

# Climate Change – The Climate Crisis, Solutions and Justice

August 29, 2024

5:30pm to 7:00pm PST



Washington Online Branch

# Agenda

- Welcome by AAUW-WA Online Branch President, Kelvie Comer and Land Acknowledgement (3 minutes)
- AAUW WA Online Program Lead, Melissa Johnsen - Introduces Facilitator, Dorothy McBride (1 min)
- AAUW WA Online Dorothy McBride, Facilitator -- Our Program Objective: A Global Crisis: Climate Change – Washington State and Beyond (10 min)
- Facilitator welcomes and introduces panelists ; Panelist Perspectives (1 min intro; 5 minutes each @ 20 minutes total)
- Facilitated Q&A (25 minutes)
- Facilitator - Audience Q&A (20 minutes)
- AAUW WA Online Branch Program Lead and Panelists - Call to Action (10 minutes)
- Closing and thank you by AAUW-WA Online Branch President (1 minutes)

# Welcome: AAUW Washington State Online President

- **Kelvie C. Comer, Ed.D.**
  - AAUW-Washington State Online Branch President
  - Bio in Appendix



# AAUW Vision & Mission & Values

- **AAUW VISION**

- Equity for all.

- **AAUW MISSION**

- To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

- **AAUW VALUES**

- Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional.

# Land Acknowledgement

AAUW Washington State Online Branch wishes to acknowledge that our branch spans the ancestral lands and traditional waters of many indigenous peoples.

We honor their indigenous cultures, histories, identities, and current realities

Dorothy McBride – Facilitator  
AAUW WA Online – Public Policy Committee, Member;  
WA State Public Policy Committee

Agenda: 1 mins

## Dorothy McBride

BIO in our Appendix



# Panel Objectives: The Climate Crisis, Solutions and Justice

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**Agenda: 10 mins**

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***Dorothy McBride***

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Americas and the Pacific Ocean. A large, swirling storm system is visible in the upper left quadrant. The text "Panel Objectives: Climate Change Overview" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

# Panel Objectives: Climate Change Overview



# Panel Objectives: Earth Day to Climate Change

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

- The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, celebrated the planet and the need to protect it against the impact of 150 years of industrial Development
- The 1980s saw that a sharp increase in the planet temperature has had an alarming effect on the Earth and its inhabitants
- Earth Day now brings together citizens and activists from around the world to raise awareness of the need to act on environmental concerns such as global warming and renewable energy.
- So too, the institutions established in the 1970s, such as Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology join with other agencies to tackle the effects of climate change

Resources:

<https://www.earthday.org/history/>  
<https://www.Nationalgeographic.org>

# Panel Objectives: Climate Change – Definition

## From the United Nations - What is Climate Change ?

- Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.
- Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.
- The main greenhouse gases that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from using gasoline for driving cars or coal for heating buildings, for example. Clearing land and cutting down forests can also release carbon dioxide.
- Agriculture, oil and gas operations are major sources of methane emissions. Energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the main sectors causing greenhouse gases.'

# Panel Objectives: Who is Responsible for Climate Change?

## From the United Nations - Humans are responsible for global warming

- 'Climate scientists have showed that **humans are responsible** for virtually all global heating over the last 200 years. Human activities like the ones mentioned above are causing greenhouse gases that are warming the world faster than at any time in at least the last two thousand years.
- **The average temperature of the Earth's surface is now about 1.1°C warmer** than it was in the late 1800s (before the industrial revolution) and warmer than at any time in the last 100,000 years. The **last decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record, and each of the last four decades has been** warmer than any previous decade since 1850.
- Many people think climate change mainly means warmer temperatures. But temperature rise is only the beginning of the story. Because the Earth is a system, where everything is connected, changes in one area can influence changes in all others.
- The **consequences of climate change** now include, among others, intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity.'
- Warming weakens the polar vortex and leads to severe winter weather elsewhere.

Source:

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>  
<https://cpo.noaa.gov/research-links-extreme-cold-weather-in-the-united-states-to-arctic-warming/>

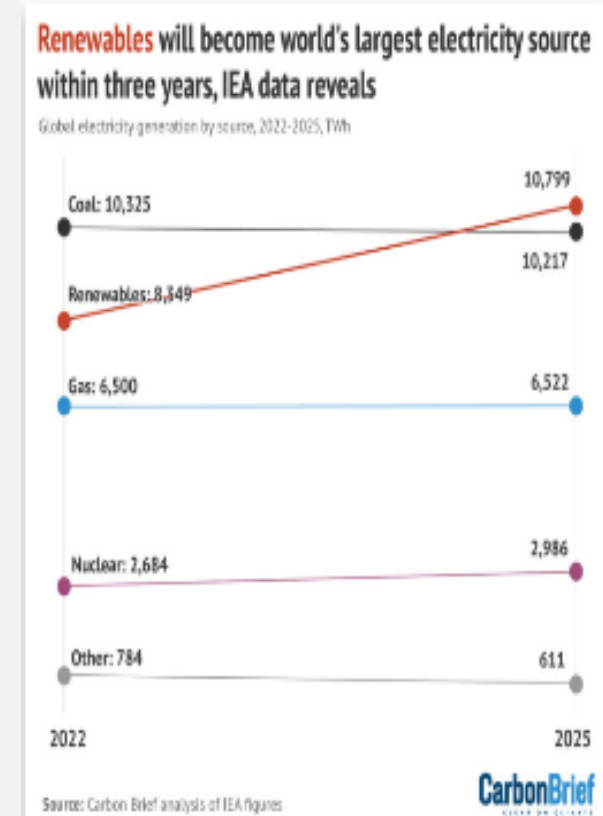
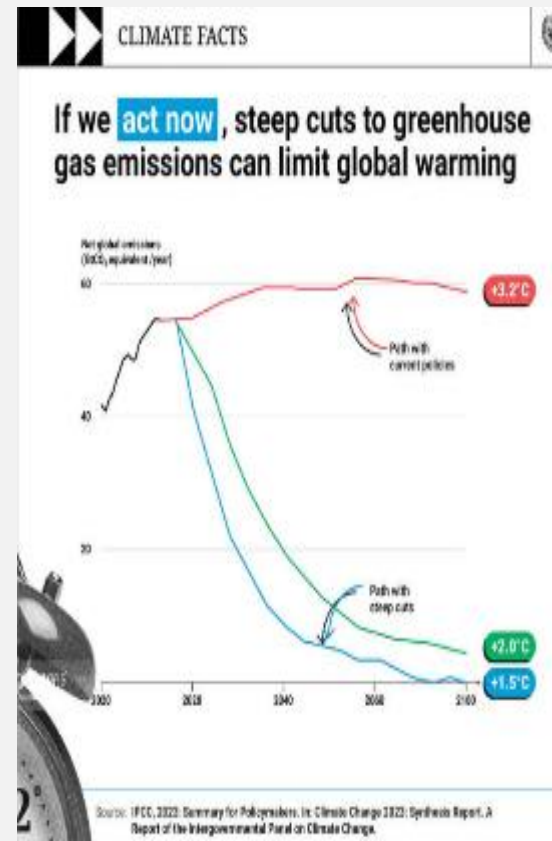
A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Americas and the Pacific Ocean. The image features swirling white clouds over the blue ocean and green and brown landmasses. The text is overlaid in the center.

Panel Objectives:  
From United Nations - Climate  
Change 'Myth Busters'

# Panel Objectives: Myth Busters

- **FACT:** Renewable energy will soon be the world's top source of electricity
- **FACT:** Entire countries already rely on nearly 100 per cent renewable electricity – example: Costa Rica, Norway, Iceland, Paraguay and Uruguay
- **FACT:** Natural gas is a fossil fuel, not a clean source of energy
- **FACT:** Climate change is a major threat to people's health
- **FACT:** The transition to clean energy will create millions of jobs
- **FACT:** The climate is changing faster than humans, plants and animals can adapt

- **FACT:** Every fraction of a degree of warming matters
- **FACT:** Clean energy technologies produce far less carbon pollution than fossil fuels



A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Western Hemisphere. The United States and Mexico are visible in the center, surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. Large white clouds are swirling over the ocean, indicating weather systems. The text "Panel Objectives: Washington, US & Globally - Regulation" is overlaid in white on the image.

