

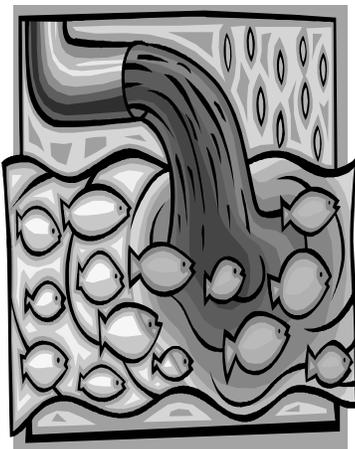


League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

March 2009

Who's Tending the Tap? Water Resources in Oregon



March 10, 2009

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Corvallis-Benton County Public

Library Meeting Room

Co-sponsored by the Library

Water, both quantity and quality, is in the news almost every day. Los Angeles has hired water "cops" to monitor usage; San Diego is holding public meetings during February '09 to discuss water rationing; the drought in the southeastern

section of the U.S. has led to hundreds of horses being abandoned because of the high cost of hay.

Oregon faces its own unique challenges and conflicts over water. The 2007 LWVOR convention adopted a review and update of League positions on Water Policy and Planning. Since 2007, local Leagues, including Corvallis, have studied local issues and concerns, attended and presented public meetings related to water and conducted tours. Meantime, the State League has researched the current status of water laws and regulations in Oregon and published *Water in Oregon: Not a Drop to Waste, Part 1, Regulating Water in Oregon* – which has been mailed to all League members.

The LWVC water resource committee will summarize the highlights of LWVOR's research, and relate this research to the situation here in Benton County. Keeping with the League principle of making informed decisions, we hope that after this meeting, you will better understand such concepts as water rights, sources and uses of public waters, the problems of water quality, and the nexus between land use laws and water. As a result of Phase 1 of this study we hopefully can all "be better able to protect our scarce water resources and to participate in more efficient consumption." (*Water in Oregon – Not a Drop to Waste*, 2009). Review the Everymember material and come to the meeting where you'll have a chance to voice your opinion on these issues and shape the League's position. The Everymember material is available on line at <http://www.lwvor.org/recentstudies.htm#Water>.

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2008-09

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Nominating Committee

Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWV of Corvallis

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The bulletin is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and is produced 10 times a year. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Contact Paula Krane. Submissions must be received no later than the Monday after the board meeting. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to men and women of all ages.

**President's Column**

February was a short but very busy month for the League. We hosted our first of several Legislative Town Hall meetings on February 7, with Reps. Sara Gelser, Andy Olson, Jim Thompson, and Sen. Frank Morse sharing their insights on the difficult budgetary choices they'll have to make during this legislative session. Please join us for updates by our legislators at subsequent town halls on the first Saturday of each month through June.

The February 10th forum that we hosted on the proposed Urban Renewal District (URD) offered attendees an opportunity to hear both the pros and cons of this issue, which will be decided by the voters in May. The LWVC board awaits the final report of our *Ad Hoc* URD Committee to determine whether or not we will take a position on the URD. Many thanks to Marilyn Koenitzer and the League's Land Use Committee for organizing the forum, and to Cyrel Gable and the *ad hoc* committee for their in-depth review and assessment of the URD Plan.

Another February activity was our New Member Reception. Many League members – both new and old – gathered at the home of Patty and Tom McClintock to get to know one another and to learn more about everyone's interests. We appreciate Patty and Tom's gracious hospitality, as well as the efforts of Shelly Murphy and our Membership Committee members who organized this enjoyable

Annette Mills

event.

March promises to be equally busy. On Tuesday, March 10, our Water Resources Study Committee, headed by Corrine Gobeli, will lead a program on water resources in Oregon. Please take time to read the outstanding study report that you received in the mail so you can make the most of the presentation/discussion format that is planned.



Since global climate change is a high priority of LWVUS, our League has accepted an invitation from the Corvallis City Club to co-sponsor a special presentation by Dr. Phil Mote, the first director of the new

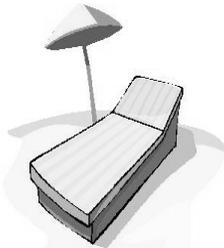
Oregon Climate Change Research Institute that will be located at OSU. This Oregon University System research institute was established in 2007 to help the state better plan for and respond to climate change. The City Club-LWVC program will be scheduled for late March/early April. We'll let you know as soon as the date is set.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year (it ends March 31st), we hope you will consider supporting our efforts through a special contribution to the League. To make a tax-deductible contribution, your check should be made out to LWVUS Education Fund or LWVOR Education Fund. You may also make a direct donation to LWVC; however, these donations are not tax-deductible. Send your check to LWV Corvallis, PO Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679. Thank you for your support!

