

## Global warming...



... our fractured climate and how to put it back together.

# Just when you really need a coalition ...

This year's state legislative victories inspire celebration. Renewable energy incentives and standards, equipment efficiency standards, green buildings and clean car laws mean local prosperity and cleaner air and water. They also fight global climate disruption for us all.

Coalition members and allies delivered those victories (see outreach director's column on Page 8). Now we need to turn the power of coalition to a new threat: 11 proposed coal plants in Montana and Idaho. We don't need a single new coal plant to meet this region's power needs. Our enormous reserve of efficiency and renewables can easily meet new demand.

The power of **this** Coalition can prevent coal from edging out clean energy. Those dirty coal plants won't serve Montana and Idaho needs. Their backers want to sell the electricity to British Columbia, Oregon, Washington and

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California. Our Idaho and Montana members and allies are fighting these plants to prevent the local devastation of even the cleanest coal combustion. But they need Coalition help from the west side.

We need to hear from energy efficiency and renewable energy business interests whose opportunities could be squashed by big coal. We need the voices of consumers and low-income residents who see the long-term costs coal will impose on them. We need the climate experts who understand the madness of pumping more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We need the wilderness and wildlife advocates who understand the destruction of mining coal.

And we need the practical visionaries who understand that a clean and affordable energy future is not only very possible, but the best future for all of our communities.

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
|  <p>NW Energy Coalition</p>  | <h3>Energy Activist</h3> |
| <p>Founded in 1981, the NW Energy Coalition is dedicated to the pursuit of clean and affordable energy. As a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, all donations to the NW Energy Coalition are tax-deductible.</p>  |                          |
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| <p>Cover illustration: Alicia Healey</p>   |                          |

## Scales of justice: Courts rule twice for fish advocates

Columbia basin salmon, the communities and industries that depend upon them, and restoration advocates won a series of stunning legal victories over the past two months.

First, on May 26, federal court Judge James Redden thoroughly shredded federal agencies' arguments in rejecting yet another alleged recovery plan ("Biological Opinion" or BiOp) that actually would have hastened the endangered species' ultimate demise.

The agencies responsible for protecting fish imperiled by the federal dams in the Columbia-Snake rivers system – principally NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bonneville Power Administration – had asserted the novel premise that the dams are part of the natural landscape. Thus, damage done by the dams' existence need not be considered; all that has to be mitigated is any extra damage done by their operation, and that can be handled through future technofixes such as experimental spillway weirs.

Redden found the premise in conflict with the Endangered Species Act and the proposed actions insufficient for reasonable assurance of fish recovery.

### Salmon restoration

The organizations that had challenged the BiOp, led by National Wildlife Federation and including NW Energy Coalition, also had asked for an injunction directing dam managers to increase river flow and to spill more water over five dams to aid fish migration

this summer. Redden split that baby, ordering increased spill but no increase in flow.

Federal agencies' appeal of the injunction decision was quickly rejected by a panel of the Ninth Circuit Court. The full circuit court will soon hear the appeal, though the panel's opinion suggests the agencies have little hope of success. Meanwhile, a few members of Congress, most notably Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho, have been working to overturn Redden's rulings legislatively. Redden soon will announce a process for the BiOp rewrite. (MK)

For a full analysis of the rejected Biological Opinion, go to [www.nwenergy.org/transformer/032105.html](http://www.nwenergy.org/transformer/032105.html). To find out what extra spill actually costs Northwest ratepayers, go to the Coalition Web page at [www.nwenergy.org](http://www.nwenergy.org)

## BPA increases low-income weatherization commitment

For some time, Bonneville Power Administration officials have expressed concerns that not all the funds it appropriates to low-income weatherization are being spent each year. With BPA's budgets subjected to ever-greater scrutiny, many low-income advocates feared the agency would try to cut back its weatherization programs.