# Panel Objectives: Washington, US & Globally - Regulation

## Global

- ‘Countries have debated how to combat climate change since the early 1990s. These negotiations have produced several important accords, including the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- Governments generally agree on the science behind climate change but have diverged on who is most responsible, how to track emissions-reduction goals, and whether to compensate harder-hit countries.’
- **‘UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC), 1992. Ratified by 197 countries, including the United States, the **landmark accord** was the first global treaty to explicitly address climate change.
- Each year COP (**Committee of Parties to the 1992 Convention**) meet to assess progress; US tried to withdraw from the **Paris Agreement** (COP 21) in 2017.
- The findings of the first global stocktake, discussed at COP 28 in Dubai United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2023 signaled the “beginning of the end” of the fossil fuel era.
- The overarching aim of COP 28 was to limit warming to 1.5 Degrees centigrade by 2050 ’

# Panel Objectives: Regulations - US, States & Globally

## United States

- The [American Innovation and Manufacturing \(AIM\) Act of 2020](#) directs EPA to address Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by providing new authorities to phase down the production and consumption of listed HFCs, manage these HFCs and their substitutes, and facilitate the transition to next-generation technologies that do not rely on HFCs.
- [The Inflation Reduction Act](#) is the most significant piece of climate legislation in the history of the United States.
  - It will deploy nearly \$400 billion over the coming decade to slash carbon emissions.
  - By lowering the cost of clean energy technologies, the law can accelerate their deployment not only at home but abroad.

### Federal policies harnessed to fight climate change:

- [Clean Air Act](#)
- [Clean Water Act](#)
- [TSCA](#) **Toxic Substances Control Act**
- [RCRA](#) **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**
- [Superfund \(CERCLA\)](#)
- [FIFRA](#) **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act**
- [ESA](#) **Endangered Species Act**



# Panel Objectives: Regulations - US, States & Globally

## Individual States

Many states are enacting their own climate goals and policies and serve as laboratories, demonstrating what's effective and informing national policy.

- '33 states have released a climate action plan or are in the process of revising or developing one. This includes 32 states that have released plans and 1 state that is updating its plan.
- Climate action plans generally include **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets and detail actions** the state can take to help meet those goals.
- The plans may also include Additional components such as:
  - Resilience strategies; clean energy targets; and economic and social goals.
- The individual characteristics of each state's economy, resource base, and political structure provide different opportunities for addressing climate change.'



### Climate Action Plan Status

● RELEASED

● UPDATING

OTHERS

### Years Since Climate Action Plan

1

17

5.42 AVG

## States Working Together

### US Climate Alliance

- Launched on June 1, 2017, by the governors of Washington, New York, and California to help fill the void left by the previous administration's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the **Paris Agreement**, the Alliance has grown to include **24 governors** from across the U.S. representing approximately 60% of the U.S. economy and 55% of the U.S. population.
- Governors in the Alliance have pledged to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025, at least 50-52% below 2005 levels by 2030, and collectively achieve overall net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as practicable, and no later than 2050.'
- The 24 Alliance states represent approximately 60 percent of the U.S. economy and 55 percent of the U.S. population

## States Working Together

- **Northwest Power and Conservation Council**  
- An interstate agency, authorized by the **Northwest Power Act of 1980** and approved by the Legislatures of all four Columbia Basin states, *Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington*. It is charged with protecting fish and wildlife, while ensuring an adequate and affordable power system.
  - Congress created the council, with two representatives each from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana appointed by their governors.
    - One of its tasks is creating a 20-year Regional Power Plan, which is updated every five years.
    - Council is in midst of crafting its next plan for meeting the region's energy needs while protecting the environment.
- Challenges facing the Northwest all are exacerbated by the region's new energy hog:
  - **Data centers**, which make the demands of the now-defunct Northwest aluminum industry look dainty by comparison.
- 'The Northwest is going to need 4,000 megawatts of additional generation — **about 20% of the region's current output** — just to keep pace with power demand over the next five years'
- 'The region also needs to greatly expand and upgrade its transmission capacity to move all that electricity.'
  - '...[A] slow, expensive process with lots of community opposition.'
- 'Increasing demands of electrification to help blunt the worst effects of climate change are still coming, with everything from cars to heating systems that presently run on fossil fuels being replaced by electricity.'
  - Climate commitments by regional governments to clean up their power supplies to be carbon neutral mean just turning on coal and gas plants to meet demand won't be an option.
  - Those resources are being powered down.'

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Western Hemisphere. The Pacific Ocean is on the left, and North and Central America are on the right. The text "Panel Objectives: Washington State" is overlaid in white. The image shows cloud patterns, including a large cyclone in the Pacific and another over the Caribbean.

# Panel Objectives: Washington State

# Washington State – Department of Ecology

- Established Feb 12, 1970, the **Department of Ecology** in Washington State was the *first government environmental agency in the U.S.*
- Department of Ecology is committed to protecting, preserving and enhancing Washington’s environment for current and future generations.
- Involved in the supervision of air, water, shorelines, waste and toxic materials, and spills and cleanup.
- It’s Washington state’s lead agency for action on climate change
- The Department is in process of updating the **Washington Climate Resilience Strategy** to:
  - Prioritize environmental justice— reducing impacts of climate change on overburdened communities.
  - Bring together climate change response network for better coordination among state agencies,
  - Find ways to aid climate response of local and tribal governments.

## Resources:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/our-history>

<https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/strategic-plan>

: <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/environmental-justice>

## Washington State

- In 2021, Gov. Jay Inslee signed the **Climate Commitment Act (CCA)**, which requires WA to reduce carbon emissions by 95% by 2050
- ‘The CCA created a market-based cap-and-invest program to require the state's largest polluters to buy allowances to emit GHG.
- Each quarter Ecology offers allowances to pollute at auction. Funds are used to invest in programs to fight climate change and its effects.
- Cap and invest program works by setting an emissions limit, or cap, and then lowering that cap over time to ensure Washington meets the greenhouse gas reduction commitments [set in state law](#).
- **Initiative 2117**, which would repeal the climate law, will appear on ballots on Washington November General Election. The effect of repeal:
  - Revenue loss from the repeal is estimated at \$1.42 billion in the first biennium ending in 2025, \$1.77 billion in the following biennium and \$1.4 billion in the biennium ending in 2029, according to the state Office of Financial Management.
  - Grant programs available to local governments, tribes and communities would be suspended, according to the office. Many capital projects would cease operations and many state government programs aimed at supporting a transition to clean energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving climate resiliency, supporting tribes and furthering environmental justice would cease, according to the office.
  - “We’re screwed,” said Nguyen, the West Seattle senator, if voters repeal the CCA. “That’s kind of the gist of it. That became the cornerstone of all three budgets: operating, capital, transportation.”

## Our Panelists: Introductions and Perspectives

# Welcome Panelists: Introduction & Perspectives

- **Sandra Ripley Distelhorst:** Serves as the AAUW-WA Public Policy Director. Her recent work as Director has documented the effects of climate change on women and girls. She is a past member of the Edmonds City Climate Protection Committee, and helped sponsor the Taming Bigfoot Event that encouraged individual and families to explore ways to lower their carbon footprint. She is also a member of the Climate Reality Project and Sustainable Community Stewards Program.



- **Meagan Carmack:** (she/her) A doctoral candidate in the department of political science at the University of Washington. She is an environmental politics scholar interested in climate justice issues and adaptation policy. Meagan aims to understand how systems of inequality and political institutions intersect to exacerbate the severity of climate impacts in frontline communities. Her most recent work focuses on “climate maladaptation”, particularly in understanding how maladaptation functions as a self-reinforcing process and the political drivers of climate maladaptation. At UW, Meagan is a member of the WATERS Research Collaborative (Water, Adaptation & Transformation: Equity, Resilience and Sustainability) and a fellow for the Center for Environmental Politics.



- **Martin Gibbins:** Martin serves as the chief policy advocate on Climate and Environment for the **WA State League of Women Voters (LWV)**. With a commitment to promoting legislation that ensures a healthy environment for both people and wildlife, Martin has been a vital part of the LWV of Washington's Advocacy Team since early 2017.



- **Francisca Santana:** Francisca is an Assistant Professor at the **University of Washington School of Environmental and Forest Sciences** and is an environmental social scientist dedicated to advancing equitable conservation and adaptation in a changing climate. She studies the social and psychological processes underpinning conservation and adaptation behavior. Her research investigates topics such as the social nature of wildfire smoke adaptation decisions in the U.S. West, coral reef conservation behavior in Hawai'i, and coastal community resilience and climate adaptation in southeastern Louisiana.