LWVOR Raffle 2009

Every other year, during odd years, the LWVOR holds a raffle to offset expenses. This year's Raffle prize choices have just been announced.

- A Trip to Maui for Two, which includes airfare for two from Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles or San Diego to Maui including taxes, 7 nights including taxes, a one bedroom condo, 8 days compact car rental with unlimited mileage, driver pays gas. (\$3000 value)
OR
- Cash Award of \$2,500 (maximum cash award allowed by the OR DOJ)



Each raffle ticket costs \$10.00 and only 2,000 tickets are printed. The drawing will be held at the annual convention on May 16, 2009, Saturday night at 8 PM. The winner does not have to be present.

The Raffle will raise about \$15,000 after expenses for the prize, fees, postage, and printing, and has turned out to be an important revenue component to our budget. It raises funds to support Action activities and keeps convention costs and other expenses, such as PMP, down. It identifies non-members who are willing to support our programs.

Not only does this benefit LWVOR, but it also raises funds for local Leagues. If we sell the exact number of tickets as our total number of members, our League will receive \$1 back for each ticket sold. Tickets sold over the membership number will earn us a \$2 benefit per ticket sold. For example, if our total is 100 and we sell 120 tickets, our earnings will total \$140. That is, \$100 for the first 100 tickets sold plus 20 times \$2 = \$40, therefore the \$140 total.

Raffle tickets will be available for sale in February. Please help LWVOR and our League by buying some for yourself and selling some to friends and family. Contact Kate Mathreus (754-1172) for your tickets.

SECOND TOWN HALL MEETING FOR THE 75TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Saturday, March 7th

10:00 —11:30 AM

Corvallis Benton County

Public Library

Meeting Room

Co-sponsored by
the Library

Hear from our Legislators about what
is happening in Salem.

Want to contact your legislator quickly?

Go to <http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us>

Click on Elected Officials

The LWV Corvallis Website is linked to the US Congress, Oregon Legislature, the City, County, and School District.

The WEB site also has the newsletter, events, and voter information.

Bulletin Co-editor Needed:

- Someone interested in always being in the know about what is happening in the Corvallis League
- Someone interested in learning how to use publisher (or similar program)
- Someone who would like to help our League but being able to work on your schedule at home.



Public Relations Chair Needed:

- Handle the League's publicity
- Work with the local media on publicizing our events
- Cultivate a network for the League
- Create posters

Book Club Reads Again



The LWV Book Club will meet on March 9, 2:30 p.m. to discuss John Irving's, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. First published in 1989 and reissued in 2002, the book has its own Wikipedia entry, has been turned into both movies and stage plays. Join us at Ruth Gallagher's (754-3112) to discuss why so many have been intrigued by this book.

Paper or Plastic for League?

What is the best for League meetings? Should we use compostable dishes and tableware or should we have sets that can be machine washed and used over and over? Do you have an opinion? A committee is forming to look at the options. Would you like to be part of the group? Contact Louise Marquering at corvallismatters@aol.com or 753-0012. to share your ideas or help do the re-



The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission will meet in Corvallis March 26. League members are encouraged to attend and monitor the meeting. For specific information on meeting place and time, check <http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/commission.shtml> after March 13



The League maintains a list serve for meeting announcements and action alerts. If you are not receiving these and wish to receive these emails please send your email address to kranep@peak.org.



A Great Way to Make Money for the League

Are you wondering what to do with all that clothing and other items you no longer use? Why not donate them for sale at the OSU Thrift Shop. Two of our League members who work there and will consign items under a League consignment number. The League gets 75% of the asking price and the other 25% goes to grants and scholarships in our community. The Thrift Shop accepts clean, seasonal functioning items. Check what they do not take at <http://oregonstate.edu/groups/osufolk/thriftshop.htm> ----. Call our League volunteers at the Thrift Shop Miriam Miller (753-7261) or Kate Mathews (754-1172) to make arrangements.



