

Calvin's Eco List

A bi-monthly action list containing the info you need to contact the people in charge on issues of climate, animal welfare, public land use, and more. You may not be interested in some suggested actions--that's ok, keep reading! If you care about wildlife and the environment, there's something here for you.

New to this? Read [The Basics](#).

Find your members of Congress (MOCs) [here](#). Bills starting with **S** are in the **Senate**. Bills starting with **HR** are in the **House of Representatives**.

Tip: contact each MOC with one issue at a time; don't call and read a laundry list. Be polite and brief! I give example scripts below that you can modify.

If you have a suggestion for an action for me to include next time, [click here](#).

If I've made a mistake (yikes!) please [contact me](#) to let me know.

Remember to follow the link to the bill to see if your MOC is a sponsor! If you like the bill, praise them! If you don't like the bill, say you're disappointed in their sponsorship and tell them why. To show sponsors, follow the Govtrack link for the bill and click on "details" under the bill's title.

Congress has recess this month, so we have some non-legislative info too!

Late August 2017

Highlighted Topic: Dams

1. Dam building and dam removal have both become hot-button topics. See explanations of the controversies [here](#), and [here](#), and a Guardian newspaper debate on the subject [here](#).
2. Why do we care?
 - Dams are in constant need of maintenance and repair, and [most in the US will be at least 50 years old](#) by 2020. Dam failure does happen and the flooding can be deadly.
 - There's a constant question: do we [fix](#) or [dismantle](#)?
 - There's a ton of [legislation regarding hydroelectric dams](#) pending in Congress
3. What can you do?
 - Google "dam" and your state's name to check for local issues, and *act on them!*
 - Check out river advocacy groups like [AmericanRivers.org](#) or [InternationalRivers.org](#); follow experts like [@ConnectedWaters](#) on Twitter and hashtags #DamOrNot and #DamWomen for more info.

- Let your state and federal legislators know you care about clean water, aquatic life, and river health every chance you get to mention it. Let them know it's something that guides your voting.

Good news break: A continued conservation win! The [California condor](#) returns to western Sierras.

Environment

1. Remember the rather depressing info on ocean plastic from the last List? Here's positive action to take: the Senate has passed the [SOS Act of 2017](#) and this bill now goes to the House for approval. This bill would fund [NOAA](#) marine [debris removal and monitoring](#) activity, among other things. Contact your House rep to ask them to support this bill coming in from the Senate.
 - Suggested script: "Hi, I'm [name] from [zip]. I was happy to see the Senate passed the SOS Act of 2017 and it has now moved to the House for approval. I'd like to know if [Rep] plans to support [this bill](#) to reduce marine debris and support our coastal states in managing this serious issue?"
2. With increased offshore drilling, our coastlines and fisheries can suffer from oil spills originating outside the US. Identical bills ([S125/HR468](#)) were submitted to the House and Senate that would allow companies to be held legally liable for damage done to our environment by their drilling facilities even if they are not within US waters. These bills were originally sponsored by MOCs from Alaska, Washington state and Florida, all states particularly vulnerable to offshore spills. Please ask your MOCs to SUPPORT this bill and get it out to the floor.
 - Suggested script: Dear [MOC]: As the [BP spill of 2010](#) showed, our coastal states are vulnerable to extensive damage caused by offshore oil spills. Let's make sure we can hold the companies involved in these spills legally responsible. The [Foreign Spill Protection Act](#) (S125/HR468) would do this, and I'd like to see you support this bill through Congress. Thank you.

Good news break: Another successful reintroduction: [otters](#) move into Chicago!

Energy

1. Support the creation of energy efficiency programs in the Dept of Energy and HUD by asking your MOCs to get on board with [S385/HR1443](#), identical Senate/House bills that will promote energy efficient construction, housing, and manufacturing.
 - Suggested script: "Hi, I'm [name] from [zip]. I'd like to see [MOC] support [S385/HR1443](#), bipartisan bills which would require the DoE and HUD to establish and maintain programs promoting and rewarding [increased energy efficiency](#) in manufacturing, machines, and buildings. Energy efficiency is a straightforward way to decrease pollution from fossil fuel consumption and new standards are a

reasonable outgrowth of better technology. Can I count on [name] to support commonsense energy bills like this one?"

2. Make a case for clean energy by asking your two senators to support [S1036, the Marine Energy Act](#), a bill to reauthorize and promote research into using [tidal and wave energy](#) to power homes. The bill also specifies that marine energy sources must be developed with local environment and fisheries taken into account.
 - Suggested script: Dear [senator]: It's important that we continue to support the development of renewable energy sources through legislation. Please consider co-sponsoring S1036, a bill to aid the development of the ocean as an energy source. Talking about renewables is easy but action is all that matters. Thank you.

Good news break: Innovative ways of [farming](#) in a world with a changing climate

Bonus Citizen Science:

1. Help find the giraffes! Despite their size, counting giraffes and observing their habits isn't easy. Help [Wildwatch Kenya identify giraffes](#) in their [camera trap](#) photos.
2. An easy one: help scientists make a map of streams in the US by [taking a photo when you see one](#) and uploading it with location information. That's it!

Finally, a few last positive news stories:

- Indiana's successful osprey reintroduction program hit a milestone this summer when [one of the ospreys originally introduced](#) more than a decade ago was spotted.
- A mama lion [nursed a leopard kitten](#) she came across.
- A newly released study on the monetary benefits of [renewable energy](#).

Missed the earlier lists? Here's [Early June](#), [Late June](#), [Early July](#), [Late July](#), [Early August](#), [Mid-August](#)

If you have a positive story you'd like to share, [send me the URL!](#)

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