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**Agenda: 20 mins**

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***Dorothy McBride***



# Panelists Perspectives: Climate Change

- **Martin Gibbins - 1**



- **Meagan Carmack - 3**



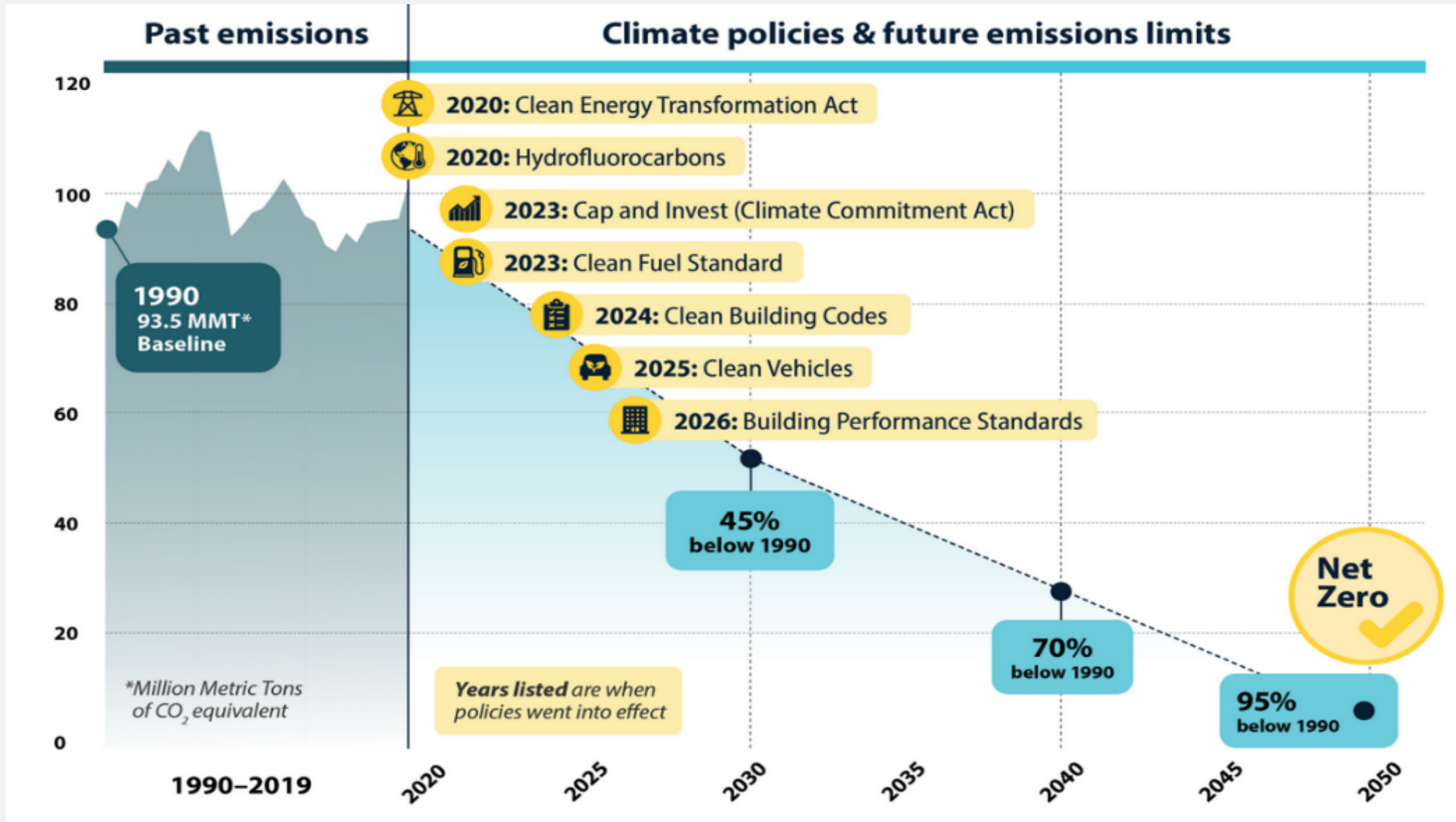
- **Francisca Santana -2**



- **Sandra Ripley Distelhorst - 4**

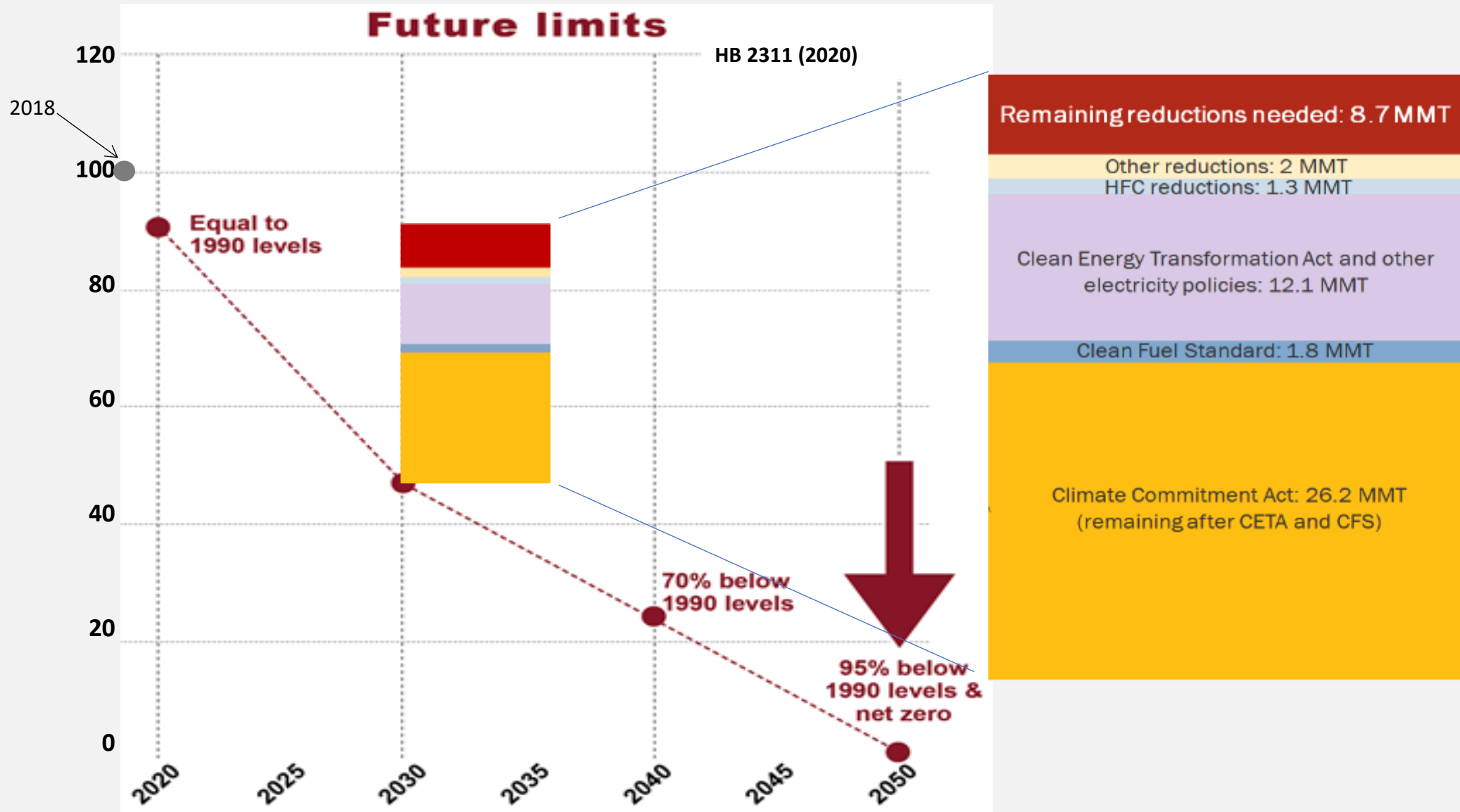


# How Washington is cutting pollution 95% by 2050

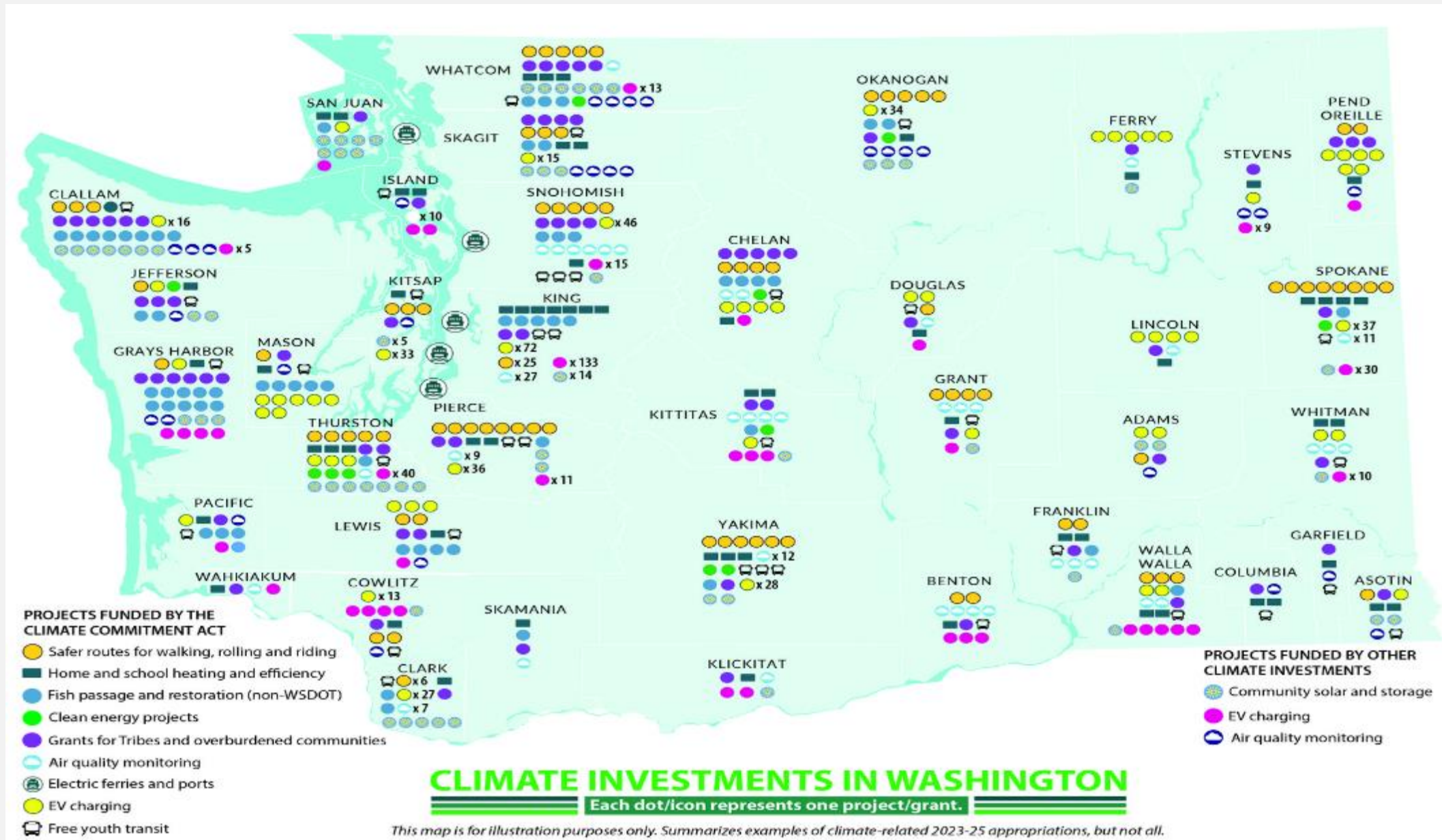


The timeline and pollution limits are set in state law ([RCW 70A.45.020](#)).

# Need to reduce 52 MMT GHG emissions by 2030



# Climate Investments in WA



# Climate and environmental threats




Members of the Canadian Forces fill sandbags to create a makeshift dike behind houses in Abbotsford, British Columbia, where last month's rainfall led to catastrophic floods. PHOTOGRAPH BY DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

ENVIRONMENT | 2021 IN REVIEW

## 2021's weather disasters brought home the reality of climate change



Francisca Santana


 The New York Times

### Climate Change Increases Chance of Wildfires in California

The research adds to a growing body of work finding that climate change is increasing fire risk in California and elsewhere in the West.

4 weeks ago




 SciTechDaily

### Coral Reef Cover, Biodiversity, and Fish Catches Have Declined by Half Since the 1950s

Coral reefs around the world are under threat because of climate change, overfishing, pollution, and more. Now, researchers reporting in the...

Sep 17, 2021




 WIRED

### Climate Change May Make Hurricanes Hit Sooner and Last Longer

While previous studies have looked at how climate change may make hurricanes more intense or cause them to drop more rain, this is one of the...

