



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

2009 “Cutting Carbs” Workshops

BIOGRAPHIES

Speakers & Moderators

Gail Achterman

Gail Achterman is a leading state and national natural resource and environmental expert with policy-making experience at the state, local and federal level. Gail is currently Director of the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University. She is Chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission, Co-Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Greenhouse Gas Task Force, and serves on the advisory board of the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust. Before joining the Institute for Natural Resources, Gail served as Executive Director of the Deschutes Resources Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to watershed restoration. She practiced law for 18 years with Stoel Rives LLP and served as Governor Neil Goldschmidt's Assistant for Natural Resources.

Tom Cosgrove

Tom Cosgrove is Mayor Pro Tem of Lincoln, California, a city he has served over 21 years, first as a Volunteer Firefighter, followed by fourteen years on the City Council. Tom's past efforts include establishing a fiscally sound budget, planning and implementation of effective transportation policies, developing new parks, and preserving Lincoln's historic downtown to ensure Lincoln will maintain its charm, character and history. Tom has served twelve years as a board member on the six-county, 22-city Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), now acting as chair and advocate for implementation of a Rural/Urban Connections Strategy to bring cities and unincorporated area closer together both politically and economically. He has served thirteen years as board member on the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, working closely with Caltrans, Placer County cities and federal resource agencies to complete the Highway 65 Bypass Environmental Impact Study allowing the project to move forward to construction. He is also part of Lincoln's ad hoc team working with Placer County to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan to preserve rural open space areas and natural resources.

Al Densmore

Medford City Councilmember Al Densmore is an insurance and financial consultant. A native Oregonian, public service has long been an integral part of Al's life. Elected at the age of 24, Al served in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1971-1977, rising to Majority Whip in 1973 and Speaker Pro Tem in 1975. He then served as Mayor of Medford from 1977-1983. Al serves as the Rogue Valley MPO's representative to Metropolitan Planning Organization Greenhouse Gas Task Force, and past gubernatorial appointments include positions on the Law Enforcement Council, the Environmental Quality Commission, the Oregon 2000 Commission. Al has served as an elected board member and former chairman of the Southern Oregon Education Service District. He is past president of the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation and the Bear Creek Valley

Rotary Club. He represents the City of Medford on various transportation and economic development committees.

Angus Duncan

Angus Duncan has directed the Bonneville Environmental Foundation since its founding in 1998 as an organization aimed at supporting watershed restoration programs and developing new sources of renewable energy. Mr. Duncan represented three Oregon Governors on the Northwest Power Planning Council from 1989 to 1995, and served as Chair of the four-state Council in 1995. Currently, he chairs the Oregon Global Warming Coalition and serves Governor Kulongoski in various capacities developing Oregon's response to global warming, including design and adoption of strategies for reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

Karmen Fore

Karmen Fore serves as District Director for Congressman Peter DeFazio. Karmen previously worked at Oregon Department of Administrative Services where she served as the Communications and Legislative Coordinator. She also served as the Communications and Policy Analyst for the Oregon Commission on Children and Families. Karmen has extensive campaign experience, working previously for DeFazio as his campaign manager from 1994-1998, and also serving as former Governor John Kitzhaber's Field Director for the 1998 gubernatorial election. Karmen attended the University of Oregon and earned Master of Arts degree in Public Affairs in addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

Brian Gregor

Brian Gregor is a senior transportation analyst for the Oregon Department of Transportation where he has worked for over 20 years on the development and application of transportation and land use models. Brian has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Oregon and is a registered professional traffic engineer in Oregon. He has worked as a local land use planner and as a transportation and land use planner at ODOT on tasks ranging from transportation project development to statewide land use and transportation policy development. Brian is the developer of the GreenSTEP model, a statewide model for analyzing the effects of statewide transportation and land use strategies on greenhouse gas emissions.

Vicki Guarino

Vicki Guarino manages both the federally mandated transportation planning for the region through the Rogue Valley MPO and the planning program for the Rogue Valley Council of Governments. Her primary focus is on maintaining compliance with federal and state regulations that govern transportation planning. This includes updating the RVMPO's core planning documents – the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program and the annual work program. Other projects include updating city Transportation System Plans, and auditing plans for consistency with state standards. She's a member of project committees drafting plans for land use and transportation around Phoenix and Ashland interstate interchanges to preserve capacity of new facilities. Vicki became manager in mid-2007, and has worked on RVMPO projects since 2003. Prior to that she helped coordinate public involvement on major transportation projects. She joined the RVCOG staff in 2000, after working as a staff writer for the Medford Mail Tribune for 15 years.

Michael A. Johns

Michael A. Johns is the Fleet Services Manager, Lane County Department of Public Works and oversees the acquisition, operation, maintenance and disposal of Lane County vehicles and equipment. He currently serves on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Low

Carbon Fuel Standards Advisory Committee. Michael has 20 years of transportation experience in a wide range of national and international positions. Prior to coming to Lane County, Michael was employed by the United Nations as Chief Transport Officer and Chief Logistics Officer in peacekeeping missions in Timor-Leste and Nepal. Previous positions include Fleet Manager for the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) for Florida; GSA Acquisition and Remarketing Manager for Southeastern United States; and Security Manager, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Michael is a retired U.S. Army Transportation Officer and is a graduate of the University of Oregon.

