



## OMNI Takes The Lead in Climate Change

The World Bank issued a strongly worded report on global warming, stating: "This report spells out what the world would be like if it warmed by 4 degrees Celsius, which is what scientists are nearly unanimously predicting by the end of the century, without serious policy changes." Some consider the World Bank to be a conservative agency, expressing inflexibility at times towards countries that are unable to repay debt as agreed. On this issue of global warming, however, they support the more liberal view that we need to move quickly and concisely.



The Climate Change Anthem

The report, ["Turn Down The Heat: Why a 4 Degree Warmer World Must be Avoided"](#) continues: "The 4°C scenarios are devastating: the inundation of coastal cities; increasing risks for food production potentially leading to higher malnutrition rates; many dry regions becoming dryer, wet regions wetter; unprecedented heat waves in many regions, especially in the tropics; substantially exacerbated water scarcity in many regions; increased frequency of high-intensity tropical cyclones; and irreversible loss of biodiversity, including coral reef systems.....The lack of action on climate change not only risks putting prosperity out of reach of millions of people in the developing world, it threatens to roll back decades of sustainable development."

### OMNI Activists Take the Lead:

As early as 2007, OMNI members forged paths in the area of climate change. They called themselves the Climate Change Task Force and they were named to the Governor's Commission on Global Warming. This influential group included utility members, the Public Service Commission, and environmental groups. Along the way, the national group, Citizens' Climate Lobby, was formed to provide "grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change." OMNI activists then organized as Fayetteville Citizens Climate Lobby (Fayetteville CCL), a chapter of this national group.

The primary players in this group are: Gladys Tiffany, Executive Director of OMNI; Shelly Buonaiuto, OMNI Secretary; Robert McAfee, retired University of Arkansas professor; Chris McNamara, student at University of Arkansas; and Patrick Kinnamon, Account Manager in Walmart vendor community.

## [There are two primary methods currently circulating on how to best reduce carbon emissions:](#)

**1. Carbon Fee and Dividend:** Acts somewhat like a sales tax. Under this system, every time a power plant emits one ton of carbon they pay \$15 per ton. This tax would go up \$10 per year, culminating at \$145 per ton in 2030. Unlike a sales tax, the collected revenue then goes back to each person in the state as a dividend check, thereby stimulating the economy as these dividends are spent. All money is divided equally among the state's residents. The increasing costs to emit one ton of carbon, creates incentives for utilities to make power production more efficient and to invest in renewable sources of energy. This is the plan that the Fayetteville CCL group supports.

**2. Cap and Trade:** Every power plant receives a cap, or limit, on the amount of carbon they can emit. If they perceive that they will need to go over their limit in any given month, then they can go into an existing market, where extra emissions called carbon credits can be purchased ton by ton. The market establishes the cost of these carbon credits by supply and demand, just like with stocks traded on the stock market. In this system, all the revenue generated stays within the community of utilities buying and selling these permits. This is the system the utilities support.

## [Biggest Accomplishments of Fayetteville CCL:](#)

### **1. The Study**

**Documentation of Viable Carbon Reduction Plan:** One of the greatest accomplishments of the group is the funding and completion of a study that documents the efficacy of a viable method for reducing carbon emissions in Arkansas - the carbon fee method described above. This study, "REMI: The Economic, Demographic, Fiscal and Emissions Implications of a Carbon Fee in Arkansas," focuses on how a carbon fee in Arkansas would help the state comply with the requirements of the EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) to reduce the carbon dioxide emitted from existing power plants. The study determined that the carbon fee method of controlling carbon emissions would reach the EPA requirements requiring the state of Arkansas to reduce carbon emissions 36% below 2005 levels by the year 2030.

Scott Nystrom, Senior Economic Associate/Project Manager at REMI and author of the report, has done studies like this in six states total so far. Some of the other participants are Washington, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Vermont. A generous donor met Nystrom at an environmental justice talk and agreed to donate \$30,000 of the \$40,000 needed to fund the study. Fayetteville CCL, greatly assisted by the Arkansas Public Policy Panel, raised the remainder needed through a single fundraiser. The reports will soon be available online.

**Carbon Fee Stimulates Economy:** Most importantly, Nystrom's model predicts that the carbon fee method will stimulate the economy and increase jobs by 20,000 to 30,000. According to Chris McNamara: "Conservatives should be champions of the carbon fee, because the economy grows".

### **2. Direct Lobby**

Last year the group lobbied every every senator and representative on a national level. As part of this lobbying effort, the group focused on the national security threats of climate change. They engaged retired Brigadier General, Gerald Galloway, and other former military personnel, and lobbied Republicans Senator Tom Cotton and Representative Steve Womack on these critical national security issues.

### **3. Participating in Stakeholder Meetings**

The [Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Stakeholders group](#), which consists of everybody from SWEPCO to the Sierra Club, has requested a presentation from Fayetteville CCL, as part of a current working group which is looking at the economic impacts of carbon reduction. McAfee describes the Fayetteville CCL role as follows: "Although Fayetteville CCL is an informal member of the stakeholder group, with no direct voice, it was through the efforts of our group that our proposal was listed by the stakeholder group as an option to essentially meet the requirements of the Arkansas EPA Clean Power Plan."

