

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now - SOCAN

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
SOCAN
Confronting Climate Change
<http://socan.eco>



Climate Emergency Rally – Salem Oregon. A large contingent of SOCAN activists joined the rally in support of legislation. February 11, 2020.

Photo by Allen Hallmark

Annual Report 2020

January, 2021



Dear Friends,

SOCAN was born in September 2012; 2020 was our 8th anniversary. When we launched, with the help of a few dozen local climate concerned activists, we hoped for success. We now look back with pride at what their energy and enthusiasm has achieved.

Undoubtedly, 2020 will be remembered as one of the most challenging years: we adjusted to life with COVID-19, meetings via ZOOM, and suffered an anti-science Federal Administration. However, we now enjoy more optimism than we have felt for some years. In addition to putting COVID-19 behind us, after four years of policy driven by conspiracy hoax and lies, we look forward to a Federal Administration that actually believes in, and bases policy on, science. We suspect that 2021 will be busy, but we should find an improved environment.

President Biden nominated Dr. Eric Lander from M.I.T. to head his Office of Science and Technology Policy, and has elevated this to a Cabinet post. This promises future scientific sanity. Additionally, with the party of science denial now in the minority in both the House and Senate, we see a glimmer of a chance at meaningful climate legislation. Indeed, not only did the Biden-Harris campaign with climate action as a high priority but Congressional Democrats also ran under a climate banner.

At the state level, after disappointment reined when many representatives walked out rather than vote on SB1530, we were encouraged when Governor Brown signed Executive Order 20-04 charging state agencies to develop plans that will place Oregon on a path towards emissions reductions of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and encouraging carbon sequestration on our natural and working lands. Many hard-working SOCAN volunteers engaged with the statewide coalition in monitoring and contributing to agency efforts. The Oregon Climate Action Plan, slated to take effect in January 2022, will be developed during the Spring and Summer of 2021.

Additionally, local elections resulted in success by several local council candidates who are sympathetic to climate action. Several graduates of SOCAN's Master Climate Protector course join other climate sensitive members on the Talent, Medford and Grants Pass City Councils. Congratulations and many thanks to all for their public service.

Please take a look at SOCAN projects outlined in this report, and, if you haven't engaged with us yet, consider jumping in. We welcome all hands on deck. Even in the more positive 2021 environment, achieving meaningful climate action will undoubtedly take all our hands.

Handwritten signatures of Alan Journet and Kathy Conway in blue ink.

Alan Journet & Kathy Conway, Co-facilitators

alan@socan.eco & kathy@socan.eco

SOCAN Board of Directors

Alan Journet has been on the board since 2014. His scientific background and inquisitive mind contribute to the “Science-based” focus of SOCAN. In addition to being Co-facilitator and Board President, Alan makes numerous presentations and is the energy behind the many media presentations. He leads the Media Corps, Oregon Legislative Districts, and Presentations projects, as well as shares responsibility for the Government group with Hogan Sherrow. Alan completed Al Gore’s Climate Reality Leadership Training in 2020.

Kathy Conway is Co-facilitator and serves as Secretary of the Board. She has been on the board since 2014. She and Alan initiated SOCAN. Kathy shares responsibility for leading the Climate in the Classroom group with Ellie Cosgrove and serves as the organizing guru around which SOCAN operates, and without whom SOCAN would be chaos. Kathy’s skills are largely the reason our general meetings and website are effective.

Bob Scheelen became a SOCAN volunteer activist for climate during SOCAN’s first year of existence and joined the board in 2014. Bob was integral in so many projects and was well-known for his sage and calm advice, particularly in contributions to Government group activities. It is with great sadness that we report that Bob lost a battle with cancer that took his life in 2020.

Hogan Sherrow joined the board in 2017, working largely with the government group. A Native Southern Oregonian, Hogan is an Evolutionary Anthropologist who has worked on three continents studying everything from humans, through grizzly bears, to chimpanzees. He was a Fulbright Scholar, earned a Ph.D. from Yale University, and has completed the Climate Reality Leadership Training with Vice President Al Gore. Hogan is also the energy behind, and Director of, the Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee (ROCPAC), established in 2019.

