



CCL Monthly Conference Call

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012

Group Meetings from 9:45 AM – 12:15 PM Pacific

Call from 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Pacific (1:00 PM EST)

Call in number: 1-866-642-1665 pass code 440699#

Guest Speaker: Daphne Wysham, Institute for Policy Studies fellow



Daphne Wysham is a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and is the founder and co-director of the [Sustainable Energy and Economy Network](#) (SEEN). She has worked on research and advocacy at the intersection of climate change, human rights, fossil fuels, international finance, carbon markets and sustainable economies since 1996. She is a frequent guest speaker on the concerns around carbon markets — and carbon offsets in particular — in generating meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Wysham has played a leadership role on Capitol Hill, advising the Congressional Progressive Caucus on a progressive agenda for climate change. Her writings, commentary and analysis have appeared in national news publications and on radio and TV, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Grist*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, and on Al Jazeera, Democracy Now!, MSNBC, BBC, NPR, and Marketplace, among others. From 2003 to May of 2011, she

hosted Earthbeat Radio and TV. She was arrested at the White House during the Keystone XL pipeline protests this past summer.

Actions:

- 1) Practice the laser talk.
- 2) Using the CCL planning resources, meet with your group to set individual and group goals for the coming year.

Note: At the end of your meeting, report your numbers in an email to Steve Valk at steve.valk@citizensclimatelobby.org Include number of meeting participants and the goal your group is most excited about.

JANUARY LASER TALK

Offsets can impede progress with emissions

Some of the approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions – cap and trade, for example – allow polluters to purchase offsets in lieu of reducing their own emissions. This can seriously undermine any effort to bring emissions down to levels that are safe and sustainable.

Offsets are investments in projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as capturing methane on farms or preserving forests. While these projects are good for the climate, there are a number of reasons why they shouldn't be used by polluters as a substitute for reducing their own emissions:

- Many offset projects are not additional, meaning it's likely they would have occurred without the financial incentive of a purchased offset. For example, California's program would allow offsets for payments going to methane capture projects that already exist.
- Offsets create a strong incentive to keep the government from regulating harmful activities. If businesses are paid not to engage in activities that emit greenhouse gases, they will pressure the government to refrain from regulation.
- Offsets can't stop leakage of harmful activity from one area to another. If a landowner is paid to preserve the trees on their property, a lumber company will simply purchase trees harvested from another property.
- The payment of offsets creates a perverse incentive for individuals or businesses to engage in harmful activities with the hope of gaining offset revenue. In other words: Pay me some money, or I'll pollute.

The bottom line is that offsets often allow polluters to game the system and don't produce the net reductions that are necessary. Any program to price carbon needs to leave offsets out of the equation.

ACTION

Set individual and group goals for 2012

After the Saturday conference call, meet with your group to talk about the achievements and breakthroughs you would like to work toward in the coming year.

Start with having members look at the [individual planning form](#).

Take shares from members about what they want to celebrate from last year and what they'd like to accomplish in 2012.

After listening to everyone, use the [group planning form](#) to agree on goals your group would like to set for the coming year – working with members of Congress or Parliament, publishing media, community outreach, fundraising. Try to develop leadership within the group in these areas. Use the [champion scale](#) to set goals with elected officials.

Give special attention to the CCL International Conference, July 21-24, which is the most empowering and effective activity members can do.

Throughout the year, check back with your group plan to track progress.