5 days ago



# Resources

- Climate Commitment Act – [Department of Ecology](#)
  - Ballotpedia: I-2117 [https://ballotpedia.org/Washington Initiative 2117, Prohibit Carbon Tax Credit Trading and Repeal Carbon Cap-and-Invest Program Measure \(2024\)#Text of measure](https://ballotpedia.org/Washington_Initiative_2117,_Prohibit_Carbon_Tax_Credit_Trading_and_Repeal_Carbon_Cap-and-Invest_Program_Measure_(2024)#Text_of_measure)
  - [Annual Report](#) – Governor’s Office
  - Cap-and-invest offsets - <https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/climate-commitment-act/cap-and-invest/offsets>
  - Big Oil wants CCA to survive - [Grist](#)
  - How to [talk about climate change](#) with family and friends
  - [Washington State Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Limits](#)
  - [Methane Capture CCA funding](#)
  - LWVUS [Climate Interest Group](#)
  - LWVWA [Issue Paper](#) on I-2117
- To take action: No on I-2117 <https://no2117.com/>

# Adaptation at multiple scales

Global scale

Regional -  
community  
scale

Individual scale

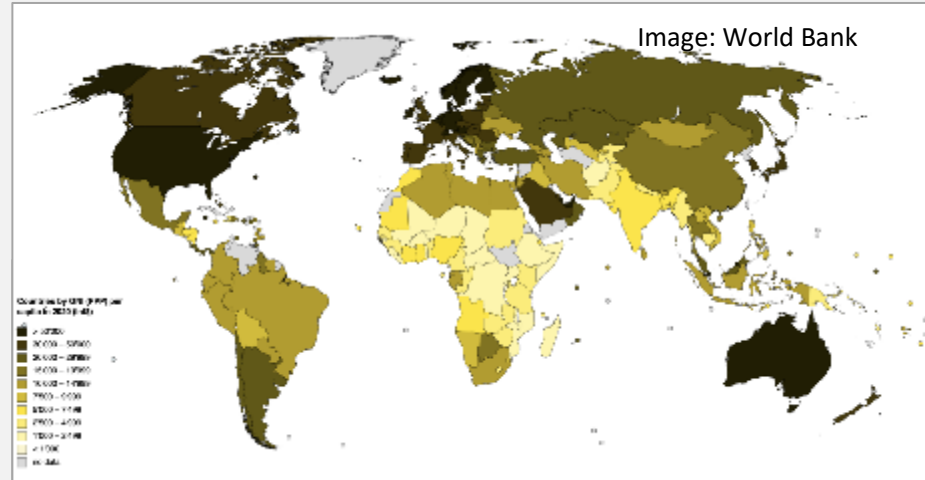


# Vulnerability at multiple scales

Global scale

Regional -  
community  
scale

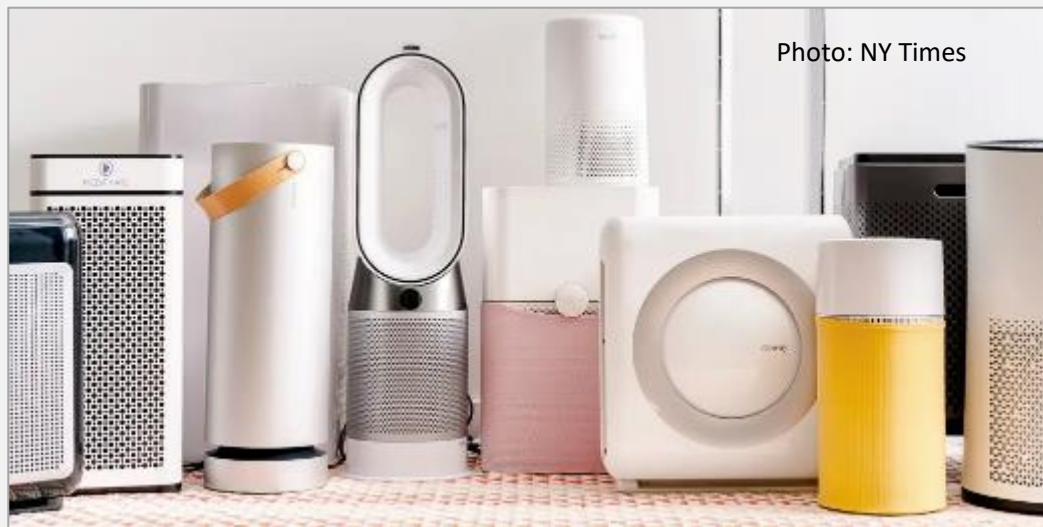
Individual scale





# Individual behavior

- Mitigate harm and reduce threats to personal health (Carman & Zint, 2020)
- Support community adaptation and resilience (Hughes et al., 2017)
- Contribute to system-level transformation (Wilson et al., 2020)



# The goal of my research is...

To advance our understanding of how social and affective dimensions shape climate adaptation decisions by individuals and in communities.

How?