So the NW Energy Coalition and its allies were thrilled at BPA's recent announcement that it would increase funding while working to remove the barriers community action agencies face in effectively investing low-income weatherization funds. BPA has committed to:

- Increasing community action agencies' limit on low-income home repairs to \$1,000 per home.
- Fully funding its refrigerator replacement program, which had been a pilot project with limited funding. Now states may replace as many refrigerators as

### Consumer issues

- possible for the duration of the program.
- Allowing repair and replacement of electric heaters and furnaces.
- Removing the ban on weatherizing newer homes. Previously, homes weatherized within the past 10 years could not qualify for BPA-funded improvements. Now, qualifying homes in need of cost-effective weatherization can access BPA funding regardless of previous weatherization measures.
- Aggressive distribution of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Each family may receive three CFLs at the point of intake and additional bulbs on-site when crews are doing weatherization projects.
- Providing an opportunity to reallocate funds between the states when money isn't being spent in a timely manner.

BPA recognizes that these programs add to its ability to provide low-cost power to the Northwest. The changes will help low-income families stay warm in winter and enjoy lower bills year-round. (LNR)

## BC Hydro's actions belie its promises

The clean-energy future publicly endorsed by British Columbia's major electric utility, BC Hydro, is not reflected in the utility's plans for acquiring new resources.

In October 2004, BC Hydro President and CEO Bob Elton said the utility was developing long-term resource plans based on making "no net additional impact on the environment." Such a goal suggests a commitment to sizeable investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

At present, the evidence conflicts with such a commitment. Although Coalition members in British Columbia are pushing BC Hydro to meet 100 percent of demand growth with sustainable energy available in the province, the utility won BC Utilities Commission approval to purchase electricity from the proposed Duke Point gas-fired power plant on Vancouver Island. However, after intervenors, including BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA), won the right to appeal the decision, BC Hydro abandoned the project.

The province's Energy Plan sets a purely voluntary target of supplying 50 percent of new load from "clean" energy sources. Critics note that the province's definition of "clean energy" includes natural gas. Thus, overall environmental impacts may actually worsen as new resources come on line.

"The 50 percent target is absurdly timid, given the abundant potential of sustainable energy in B.C., and given the large existing hydro-electric resource," said BCSEA's Thomas Hackney.

A number of regulatory processes now before the BC Utilities Commission will set BC Hydro's strategic direction for the next few decades. The utility claims it will need significant new resources in the next few years. Possible candidates include a 900-megawatt hydroelectric facility on the Peace River and 500 megawatts of coal generation, along with energy efficiency and wind.

"BC Hydro needs the right actions, not just the right words, to achieve its goal of no future additional impact on the environment," Hackney said. (CB)

## Montana governor likes renewables

Montana clean-energy activists were encouraged by one of the most successful legislative sessions in recent memory. Landmark victories were forged by the hard work of member organizations such as Montana Environmental Information Center and strong leadership from Gov. Brian Schweitzer and progressive legislators in both houses.

Schweitzer is demonstrating a strong interest in clean energy policy. He requested the 15-percent Renewable Energy Standard (RES) that passed this legislative session and is organizing a three-day energy summit addressing both electric and transportation energy issues, set for Oct. 17-19 at Montana State University in Bozeman.

The Coalition board was so impressed with Schweitzer's work that it passed a resolution commending him at the spring board meeting. State Sen. Jon Tester, who sponsored the RES, was recognized for his work on that piece of legislation and on a renewable energy incentives bill. (LNR)

## Idaho hotbed for clean energy, too

Idaho is fast gaining a reputation as a hot spot for proposed conventional and experimental coal plants, but clean energy projects are surging in the Gem State as well. Each month brings new wind farm projects and further progress toward the Northwest's first utility-scale geothermal plant.

