the world's longest-running carbon market.

In 2021, the EU passed the [European Climate Law](#), which codifies goals for Europe to become climate-neutral by 2050 into a binding target. It also sets a binding target for 55 percent reduction in domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. The EU has been successful in reducing emissions by 37 percent from 1990 levels, and the ETS is a central component of this reduction.

**In addition to shared learnings from the world's longest-running carbon market, the delegation and DG CLIMA discussed:**

- **ETS2:** In 2023, the EU amended the ETS to add [ETS2](#), which will become fully operational in 2027 and will cover emissions from fuel combustion in buildings, road transport, and small industries not covered by the ETS.
- **Social Climate Fund (SCF):** Established alongside ETS2, the SCF will support a fair transition towards climate neutrality, helping alleviate the social and economic impacts of the ETS2. Social Climate Plans from each member state were due in June 2025.



DG CLIMA Briefing



DG CLIMA Briefing

- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):** Several pieces of EU legislation address the climate impact of aviation. The ETS places aviation under its emissions cap, RED III includes aviation fuels in its renewable energy targets, and ReFuelEU sets explicit blending targets for sustainable aviation fuel sold in the EU.
- **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):** Deals with goods imported from outside the ETS area by putting a price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU.



After the briefing, Washington delegates Alyssa Macy (Washington Conservation Action), Isaac Kastama (Water Street Public Affairs), State Rep. Beth Doglio, and Gregg Small (Climate Solutions) hosted a panel discussion about lessons learned from the success of the No on 2117 campaign, with a focus on how to build and maintain public support for effective, market-based climate and clean energy policies.

## Takeaway

Despite the federal government's retrenchment on climate action, the rest of the world continues to advance its commitments to emissions reduction and the clean energy transition. Washington state can and should be an international leader on climate action, and will continue building partnerships with international and supranational entities and businesses.

“

Cooperation between carbon pricing jurisdictions is central to our policies' development. We need to learn from each other what has worked and, just as important, what hasn't. We need our policies to work to deliver for the climate, our economies and to offer opportunities to our citizens.

— BEATRIZ YORDI,  
DIRECTOR OF  
CARBON MARKETS  
AND CLEAN  
MOBILITY, DG CLIMA

”



# Day 2

## Carbon Capture & Recycling with LanzaTech

The delegation received a briefing and tour of LanzaTech's [Steelmanol facility](#), a partnership with ArcelorMittal and the first large-scale plant to capture waste gas from steel production and convert it into ethanol, a fuel that can replace fossil fuels in hard-to-decarbonize sectors including maritime transportation.

Ethanol production at Steelanol began in 2023. It's the first facility of its kind in the European steel industry, supported by a €10 million grant from the EU Horizon 2020 program (which is funded by revenue from the EU's carbon market). The plant can produce over 20 million gallons of advanced ethanol annually - around half of Belgium's current total demand. The

facility expects to reduce carbon emissions by 125,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

LanzaTech's biorecycling process works like a brewery. Instead of yeast consuming sugar, proprietary microbes consume carbon emissions and produce ethanol and other chemical building blocks. These can be used to create fuels and everyday products, turning yesterday's steel mill emissions into tomorrow's shampoo bottles, car tires, apparel, and more.

Deployment is not limited to steel production: Any facility that produces an abundance of carbon monoxide off gas is ideal for LanzaTech's technology.

### Takeaway

Cutting-edge scientific developments like LanzaTech's carbon recycling are incredibly relevant for Washington state, particularly as we evaluate our own efforts to regulate and decarbonize energy-intensive industries.



ArcelorMittal and LanzaTech



“

Transportation accounts for the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington state, and MTRWESTERN is committed to being part of the solution by ensuring at least part of every single motorcoach fleet we purchase includes electric vehicles. We're proud to bring VDL Bus and Coach's high-quality zero-emission vehicles to the Pacific Northwest and were grateful to show our study mission delegates their cutting-edge manufacturing facility firsthand.