- Multiple methods (surveys, interviews) and community-engaged, participatory research
- Fields/disciplines: social and conservation psychology, environmental sociology, and human geography
- Theory generation and production of actionable knowledge

# Social dimensions

Social norms - informal standards of behavior (Cialdini, 1991; Lapinski and Rimal, 2005)

- Descriptive social norms
- Subjective social norms



Photos: Getty Images

Francisca Santana

Social support - giving or receiving help

(Kaniasty and Norris, 2000)



# Affective dimensions

- Affective dimensions –  
“emotional involvement  
with nature” (Kollmuss & Agyeman, 2002)
- Place attachment  
(Buta et al., 2014; Scannell & Gifford, 2010)



Photo: Kipuka Olowalu

# Civic place attachment



Photo: Polanui Hiu

# Natural place attachment

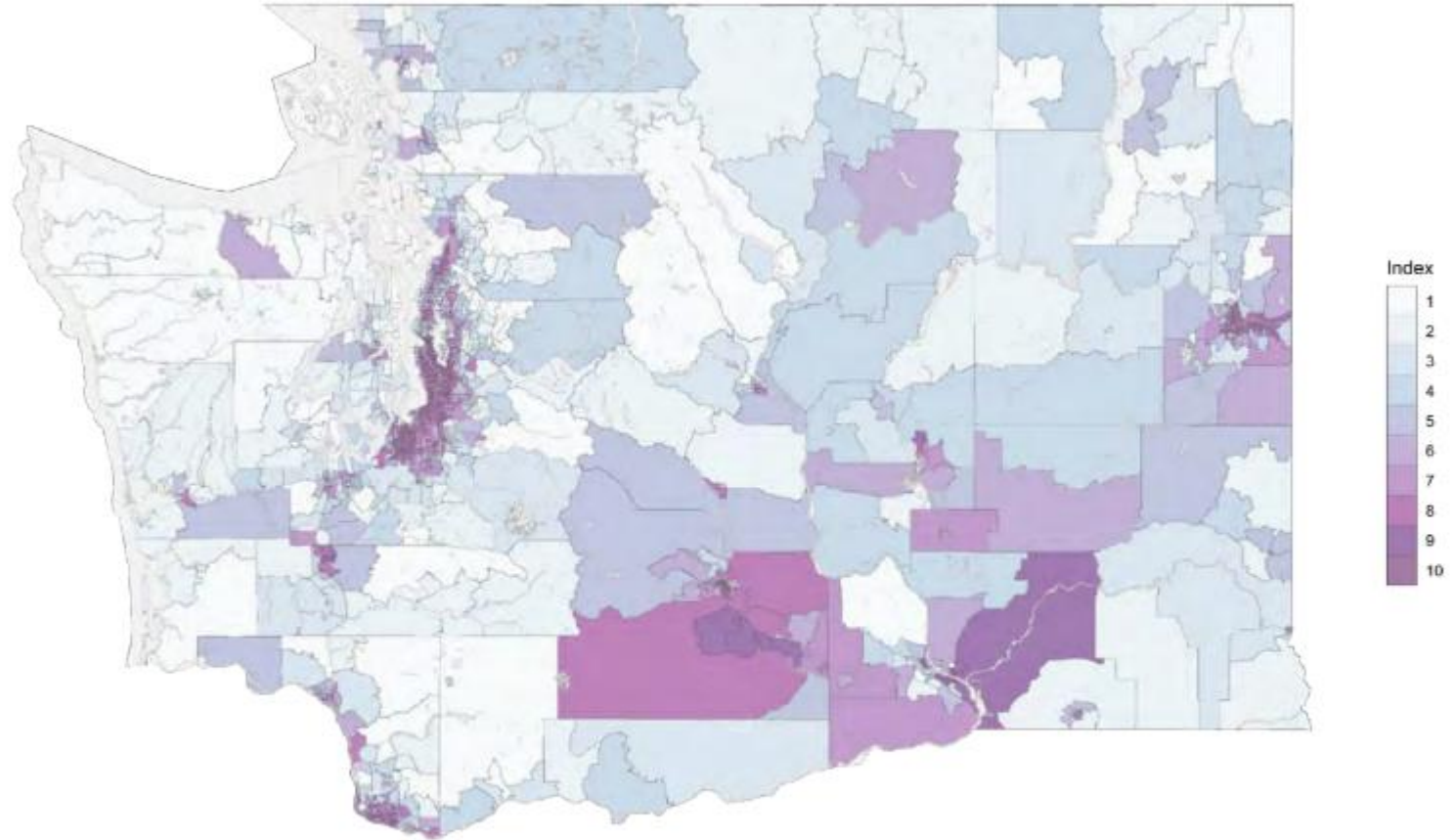


Photo: Francisca Santana

Scannell, L., & Gifford, R. (2010)

# What is Environmental Justice (EJ)? Why do we need EJ in Washington State?

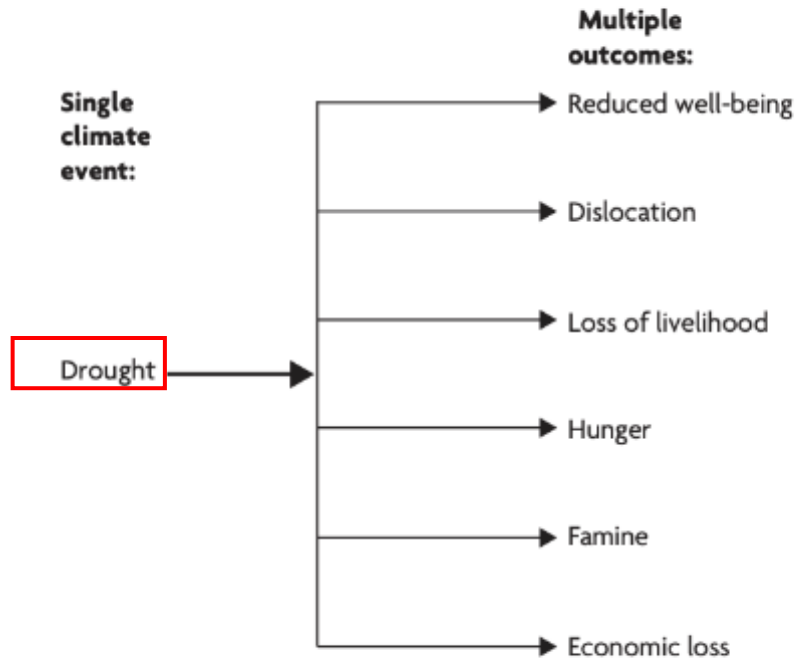
- Environmental justice (EJ) can mean a lot of things:
  - Distributive justice
  - Procedural justice
  - Recognition justice
  - WA Dept. of Ecology's definition
- Examples of EJ in your backyard:
  - Swinomish Climate Adaptation Plan
  - Wetland restoration projects
  - Duwamish River clean up (superfund EPA site)
  - HEPA filter giveaways



Map 1: Final Environmental Health Disparities Ranking of Washington state (version 2.0).

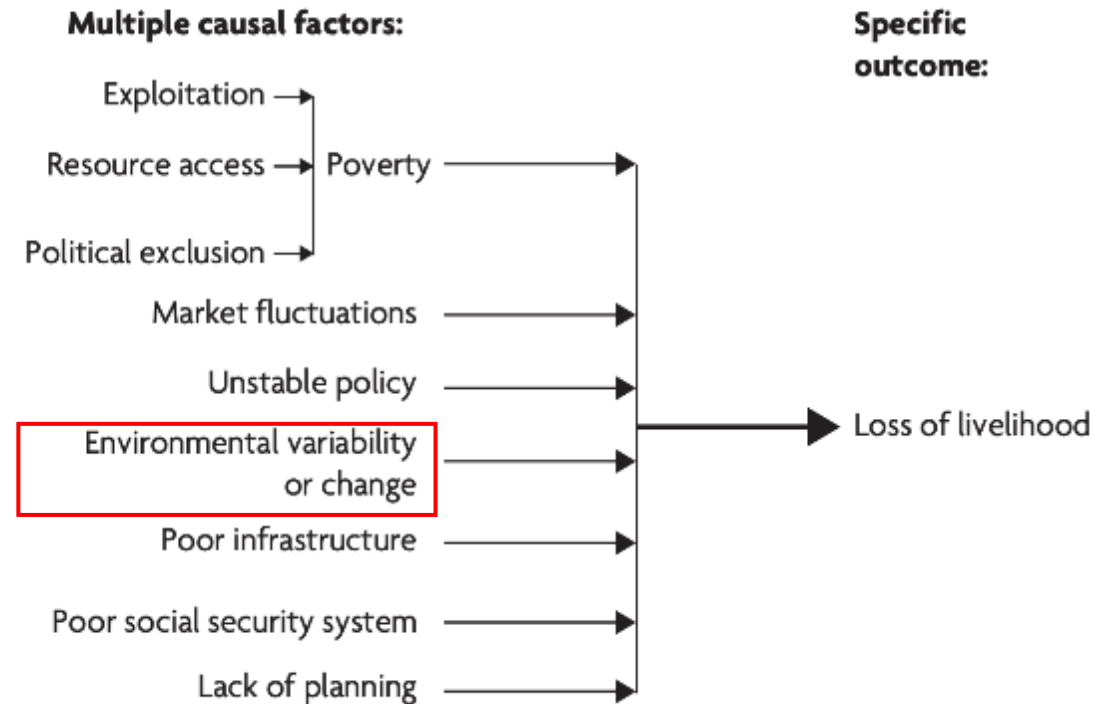
# Different Interpretations of the Sources of Environmental Injustice

Figure 2.1. Impact Analysis



Source: Author's illustration.