Dagoberto Morales joined the board in 2017. Dago came to the Rogue Valley from the State of Michoacan, Mexico, in 1988. He founded Unete, Center for Farmworker Advocacy in 1996, where he now serves as Director. He has been active in the social justice arena ever since. Dago is employed by Timber Products, a Medford lumber mill where he performs equipment maintenance. Dago brings a profound concern for social justice to the SOCAN Board that augments our environmental justice focus.

Liz Olson joined the board in 2018. She started volunteering with SOCAN after being inspired by our Rogue Basin Climate Summit in 2015 and is a graduate of the first Master Climate Protector program in 2017. Liz has created street theater projects and booth displays for SOCAN, assisted with grant writing, and, most notably, was the instigator and leader for the Voices of the Valley documentary and display project. Liz is

ordained by The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco – our country’s first interfaith and interracial congregation started during World War II. Rev. Liz works as a clinical chaplain at Providence Hospital in Medford.

Bill Gorham joined the board in 2020. After several years as marine biology faculty member at the University of the Virgin Islands and California Lutheran University, and a 30-year career as an environmental consultant, Bill Gorham retired in 2017 and moved to Brookings. Bill is co-facilitator of Coastal SOCAN in Curry County, has completed the Climate Reality Leadership Training, and has taught a variety of classes at the Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) on climate change, while presenting lectures and short talks to high school and college classes, community groups, Coastal SOCAN monthly meetings, and informal events at local pubs.

Review of 2020

SOCAN Mission

The mission of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) is to promote awareness and understanding about the science, causes, and consequences of climate change. We work with individuals and organizations in Southern Oregon, statewide, nationally, and internationally to advocate for both personal and governmental actions that reduce the emissions and atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases.

Bill is also involved with the OCEANS project seeking to bring offshore wind electricity generation to Southern Oregon.

SOCAN Advisory Panel

Roger Pearce serves as our General Counsel. Roger has proven invaluable in guiding us through our early incorporation and offering wise counsel in legal matters. We appreciate his contributions immeasurably

Pam Marsh has lived in Southern Oregon since 1994, when she and her husband, Diarmuid McGuire, moved their four children from Palo Alto, California, to the mountains east of Ashland. Pam was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives, District 5, in November 2016 after four years as a member of the Ashland City Council. Pam is a climate and environment champion and quickly ascended to a leadership role with the Oregon House majority caucus and now chairs the influential House Energy and Environment Committee.

Monthly Meetings

SOCAN organized monthly meetings at the Medford Public Library on the last Tuesday of the month for the first 2 months of 2020. Following the arrival of COVID-19, meetings were changed from in person to Zoom. Speakers and videos offered information about issues related to climate change. Topics in 2020 included The Human Element (video), Offshore Solar, Oregon Climate Action (Governor's Executive order 20-04), Socially Responsible Investing, Diggin In: Regenerative Gardening, and Other Side of the Hill (video) with the producers, executive producers and community leaders featured in the film answering questions from the audience. Attendance at monthly meetings in 2020 ranged from 34 to 72 with the addition of Live Streaming through Facebook and recording the presentations on You Tube. Live Streaming resulted in an additional 170-180 views to each event and You Tube added 30-40 additional viewers.

SOCAN Projects

Our projects are the essence of our existence. It is through these that we achieve our Mission. All that is required to start a project is for someone to have an idea that relates to the SOCAN mission, a team leader, and a few volunteers with similar interests. The project wheel logo represents SOCAN's 2020 projects and is one of the many designs and technology contributions of Steve Vermie.

Climate in the Classroom - Leaders Ellie Cosgrove & Kathy Conway



The third Teacher Conversation was held in February and provided area teachers an opportunity to share success stories and challenges they experienced when teaching about Climate Change.

Following this event, activities by this group were limited in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Collaboration with SOREEL (Southern Oregon Regional Environmental Education Leaders)

has continued as we provide teachers with options to include environmental and climate issues in their teaching. Grant applications were written for a Teacher Workshop, but were not funded. Efforts will be made to hold this workshop once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.



***Master Climate Protector - A Primer for Action -
Administrative Assistant - Eric Dittmer***



This project is designed for those who want an in-depth understanding of climate change science and its impacts on key sectors of energy, transportation, agriculture, water, terrestrial systems and health. The course uses an interactive format to help

participants from different backgrounds understand the material.