— JEREMY BUTZLAFF,  
PRESIDENT,  
MTRWESTERN

”

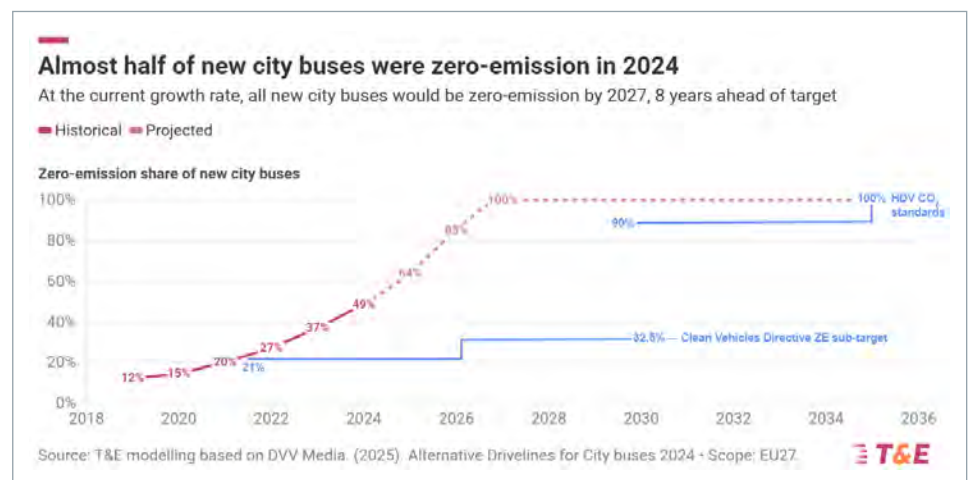


## Manufacturing the Future of Electric Transit

The delegation received a briefing and toured the state-of-the-art electric city bus [manufacturing facility](#) at VDL Bus in Roeselare to learn about composite manufacturing for urban zero-emission transit vehicles. The 215,000 square foot plant is designed exclusively for electric city buses and can produce up to 800 zero-emission buses per year.

VDL Groep, a leader in sustainable mobility, developed this facility to meet growing demand for electric transit. The company, which began as a component supplier, now leads in electric bus and truck production. VDL Groep also recently acquired Van Hool, known for its electric coaches.

Nearly half of all new EU city buses were zero-emission in 2024, according to the European Federation of Transport and Environment. Battery-electric buses dominated with a 46 percent market share, while fuel cell buses accounted for three percent.



*Rapid Growth of Zero-Emission Transit in the EU*



## Takeaway

Electric buses are one of the fastest-growing electric vehicle markets in Washington state. From [Walla Walla Public Schools](#), to recent purchases by [Sound Transit](#), electric buses are growing - and reducing harmful diesel emissions - all across our state. Market trends show that - regardless of federal rollbacks - [progress on fleet electrification will continue](#).

The VDL Groep has a connection to our region, as well! They manufacture all-electric motorcoaches that local business (and delegation member) MTRWESTERN operates along I-5 as part of Amtrak service!



Electric Bus Manufacturing at VDL Bus Roeselare

# Day 3

## Advancing Climate Neutral Port Operations

The delegation toured the Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Europe's second-largest port, which aims to achieve climate neutrality in 2050. The visit included a briefing on the port's efforts to decarbonize emissions-intensive sectors and embrace new and emerging technologies.

Delegation members visited the NextGen District, a hub that will house and catalyze projects focused on low-carbon hydrogen production, renewable energy, and circular economy solutions.

"As the second-largest port in Europe, the Port

of Antwerp-Bruges is central to the European and global economy. We are committed to economy-based decarbonization, embracing new technologies, and serving as an incubator for cutting-edge climate and clean energy businesses through our NextGen District," said Wim Dillen, International Development Manager, Port of Antwerp-Bruges.

The port is positioning itself as a green energy hub, attracting partners to produce low-carbon hydrogen for industrial, maritime, and chemical sectors.

### Frontrunner in energy transition

#### Projects in sustainable energy, industry and transport



##### Sustainable Energy



Onshore wind and solar production



Backbones for sustainable flows (H2, CO2, waste heat & steam)



Hydrogen Import Coalition / Pilots



##### Sustainable Industry



NextGen District – hotspot for circular Economy



Antwerp@C – CCUS



Local industry investing in change (CCUS, Efficiency, Circularity, Bio)



##### Sustainable Transport



Multi Fuel Port – alternative fuels on offer



Electrification and automation of terminal activities



Tugboats on H2, methanol and electricity



Multimodal and efficient transport



## Key projects include:

- Zero-emission tugs powered by electric batteries, methanol, and the world's first hydrogen-powered tug.
- Plug's green hydrogen plant in the NextGen District, which will use local solar and wind energy to produce liquid and gaseous hydrogen for the European market.
- HyoffWind's plant in Zeebrugge, converting renewable energy into green hydrogen for industrial use, the gas, export, and electricity grid balancing by 2026.
- Air Liquide's ENHANCE Project in Antwerp, supported by €110 million European Innovation Fund grant, producing and distributing low-carbon and renewable hydrogen derived from ammonia. Air Liquide is also a partner in the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub, with a project planned at Port Morrow, Oregon.

