

# Southern Oregon Climate Action Now - SOCAN

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# SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

<http://socan.eco>



## Annual Report 2017

January, 2018

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now



Dear Friends,

With the inauguration of one of the most anti-science, anti-human, and anti-environmental Administrations in the history of the Republic, as 2017 unfolded, it became ever clearer that there was even great need to step up state, regional, and local action to address global warming and its climate change consequences. SOCAN responded to this during the year with the development of a Master Climate Protector (MCP) program to educate registrants about climate science, global warming and its consequences, and what they can do to address the problem both individually and collectively. We also committed time and resources to collaborating with the statewide coalition promoting meaningful greenhouse gas emissions policy in the state, and with local groups promoting action at the city level.

Additionally, our Media Corps program, comprising a cadre of local individuals, remained committed to keeping SOCAN and climate science at the forefront of media attention through letters, and op. eds, and we maintained our Climate in the Classroom program offering presentations in regional schools and workshops on climate science with the goal of helping teachers better educate their students about these critical issues. And, of course, we maintained our availability to give presentations to community groups and co-facilitator Alan Journet continued to offer his OLLI course on climate change and the Rogue Valley.

The Board also made a conscious decision to acknowledge the linkage between climate change and other environmental and social justice issues. Consequently, when the statewide coalition incorporated labor, equity, and social justice organization and concerns into the development of principles for meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reduction legislation being developed for the 2018 session, SOCAN enthusiastically endorsed the principles. Since SOCAN started we have focused on a science-driven perspective on global warming and its consequences. This decision represented a welcome recognition that addressing greenhouse gas emissions cannot be undertaken through science alone; we need to incorporate social justice and equity into any proposed solution.

In short, this was a very busy year for SOCAN volunteer activists as we engage in countering the rein of science denial and ‘alternative facts’ rampant in the White House and in Congress.



Alan Journet & Kathy Conway, Co-facilitators  
[alan@socan.info](mailto:alan@socan.info) & [kathy@socan.info](mailto:kathy@socan.info)

## SOCAN Board of Directors

**Alan Journet** provided the vision for SOCAN and has been on the board since 2014. His scientific background and inquisitive mind provides the basis for the “Science-based” knowledge of SOCAN. In addition to being Co-facilitator and Board President, Alan makes numerous presentations and is the energy behind the many media presentations. He also leads the Government, Forestry and Fire, Media Corps, and Presentations teams.

**Eric Dittmer** joined the board in 2016 and serves as the leader of the water group. Eric brings to SOCAN a wealth of knowledge about the region, its water resources, and the seismic realities we face. A constant source of inspiration to us all, Eric’s knowledge of the region, and his familiarity with the key voices of Southern Oregon provides a font of resources for all our collaborative projects.

**Louise Shawkat** has been on the board since 2014. She continues to take a leadership role on the Master Climate Protector, SOCAN at Mountain Meadows, and Transportation projects. Additionally, she attends Ashland’s Ad hoc Climate and Energy Action Plan Implementation Committee meetings and is active in making comments at the Ashland City Council as well as Commission meetings.

**Kathy Conway** is Co-facilitator and serves as Secretary of the Board. She has been on the board since 2014. She and Alan initiated SOCAN. Kathy now leads the Climate in the Classroom group and serves as the organizing guru around which SOCAN operates, and without whom SOCAN would be

chaos. Kathy’s skills are largely the reason our general meetings and website are effective.

**Bob Scheelen** became a SOCAN volunteer activist for climate during SOCAN’s first year of existence and joined the board in 2014; he has been integral in our projects ever since. Bob is well-known among SOCANistas for his sage and calm advice and particularly his contributions to Government group activities.

**Hogan Sherrow** joined the board in 2017 and works on grants and with the government group. A Native Southern Oregonian Hogan is an Evolutionary Anthropologist who has worked on three continents studying everything from humans, through grizzly bears, to chimpanzees. He was a Fulbright Scholar, earned a Ph.D. from Yale University, and was trained as a Climate Leader with Vice President Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project. Hogan currently serves as Director of WinterSpring.

**Dagoberto Morales** joined the board in 2017. Dagoberto Morales came to the Rogue Valley from the State of Michoacan, Mexico, in 1988. He founded Unete, Center for Farmworker Advocacy in 1996, where he now serves as Director. He has been active in the social justice arena ever since. Dago is employed by Timber Products, a Medford lumber mill where he performs equipment maintenance. Dagoberto brings a profound concern for social justice to the SOCAN Board that augments our environmental justice focus.

**Roger Pearce**, Pearce Law LLC, serves as our General Counsel. Roger has proven invaluable in guiding us through our early incorporation and offering wise counsel in legal matters. We appreciate his contributions immeasurably.

