

So much good news, but some of it is bittersweet.

It's hard to believe that GEI turns ten years old next year! It's even harder to imagine what GEI would have been without the work of **Amy Schlusser**, who served as one of GEI's original LLM energy law fellows in 2013, and joined the organization as a staff attorney in 2014. For the past nine years, Amy has offered GEI her brilliance, her creativity, her amazing work ethic, and her wit. Now, we share the bittersweet news that Amy will depart GEI at the end of this month. Bitter because we will miss Amy. She authored or co-authored many of GEI's seminal publications, including *Countdown to 2050: Sharpening Oregon's Climate Action Tools*, *Deconstructing Diesel: A Law & Policy Roadmap*, and most recently *Building Bridges to Oregon's Transportation Future: A Comprehensive Guide to Raising and Spending Highway Revenues Under the Oregon Constitution*. Bitter, too, because, as GEI advisory council member Adrienne Thompson recalls, Amy brought not only her intelligence and thoughtfulness about environmental and energy issues to GEI, but also her generosity and kindness. "During the course of my own interactions with GEI, I have been fortunate enough to have seen Amy's star rise even more---from co-authoring a phenomenal report on diesel emissions to accepting a prestigious appointment to the EQC by Governor Brown." But sweet because Amy will start in a new role as the senior clean energy policy analyst for the Oregon Department of Energy, a position that we know will be perfect for her talents.

The energy landscape certainly looks different from when Amy started. A growing number of state and local governments are doing more to decarbonize our energy system. [More than half of the U.S. population](#) now lives within a state or territory that has committed to 100% zero-emitting electricity or energy---Oregon is among just a few states with the most ambitious deadline of 100% clean electricity by 2040. Local governments are increasingly embracing the "electrify everything" approach to decarbonization by mandating that new and retrofitted buildings be all-electric. Vehicle electrification is ramping up as well; in fact, Texas (of all places) released a proposed charging framework that would ensure EV chargers are available every 50 miles. Batteries and other energy storage technologies, not to mention solar and wind energy technologies, are getting cheaper all the time. Meanwhile, consumers and reality-based politicians have been reminded of the price volatility inherent in fossil fuels. Whether it's due to climate change, air pollution, or escalating prices for gasoline, natural gas, and fossil-fueled electricity, more and more people are realizing how vulnerable fossil fuels make us and how decarbonization will make us more resilient. Support for climate policies is therefore at an all-time high. The Inflation Reduction Act, with its unprecedented financial support for clean energy development, electrifying vehicles and home appliances---this country's largest investment in addressing climate change ever---will escalate electrification efforts.

Even as public support for decarbonization rises, and even as state and local officials enact climate policies, there remains a lot of work to be done to ensure these policies are designed and implemented properly. Amy leaves GEI in a strong position to continue the important work she has been so committed to for nine years. Whether it's by leading groups of advocates through complex regulatory proceedings, as we have done with Oregon's ongoing investigation into the (hopefully brief) future of natural gas in Oregon; representing environmental and community-based organizations in opposition to a gas utility's rate increase; engaging with utilities to ensure transportation electrification investments achieve climate and equity goals; helping local governments develop strategies and rules to electrify everything; or helping draft comprehensive, forward-looking strategies to ensure we have a good roadmap for energy decarbonization, GEI is playing an essential role in Oregon's energy transformation.

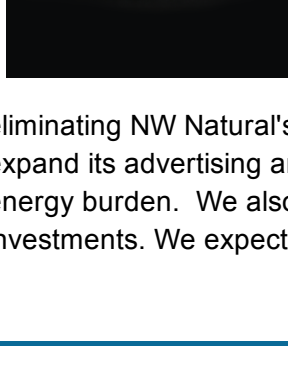
This newsletter has more details about some of our work. As always, it's a testament to the amazing team we have at GEI that we've been able to do so much. Even better, we have just hired a new attorney, Caroline Cilek, to join our work for at least a year. Read more about Caroline's background below.