## Takeaway

As maritime and trade-based economies, Washington state and the Port of Antwerp-Bruges are ideal partners as we navigate a shared course toward decarbonized port operations.



Port of Antwerp-Bruges

# Day 4

## Chasing Time at the Bíó Paradís

We were honored to host the first screening of *Chasing Time* in Iceland at Reykjavík's premier art house cinema, Bíó Paradís. The 40-minute documentary is a meditative exploration of time and mortality, following James Balog and his crew as they bring the decades-long photographic record of receding glaciers to a close, cataloging more than one million images in the process. The film reunites James and the team behind *Chasing Ice* to capture the end of the epic undertaking and spotlight the power of an intergenerational effort to seed hope and inspire action toward a sustainable future.

Thank you to Seattle-based film producers Linda and David Cornfield, acclaimed director Jeff Orlowski-Yang (*Chasing Ice*, *Chasing Coral*, *The Social Dilemma*), first-time filmmaker Sarah Keo and Exposure Labs for making this screening available for our study mission.



### CHASING TIME SCREENING

Thursday, May 29, 2025 • Bíó Paradís, Reykjavik  
Reception at 18:00 • Screening at 19:30



Seattle-based Executive Producers Linda A. Cornfield and David J. Cornfield, acclaimed director Jeff Orlowski-Yang (*Chasing Ice*, *Chasing Coral*, *The Social Dilemma*), first-time filmmaker Sarah Keo and Exposure Labs have made this screening available for our Clean & Prosperous Institute's Study Mission. The 40-minute documentary is a meditative exploration of time and mortality, following photographer James Balog as he brings the 15-year Extreme Ice Survey project to a close, cataloging more than one million images in the process. The screening will include members of the Seattle-Reykjavik Sister City Association.





# Day 5

## Powering Iceland on Renewable Energy

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*Hellisheiði Power Station*

The delegation visited the Geothermal Business Park and received a briefing from [ON Power](#) - the largest geothermal energy provider in Iceland - about their work to advance sustainable energy. Iceland's two largest forms of renewable energy - hydropower and geothermal - are abundant and extremely relevant to Washington state.

It was an incredible opportunity to learn from a country run almost entirely on renewable energy! While it sounds hard to fathom, this is no exaggeration: 85 percent of Iceland's primary energy supply is generated from domestically produced renewables. For electricity, it is essentially 100 percent.



*Steam used to create geothermal power is visible at the Geothermal Business Park outside Reykjavík, Iceland*



# Capturing Carbon at the World's Largest DAC Site

On the final day of our study mission, the delegation toured the [Climeworks Mammoth facility](#) in Iceland, which is the largest direct air capture (DAC) site in the world.

DAC is a process by which carbon dioxide is removed directly from the atmosphere and is often stored in some capacity. DAC - particularly in the United States - is a nascent industry, and we're still determining the role it will play in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Powered by 100 percent renewable geothermal energy, Mammoth can capture up to 36,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year which is ten times more than Climeworks' earlier Orca facility.

## Permanent Carbon Storage Through Mineralization

Delegates learned how Climeworks partners with Icelandic company CarbFix to permanently store captured CO<sub>2</sub> in Iceland's basalt-rich geology. The process involves:

- 1. DISSOLUTION:** CO<sub>2</sub> is mixed with water to form a carbonated solution
- 2. INJECTION:** The solution is injected deep into basalt rock formations.
- 3. MINERALIZATION:** CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with minerals to form stable carbonates, locking it away within two years.



*Geothermal Power and Carbon Capture in Iceland - Climeworks' Mammoth facility*

CarbFix has shown that more than 95 percent of injected CO<sub>2</sub> mineralizes within this timeframe, offering highly secure, long-term storage.

