

Action Sheet, May 2016

CCL Monthly Conference Call, Saturday, May 14, 2016

**Groups meet at 9:45am PT/12:45pm ET**

**The international conference call starts at 10:00 am PT/1:00 pm ET**

**The conference call part of the meeting is just under an hour long and the groups meet for another hour after that to take and plan actions.**

Call-in number: 1-866-642-1665, passcode: 440699#

Callers outside U.S. and Canada, please use Skype: 719-387-8317, passcode 440699#

Conference Call Guest:

**Climate scientist Dr. James Hansen**

We're thrilled to have Dr. James Hansen as our guest for the May national call. Dr. Hansen is the American adjunct professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University. Recognized by many as America's leading climate scientist, Dr. Hansen is a member of CCL's Advisory Board and is a strong advocate for CCL's Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal. He is the author of *[Storms of My Grandchildren](http://www.amazon.com/Storms-My-Grandchildren-Catastrophe-Humanity/dp/1608195023" \t "_blank),* and he recently spoke at the Berkshire-Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha to urge support for a revenue-neutral fee on carbon.

Actions

1. Develop a plan for meetings with members of Congress that will happen during our June 21 lobby day in Washington.
2. Write letters to members of Congress asking them to step up on climate change or thank them for being a climate leader.
3. Practice laser talk and communication skills exercise.

**Looking ahead:** The June action will include preparing for our June 20th congressional call-in day, in which we ask constituents to call their members of Congress the day before our Lobby Day to urge them to act on climate. You are welcome to start now to plan any additional outreach you want to do beyond alerting your members to call in. Watch for details in the Weekly Briefing.

ACTION

**Make plans for DC lobby day meetings**

What does your group think should happen in the lobby meetings with your members of Congress? Draft your thoughts and send them to the liaison for that MoC. Suggested questions to address are here. Contact your [regional coordinator](http://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/resources/regional-coordinators/) if you aren’t sure who the liaison is. Don’t forget your Senators! Deadline: June 1st.

Lobby meeting suggestions — to be given to the liaisons for your MoCs:

1. What is the primary goal for this meeting?
2. Suggested appreciation(s) of the MOC or staffer.
3. What is our supporting ask? (Aside from introducing/sponsoring carbon fee and dividend. [See 2016 June Supporting Asks](http://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/supporting-asks/) for some ideas)
4. What have CCL groups been doing in the district lately that would be of interest to the MOC?
5. What challenging things might come up that we should be ready to respond to?
6. What questions could be asked during the meeting to learn more about the MOC/staffer's viewpoints?
7. What do we need to do or bring to get ready for this meeting and who will/should do that?
8. Other goals, things to say, questions to ask, or things to know for this meeting.

**Resources for meeting planning** from the Lobbying Toolkit on CCL Community:

* [Sample Meeting Outline for Initial Meeting](http://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/group-meeting-outline-for-initial-meeting/) – A sample outline for meeting with a member of Congress for the first time.
* [Sample Meeting Outline (After Initial Meeting)](http://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/sample-meeting-outline/) – Adjust as necessary depending on the situation.
* [2016 June Supporting Asks](http://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/supporting-asks/) — Ideas for what to ask your MoC in your meeting. This is a draft to get you started thinking and will be finalized in June.\*
* [June Action Logic](http://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/lobbying-action-logic/): How to follow up or respond to certain situations in your lobby meeting.\*

\* Draft documents that will be updated in June.

ACTION

**Write to members of Congress**

As we prepare to meet with congressional offices next month, letters from constituents supporting action on climate change will make a big difference in setting the tone for those meetings and making them productive. At your meetings this month, write to your senators and representatives acknowledging the actions they’ve taken and/or encourage them to take more leadership on climate change. You can write and send a letter through regular mail or use [CCL’s online action tool](http://citizensclimatelobby.org/write-congress-about-climate-change/#/7/) to send an email.

**Suggested outline for letters:**

* Introduce yourself with a little something about you – job, children, faith affiliation, etc. and mention why climate change is a concern for you. Cite an impact projected or already happening in your area.
* If possible, acknowledge something the MoC has done that you appreciate.
* Point out that 13 Republicans in the House and 5 in the Senate have attached their names to resolutions/amendments that affirm the existence of climate change and the need to provide solutions.
* Say that you think the best solution is carbon fee and dividend and ask if he/she will introduce or support such legislation.
* Ask for a reply.

**Practice laser talks**

CCL Legislative Director Danny Richter identified the 6-7 topics most often raised in our June lobby meetings last year. We suggest volunteers practice the six laser talks covering those frequently-raised topics. This month’s action sheet includes the final two recommended talks. You can [download a printable Word doc](http://citizensclimatelobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2016-Conference-Laser-Talks.pdf) that contains all of the recommended talks plus several talks that cover the basics.

LASER TALK

# Carbon Dividend Distribution

CCL commissioned an expert study of how to optimize the carbon dividend distribution [1]. Our goal was to maximize simplicity and minimize costs for government, businesses and households while still getting a dividend to as many households as possible.