Thank You

- Ann Brodie, Ruth Gallagher and Jane Woodward for hosting Unit Meetings in January
- Louise Marquering and Ann Brodie for food and to Carolyn Madsen for help with set up for the February Legislative Town Hall ... *Doris Waring, Events Co-Chair*

A big thank you to Patty and Tom McClintock who hosted the reception for new members on February 12, and to Jean Nath and Dagmar Johnson for their contributions to the event. It was fun to meet the new folks who came and to visit with our old friends.

New membership lists have been distributed electronically to all members who have email addresses and hard copies have been sent to those who do not use email. If you did not get your list or you cannot download it, call – 754-1184, or email shellym@peak.org.

... *Shelly Murphy, Membership Director*

Day at the Legislature

Tuesday, March 17, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Rm. 50
Sponsored by LWV of Oregon and AAUW of Oregon

Join us for an exciting day at the Legislature!

- Experience the legislative process in action
 - Attend hearings and floor sessions
 - Meet with your legislators
- Hear the inside scoop from guest speakers:
 - John Lindback, Director of Elections
 - Senator Alan Bates
 - Representative Phil Barnhart
 - and more...

*Space is limited—
register now!*

ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!
An agenda, map, parking information, and directions will be available soon on the LWVOR web site: www.lwv.or.gov

Day at the Legislature Registration Form

Advance registration required; space is limited to 50. Return by Monday, **March 9, 2009**, or sooner if possible

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Affiliation

- LWV Member (League Name: _____)
- AAUW Member (Branch Name: _____)
- Guest

Fees

Make checks payable to LWVOR and include with your form.

- Workshop with Lunch: \$18.00 pp. member; \$22.00 pp. guest Vegetarian Lunch
- Workshop only: \$11.00 pp. member; \$15.00 pp. guest
- All Day Capitol Parking Pass: \$7.00 (we will mail this to you ahead of time)

Activities

- Please make an appointment for me with my senator or representative

Return to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by Mar. 9, 2009. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwv@lwv.or.gov.



The United States Must Take Aggressive Action To Cut Its Greenhouse Gas Emissions To Stabilize Earth's Climate

The evidence is clear that human-induced climate change is underway.

The emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases—primarily by the burning of fossil fuels—has increased the blanket of heat-trapping gases in Earth's atmosphere. Global temperatures have risen approximately 0.8°C (1.4°F) above pre-industrial levels, and this small increase is already causing significant adverse effects. These effects—documented by the world's leading climate scientists and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—include rising sea levels, intensified storms, higher global temperatures, and severe droughts and floods that are already having adverse impacts on human health, food supplies, and ecosystems, as well as national economies.

The United States has made a commitment to stabilize the climate.

The United States Senate ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, joining over 180 nations in a commitment to “stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”

Prompt action is required to slow the build-up of greenhouse gases.

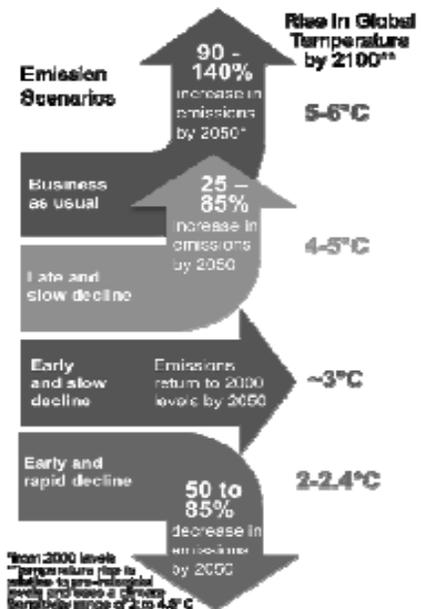
According to the IPCC, global emissions must peak and begin declining *before 2015*. There is strong scientific consensus that warming of more than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels will lead to irreversible damage to our planet. The pre-industrial concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere, expressed as CO₂-eq (CO₂ and other greenhouse gases and aerosols), was 280 parts per million (ppm). It was 375 ppm in 2005 and is increasing each year. We must start now to limit CO₂-eq below 450 ppm, adjusting the target periodically as necessary, to reflect our understanding of the rapidly evolving science of climate change. Eventual stabilization at even lower concentrations of CO₂-eq may be necessary.

The United States must adopt an aggressive trajectory for reducing its emissions.

The United States must stop the “Business as Usual” emissions of greenhouse gases and impose aggressive emission reductions starting in 2010. We support adoption by the U.S. of a firm, verifiable cap that reduces emissions at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050. Even with these aggressive reductions in the U.S., the global decrease in emissions may lag, as shown in the graphic, resulting in dangerous warming. Furthermore, part of the emitted CO₂ remains and accumulates in the atmosphere; thus, the atmospheric concentration will continue to increase until the global rate of removal exceeds the rate of release.

