



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Omaha Chapter

New Volunteer Welcome Packet

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Welcome to Citizens' Climate Lobby

Congratulations on finding Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL). We look forward to getting to know you! After signing up (cclusa.org/join), the following resources will help you plug in and contribute right away.

1 Our values: CCL is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Seven **core values** guide our staff and volunteers along the way: Focus, Optimism, Relationships, Integrity, Personal Power, Being Nonpartisan, and Diversity.

Join our Live Informational Session for a call for newer volunteers and time for Q&A. Offered Wednesdays at 8 p.m. ET (www.cclusa.org/intro).

2 Our focus: CCL volunteers around the country are working to pass the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**, a carbon fee and dividend policy with 100% of the net revenues returned monthly to households and a border carbon adjustment to encourage our trading partners to also take action on climate.

Attend Climate Advocate Training to get ready to lobby on behalf of CCL. Find out more about our approach and solution (cclusa.org/climateadvocatetraining).

3 Our methods: We work to achieve our goal by building friendly, helpful relationships with members of Congress and staff, educating the public, working with media, local groups, and community leaders. We believe individuals, organized by Congressional district, who are well-trained, respect-based and have a good system of support, can more than influence the political process.

Click on the link for Omaha Citizens' Climate Lobby (cclomaha.com). If you want to have an immediate impact, please join the **Monthly Calling Campaign**.

4 Local monthly meetings: Our monthly meetings feature national guest speakers, celebrating our members' achievements, communication exercises, time for Q&A, and coordinating plans.

Explore CCL Community, our portal for training, resources, forums, and action teams connecting volunteers worldwide with each other (community.citizensclimate.org/home).

5 CCL's national conference is in Washington D.C. every June and features keynote speakers, education workshops, and meetings with almost every member of Congress or their staff. We hold annual state and regional conferences to provide volunteers the chance to network, learn more, and work together on regional and local strategy.

CCL Volunteer Opportunities

Click QR code (at right) to fill out this form online, or download to your desktop and email completed pdf to data@cclomaha.com



NAME
PHONE
EMAIL
ZIP

Contribute to CCL's work in ways that match your interests, uses your skills, and leads to personal breakthroughs through our five levers of creating political will. Our team chair will contact you and get you plugged into CCL. Enjoy the journey!

Lobbying Congress

Write letters, make calls to your member of Congress (MOC). Join the Dialing Congress Campaign.

Join local group when they visit or lobby a member of Congress or aide.

Support liaison that maintains communications with specific member of Congress.

Working with media

Follow CCL on social media, work on local Facebook, Instagram pages and Twitter.

Write Letters to Editors and opinion pieces, notify others of opportunities.

Be point person to develop a relationship with local medias and reporters.

Grassroots Outreach: Educating and building public support

Clip boarding and Tabling: Find and/or schedule at festivals, farmer's markets etc.

Public Speaking: Present and/or find opportunities for group to present.

Coordinate Local Events: Work together to host screenings, climate forums etc.

Grassroots Outreach: Educating and building local leader support

Work with community leaders, businesses, or other local governments to support our legislative proposal.

Identify and build relationships with key influencers to your MOC.

Chapter growth, development and organization

Maintain Database and Calendars.

Monthly Meeting or Event: Call members to invite them to attend.

Join the Welcome Team to connect with new members.

Omaha Citizens' Climate Lobby Information Form

Omaha Chapter Meetings and Leaders

During COVID-19 Restrictions, chapter and "LITE" meetings are via ZOOM

Regular Chapter Meetings Check our [Facebook page](#) and our [webpage](#) for the latest information. Meetings are usually the second week of the month.

"LITE" Meetings Check our [Facebook page](#) and our [webpage](#) for the latest information. Meetings are every other month; casual meetings as announced.

Omaha Chapter Leaders

Sandy Lehr sandy.lehr@gmail.com

Mark Welsch markwelschccl@gmail.com

Nebraska State Coordinator

Jennifer Glazer jennifer.glazer@citizensclimatelobby.org

Strategic Planning Committee

Katherine Finnegan, Jennifer Glazer, Steve Hultman, Kelli Jorgensen, Jon Lee, Sandy Lehr, Frances Mendenhall, Tracy Stanko, Alan Vovolka, Mark Welsch

