

Environmental Caucus's Green New Deal

Statewide Listening Sessions

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Executive Summary

The Green New Deal (GND) team of the Environmental Caucus coordinated a series of listening sessions with DPO party members and other concerned activists across Oregon. The purpose was to create a space to share the issues that communities are experiencing in their county from climate change, as well as their ideas for solutions and obstacles faced in implementing those solutions.

Nearly 100 Oregonians participated in these virtual listening sessions and 90 more took an online survey to share their concerns and insights. We heard from people in 28 of Oregon's 36 counties about issues ranging from water quality and quantity, forest management, and climate misinformation. Nearly every listening session's top environmental concerns addressed **water** quality, quantity and management, **forest/land management** and its impacts on natural resources and local economies, and the effects of **wildfires** and smoke on communities. Some key solutions that regions wanted to see for these issues were increased use of **renewable energy sources**, better **water planning and conservation**, and maximizing **carbon sequestration**. Consistently, we heard obstacles around **misinformation** and the lack of education on climate issues as well as frustration with **industry money** in campaign finance and politics, and lack of **community resources** to address local issues.

We hope this report guides those concerned with climate and other environmental issues in Oregon and can be a resource at a local and state level. At the end of the report is a list of resources and contacts. There is more work to be done in engaging more diverse and underrepresented audiences, which the GND and Environmental Caucus looks forward to continuing its efforts on.

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Description of the Listening Series

The Green New Deal (GND) team of the Environmental Caucus initiated a series of listening sessions with DPO party members and other concerned activists across Oregon. The purpose was to create a space to share the issues that they are experiencing in their county from climate change, as well as their concepts for solutions and obstacles faced.

The GND team structured the listening series by region in order to have a manageable number of sessions for available volunteers. Counties were divided into five regions, as follows.

- Central: Crook, Deschutes, Hood River, Jefferson, and Wasco
- Eastern: Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, and Union
- North Coast: Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, and Tillamook
- Southwestern: Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson and Lane
- Willamette Valley: Benton, Clackamas, Linn, Marion, Polk, Washington and Yamhill

Team

DPO Green New Deal members Xanthia Wolland (GND chair), Harriet Cooke, Sally DeSipio Jaiden Fire, Scott Shurtleff, and Catherine Thomasson planned, organized and conducted these listening sessions. Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers for their many hours of work.

We also thank County Party leaders for helping with publicizing the listening sessions to their membership and within their communities.

Session Structure

Sessions were conducted via the Zoom platform, with registration required for the event. A consistent 90-minute program was used for each session ([slide deck here](#)). The program had three main sections. A brief overview of the Environmental Caucus, discussion about the impacts of climate change in the region in small groups with reports to the full group and the same for climate solutions and obstacles.

GND team volunteers took detailed notes during the full group reports.

Overall Findings

The following table presents the top impacts, solutions and obstacles for each region from 98 participants. A narrative of the common findings follows this table.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Top Issues</u>	<u>Top Solutions</u>	<u>Top Obstacles</u>
Central Crook, Deschutes, Hood River, Jefferson and Wasco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water supply - Agricultural practices - Forestry practices - Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water conservation - Update forest mgmt - Better messaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of public support - Misinformation - Influence of money
Eastern Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla and Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water supply - Education - Natural habitat - Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change crop selection - Water supply baseline / better water planning - Protect natural env. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient resources (financial and human)
North Coast Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln and Tillamook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water supply - Logging practices - Impact of tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funded resources accountable to plans - More education with better messaging - Campaign finance reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Misinformation - Poor messaging - Influence of money
Southwest Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson and Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water supply - Forest management - Economy & jobs - Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable forestry - Clean energy projects/jobs - Climate education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Influence of money - Individual interests
Willamette Valley Benton, Clackamas, Linn, Marion, Polk, Washington and Yamhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water supply - Forest management - Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water supply baseline / better water planning - Clean transportation infrastructure - Accountability to county climate plans - Center vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Misinformation - Poor messaging - Influence of money

		populations	
Survey Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water supply - Wildfire - Land management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased use of renewable energy - Electrifying transportation - Maximising carbon sequestration 	N/A

Water supply was the key issue raised by all of the state’s regions. Many regions are experiencing water shortages and degraded water quality. The specific causes of shortages vary by region, but generally boil down to reduced supply from drought and higher temperatures, overconsumption and pollution. Participants expressed an urgency to implement solutions to water supply issues in order to sustain human life, agriculture and natural habitat. Many expressed concern that there is a lack of information about the quantity of available water, inadequate water usage regulation and lack of local control over the water supply.

