

GREEN ENERGY INSTITUTE

AT LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL

September 2018

GEI Welcomes Our New Energy Law Fellow, Greg Hibbard

Greg Hibbard joined GEI as an Energy Law Fellow in early September and will support our team with in-depth legal research and analysis as he pursues his LLM degree from Lewis & Clark Law School. He was born and raised in Olympia, Washington and received his B.S. in Geosciences and B.A. in Economics from Pacific Lutheran University. He received his JD from the University of Washington School of Law in 2018 with a certificate in Environmental Law. "I'm excited to join the Green Energy Institute as an Energy Law Fellow to work at the intersection of law, economics, and science and be a part of the renewable energy transition." We are looking forward to the experience, knowledge, and passion Greg will bring to the team this year!



Multnomah County staff and Commissioners with those that provided testimony at the September 20th meeting, including GEI's staff attorney Amelia Schlusser

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and the Portland City Council Adopt Resolutions on Clean Diesel Construction

On September 20, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and the Portland City Council approved parallel resolutions directing the County and City to develop a Clean Air

Construction Policy for public construction projects. GEI staff attorney Amelia Schlusser gave testimony to the County Commissioners in support of the proposed regional procurement policy, which will ultimately require construction equipment to meet diesel emissions control standards or be retrofitted with pollution control technology. At the same time, Amelia recommended that the county align the requirements with similar rules in California to prevent companies from using equipment in Oregon that they cannot otherwise use under California law. Multnomah County has some of the highest concentrations of diesel particulate pollution in the nation, and off-road construction equipment is the largest source of diesel emissions in the region. The resolutions represent a significant step in reducing toxic diesel emissions in the Portland metro area. The County and City will finalize their clean diesel procurement policies by the end of the year. Smarter procurement policies are part of the suite of recommendations GEI is preparing as part of our [Deconstructing Diesel](#) project. [Read more...](#)

31st Annual Environmental Law Distinguished Visitor Lecture, "The Roots of Environmental Injustice and the Limits of Environmental Law," with Professor Sarah Krakoff

Sarah Krakoff, the Raphael J. Moses

Professor of Law at the University of Colorado, is an expert in American Indian law, natural resources and public land law, and environmental justice. As this year's Distinguished Visitor, Professor Krakoff gave a lecture on September 13, discussing "Environmental Justice and the Possibilities for Environmental Law." During her talk, Sarah discussed both environmental and energy injustice, explaining how the Navajo Nation has, for more than 40 years, borne the brunt of environmental and human health harms of producing coal-based electricity on Navajo lands without receiving any of the electricity from the coal-fired power plant located on tribal lands. Today, as the coal plant is facing closure, the Navajo Nation faces the loss of jobs, while continuing to lack access to electricity. Professor Krakoff's talk was a powerful reminder that a transition to clean energy will involve more than just producing electricity; it must also ensure that all communities have adequate access to zero-carbon power. Learn more about Professor Krakoff's background at Lewis & Clark Law School's [website](#), and view photos from the event at the Lewis & Clark Environmental, Natural Resources, and Energy Law Program [Facebook page](#).



Evaluating the Progress of Cities with 100% Renewable Energy Targets

In 2017, Multnomah County and the City of Portland committed to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050, aiming to meet community-wide electricity needs from renewable sources by 2035. According to the Sierra Club, [more than 80 cities have made similar commitments](#), several of which have interim goals starting as early as 2020. While ambitious commitments such as these are vital to the energy transition, it will be increasingly important to ensure cities are fulfilling their renewable energy targets and tracking progress along the way. In mid-September, [ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability](#), a coalition of local jurisdictions working toward ambitious climate goals, released a report, ["What's Driving Changes in Local GHG \(greenhouse gas\) Emissions?"](#) The report includes a depth of data on Portland's climate progress due to the city's long-term use of ICLEI's ClearPath emissions management software and its participation as a pilot community in ICLEI's research. Though the report should be perused in its entirety, here are some takeaways we think are worth noting:

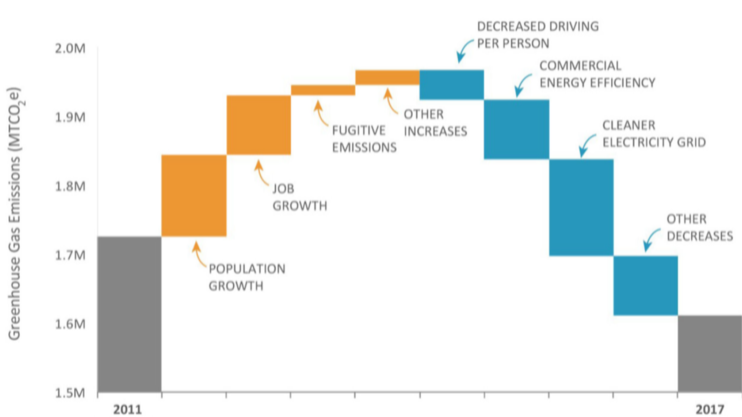


Chart from ICLEI's "What's Driving Changes in Local GHG Emissions?" report

- Within the commercial sector, gains in energy efficiency can reduce emissions even while the sector experiences growth;
- The transportation sector is much more difficult to analyze due to a variety of external factors, as well as the regional impact of population growth (e.g., vehicle miles traveled may drop within city limits as population growth pushes drivers into suburbs and outlying cities);
- State-level policies are vital to advancing local climate goals by encouraging energy efficiency, vehicle fuel efficiency, vehicle fuel switching, and increased integration of renewable energy onto the grid; and
- In order to achieve climate goals, local jurisdictions will require additional support to establish adaptive processes that include regular data tracking, analyses of ongoing progress, and policy changes.

"Overall we find that when cities engage in climate mitigation in a serious way, tangible progress is attainable. Local action combined with action from states, national policy, and climate friendly market forces in energy supply produce even larger gains," state the report's authors. [Read the full report on ICLEI's website here.](#)

Thank you for your continued support,
The Green Energy Institute Team



SUPPORT OUR WORK TODAY

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a [forward](#)? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

10015 SW Terwilliger Blvd
Portland, OR | 97219 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