## Review of 2017

### SOCAN Mission

Recognizing the urgent need for bold action, SOCAN's mission is to promote awareness and understanding about the causes and consequences of climate change, to develop solutions, and to motivate concerned citizens to take individual and collective action.

### Website Change

#### We're now SOCAN.eco

In June 2017 our website: SOCAN.info changed to SOCAN.eco. Unlike many other domains, .eco has a clearly defined use – it's a dedicated extension for organizations, businesses, products, and individuals who are committed to positive change for the planet. Like SOCAN, many organizations are engaged in important sustainability related work. This makes .eco a relevant extension for SOCAN.

### Monthly Meetings

SOCAN organizes monthly meetings at the Medford Public Library on the last Tuesday of the month. All meetings are open to the public. Speakers and videos offer information about issues related to climate change. Attendance in 2017 ranged from 31 to over 100.

#### Presentation topics included:

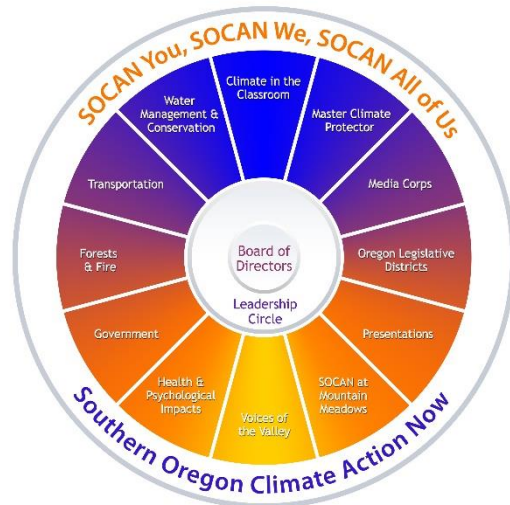
- The Climate Challenge: Federal and State Perspectives – SOCAN Government Group
- Recycling Reframed – A lifecycle approach to waste management - Craig Filip, Western Region – Materials Management Technical Assistant, Oregon DEQ, Laura Leebrick, Community & Governmental Affairs Manager from Rogue Disposal & Recycling, and Denise Barnes, Jackson County Master Recyclers
- Climate Change: A bird's eye view - John Alexander, Director of the Klamath Bird Observatory
- Food Production in an Era of Climate Change - Anne Carter, Medford Food Coop and Josh Cohen, Barking Moon Farm in the Applegate Valley
- The Farm at SOU – A Center for Sustainability – SOCAN's first field trip to tour The Farm led by Brandon Schilling
- Monarch Musings: One of Nature's Climate Trackers! - Robert Coffin, co-founder of Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates
- Clean Energy 2018 – Your Planet Needs You! – Alan Journet, SOCAN Co-Facilitator and leader of the Government Group.
- Premiere Screening of Voices of the Valley: Stories of How Climate Change is Affecting Our Lives – Liz Olson and project team

Films shown this year include:

- Before the Flood - A documentary exploring the effect of global warming
- The Age of Consequences: How climate change impacts resource scarcity, migration and conflict through the lens of US national security and global stability

### SOCAN Projects

Our projects are the essence of our existence. It is through these that we achieve our Mission of educating the region about the science of global warming and climate change, and its consequences, and stimulating individual and collective action to address these issues.



All that is required to start a project is an idea that relates to the SOCAN mission, a team leader, and a few volunteers with similar interests. The project wheel logo represents SOCAN's current projects and is one of the many design and technology contributions of Steve Vermie.

- An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power. Co sponsored by SOHEVA (Southern Oregon Hybrid & EV Association Chapter of the national Electric Vehicle Association) and SOCAN

Social events

- Summer Potluck held as a Celebration of the Arboretum at Mountain Meadows
- SOCAN's Winter Solstice Gathering



*SOCAN at Mountain Meadows (MM) - Leader Louise Shawkat*

This group comprises individuals who live at Mountain Meadows as well as others living in Ashland and

other nearby towns in the Rogue Valley. They meet monthly at Mountain Meadows. Among the group's interests is transportation, CEAP (Climate Energy Action Plan), supporting clean energy, Conservation Commission actions, and work to develop an Arboretum at Mountain Meadows.

Members of this group contributed to efforts to bring a ZEPS Electric bus to Ashland. It also made a special trip to Grants Pass that members of SOCAN at MM joined. Representatives attend meetings of Ashland Transportation Commission on a regular basis and contributed ideas to the City's Transportation Systems plan. Collaboration with SOHEVA (Southern Oregon Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Association) has increased and a community group, Ashland Citizens for Transportation (ACT) was formed.