The NW Energy Coalition and its Idaho partners are tracking two proposed coal gasification plants in eastern Idaho as well as San Diego-based Sempra Energy's conventional pulverized coal plant planned for the Jerome area. While plans for the two gasification facilities are sketchy, Sempra recently received local approval for a weather monitoring station in preparation for a formal license application in 2006. Concerned Jerome-area residents have formed the Coalition for Healthy Idaho Communities -- check the group's Web site at [www.healthyidaho.org](http://www.healthyidaho.org)

On the clean side, PacifiCorp recently signed a deal with Chicago-based Invenergy to purchase power from a 64.5-megawatt wind farm to be built near Idaho Falls. Idaho Power has received Public Utilities Commission approval for 61 megawatts of small-scale wind energy and has another 21 megawatts in small wind purchase agreements pending before the PUC. Developers want to sell the state's largest utility another 193 megawatts of wind. All that is on top of the 200 megawatts of commercial-scale wind Idaho Power is seeking this year.

In addition, Idaho Power received approval to acquire 10 megawatts in geothermal power from US Geothermal's Raft River facility near Malta; the region's first major



Executive Director, Sara Patton presents EarthJustice attorney Todd True the NW Energy Coalition's Eagle Award, recognizing the law firm's stellar efforts in protecting Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead

## Oregon PUC faces crucial cases

The NW Energy Coalition has intervened in several recent cases before Oregon Public Utilities Commission. Three of the most important deal with public-purposes funding, coal plant development and the least-cost planning process itself.

UE 1056 will establish the requirements for utilities' least-cost plans. This process could have important implications for utilities thinking about acquiring new coal resources since the PUC is considering how to incorporate the true costs of competing resources into the least-cost planning process. Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) of Oregon and Renewable Northwest Project are closely following this issue.

At stake in UG 163 is renewal of NW Natural's decoupling tariffs. These tariffs include contributions to low-income assistance, weatherization, and to the Energy Trust or Oregon for gas efficiency measures. CUB and the Oregon Energy Partnership (Community Action Directors of Oregon and Oregon Energy Coordinators Association) are working alongside Coalition staff to protect public-purpose funding in this case.

LC 39 deals with PacifiCorp's integrated resource plan. PacifiCorp wants to build two new coal plants; the Coalition is pushing the company to meet load growth with renewable energy, energy efficiency and demand-side management. (LNR)

geothermal generation facility is expected to generate another 20 megawatts eventually.

Not counting the wind power for which Idaho Power is seeking bids, nearly 2,000 megawatts of wind are approved or pending in the state. That total overshadows the 1,720 megawatts that might come from the three coal plants ... if they're ever financed, permitted and built. (KM)

## Apollo Washington makes splash in leg

Washington's 2005 legislature was a banner session for clean energy. It featured passage of the clean cars bill, bringing California emissions standards to the state. And it was a particularly impressive first session for the Washington chapter of the Apollo Alliance, the national coalition of labor and environmental groups dedicated to creating jobs and rebuilding our economy by investing in clean energy.

NW Energy Coalition officially endorsed the Apollo Alliance at its Energy Activist - Summer 2005

November 2003 board meeting and now sits on Washington Apollo's executive committee along with Coalition members Climate Solutions and the Sierra Club's Cascade chapter and other union and community representatives. Apollo Washington organizer Rich Feldman was elected to the Coalition's executive board as an additional member on May 1.

Apollo Washington established its organizational structure and endorsement process in early January, allowing it to intervene in the state legislative session. Bills successfully endorsed and promoted by Apollo included:

- Two historic renewable tax credit bills, primarily benefiting small-scale solar energy.
- A landmark products efficiency bill, setting standards for 12 (mainly commercial) products not covered by federal regulations.
- The nation's first green buildings bill, requiring all large state-funded construction projects to meet green building standards.

The group's executive board is now developing of package of campaigns and legislative proposals for the next year. (MK)

For background and the latest news on Apollo Washington, go to [www.apolloalliance.org/regional\\_projects/apollo\\_in\\_the\\_regions/washington/index.cfm](http://www.apolloalliance.org/regional_projects/apollo_in_the_regions/washington/index.cfm)

# Dwindling snow pack signals new climate/energy paradigm

By MARC KRASNOWSKY  
NW Energy Coalition

As all non-ostriches know, our climate is changing. Thanks to rising concentrations of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere – notably the carbon dioxide emitted by fossil fuel-burning power plants – global temperatures are rising, ice caps are melting, the Gulf Stream is shifting, insects and animals are moving (or dying), “extreme weather events” are more and more common.

