

FOR GROUP MEETINGS

August Action Sheet

CCL volunteers gather each month locally in groups to do four things: [Learn, Celebrate, Practice and Act](#).

Sample meeting agenda

1. Consider beginning your meeting with a reminder of our value of being nonpartisan. See the example below, but make it your own:

“As we get started, a reminder of our value of being nonpartisan and a recognition that we’re a diverse group of individuals from all backgrounds, united by a shared goal: creating the political will for a livable world. No matter your political views or personal identity, if you’re committed to working together with respect, appreciation and gratitude, you’re welcome here.”

2. **Celebrate** volunteer successes. Invite folks to share their actions in July (including sharing stories or reflections from CCL’s Summer Conference and Lobby Day) or review the [Action Tracker](#) - 5 mins
3. **Learn.** Watch the national call together as a team live or by recording. - 40 minutes
4. Invite folks to share one thing they learned. 5-10 mins
5. **Practice** the [Communications Skills Exercise](#). 5 mins
6. **Take Action.** Contact Congress about climate appropriations. 5 mins
7. **Planning.** Finalize plans to engage your MOC in district this month and to host your August social. 10 mins
8. **Review** the important [upcoming events](#). 2 minutes
9. Ask someone to log your meeting and attendees in the [Action Tracker](#) — it helps give CCL accurate information about chapter engagement.

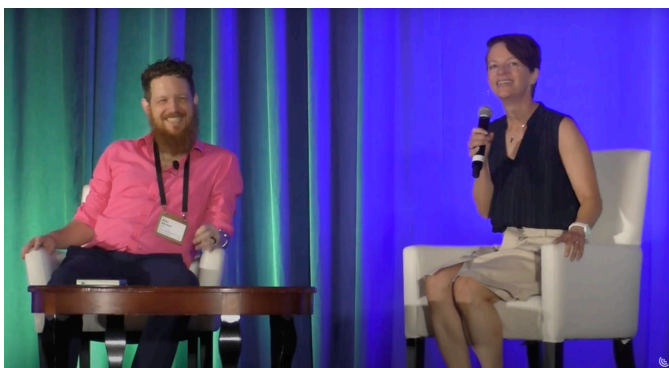
Actions for your chapter gathering

1. [Engage Your MOC in the District](#)
 2. [Contact Congress about Climate Appropriations](#)
 3. [Host Your August Social](#)
 4. [Follow Up With Your Local Media List](#)
 5. [Communications Skills Exercise: Advancing Clean Energy After the OBBBA](#)
 6. [Review Upcoming Events](#)
-

Saturday, August 9, 2025 | 10 a.m. PT / 1 p.m. ET

Guest Speaker: Amanda Ripley, Author, Investigative Journalist, Co-founder of Good Conflict

At CCL's 2025 Summer Conference and Lobby Day in D.C. last month, we were privileged to hear from Amanda Ripley in a keynote conversation with CCL's Illinois State Coordinator Alex Marianyi. We want every CCLer to have a chance to hear Amanda's powerful message and Alex's takeaways, so this month's meeting will feature recorded highlights from their keynote session.



Amanda Ripley is a New York Times bestselling author, a Washington Post contributing columnist, and the co-founder of Good Conflict, a media and training company that helps people reimagine conflict. She has written three award-winning, nonfiction books about three very different subjects: High Conflict, The Smartest Kids in the World, and The Unthinkable. Previously, Ripley spent a decade writing about human behavior for Time magazine in New York, Washington, and Paris.

Three Ways to Join

- **For video conference**, go to cclusa.org/meeting (meeting ID# 882-2813-6772)
- **To connect by phone**, either 646-558-8656 or toll-free 877-369-0926. Enter 882-2813-6772
- **To watch the livestream**: go to: cclusa.org/livestream

Engage Your MOC in the District

LOBBYING ACTION



In August, Members of Congress are home from D.C. and working in their local offices. They also may be hosting town halls, appearing at community events, or otherwise engaging with folks back home.

This creates another chance for us to engage with our Members of Congress — not with a lobby meeting, but with other relationship-building opportunities. We want to demonstrate our concern for climate issues and show our interest in hearing their solutions. When we do this in a respectful way, it grows our relationship with the office and builds our reputation.

Here are three ways you might engage your Member of Congress during August:

Attend a town hall or other public event. Check your MOC’s website to see if they have any town halls or other public events listed for in August. In particular, watch for events related to clean energy, where we could praise MOCs for continuing to pay attention to this and staying engaged.

If you do see events that are open to the public, plan to attend and ask a question like:

- “What can you do in Congress to ensure that America will build and connect more clean energy?”
- “What can you do to ensure climate science and clean energy programs at federal agencies are well funded?”

Helpful resource ➡ Check out “[Attending Town Halls and Candidate Forums](#)” on CCL Community

❓ Wondering if an event is a good fit? Reach out to your CCL Network Director to check.

Invite them to an event. In CCL’s July Action Sheet, we suggested planning a CCL social for August. Consider inviting district staff or the MOC themselves to attend or participate in your event.