Water is highly connected with many other regional issues. Water supply is affected by forest management and logging practices. It is affected by agricultural practices, such as overhead irrigation in dry environments or water-intensive crop selection. It is affected by land use decisions, such as allowing water-intensive commercial operations. It is affected by tourism, which increases water consumption. Participants noted that water must be considered in all of our policy and economic decisions. The state needs to provide clear, scientifically-based guidance and regulation for local water districts, farmers and ranchers.

Wildfire and **forest management** were also major issues for many regions. There is a recognition that these three issues are related. Water shortages and extreme fires are seen as results of climate change. They are also results of extractive forestry practices, such as clear cutting (due to plantation growth) and industrial logging. Industrial logging affects the water supply, for both humans and natural habitat, across the state. Industrial logging and plantations are also seen as increasing wildfire frequency and intensity.

Improving Oregon’s forest and land management is an important solution across the state. This includes updating forestry practices, incentives for maintaining standing timber, growing and preserving mature forests, restoring forested lands, planting trees in rangelands and agricultural areas, public land ownership and more. Oregon forestry needs to embrace its role towards a “healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon” (Oregon OAR Rule 629-035-0020), rather than being dominated by the economic demands.

A **lack of public support for climate action** is an obstacle in most regions. The causes include a lack of awareness, fears of job loss, and misinformation from special interests. **Public**

education and **improved messaging** were suggested as solutions for increasing public support. Many participants recommended focusing our message on common needs, such as sufficient clean water, and mutual benefits, such as jobs from forest restoration work. People who disagree about climate change will agree about water.

The **influence of corporate and special interest money** at the state and local levels is a related obstacle. These interests have more influence on policy through their donations, as well as their ability to spread biased information at best or misinformation at worst. **Campaign-finance reform** is important to removing this major obstacle to climate action..

Findings by Region

Central: Crook, Deschutes, Hood River, Jefferson and Wasco

Impacts

Water supply is a major concern for all counties in the Central region, despite different water sources between the three interior counties (mountains, reservoir, wells) and the two along the Columbia River. Water shortages are affecting agriculture across the region, from vineyards and orchards in Hood River to farms and ranches in Deschutes and Jefferson. Water levels in Crook are extremely low.

The issues leading to water shortage are many and varied. All cited the ongoing drought as a contributor, but not the sole cause. Glacial melt resulting from higher temperatures is a big contributor for Hood River. Lack of snow and more rapid snow melt is a contributor for Crook.

Participants also identified human causes to the water shortage.

- Many farms use overhead spraying to irrigate crops wasting a lot of the water to evaporation in the dry high desert counties.
- Crop selection with high water-demand crops, such as alfalfa, is also a cause.
- Sedimentation caused by clear cutting reduces water quantity and quality in Hood River.
- Small, fragmented water districts are an issue.
- “Use it or lose it” water rights are a disincentive to water conservation and lead to waste. Hobby farms with senior water rights have an incentive to use all of their allocation, even if they don’t need it.

Agriculture is being affected by climate change.

- Extreme heat is damaging crops, including in Hood River’s orchards and farms in the high desert. Water demand is increased by heat.
- Fields in the high desert are lying fallow, which is an environmental disaster.

Agricultural practices are a concern:

- Overhead irrigation, water-intensive crops and general over-watering.

- “It’s even more problematic when we export water-intensive crops, because we’re fundamentally exporting our limited water supply.”
- Concentrated animal feed operations (CAFOs) are problematic for local air quality, water quality and methane emissions.

Forestry/BLM land practices are another major issue for the Central region. It’s an issue that is highly correlated with water quantity and quality.

- Logging practices can damage the watershed and reduce the supply, particularly clear cutting. Salvage logging after fire inhibits forest’s recovery.
- Excessive logging in Deschutes is damaging sagebrush ecosystems, contributing to wildlife loss and the spread of invasive species.
- Monoculture timber plantations increase the risk of severe wildfire, as well as affecting the water supply which is reduced in the first 10-15 years after replanting.
- Standing trees are not valued.
- Loss of sagebrush

Land use decisions, such as golf courses or server farms, are further affecting the region. Land use and water supply are closely related. Urban development expanding into the wilderness areas is reducing open space and increasing threat from fire by expanding the urban-wilderness interface.