CarbFix is part of a consortium exploring the feasibility of a direct air capture hub in the Pacific Northwest. The project, known as the Ankeron hub, aims to establish a scalable and cost-effective model for carbon removal in the region, as the Pacific Northwest offers significant geological advantages for CO<sub>2</sub> storage, particularly through the Columbia River Basalt Group. Last year, Clean & Prosperous Institute and our [Study Mission 4.0 delegation](#) were briefed on the Ankeron hub project by Washington State University researchers.



*Geothermal Power and Carbon Capture in Iceland*

"At Carbfix, we provide a revolutionary solution to convert CO<sub>2</sub> into stone within two years. Our technology is at the forefront of carbon storage and plays an important role in addressing the effects of climate change by mineralizing CO<sub>2</sub> permanently. Carbfix - with our partners Climeworks and ON Power - was proud to host the study mission delegation and showcase our technology in co-operation with our partners in carbon capture. We are committed to working with international partners like Washington

state to forge effective, science-based climate solutions," said Madalyn Blondes, Head of North American Project Development and Stakeholder Relations, Carbfix USA.

In 2022, Microsoft and Climeworks signed a 10-year offtake agreement under which Climeworks will remove 10,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually on behalf of Microsoft. Microsoft's Climate Innovation Fund has also provided financial backing to Climeworks, supporting the development and scaling of its DAC technology.

## Takeaway

A recent study by the Committee on Industry, Research, and Energy with the European Parliament found that there is a strategic role for DAC in meeting climate goals, but it must be paired with a continued commitment to ambitious emissions reductions through electrification. Additionally, the [Kleinman Center for Energy Policy recently released a policy and decision-making rubric](#) to help lawmakers, businesses, and communities determine how to deploy carbon capture technology like DAC effectively and sustainably.

Advanced technologies like carbon capture and storage require initial investment from the public sector to test, streamline, and eventually scale products so they can become profitable and sustainable. The EU Innovation Fund - and recently canceled U.S. Department of Energy grants - are vital to allowing cutting-edge climate science the opportunity to grow.

# Study Mission Delegation Members

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## Tribal Elected Officials

### **Honorable Bill Iyall, Chairman, Cowlitz Indian Tribe**

William (Bill) Iyall, P.E., first served as Cowlitz Chairman in 2008, and was subsequently re-elected for four consecutive terms, until his initial retirement in 2020. Under Chairman Iyall's leadership, the Tribe established their reservation in Ridgefield, WA in 2015, and eventually opened their Casino Resort, ilani, in 2017. In 2024, Chairman Iyall was re-elected for his second term as Cowlitz Chairman, and he looks forward to leading the Tribe again on a course toward deepened prosperity, economic opportunity, and self-determination. Chairman Iyall received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from St. Martin's University and was named Saint Martin's University Distinguished Alumni for Professional Achievement in 2022. He is also a United States Army Veteran and worked as a licensed Professional Engineer for the City of Tacoma's Public Works and Public Utility Departments for 35 years.

### **Honorable Dean Reynolds, Tribal Council Member, Cowlitz Indian Tribe**

Dean Reynolds is an elected Council Member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and directs the tribe's Public Works department. Under Reynolds' leadership, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe is decarbonizing its building operations and transportation, installing - among other projects - a 125kW micro-grid at its transportation building.

## Washington State Elected Officials

### **Honorable Marko Liias, Senator, Washington State Legislature**

Sen. Liias is currently serving his third term as a senator representing the 21st Legislative District which includes neighborhoods in Edmonds,

Everett, Lynnwood, and Mukilteo. As chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Liias championed the 2022 Move Ahead Washington transportation package which will invest nearly \$17 billion in transportation resources across the state over the next 16 years while creating quality, family-wage jobs. He is the Co-Chair of the LGBTQ Caucus and has led the effort to protect LGBTQ youth and communities across the state.

### **Honorable Sharon Shewmake, Senator, Washington State Legislature**

Sen. Shewmake chairs the Washington State Senate Environment, Energy and Technology Committee and represents the 42nd Legislative District in and around Bellingham. She is an associate professor at Western Washington University in the College of Business and Economics, with a focus on environmental economics and energy policy.

