



**WASHINGTON
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL**

PROTECTING OUR LAND, AIR AND WATER

**Annual
Report
2009**



Marsh along Crab Creek, Columbia Basin



Rod Brown
President



Joan Crooks
Executive Director

Last year brought significant victories and progress on important environmental issues in Washington state. But the worldwide economic collapse prevented our society from dealing with two of Washington's most serious problems: climate change and restoring Puget Sound to health. These remain as both challenges and opportunities.

The progress we made this year illustrates the various ways WEC works to protect Washington's environment – through our advocacy in the state legislature with the Environmental Priorities Coalition, implementing past wins on the ground, and weighing in on ballot initiatives that would have big impacts for our environment.

We were buoyed by the continuing success of past work. For instance, our state's electronic waste recycling program, created by a campaign WEC helped spearhead, was a runaway success - collecting over 38.5 million pounds in its first year of operation.

2009 was also an exciting year for WEC organizationally. We finished the fifth year of our most recent strategic plan, having completed almost all of what we set out to do five years ago. This gave our staff and board a chance to step back to evaluate our role in protecting Washington's environment – what things we do well, what things we know we could do better, and how we can best advocate for our local and global environment.

It was an exciting opportunity for us to plan what we want to accomplish over the next five years. Our new plan, approved at the end of the year, lays the groundwork for big things to come.

We were encouraged by the strength with which WEC came through the tough economic times. Thanks to our donor base, whose belief in our work continues to inspire us, and to our track record of prudent fiscal management, WEC finished the year in good financial shape.

Throughout it all, we have worked to promote ideas and policies which follow a guiding principle – that our state should have both a healthy environment and a healthy economy. And that the two depend on each other.

Here at WEC, we continue to be invigorated by the power of our partnerships – from our legislative partners at Washington Conservation Voters to green businesses to progressive allies who share our vision for the state. We look forward to partnering with you to help build a bright future for Washington.

Thank you!

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a Washington State ferry sailing on Puget Sound. The ferry is a large, white, multi-deck vessel with a dark hull, moving from left to right across the lower third of the frame. The water is a deep blue-grey. In the background, a dense line of evergreen trees separates the water from the base of the Olympic Mountains. The mountains themselves are rugged and covered in forest, with their peaks and ridges illuminated by the warm, golden light of a sunset. The sky is a soft, hazy orange and pink, blending into the mountain peaks.

OUR MISSION:

To protect, restore and sustain Washington's environment.

OUR WORK:

Washington Environmental Council has an over forty-year history of achieving smart environmental protections for our state. We bring people together to advance bold solutions that make Washington a better place to live. We focus on state level environmental policy and have played a significant role in the adoption and enforcement of Washington state's most successful environmental laws and policies – protecting our land, air, water, and our quality of life.



Aerial of San Juan Islands

LEADING THE WAY

In 2008, Washington Environmental Council helped pass the Climate Action and Green Jobs law. This landmark legislation set clear state limits on global warming pollution and provided for a green jobs training program in Washington. What it didn't do was articulate how Washington would go about meeting its pollution reduction goals. That would require additional legislation, and WEC was up for the challenge.

At the beginning of 2009, in partnership with Climate Solutions and working closely with Governor Chris Gregoire, WEC helped bring the Cap and Invest bill to the legislature. One of the 2009 Environmental Priorities, Cap and Invest required polluters to acquire permits to pollute, and to reduce their pollution over time. Revenue from selling the gradually shrinking pool of pollution permits would be invested in green jobs and clean technology innovation to help accomplish the transition to a clean energy economy.

The proposal saw an outpouring of public support: from editorial boards across the state to citizen advocates who showed up in record numbers to speak for the bill. At hearing after hearing, people spoke about the urgency – for our environment and our economy - of acting now on climate change, and they asked the legislature to pass strong statewide climate policy. It seemed like common sense.

However, it was a tough legislative session, dominated by the state's budget woes. The bill was amended to tackle several discrete pieces of the climate challenge, but in the end many legislators were reluctant to take on an issue as big as climate change in

a substantive way. Time was running out, and in the last days of the session the Cap and Invest bill did not make it to the Senate floor for a final vote.

This could have been the end of the story, but WEC knew that addressing climate change could not wait until the legislature reconvened in 2010—every day counts. And Governor Gregoire agreed.

On May 21, 2009, Governor Gregoire signed a historic Executive Order which includes many of the provisions of the revised Cap and Invest bill, including: reducing pollution by large emitters; evaluating a low-carbon fuel standard; pursuing transportation planning to reduce solo driving and provide less-polluting choices; and transitioning Washington state's single, large coal-fired power plant to clean energy production.