From five courses offered from 2017 through 2020 we have 77 graduates, 35 of whom have completed 20 hours of service and achieved Certified Master Climate Protector status.

Additionally, 22 recertification certificates have been awarded for graduates who performed the additional 20 hours of service annually. The classes are prepared and taught by the Master Climate Protector Team: Louise Shawkat, Ray Mallette, Eric Dittmer, Kathy Conway & Alan Journet.

During the 2020 course delivery, COVID-19 struck. As a result, the course migrated from the preferred face-to-face format at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center in Medford to the ZOOM format. Thanks to the enthusiasm and persistence of the teaching team and the participants, mediated by a session where everyone gained familiarity with the format, the course managed to continue and complete successfully without any drop-outs or infections.

Media Corps - Leader Alan Journet



The focus of the Media Corps is keeping SOCAN, global warming, and its climate change consequences before the public through appearances in print and broadcast media with opinion columns, letters to the editor, interviews, etc.

During 2020, the team exceeded 175 media appearances.

Oregon Legislative Districts – Leader Alan Journet



These summaries of climate trends, projections, and consequences for each Oregon Senate District are being updated while congressional district summaries are being added.

SOCAN at Mountain Meadows - Leader Louise Shawkat



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. Monthly meetings were held at

Mountain Meadows in January through March, but then stopped due to COVID-19 although the work to make the grounds more environmentally sensitive have continued. We hope to be back together in 2021.

Coastal SOCAN - Leaders: Ed Patterson and Bill Gorham



Coastal SOCAN started after Ed Patterson contacted SOCAN Co-facilitators to discuss forming a group on the Oregon coast. Bill Gorham joined Ed as co-facilitators, where upon they convened a planning

committee, and hosted monthly meetings. The first anniversary was celebrated in February 2020.

Coastal SOCAN is made up primarily of people who live on the Oregon Coast and generally focuses on issues related to the coast. Through monthly meetings, talks to local groups, letters to the editor and guest columns, and interactions with other environmental groups along the coast, they seek to educate people in Curry County on the causes, current negative effects, and projected greater negative effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

Coastal SOCAN held seven meetings in 2020. As a result of COVID-19, meetings have shifted to Zoom. This is provided an unexpected opportunity to attract a larger audience as well as being able to host speakers from beyond the coastal area. These sessions have been recorded and posted on YouTube. Additionally, small group conversations on climate topics have been held via zoom. Coastal SOCAN also participated in the candidate interviews for Oregon House and Senate positions and these recordings have resulted in over 200 views on YouTube.

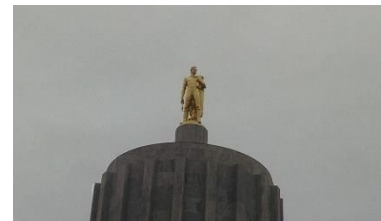
Sustaining Climate Activists - Leaders Liz Olson and Ken Deveney



Sustaining Climate Activists is a facilitated monthly support group for those engaged in climate action addressing the distress as well as exploring ways to keep ourselves resilient. The facilitators are Liz

Olson (Clinical Chaplain) and Ken Deveney (Trainer of Re-Evaluation Counseling)

Government - Leaders Alan Journet & Hogan Sherrow



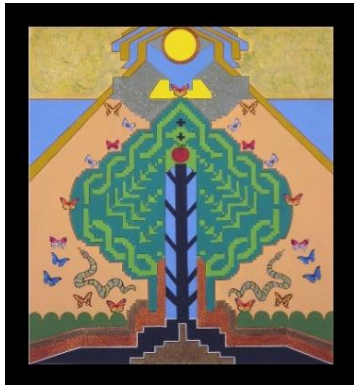
As the year started, the main focus for this group, as it has been for some years, related to engaging with the statewide coalition in efforts to persuade the state legislature to pass a meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reduction bill. In 2020, this was SB 1530 targeting reductions of 45% below 1990 levels by 2035 and 80% below 1990 by 2050. In February a large contingent of SOCANistas traveled to Salem for the Climate Emergency Rally. When Republicans walked out of both chambers and the state, breaking the quorum and preventing any legislative action from happening for the second half of the session, Governor Brown gave us hope by signing Executive Order 20-04 - subsequently dubbed the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP). This charged state agencies to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions under their authority parallel to those present in the thwarted legislation. The rest of the year was spent collaborating with

the statewide coalition teams to monitor and engage with agencies as they embarked on fulfilling their respective charges. About a dozen SOCAN volunteers engaged with the seven statewide tables (teams) working with state agencies.