### **Honorable Stephanie Barnard, Representative, Washington State Legislature**

Rep. Barnard represents the 8th Legislative District in the Tri-Cities. She is the Ranking Member of the Technology, Economic Development & Veterans Committee in the Washington State House of Representatives. Rep. Barnard also is a co-chair of the Nuclear Energy Caucus.

### **Honorable Beth Doglio, Representative, Washington State Legislature**

Rep. Doglio is currently serving her fourth term representing the 22nd Legislative District in Washington state and her second term as Chair of the House Environment & Energy Committee. She has worked at Climate Solutions for 20 years, a Northwest-based clean energy nonprofit. In addition, she served as the first Executive Director of Washington Conservation Voters and worked for Pro-Choice Washington, Audubon Washington, and Seattle Public Utilities.



**Honorable Mary Dye, Representative,  
Washington State Legislature**

Rep. Dye serves as the ranking member on the House Environment & Energy Committee where significant and consequential economic policy has been considered. She also serves on both the Appropriations and Capital Budget Committees.

**Honorable Jake Fey, Representative,  
Washington State Legislature**

Elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 2012, Rep. Fey currently serves as Chair of the House Transportation Committee and as a member of the House Environment & Energy Committee. He has been a leader in the Legislature, introducing the Green Transportation bill in 2019 which helped the switch to electric vehicles and cleaner fuels. In 2022, Rep. Fey led his colleagues in passage of the \$17 billion, 16-year Move Ahead Washington transportation package.

**Honorable Chris Stearns, Representative,  
Washington State Legislature**

Rep. Stearns serves in the Washington State House of Representatives and is the Speaker Pro Tempore. He represents the 47th Legislative District, is the Vice Chair of State Government & Tribal Relations Committee and is a member of the Environment & Energy Committee. Rep. Stearns is also co-chair of the Nuclear Energy Caucus and chairs the House Members of Color Caucus.

**Honorable Megan Dunn, Councilmember,  
Snohomish County**

As a community leader and environmental health advocate, Councilmember Dunn has spent her career collaborating with community members to address complex issues facing Snohomish County. In her last four years on the County Council, Dunn has been voted into several leadership roles, including Council Chair, Chair of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and Vice Chair of the Growth Management Board of Puget Sound Regional Council.

**Honorable Reuven Carlyle,  
Former Washington State Senator**

Former Sen. Carlyle served 14 years in the State Legislature, ending his tenure as the Chair of the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee. Carlyle was the author of the Climate Commitment Act, and during his years as committee chair, the Legislature adopted the Climate Commitment Act, Clean Fuel Standard, and the HEAL Act (which advances environmental justice and equity). Carlyle also prime sponsored the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) which requires all electric utilities to transition to a 100 percent, carbon-neutral electricity supply by 2030. Carlyle is the founder of Earth Finance and serves on the board of Clean & Prosperous Institute.

**Business, Labor,  
and Policy Leaders****Casey Sixkiller, Director, Washington State  
Department of Ecology**

As Director, Sixkiller oversees a biennial budget of \$2.8 billion and a workforce of 2,200 employees dedicated to protecting Washington's air, land, and water. Before joining Ecology, Casey served as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10, where he led efforts to protect human health and the environment across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and 271 Tribal nations. His work focused on scaling climate solutions, modernizing water infrastructure, and advancing environmental justice.

**Marissa Aho, Director, King County Executive  
Climate Office**

Marissa Aho, AICP serves as the Director of the King County Executive Climate Office. She leads a growing team that is charged with advancing and accelerating climate action to make a more sustainable, equitable and resilient King County. Marissa previously served as Policy Director/ Chief Resilience Officer for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. She started her public service career in 2015 when she became the first Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Los Angeles. She also served as Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Houston after Hurricane Harvey.

**Justin Allegro, Policy Director,  
The Nature Conservancy in Washington**

Justin Allegro is the Policy Director for the Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Washington. He co-leads the chapter's Climate Policy and Implementation strategy, which includes assuring effective implementation of Washington's Climate Commitment Act, promoting and enabling the deployment of well-sited clean energy at pace and scale, and more. Prior to joining TNC in 2019, he spent six years as a manager at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and nine years as an environmental lobbyist in Washington, D.C.

