

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

SOUTHERN OREGON CLIMATE ACTION NOW ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Dear Friends:

2024 was a very exciting year for SOCAN in that the year saw us actualize the effort launched by the Board in 2023 to raise funds sufficient to allow us to take the important step of hiring our first paid full-time staff member; we hired Daniel Scotton as our first Executive Director. Daniel started work on the auspicious day of April 1st, wondering – as he informed us later – if this was all a prank. Daniel has since accepted that this was no prank as he settled into his role of relieving us of much of the day-to-day burden of administering this amazing organization.

We are excited to report that, thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of our hard-core activists, we are now in our thirteenth year with a stellar Board and Executive director to guide us forward. We will remain as co-facilitators and continue to work on SOCAN projects but are delighted to be passing some of our duties on to Daniel. We are also very encouraged by the manner with which Daniel has thrown himself wholeheartedly into his role as ED and look forward to working with him as the future unfolds. You may have noticed that Daniel has initiated 'Community Conversations,' during which more social interactions are the order of the day. During these, we enjoy light refreshments and conversations with one another and like-minded members from other regional climate organizations. Look for these to continue through 2025, moving around the Rogue Valley to allow folks to join us without traveling too far.

Another notable transition during the year was the transformation of our Master Climate Protector course, running successfully since 2017 as a course for community members, to become an SOU course. 'Living with Climate Change in the Rogue Valley' is now available to SOU students for credit as well as continuing for community members with interest.

Our Federal and State Project team again engaged with the state legislature during the 2024 session promoting positive bills and

opposing those that disappointed us. Testimony was submitted on over a dozen bills. This project will be active again in 2025 as the Oregon long legislative session launches in January and runs through June.

Additionally, Regional and Local Action Teams were engaged throughout the year in Ashland, Talent, and Medford while SOCAN Grants Pass climate activists served on the Grants Pass Sustainability and Energy Action Advisory Committee and the Coastal team is focusing on offshore wind. These teams will continue and may expand to include other communities.

In November, SOCAN's Second Annual social gathering and fundraiser, 'Sips for Sustainability', was enjoyed by many area climate concerned residents. It will reappear in 2025.

While November brought us a federal election that replaced a remarkably climate conscious Administration and Congress with less receptive and responsive federal leadership, at the State level the trend was quite the opposite. While protecting gains will undoubtedly be required federally and in Oregon to some extent also, the upshot of this election is a reminder to maintain our focus on individual, local, regional and state efforts since these are where progress is most likely.

We'd like to close by offering our deepest appreciation to the many stalwart climate activists who have either stuck with us in the endeavor over the years or have joined us along the way. Without you, the success that SOCAN has enjoyed would not have been possible. We hope all of our friends in the climate activist movement, whether SOCAN volunteers and staff or volunteers and staff with like-minded organizations in Southern Oregon, across the state, nation and world, have a productive and rewarding 2025. All the best, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year

Cofacilitators: Alan Journet & Kathy Conway

Handwritten signatures of Alan Journet and Kathy Conway in cursive script.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Hogan Sherrow joined the board in 2017, working largely with the Federal and State project and is acting as board president. 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.

Alan Journet has been on the board since we incorporated in 2014. His scientific background and inquisitive mind contribute to the “Science-based” focus of SOCAN. In addition to being Co-facilitator, Alan makes numerous presentations and contributes energy to SOCAN testimony submissions to the Oregon legislature and state agencies. Alan completed the Climate Reality Leadership Training with Vice President Al Gore in 2020.



Kathy Conway is Co-facilitator and serves as Treasurer of the Board on which she has served since 2014. Kathy and Alan initiated SOCAN back in the day. Kathy is part of the Master Climate Protector planning team 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.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Liz Olson joined the board in 2018. She started volunteering with SOCAN after being inspired by our Rogue Basin Climate Summit in 2015. Liz is ordained by The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco. Liz has created street theater projects and booth displays for SOCAN and was the instigator and leader for the Voices of the Valley documentary and display project and created with, Ken Deveney, our Sustaining Climate Activists effort.



Bill Gorham joined the board in 2020. Bill spent several years as marine biology faculty member at the University of the Virgin Islands and California Lutheran University, and had a 30-year career as an environmental consultant. Bill is the leader of the Coastal Climate Action Team in Curry County. He has taught a variety of classes at Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) on climate change, while presenting lectures and short talks to high school and college classes, and informal events at local pubs.

