

Climate Conversation Oct 11

Notes by Genevieve

Previous Participants: Rob Gardner, Heith, John Slater, Par Ward, Ann, Kanami, Ella, Dave, Evie, Betty, Martha, Genevieve, Tina, Brent

New Faces: Donna Steele, Sue Higgins, Bob Wanner, Shelly, Clark, Dianne, Letitia Barajas, Darla Sawatski

Areas of Interest: Educating the general public about climate change, social and economic democracy, protecting native prairies, sharing with other parts of the world, diversifying the conversation, cycling, climate strike, organize an event to get people together, local organic food, green technology, transition towns.

CHHS "Earth Club"

-Just established, working on name, logo, social media, goals, etc. Teacher supporting club is Georgia Bull.

Green Group at McCoy

-Newly formed environmental group for students at McCoy high school. They are also working on logo, developing social media and more.

-held an impromptu garbage cleanup event near St. Mary's and collected 300 lbs of garbage.

Green New Deal Cont'd

-Dave Condon went to the Prairie/NWT meeting of Council of Canadians recently. His report has been uploaded to the Resilient.SEA website.

-Council of Canadians local AGM will be held on November 28, 2019, at 7 pm. All are welcome to join. The new Regional Organizer, Christina Kruszewski, will be in attendance.

-Betty, Len, Genevieve and Avril got together to watch the CofC Green New Deal Webinar on October 29th. It was about an hour long, very informative and inspiring. The CofC is continuing to improve on their GND organizing guide.

Resilient.SEA Stuff

-Website has been launched. Still a work in progress. There is a page for Climate Conversations to post minutes and whatnot. Eventually Climate Conversation may want their own website. That's cool too.

-see Resources below for website address.

-Stuff Swap is happening this saturday, November 2, 2019. "an opportunity to acquire stuff without buying it, rid yourself of stuff you no longer need by sharing with others, and build community."

Right to Dry

-Sue and Donna discussed the struggles that they've had in the new condo they have moved into and their rules about deck ownership and drying laundry outdoors. They attempted to get the special permission mentioned in the strata bylaws to no avail. They attempted to have the bylaw amended at the AGM to no avail, though it is worth noting that they had more than half of the number of votes needed to pass the amendment (16 in support, 28 needed for change). They mentioned the Right to Dry movement in the US (see link below) and asked for suggestions from the group on how to move forward.

Renewable Energy Greater Impact Cont'd.

-John Slater shared with us some of the progress he has made looking at questions he brought to earlier Climate Conversations about the impact that some renewable energy generation options (Wind and Solar) may have on the native prairie if the city were to move away from natural gas for it's electricity generation.

-He has been using some numbers from Tina, who has solar panels on her house, to extrapolate the greater impact of moving toward more "sustainable" energy sources.

-some of these notes will be uploaded to the Resilient.SEA website on the Climate Conversations page.

Climate Emergency Declaration

- Heith got in touch with the town of Canmore about their declaration of a State of Climate Emergency. Their mayor took no prompting to pass the declaration, which was unanimous.
- we talked about starting a petition to encourage the city of medicine hat to declare a climate emergency and whether or not that would be a waste of resources.

Transition Towns

- Rob has been looking into the Transition Towns movement a little since hearing it mentioned in the Economics of Happiness film screened at the Resilient.SEA movie night at the end of October. It involves a 12 step grassroot community project that aims “to increase self-sufficiency to reduce the potential effects of peak oil, climate destruction, and economic instability”. See link below in Resources section for a great video.
- there is a Transition towns chapter in Edmonton and Golden Ears, which Rob is hoping to visit soon.

Other

- Heith has been talking with a teacher at MHC to share info with class about Climate Conversations and Global Climate Strike.
- Evie would like to not eat off of plastic reusable dishes at the home where she lives. Unfortunately we were not able to come up with any helpful suggestions for her during this conversation.
- quote of the day “the opposite of love is indifference”
- There will be a pollinator workshop in the spring...
- talked about sharing individual steps taken to reduce our carbon footprint
- school audits was mentioned again
- it was suggested that we create a steering committee and gathering to bring together groups with shared interests.

Suggested Further Reading/Resources

[Game Changers](#) (Betty) = “a revolutionary new film about meat, protein and strength.”

[Forks over Knives](#) (Betty) = “empowers people to live healthier lives by changing the way the world understands nutrition. We provide the tools and resources to make a plant-based lifestyle easy and enjoyable.”

[Air Battery](#) = “UK Man Invents Aluminum-Air Battery In His Garage”

[Transition Town](#) = “The Transition Movement’s response to (Peak Oil and Climate Change) is to foster resilience through a strategy of relocalization. Resilience is the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change, so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure and identity. Relocalization means shifting production, transport and consumption patterns to within geographic limits that that can be sustained without the use of fossil fuels.”

[Right to Dry](#) = “Clotheslines are banned in many HOAs, condos, and apartments across the nation. The “Right-to-Dry” movement has pushed eight states to pass laws voiding clothesline bans and making them unenforceable.”

[Resilient.SEA](#)= a group of passionate people working to promote sustainability in energy, ecology, economy and social equity. We want to empower individuals to embrace permaculture principles in our community.