



This **Activist Activator** list describes climate groups working in Vancouver WA. There are many approaches to climate action—advocacy for climate policy, and public lands protection and conservation, to name a few. We need more climate and environmental advocates. This list can help you find your perfect fit.

Vancouver is transitioning towards a healthier future. The Port of Vancouver just published its Climate Action Plan, the City is working on its own Climate Action Plan, and even Clark Public Utilities is changing to meet the requirements of Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA). If you care about climate change and the environment, this is an ideal time and place to get involved. If you can't volunteer for these groups, please consider donating to them.

## VANCOUVER, WA

### Fossil Fuels and Clean Energy

#### Sierra Club | [sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit](http://sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit)

Sierra Club is a large, influential grassroots environmental organization. Our local Loo Wit group focuses on advocacy, air and water quality, conservation and sustainability, clean energy and social justice, community organizing, education, public outreach and legislative action. Sierra Club also runs Climate Action SWWA, which prevents west coast coal exports, and opposes new oil terminals and increased oil transport throughout the Northwest.

#### Columbia Riverkeeper | [columbiariverkeeper.org](http://columbiariverkeeper.org)

Columbia Riverkeeper engages in legal advocacy and community organizing to stop pollution, fight fossil fuels, save salmon, engage communities, and clean

up Hanford. Our local chapter, based in Portland, has helped significantly with our Port and our City's Climate Action Plans, and the City's Fossil Fuel Moratorium.

### Washington Environmental Council [wecprotects.org](http://wecprotects.org)

Washington Environmental Council advocates for climate and clean energy, and against fossil fuel expansion. Based in Seattle, WEC has been instrumental in helping Vancouver advocate for climate action plans, and mobilize against fossil fuels.

### Protecting Public Lands

#### Friends of the Columbia Gorge [gorgefriends.org](http://gorgefriends.org)

Friends protects, preserves, and stewards the gorge. We led the fight to create the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area over 40 years ago. We've been working since to safeguard the Gorge and ensure the natural wonders found today are preserved for generations to come.

#### Great Old Broads for Wilderness [greatoldbroads.org](http://greatoldbroads.org)

Broads is a national grassroots organization, led by women, that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Broads gives voice to millions of Americans who want to protect public lands and wilderness. We bring knowledge, leadership, and humor to the wilderness preservation movement. And, we're educating communities about the critical connection between healthy public lands and climate change mitigation.

### Birds

#### Vancouver Audubon Society [vancouveraudubon.org](http://vancouveraudubon.org)

Vancouver Audubon believes in the wisdom of nature's design and promotes this through education, involvement, stewardship, enjoyment and advocacy.

### The Green New Deal & Social Justice

#### Sunrise Movement

[sunrise.movement.swwa@gmail.com](mailto:sunrise.movement.swwa@gmail.com)

Sunrise is building an army of young people to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs, through the Green New Deal. Sunrise wants to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and well-being of all people.

### Health

#### Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility [wpsr.org](http://wpsr.org)

WPSR is a health professional-led advocacy organization working to create a healthy, just, peaceful and sustainable world. We take on the gravest current threats to human health and survival—nuclear weapons, economic inequity, and a climate crisis driven by dependence on fossil fuels. WPSR leverages the trusted voice of health professionals to educate the public, influence decision-makers, and promote public policies.

### Federal Carbon Pricing

#### Citizens Climate Lobby [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org)

Citizens Climate Lobby is trying to pass legislation for a national carbon fee and dividend. What's missing from climate change? Political will. CCL creates that will by educating about climate change and training citizens to lobby Congress.

### Climate Activists Save the World!

Climate Toothpaste boxes are printed in CA using wind power, renewable energy credits, and vegetable-based inks. The printer is certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Activist Activator letters for all states, and lots of fun stuff is at:

[climatetoothpaste.com](http://climatetoothpaste.com)

## **TADA! Steps to lower your carbon footprint**

These 4 choices have the most impact: **Become vegetarian • forgo air travel • ditch your car • and—most significantly—have fewer children.**

### **FOOD**

- **Become vegan or vegetarian** Eating no meat cuts an individual's carbon footprint by 820 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, about four times the reduction they'd get by recycling as much as possible.