💡 Need some ideas? [Here’s a blog post](#) with examples of creative, engaging events CCLers have held in the past with their MOCs in Utah, Minnesota, and California.

Plan a drop-off. Consider taking signed [constituent letter forms](#), a folder of local media from your chapter, or a creative idea of your own such as home baked goods, kids’ drawings or [postcards](#), flowers, etc. Your CCL Liaison to the office can arrange the date and time.

More guidance ➡ Check out [this past training](#) for tips on planning a drop-off.

Contact Congress about Climate Appropriations

LOBBYING ACTION

The White House's budget is seeking dramatic cuts to key climate and clean energy programs across a range of federal agencies. It's normal for a presidential administration to propose a budget, but what's notable — and unusual — is just how huge the White House's proposed cuts are to climate and clean energy.



But Congress has the ultimate say over what to actually fund and at what levels, during a process called “appropriations.” That appropriations process is happening now through the end of September.

So this month, we're going to uplift grassroots voices to contact Congress about this. We'll ask them to fully fund key climate and clean energy programs at several federal agencies: NOAA, NASA and the Department of Energy (DOE).

 This is an email action for lawmakers of all parties in both the Senate and House.

 You'll find an easy action tool at **cclusa.org/appropriations**. (The link will go live before CCL's national monthly meeting on Aug. 9.)

 Send your messages live during CCL's Aug. 9 national meeting, or plan to send your messages during your own chapter meeting.

 Wondering what to write? We've got you covered! The action tool includes template text with the specifics of the funding asks.

 **Nerd Alert:** Ready for the technical details? Here we go!

In more than 400 lobby meetings we held on Capitol Hill on July 22, part of our [primary ask](#) was for Congress to reject proposed cuts and fully fund the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA-E), both of which are essential for energy innovation and reliability.

- EERE funds early-stage research and development activities to develop efficient energy and different types of energy sources, which is critical for America's global energy leadership. Yet

the White House has proposed cutting this office's budget by 74%.

- ARPA-E develops cutting-edge energy technologies that keep us ahead of global competitors while driving down costs. It's extremely bipartisan and well-supported in Congress; yet the White House's budget proposes a 57% cut to this agency.

This month's action will reiterate these funding asks to keep them top of mind as Congress works on appropriations.

But we're not stopping there! We're also highlighting the need to fund the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

- NOAA plays a critical role in weather forecasting, extreme weather warnings, and climate science. The agency's research is also the gold standard for tracking the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and oceans, publishing that data publicly for America and the international community, and forecasting changes based on that data. Yet the White House's proposed 2026 budget seeks [\\$2.2 billion cuts](#) in NOAA research endeavors, grant programs and other initiatives, including dissolving the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.
- NASA's Earth-orbiting satellites and new technologies have helped scientists collect many different types of information about [our planet and its climate](#), but the White House requested to [cut NASA's science funding by 47%](#).

Thank you for contacting Congress to ensure robust funding for these key climate and clean energy programs!

Host Your August Social

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT ACTION

Relationships are one of our core values here in CCL. Let's get together for connection and camaraderie as a complement to all the hard and meaningful advocacy work we're doing.



In July, we asked you to begin planning a social event for the month of August — anything from a casual hangout at a brewery, to a game night, to a picnic in the park, to a good old-fashioned house party. Now, it's time to finalize the details, host your event, and have a great time!

Before your event

Invite broadly. Social events are perfect for newcomers, friends and family, or folks who are on your chapter roster but who don't usually attend meetings. This gives them a space to engage with CCL in a fun, low-stakes way. The more, the merrier! 🎉

Make it easy to support CCL. Consider having some material at your event that helps people learn more about CCL (like [CCL's "Who We Are" handouts](#) or ["Text to Join" sign](#)) or invites them to support CCL's work (like a QR code pointing to citizensclimatelobby.org/donate).

During your event

Kick things off with connection and inspiration. Once most of your attendees have arrived, consider opening up the event with a few brief remarks and CCL updates, like:

☺️ Thank you all for being here! It's wonderful to see everyone and have a chance to spend some time together. Things are tough out there for climate and clean energy, so events like this help us remember that we're all in this together, and we're not alone as we work for positive change.

As you may know, CCL held its annual Summer Conference and Lobby Day in D.C. near the end of July. More than 800 CCL volunteers from all around the country went to D.C., and we had more than 400 lobby meetings with Congressional offices, asking for climate and clean energy policy. [If anyone at your event attended, name them and point them out to the other attendees now.]

And here in our local chapter, we've recently... [insert a few quick highlights].

Thanks to all of you here who have played a part in making all of that happen. ☺️

Add any other logistics that folks may need to know to be comfortable at your event, such as food and drink details. Then turn them loose to have fun!

Be ready to answer questions: As you're chatting with people at your event, be ready with easy answers to some common questions, like:

What is CCL working on right now?

✓ We're asking Congress to fund important climate science and clean energy programs at federal agencies like NOAA, NASA, and the Department of Energy, and we're also working on permitting reform to make it easier for America to build more clean energy faster.