SOCAN at MM leader Louise Shawkat was an active member of the original Ashland Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) committee. Project members and SOCAN activists provided extensive support as that plan was presented to the city council and an enabling ordinance was developed and passed. As the Ad Hoc CEAP committee developed the plan, this group helped monitor and encourage action.

Led by Rochelle Newman, efforts to develop an Arboretum on the grounds of Mountain Meadows are ongoing and include plans to landscape the area for wildlife and pollinators. The Arboretum was established in time to become the site for SOCAN's fall potluck.

The group supported and helped promote the Ashland's 10 x 20 project, an effort that would require 10% of Ashland's energy be from renewable local energy by 2020. Additionally, the group suggested to the Conservation Commission that plastic straws be eliminated in the city due to their impact on the oceans and our terrestrial environment. This is being considered by the Commission.



### ***Government - Leader Alan Journet***

The main focus for this group, as it has been for some years, relates to engaging with the statewide coalition in efforts to persuade the state legislature to pass a meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reduction bill. This involved participating in grassroots conference calls, policy development conference calls, organizing public meetings to educate area residents

about proposals, coordinating trips to Salem and making contacts both locally and statewide to lobby representatives on climate science and the regional consequences of global warming and the importance of passing a meaningful bill.

SOCAN collaborated with other local climate activists groups, notably Rogue Climate in supporting a revamped version of the 2016 Healthy Climate Bill, then known as the Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

SOCAN activists were present to question Federal Congressional Representative Greg Walden, State Senator Alan DeBoer, and State Representative Pam Marsh at Townhalls about climate issues across their respective districts.



### ***Forests & Wildfire - Leaders Alan Journet***

Stimulated by Lomakatsi retiree Gary Clarida joining SOCAN, after several years of good intentions in the forest arena, in 2017 SOCAN finally activated a Forest and Fire group. The first group planning meeting, scheduled for January 2018, was organized as the year drew to a close. At a time when fire risk in the dry forests of SW Oregon is increasing, the activation of a group that can bring climate consideration into the discussions of forest management is timely.



***Voices of the Valley Leader Liz Olson***

“Voices of the Valley” is a narrative multimedia project that started in 2016 and completion of the video for the Premier on November 2017 at the SOCAN

Monthly Meeting. It presents people from our own Rogue Valley communities, especially the most vulnerable populations, an opportunity to share stories of how extreme weather and climate change is affecting their physical and mental health, their work, and their home life. The mini-documentary interviews are featured on SOCAN’s website. Public screenings as well as Exhibits were available at local libraries, including Medford, Ashland, Jacksonville, Talent, and Phoenix. Full sized photo displays accompanied the library exhibits.



***Climate in the Classroom - Leader Kathy Conway***

This group continues to offer presentations to area teachers. This year’s events included presentations at Ruch Community School on climate change and biodiversity as well

as participation in the SOREEL (Southern Oregon Regional Environmental Education Leader) August Institute Resource Fair and a presentation at their workshop.



***Media Corps - Leader Alan Journet***

The focus of the Media Corps is keeping global warming / climate change before the public through appearances in print and broadcast media with opinion columns, letters to the editor, interviews, etc. During 2017, the team achieved 280 appearance in media locally and statewide.



***Master Climate Protector Administrative Assistant: Eric Dittmer***

The SOCAN Master Climate Protector team finished the development phase for a 10-week training course that covers climate change science and the impacts on key sectors of energy, transportation, agriculture, water, and health. Within each sector global and local impacts, personal and collective mitigating actions, and measurements on how to reduce our greenhouse gas footprint are included. The program incorporates both a training component and a service component. It is designed for individuals who want to know more about Climate Change as well as what we can do to address this critical problem. The Pilot was offered starting in February 2017 and finished with 13 graduates. The second offering began September 2017 and had 14 graduates. The classes were taught by the Master Climate Protector Team: Louise Shawkat, Ray Mallette, Eric Dittmer, Kathy Conway & Alan Journet.

## Events

### *Booths & Tables*

SOCAN had a presence at Earth Day Events at SOU, Rogue Community College, and the Rogue Valley Celebration at ScienceWorks in Ashland. We also were a lead organizer for the People's Climate March - Southern Oregon that began and ended at Pear Blossom Park at the Commons in Medford and attracted over 1,300 participants. We participated in Ashland's Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration with a parade entry as well as a booth and supported KS Wild's "This Land is Our Land: a Celebration of Public Lands." We supported area teachers with our participation in

ScienceWorks' TGIF Teacher Party.



