



Citizens' Climate Lobby Citizens' Climate Education



ACTION SHEET, SEPTEMBER 2019

Monthly Meeting, Saturday, September 14, 2019
10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Two Ways to Join

- To connect by video conference, go to <http://cclusa.org/meeting>
Note: To improve audio/video quality, close all applications and other browser windows
Note: Read this [Zoom doc](#) to see how to turn on closed captions and adjust the font size
- To connect by phone: If you have unlimited calling, please call 1-646-558-8656; otherwise you can call toll-free at 1-877-369-0926. Enter 2017-2017-17 as the meeting ID.

If you have problems connecting, please contact Zoom's 24/7 support at 888-799-9666



Jonathan Haidt, author of *The Righteous Mind*

How did American politics get to be so dysfunctional? It has a lot to do with psychology, and our guest this month, Jonathan Haidt, will help us wrap our heads around this phenomenon. A Professor of Ethical Leadership at New York University Stern School of Business, he is the author of *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*. Haidt's book explains the origins of the human moral sense and how variations in moral intuitions can help explain the polarization and dysfunction of American politics.

Actions

1. Organize for November Lobby Day
2. Write letters to the editor about Congress and climate
3. Bonus Action: Tweet your member of Congress after your monthly meeting
4. Laser talk exercise: Citizens can have an impact on global climate efforts

If your Action Sheet is printed and you'd like to be able to click the links below, you can download this Action Sheet at cclusa.org/actionsheet. There's a Spanish version of the Action Sheet there too!

Organize for November Lobby Day

LOBBY ACTION

To elevate the Energy Innovation Act to the top of Congress's agenda, we're having another one of CCL's famous lobby days in November. We hope that many of you will join us in D.C. for this empowering experience.

Our D.C. lobby teams will need your help to plan and hold powerful and effective meetings with your members of Congress. We also need armies of volunteers in the districts to continue demonstrating grassroots, grastops, and media support for the lobby meetings in D.C.

At CCL's [November Lobby Day](#), attendees will enjoy a full day of training and workshops on November 11, followed by a lobby day on Capitol Hill on November 12. It's time to figure out who can go from your region and to plan for your lobby meetings.

Plan who will do what

1. Who can go from your chapter and region? Is there some way to help people cover expenses? You'll find simple fundraising ideas at cclusa.org/scholarships and registration, lodging, schedule, and travel information at cclusa.org/nld.
2. Who will be the appointment setter for your Representative and each Senator? It's usually the Liaison. If there is no appointment setter in place, ask for someone to volunteer to do that and inform Amy@citizensclimate.org who that someone is. If there are other chapters in your District, be sure to coordinate with them.

Plan the lobby meeting

1. What are your priorities for the lobby meeting plan, how can you help the lobby meeting to be as successful as possible, and what is needed to move the relationship forward with your Representative or Senator? To help further the relationship, your lobby team might deliver a special appreciation, [polling data](#), [local climate impacts](#), [personal stories](#) or a report on what CCL has been doing in the district.
2. Need help thinking of ideas for the lobby meeting plan? Try doing a quick lobby meeting simulation ([lobby meeting outline](#)) like we do in our Climate Advocate Training to get your ideas flowing. This could also give volunteers a taste for lobbying and the desire to represent the chapter in D.C. for the lobby day! Having a constituent in D.C. will make a big difference.

Collect, condense, and **send your best ideas to the Liaison(s) by October 11th** so that they can [submit a meeting plan](#) for each lobby meeting before the end of October.

Resource

CCL Community's [Preparing for Lobby Day \(cclusa.org/dc-prep\)](http://cclusa.org/dc-prep) training page

Write letters to the editor about Congress and climate

MEDIA ACTION

Congress is back in session, and climate change is in the news in a major way, thanks to some big international events this month. This is a terrific time to write letters to the editor (LTEs) of your local newspaper to highlight the Energy Innovation Act.

Action

Take five minutes at your meeting to start drafting LTEs using one of these nationally relevant topics:

1. Congress is back in session, and the Energy Innovation Act has 60 members of Congress signed on (as of 9/1). If your member has not cosponsored, name them in your LTE and say you'd like them to cosponsor H.R. 763. If members of Congress in your area have cosponsored, mention them by name and thank them.
2. On Sept. 21, the [United Nations Youth Climate Summit](#) will take place in New York. Your LTE could point out that the world is in agreement that we need climate action, and Congress could help America lead the way to a clean energy future by supporting the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.
3. On Sept. 20-27, a youth-led [Global Climate Strike](#) will take place around the world. Your LTE could highlight that event and call on Congress to respond by supporting H.R. 763.

Get more chapter members involved

- Encourage new volunteers to work with a buddy to write their first letter to the editor.
- Support each other by reviewing each other's letters and giving feedback.
- Discover new, small and online-only newspapers and [submit an LTE to all of them](#) using cclusa.org/lte.

When you are published

1. Celebrate with your chapter and share your letter with your member of Congress, if appropriate.
2. With the hashtag **#GrassrootsClimate**, share on your social media a link to, or a picture of, your letter.
3. Notify your chapter's field reporter so that they can submit a field report.

Resources

- CCL Community's [Writing Effective Letters to the Editor](#) training page
- CCL Community's [Using Social Media Basics](#) training page
- CCL Community's [Working with the Media](#) forum

Tweet your member of Congress after your monthly meeting

BONUS ACTION

At this month's meeting designate someone to take a photo of your group in action and tweet it to your members of Congress, including your Senators, reminding them that climate change is a priority and to support the Energy Innovation Act. Be sure to add the hashtag **#GrassrootsClimate** so we can find them all. **Never tweeted?** Get a free Twitter account at twitter.com/signup and [watch these two short videos](#) for help setting up your Twitter profile and posting your first tweet.

Citizens can have an impact on global climate efforts

LASER TALK EXERCISE

Our laser talk exercise offers some useful talking points about global climate efforts and the vital role that ordinary citizens play in advocating climate solutions. Try using these talking points while tabling and presenting, and in your lobby meetings.

Exercise

Pair up with another volunteer and take turns reading aloud the laser talk paragraphs below and then say aloud in your words what you remember and want to use.

Laser Talk

Heartbreaking and jaw dropping. That's the only way to describe the aftermath of [Hurricane Dorian's devastation](#) in the Bahamas. It begs the question: How much destruction and loss of life do humans have to endure before the world gets serious about tackling climate change?

We may start to know the answer to that question this month, as world leaders gather for the [United Nations Climate Summit](#) in New York. Scientists have warned that we have little more than a decade to show substantial progress in reducing the heat-trapping emissions that cause climate change. Those warnings appear to be going unheeded, as [CO2 emissions reached an all-time high](#) in 2018.

The good news is that the U.S. Congress has the opportunity to show the world a path forward on reducing emissions. Earlier this year, the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act](#) was introduced in the U.S. House. It would put a steadily-rising fee on carbon and give the revenue back to households, thereby using market forces to speed the transition to a clean-energy economy. It would reduce emissions at least 40 percent in the first 12 years and 90 percent by 2050. As of September 1st, the bill has 60 House members signed on. Thanks to the advocacy of CCL volunteers throughout the country, more cosponsors are expected as momentum builds for this legislation.

Although [46 nations have initiated some form of carbon pricing](#), most of them are too weak to have the desired impact. The commitments made at the U.N. Summit this month will set the stage for the [COP 25 climate conference in Chile](#) this December, where those commitments will be turned into actual policy. Citizens have a vital role to play in calling attention to solutions that will really make a difference.