Impact of tourism and outdoor recreation are concerns for Hood River and Deschutes.

- For Hood River, high traffic is resulting in air pollution from emissions and increasing water usage.
- Overuse of popular recreational areas is causing damage to ecosystems.

Adaptation is a priority. We need to protect people, especially vulnerable populations (elderly, outdoor workers), from extreme heat, wildfires, smoke and air pollution. **Public education** and countering misinformation is a big issue.

State and local government’s priorities are a concern, with economic development being the main focus.

- City and county officials don’t want to talk about climate policy.
- State representatives don’t acknowledge the water issues.
- Big money has too much influence in government, from developers and job opportunities from large corporations (i.e. server farms).

Solutions

Water supply:

- Water districts should create incentives for conserving water and penalties for wasting it. Monitor water usage. Meter all the water usage.
- Change “use it or lose it” water rights policies. Identify and limit use by hobby farms.
- Properly staff water districts for education and enforcement.

- Coordinate across water districts.
- Look at the innovative model for the Jefferson County North Unit water district, which is a collaboration with Warm Springs.

Agricultural practices:

- Help farms upgrade to more water-efficient irrigation practices.
- Change the crop mix to less water-intensive crops and stop exporting water-intensive crops.
- Enable wind turbines and solar farms on agricultural lands as an integrated use.
- Collaborate with farmers and ranchers to develop win-win programs.
- Change public land grazing policies to prevent exploitation and overuse. Buy out grazing rights.
- Plant trees on farmland for shade, carbon uptake, birds, insects.

Forestry practices:

- Update Oregon's forestry practices at least to the levels of Washington and Idaho.
- Increase staff for forestry (and BLM) at both state and federal levels with clear accountability to best practices.
- Create and fund jobs in forest management and natural resources management.
- Education and communications about the value of our forests for the water supply, the carbon cycle and fire management.
- Create an incentive for keeping standing trees.
- Protect publicly-owned forests from logging and development.

Land use: Protect public lands/Buy out grazing permits

Tourism:

- Stronger transportation emissions standards for Oregon.
- State-wide vehicle electrification with electric charging infrastructure

Adaptation and public education:

- Educate about home hardening, efficiency and landscape management.
- Provide low-income assistance for home hardening, energy efficiency and cooling.
- Prepare for wildfires, increase defensible space and improve emergency management.
- Improve forest education to the accepted science. Eliminate OFRI.
- Climate education and better basic science education in the schools.
- Communicate based on water, air, forests and fire protection, not climate change.

Government:

- Democrats should embrace water supply as a major issue.
- Campaign finance reform.
- Demand accountability to best practices at all levels.
- Form Green Banks (public banks) at the state and/or local levels to increase funding available for climate programs.

Obstacles

Public support is a major obstacle for the Central region. In general, people are not well-educated about climate change and not sufficiently concerned about it. People are resistant to change and stuck in an old mindset.

Communication and messaging are obstacles. Many people are resistant to anything perceived as a Democratic idea, so we can't center the conversation on climate change. We need to center the conversation on common values and what people care about: pointing out that conditions are dryer, water, air, forests and jobs.

The **influence of corporate and special interest money** at both the state and local levels is also an obstacle. Leaders and representatives don't want to talk about climate change. Monied interests, such as developers and corporate timber, get a louder voice.

Eastern

Harney-solo meeting; Group meeting: Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla and Union

Impacts

Water supply is a major concern for this region.

- Drawdown of underground water appears to be two times the recharge rate. Big growers are given permission to use water harming families and small water users.
- Concern about acres of farmland with alfalfa—a water intensive crop. Alfalfa is an export crop—it pays off for the owner but not the county.
- We're in a severe climate driven-drought. Hotter, windier weather requires more irrigation.
- "Criminal what has happened with the water". The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is very pro-business and pro-agriculture. Excuses to procrastinate. Too many permits allowed
- OWRD was supposed to establish a baseline. Started a study four years ago to establish a baseline but it's still not complete. 33 additional positions recently funded which is good, but not sure it will translate to improved regulations.
- So many people feel we own water. We don't. We have the privilege of using it.
- There is not that much guidance from OWRD about senior water rights. Farmers and ranchers are getting outraged from lack of clarity, Uncertainty and water shortage is a big problem for farmers and ranchers. When I plant my crops I need to know if I'm going to get water.