How did CCL's Summer Conference and Lobby Day go?

✓ The conference was wonderful! We had over 800 people there and held over 400 meetings with Congress. [Add any personal reflections, or pull in someone from your chapter who attended.]

What can I do to get more involved?

✓ CCL has easy action tools so you can send a message to Congress. You can go to cclusa.org/action to send a message just letting them know you care about climate and clean energy, or you can send a more specific message about climate and clean energy funding.

After your event

 **Send us your stories and photos.** We love to see and celebrate what you're up to out in the field! Send stories and photos from your events to **marketing@citizensclimate.org**.

Follow Up with Your Local Media List

MEDIA ACTION

CCL's Summer Conference and Lobby Day is one of the best chances all year to earn local media coverage for your chapter and local volunteers.

Now that the event is behind us, be sure you've followed up with your media list of local TV, radio and newspaper reporters and told them all about the trip to D.C. to lobby for climate solutions and what your chapter is working on now.



You can adapt our Conference and Lobby Day [Local Press Release Template](#) to tell the media everything they need to know for a story now or in the future:

Who from your chapter or state recently went to D.C. to lobby lawmakers for climate and clean energy solutions? Include the volunteers' names and some information about them that can help reporters envision a story. If you can give the reporters a quote, even better!

📌 Example: Jane Smith, a local business owner who has lived in Anytown for 12 years, traveled to D.C. to meet with Senators [Name] and [Name]. "I've never done anything like this, but clean energy is so important to our state that I felt I had to go and speak up," Jane said.

What was the conference all about, and what is your chapter up to now? (Fold in some information about **when** upcoming actions are taking place, so reporters can time a potential story.)

📌 Example: CCL's Anytown chapter held meetings with Members of Congress, urging them to fund clean energy programs. The chapter is now generating additional messages to Congress to push for climate and clean energy funding during the congressional appropriations process, which runs through the end of September.

Why should the reporter do a story on your chapter? Include photos and video clips of local CCLers in D.C. or at recent events to show them that you are active, engaged members of your community.

💡 REMEMBER: It takes time to build relationships with members of the media, and relationships aren't a one-way street. Offer to be a resource for them for any climate and clean energy stories they may be working on, whether or not they're about CCL.

For more guidance, watch our [Generating News Coverage training](#), post questions in the [Media Relations forums](#), or reach out to CCL's Communications and Media Manager, Charlotte Ward.

Advancing Clean Energy After the OBBBA

COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE

When tabling, you'll approach and speak with folks representing a wide swath of the public. One sentiment you may run into is that it's too hard or not productive to work with Congress on climate or clean energy issues. This exercise is a sample conversation, showing how to acknowledge political challenges while introducing people to the power they have to make a difference.

Instructions:

1. With a partner, take turns reading the sample conversation below. (If you use Zoom breakout rooms, do the same exercise in small groups, three to four people per room, for six minutes.)
2. Afterward, share the points you remember from the exercise.

Sample conversation:

Visitor to your CCL table: You guys are working on climate change and clean energy? That seems like an uphill battle with the folks in Washington.

You: Yes, this summer Congress did pass a budget bill that went way too far taking away tax cuts for clean energy. But we're working to fix that! Because clean energy tax credits help lower energy costs, grow manufacturing jobs here in America, and of course, they help move us toward energy options that don't overheat the planet.

Visitor: Well, that sounds good. But what can you do since the bill already passed?

You: A lot! In the immediate term, the White House is pushing for even more cuts to solar and wind power, so it's important for us to tell Congress to reject those additional cuts. And we're writing to Congress this month to ask them to fund climate and clean energy programs in federal agencies like the Department of Energy. So there's plenty to do, and our voices can make a real difference.

Visitor: I sure hope so. I do worry about what kind of planet we're leaving for our kids and grandkids.

You: Of course — me too! We're really playing the long game here. We're building relationships with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle so Republicans and Democrats all understand just

how important clean energy and climate action is for keeping energy costs low and keeping our communities safe and healthy.

Visitor: Well, good luck. I certainly would like to see cheaper energy.

You. I totally agree. And the more wind and solar we use, the lower our overall energy costs, because wind and sunshine are free. Sticking with coal, oil, or gas would continue to be costly. Would you like to send a message to Congress about all of this? We've got an easy action tool you can pull up right on your phone.

Visitor: Sure! How do I do it?

Upcoming Events

- August Monthly Meeting: Saturday, Aug. 9, 1 p.m. ET / 10 a.m. PT
- September Monthly Meeting: Saturday, Sept. 13, 1 p.m. ET / 10 a.m. PT
- October Monthly Meeting: Saturday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m. ET / 10 a.m. PT
- CCL's Fall Conference: Saturday, Nov. 15. Note that the November monthly meeting will **not** take place on the second Saturday (Nov. 8) but will shift to align with the Fall Conference.
- Every Wednesday: CCL's Live Informational Session. Invite new folks or friends to attend and learn more about CCL's work.