People's Climate March



Rogue Valley Earth Day



## Presentations, Courses and Mini-courses

SOCAN has offered a variety of presentations and courses throughout the year. ‘Climate Change in the Rogue Valley’ by Alan Journet is a ten week course that was offered through the SOU OLLI program.

Additional presentations include

- “A Carbon Purge” presented to the Jackson County Democrats and to the Josephine County Democrats
- “Jackson County Climate Trends & Projections” presented at Rogue Community College RCC Earth Day celebration
- “Our Coastal Climate: Trends and Projections” presented at Brookings, OR

## Collaborations

An important part of working on an issue as large as climate change is working with others to accomplish shared goals. When others are leading, SOCAN tries to support in whatever way we can. Following are some of these activities from 2017.

### ***Jordan Cove LNG Export Facility/Pacific Connector Pipeline***

SOCAN supported the efforts of Rogue Riverkeeper, Rogue Climate, and others working to stop the Jordan Cove LNG Export Terminal and the Pacific Connector fracked gas Pipeline. Assessments by SOCAN co-facilitator Alan Journet of the greenhouse gas emissions that would result from the project, first undertaken in 2015, reveal that, assessed in terms of the carbon dioxide equivalent, emissions from the project would amount to over 50% of Oregon’s In-Boundary annual emissions. Submissions detailing this impact were submitted to state and federal agencies assessing the proposed projects.

### ***Southern Oregon Climate Coalition & Oregon Climate Coalition***

SOCAN has worked tirelessly with the local team as well as the statewide team to develop legislation that promotes measures to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

### ***Energize Rogue***

SOCAN supported Rogue Climate’s energize Rogue campaign by helping with session logistics as well as sharing information through facebook and Monthly Broadcasts.

### ***Hotter, Drier, No Less Wild: Protecting Public Land and Biodiversity in the Klamath-Siskiyou Region in the Era of Climate Change***

SOCAN provided editing suggestions and SOCAN co-facilitator Alan Journet was on the panel for KS Wild’s release of this report.

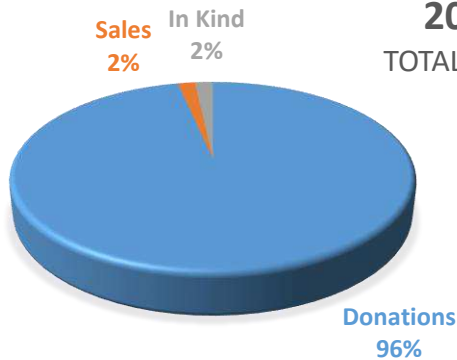
### ***Southern Oregon Climate Coordination***

SOCAN actively facilitates quarterly meetings for area groups that are involved in activities related to climate change.

## Financial Summary

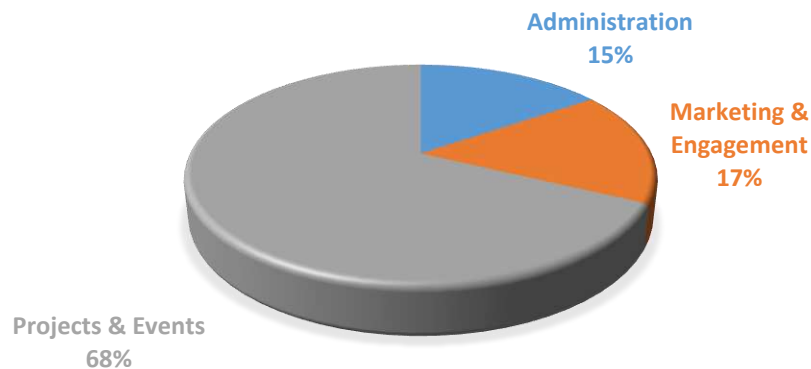
### SOURCES OF 2017 INCOME

TOTAL REVENUE \$23,127



### EXPENSES FOR 2017

TOTAL EXPENSES \$14,269



SOCAN is a grassroots volunteer organization devoted to addressing the critical issue of global warming. As a largely volunteer organization that has no permanent full-time staff, SOCAN engages very few individuals on paid contracts. Thus, the organization can accurately claim that almost all moneys contributed are allocated to SOCAN projects with only 15% assigned to administrative costs (which includes no salaries, but required state fees and insurance). Although marketing accounts for 17% of the annual expense, this is allocated to promoting our mission and projects.

SOCAN is, therefore well below the nonprofit national average of 37% of budget assigned to administration.

What SOCAN can promise, therefore, is that a substantial proportion of donations is allocated to projects and achieving the SOCAN mission.

We urge you to consider making a contribution to SOCAN.

[Donate Now!](#)