Infrastructure and education is a concern.

- Remote work (wifi connections) has to do a lot with keeping people here.
- To get industry here you need housing and if you want housing you need industry. Keeping young people working locally.

- Do we have the education of people here to do the jobs?
- Education about methane from livestock.

Invasive species/habitat diversity is important for climate.

- Need to encourage native, deep-rooted plants.
- Struggle with eastern invasives is an issue for fire. ODF is also looking at habitat, such as sage grouse and following loss of native habitat.
- Concerns over surface water and diversity of habitat in the region for migratory and breeding birds. Stopover habitat is also an issue. The Pacific flyway is treaty protected.
- Stop loopholes around natural resources.
- Habitat needed for both surface water quality and quantity and potentially for water supply recharge.

Solutions

Water supply: We need clear guidance from the State about how much water there is and how much we can use.

Infrastructure: We need funding for infrastructure, such as bicycle infrastructure.

Adaptation and public education:

- Create a refundable carbon tax with refunds for farmers who have to use a lot of gas.
- We need to encourage young people to get involved. Old folks need to be able to let go and trust.

Obstacles: Insufficient local funding for projects. Hoping that federal funding for infrastructure comes through..

North Coast: Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln and Tillamook

Impacts

Water issues are a major concern for Oregon's North Coast.

- Communities have a lack of control over the watersheds because many source their water from the forested areas, which are largely controlled by private timber companies.
- Coastal towns are experiencing salt water intrusion into ground-sourced drinking water.

The **timber industry** has a big impact on the North Coast's environment.

- Logging practices are having an adverse effect on both water quality and water quantity.
- Clear cutting reduces moisture in the environment, reduces the water supply and *increases* fire risk. It also increases the risk of landslides and threatens homes.
- Logging practices affect fisheries from sedimentation and herbicides in the streams. Salmon and other fish need cold, clean water.
- The industry has a high dependence on heavy machinery and trucking, which harms the environment. There are no rail yards for logging operations.

- Corporations create fear over job losses from regulation and changes to forest practice.
- Money from timber interests makes it very hard to organize locally.

Many expressed concern over **increasing forest fire risks**.

Tourism and short-term rentals are especially hard on the North Coast's resources. Tourists use a lot of water and create a lot of garbage.

There are **land use** concerns with new construction, especially commercial construction, in tsunami zones. There is insufficient regulation in the building codes.

Ocean acidification is damaging fisheries.

Political will is lacking at the local level. The public is apathetic about climate change. Local officials are busy. We have plans, but not the resources to execute our plans. Perception that climate change is being addressed at the state level. There are conflicts of interest with the needs to raise local revenue.

Solutions

Water issues:

- Towns should consider owning their own watersheds, such as Arch Cape.

Timber industry:

- We need stronger regulations and more enforcement of regulations that are in place.
- Create jobs in forest restoration instead of logging jobs.
- Check out solutions from the Coast Range Association (coastrange.org).

Education and Awareness:

- Create a resource that helps us communicate with the public and repeat the message. Communicate in terms of local benefits that affect people's lives, such as clean and abundant water, instead of talking about climate change.
- Hold communications at the community level with forums to find common ground. Find shared values and create a shared vision.
- Create a strong message to counter Timber Unity. Demonstrate how logging practices are harming peoples' lives and their families.
- Facts don't persuade people. You can't always change people's minds but you can ask about fears. When speaking to someone who is dug in, ask a question about their fear that leads to "loosen up the soil of their mind".
- Educate tourists about taking care of the environment so that it's here in the future.

Government:

- Communities need help diversifying their job markets. Create other sources of jobs beyond logging.
- Campaign finance reform to reduce the influence of corporate money in state and local politics.
- “We need someone in each county and resources to go to - Collaborative resources. I wish we had resources of climate plans that have already been done so that we are not reinventing the wheel and people can get excited about, instead of starting from scratch.
- ”We need committed resources at the local level to execute our climate action plans. Even when there is a plan, no one can implement it. Resources on whose job is it to deal with these issues!”