**Brian Bonlender, Principal, Lodestar Partners**

Brian Bonlender is the founding principal of Lodestar Partners, a government and public affairs firm. He has over 25 years of experience in politics, public policy, and management across public and private sectors. Brian served as Director of the Washington State Department of Commerce under former Governor Jay Inslee, leading major clean energy and infrastructure initiatives. He was also Inslee's congressional chief of staff and legislative director.

**Cassie Bordelon, Executive Director,  
Climate Jobs Washington**

Cassie Bordelon has served as the Executive Director of Climate Jobs Washington (CJWA) since June 2024. Previous to this role she was the State Government Affairs Manager at Puget Sound Energy, the state's largest investor owned utility. Cassie has been working in government affairs in Washington state for over ten years. Over this time she has gained experience working with competing stakeholder groups including cross-sector partnerships to reform permitting and siting land use planning efforts involving state, local, NGO, and private industry interests.

**Jeremy Butzlaff, President, MTRWESTERN**

Over the past decade, Jeremy's intellectual curiosity and desire to affect both climate and industry change has led him to become a leader within the battery operated/EV world of mass-passenger transportation. In August of 2023, MTRWESTERN, along with their partners Amtrak/WSDOT, became the first privately-

owned carrier in North America to operate a 100 percent battery-electric motor coach in an intercity/interstate fixed route service. Since then, MTRWESTERN has introduced four additional 100 percent battery-electric vehicles to its fleet and will add another eight by the end of 2027. MTRWESTERN is a leader in college and professional sports travel and is the first charter company to introduce battery-electric buses to professional and college sports teams as well as corporate shuttle clients.

**Mel Clark, President and CEO,  
CleanTech Alliance**

Mel Clark is the President and CEO of the CleanTech Alliance, where she connects the clean technology ecosystem to drive innovation, economic development, and public policy to accelerate clean technology adoption. She has been in nonprofit leadership for 25 years, has two adult children, and loves to bake, snorkel, dive, and travel.

**Meredith Connolly, Director of Policy and  
Strategy, Climate Solutions**

Meredith brings over a decade of climate policy experience to her work advocating for innovative and equitable policy solutions to create a thriving clean energy economy across the Northwest. Meredith previously served as Climate Solutions' Oregon State Director, and helped pass key laws to transition Oregon's electric grid to 100 percent clean energy and electrify the buildings and transportation sectors. Before that, she advanced renewable energy and climate resilience policies in the U.S. and internationally as a Climate and Energy Attorney at Natural Resources Defense Council. Before NRDC, Meredith practiced law in the private sector.

**Christine Cooley, Executive Director, Puget  
Sound Clean Air Agency**

Christine Cooley currently serves as the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. She spearheads initiatives focused on environmental justice and sustainable air quality improvements across King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. Currently, the Agency is leading a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan in coordination with the state's plan, a future resource for decision-making for Climate Commitment Act investments.



**Joel Creswell, Climate Pollution Reduction Program Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology**

Joel Creswell is the Climate Pollution Reduction Program Manager at the Washington State Department of Ecology, where he oversees a team of dedicated staff who carry out the agency's greenhouse gas mitigation programs, including the cap-and-invest program, the Clean Fuel Standard, the Zero Emissions Vehicles program, and the Hydrofluorocarbon Reduction Program, along with the state's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. He is a climate policy expert with a Ph.D. in environmental science and a career spanning the public, private, and academic sectors. His background includes over a decade of environmental field research, federal positions at the Environmental Protection Agency and the House of Representatives, and positions in regional and state governments in Washington.

**Mallorie Davies, State Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Washington & Northern Idaho District Council of Laborers**

The Washington and Northern Idaho District Council of Laborers, affiliated with LiUNA, represents over 13,000 members in the construction industry. They champion energy projects across Washington, advocating for sustainable growth and strong labor standards. Through solidarity, the Council invests in communities and each other, building a stronger future. Their robust apprenticeship and cutting-edge training programs equip workers with the skills needed to lead in the future of clean energy.

**Maggie Douglas, State Government Relations Manager, Puget Sound Energy**

Maggie is the state government affairs manager with Puget Sound Energy. Her portfolio includes land use and permitting, transmission, and clean energy. Prior to PSE, she served as nonpartisan staff to the Washington State Senate.