Omaha Media Links and Coordinators

<https://www.facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyOmaha>

<https://twitter.com/CCLomaha>

Kevin Fitzgerald kevin@kevinmfitzgerald.com

website <http://cclomaha.com/>

Kim Hermsen Kim.hermsen@gmail.com

CCL North Winds Region

Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota

North Winds Coordinator

Mindy Ahler mindy.ahler@citizensclimate.org

5 Levers of Political Will

Omaha Chairs

1 Lobbying Congress

Jennifer Glazer jennifer.glazer@citizensclimatelobby.org

Sandy Lehr sandy.lehr@gmail.com

2 Media Relations

Tracy Stanko tracystanko@gmail.com

Letters to Editor Chair

Frances Mendenhall francesmendenhall@yahoo.com

Social Media Manager

Kevin Fitzgerald kevin@kevinmfitzgerald.com

3 Grassroots Outreach

Steve Hultman braims@aol.com

Sandy Lehr sandy.lehr@gmail.com

4 Grasstops Outreach

Katherine Finnegan kfinnegan@me.com

Tracy Stanko tracystanko@gmail.com

Mark Welsch markwelschccl@gmail.com

5 Group Development & Organizing

Sandy Lehr sandy.lehr@gmail.com

Mark Welsch markwelschccl@gmail.com

Nebraska Media Links

<https://www.instagram.com/citizensclimatenebraska/>

Kim Hermsen Kim.hermsen@gmail.com

https://twitter.com/CCL_Nebraska

Kim Hermsen Kim.hermsen@gmail.com

National Website www.citizensclimatelobby.org

National Hashtags #grassroots climate, #bipartisan climate, #price on pollution

Member of Congress

Contacts & Liaisons

Senator Ben Sasse

304 North 168th Circle, Suite 213, Omaha NE 68118

<http://www.sasse.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-ben>

Omaha 402-550-8040

Washington 202-224-4224

Liaison Lisa Lee

Lisareneelee@gmail.com

Senator Deb Fischer

11819 Miracle Hills Drive, Suite 205, Omaha NE 68154

<http://www.fischer.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

Omaha 402-391-3411

Washington 202-224-6551

Liaisons Kelli Jorgenson kjzinfo@gmail.com

Barrie Marchant, barriekmarchant@gmail.com

Representative Don Bacon (District 2)

13906 Gold Circle, Suite 101, Omaha NE 68144

<https://bacon.house.gov/contact/>

Omaha 402-938-0300

Washington 202-225-4155, 1-888-221-7452

Liaison Tracy Stanko, tracystanko@gmail.com

Representative Jeff Fortenberry (District 1)

301 South 13th Street, Suite 100, Lincoln NE 68508

<https://fortenberry.house.gov/>

Lincoln 402-438-1598

Washington 202-225-4806

Liaison Christy Eichorn, christysundaisent.com

Representative Adrian Smith (District 3)

1811 West Second Street, Suite 275, Grand Island NE 68803

<https://adriansmith.house.gov>

Grand Island 308-384-3900

Washington 202-225-6435

Liaison Daniel Bowen, surdaceaction@gmail.com

Other Nebraska CCL Chapters & Leaders

Bellevue Fran Moore Frances.moore.ne@gmail.com

Mary Spurgeon marspur2@aol.com

Chadron Steve and Cheryl Welch loswelchitos@gmail.com

Lincoln Bryan Hermsen Bryan.hermsen@citizensclimate.org

Becky Seth becky-seth@hotmail.com

Moni Usasz musasz@neb.rr.com

H.R. 763 - Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019

Overview

For over a decade, our volunteers have asked their members of Congress to work together to solve climate change. A viable climate change solution needs to be big and lasting — which means bipartisan legislation. We fully support H.R. 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This policy will drive down America's carbon pollution while unleashing American technology innovation and ingenuity. We support this bill because it is effective, good for people, good for the economy, bipartisan, and revenue-neutral.

How does it work?

- 1 Carbon Fee**

This policy puts a fee on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas. It starts low, and grows over time. It will drive down carbon pollution because energy companies, industries, and consumers will move toward cleaner, cheaper options.
- 2 Carbon Dividend**

The money collected from the carbon fee is allocated in equal shares every month to the American people to spend as they see fit. Program costs are paid from the fees collected. The government does not keep any of the money from the carbon fee.
- 3 Regulatory Adjustment**

This policy preserves effective current regulations, like auto mileage standards, but pauses the EPA authority to regulate the CO₂ and equivalent emissions covered by the fee, for the first 10 years after the policy is enacted. If emission targets are not being met after 10 years, Congress gives clear direction to the EPA to regulate those emissions to meet those targets. The pause does not impact EPA regulations related to water quality, air quality, health or other issues. This policy's price on pollution will lower carbon emissions far more than existing and pending EPA regulations.
- 4 Border Carbon Adjustment**

To protect U.S. manufacturers and jobs, imported goods will be assessed a border carbon adjustment, and goods exported from the United States will receive a refund under this policy.