We have the capacity, responsibility and economic imperative to lead this effort internationally.

The U.S. has met great challenges before—such as World War II and space exploration. Since we are responsible for much of the increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases, we need to accept responsibility for being the leader in solving the global climate challenge. Our efforts will transform our way of life by creating a new clean-energy economy and will allow the U.S. to maintain its technological leadership.





A Firm Cap and a Stringent Emissions Reduction Timetable Are Critical for an Effective United States Cap-and-Trade Program

Aggressive near-term action is essential to stabilize the global climate.

The United States must cap its greenhouse gas emissions at current levels and steadily reduce the cap to at least 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80-95 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. A firm cap with steadily declining reduction targets will (1) help limit future warming, (2) promote long-term planning and investment in low-carbon technologies, (3) encourage strong action by other nations, and (4) facilitate steeper cuts in future years if called for by new scientific information.

Key elements in designing an effective cap-and-trade program —

- **Scope.** A comprehensive, economy-wide cap-and-trade program covering all greenhouse gases and all major sectors and emissions sources will increase certainty that critical emissions reduction targets are met. Complementary policies such as stronger energy efficiency standards, renewable energy standards and higher fuel economy standards will also be needed, but they are not a substitute for an effective cap on emissions.
- **Allocation.** Allowances should be auctioned rather than distributed free, with revenues used in the public interest, e.g., to fund efficiency measures and clean-energy technologies, invest in green-jobs training programs, cushion vulnerable households from higher energy prices, and help communities adapt to the unavoidable impacts of global warming.
- **Banking.** Allowing capped entities to hold unneeded allowances for use in future years will create incentives to make larger emissions reductions in the near term. Early action is especially important because a significant fraction of carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for thousands of years, making it all the more critical to limit cumulative emissions.
- **Borrowing.** Allowing firms to use future-year allowances to satisfy current-year obligations should be strictly limited. Regulations concerning the amount that can be borrowed, the repayment period, and the rate of interest should be designed to ensure that cumulative emissions targets are met.
- **Offsets.** Firms should be permitted to use offset credits generated by projects outside the cap-and-trade program to satisfy a small fraction of their compliance obligations. An offset program can help address emissions in sectors that don't lend themselves to a trading system, e.g., agriculture, landfills, and forestry, as well as support qualified projects in developing countries.

The quantity of offsets must be limited, however, so as to maintain incentives for capped entities to invest in new technologies. Offset projects must meet rigorous standards to ensure their environmental integrity and that they achieve real, permanent reductions that go beyond what would have occurred without the incentive of the offset.

The following mechanisms would undermine the integrity of the emissions cap and should be rejected.

- **Safety valve.** Setting a ceiling on the price of allowances and permitting capped entities to purchase unlimited additional allowances once that ceiling price has been reached would slow emissions reductions and erode incentives for investments in new technologies. It would also hinder linkage with international carbon markets, which do not use safety valve mechanisms.
- **Circuit breaker.** The option of delaying the scheduled timeline for emissions reductions if the price of allowances rises above a specified level would jeopardize the environmental certainty of the cap.



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**Dates
 To
 Remember**

- March 7—Town Hall
- March 9—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- March 10—General Meeting—Water
- March 13—Board Meeting
- March 17—LWVOR Day at the Legislature
- March 26—Oregon Parks and Recreation
- April 4—Town Hall
- April 13—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- April 14—General Meeting—Food
- April 17—Board Meeting
- May 2—Town Hall
- May 15 –17 LWVOR Convention—Medford
- May 19—Election Day
- May 27th—Annual Meeting

Join The League

Name _____
Address _____
City, Zip+ 4 digits _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

- ___ \$52 individual membership
- ___ \$78 household membership
- ___ \$26 student membership
- ___ Contribution*
- ___ I'm a new member! Please call.
- ___ I'm renewing my membership.
- ___ I want to join but dues are prohibitive. Contact us about a scholarship.
- ___ I'm interested in working with LWVC this year.
- ___ Please call.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to men and women of all ages.

The membership year begins in October. Please make checks payable to the LWV Corvallis and mail to: LWV Corvallis, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679.

* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the LWVOR or LWVUS* Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.

*Preferred