Thanks, as always, to all of you for your support. Keep your eyes out for future GEI announcements about our climate policy roadmap and the webinars we'll be hosting over the upcoming months.

Melissa

Melissa Powers

Jeffrey Bain Faculty Scholar & Professor of Law
Faculty Director, Green Energy Institute
Lewis & Clark Law School



GEI Takes on Fossil Gas

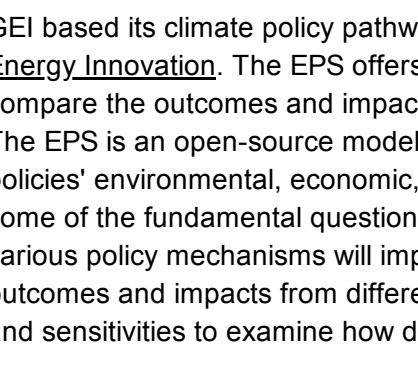
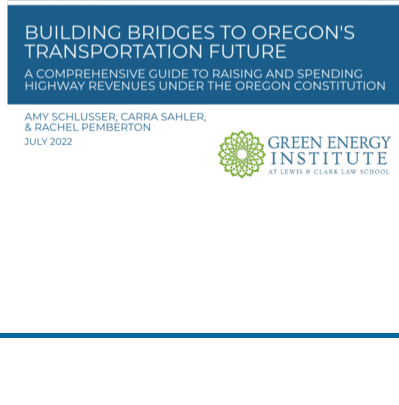
GEI Intervenes in NW Natural Rate Case

GEI Staff Attorney **Carra Sahler** partnered with Earthjustice attorneys to represent environmental and community-based organizations to challenge NW Natural's proposed general rate revision. Our opening expert testimony in April received extensive coverage by [The Oregonian](#) and [Think Out Loud](#), and additional reporting in DeSmog [here](#) and [here](#). We recommended that the Oregon Public Utility Commission stop subsidizing the expansion of the gas system by eliminating NW Natural's line extension allowance, deny NW Natural's request to expand its advertising and lobbying budget, and address serious concerns about energy burden. We also objected to NW Natural's Renewable Natural Gas investments. We expect a Commission order in October.

Oregon's Constitutional Restrictions on Transportation Funding: A Guide

With the transportation sector rapidly shifting to electric vehicles, pressure is increasing to reduce reliance on gas-tax revenues as the primary source of highway funding.

Unfortunately, Oregon's constitution constrains the state's authority to raise and spend transportation revenues. GEI Staff Attorney **Amy Schlusser** produced a comprehensive analysis of Article IX, Section 3a of the Oregon Constitution and its restrictions on raising and using highway funds. See the full report [here](#).



The Path to 2050: A Policy Pathway for Decarbonizing Oregon's Economy Coming Soon!

While Oregon has made significant progress, the state is not on track to achieve its climate targets. GEI has developed an economy-wide climate policy roadmap for Oregon that identifies a suite of laws and policies that will enable the state to achieve its climate goals in an equitable

and economical manner.

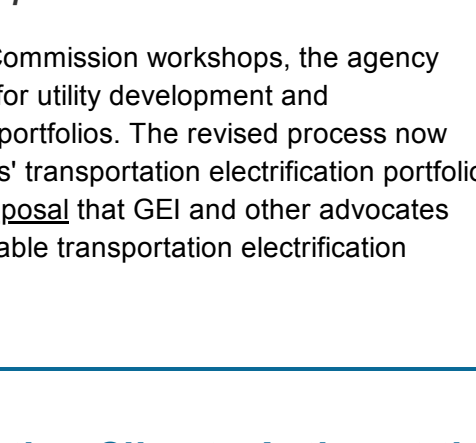
GEI based its climate policy pathway on the [Energy Policy Simulator \(EPS\)](#) released by [Energy Innovation](#). The EPS offers Oregon policymakers a valuable modeling tool to compare the outcomes and impacts from a wide variety of climate and energy policies. The EPS is an open-source model that estimates hundreds of climate and energy policies' environmental, economic, and public health impacts. It also helps answer some of the fundamental questions that decision makers face by projecting how various policy mechanisms will impact key outcomes over time. Users can compare outcomes and impacts from different policy scenarios, and adjust policy parameters and sensitivities to examine how different policy designs might affect desired results.