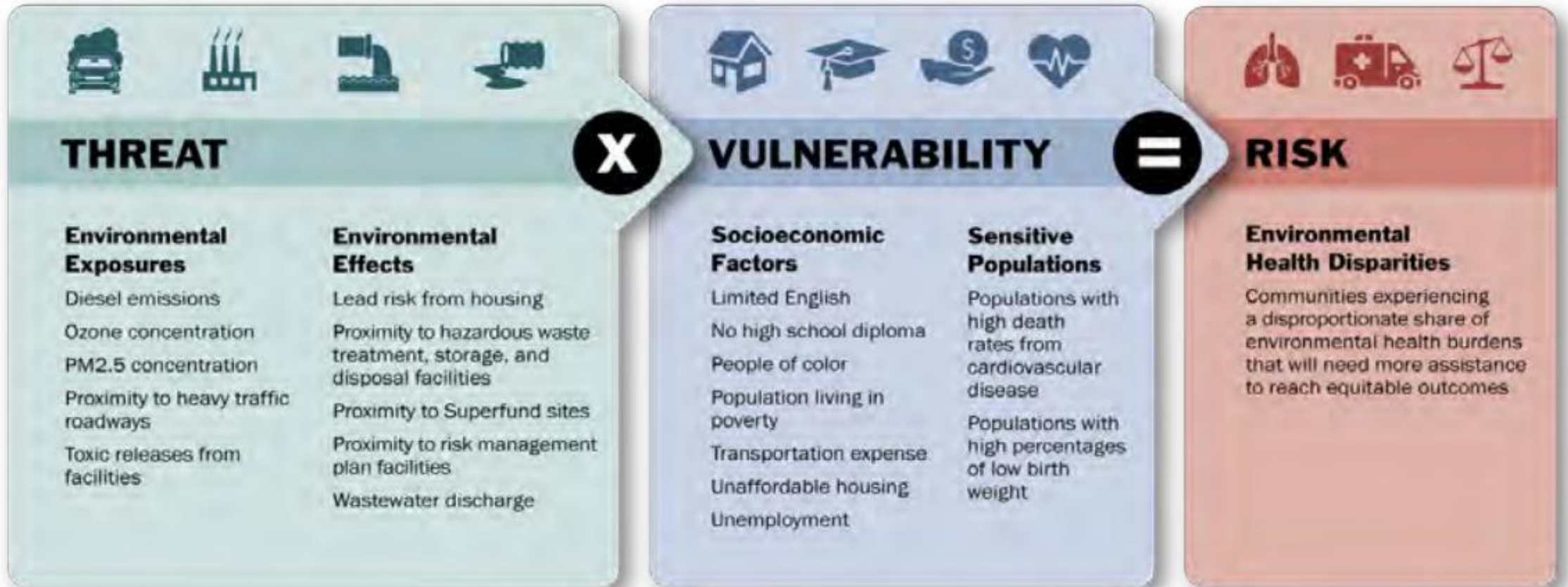
Figure 2.2. Vulnerability Analysis



Meagan Carmack

Source: Ribot (2013: 52)

# Threat x Vulnerability = Risk





Therefore, reducing climate impacts involves a broader view beyond GHG reduction...

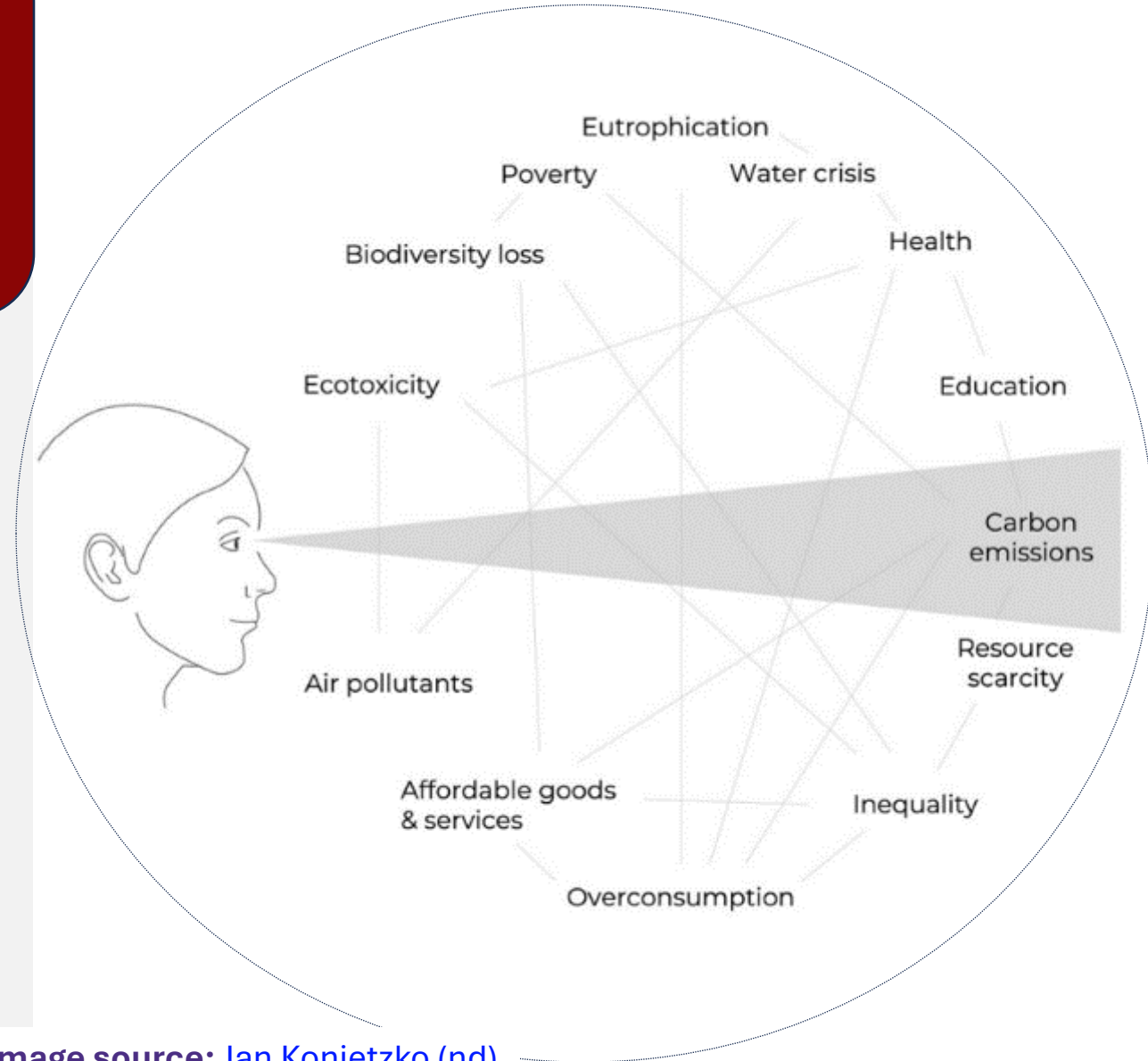


Image source: [Jan Konietzko \(nd\)](#)

# Studies show differences in climate change impact for men vs women

## Unique health and safety risks for women and girls

### *Reproductive health risks*

- Increased risk of pregnancy complications due to heat stress
- Higher rates of preterm births and low birth weight in extreme weather
- Reduced access to reproductive health services (including contraception), feminine hygiene products, and safe sanitary spaces, during climate disasters
- Climate-related events like extreme heat, air pollution, and vector-borne diseases can lead to adverse pregnancy outcomes and reproductive health issues.

Environment & Climate

### Wildfire smoke is a health risk for pregnant people — both physically and mentally

As the West's wildfire season worsens, a new Human Rights Watch report urges policymakers to address the toll it's taking on pregnancy and birth outcomes.



CLIMATE ACTION

### Climate change impacts women more. We must legislate to protect their health

Jun 18, 2024



AAVNEWS

### Climate change hurts women more

Extreme weather is linked to pregnancy complications, increased violence, and inescapable exposure to pollution and heat.