CCL Organizational Structure and the Five Levers of Political Will

Citizens Climate Lobby staff and volunteers at the national level provide resources like training calls, marketing materials, and general information to all CCL volunteers, in addition to strategic guidance to regional and state coordinators. Regional and state coordinators oversee the efforts of chapter group leaders, who directly lead CCL chapters. CCL chapters coordinate volunteer efforts to pull the *Levers of Political Will*. In our Omaha chapter, our Strategic Planning Committee leads the high-level efforts for each lever, while volunteers in groups organized under Team Leads focus on a specific action like speaking, seeking business endorsements, and tabling. Besides Omaha, there are 3 other Nebraska chapters; Bellevue, Chadron and Lincoln.

The Levers of Political Will are five core areas of activity that all Citizens' Climate Lobby chapters engage in to bring citizens into the political process and ensure that their contribution is constructive, in order to make more good possible.

The Five Levers of Political Will are:

- 1 Lobbying Congress**
We train citizens how to lobby in support of a Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal by building friendly relationships with our federally elected representatives.
- 2 Media Relations**
We train citizens how to engage with and influence the media. We write letters to the editors and op-eds, meet with editorial boards and work to place stories in all forms of media.
- 3 Grassroots Outreach**
We recruit and educate the public on climate solutions, citizen advocacy and how to participate with one's government.
- 4 Grasstops Outreach**
We seek to educate, build partnerships with and gain the support of community leaders and non-governmental organizations, both nationally and locally.
- 5 Group Development & Organizing**
It is through the growth and management of the local CCL group/chapter, that it becomes possible to push on the other four levers for building political will. We also are actively reaching out to increase diversity, students and conservative members.

Accomplishments & Organization-Wide Programs

Our Accomplishments:

- We have successfully worked with Congress to introduce (H.R. 763) The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA) of 2019. CCL supports this bill, and is working towards its re-introduction in the Senate, and its passage through Congress.
- Our efforts have been instrumental in establishing the House Climate Solutions Caucus, a bipartisan group in the US House of Representatives which will explore policy options that address the impacts, causes, and challenges of our changing climate.
- Soon after establishing a bipartisan group in the House, CCL aided in the establishment of the Senate Climate Solutions Caucus. This bipartisan group in the Senate believes Congress should play a central role in guiding America's 21st century energy economy and addressing the challenge of a changing climate.
- We have partnered with the California state legislature to pass a resolution calling on the federal government to enact Carbon Fee and Dividend nationwide.
- More recently we have worked with the Utah state legislature to pass a similar resolution calling on the federal government to take climate action nationwide.
- Over the past 10 years we have seen a ten to a hundred fold increase in participation in a variety of engagement opportunities including chapter meeting attendance, written letters to congress, written letters to publication editors, and community outreach events.

Organization-Wide Programs

CCL Calls Each month, you will receive an email or text message with your call-in guide to the Monthly Calling Campaign. As a participant in this campaign you can call your representative's office to express your concerns and respectfully urge climate action. Sounds scary, but it's easier than you think—CCL provides the contact info and suggestions on what to say! You will talk to a staff member in your representative's office or get a recording. They won't quiz you. They will simply ask for your name and address, then take notes as you express your concerns based on the talking points we'll provide you. That's it! Sign up at <https://cclcalls.org>

Action Teams Unlike local chapters, Action Teams are organized at the national level around specific topics or areas of focus, each working to create the political will for a livable world. Most teams meet regularly by phone and communicate through the national CCL website. They do not need to be led by a chapter leader or organized through a coordinator.

<https://community.citizensclimate.org/groups/action-teams>

CCL Community CCL offers volunteers an internet site that contains a huge selection of training, assets like tabling signage and marketing materials, and discussion forums where volunteers from all over the world can share ideas. <https://community.citizensclimate.org/dashboard>

CCL Text Messages Sign up for CCL text messages to get breaking climate news and action alerts on your cell phone. You will receive approximately 1-2 messages per month and possibly more when we have a significant piece of legislation moving its way through Congress.