Since the critical 2020 election cycle was hampered by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the government group modified its usual plan of ‘candidate forum’ and conducted a series of ZOOM interviews on climate and environment issues, inviting local candidates for Oregon House and Senate positions as well as County Commissioner. These interviews resulted in over 500 You Tube views. In many respects the individual interviews were more successful than the forum format suggesting that future such activities might be adjusted accordingly.

Throughout the year, SOCAN activists appeared to ask critical questions of state and federal representatives during their Town Hall meetings.

Forests & Fire - Leader Gary Clarida



The primary activity of the Forest and Fire Project emerged once the Governor’s Executive Order assigned the responsibility for promoting carbon sequestration primarily to the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Agriculture, along with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Oregon Global

Warming Commission. Members of this project then engaged

with various statewide grassroots groups and the coalition in monitoring the critical agencies. This project also supported the Soil Symposium developed by longtime SOCANista Ray Seidler and Cultivate Oregon. The project members recommended to the SOCAN Board that the symposium should be supported financially, which the Board agreed to do - with SOCAN becoming the first entity to fund the symposium. The Symposium, deigned to promote and educate about regenerative agriculture and soil carbon sequestration, was held in November over two evening as a ZOOM virtual event with Alan Journet delivering one of the initial presentations connecting carbon sequestration with the climate issue.

This project is also collaborating with a statewide effort to reimpose a Timber Severance tax in Oregon to align the state better with neighboring coastal states. Funds generated from this tax would be assigned largely to counties in the Property Tax category which funds schools, health, police, fire, and other local public services



Transportation Project – Leader Louise Shawkat

This group sponsored the very effective Transit Equity Day for our area. As part of a national campaign to show strong support for clean and

equitable public transit for all. A panel of local individuals shared information about different aspects of transportation in the Rogue Valley.

Ashland Climate Action Project - Leader Lorrie Kaplan



The Ashland Climate Action Project (ACAP) was formed in late 2019 to ensure that climate action is a top priority in Ashland. Through education and outreach ACAP informs and engages Ashland residents

to work together to reduce our community's climate impact and support full, timely implementation of Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP). as a complement and support to the work of Ashland Commissions. Activities in 2020 include a survey of Ashland residents to identify lessons

learned from COVID-19 restrictions and looking forward to the future. Candidate Forums to discuss local climate issues with all Ashland mayoral and city council candidates participating were conducted, recorded, and uploaded as YouTube videos receiving over 800 views. "Spotlight," a bi-weekly column in the Ashland Tidings, started in November. The first Zoom program organized by this group was a viewing of "Other side of the Hill." The LED Bulbs Project was a partnership between ACAP, Oregon Energy Trust, and Rogue Climate to make LED bulbs available to residents of Talent and Phoenix as these communities rebuild from the fires.

Presentations and Events

SOCAN has offered a variety of presentations throughout the year, changing to Zoom once COVID-19 restrictions were in place. These include presentations about Climate Smart, a Series for the Medford Public Library on climate change, and a presentation to an Environmental Science and Policy class at SOU as well as an invited presentation at an OLLI class. Alan Journet participated in the Skype a Scientist project by speaking with middle school students in Alberta Canada and San Jose, California. Presentations were also made at the KS Wild Fire and Climate Webinar, a keynote for the 350.Descutes Clean Energy Conference, and the Enabling Regenerative Agriculture: Getting Paid for Soil Health Symposium, as well as the Environmental Justice panel sponsored by Beyond Toxics, Unete, Southern Oregon Equity Coalition, and Rogue Climate.

Due to cancellations for Earth Day 2020, SOCAN created Earth Day Wake Up Call that was livestreamed on Facebook. This event attracted 113 on the day of the event with 612 views afterwards. Additionally, Alan Journet was interviewed by *Solar Tribune*, an online news publication from Washington DC. More than 1,300 individuals were reached through these presentations, not including those who participated in the Symposium, Conferences and Webinars.

