

Interfaith Earthkeepers Hybrid Meeting

May 27, 2026

Attendees: Mark Lindberg, Britni Cacan, Kenny Watkins, Barb Reuter, KC Hancock, Theresa O'Brien, Sue Craig, Cynthia Black, Betsy Halpern, Katharine Hunt, Martha Snider, Kristen Lee, (Neighborhood Leaders Council - Dawn Scott, Sandra Bishop)

Moderator: Mark **Minutes:** Britni

Invocation / Check-in

Spirit of Life, remind us that we are not called to save the world alone, only to love it faithfully. Bless our work today, strengthen our hope, and let us plant seeds of healing for generations yet to come. Bless our hands for the work, our hearts for the journey, and our community for the road ahead. Amen.

Guest Speaker: Kristen Lee, Lane County Climate Action

Kristen shared about the Lane County Community Climate Resilience Plan (CAP 3). The county has three climate action plans, which address the following:

- Internal Green House Gas operations - 11 actions
- Community Green House Gas mitigation plan - 46 actions
- Community resilience - 21 actions

Progress on the action plans is the following:

- Started: 32%
- Completed: 39%
- Not started 19%

The county has received several grants; however, the EPA grant was canceled by the current administration and money for resilience hubs was redacted.

Projects and partnerships that the county is working on include:

- Developing positive relationships with county electric service providers. Power Lane County is a technical assistance grant program, which is currently in year two out of three.
- Addressing heat and smoke mitigation with a cohort of jurisdictions across the country through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Determining the feasibility of microgrid installation at two county resilience hub locations through a UO research project.
- Providing funding for improvements at the Oakridge future resilience hub.
- Critical Facility backup power (solar and battery backup).

- Working with a nonprofit in Oakridge to do a pilot project on forest thinning to reduce the impact of wildfire.

The county is striving to include vulnerable populations in planning and also working on sustainability procedures for Lane County. Kristen will give a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners soon.

Barb mentioned that there are churches that could be considered for future resilience hubs. Kristen noted that resilience hubs are meant to be centers that are open to the community during blue sky days to provide services and agree to open doors during an emergency to provide shelter.

Hands-on Habitat Restoration Projects

Turtle Flats: Mark gave a debrief of the Turtle Flats Habitat Restoration Event on May 9th. They planted over 1,000 native plants. This spring, Friends of Buford Park planted a total of 17,000. Work parties will start up again in the fall.

Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance: Their Habitat Haven yard certification program is so popular that there is a waitlist. Britni is working on certification for the Laurel Elementary Nature Center.

Strengthening Connections and Ongoing Partnerships

Stronger Together Interfaith Potluck: Barb attended the potluck on May 17th. People said they'd like to participate in more actions through this network.

350 Eugene, Sierra Club, Third Act, Divest Oregon, ACES, Interfaith Clergy United, City of Eugene: No updates at this time.

State and Local Legislative Initiative Participation

Make Polluters Pay Bill/Eugene Clean Energy Fund Ballot Initiative: There is a petition signature gathering training session Thursday May 28th at Growers Market at 6pm. For more information visit EugeneCleanEnergyFund.org.

OCERA ([Oregon Coalition for Environmental Rights](http://OregonCoalitionforEnvironmentalRights.org)): No new updates.

Social/Climate Justice Project Support

EMO Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit Debrief: The event featured videos of people talking about their “Everyone should have a right to...” quilt squares and what they are doing for resilience. Participants created paper quilt squares during the event. Eastern Oregon shared their climate resilience projects (Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition). They’ve been creating mobile resilience kiosks through a grant from Oregon Health Authority.

Earthkeepers Climate Resiliency Working Group: They are looking into low cost actions and projects that can help church facilities become more resilient (lighting upgrades for example), as well as training people on how to be 2 weeks ready in the case of an emergency. This committee is meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at First United Methodist. Others are welcome to participate.

Two Weeks Ready: Dawn from Neighborhood Leaders Council shared about the 8-unit curriculum from Oregon Department of Emergency Management. It includes first aid training, food and water planning, and mindfulness. There is a 4.5 hour online course to become a trainer. West Eugene, River Road/Santa Clara, and Bethel are working together on this. Dawn would be happy to train trainers. Connect with her at readynweugene@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Leaders Council: They meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm at The Mission. There is a representative appointed from each neighborhood association. Local and elected officials come to present at their meetings. Anyone is welcome.

Air Conditioning and Purification: [West Eugene Clean Energy Project](#) through Beyond Toxics has been distributing free portable air conditioners and air purifiers to at-risk low income households. Martha got a prescription for an air cooler from her doctor (provided by the county for people on public assistance).

Black Cultural Initiative Resilience Hub: They provided mutual aid during the 2024 ice storm, and they have been hosting health fairs.

Outreach

Ken is on the board of Beyond Toxics. He shared that former director Lisa Arkin is a member of Temple Beth Israel. They have a “Repair the World” committee. Ken is looking into getting Dan Hurley from Public Works and Emily Reynolds from BRING to come to an Earthkeepers meeting to talk about the Clean Lane project.

Additional Items:

Barb is cohosting Climate Cafes at First United Methodist Church. Eugene Friends is looking into hosting these as well.

Balcony Solar was introduced in the legislature this year, but it did not get out of committee.

Education

Here Comes the Sun by Bill McKibben

Mark brought up the question of “Do we have enough land?” According to the book, the answer is yes. Over 60% of corn fields in Iowa are used for corn for ethanol. Read the last two chapters for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: June 24th from 12:00-1:30pm (online and in person at First Congregational Church)

Moderator: Mark

Minutes: Tom B.

Education Session: Last two chapters of Here Comes the Sun