Obstacles

- Misinformation and public apathy.
- In each meeting we come down to - this is no one's job - city employees are busy.
- Corporate money's influence on public discourse and political processes.
- Fear of job loss.

Southwestern: Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson and Lane

Impacts

Water supply is a major concern for this region.

- We have a wet and a dry season and our dry season has gotten much longer. This summer we had no water pouring over the dam, meaning we were using more water than we have. It was the first time anyone can remember having that happen.
- Disappearing forests and clear cuts are reducing the supply of clean water. Forests hold so much water.
- Desire to build auxiliary homes and low-income housing, but there is not enough water!

Forest management is also a major concern.

- It was the smokiest day in Douglas County. “It was a hellscape. We can't live this way.”
- Concerned about forests and clear cuts. “Forests hold so much water. Everything is so moist and alive in a true forest. The farmed forests are so sad.”
- Timber companies are selling off land they can't profit off of into vineyards or housing development.

The **economy and jobs** are a big concern as well.

- Our children become the timber workers, then they move out.
- Automation is taking away timber jobs.

Solutions

Forestry practices:

- Use selective logging practices. There has to be a way to not clear cut. Selective logging actually hires more people. Educate logging workers that automation is taking more jobs.

Energy:

- There's got to be some ways we can make use of all of this wind! Offshore wind energy.
- We could create microgrids within our county to create local community ownership.
- Solutions of mutual benefit, such as solar panels over agricultural fields and parking lots.

Adaptation and public education:

- Education and awareness are huge on all these matters.
- Education on the impact of overpopulation. Support for reproductive rights and women's education.
- Advocate for simplifying our lifestyles. Americans consume so much, such as two people in a huge house or more than one house.

Economy:

- What about eco-tourism? It's so beautiful here. Tourism would be a great source of jobs.

Government:

- Like the cornerstone species, we need to focus on the most vulnerable populations. When you do that you work on solving the web of issues connected to them.
- It is all so connected. We need to have fair voting, education and campaign finance reform.

Obstacles

- We need to get industry out of our politics.
- Specific interests block solutions, such as fishermen and offshore wind projects. We need to emphasize mutual benefits.

Willamette Valley: Benton, Clackamas, Linn, Marion, Polk, Washington and Yamhill

Impacts

Water supply is a concern for this region. Both commercial and residential development appear to be occurring without regard for the amount of water available. An example is a marijuana processing plant that will consume a significant amount of water, creating a risk to the local water supply.

Forest management is a major concern with wildfires threatening homes and causing hazardous air quality.

- There needs to be a recognition that planting of new trees is not equivalent to old trees in supporting the forest ecosystem, both above and below ground.
- Concern about our beautiful forests due to deforestation and drought.
- There have been abuses during salvage logging where healthy trees have been harvested.
- The economic viability for small woodlot owners is an issue. Landholders are in danger of losing their lands. We need to protect these open spaces and the standing trees.

Transportation has a big impact on the environment with too many fossil fuel-powered vehicles on the roads. Air quality is degraded, with low income communities suffering the most.

Agricultural practices are not sustainable. Concern about chemicals and fertilizers that are used. Questioning whether we can continue practicing agriculture in the same way.

We need to **protect vulnerable populations** who disproportionately suffer from climate impacts and can't afford relief measures.

- Extreme heat especially affects the houseless population, low income and agricultural workers. We need to take actions to protect these populations in the short-term and address causes for the long-term.
- We need to plan for climate refugees moving to this region.
- Poverty has an impact on the climate, such as having no choice other than buying the cheapest food that has the greatest climate impact.

We need to address **land use and building codes**.

- Homeowners associations (HOAs) have restrictive clauses that prohibit some climate solutions, such as permaculture.
- We need to limit further development to protect open spaces and the natural environment.

Solutions

Water supply: We need to gather information about the quantity of water available before granting permits and water rights. High water users should only be sited where water is plentiful.

Transportation: Invest more in electric vehicle infrastructure, light rail, public transport, bike lanes and green vehicles.

Forestry practices:

- People who have small land holdings of timber should get tax relief and/or incentives for keeping standing trees.

- We need to look at forestry practices, including underbrush management. Recognition that planting of new trees is not equivalent to the old tree in supporting the underground ecosystem. How did those here before us manage this land?