The Northwest is particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of global warming. We are now in our fifth (some would say sixth) straight drought year. The so-called May miracle rainfall built reservoir levels and alleviated some of the direst immediate concerns.

Properly speaking, however, drought is not our over-riding problem. Our weather might get wetter or drier and, in fact, long-range projections for the Northwest include both scenarios. But all the models say warmer.

That has serious implications for our hydro-based power system and for all the interests – from farmers to fish – competing for Columbia-Snake river waters. Warmer winters mean less mountain snow pack. Unless this trend is reversed, University of Washington climatologists tell us to expect a 60-percent reduction in snow pack by 2050 because the winter precipitation that once fell as snow is now falling as rain.

Less winter snow pack means less spring melt-off and lower summertime river

flows. In an excellent overview of regional climate-change impacts appended to its Fifth Power Plan (go to <http://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/powerplan/plan/Default.htm>], the Northwest Power and Conservation Council lists several potential results of this trend.

Two predictions stand out. First, lower summer flows will reduce hydropower generating capacity. Historically, Bonneville Power Administration sold excess power to summer-peaking southwest states in the summer, using the market-based sales income to lower the rates charged to its Northwest customers. The new paradigm suggests Bonneville will have little if any surplus high-priced power to sell AND that rising temperatures will drive up Northwest demand for air conditioning.

Second, lower flows put salmon and steelhead stocks already devastated by the hydropower system at further risk of extinction. More shallow, slower-moving water is more difficult for transport, and the temperature of the water can rise to lethal levels for fish.

Interestingly, the Fifth Power Plan description of the low-snow pack, slow-river, high-temperature water scenario was written BEFORE that precise situation developed this spring. It appears the Northwest now can expect intensified annual battles between irrigators, power producers, fish and recreational river users for ever-dwindling summertime water supplies.

There's a way out of this maelstrom. It's certainly not to increase the practice that got us into our current climate fix – burning

## *You CAN change the weather!*

### Here's what you can do:

#### Contact decision makers

Clean-energy and clean-air activists should push Northwest utilities and the Bonneville Power Administration to commit to meeting their respective shares of the Council's regionwide efficiency goal before even thinking about adding new generating resources. And when it's time to add generation, utilities and the political and regulatory leaders they answer to must be urged to make clean, renewable and affordable choices for the people they all serve.

#### Support the Coalition

Become a Coalition member or donor. You'll stay tuned in to issues and developments that you can directly affect. Continued support from our individual members and the growth of our major donor program are essential to the Coalition's work for a clean, affordable energy future.

For membership information, turn to Page 8, visit the membership section of our Web site ([www.nwenergy.org/members/index.html](http://www.nwenergy.org/members/index.html)) or call us at (206) 621-0094.

fossil fuels – nor to sacrifice even more salmon and salmon-based economies by wrenching every last kilowatt-hour out of an overstressed hydrosystem. A critical part of the solution is taking advantage of the Northwest's abundant clean-energy potential.

## Clean energy is the answer ... coal is not

Climate change has become a serious threat to Northwest power production and to the people, businesses and communities who depend on that power. Ironically, the electricity industry – through the burning of fossil fuels and emission of greenhouse gases– is itself a primary cause of global warming.

As hydropower supplies grow increasingly unpredictable amid rising electricity demand, it makes sense to protect consumers by developing power sources that do not add to the problem. Yet many utilities that serve the Northwest are investing, or planning to invest, in new coal- or other fossil fuel-burning plants. Some plants purport to be “cleaner” than others, but all will produce tons upon tons of climate-changing carbon dioxide.

Though developers and utilities say these plants will be cost-effective, they are not in Northwest consumers’ interest. The region has more than ample energy resources to serve its people cleanly and affordably for as far ahead as we can see.

### Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency – systems, products and practices that reduce energy use – frees up power that can be used to meet growing electric demand. That makes it a true energy resource, one that costs less than any other new generation option and one that produces no global-warming pollution. The Northwest can save enough energy over the next 20 years to affordably meet about half of the projected increase in demand.

