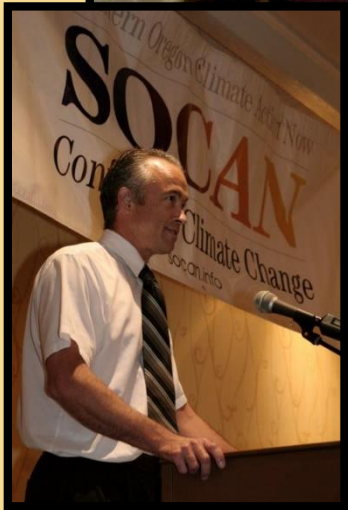


Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) 2015 Annual Report



January, 2016

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

Dear Friends,

Another year has come and gone, and SOCAN finds itself, at the ripe old age of three, ready for more adventure in the search for public, media, and elected representative understanding about climate change and the need to take action to address it.

While we plugged along with an array of valuable projects, as you will read, the pinnacle of the year was undoubtedly ‘Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts, and Implications – A Rogue Basin Summit.’ Thanks to an amazingly effective organizing team, we pulled this off attracting considerable publicity, some 250 registrants, and visits from our Federal Senators, in a rare moment both in the same room at the same time as they addressed the assembled participants on Wednesday morning.

We look forward to another successful year in 2016 as we assist projects developing from the Climate Summit Breakout sessions, and continue our engagement in the community to stimulate consideration for climate change in all aspects of the daily lives of residents, representatives, and public service employees.

We look forward to seeing you at our events, and working with you to further our mission of promoting awareness about the causes and consequences of climate change and stimulating action to address it.

Alan Journet Kathy Conway

Alan Journet & Kathy Conway, Co-facilitators

alanjournet@gmail.com & kathleendconway@gmail.com



SOCAN Leadership – Board of Directors



Retired Attorney **David Beale** came to Southern Oregon from Houston, TX where, besides practicing law, he was very active in Historic Preservation. Since becoming involved with SOCAN David has been a stalwart in most of our activities, from serving the Government Group, serving on the Leadership Circle, and helping keep the organizing team for ‘Our Critical Climate’ energized and confident in their ability to raise the necessary funds. We were delighted when David agreed to serve as one of our founding Board members. His contributions in every aspect of service to SOCAN have been stellar. We appreciate David’s thoughtful contributions and constant encouragement in whatever arena he has been involved.

Coming to Southern Oregon from Louisville Kentucky, **Louise Shawkat** has been with SOCAN since our first meetings in the fall of 2012. Since then she may have been involved in more SOCAN activities than any other of our activist volunteers. Those who remember the great salmon excursion of 2013 may not know that without Louise staying up nights with brush in hand, many of the scales would have remained bereft of color. When it comes to staffing a booth, marching in a parade, attending a townhall, leafleting, keeping time, or otherwise helping projects achieve their goals, Louise can always be counted on to give more than her share of effort and enthusiasm. Without Louise, SOCAN would have probably achieved less than it has accomplished during the three years of its existence. When Louise agreed to serve as a founding Board member, we could not have been happier. Of course, Louise is not just a SOCAN volunteer. For those who do not know, Louise was deservedly recognized this last year by the Rogue Valley Messenger as the Rogue Valley Non-profit Volunteer of the Year.



Bob Scheelen became a SOCAN volunteer activist for climate during SOCAN’s first year of existence and has been integral in our projects ever since. Bob is well-known among SOCANistas for his sage and calm advice and particularly his contributions to Government group activities and among those especially visits to field staff of our Federal representatives. Despite the almost annual trips to India where the volunteer contributions of Bob and Delores cross national and continental borders, Bob has been a constant with SOCAN since first coming to our meetings. We are grateful to Bob for serving as a founding Board member during our rebirth as a 501-C-3 non-profit. At our meetings Bob’s wisdom has always been welcome.



Not an Oregon native by any stretch of the imagination, **Alan Journet** grew up in Britain, spent several years in Canada and then several more in Australia. After two years in Texas, Alan moved to the United States in 1980. He taught Biology and Environmental Science for thirty years at Southeast Missouri State University, was active in the local Sierra Club group, and formed the Southeast Missouri Climate Protection Initiative. After relocating to Southern Oregon with wife Kathy Conway Alan built an energy efficient passive/active solar home in the Applegate Valley. Finding no grassroots climate activist organization in the region, Alan and Kathy established Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, of which he serves as Co-facilitator and Board President.

