

The Climate Crisis, Solutions and Justice: A Panel Discussion: August 29, 2024,

AAUW Washington Online

Bio

Sandra Ripley Distelhorst is the AAUW-WA Public Policy Director. She is a past member of the Edmonds City Climate Protection Committee, and helped sponsor the [Taming Bigfoot Event](#) that encouraged individual and families to explore ways to lower their [carbon footprint](#). She is also a member of the [Climate Reality Project](#) and [Sustainable Community Stewards](#) Program. Besides engaging in community-focused advocacy efforts, she advocates for policy changes through groups like [AAUW-WA](#) and [LWVSC](#). She believes her single biggest climate protection advocacy is voting for local, state and congressional representatives who support climate protection policies. She endorses a NO vote on I-2117 which would repeal our state climate protection act. See [Recommended Climate Protection Reading](#).

Recommended Reading

Washington State

[Understanding Washington's Climate Commitment Act](#) YouTube video 1.13 minutes

[WA decides: Initiative 2117 to repeal the Climate Commitment Act](#) May 2024 Washington Standard
[AAUW-WA Actions We Take](#)

National

[United States Strategy to Respond to the Effects of Climate Change on Women 2023](#)

“[Research](#) shows that climate change does not affect women and men equally, with women suffering disproportionate impacts and experiencing underrepresentation in climate decision-making in all sectors and at all levels.”

[Congress and Climate Change](#) website

“The most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avoid the worst consequences of climate change is a [comprehensive market-based approach](#) [cap and trade like WA’s climate protection act] that puts a price on carbon. Despite support from the business and environmental communities,

Global

[In Climate Diplomacy, Being Gender-Blind Leaves Women Behind](#) (EESI 2021)

Only [38 out of 119 countries](#) referenced sexual and reproductive health and rights in their climate commitments. Of the 38 countries who did, no countries mentioned abortion care and only one mentioned contraception. Yet climate emergencies can disrupt access to contraceptives and increase the risk of sexual violence.

Including women in the climate change conversation.

The definition of environmental justice continues to exclude women at a state and federal level. See federal legislation definition in [H.R.7946](#) and our Washington state [DOE website](#).

“Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

Change needed:

“Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, **sex or gender identify**, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

Photo



Sandra Distelhorst and Taming Bigfoot Project mascot

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/11j5ZbwW2-RXzeb8SNTxNIwiAYplzGHIQ>