The Order continues Washington's momentum as a leader in climate change efforts, and primes the state to benefit from a cleaner energy economy. During the signing ceremony, Governor Gregoire specifically thanked WEC and our partners for moving these policies forward.

Meeting the challenge of climate change won't be done in a year – or in one action. We know our solutions will need to be as multi-faceted as climate change itself, so we are building a multi-year agenda to create the state and regional policies that will help drive and complement federal action, and expand Washington's clean energy and climate leadership. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to create a clean energy future.





Mount Rainier beyond the Nisqually Valley near Ashford, Washington

IMPLEMENTING PAST WINS

So what do you do once you've built support around a great idea and passed it into a new law? You keep going to ensure that change happens on the ground. That's exactly what WEC has done with our Local Farms – Healthy Kids campaign this past year.

In 2008, we worked with a coalition of farmers, children's health advocates, school nutritionists, and parents to pass the groundbreaking Local Farms – Healthy Kids Act. This law broke down some long-standing institutional barriers to start connecting schools with local farmers.

But once the law passed, the even bigger challenge of turning this great idea into reality remained.

State law no longer treated food like pencils – buy the cheapest available, without thinking about the long-term health impacts to kids or supporting the local community. But school kitchens seem to have been replaced with giant microwaves and big signs on the doors that read, "No Cooking Allowed". And some farmers remain dubious about school purchasers, who didn't understand ordering according to a growing season.

The Local Farms – Healthy Kids Act created some programs to start bringing those walls down, like the Washington Grown Fruits and Vegetables Program. This program funds grants for fresh fruit and veggie snacks in schools with high numbers of low-income students. It was an encouraging success - in one year, 10,000 kids ate fresh, locally-grown snacks in school like Armin Jahr Elementary in Bremerton to Moxee Elementary in Yakima. Feedback from schools reported improvements

in attentiveness, learning, and healthy eating habits.

While that program is an excellent start, there is still much more to be done. WEC knows from experience that, when faced with breaking down long-standing barriers, the more hands helping, the easier the work. So we decided that our continued engagement would center on empowering people across the state to take advantage of the new opportunities presented by the law. To help, we produced a toolkit to help parents

and interested community members get farm-to-school projects started. We are also working to activate and empower parents to let their legislators these programs are important and worthy of continued funding.

And the coalition that came together to help pass the law continued to

work together to find ways to support the movement. A great example of this is WEC volunteer and local food activist Beth Loveridge. She was instrumental in helping pass the law and has jumped right into figuring out how to make it work on the ground. In fall 2009, she organized a conference in Clallam County that brought together over 150 elected officials, farmers, school superintendents, teachers, parents, school nutritionists and local business owners.

The energy around this issue is palpable – Washingtonians are enthusiastic about finding ways to feed our kids healthier food and strengthen our farm network. What we have in Washington is a great beginning - WEC will continue to work with our partners to make Washington's farm and school connections a model for the nation.





Skagit Valley, Skagit River estuary, and Mount Baker from Austin Pass

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

As a non-profit, WEC does not endorse candidates. But that doesn't mean that we don't view elections as an important part of our work to protect Washington's environment. To that end, we take positions on statewide ballot initiatives and work to involve and engage voters around important environmental issues through our Voter Education Program.

In 2009, Washington's environment faced a reckless opponent in Tim Eyman's Initiative 1033. This proposal would have locked in the year's anemic state budget as our baseline, threatening many things important to Washingtonians – education, public safety, environmental protections, and our economic recovery.

Due to the misleading way I-1033 was framed, initial polling was very much in its favor. It was going to take a massive statewide campaign to stop it from moving forward. WEC joined a diverse coalition of over 250 businesses, environmental organizations, and health, labor and education advocates, which worked together to let voters know the dangers I-1033 posed to the things we care about.

Working with our partners at Washington Conservation Voters, WEC was in the thick of the fight – helping to coordinate the environmental community's

response and using our office for nightly phone banks. We worked to get the word out to our members by phone banking, emailing their friends and neighbors, and writing letters to the editor. The reaction was inspiring – one night, the majority of the Seattle City Council, even those up for re-election, showed up to phone bank.



Our outreach efforts were guided by the work of our Voter Education Program, which helps us, and the rest of the environmental community, effectively reach voters who care about our issues and mobilize them.

There was a clear reason everyone was so motivated – I-1033 would have had a disastrous impact on Washington's ability to combat climate change and restore Puget Sound. The state had already been forced to make deep cuts in funding for natural resource programs and I-1033 would have led to even further cuts on environmental protections, as well as jeopardizing natural resource agency work.

Thanks to the efforts of the broad coalition, I-1033 was soundly defeated by Washington voters, 57% to 42%. It's a victory that will continue to resonate as we work to make sure essential environmental protections remain funded and in place.