## [How You Can Help:](#)

McNamara urges everyone to contact their state representatives and senator on this issue. He urges callers to say something like:

"Thanks for serving. I am concerned about climate change and harm to the environment and the economy. Please support the carbon fee and dividend system of carbon reduction, which has been documented by Fayetteville CCL as successfully achieving the EPA's Arkansas mandate to reduce carbon emissions 36% by 2030. The carbon fee method will also stimulate the economy." The group will soon have a website available, and until then you can refer them to the group's Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/FayCCL/>

**1. CALL:** You can call the County Clerk's office in any county and find out who your senator and representative are. For the City of Fayetteville, which is in the 3rd District, the names are:

Congressmen: Steve Womack: 479-464-0446  
Senator: Uvalde Lindsey: 479-582-2100

**2. JOIN:** Fayetteville CCL meets second Wednesdays at 7 pm at the OMNI Center. The Climate Change Book Forum usually meets on the first Sunday at 1:30 pm at the Fayetteville Library. Please check the [OMNI Center calendar](#) for specifics.

**3. DONATE:** If you are happy with the work we have accomplished here, please consider donating and supporting our continued efforts on this critical issue. Please use the Network for Good button located at this link:

[Click Here To Donate](#)

-----  
-----

## Fayetteville Climate Change March

Nov 28th - Fayetteville Climate Change March 11 - 2 pm, intersection of College Ave and Joyce Blvd. Call 479-935-4422 for more information.

Due to the terrorist attacks in Paris, a key climate change march was cancelled there. Organizers are encouraging local marches, like this one planned for Fayetteville instead of the Paris march. See the Facebook event [here](#).

-----



## OMNI Calendar

How to add an event to the OMNI Calendar;

1. No PDFs please - text only.
2. Please include in the following order: a. What, b. Where, c. When, d. Accurate links to further information, e. Short description.
3. Email to [Omni@omnicenter.org](mailto:Omni@omnicenter.org).

-----  
Nov 24th - West Fork Friends of OMNI Meeting, 6:30 pm, West Fork Library Annex.  
-----

Nov 28th - Fayetteville Climate March, 11 - 2 pm, intersection of College Ave and Joyce Blvd. Call 479-935-4422 for more information.  
-----

Nov 29th - Eco-Feminist Group, 1 - 3 pm, OMNI Center.  
-----

Dec 1st - Radio Producers Meeting, 6:30 pm, OMNI Center. Getting ready to go on the air. Presentation and discussion about audio editing on Audacity. Discussing actual

radio programs proposed by future producers. Producers will be scheduled for their training at this meeting.

-----  
Dec 4th - Poetic Justice Open Mic, 7 pm, Common Grounds, Dickson St.

-----  
Dec 4th - Women For Choice, 6:30 pm, movie and discussion. Women's health.

-----  
Dec 6th - Nutrition Class, 2 - 4 pm, OMNI Center. Cat Swenson:  
[www.greatfermentations.net](http://www.greatfermentations.net)

-----  
Dec 6th - Open Mic, 7 pm, OMNI Center.

-----  
Dec 6th - Alternative Gift Market, 9 - 2 pm, St Paul's Episcopal Church.

-----  
Dec 7th - Civil Rights Roundtable, 6:30 pm, tracking implementation of recently passed Civil Rights Ordinance and other civil rights issues.

-----  
Dec 11th - Transitions Initiating Group, 5:30 pm OMNI Center. Read more about Transitions [here](#).

-----  
Dec 12th - Gun Violence Rally, 9:15 am, Church bells will ring in remembrance of Sandy Hook, MA.

-----  
Dec 12th - Presentation "Dear White People", Good Sheperd Lutheran, 6pm.

-----  
Dec 13th - Climate Change Book Forum, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, OMNI Center. Donnal Walter MD, from Little Rock, will be presenting on the Laudato Si, Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment and Human Ecology. 3274 N. Lee. Ave in Fayetteville. For information call 479-445-6567.

-----  
Dec 13th - FCC Training, 4 pm, OMNI Center. This training is a requirement for any individual who wants to produce a radio show under the umbrella of Fayetteville Community Radio.

-----  
Dec 15th - Goddess Festival, 6:30 pm, OMNI Center.

-----  
Dec 19th - NWA Druid Grove, 5pm, OMNI Center.

-----  
Dec 27th - Ecofeminist Group, 1pm, OMNI Center.

-----  
February 6th - OMNI Annual Dinner and Celebration.

-----  
January 9th - Diversity Training, all day, call 479-935-4422 for more info.

-----  
January 16th - Chess Club Tournament, 9 am - 3 pm, OMNI Center.

-----  
January 17th - Herbology Class, 2 pm, OMNI Center. 479-521-0132.

-----  
Rooted Vision Healing Drums - First Sundays 1-5 pm.

Weekly @ OMNI

Spanish Conversation Table - Every Wednesday, 6 pm, El Camino Real Restaurant, S. School, Fayetteville

Quaker Meetings - 9:30 am Sundays. Everyone welcome

## Support Our Work Become a Member & Donate [Click Here To Get Started](#)

Every new member or donor increases our voice and visibility by one. The broader the support we have, the more impact we have on decision makers such as businesses, legislators, and community organizations. Most importantly, grantmakers and funders evaluate the number of our supporters when deciding whether we qualify for their financial resources.

---

Omni Center  
3274 N Lee Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72703  
479-935-4422 | [omni@omnicenter.org](mailto:omni@omnicenter.org) | [www.omnicenter.org](http://www.omnicenter.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