**Ian Goepferd, Vice President, CenTrio Energy**

Ian Goepferd is the Vice President & General Manager of CenTrio in Seattle. CenTrio is a District Energy provider that delivers steam heating to over 100 buildings in downtown Seattle and on First Hill. Ian joined CenTrio in 2023 to advance their efforts to decarbonize

District Energy in Seattle. Ian leads a team in Seattle that generates steam in two locations downtown, including one in historic Pioneer Square. In addition to steam generation, CenTrio maintains 19 miles of distribution piping under the streets of Seattle under a franchise agreement with the City of Seattle that dates back over 130 years.

**Dr. Angela Griffin, Executive Director, Byrd Barr Place**

Dr. Griffin leads Byrd Barr Place, a historic community action agency founded in 1964, with a mission to build an equitable Washington through innovative programs and advocacy. With over 30 years of experience, she is widely recognized for her commitment to racial and social justice, excelling in strategic initiatives, fundraising, and community engagement. Dr. Griffin serves on various boards, including as an elected official on the Washington State Board of Education, and holds a doctorate in education and organizational leadership from Seattle University.

**Austin Hicks, Principal, Admiral Strategies**

Austin leads Admiral Strategies, providing public affairs, government relations and strategic communications services to clients across the Pacific Northwest. His work has spanned across the sectors of industrial development, energy and transmission, housing, land use, Tribal nations, local governments, and more. Austin started his career working for Washington state's federal delegation in Washington D.C. and prior to that, as a deckhand on a commercial salmon fishing boat in Southeast Alaska.

**Isaac Kastama, Managing Partner, Water Street Public Affairs LLC**

Isaac is the Managing Partner of Water Street Public Affairs LLC, a public affairs firm representing diverse clients in energy and business. Isaac has built effective coalitions of regulated industries and environmental interests and has over 10 years of experience representing clients in Washington. He had deep involvement in the legislative process to enact the 100 percent Clean Electricity Standard, Clean Fuel Standard, and Climate Commitment Act, and continues to engage in policy implementation. Isaac leads advocacy efforts as a member of the Clean & Prosperous Washington team.

**Molly Keenan, Principal, MK Strategies**

Molly is a public affairs professional with nearly 15 years of experience in politics, policy, and advocacy. She leads MK Strategies and chairs Evergreen Action, a leading climate organization. Molly has held key roles advising former Washington Governor Jay Inslee, including managing his 2020 reelection campaign and serving as operations director for his presidential bid. A dedicated climate advocate, she was a senior advisor for the No on 2117 campaign protecting Washington's Climate Commitment Act and works to advance clean energy and electric vehicle policies. Earlier in her career, she held positions with Congresswoman Suzan DelBene and U.S. Senators Max Baucus, Patty Murray, and Jon Tester.

**Charles Knutson, Senior Manager  
Public Policy, Amazon**

Charles Knutson serves as Senior Manager, Public Policy at Amazon and leads Amazon's government affairs in Washington state. Prior to this, Charles served as Senior Advisor for Innovation and Global Affairs to former Washington Governor Jay Inslee. In this role, he provided strategic counsel to the Governor on economic development and international issues, led policy initiatives and worked with the Washington State Departments of Commerce, Transportation and Revenue, other agencies, the Legislature, tribes and stakeholders to grow jobs across the state.

**Amanda Lomasney, Public Works Programs  
Manager, Cowlitz Indian Tribe**

Amanda Lomasney has served the Cowlitz Indian Tribe for five years under the leadership of Public Works Director Dean Reynolds. In that time, she has been instrumental in securing over \$30 million in grant and federal funding to support key Tribal initiatives. More than \$20 million of that funding has been allocated to innovative clean energy projects—including large-scale solar arrays and electric vehicle (EV) charging hubs—positioning the Cowlitz Indian Tribe at the forefront of sustainable infrastructure development in the region.

**Alyssa Macy, CEO,  
Washington Conservation Action**

Alyssa Macy (she/her), CEO of Washington Conservation Action (WCA) and a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, leads with a strong commitment to environmental justice and tribal sovereignty. Under her leadership, WCA has evolved into a multicultural, justice-focused organization. Formerly her nation's COO, she managed \$33 million in tribal programs and resources. Alyssa has spent over 20 years advancing democracy in Indian Country and a decade advocating for Indigenous rights on the global stage. She served on the United Nations (UN) Indigenous Global Steering Committee for the first UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and received the 2023 Indigenous Leadership Award from Ecotrust. A breast cancer thriver and photographer, she finds joy exploring the outdoors.