Before moving to Southern Oregon, native Oregonian **Kathy Conway** taught science, math, and social studies methods to pre-service elementary teachers at Southeast Missouri State University. She has also been a long time environmental activist with the local Sierra Club group and was instrumental in establishing the Southeast Missouri Climate Protection Initiative. After relocating to Southern Oregon in 2010, Kathy collaborated with Alan and other area residents to form Southern Oregon Climate Action Now of which she is Co-facilitator and serves as Secretary of the Board.



Roger Pearce, Pearce Law LLC, recently moved to Ashland from Seattle. Serving as our General Counsel, Roger has helped us negotiate the complexities of achieving 501 (c) (3) status and offered sage advice on legal matters.

Review of 2015

Monthly Meetings

SOCAN began the year with short Special Topic presentations before each working meeting. These included *Climate Change: A Paradigm Shift*, Dr. Kevin Downing, Consulting Geologist from Yreka CA; *The Not-for-Profit World Beyond Capitalism*, Dr. Donnie Maclurcan, Affiliate Professor of Social Science at SOU and Executive Director of the Post Growth Institute; and *Rogue Solar: Increasing Solar Installation Throughout the Valley*, Tom McDowell, RHT Energy Solutions.

We changed to a format of a presentation or movie for the remainder of the year. Presentations included: *A Price on Polluting the Atmosphere: Exploring the Options*, Sherrill Rinehart, Citizens Climate Lobby; Tom Bowerman, Policy Interactive; Sam Becker, St. Mary's School; *Is a solution to global warming beneath our feet?* Dr. Ray Seidler; *An Oregonian Returns to Arctic Village, Alaska: The Front Line for Climate Change*, Dennis Specht; *Our Critical Climate: What Are Businesses and Schools Doing?* Elizabeth Bauer, J. D. President & CEO of Gilded Rogue Enterprises; Alex Vermie, St. Mary's School Alum.

Thanks to all the presenters who shared their expertise.

SCAN Projects

SOCAN at Mountain Meadows

This group is made up of individuals who live at Mountain Meadows as well as others living in Ashland and other nearby towns in the Rogue Valley. The group meets monthly at Mountain Meadows and contributes many hours supporting actions that help us combat climate change.

This group attended many meetings of the Downtown Parking Management and Circulation Ad Hoc Advisory Committee as well as the Ashland Transportation Commission. They have participated in sessions where information was shared by Rick Williams Consulting on the Downtown Strategic Parking Management Plan and offered thoughtful questions and ideas as the city goes forward facing transportation issues.

Members of this group also attended meetings of the Ashland Conservation Commission and supported the development of Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan. They are represented, through Louise Shawkat's membership on the Ad Hoc Committee to implement this plan. They supported activities associated with Ashland Climate Week and the Kick-off event.

This group provided valuable support for the Rogue Basin Climate Summit through extensive fundraising activities as well as helping with planning and volunteering.

SOCAN at Mountain Meadows volunteers have also supported the Ashland Solar Garden idea, the Healthy Climate Bill, and the SOCAN Writing Corps where they can always be depended upon for insightful Letters to the Editor. One of their most recent projects involves creating a SOCAN forest. They are collecting money to fund a forest of at least 1,000 trees; these will be planted by *American Forests*, an organization working to protect and restore our forests.

Writing Corps

The Writing Corps is composed of over 50 individuals who have a commitment to informing the public about SOCAN and climate change through their letters to regional papers, guest opinion columns, interviews, and promotion of news stories. This group was responsible for over 250 appearances in regional media during 2015. Their effort has helped increase regional understanding and concern about Climate Change – a concern that has stimulated actions to deal with climate change. This effort may also have stimulated local media to devote more time, space, and attention to climate issues during the year.

Energy

The energy group helped individuals quantify their Carbon

Footprint and then take actions to reduce this footprint. These efforts will increase in 2016 with a 5-session class offered by Seldom in Jacksonville starting February 11, to increase the awareness of individuals as well as the number who are taking personal action.

Government

The Government group has visited elected officials, attended local town halls to ask questions of elected officials, and visited district staff of representatives to discuss issues of concern. Their activities demonstrate to representatives that many individuals in this region have concerns about climate change, want action, and will reward those who act.

