

BCLA Climate Action Committee
June 16, 2023 Special Agenda

Attendees: David Waddell, Diana Marshall, Helen Brown, Caitlin McRae, Lisa Nathan, Amory Strader, Alison Campbell, Jennifer Wilson, Chris Conroy

1. Welcome and check ins
2. Approve minutes (May, 2023) and agenda
3. Business arising (time sensitive)
 1. Update on 2023 Climate Action Week planning (David and Jennifer).
 - a. Brief reporting on meetings occurring with different library directors, etc. interested in participating in 2023.
 - b. Potential for some online event planning/sharing.
 - c. Special CAW planning Week meeting coming up and posted on Branches (Wed. June 21 at 9am).
 - d. BC/Ontario focus this year (not nation-wide)
4. Special meeting topic: Magic Wand Ideas! Brainstorming and big ideas welcome. What would we do in an ideal world. “Brainstorming with purpose”

PROMPTS:

1. How to encourage climate action lens in your organization’s conversations? A Big Boulder-multi-year project, moving past a single individual who brings up climate in various meetings.
 - a. What helps one participant is if climate action is a municipal priority so we feel supported in programming or anything. This suggests that educating board members could be helpful in getting the board (b/c our library system crosses many municipalities). Also education (or supporting sense-making/meaning making) of CEO and Director.
 - b. Trustee engagement & training: BC Association of Library Trustees. BCLTA (also ABCLD – Library Directors). Example of CAC panel at BCLA Conference – having a trustee on the panel helped communicate importance of Climate Action to other trustees in the audience.
 - c. Trustee Engagement related: Collaboration through identifying some who are already committed to climate action who would help to draft policy, action, ideas for board policies might be for others to take on, edit, etc. Wrapping them into the project.

- d. Re-Imagining the Library: how to engage communities to help expand the idea of what libraries could do...
- e. Academic Library focus: Institution and community have climate commitments, but difficult to implement and sustain within Library to make big changes. Different understandings of what climate change is and what is necessary. Big things are difficult to move on. For example we are doing some workshops focused on emissions with a researcher from SFU – starting with looking at different organizations first to help folks get a bigger picture and look at what solutions also make lives better as well (e.g., child care, commuting). Tying these things together.
- f. Chart of Scaling Ideas: e.g., change to recycled paper and how can that scale up to all of the purchasing of office supplies, show a schema of how you are going to get from big to small, or a whole jar of small things to get to a big thing. Can also show connections between small changes to big changes. Call it a pilot and it may be easier to start and then take ahold.
- g. Community Development / Building Knowledge– nurturing climate leaders with training, community, connecting with library trustees who are working on emergency responses.
<https://www.carboncrewproject.org>
- h. Toolkit for Libraries & opportunities to learn from experts. Kevin Milsip and Rina H. are both interested in this area. Developing a relationship with a climate consultant that folks can all on. Conversation on trust of consultants and other experts. How these conversations can get derailed. How do help folks become recognized as knowledgeable in such an uncertain space. Sample policies could be part of toolkit.
- i. Question: Has there been a community push or has it primarily been driven by profession/professionals? Can we lean back into community push (which makes it easier to move on). Opportunities to communicate what the library is already doing. Examples were shared of CAC doing the work of collecting input and examples from across BC.
- j. Analysis and Toolkit: Developing a framework for libraries to get a sense of where things are. What do you need to consider – what can we share/learn across systems? At least giving an outline. Can help with peers who see what is going on. Sharing projects that already have some authority (perhaps from someone else get it started to give it legitimacy). Potential for collaboration with Seeds students at UBC to get this started (academic/public library)
 - ACTION ITEM: Helen will explore this further.

- k. Resource person – Provide the BC library community with resource people OR provide a small training session for staff who would like to become their local 'Climate Expert' in their organization.

Additional Prompts that we didn't cover below:

2. What resources does your organization need to advance climate literacy for your staff and/or patrons?
 3. How can the CAC influence provincial or local policy decisions relating to climate and libraries?
 4. What new changes are happening either in BC libraries or in global climate change discussions generally that our committee has not discussed before? Are there initiatives that we could prioritize to respond to or align with these changes?
 5. How can we better support climate justice, equity and vulnerable people?
5. Action Item Review
1. Diana and David will review the list above and edit/add.
 2. Helen will take on exploring Audit idea
6. Check out and closing thoughts

Next meeting: July 21, noon-1pm.

notetaker: lpn