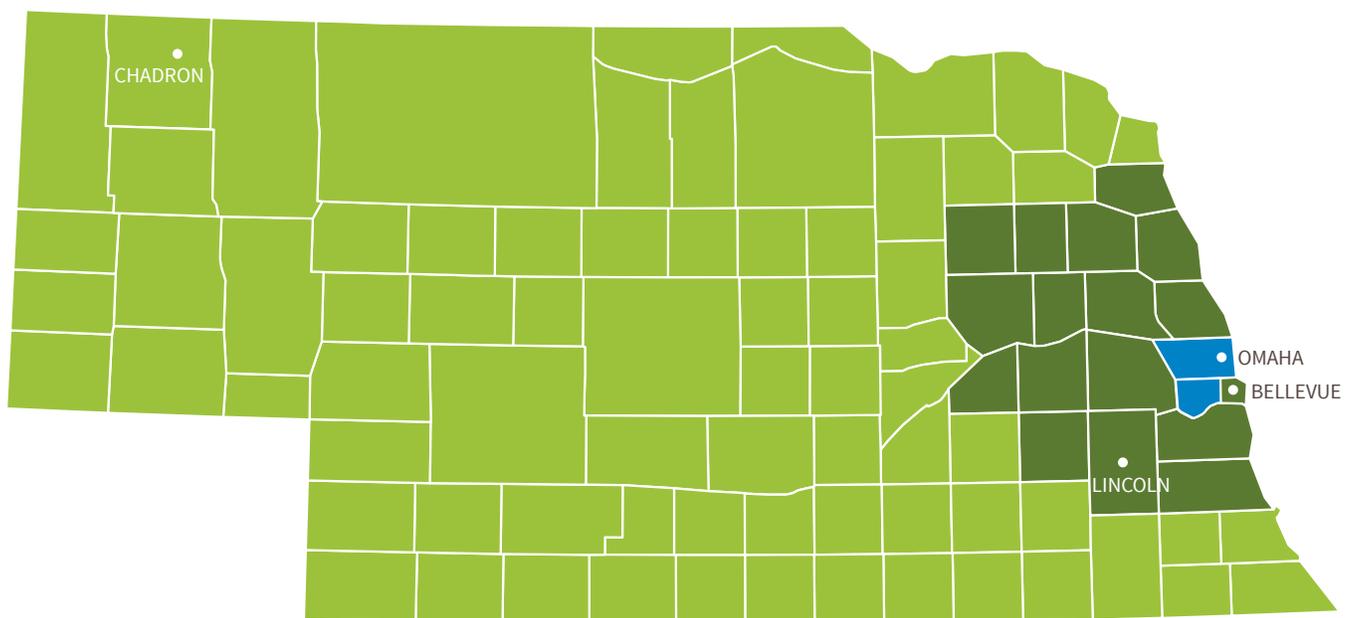
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/join-citizens-climate-lobby/>

Social Media We have national and local presence on most social media platforms. National social media profiles are under @citizensclimate on Twitter and Instagram and CitizensClimateLobby on Facebook. Look for our local @CCLomaha profiles on Facebook and Twitter:

<https://www.facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyOmaha>

<https://www.twitter.com/CCLomaha>

Nebraska Chapter and District Locations



- Congressional District 1
- Congressional District 2
- Congressional District 3

CCL Chapters:

Bellevue https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/NE_Bellevue/

Chadron https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/NE_Chadron/

Lincoln https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/NE_Lincoln/

Omaha <https://cclomaha.com/>

The United States Congress and How a Bill Becomes a Law

Congress in the US

The United States Congress is made up of two chambers, The Senate and The House of Representatives.

The Senate consists of 2 senators for each state regardless of population. Each senator serves a 6 year term. The House of Representatives consists of 435 total members who each represent a district within their state. Each member serves a 2 year term. The number of representatives from each state is determined by population size. The larger the population, the more representatives. A representative in the House is given an area with their state to represent, known as a congressional district.

CCL's main goal at a state level is to persuade both senators and representatives at the national level to support the Energy Innovation Act so it passes through both chambers after being introduced on the floor.

Summary of How a Bill Becomes a Law

A bill is introduced in either the House and/or the Senate. It is assigned to a committee. If the committee doesn't ever vote on it, the bill dies. The committee can "mark up" the bill by amending it and then vote on it. If the bill passes on a committee vote, it goes to the full House or Senate for a vote. If it passes then it goes to the other chamber, where it goes through the committee process again. If both chambers pass the same bill it goes to the president of the United States. If they pass different versions, it goes to a conference committee, and if the conference committee reaches agreement on a joint version, it goes back to both chambers for a vote. If both chambers pass the conference committee version, it goes to the president. If the president doesn't approve the bill, Congress can try to override the veto by a two-thirds vote. If you would like more detailed information about the process of how a bill becomes a law and how Congress operates you could either scan this QR with your phone's built in camera (no third party application needed) or follow this link:



http://bit.ly/Bill_becomes_law

Thank you for joining CCL and welcome to the team!