Events



Booths & Tables

As in past years, SOCAN has participated in various local events. The focus during the past year was on booths at the Rogue Valley Earth Day, Old Fashioned July 4th Parade and Fair in Ashland, and Southern Oregon Regional Environmental

Education Leaders (SOREEL) Teacher Resource Fair. SOCAN was also a Co-sponsor of the Global Climate March (in support of the UN talks on climate change in Paris) held in Ashland in November.

Climate Summit



SOCAN's largest undertaking, since it began in August 2012, was organizing 'Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts and Solutions- A Rogue Basin Summit' held in October 2015

Thanks to the planning team (Lee Lull, Alan Journet, Kathy Conway, Louise Shawkat, Eric Dittmer, and David Beale) who met weekly for over a year to plan the event. The successful event drew visits from both our federal Oregon Senators. For the Keynote speakers (Dr. Phil Mote, Director, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. Mary Wood, Philip H. Knight Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program at the University of Oregon

School of Law, and Catherine "Kitty" Piercy, Mayor of Eugene) and the 30 other professionals who shared their expertise, all reviews were very positive. Additionally, there were over 250 registrants at the two-day event as well as over 120 Sponsors and 36 Endorsements. Regional and Statewide support for the event was amazing.

The second afternoon of the summit featured eight Break-out sessions where registrants brainstormed about projects that might further the SOCAN and conference goal of addressing climate change in the region. At its Strategic Planning Session in December, SOCAN committed to promoting projects emerging from the summit through 2016.

Winter Solstice

SOCAN activists gathered for fun – no work allowed – at the Solstice Party in December. Thanks to Louise for hosting this event and to all those who joined us to appreciate the magic of the shortest day of the year.

Collaborations

SOCAN works with others on a variety of projects. The Southern Oregon Climate Coordination meetings occur quarterly and bring together representatives from organizations throughout the area who are working on climate change issues. These meetings allow us to see what others are doing, collaborate where appropriate, and support each other's efforts.

The Jordan Cove LNG Export Terminal/Pacific Connector Natural Gas Pipeline is an example of SOCAN's collaborative efforts where working together can make a difference. SOCAN has focused on the impact the project would have on climate change through comments offered on both the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission (FERC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the final statement. We participated at public hearings sponsored by FERC and at state opportunities (Air Quality Permit, Clean Water Permit, and Oregon Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Certification), and submitted comments to raise issues about climate change.

As the year drew to a close, SOCAN joined and has become an active partner in the Southern Oregon Healthy Climate Coalition in an effort to support the Healthy Climate Bill scheduled to be introduced into the 2016 Oregon Legislative Session.

Presentations, Courses and Mini-courses

SOCAN continued its educational mission through the year with courses, mini-courses, and presentations on all aspects of climate change. Since one of the best ways to stimulate concern about this issue is to explain to residents what is happening and will happen in their own back yards, a focus in these presentations is frequently ‘Local climate trends, projections, and implications.’ With the Legislative District climate summaries covering every district in Oregon, we are

ready to deliver such presentations throughout the state – almost at the drop of a hat. If you or a group with which you are associated is interested in a presentation, please contact us. While most of the presentations were delivered by Alan Journet, we were delighted to engage Mary Ann Shank in presenting ‘Blessing the Waters’ sessions at local Unitarian Universalist gatherings in the spring.

Financial Report

January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015			
Income		Expenses	
Balance Forward	\$ 4,377.76	501(c)(3) Expenses	\$ 510.00
Donations	\$ 2,935.00	Administration	\$ 197.74
T-shirt Sales	\$ 165.00	Climate in Curriculum	\$ 300.00
Climate Summit Donations	\$ 18,220.00	Climate Summit	\$ 21,660.34
Climate Summit Registration	\$ 8,717.33	Fees & Charges	\$ 368.34
Total Income	\$ 34,415.09	Food for Events	\$ 140.06
		Media	\$ 40.95
		Outreach	\$ 226.35
		Parades & Booths	\$ 131.00
		Conference Registration	\$ 25.00
		SOCAN Red	\$ 903.03
		Summit Follow-up	\$ 75.00
		Supplies	\$ 85.23
		Total Expenses	\$ 24,663.04
		Account Balance	\$ 9,752.05

Your Gift Matter

SOCAN survives and thrives on the generosity of people just like you. As you read this report, we hope that you identify with the need to continue to work to fulfill the education and action mission of SOCAN. We have targeted our support for the Projects identified by the Break-out groups at the Rogue Basin Climate Summit, augmented by a focus on Education about Climate Change. Please consider a donation to

SOCAN. [Donate Now!](#)