Mike McKeever

Mike McKeever, AICP, is Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. Over his 20-year career specializing in the field of planning, he has owned and managed two private businesses that specialized in working with local governments on innovative multi-jurisdictional projects. He has been instrumental in developing cutting-edge planning techniques to integrate land use and transportation planning. Mike was the founder and President of McKeever/Morris for 13 years and then a Senior Supervising Planner for Parsons Brinckerhoff, before joining SACOG as Blueprint Project Manager in 2001. More recently, Mike was the principal creator of PLACE3S planning method and software, designed to help professional and citizen planners understand the connections between land use, transportation, and air quality issues. He has authored several manuals and guidebooks on various aspects of local government collaboration, and teaches Stretching Community Dollars seminars throughout California for the City, County, Schools Partnership to help these units of government find creative ways to work together. Mike has also been involved in projects with the Sacramento Regional Transit District, and regional planning projects in Portland, OR; Salem, OR; San Diego, CA; San Francisco, CA; Chicago, IL; Albuquerque, NM; Austin, TX; and Victoria, British Columbia.

Sarah Mazze

Sarah Mazze developed and now manages the award-winning Climate Master programs at the University of Oregon's Climate Leadership Initiative. The suite of Climate Master programs was recently authorized by the Oregon Legislature in SB942, the Oregon Climate Corps Act. Sarah's past projects include managing Climate Leadership Initiative's media project and supporting facilitation of the Sustainable Business Initiative. She has a decade of experience in various forms of education and outreach. Her research interests lie in behavior change and educating for sustainability. Sarah holds master's degrees in Environmental Studies and Journalism as well as a certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Oregon.

Mark Pangborn

Mark Pangborn is the General Manager of Lane Transit District. Mark grew up in Seattle, Washington, and graduated from Williams College in Western Massachusetts in 1970. After college, he returned to Seattle, where he worked for the mayor on job training programs. In 1975 he moved to Eugene/Springfield to accept a position with Lane County. In 1982 he was fortunate to begin working for Lane Transit District because, he says, "LTD is an organization that provides a critical service to the community, is run under an efficient business model, and is so innovative that the 27 years I've been employed with LTD have seemed to fly by." Mark was appointed general manager of LTD in February 2006. He also has had the privilege of serving on a number of local non-profit organizations that "make our community the special place it is."

Shane Rhodes

Shane Rhodes' work promoting active transportation in the Eugene 4J School District and at Roosevelt Middle School has shown results. With his leadership, participation in Walk + Bike to

School Day grew from 10 Eugene schools to over 25 in 2008, with over 70% of Roosevelt students participating. He installed a helmet counter, at no cost, for Roosevelt students; as a result, bike ridership approaches 10% of students, with unprecedented helmet compliance. Shane is an active ambassador within and outside of the Safe Routes to School community, is a leader within the Greater Eugene Area Riders advocacy and education non-profit, contributes to Kidical Mass activities, and brings a winning blend of professionalism, compassion, and creativity to all of his projects.

Alan Zelenka

Alan Zelenka has lived in Eugene for over 20 years and serves as Chair of the Eugene City Council, representing Ward 3. He is also Energy Services Manager for Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. Alan is currently representing the Central Lane MPO on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Greenhouse Gas Task Force. He focuses Council efforts on protecting the environment and promoting sustainability, smart development, growth and density, and ensuring a City government that is fair and open. His current council assignments include the Budget Committee, Sustainability Commission, Lane Workforce Partnership and Metropolitan Policy Committee. Some of his past appointments include Chair of the City System Improvement Subcommittee, Chair of the Human Services Commission, Chair of the Climate Trust of Oregon, Founder and Treasurer of the Renewable Northwest Project, has been both President and on the Board of Solar Energy Association of Oregon and was a Board Member of the Northwest Energy Coalition (NWECC).

Organizers

Chris Hagerbaumer

Chris provides leadership, support, and coordination to Oregon Environmental Council's professional program staff. Chris joined OEC in July 1996 and led the organization's program to curb global warming pollution from cars and trucks until she became OEC's Director of Programs April 2006 and Deputy Director April 2008. She continues to lead the organization's transportation policy efforts, currently serving on the governor-appointed Metropolitan Planning Organization Greenhouse Gas Task Force and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Stakeholder Committee. Chris has a background in environmental policy, advocacy and education, including work with the Environmental Law and Policy Center in Chicago and the U.S. Peace Corps. She has a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago and an undergraduate degree in German from Reed College.

Michelle Brenes

Michelle works as a consultant to offer project management, organizational communications and organizational development support to companies and teams. She has worked across global brands, start-ups, public/private partnerships and nonprofits on marketing, communications and technology projects. She is deeply committed to incorporating sustainability philosophy, methodologies and innovation into all aspects of her work. She is currently working towards a master's degree in organizational communications from Marylhurst University and has an undergraduate degree in Psychology with a Business minor from Santa Clara University.