Dale Engle retired in 2019 from his work as a database analyst at UC Berkeley and moved to Jacksonville to be close to his sister. He had been a longtime supporter of environmental groups and was excited to take SOCAN's Master Climate Protector course in Spring 2020. He has since been very active with SOCAN, particularly as a technical resource for social media and other technologies. He has also been involved in strategic planning and joined the Board in February 2024. Dale enjoys many musical genres and loves singing with the Southern Oregon Repertory Singers.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dagoberto Morales joined the board in 2017. Dago came to the Rogue Valley from the State of Michoacan, Mexico, in 1988. He founded NOWIA 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 brings a profound concern for social justice to the SOCAN Board that augments our environmental justice focus.

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ADVISORY PANEL

Pam Marsh has lived in Southern Oregon since 1994. 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.

Ray Seidler serves as an adviser and consultant on issues relating to regenerative agriculture and soil health. Ray earned a BS in Biology and a PhD. in Bacteriology. Ray was instrumental in the successful effort to exclude GMO crops from Jackson County.

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. Within this framework, we are committed to supporting climate solutions that address the social injustices that have undermined vulnerable communities for many decades and that still plague our society today.

SOCAN is committed to fostering accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusivity in all aspects of our organization – from hiring practices and programming to community outreach. Our pursuit of this work is ongoing and ever-evolving, and it is guided by our values of cultivating collaboration, developing understanding, and striving for climate justice.



Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Talent Climate Action Team



MOVING TOWARD ELECTRIFICATION



*Why? How? Next Steps?
Come learn more!*

Tuesday, Feb 6, 2024
6-7:30 pm
Talent Public Library



Source: Project Beaver Website

2024 in Review:

- **January** – Flavia Franco and Alan Journet were guests on the Jefferson Exchange on the News and Information Service of Jefferson Public Radio to discuss the SOCAN January monthly meeting for January, “Daunted by Climate Concern? Let’s Explore Options for Action”. At the January General Meeting, participants worked on creating their own “Climate Action Venn-Diagram, created by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.
- **February** – SOCAN Hosted Dylan Plummer; Senior Field Organizer for the Sierra Club and his presentation, “Moving Toward Electrification – Why? How? Next Steps?”
- **March** – During SOCAN’s general meeting on Tuesday March 26th, Jakob Shockey, founder and Executive Director of Project Beaver delivered a presentation during which he offered an introduction to beavers, followed by a discussion of how they build habitat resilience and water security in the face of climate change.

2024 in Review:

- **April** – SOCAN welcomed its first Executive Director, Daniel Scotton. It held booths at three Earth Day Events – RCC-Redwood Campus, RCC-Riverside Campus and SOU – and participated in Día del Niño. Board Member Liz Olson hosted our General Meeting entitled “How the Climate Crisis is Affecting our Mental Health.”
- **May** – SOCAN’s support group co-facilitator Ken Deveney created “Ken’s Cards: Sustaining Climate Activists” – a set of 8 photo cards with prompting questions to stimulate conversation and emotional processing for those engaged in addressing the climate crisis. Additionally, Liz Olson was featured in an NPR article, “Eco-Chaplains Helping People Deal with Climate Grief”, highlighting the impact of our Sustaining Climate Activists group. During May, we were also joined by Mel Martin with OCERA, The Oregon Coalition for an Environmental Rights Amendment, which is developing a plan to amend the state constitution via ballot measure.



2024 in Review:



- **June** – SOCAN launched its first “Community Conversation”, a community space designed to allow climate activists to have a third space, with free food, drinks, and plenty of conversation. We also finished out the last class session for our Living with Climate Change course in partnership with SOU.
- **July** – In July SOCAN continued our annual tradition of marching in the Ashland 4th of July Parade. Volunteers came out to march and staff the booth following the parade. We also sponsored a lecture at the Rogue Valley Metaphysical Library entitled “Nuclear Power: Unaffordable at any Size” by Lloyd K. Marbet & Cathryn A. Chudy with the Oregon Conservancy Foundation. In July, we also hosted Board Member Bill Gorham and his presentation, “An Introduction to Offshore Wind”. His lecture is available on our SOCAN Youtube channel.

