

## **LWVWA Statement for the Climate Advisory Team, Washington Climate Challenge, Seattle, 7 August 2007**

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. We are most appreciative for the efforts that all of you and the Governor are taking to combat global warming.

Carbon emissions from our vehicles will only worsen as population increases unless strong standards are implemented to reduce miles driven. Essential measures include: reduction in the number of single occupancy vehicles on the road; promotion of hybrid and clean fuel vehicles; and, financial and logistical support for alternative forms of transportation.

An extremely important element to reduce global warming emissions is the adoption of energy conservation principles with programs and goals that involve each of us in making the necessary changes in our lives.

Further, it appears essential that coal (the most polluting of the fossil fuels) be replaced by naturally occurring clean sources of energy such as wind, solar, wave and geothermal.

We see many excellent options brought forward by the Technical Working Groups, which, if they were to be implemented today, would put us in a very strong position to meet the challenge of climate change.

We are disappointed that the forestry options are not yet ready for Climate Action Team review. We hope that they will reflect the value that the natural processes of the forest floor contribute to healthy forests and natural carbon sequestration.

Moving forward, our concerns are two-fold. First, the process for adoption of the options is long and complicated. The opportunities for them to be watered down, weakened, or eliminated are many. We must not let that happen. Second, in order to achieve adoption of these proposals, public understanding and support is essential. Executive summaries of these proposals to facilitate public knowledge and commitment should be considered. We need to look at additional ways to draw on the creative powers of citizens to engage on these issues.

In conclusion, it is our responsibility to leave a better world for future generations by acting decisively and immediately to reduce our global climate change emissions.

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