Land use and building codes:

- We need to preserve natural lands by limiting urban sprawl.
- We should change HOA laws to enable gardens, chickens and permaculture. We should also prohibit herbicides from use and return land to green spaces.
- Building codes should require home building practices that are ecological, such as solar panels on roofs. Development needs to be coordinated with access to transit and commercial services.

Adaptation and public education:

- We should require that property owners of rentals put in A/C at no cost of renters.
- We need to reduce the cost of insulating homes to keep the heat out.
- Plant trees to create tree cover in urban areas that don't have enough.
- Educating people in the rural areas about the programs that are available to benefit them and help them adapt.
- Increase awareness of counties' climate action plans, put the resources behind them and bring them to the state level.
- Producers of plastics should be responsible for the full life cycle and compostable materials should be used where possible.

Government:

- Tax the 1% and direct those funds to address poverty.
- Campaign finance reform to reduce the influence of big money in politics.
- Policymakers need to listen more to grassroots groups
- Improve relationships between state and local (county and municipal) governments and increase collaboration.

Obstacles

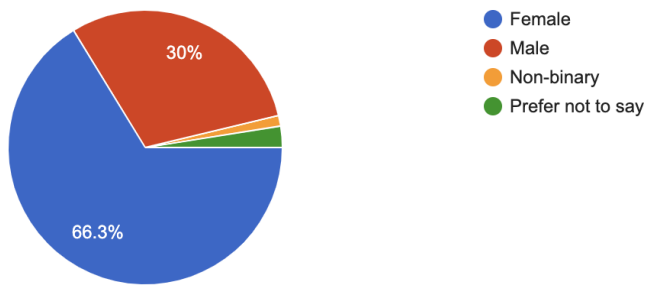
- Misinformation and lies are a big obstacle.
- Big money in politics, such as timber money or Koch brother money, influences public discourse.
- Our own unwillingness to accept sacrifice and discomfort.
- Poor messaging by Democrats. We need to be better, cruder and quicker. Something that goes on a bumper sticker. Something that is easy to call and tell your legislators.

Survey Results

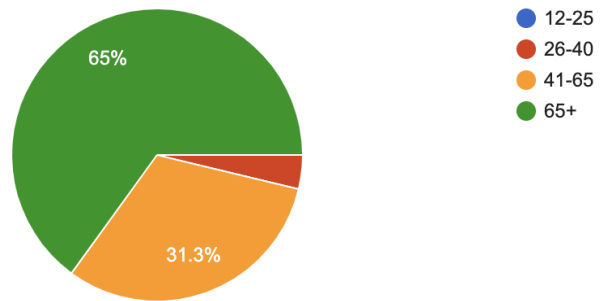
For people that could not attend the listening session in their region, or wanted to have their responses recorded individually, we offered a survey option.

82 people responded to the survey in total. The survey reflected the demographics and concerns expressed in the listening sessions writ large. A majority of the participants were female, 65 years of age or older and white. This reflects the general demographic of the DPO Environmental Caucus. Many respondents identified as a rural-Oregonian and a parent. Our results, therefore, are limited to the views of this demographic and future listening sessions would need to take another approach to reach more diverse audiences.