All the money collected from fossil fuel companies goes to a Carbon Fee Trust Fund managed by an Administrator (Treasury Department or private contractor). After administrative costs, the net funds constitute the pool for carbon dividends.

There are many decisions that must be made on the details of implementation. CCL’s recommendations for these decisions are detailed in our FAQ, which we’d be happy to make available to you. However, in the end, CCL will always support decisions that maximize the number of households receiving the dividend, maximize simplicity and minimize costs.

The expert study confirmed CCL’s view that remitting the carbon dividend directly to households is the simplest and most robust way to distribute it. Recipients are identified from existing tax records [2] or through a special form for those who haven’t filed income taxes. Most people will get their dividend as direct deposit or on an existing government-issued debit card, with paper checks as a backup. Eligibility changes are taken care of on a monthly basis, and any underpayments or overpayments for the year are reconciled on the recipient’s next income tax return.

CCL is satisfied that these steps will make the carbon dividend distribution fair, flexible, universal and highly visible to households.

*A version of this talk with a chart detailing the infrastructure for dividend distribution is available* [*online on CCL’s website*](http://citizensclimatelobby.org/laser-talks/carbon-dividend-distribution/)*.*

1. Lerman, A.H. “Paying Dividends to United States Residents with the Revenue from the Carbon Fee.” White paper commissioned by Citizens’ Climate Lobby. Dec 2015. Mr. Lerman was an economist in of the Office of Tax Analysis at the Treasury Department who analyzed, developed, and recommended tax policies. He has provided expert advice to policymakers, working on every major tax reform legislation and administrative reform since 1971.
2. Receipt of dividend is aligned with tax filing status, e.g., a married couple filing income taxes jointly will get both of their dividends in a single payment. Parents with dependent children will get their child dividends (up to two per family) included in a combined payment.

LASER TALK

**Household energy costs**

How will the carbon fee and dividend affect household energy costs?

For most families, these energy costs are in the form of gasoline, natural gas or heating oil, and electricity. The cost will go up depending on how much fossil carbon is in the fuel or how much was burned in its production.

We calculated the costs from EPA emissions tables [1], a Department of Energy natural gas study [2], and a carbon emissions database assembled by Argonne National Laboratory [3].

For a first-year carbon fee of $15 per metric ton of CO2:

* Gasoline will go up by 16¢ per gallon (an 8% increase)
* Natural gas by 9¢ per therm (a 7.4% increase)
* Heating oil by 19¢ per gallon (an 8.7% increase)
* Electricity by 0.6¢ to 1.1¢ per kilowatt-hour, depending on whether it’s generated by coal or natural gas (an increase of 4%-11.3%) [4].

As reported in our [Household Impacts Study](http://citizensclimatelobby.org/household-impact-study/), which used actual household spending from 2008-2012 to model its results, even with these cost increases 53% of households and 58% of individuals are made whole nationwide.

“Emissions Factors for Greenhouse Gas Inventories.” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 4 April 2014.

[Bradbury, J., Z. Clement, and A. Down. “Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Use Within the Natural Gas Supply Chain: Sankey Diagram Methodology.” Jul 2015](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/07/f24/QER%20Analysis%20-%20Fuel%20Use%20and%20GHG%20Emissions%20from%20the%20Natural%20Gas%20System,%20Sankey%20Diagram%20Methodology_0.pdf).

Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET).

Gasoline is regular 87 octane with 10% corn ethanol. For natural gas, 1 therm = 100,000 Btu. For electricity, 1 kWh = 1 kilowatt-hour. Power plant efficiency = 34.3% for coal, 61.5% for natural gas (NGCC).

**5-minute communication skills practice**

Each partner will take a role as staffer or CCLer and read the script out loud, then change roles and do it again. You should be able to do this in just 5 minutes.

**The Bill will never be revenue neutral**

**WHAT NOT TO SAY:**

**Staffer or other contact**: I am worried the bill will never be revenue neutral.

**Argumentative response**: So what? The important thing is that carbon emissions will go down.

**BETTER RESPONSE:**

**Staffer or other contact:** I am worried the bill will never be revenue neutral. **CCLer:**It is possible that we could do what they did in British Columbia where the Finance Minister loses part of their salary if all the money doesn't go back to the province.

**ENGAGEMENT ROLE PLAY:**

**Staffer/contact:** I am worried the bill will never be revenue neutral.

**CCLer**: Can you tell us a little bit more about why you think that?

**Staffer/contact:** I think with that much money at stake too many people are going to want to put their hands in the cookie jar and use the money for their pet projects.

**CCLer:** What do you think those pet projects most likely are?

**Staffer/contact:** I think a lot of people would want to pay down the deficit. I think some people will want to increase military spending and others will want to expand entitlements.

**CCLer:** What do you think the best way would be to increase the likelihood of all the money going to households?

**Staffer/contact:** You know I'm not really sure. What are your ideas about that?

**CCLer:** Thank you for asking for our opinion. It makes us feel like we're included in the process. What do you think of how the Alaska Permanent Fund is administered every year where everyone gets a check?

**Staffer/Contact:** That's an interesting point. Maybe we could figure out some way of doing this.