GEI will be publishing its preliminary analysis in the coming weeks.

Accountability for Regulators and the Regulated

Oregon Public Utility Commission and HB 2021

In 2021, the Oregon legislature adopted a law requiring Oregon's electric utilities to transition away from fossil fuels within the next two decades. HB 2021, Oregon's 100% clean electricity law, directs Oregon's two largest investor-owned electric utilities and other electric service providers to serve consumers with 80% clean, carbon-free electricity by 2030, and 100% clean, carbon-free electricity by 2040. GEI has participated in all Commission workshops, collaborated with other organizations participating in the process, and provided feedback to Commission staff. GEI's intention is to ensure the utilities are transparent and provide meaningful opportunities to participate in utility planning while achieving the targets in HB 2021.

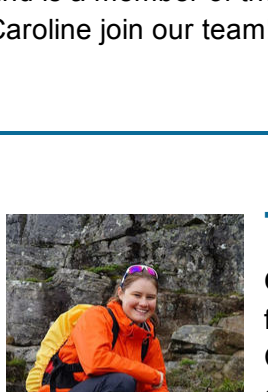
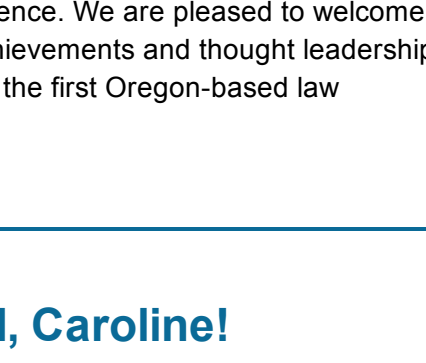


Supporting Climate Action at the Local Level

Over the past year, GEI has engaged in various strategic initiatives to support local efforts to decarbonize the building and transportation sectors. We participated in a series of collaborative policy workshops convened by the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to evaluate policy options to reduce carbon emissions and improve local air quality. We also participated on the Community Advisory Committee for the Portland 2040 Freight Plan. In addition to engaging in local stakeholder initiatives, GEI also partnered with other public interest attorneys to support building electrification efforts at the local level. We are excited to continue this collaboration to support local governments across the state in their efforts to reduce emissions while protecting their communities from indoor air pollution and rising costs.

Recognizing brilliance

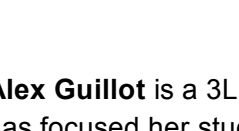
The American College of Environmental Lawyers welcomed **Professor Melissa Powers** as one of the 25 new Active Fellows to its membership in August this year. The ACOEL's President, Michael D. Hockley of Spencer Fane LLP, announced the new members with the following statement: "Our new Fellows are among the very best practitioners of environmental law in the country. Collectively, they represent a tremendous depth, breadth, and diversity of experience. We are pleased to welcome them to the College on the basis of their career achievements and thought leadership." Professor Powers is only the fourth Oregonian and the first Oregon-based law professor admitted to the College. Congratulations!



Welcome to GEI, Caroline!