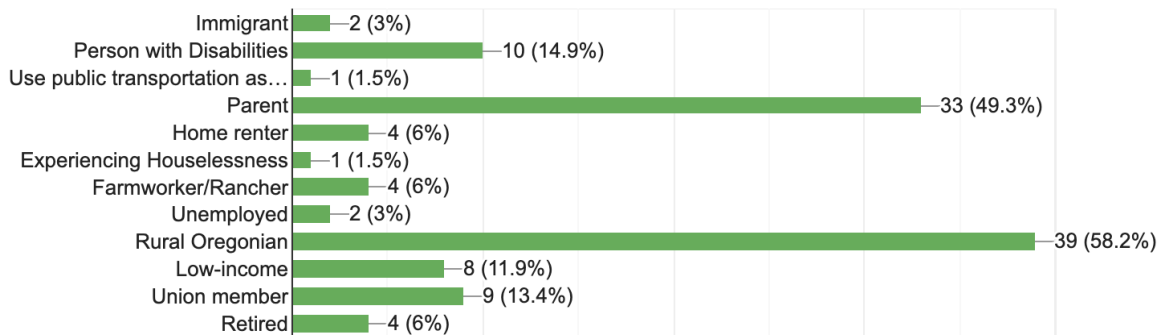
Gender



Age

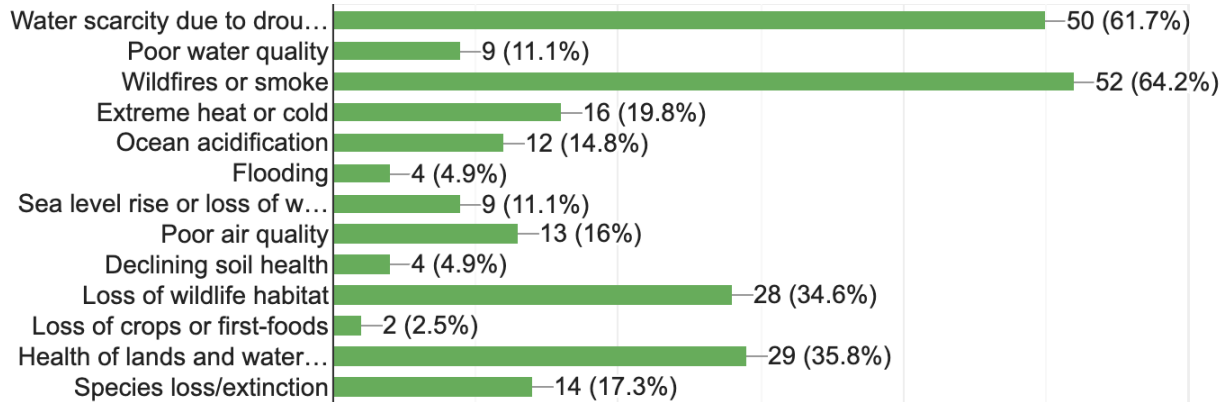


Personal Identifications



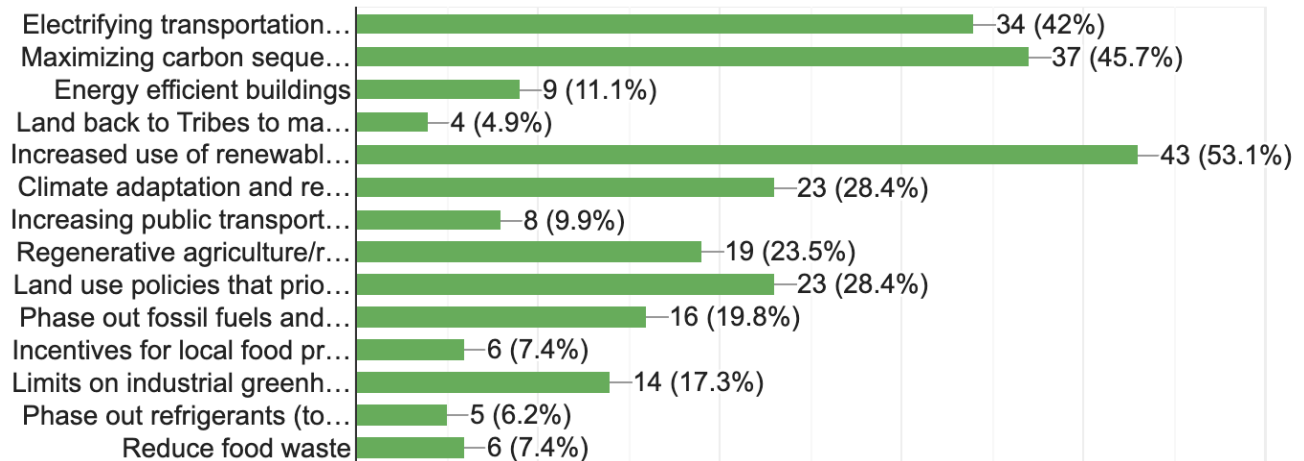
Top Concerns

Respondents were able to select their top 3 environmental concerns in their region. The top two issues by far were water scarcity and wildfires and smoke.