2024 in Review:

- **August** - In August SOCAN participated in the first in-person SOREEL Environmental Education Summit since COVID. Our Co-facilitator Kathy Conway spoke at the Oregon Climate Educator Summit. And we took a field trip during our General Meeting to the SOU Farm. Also in August, the Talent Climate Action Team celebrated the Clean Energy & Clean Air Resolution, which passed the Talent City Council on August 21st!
- **September** - SOCAN held its second "Community Conversation". Where 25 SOCAN climate activists joined us, including our partners at Rogue Climate and the Ashland Climate Collaborative. September was the deadline for SOCAN supporters to send public comments to the DEQ regarding the revised plan for the Oregon Climate Protection Program.



SOREEL



Rogue Climate



2024 in Review:



Photo Credit: Allen Hallmark



Coalition for Common Ground

Winds of Change

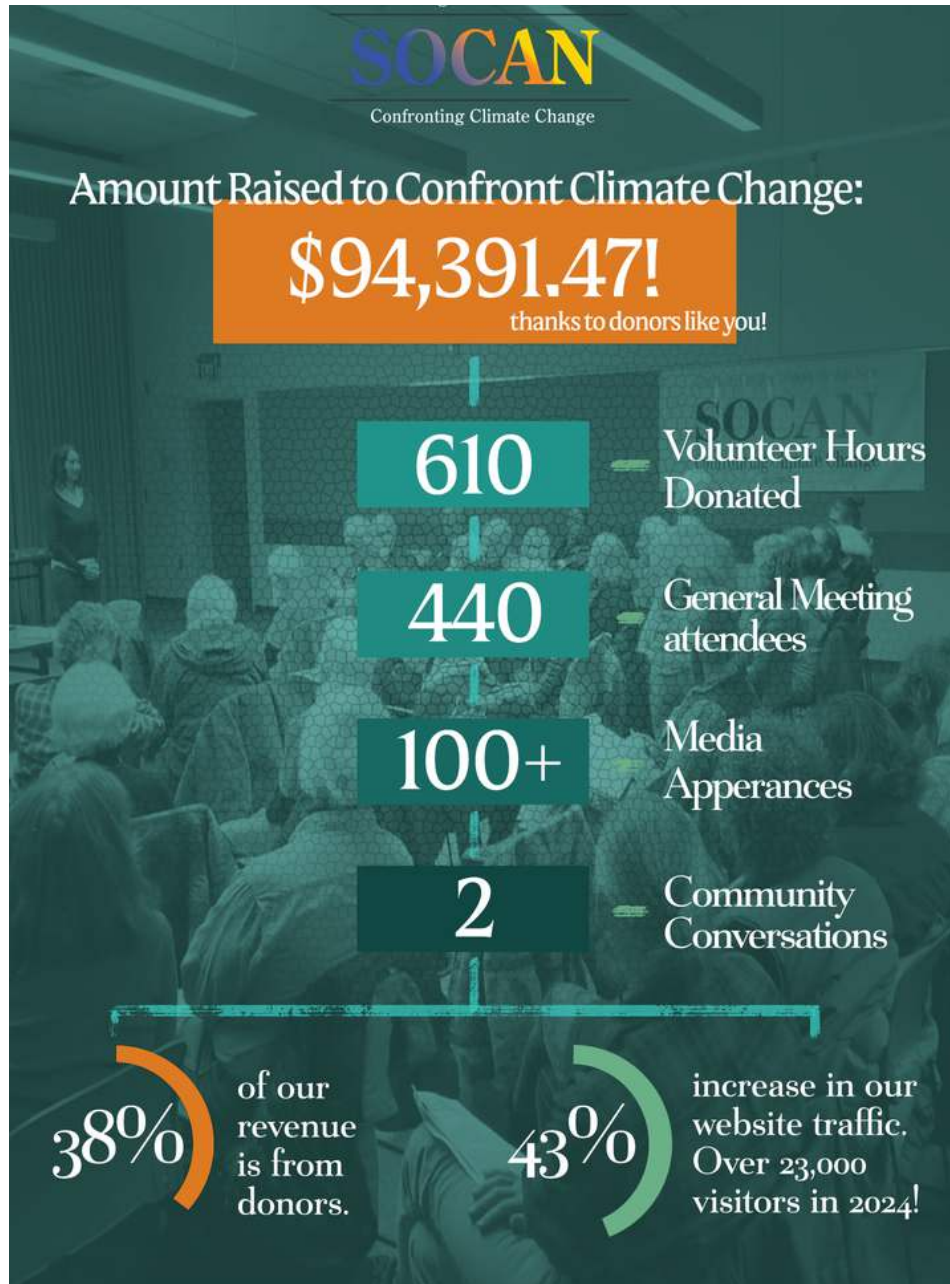
Two Days of Information and Discussion
December 17th and 18th in Coos Bay, OR