In fact, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, in its Fifth Power Plan, recommends doing exactly that. The Council, representing the governors of Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, says the region should develop more than 2,500 average megawatts of energy efficiency between now and 2024. That’s enough saved energy to power two-and-one-half Seattle-sized cities.

The Council’s recommended efficiency measures, most of which involve investments in efficient lighting, motors and heating/cooling systems, should cost an average of about 2.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. That, the Council stresses, is less than the cost of energy from new or existing power plants. Investing in efficiency projects/devices could increase rates in the short term by less than 1 percent, but will save ratepayers \$2 billion in the long run, the Council says.

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And even if rates rise slightly, energy efficiency lowers consumers’ bills immediately and often dramatically.

### Renewables

A popular definition of insanity is expecting different results from doing the same thing.

To think we can burn our way to energy abundance and affordability, when all the past burning has undermined both, is sheer lunacy.

Cheap energy efficiency measures can meet half of our new electricity demands, but we’ll still need new generating facilities. The sane course of action is to develop cost-competitive renewable sources that emit no climate-changing greenhouse gases. That will put less stress on the overstretched and snow pack-challenged Columbia River system and protect consumers from inevitable spikes in fossil-fuel energy prices and equally inevitable penalties for carbon emissions.

Luckily, Northwestern states are blessed with phenomenal renewable resources. The Tellus Institute study of regional clean and affordable energy potential ([www.nwenergy.org/outreach/tellus\\_report.html](http://www.nwenergy.org/outreach/tellus_report.html)) identifies enough wind power alone to satisfy new demand through 2020 at costs not much higher than unregulated coal.

As the Power Council notes, looming carbon taxes or penalties probably would make coal more expensive than wind. So-called “clean coal” already is.



## Energy Matters to the states

It's been more than a year since the Coalition launched its Energy Matters campaign. In our last issue we talked extensively about Phase 2 of the campaign — taking our message to the state legislatures and meeting the campaign's state-specific goals.

Heading into this year's legislative sessions, we were optimistic, but we had no idea how big we would win! Here's a look at some of our victories.

### In Montana:

- A Renewable Energy Standard requiring NorthWestern Energy, the state's largest utility, to meet 15 percent of its load with renewable energy by 2015.
- An extension through 2009 of the Universal System Benefits Charge, which funds public purposes including renewable energy, energy efficiency and low-income energy assistance through a surcharge on monthly bills.

### In Washington:

- Two historic renewable tax credit bills, primarily benefiting small-scale solar energy.
- A landmark products efficiency bill, setting standards for 12 (mainly commercial) products not covered by federal regulations.
- The nation's first green buildings bill, requiring all



large state-funded construction projects to meet green building standards.

### In Idaho:

- Sales and use tax exemptions for purchases of machinery and equipment used for renewable energy development.
- The creation of a new

Idaho Energy Resources Authority to help finance generation (including renewables generation) and transmission projects.

Oregon's legislature was still in session as of this writing. But legislators there had already approved an appliance efficiency standard similar to Washington's and hopes remained high for expanding solar incentives.

Coalition members central to these victories included Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Public Interest Research Group, Renewable Northwest Project, Northwest Solar Center, Sierra Club, Climate Solutions, WashPIRG, OSPIRG, Solar Washington, Advocates for the West and Oregon CUB. Other important allies included Apollo Washington, the Fair and Clean Energy Coalition and all the members of Washington state's environmental community.

## Individual\* membership - join or renew

\$ 20 (fixed income)

\$ 40 (basic)

Membership + donation

\$ 75

\$ 125

\$ 250

\$ 500

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send check and form to: NW Energy Coalition, 219 1st Ave South, #100, Seattle, WA, 98104  
You can also pay online: [www.nwenergy.org](http://www.nwenergy.org)

All memberships include a subscription to the Energy Activist.