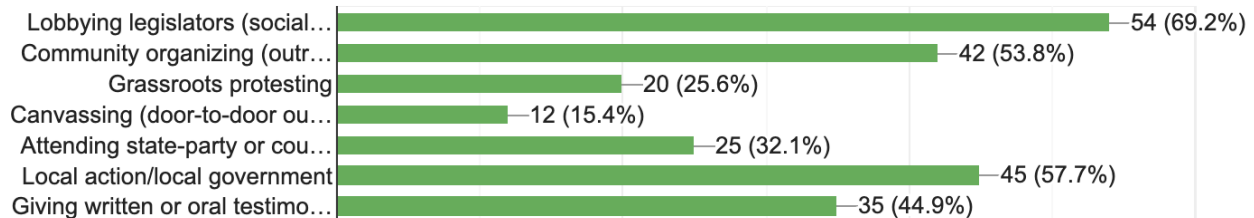


Top Solutions

Respondents were able to select the top 3 solutions to these problems they would like to see in their communities. Increased use of renewable energy production, maximising carbon sequestration, and electrifying transportation came in at the very top of these responses.



Engagement Interests



Taking Action/Resources

Talk about climate: Remember, most people are not experts on climate change and definitely not on solutions. Using statistics is not helpful nor is how many degrees to reach. However, 57% of Americans are alarmed or worried about it, over 75% concur climate change is happening and only 20% are doubtful or dismissive.

Lead with impacts: Water, heat, jobs, fire and tell a story about local impacts that people are worried about. Follow up with how we will address it either for reducing fossil fuels, carbon storage or building resilience. 80% or more voters resonate with plans for clean energy. Conservatives like natural resource protection that makes sense and allows for fishing, hunting. Avoid terminology like “regulation”. Carbon tax is increasingly gaining acceptance federally.

Oregon Climate Action:

Join our [Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Oregon](#) to learn more about the Climate Action Plan for Oregon. We need more people working on all aspects of it: Forests, Transportation, Land Use, Building Codes, DEQ’s Cap and Reduce, Agriculture, and more. Or contact our chair/vice chair at environmental_caucus@dpo.org.

Overview of climate policy in Oregon from **Climate Solutions:**

<https://www.climatesolutions.org/resources>

Forests and climate from **Oregon Wild:** <https://oregonwild.org/forests/climate-change>

Coast Range Association-<https://coastrange.org/> Compiled report on forest ownership and potential for carbon sequestration. Unique model for acquisition of timberland.

Forest Waters Coalition. <https://forestwaters.org/> Environmental Caucus is part of this coalition. Good resources and actions to protect our forests and waters.

Resources

Communications

[The Climate Advocacy Lab](#)—has a monthly compilation of survey information with distilled talking points providing input on latest info—such as Build Back Better. Also has an info section by state and intersection of engagement and social science.

[Yale Program on Climate Communications](#)—premier communication research info. Polling data and info on communicating with shareable topics.

Conservative communications: New info on 5 moral axes: compassion/harming, fairness/cheating, ingroup loyalty/betrayal, authority/subversion and purity/degradation.

Progressives respond much more to fairness and compassion, while conservatives value all 5.

- RepublicEN.org—or [Niskanen Center](#) has climate education and conservative policies.
- Katharine Hayhoe—Climate Scientist from Oklahoma stating clearly she’s Christian. Global Weirding episode. [If I just tell them the facts they’ll get it, right?](#) and read these

two short essays, [When facts are not enough](#) and [Everyone cares about global warming, they just don't realise it.](#)

Tell Your Climate Justice Story Workshop from **EcoFaith Recovery**, based on Professor Marshall Ganz's work on the story of self-us-now. Video recording available.

<https://www.ecofaithrecovery.org/tellyourstory/>.

Lobbying and organizer info

Union of Concerned Scientists. Resources on getting meetings with policymakers, writing effective letters and more. <https://www.ucsusa.org/science-network/build-skills>

350.org has chapters in many parts of Oregon. <https://trainings.350.org/> The national organization has "How To" trainings and tools online from media to organizing.

[Green Corps Training program](#) for advocates wishing to learn organizing skills for leadership.

Oregon Interfaith Power and Light for faith-based organizing for climate justice.

<https://emoregon.org/creation-justice/oregon-interfaith-power-light/>

Citizens' Climate Lobby has several chapters in Oregon. Advocates for climate policy through a non-partisan, relationship-based approach. <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

Science:

- NASA is a good source to quote as it has a good reputation among non-Democrat voters. <https://climate.nasa.gov> Has resources for educators.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology <https://climate.mit.edu/>
- <https://www.globalchange.gov/climate-change> US reports on climate change from the National Climate Assessments. They have regional impacts data.