ACTION SHEET, DECEMBER 2019

Monthly Meeting, Saturday, December 14, 2019
10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Two Ways to Join

- To connect by video conference, go to http://cclusa.org/meeting
  Note: To improve audio/video quality, close all applications and other browser windows
  Note: Read this Zoom doc to see how to turn on closed captions and adjust the font size
- To connect by phone: If you have unlimited calling, please call 1-646-558-8656; otherwise you can call toll-free at 1-877-369-0926. Enter 2017-2017-17 as the meeting ID.
  If you have problems connecting, please contact Zoom’s 24/7 support at 888-799-9666.

Carolyn Woo - Former CEO of Catholic Relief Services

Our December guest knows something about leveraging the power of the faith community to address climate change. Earlier this year, Carolyn Woo spearheaded a dialogue at the Pontifical Academy of the Sciences on “The Energy Transition and Care for Our Common Home.” At the conclusion of the event, leaders from the energy sector and the global investment community released a statement saying, "The combination of policies and carbon pricing mechanisms should be designed in a way that simultaneously delivers innovation and investment in low carbon solutions while assisting those who are least able to pay." Woo, currently a Distinguished President’s Fellow for Global Development at Purdue University, served as President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services from 2012 to 2016. She was featured in the May/June 2013 issue of Foreign Policy as one of the 500 Most Powerful people on the planet and one of only 33 in the category of “a force for good.”

Actions

1. Engage local faith-based congregations to take action
2. Lead with the holiday season in your letter to the editor
3. Bonus action: Fundraise this giving season to support our work

If your Action Sheet is printed and you’d like to be able to click the links, you can download this Action Sheet at cclusa.org/actionsheet. There’s a Spanish version of the Action Sheet there too!
Engage local faith-based congregations to take action

G R A S S R O O T S & G R A S S T O P S A C T I O N

Faith leaders are important voices in the community and in congressional offices. That must be why we have action teams for 11 different traditions! We encourage you to explore how your chapter could increase your faith outreach this month.

The first step is to map out the relationships that your chapter members have in the faith community and then create an action plan for developing those relationships into greater support for climate action and ultimately for H.R.763.

Grassroots action plan

A congregation’s sustainability, social justice or care of creation committee is often a good grassroots supporter and may welcome your guidance. To start a conversation with a committee leader or member:

- Appreciate their work, identify shared values, and explore common concerns and activities
- Discuss ways that your CCL chapter and congregants might have fun and be productive working together
- When the relationship is ready, broach the idea of a climate movie screening, panel or a presentation

If you are able to schedule a brief presentation to the committee, a few congregants, or the whole congregation, consider including some of these easy grassroots actions:

1. Ask attendees to take a small action right away by using their smartphone to call or write to their Representative and Senators about H.R.763 using our tools, cclusa.org/call and cclusa.org/write or fill out a constituent comment form.
2. Invite everyone to join the CCL mailing list, attend our Wednesday night Information Session, and sign up for CCL text alerts to receive quick and easy calls to action in the future.

Grasstops action plan

To get ready to talk to faith leaders, who are often good grasstops supporters, start with these steps:

- Prepare to describe the Energy Innovation Act and its benefits and to explain CCL’s core values.
- Learn about the faith leader so that you can arrive prepared with appreciation and common values.
- Connect and determine their level of interest in climate change. During your first meeting, express appreciation, ask questions, and look for where you might work together.
- When the relationship is ready for it, work with your faith leader to determine with them an action that will show support for the Energy Innovation Act. Scheduling a call or a meeting with their Representative or Senator is especially persuasive. Endorsing the bill at energyinnovationact.org is another option.