Caroline Cilek is GEI's newest staff attorney. She is a recent *magna cum laude* graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School, earning a certificate in Energy, Innovations, and Sustainability Law. During law school, she served as a law clerk for Avangrid Renewables' Office of General Counsel and the Oregon Department of Justice in the Special Litigation Unit. For her law school writing requirement, Caroline examined transportation electrification in Oregon with a focus on bidirectional charging opportunities. Prior to law school, Caroline enjoyed over seven years as a land use planner for Collier County, Florida. She

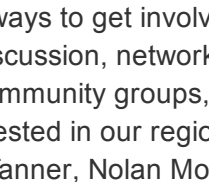
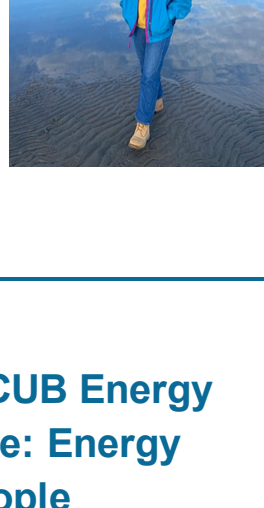
has a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. GEI is thrilled to have Caroline join our team!



Thank you to our GEI law clerks

Cecilia Bremner is a 3L at Lewis & Clark Law School planning to focus on energy and environmental law. Prior to law school, Cecilia worked in DC as a climate consultant for the U.S. government, nonprofits, and large corporations. She also worked in Arizona as a sustainability analyst responsible for a Fortune 500's climate data and transition to a sustainable future. During law school, she worked with the City of Sherwood and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After law school, Cecilia hopes to work at the intersection of law and business focused on climate and sustainability. As a GEI law clerk, Cecilia prepared blogs on [the impact of the proposed SEC climate disclosures on utilities](#), and about [agrivoltaics](#).

Alex Guillot is a 3L student at Lewis & Clark Law School. She has focused her studies on environmental justice and climate change as well as anti-discrimination law and international law. Although her career goals are not quite set, she is interested in public interest work related to environmental law and perhaps working for a government office specializing in the environment and climate change. In her free time, she enjoys walking in Portland and looking for outdoor cats to pet even though she is allergic to them. As a GEI law clerk, Alex prepared a blog about the [West Virginia v. EPA](#) Supreme Court decision.



Registration is Open for the 12th Annual CUB Energy Policy Conference: 8am-5pm on Friday October 14, 2022

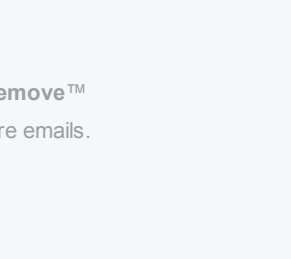
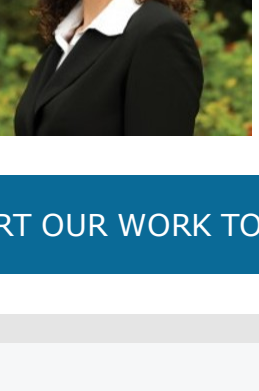
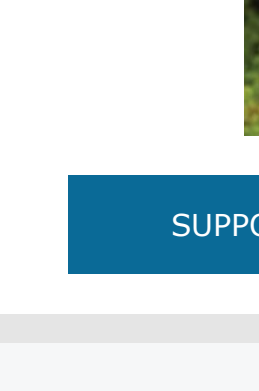
Register for the CUB Energy Policy Conference: Energy Policy for the People

The days of top-down energy policy are over. Oregon's 100% clean electricity law and other major pieces of legislation passed in recent years have been led and developed by

grassroots communities. Increasingly, community voices are showing up and seeking more pathways to get involved. But more must be done. The CUB Policy Conference is a day of discussion, networking, and sharing diverse perspectives. This conference is ideal for community groups, regulators, advocates, utility representatives, attorneys, or those interested in our region's energy industry. GEI Staff Attorney **Carra Sahler** will join Silvia Tanner, Nolan Moser and Tonia Moro on a panel to discuss Navigating Utility Regulation and the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

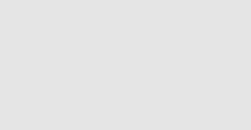
Learn more about the conference and register [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support,
Amelia (Amy) Schlusser, Carra Sahler, Caroline Cilek, and Melissa Powers
The Green Energy Institute Team



SUPPORT OUR WORK TODAY

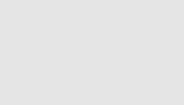
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