# Unique health and safety risks for women and girls

## Gender-based violence

- Heightened risk of violence in aftermath of natural disasters
- Increased vulnerability during climate-induced migration
- Suggested risk factors:
  - increased life stressors, failure of law enforcement,
  - exposure to high-risk environments,
  - exacerbation of existing gender inequalities and unequal social norms

Extreme weather and climate events likely to drive increase in gender-based violence

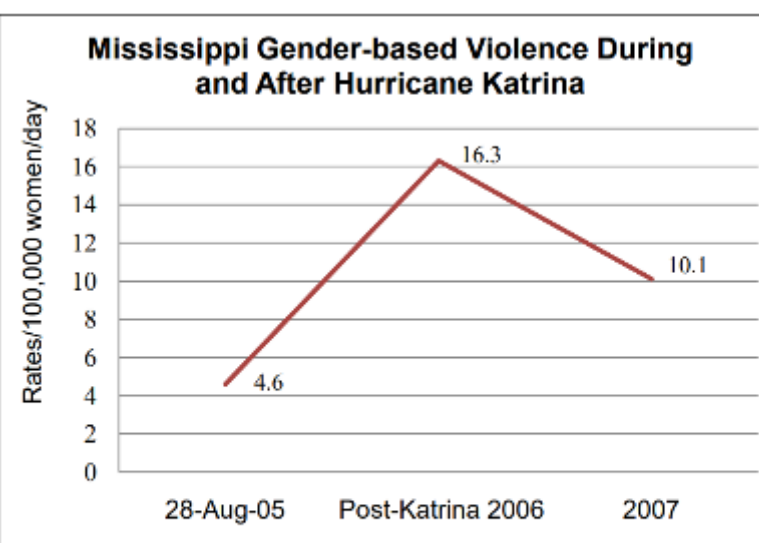


EDITORIAL • Volume 34, 100820, June 2024 • [Open Access](#)

Lessons from El Niño: gender-based violence must be on the agenda for future climate events

[The Lancet Regional Health - Americas](#)

[Article Info](#) ▾



PR chart using data from Anastario, Michael, Nadine Shehab, and Lynn Lawry. 2009. "Increased Gender-Based Violence Among Women Internally Displaced in Mississippi 2 Years Post-Hurricane Katrina." *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, 13(1), 26-31.

The intersection of climate change, conflict, and violence are not new topics in human rights law. However, how they affect women, children, and marginalized groups, and how to address them with appropriate solutions, services, and resources, are new and complex challenges globally. While it is critical to address the needs of all, assisting and raising awareness of how these acts of violence against women and girls (VAWG) are complex global challenges, especially in the context of climate change and conflict, especially in natural disasters.

# Policy can significantly contribute to changing social norms and mindset. US policy makers are slow to include gender in climate policies.

United Nations has been using **gender mainstreaming** for decades. We need to use it too!

## **USA is finally acknowledging gender in climate policy.**

- 2021 U.S. government acknowledge the need to promote gender equality in climate policy:
  - [U.S. National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality.](#)
- 2023 US signed
  - Signed [COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership](#)
  - Committed \$1.4 billion in investments in [Women in the Sustainable Economy \(WISE\) Initiative](#)
  - Released [United States Strategy to Respond to the Effects of Climate Change on Women](#)

## **118<sup>th</sup> Congressional bills in 2023-2024**

- Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act [H.R.3302](#) / [S.1601](#)
- Climate Change Education Act [H.R.7946](#) / [S.4117](#)
- Climate Displaced Persons Act [S.3340](#)
- Promoting Youth Mental Health and Well-being in a Changing Climate [H.Res.259](#)

# Studies show differences in knowledge, attitudes and actions between men and women

## ***Knowledge***

- Women tend to be more concerned and knowledgeable about the potential impacts of climate change on health, food security, safety, and well-being.
- Men tend to have greater technical knowledge about energy and emissions

## ***Attitudes***

- Women generally express higher levels of concern about climate change and are more likely to report feeling emotional distress about climate change, including eco-anxiety.
- Men more likely to be skeptical of climate science claims

## ***Actions***

- Women more likely to make personal lifestyle and household-level changes (e.g. recycling, energy conservation) to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Men more inclined to support technological solutions and policy changes
- Women typically express stronger support for climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.
- Men more likely to prioritize economic concerns when considering climate policies.

## ***Key Factors***

- Differences often linked to societal roles, education access, and cultural norms
- Variations exist within genders; individual factors also important

## Panelists: Questions & Answers – a Discussion

# AAUW Facilitator Dorothy McBride: Facilitated Q&A and Discussion with the Panelists

Agenda: 25 mins

- Questions & Discussion with our Panelists

*Stop Sharing Slide*

*Dorothy McBride*

# AAUW Facilitator Dorothy McBride: Facilitated Attendee Questions

Agenda: 20 mins



**Please submit your questions via CHAT – Send to EVERYONE**

**Dorothy McBride**

**Stop Sharing Slide**



# Call to Action: Climate Change

Learn

Advocate

Act

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Agenda: 10 mins

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# Call to Action: Learn, Advocate & Action – Climate Change

## Learn about Climate Change from a variety of resources

- United Nations
  - <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>
- Earth Day Organization
  - <https://www.earthday.org/history/>
- The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
  - <https://www.c2es.org/>
- U.S. Climate Alliance
  - <https://usclimatealliance.org/about/>
- US Environmental Protection Agency
  - <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/climate-change-resources-educators-and-students>
- The University of Washington Climate Impacts Group
  - <https://cig.uw.edu/>
- Washington State
  - Washington State Climate Department
    - <https://climate.wa.gov/washington-climate-action-work/environmental-justice>  
[Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)  
[2024 Annual Report – Governor’s Office](#)  
[CCA Environmental justice \(\\$140 million\)](#)
      - *\$5.9 million to improve urban tree canopy*
      - *\$38.6 million for Participatory Budget grant program*
      - *\$10.2 million for state agencies to implement the Healthy Environment for All Act (HEAL Act)*
      - *\$26.3 million for grants to tribes and overburdened communities related to implementing the HEAL Act and updating the Department of Health’s environmental health disparities map*
      - *\$25 million to improve air quality in overburdened communities*
  - WA Department of Commerce grants.
    - <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/program-index-2/environmentaljustice/>  
<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/?s=grants>



# Call to Action: Learn, Advocate & Action –Climate Change

## EPA's Climate Change Resources

- [Climate Change Indicators](#): This website describes observed changes in the environment, society, and ecosystems. An easy-to-understand, data-rich resource for teaching about causes and effects of climate change.
- [Climate Change Science](#): Learn about the science of climate change with information on climate change basics and causes.
- [Climate Change Impacts](#): Explore information on climate change impacts to communities, ecosystems, and industries in the United States.
- [What You Can Do About Climate Change](#): Find and share strategies for taking individual climate action with students or peers.
- [Generate!—Board Game on Climate Change](#): This interactive board game enables players to explore energy choices and the environment and gets students “energized” in some friendly competition.
- [ENERGY STAR Kids](#): Find out why energy efficiency is so important to addressing climate change and what you can do to help.

**Other Educational Resources** - Content on non-Federal websites is not endorsed by EPA and is not subject to Federal information quality, privacy, security, and related guidelines.

- [American Museum of Natural History: OLogy](#)  
Check out some of these games, stories, hands-on activities, and videos for learning about climate change.
- [Environmental Solutions Initiative at Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(ESI at MIT\): TILclimate Guides for Educators](#)
- These “Today I Learned: Climate” guides comprise flexible, ready-to-use activities for high school teachers, designed to bring concepts from energy to hurricanes to food into the classroom. They are an extension of the [TILclimate Podcast](#) series and complement other learning resources on the [MIT Climate Portal](#).  
[National Geographic](#)  
Find lesson plans, articles, activities, and more for K-12 educators on earth science, climatology, conservation, and geography. Activities geared directly to students can be found at [National Geographic Kids](#).

2

Advocate

**Engage with AAUW Public Policy – Washington and a variety of Environmental Non-profits to advocate for the protection of our environment – Globally, US and in Washington State**

## Washington State

- [The Nature Conservancy in Washington](#)
- [Northwest Environmental Advocates](#)
- [Audubon Washington](#)
- [Conservation Northwest](#)
- [Save Our Wild Salmon](#)
- [Climate Solutions](#)
- [No on 2117 - https://no2117.com/](https://no2117.com/)



Dorothy McBride

- [Washington Conservation Action](#)
  - Washington State's Environmental Priorities Coalition is made up of 27 statewide environmental organizations working to safeguard our environment and the health of our communities through policy and budget advocacy at the Washington State Legislature. Every year, the Coalition comes together to select priorities to advance during the legislative session.
- Look for more Environment Nonprofits here
  - <https://www.environmentalgroups.us/washington/>

# Call to Action: Learn, Advocate & Action – Climate Change

- Spread the word to vote and **vote NO on Initiative 2117**
- League of Women Voters action plans
- Save trees, enhance tree canopy
- Electrify your home; reduce use of natural gas
- Support public transit.

3

Act



**I-2117 - ON YOUR BALLOT**

## Climate protection repeal

**REPEALS THE CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT**  
This initiative rolls back the CCA, a market-based cap-and-invest program that requires the state's largest polluters to reduce greenhouse gas pollution

**BANS FUTURE ACTION**  
Under I-2117, any future cap and trade or cap and tax program will be off the table

**CUTS FUNDING FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS**  
The CCA has raised billions to protect our air, water, and forests. This includes wildfire prevention. I-2117 would slash this.

**ONLY BENEFITS SUPER-POLLUTERS**  
Seriously, no one benefits from this except corporations who pollute the most.

**INCREASES POLLUTION**  
We know that without guardrails, corporations will cut corners - leading to great pollution of air, water, and soil.