**Richard Martinez, SVP Director of  
Municipal and Specialty Banking, Kitsap Bank**

Rich joined Kitsap Bank in 2016 where he specializes in closing complex commercial and municipal solar energy transactions around the U.S. while building out the bank's CPACER capabilities. He has been an active board member of the Virginia Mason Health System. He currently serves on the Virginia Mason CHI Foundation, the Yakima Memorial Hospital boards and the American Lake Special District Board.

**David Mendoza, Director of Policy &  
Government Relations, The Nature  
Conservancy**

David leads state and federal government relations, policy and communications staff. Prior to TNC, he was the founder of Inclusive Solutions, a policy, advocacy and communications consulting firm. While representing environmental justice organizations, David conceived of and led the development of the now enacted HEAL Act, Washington's foundational environmental justice law. He also served as a Co-Chair of the state Environmental Justice Task Force and is now a member of Washington state's first Environmental Justice Council.



**Clayton Munnings, Executive Director,  
Clean and Prosperous California**

Clayton is the Executive Director of Clean and Prosperous California, an organization that examines carbon pricing through an economic lens by synthesizing scientific evidence from the literature and using economic thinking to produce new research. He has written climate laws for top-emitting countries, built carbon offset quality assurance frameworks for large companies, and designed investment strategies for novel approaches to climate finance. Previously, Clayton held roles as Researcher and Portfolio Manager at Kepos Capital LP, Economist in the Executive Office of the California Air Resources Board, Senior Research Associate at Resources for the Future, Short Term Consultant at the World Bank, and Youth Delegate to the UNFCCC for SustainUS.

**Sean O'Brien, Executive Director,  
Energy Forward Alliance**

Sean V. O'Brien is Executive Director of the Energy Forward Alliance (EFA), a clean energy nonprofit subsidiary of the Tri-City Development Council. EFA is a community-formed organization driving clean energy innovation and partnerships in the Tri-Cities region to secure a reliable and sustainable clean energy future. He is the former Executive Director of the Congressional Western Caucus, a coalition of more than 100 Members of Congress whose mission is to represent the voices of rural communities across the country in Washington, D.C.

**Gregg Small, Executive Director,  
Climate Solutions**

Gregg Small has served as the Executive Director of Climate Solutions since 2008. Gregg brings 32 years of experience working on climate, environmental, and public policy issues, including nearly 30 as an Executive Director. At Climate Solutions, Gregg oversees a staff of more than three dozen policy experts, campaigners, innovators, and researchers across Washington and Oregon, providing strategic direction for one of the most effective regional climate and clean economy organizations in the nation. Under his leadership, Climate Solutions and their many allies have successfully passed some of the best climate policies in the United States.

**Jasmine Smith, Director of Local Advocacy,  
Futurewise**

Futurewise works throughout Washington state to encourage healthy, equitable and opportunity-rich communities, and to protect our most valuable farmlands, forests, and water resources through wise land use policies and practices. As Director of Local Advocacy, Jasmine coordinates and leads on coalition-building and campaigns across the region as Co-Chair of the Complete Communities Coalition, staff for the Eastside Housing Roundtable, and supporting work of community partners in Casino Road, Everett.

**Sheila Stickel, President,  
Seattle Sister Cities - Reykjavík, Iceland**

Sheila Stickel is the founder of Advocacy Northwest and is recognized leader in public affairs, grassroots advocacy, and coalition-building across the Pacific Northwest. She has spent more than 25 years helping organizations, companies, causes, and campaigns build momentum, shape public opinion, and win lasting change. She specializes in grassroots mobilization, lobbying, and strategic communications for causes ranging from healthcare, housing, and energy to transportation and climate policy. Sheila played a key role in Washington's historic same-sex marriage campaign and now serves as External Relations Director for the National Nordic Museum. She is also President of Seattle Sister Cities – Reykjavík, Iceland, strengthening international cultural and civic partnerships.

**Jan Thijssen, Board Member,  
Clean & Prosperous Institute**

Jan has been a board member of Clean & Prosperous Institute since its inception. He is also an independent consultant, advising clients in the financial and energy sectors on sustainable energy technologies and markets.

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David J and Linda A Cornfield



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