\* For organizational membership, contact Cy Berryman at [cy@nwenergy.org](mailto:cy@nwenergy.org)

## Bill Eddie of Idaho new Coalition board chair

Advocates for the West senior staff attorney **Bill Eddie** was elected chair of the NW Energy Coalition at the Spring Board meeting, April 29-May 1 in Boise. Eddie, of Boise, replaces **Jay Formick**, who completed his 2-year term and becomes chair emeritus.

Other new officers are vice-chair **Pat Ford**, who represents Idaho Conservation League on the board; treasurer **George Pohndorf**, Puget Sound Energy representative; secretary **Sandra Bishop**, Eugene Water & Electric Board representative; and additional member **Rich Feldman**, At-Large board member who heads Apollo Washington.

Besides Feldman, those elected as At-Large board members were **Katherine Schacht** of Emerald PUD, consulting economist **Jim Lazar** of Olympia, recently retired Bonneville Power Administration executive **Carolyn Whitney**, former Coalition chair **Doug Still** of Cottage Grove, Ore., League of Women Voters member **Mavis McCormic** of Klamath Falls, Ore., Republicans for Environmental Protection policy director **Jim DiPeso** of Shoreline, Wash., and efficient lighting entrepreneur **David Bangs** of Issaquah, Wash.

Board members also chose honorees for the Coalition's annual awards:

### Conservation Eagle

The entire **Northwest Power and Conservation Council** for the clean-energy emphasis of its Fifth Power Plan, and to Washington State Sen. Erik Poulsen, the prime mover for the outstanding list of energy bills that became law this session, including solar incentives, products efficiency standards, green buildings and clean cars.



New executive board chair Bill Eddie receives the Headwaters Award at the spring board meeting in Boise from Executive Director Sara Patton.

### Headwaters

Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho director **Teri Ottens** and South Central Community Action Partnerships weatherization director **Ken Robinette**, who won tremendous victories in getting utilities to invest in low-income weatherization programs in Idaho, and **Carolyn Whitney**, who established Bonneville Power Administration's energy efficiency programs and was instrumental in the agency's pioneering non-wires program.

### Turkey

NorthWestern Energy lobbyist **John Fitzpatrick** for his tactics in trying to undermine Montana's renewable energy standards bill.

Several other individuals were commended for leadership for a clean and affordable energy future:

- Washington state legislators **Hans Dunshee**, **Ed Murray** and **Bob Morton**, and senior energy policy specialist **Elizabeth Klupp** of the Washington State Department

of Community, Trade and Economic Development for their work on the green buildings, clean cars, solar and products efficiency bills, respectively.

- BPA energy efficiency manager **Gene Ferguson** for advancing the agency's low-income weatherization program.
- Montana Gov. **Brian Schweitzer** and State Sen. **Jon Tester** for their leadership on the renewable energy standards bill.
- Idaho State Rep. **George Eskridge** and State Sen. **Brent Hill** for their leadership on the renewable tax incentives bill.

Sunday's full board meeting completed a challenging and informative conference weekend, largely focused on Idaho's clean and affordable energy opportunities and challenges. For full coverage of the board meeting weekend events, visit [www.nwenergy.org/conference/board\\_saturday.html](http://www.nwenergy.org/conference/board_saturday.html)

The next NW Energy Coalition full board meeting and conference is scheduled for Oct. 21-23 in Seattle.



## At a glance

Organization: **Climate Solutions**  
Year founded: **1998**  
Office locations: **Seattle and Olympia, WA**  
Web site: **[www.climatesolutions.org](http://www.climatesolutions.org)**  
Number of staff: **10**  
Membership: **66 organizations**  
Geographic scope: **Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia**  
NWECC board rep: **Rhys Roth**

## Q & A with Climate Solutions policy director KC Golden

By CY BERRYMAN  
NW Energy Coalition

### What is your organization's mission?

**KC:** Helping the Northwest become a leader in practical and profitable solutions to global warming.

### How does membership in the NW Energy Coalition further the work of your organization?

**KC:** We often rely on and work closely with the Coalition, because when it comes to electricity and gas efficiency issues they are at the forefront. At Climate Solutions we work to change the story of climate change from epic disaster to golden opportunity. We rely on the Coalition's long history of success stories to build that momentum and optimism for solving global warming.