Columbia River Basin, Steamboat Rock State Park

Thank you to our 2009 Supporters!

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The Sustainability Circle is WEC's monthly giving club, which provides us with reliable support, cuts costs, and reduces waste.

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Kristen Boyles - Earthjustice
Janette Brimmer – Earthjustice
Rod Brown - Cascadia Law Group PLLC
Dan Galpern – Western Environmental Law Center
Mindy DeYoung – Riddell Williams P.S.
Ken Lederman - Riddell Williams P.S.

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In honor of Cory Fuller
In honor of Brian Gruber – 2 gifts
In honor of Betsy O'Halloran
In honor of Bill & Daria Taylor

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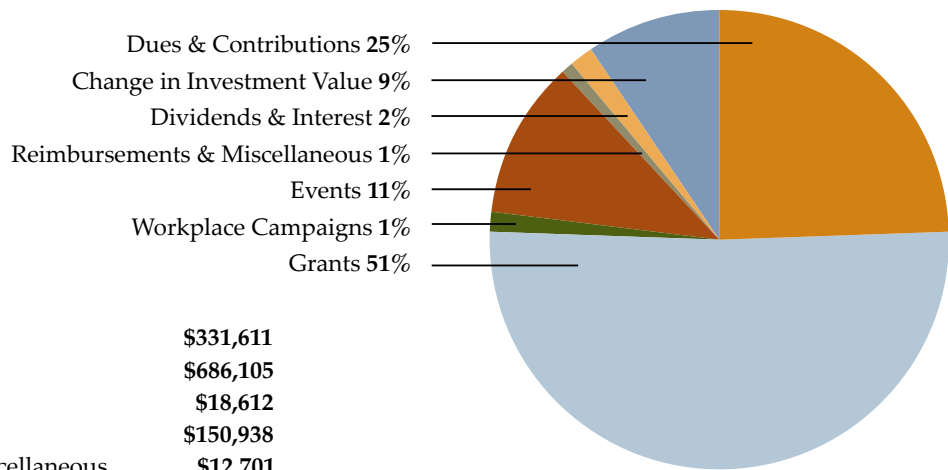
We value all contributions and try very hard to list & spell all names correctly. If you find we made a mistake, we would appreciate it if you brought it to our attention by emailing info@wecprotects.org or calling 206.631.2608.



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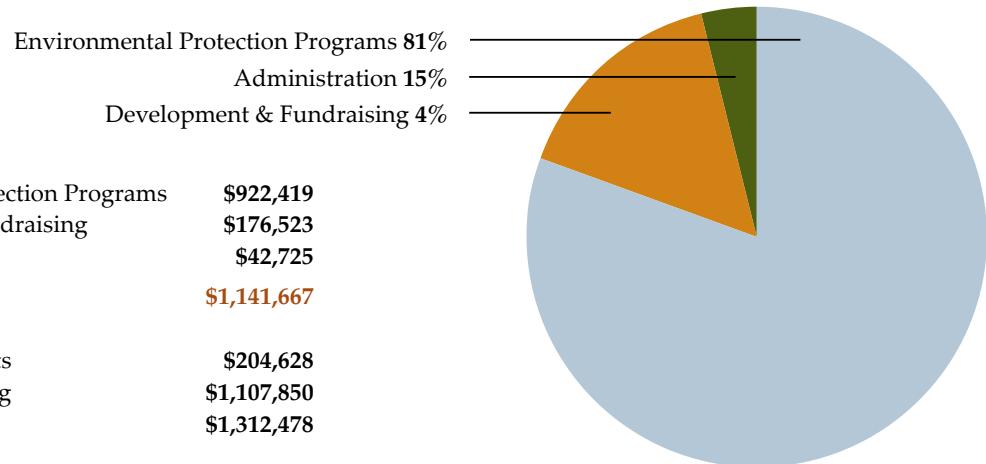
Cascade Range

2009 REVENUE



Dues & Contributions	\$331,611
Grants	\$686,105
Workplace Campaigns	\$18,612
Events	\$150,938
Reimbursements & Miscellaneous	\$12,701
Dividends & Interest	\$22,669
Change in Investment Value	\$123,659
Total	\$1,346,295

2009 EXPENSES



Environmental Protection Programs	\$922,419
Development & Fundraising	\$176,523
Administration	\$42,725
Total	\$1,141,667
Change in Net Assets	\$204,628
Net Assets Beginning	\$1,107,850
Net Assets Ending	\$1,312,478

* Investment changes include WEC's board restricted endowment
 Washington Environmental Council is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code
 Financial information in this report is drawn from audited statements by the accounting firm of Dave Bembridge, CPA PS



Washington Environmental Council Board of Directors

John Arum lives on Vashon Island and practices environmental law in Seattle. As part of his practice, he has represented WEC and many of its member organizations in litigation concerning our air, land and water.