- **Buy Local, Seasonal Food** Minimizing transportation of goods mitigates climate change.

- **Eat Organic** when possible. Organic food is grown without pesticides and synthetic fertilizers, which usually begin as byproducts of oil refining.

- **Avoid Palm Oil**, found in many junk foods. The Amazon rain forest is being destroyed partly to plant palm oil trees (and partly for cattle ranching).

- **Filter Your Water** Don't buy bottled water. Not only is there an environmental toll of the plastic; your water is also transported to your store.

- **Bring Your Own Shopping Bags!** Duh.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- **Get rid of your car**

- **Buy a hybrid or electric vehicle.** They're getting more affordable and battery life is improving.

- **Fly less**

- **Ride a Bike, Use Public Transit or Carpool** Check out rideshare.com, and zipcar.com. The average American spends 18 days of the year in a car, each car emitting its own weight in carbon dioxide. Try not

using your car 1-2 days per week. And if you need to drive, try a carpool. Here are some carpooling apps: on.mash.to/2jPlcq7

- **Offset carbon emissions** at the pump. With a green gas card, you can fill up at the pump and automatically offset your carbon footprint. The card donates 10 cents/gallon to projects that clean up your pollution. Visit greengasmovement.org

### **HOME**

- **Make less babies** Having one fewer child reduces a person's carbon footprint by a whopping 58.6 metric tons—about the same emissions savings as having nearly 700 teenagers recycle as much as possible for the rest of their lives.

- **Ease Off the Thermostat** The biggest residential demand on our energy system is heating and cooling. Keep your house 2 degrees warmer in summer and 2 degrees cooler in winter. Turning off your thermostat while you're NOT in your home can also save you 15% on your energy bill.

- **Go Solar** Adding solar to your home is an excellent way to reduce your carbon footprint. Solar modules create power at the source, for you, and for the grid. In addition, there are several government incentives. Check out www.dsireusa.org for information by state.

- **Chose Energy-Efficient Home Appliances**

- **Change your light bulbs** to compact fluorescent, or LED. One bulb replacement can reduce up to 1,300 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution.

- **Laptop v. Desktop: Laptop Wins!** Laptops are designed to be energy-efficient, because of battery lifespan. According to Energy Star, a laptop can be up to 80% more energy-efficient than a desktop.

- **Unplug and Turn it Off** Powering down your gadgets is good for the planet. Unplug your chargers, a.k.a. "wall warts."

- **Reduce and Reuse before Recycling** Transporting and processing materials for recycling is carbon intensive.

- **Avoid Products with Lots of Packaging**

- **Just Buy Less Stuff** Our disposable consumer culture is a big problem.

- **Line dry** your clothes. Old school!

### **TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER**

- **Move Your Money** Lots of banks are funding oil pipelines. Tell those banks to take a hike, and take your money elsewhere. A full list of those banks is listed in this article from Yes! Magazine: <http://bit.ly/2cRx7E4>

- **Offset other carbon emissions** Even if you do all this, you'll still create some unavoidable emissions. The United Nations has made offsetting easy, cheap, and reliable, and you decide where the money goes—to solar water heaters in India, for example. Calculate and offset your emissions at [climateneutralnow.org](http://climateneutralnow.org). Or check out COTAP.org, which also does wonderful deeds with these funds. Choose.org is also good.

- **Plant a Tree** Trees provide shade and oxygen while consuming carbon dioxide. Just one 10-year-old tree releases enough oxygen into the air to support two human beings.

*This list was compiled from a Science.com article by Sid Perkins (07/11/2017), a Forbes.com article by Jeff McMahon, "9 Things You Can do About Climate Change," and a Mashable article by Zoe Fox, "10 Actions You Can Take Today to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint." Additional help from Paige Heggie.*