### Can you predict how the recent success of the Clean Cars campaign will affect energy policy?

**KC:** After a 9-month campaign to pass the clean car standards, I can see that people across a very wide spectrum of political and cultural beliefs are ready for an accelerated transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. So much security risk and economic risk is involved, and people are finally beginning to understand global warming. They are feeling the economic, environmental, and security costs of our fossil fuel dependence, and they're ready – hungry – for a better way.

### How does the work with the West Coast governors' group on global warming fit into your organization's vision?

**KC:** The rest of the advanced industrial world has joined together to solve this problem, yet the world's largest emitter [the United States] continues to boycott the international process. Individual states must take action. The three West Coast states combined rank among the top 10 nations of the world in total emissions. These states are at an economic crossroads: Are we going to get ahead of the clean-energy transition or prolong our dependence on fossil fuels? We don't have to wait – we can't wait – for federal leadership. If we can get ahead of the transition, we can position our economies to succeed. We have everything to gain by leading the clean energy transition, and too much to lose if we fail to make that transition decisively.

### What made you chose the work you're doing?

**KC:** I was a raft guide in California and they were planning on damming the Tuolumne River. I started selling T-shirts to river rafters to benefit Friends of the River. That was the first of many experiences that showed me how critically our quality of life depends on how we make and use energy. Now climate is our generation's defining challenge and our kids won't forgive us if we blow it. Mine have already put me on notice.

### What advice would you give to someone who wants to get involved with energy advocacy?

**KC:** Now is the time. People from across the political spectrum are coming to understand that the clean energy transition is vital to our security, our prosperity, and our quality of life. Ride the wave!



## At a glance

Organization: **Montana Environmental Information Center**  
Year founded: **1973**  
Office location(s): **Helena and Bozeman, Mont.**  
Contact information: **meic@meic.org, (406) 443-2520**  
Web site: **www.meic.org**  
Number of staff: **8**  
Geographic scope: **Montana**  
NWECC board rep: **Patrick Judge**

## Q & A with MEIC energy program director Patrick Judge

By CY BERRYMAN  
NW Energy Coalition

### What is your organization's mission?

**PJ:** "To protect and restore Montana's natural environment" – pretty straightforward, but also pretty challenging.

### How does membership in the NW Energy Coalition further the work of your organization?

**PJ:** The Coalition has been a tremendous source of policy information and has provided networking opportunities and inspiration. Though two-thirds of Montana is outside the Columbia River basin, what happens at Colstrip affects West Coast electricity users – and vice versa. The Coalition helps facilitate communication and a deeper understanding of the connections.

### What are the most important and exciting energy issues your organization is now involved in?

**PJ:** In our energy program we focus on both policy work and grassroots organizing and education. We advocate for clean and affordable energy with the legislature, the Public Service Commission and the utilities. We also encourage individuals to look at their [ecological] footprint and take advantage of available incentives and programs. Much like the Coalition, we play a coordinating role for groups working on energy issues, and act as a clearinghouse of information. The greatest threat we face today is global  
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climate change, and there is probably no better symbol than the vanishing glaciers in Glacier National Park. Montana is positioned to be a key player in either addressing the problem or aggravating it. We have more coal than any other state, and numerous proposals to develop it. But we also rank fifth in the nation in wind power potential. The question is: Which direction do we want to go? The recent passage of the Renewable Energy Standard in our state legislature shows that we have come a long way.

### What made you choose the work you're doing?

**PJ:** Having grown up here, I have strong ties to Montana (and Helena). I was lucky to come from a politically active family that shared a strong commitment to preserving what's best about Montana. I was drawn to MEIC because it combines a strong vision with political effectiveness.

### Why should people on the West Coast care what goes on in Montana, energy-wise?

**PJ:** Washington and Oregon have adopted CO2 emission standards for new power plants in their states. But simply importing dirty power from Montana would result in no net gain for the environment. From the perspective of the global atmosphere, it makes no difference if the carbon is released in Seattle or Circle, Mont.