Collaborations

An important part of working on an issue as large as climate change is working with others to accomplish shared goals. When others are leading, SOCAN tries to support in whatever way we can. Following are some of these activities from 2020.

Oregon Statewide Climate Coalition

SOCAN has worked tirelessly with the statewide climate activist coalition promoting legislation and now engaging with agencies on actualizing the Oregon Climate Action Plan.

Southern Oregon Climate Coordination

SOCAN actively facilitates quarterly meetings for area groups that are involved in activities related to climate change. In the past year, these have grown to include representation from Ashland and Talent city staff. Thirteen organizations are actively represented.

Rogue Basin Partnership

The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) exists to help its member organizations work more collaboratively, strategically, efficiently and effectively in our collective efforts to conserve and restore the 3.3 million acre Rogue River Basin. RBP provides members “backbone” support through networking, coordinating, fundraising, grant administering, progress tracking, and celebrating collective successes.

The Southern Oregon Climate Smart Working Group (SOCS) was established initially as an effort by the SOCAN Forestry and Fire Project. However, it soon took on a life of its own as the team expanded to include representatives from KS Wild, The Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, the USFS, and the Rogue Basin Partnership. The group initially spent time exploring and discussing Climate Smart management via the 2014 National Wildlife Federation summary by Stein et al., and then engaged with the USFS to explore how a local project, the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project, might be enhanced with climate smart ideas. This culminated in a meeting with USFS personnel in early 2020 to discuss these issues.

The Oregon Coast Energy Alliance Network (OCEAN) is based on the Southern Oregon coast and is a consortium attempting to promote offshore wind turbine installation off the coast of Curry and Coos Counties as a means of generating wind energy for California and Southern Oregon while stimulating local economies. Bill Gorham, leader of the Coastal SOCAN Project, is engaging on this effort.

Community Support for SOCAN

During the year SOCAN was supported by the following community activities.



Positive change is an effort by the Medford Food Co-op to support local organizations by inviting customers to round up to the nearest dollar with contributions. In February SOCAN was the recipient of their generous customer support.

The Mardi gras dinner was organized by friends of SOCAN, Catie Faryl, Ray and Julia Seidler supported by the Southern Oregon Pachamama Alliance Community as a fundraiser to support SOCAN activities.

To these friends in the community, SOCAN is extremely grateful.



Financial Summary

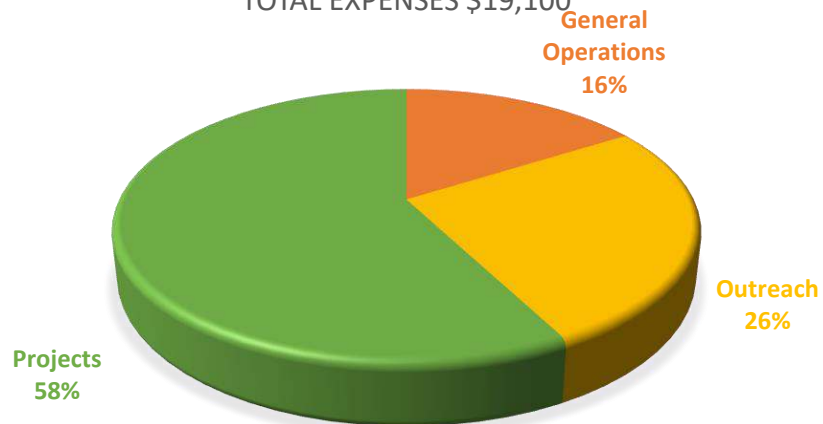
SOURCES OF 2020 INCOME

TOTAL REVENUE \$31,777



EXPENSES FOR 2020

TOTAL EXPENSES \$19,100



SOCAN is a grassroots volunteer organization devoted to addressing the critical issue of global warming. As a largely volunteer organization that has no permanent full-time staff, SOCAN engages very few individuals on paid contracts. Thus, the organization can accurately claim that almost all moneys contributed are allocated to SOCAN projects with only 16% assigned to general operations (which includes no salaries, but required state fees and insurance). Although outreach accounts for 26% of the annual expense, this is allocated to promoting our mission and projects.

What SOCAN can promise, therefore, is that a substantial proportion of your generous donation is allocated to projects and achieving the SOCAN mission.

We urge you to consider making a contribution to SOCAN.

[Donate Now!](#)