Resources

- Attend this Faith Outreach CCU live on December 19, or after December 19, watch the recording
- CCL Community’s Outreach to Faith Communities training page
- CCL Community’s Engaging Community Leaders training page
Lead with the holiday season in your letter to the editor

MEDIA ACTION

As we wind up 2019, people of many beliefs will gather and celebrate, and at CCL we should likewise rejoice in our success advocating climate solutions. The Energy Innovation Act was reintroduced in the House and gathered 74 cosponsors (as of 12/6), it was endorsed by 1,200+ prominent community leaders across all 50 states, and it earned coverage in major national news media. This is a terrific time to write letters to the editor (LTEs) for your local newspaper to highlight the Energy Innovation Act.

Action

Take five minutes at your meeting to start drafting LTEs. Here are some seasonal ideas to get you started:

● **The Perfect Gift**. If your Representative has not cosponsored the bill, start by saying that the perfect gift this holiday season would be for your Representative to cosponsor H.R.763. Name your Representative in your LTE so that the Congressional office staff will see your letter. If Representatives in your area have cosponsored the bill, mention them by name and thank them.

● **Gathering with Community**. Around the world people will gather with their families and communities this month, and growing numbers of people agree that climate action is needed. Congress could help the United States lead the world by supporting the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

● **New Year’s Resolution**. If your New Year’s Resolution will be to take action on climate, your LTE could call on Congress to make climate a bridge issue and support H.R.763.

Get more chapter members involved

● Encourage new volunteers to work with a buddy to write their first letter to the editor.

● Support each other by reviewing each other’s letters and giving feedback.

● If your newspaper has decreased its space for opinions, discover new, small and online-only newspapers and submit an LTE to all of them using our online LTE tool cclusa.org/lte.

When you are published

1. Celebrate with your chapter and share your letter with your member of Congress, if appropriate.
2. With the hashtag #GrassrootsClimate, share on your social media a link to, or a picture of, your letter.
3. Notify your chapter’s field reporter so that they can submit a field report.

Resources

● CCL Community’s [Writing Effective Letters to the Editor](https://www.cclusa.org) training page

● CCL Community’s [Working with the Media](https://www.cclusa.org) Sitewide Forum and [Print Media Action Team](https://www.cclusa.org)

Fundraise this giving season to support our work

BONUS SOCIAL MEDIA ACTION

Help us reach our [Year-End Appeal](https://www.cclusa.org) goal of $500,000 by December 31st! Post on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to remind friends, family and colleagues to contribute to our climate solutions work through your [Facebook Fundraiser](https://www.cclusa.org). If you didn’t create a Facebook Fundraiser, it’s not too late and it’s easy to do! If you don’t use Facebook, email is a great way to invite others to donate and you can direct them to our [landing page](https://www.cclusa.org).
LASER TALK EXERCISE

Dr. Noah Kaufman and his team at Columbia University have published an exciting new report that projects the outcomes of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R.763.

**Exercise**

Pair up with another volunteer and take turns reading aloud the laser talk paragraphs below and then say aloud in your own words what you remember and want to use.

**Laser Talk - Benefits of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**

The Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP) recently released an analysis of H.R.763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

This milestone report concludes that H.R.763 would cut net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 36 to 38 percent by 2030 (from 2005 levels), exceeding U.S. commitments under the Paris Agreement. It would also improve Americans’ health by reducing sulfur and mercury emissions by an eye-popping 95 percent and smog-forming NOx emissions by 75 percent.

Under this bill, CGEP says, electric power generation would rapidly shift to low- and zero-carbon sources including solar, wind, nuclear, and natural gas with carbon capture and storage.

They also confirmed that the carbon dividend would, as CCL has long argued, cushion energy price impacts for consumers. Overall, the dividends paid would be comparable to the increased energy costs, but low and middle-income households would receive more in dividends than they pay in higher prices.

The main message from the CGEP report is that a price on carbon is a uniquely cost-effective policy tool because it incentivizes emissions reductions wherever and however they can be achieved, and does so at the lowest cost. That’s why economists overwhelmingly support a price on carbon as the most powerful first step to addressing climate change.

**Resource**

Columbia University Report, [An Assessment of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act](#)