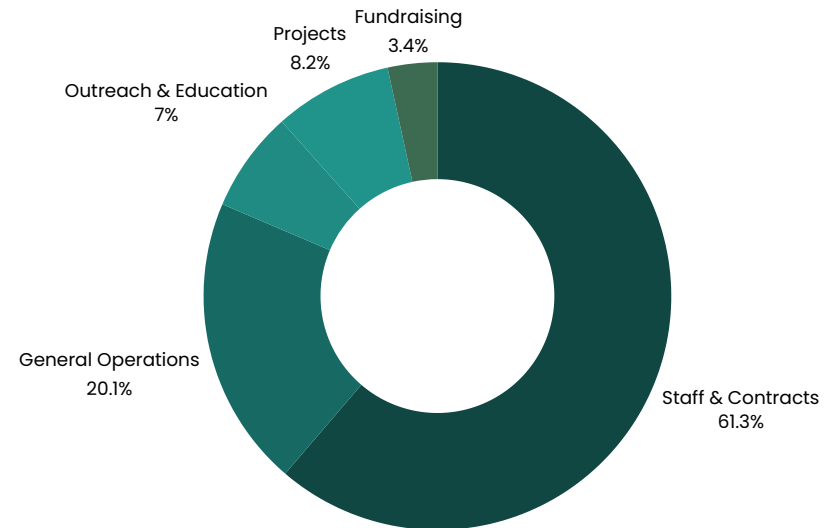
Photo Credit: Allen Hallmark

- **October** – SOCAN hosted its bi-annual local Candidate Forum. We had six candidates for various offices attend, to answer community questions regarding climate and the environment. A recording can be found on our Youtube Channel.
- **November** – We hosted our second annual Fall Fundraiser, “Sips for Sustainability”, where we welcomed over 50 attendees, enjoyed wine and non-alcoholic cocktails, and a spread of food from the Ashland Co-op. We’re all excited to go bigger next year!
- **December** – In December, the Executive Director and the Board continued to refine our strategic plan for the next biennium. Additionally, Bill Gorham and Daniel Scotton represented SOCAN at the Coalition for Common Ground, offshore wind conference in Coos Bay.

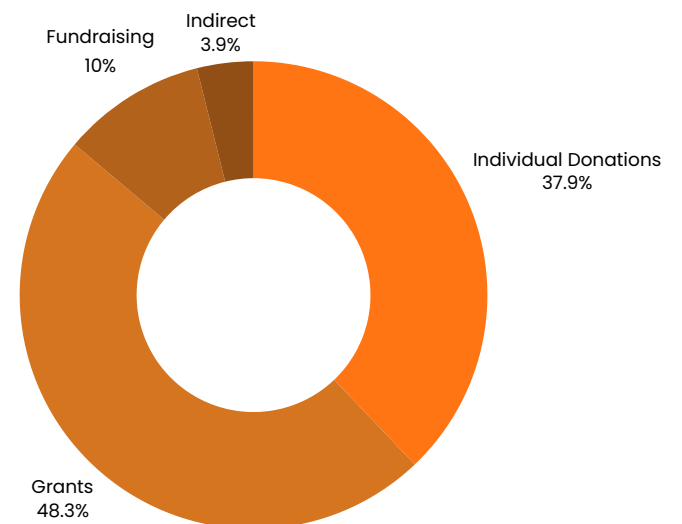
By the Numbers



Expenses for 2024



Revenue for 2024



Special Thanks to our Partners & Fellow Coalition Members!



Rogue Climate



**Southern Oregon
Pachamama Alliance**



Divest Oregon



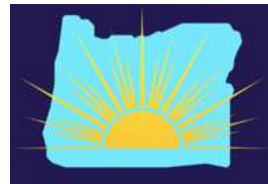
Electrify Coalition



**Southern Oregon
Regional
Environmental
Education Leaders**



**Ashland Climate
Collaborative**



Save Oregon Solar



**Southern Oregon
Citizens' Climate Lobby**



Coalition for Common Ground



Forest Carbon Coalition
Advancing nature's climate solutions



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