Carrie Dolwick works as a Policy Associate for the NW Energy Coalition. She currently serves as the Board Chair of NW Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (NWSEED) and is a co-founder of Sustainable South Seattle.



Kathe Fowler has served on the board of the King County Conservation Voters and was board chair of Washington Conservation Voters. She also serves on the board of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, the Advisory Council for the Methow Conservancy and the Executive Leadership Council for Hopelink.



Jabe Blumenthal, designer of the first version of Excel at Microsoft, went on to head the science department at Lakeside High School in Seattle. Jabe is the co-founder and board chair of Progress Alliance of Washington, board chair of Climate Solutions, and a Bullitt Foundation board member.



Representing NW Energy Coalition

Bill Donnelly has served on the board of Northwest Fund for the Environment, Conservation Northwest, Resource Media, and Basel Action Network. A principal at the Donnelly-Gray Group at Merrill Lynch, he has been involved with environmentally-sensitive investing for more than two decades.



Hilary Franz has been a land use and environmental attorney for 13 years. She currently serves as a Bainbridge Island city council member and a member of Department of Ecology's Advisory Group on Climate Change and SEPA Advisory Group.



Representing Climate Solutions

Rod Brown, *President*, practices environmental law at the Cascadia Law Group PLLC and has spent over fifteen years as a WEC volunteer, helping to create our state's Superfund cleanup law and Growth Management Act. He served as one of two environmental community members on Governor Gregoire's Climate Advisory Team.



John Edwards is Emeritus Professor of Biology at the University of Washington. He serves on the board of the North Cascades Conservation Council and is board chair for the Mountaineers Conservation Division.



Representing North Cascades Conservation Council

Marcy Golde is a long-time volunteer with WEC working on fish, water quality and forestry issues. Marcy was one of the original negotiators of the landmark Timber, Fish and Wildlife Agreement (TFW) and is past president of the Northwest Fund for the Environment.



Representing Olympic Forest Coalition

Representing Seattle Audubon

Marc Daudon is a Principal and co-founder of the Cascadia Consulting Group, a sustainability consulting firm in Seattle. He serves on the board of Climate Solutions and was board chair of Washington Conservation Voters.



Dan Evans uses his Congressional, legal, and strategic planning background to serve public and private clients. He serves on the board of the Transportation Choices Coalition and as Policy Director of the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation.



Darren Gray is a partner with the Donnelly Group at Merrill Lynch providing wealth management and investment consulting services to individuals, companies and non-profit organizations.



Janice Huseby worked for Lockheed, Blue Shield, and Raychem Corporations, focusing in organizational effectiveness. She has served as Board President of The Children's Museum and has worked extensively with other non-profits such as Washington Women's Foundation.



Tony Peacock, Vice-President, is a licensed Land Surveyor and has worked in both the public and private sectors. He currently serves on the state board of Washington Conservation Voters and was a founding member of the King County chapter.



John Little is the legislative and political director for the Northwest Carpenters, representing 25,000 union carpenters in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.



Lisa Pelly is the executive director of Washington Rivers Conservancy, and has been on the board of Washington Conservation Voters, the Walla Walla Watershed Alliance, Farming and the Environment, and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition.



Patrick Neville is the Economic Development Specialist at the Worker Center, a division of the M.L. King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO. He coordinates the Washington Apollo Alliance -- a coalition of business, labor, environmental, and community leaders working to catalyze a clean energy economy.



Christian Sinderman is a regional political and strategic communications consultant, working with elected leaders at the federal, state, and local levels as well as non-profits, unions, and other organizations. He serves on the Transportation Choices Coalition Board. Representing Transportation Choices Coalition



Representing Washington Apollo Alliance

Claudia Newman is an environmental and land use attorney at Bricklin & Newman. Claudia is a board member of the Cascadia Green Building Council and spent two years working as a member of the ASHRAE Standard Committee 189, which authored a comprehensive model green building code. **Representing Cascadia Green Building Council**



Jim Timmons currently works at Washington State University as an adjunct instructor teaching Economics at their TriCity campus. Jim also teaches Economics and other business classes at Heritage University in Toppenish.



WEC Staff

- Leea Brady**, Administrative Director
- Brendon Cechovic**, Program Director
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Early snowfall on the eastern slopes of the Cascades

ART WOLFE

Special thanks to Art Wolfe for the use of his photos of Washington.

www.artwolfe.com



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ENVIRONMENTAL
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