### What advice would you give to someone who wants to get involved with energy advocacy?

**PJ:** By all means, join the coalition!

# NW Energy Coalition Organizational Members

A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity - Int.  
Advocates for the West – ID  
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation – AK  
Alliance to Save Energy – D.C.  
Alternative Energy Resources Organization – MT  
American Rivers – National  
Audubon Washington – WA  
BC Sustainable Energy Association – BC  
Bonneville Environmental Foundation – Regional  
Central Area Motivation Program – WA  
Citizens Utility Alliance – WA  
Citizens Utility Board of Oregon – OR  
Climate Solutions – Regional  
Climate Trust – Regional  
Community Action Directors of Oregon – OR  
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of ID – ID  
David Suzuki Foundation – BC  
Earth and Spirit Council – OR  
Ecological Design Center – OR  
Emerald People's Utility District – OR  
Energy Trust of Oregon – OR  
Eugene Water and Electric Board – OR  
Friends of the Earth – National  
Global Warming Action – WA  
Golden Eagle Audubon Society – ID  
Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane  
County – OR  
Human Resources Council, District XI – MT  
Idaho Community Action Network – ID  
Idaho Conservation League – ID  
Idaho Rivers United – ID  
Idaho Rural Council – ID  
Idaho Wildlife Federation – ID  
Interfaith Network of Earth Concerns – OR  
Kootenai Environmental Alliance – ID  
Kootenay-Okanagan Electric Consumers  
Association – BC  
League of Utilities & Social Service Agencies – OR

League of Women Voters - ID  
League of Women Voters - OR  
League of Women Voters - WA  
Metrocenter YMCA – WA  
Missoula Urban Demonstration Project – MT  
Montana Environmental Information Center – MT  
Montana Public Interest Research Group – MT  
Montana River Action – MT  
Montana Trout Unlimited – MT  
Mountaineers – WA  
National Center for Appropriate Technology – MT  
Natural Resources Defense Council – National  
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council – WA  
Northwest Resource Information Center – ID  
Northwest Solar Center – WA  
Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic  
Development – WA  
NW Natural – OR  
Olympic Community Action Programs – WA  
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA – WA  
Opportunity Council – WA  
Oregon Action – OR  
Oregon Energy Coordinators Association – OR  
Oregon Energy Partnership – OR  
Oregon Environmental Council – OR  
Oregon HEAT – OR  
Oregon State Public Interest Research Group – OR  
Pacific Energy Innovation Association – BC  
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters – WA  
Pacific Rivers Council – OR  
Portland Energy Conservation Inc. – OR  
Portland General Electric – OR  
PPM Energy – OR  
Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans – WA  
Renewable Northwest Project – OR  
Salmon for All – OR  
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition – WA  
Seattle Audubon Society – WA

Seattle City Light – WA  
Sierra Club – National  
Sierra Club of British Columbia – BC  
Snake River Alliance – ID  
Snohomish County PUD – WA  
Solar Energy Association of Oregon – OR  
Solar Washington – WA  
South Central Comm. Action Partnership, Inc – ID  
Southeast Idaho Community Action Agency – ID  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy – TN  
Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs – WA  
Tahoma Audubon Society – WA  
Trout Unlimited – OR  
Union Of Concerned Scientists – National  
United Steelworkers of America, District 11  
– Regional  
Washington Citizen Action – WA  
Washington Environmental Council – WA  
Washington Public Interest Research Group – WA  
Washington State Association of Community  
Action Agencies - The Energy Project – WA  
WSU Energy Program – WA  
Working for Equality & Economic Liberation – MT  
Zilkha Renewable Energy – WA

## Associate Members

Puget Sound Energy – WA  
City of Ashland – OR

## Supporting Members

Clackamas County Weatherization – OR  
Housing Authority of Skagit County – WA  
Multnomah County Weatherization – OR  
Rocky Mountain Institute – CO  
WA CTED - Housing Division – WA



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