**eoi** Economic Opportunity Institute

The infographic features a central image of the Earth with lines connecting it to six callout boxes. The callout boxes are yellow with black text. The overall background is light green.

Dorothy McBride

# *Thank you for joining us!*

Agenda: 1 mins

- Our Attendees
- Our Panelists
- If you would like a Recording of the Panel, please contact AAUW WA Online.  
[Johnsen.Melissa@gmail.com](mailto:Johnsen.Melissa@gmail.com)
- A PDF of the presentation will be posted on our Website. <https://wa-online.aauw.net/>

Thank you!

Panel discussion will be recorded.

# APPENDIX

Bios / Climate Change Detailed Background



# Bios: Panelists & AAUW WA Online Leadership

# Kelvie Comer - AAUW Washington State Online President



**Kelvie C. Comer, Ed.D.**  
**AAUW-Washington State**  
**Online Branch President**  
**United States**

## **Professional Highlights**

- Principal, Independent Non-Profit Organization Management Consultant
- AAUW Washington State President (2012 - 2016), AAUW Nominating Committee, Chair. (2014-2015); also serve on AAUW-WA Tech Trek Committee, Professional Women's Night Chair, Corporate Fundraising
- Dean of Education, Health, and Human Services; Central Michigan University
- Interim Provost, Alma College, Michigan
- Dean of the School of Professional Studies and Graduate School, Eastern Connecticut State University
- Interim Dean, College of Fine and Applied Arts, The University of Akron, Ohio

## **Education**

- Temple University, Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Master of Education (M.Ed.),
- Penn State University, Bachelor's Degree, Secondary Education, English/Language Arts Teacher Education

# Dorothy McBride- Facilitator

Dorothy E McBride, professor emeritus of political science at Florida Atlantic University, earned her B.A. at University of Montana and an MA and PhD from Vanderbilt University.



In her career at FAU, she specialized in teaching and research in comparative politics and women and public policy and published several books and articles.

She also helped establish the M.A. in women's studies program.

In 2005, she retired and moved to Tacoma, WA. After years of scholarly exploration of feminist influence in policy making in US and Western Europe, she turned to advocacy to challenge gender hierarchies and raise women's status.

In AAUW, she found allies in this endeavor and now serves as public policy chair for the WA Online branch.

# Sandra Ripley Distelhorst – AAUW WA Public Policy Director



Sandra Ripley Distelhorst is the AAUW-WA Public Policy Director. Her recent work as Director has documented the effects of climate change on women and girls. She is a past member of the Edmonds City Climate Protection Committee, and helped sponsor the Taming Bigfoot Event that encouraged individual and families to explore ways to lower their carbon footprint.

She is also a member of the Climate Reality Project and Sustainable Community Stewards Program. Besides engaging in community- focused advocacy efforts, she advocates for policy changes through groups like AAUW-WA and LWVSC.

She believes her single biggest climate protection advocacy is voting for local, state and congressional representatives who support climate protection policies. She endorses a **NO vote on I-2117** which would repeal our state climate protection act. See Recommended Climate Protection Reading.

# Background

# Earth Day - History

**Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.**

- [T]he stage was set for change with the publication of Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller ***Silent Spring*** in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries as it raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and the inextricable links between pollution and public health.
- Senator Gaylord Nelson – Wisconsin, had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States.
- January 1969, he and many others witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, Senator Nelson wanted to infuse the energy of student anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution.
- Senator Nelson announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses to the national media.
  - He persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair.
- Senator Nelson recruited Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize the campus teach-ins and to scale the idea to a broader public, and they choose April 22, a weekday falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, to maximize the greatest student participation.
- Earth Day 1970 inspired 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts.
- By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the **United States Environmental Protection Agency** and the passage of other **first-of-their-kind environmental laws, including:**
  - the National Environmental Education Act,
  - the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and
  - the Clean Air Act.
  - Two years later congress passed the Clean Water Act.

# Washington State – Department of Ecology

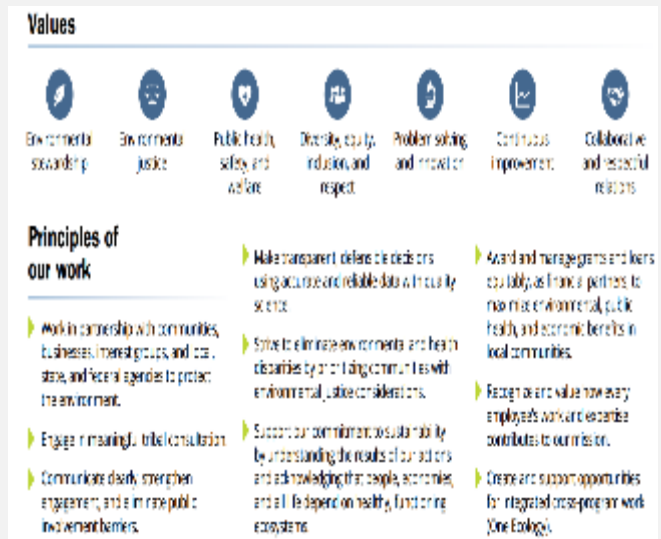
- ‘On Feb. 12, 1970, the Washington Legislature voted to establish the Department of Ecology, and the agency was signed into law on Feb. 23, 1970, by Governor Dan Evans.
- Five months later, on July 1, 1970, Ecology officially opened its doors to 175 employees, becoming the first government environmental agency in the United States.
- As an agency that predates the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), [Washington] quickly became a model for environmental protection around the country.’
- ‘Through [Department] [grants and loans](#), [the department] invest directly in local governments, non-profit organizations, and tribal governments. Our finding helps communities:
  - Clean up former industrial pollution, restore natural functions of rivers and their floodplains, protect water quality, electrify school buses, restore habitat after an oil spill, and prevent and clean up litter.’



# Washington State – Department of Ecology – Strategic Plan & Environmental Justice

## Washington State Strategic Plan

- ...Washington’s environmental protection agency, ... deeply committed to protecting, preserving, and enhancing Washington’s environment for current and future generations.
- Through innovative partnerships, [the department is able to protect and sustain healthy land, air, and water in harmony with a strong economy. And ... take great care to develop strategic plans that have a broad and holistic approach to what we do and how [ the department does] it.



## Environment Justice

- The [first statewide law](#) to create a coordinated and inclusive approach to environmental justice was passed by the [Department] [Office of Equity & Environmental Justice](#) was established.
- Our Office of Equity and Environmental Justice leads our agency strategy to reduce pollution and health disparities in communities most at risk. [The] office also helps [the Department] identify governmental barriers for at-risk communities and determines how we can remove those barriers.





# Regulations - US, States & Globally

## Global

### Summary

- ‘Countries have debated how to combat climate change since the early 1990s. These negotiations have produced several important accords, including the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- Governments generally agree on the science behind climate change but have diverged on who is most responsible, how to track emissions-reduction goals, and whether to compensate harder-hit countries.
- The findings of the first global stocktake, discussed at the 2023 UN Climate Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), concluded that governments need to do more to prevent the global average temperature from rising by 1.5°C.’
- The findings of the first global stocktake, discussed at the 2023 UN Climate Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), concluded that governments need to do more to prevent the global average temperature from rising by 1.5°C.’
- Dubai Agreement 2024 include
  - Dubai COP 28 (COP Means “Committee of Parties” — term follows from the 1992 UN agreement and the meetings are held every year.
  - December 2023
    - Signaled the “beginning of the end” of the fossil fuel era.
    - Overarching aim to limit warning to 1.5 Degrees centigrade by 2050

### What are the most important international agreements on climate change?

- **‘Montreal Protocol, 1987.** Though not intended to tackle climate change, the [Montreal Protocol](#) was a historic environmental accord that became a model for future diplomacy on the issue. Every country in the world eventually ratified the treaty, which required them to stop producing substances that damage the ozone layer, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).
  - The protocol has succeeded in eliminating nearly 99 percent of these ozone-depleting substances.
- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992.** Ratified by 197 countries, including the United States, the [landmark accord](#) was the first global treaty to explicitly address climate change.
- **Kyoto Protocol, 2005.** [The Kyoto Protocol](#) adopted in 1997 and entered into force in 2005, was the first legally binding climate treaty. It required developed countries to reduce emissions by an average of 5 percent below 1990 levels and established a system to monitor countries’ progress.
- **Paris Agreement, 2015.** The most significant global climate agreement to date, the [Paris Agreement](#) requires all countries to set emissions-reduction pledges.
  - The United States, the world’s second-largest emitter, was the only country to withdraw from the accord, a move by former President Donald Trump that took effect in November 2020. However, President Joe Biden reentered the United States into the agreement during his first months in office. Three countries have not formally approved the agreement: Iran, Libya, and Yemen.’