

Chapter/Council Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator Role and Action List

April 19, 2023

Background: Protecting native trout, wild trout, salmon and their watersheds from the impacts of climate change is a priority within the [Trout Unlimited National Conservation Agenda](#). Our efforts are guided by the [Trout Unlimited Policy on Climate Change](#)

Climate change poses a significant long-term threat to North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, both by increasing water temperatures in critical habitat areas and by contributing to the frequency and severity of adverse weather events. TU recognizes the powerful connections between our Nation's energy choices and climate change.

TU understands that avoiding the severe harmful effects that climate change will have on coldwater fisheries and their watersheds requires both a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from existing energy production as well as a fundamental shift in energy sources from fossil fuels to low carbon technologies and conservation. Accordingly, TU supports policies and comprehensive systems mechanisms that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and hasten the shift to low carbon energy sources and conservation.

However, the harmful effects of climate change on coldwater fisheries and their watersheds are already present. Because of this, and the deleterious impacts to coldwater fisheries that are expected as a result, TU's primary focus has been and will be to advocate policies and approaches that make communities and landscapes more resilient to the effects of climate change and to do so in a way that benefits wild and native coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

To better fulfill the organization's goals on climate change, a Climate Change Workgroup was formed within the National Leadership Council (NLC) in 2013. The focus of Climate Change Workgroup has been the development of education and awareness programs based upon the scientific background provided by TU Staff and others.

Benefits of developing a Chapter/Council Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator role:

- Supporting TU's Climate Policy of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by shifting from fossil fuel to low carbon energy sources and conservation.

- Strengthening cross-functional communication of climate change education/ awareness throughout the organization with an emphasis on consistent messaging based on best available science.
- Positioning the organization as a nonpartisan anglers' voice on climate change adaptation and mitigation issues. Potentially bringing non-traditional members to the organization.

Position Description: (Applicable at Council and Chapter Level)

Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator Position Description:

Communicating a consistent TU science based message on climate change, whether it's raising awareness or advocating a Trout Unlimited position, is the primary responsibility of this role. More specifically, they will stay abreast of TU National policies on Climate change, keep chapters/councils informed of those, and point out where these interact with chapter/council initiatives and opportunities. They might also coordinate chapter &/or council educational communication to the general public and to members. In particular circumstances they might coordinate local non-partisan advocacy in support of particular policies and bills. Good communication skills and a basic understanding of climate change will be beneficial in accepting this role. Aspects of climate change can still be divisive, so it is imperative to be respectful of other's opinions.

Should familiarize themselves with:

- The Trout Unlimited Climate Change policy
- Tools and resources on the [NLC Climate Change Workgroup page](#)
- The science relating to emissions from burning fossil fuels, alternatives to fossil fuels and proposals to help transition from fossil fuel to low carbon energy alternatives.

Should coordinate with the following volunteer and climate change resources:

- NLC Climate Change Workgroup
- Volunteers Ops (Beverly Smith, Jeff Yates, Lisa Berenek)
- Senior staff (Rob Catalanotto, Helen Neville)

Climate Actions: (Applicable at Council and Chapter Level)

- Communicate climate change awareness at the council/chapter "grassroots" level.
- Present and discuss [Trout Unlimited Policy on Climate Change and Promoting Responsible Energy Development to Protect Coldwater Fisheries](#) during a meeting and include in the chapter/council newsletter.
- Utilize the tools and resources on the [NLC Climate Change Workgroup page](#). E.g. Start with a discussion at a Board meeting. Host a "climate change" themed chapter/council meeting. It may bring in some new faces to your meeting.

- Promote your chapter/council to new audiences by presenting to a local civic group. The Trout & Climate Change presentation is available on the [NLC Climate Change Workgroup page](#)
- Invite members of organizations that support TU's climate policy of limiting further changes in climate to speak on their proposals to slow climate change.
- Coordinate with your Conservation Chairs to design features into habitat projects (e.g. Riparian plantings) that incorporate measures to slow climate change and adapt to the harmful effects such as temperature and rainfall extremes.
- Incorporate climate change awareness into fishing and habitat events by providing press releases, project signage and flyers.
- Incorporate climate change into your council/chapter's strategic plan:
 - The Trout Unlimited Climate Change policy
 - Provide contacts for questions on the position, such as tools and tips and climate change facts.
 - Tools and resources on the [NLC Climate Change Workgroup page](#)
 - The science relating to emissions from burning fossil fuels, alternatives to fossil fuels and proposals to help transition from fossil fuel to low carbon energy alternatives.

Climate Actions: (Applicable at Council Level)

- Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator can help the chapter:
 - Recruit chapter level volunteers to serve as climate change coordinators.
 - Recruit chapter level volunteers to serve as contacts for communication.
 - Facilitate two way communication between [NLC Climate Change Workgroup](#) and the chapters, utilizing the tools and resources on the. page. E.g. Start with a discussion at a Board meeting. Host a "climate change" themed chapter meeting. It may bring in some new faces to your meeting.
 - Promote the chapter to new audiences by presenting to a local civic group. The Trout & Climate Change presentation is available on the [NLC Climate Change Workgroup page](#).
 - Invite members of organizations that support TU's climate policy of limiting further changes in climate to speak on their proposals to slow climate change.
 - Coordinate with your Conservation Chairs to design features into habitat projects (e.g. Riparian plantings) that incorporate measures to slow climate change and adapt to the harmful effects such as temperature and rainfall extremes.
 - Incorporate climate change awareness into fishing and habitat events by providing press releases, project signage and flyers.

Climate Actions: (Applicable at Chapter Level)

- Incorporate climate change into your chapter's strategic plan.
- Facilitate two way communication between the council Climate Change Coordinator, if there is one, otherwise directly with the NLC Climate Change Workgroup and your chapter(s.)
- Climate change coordinators will obviously have to use their judgement about how to exercise their role in the context of their local chapters and their council.
- The following list is meant to be suggestive and not prescriptive. Activities to consider might include:
 - Share Climate Change Coordinator information and materials with members of chapters that do not have chapter level coordinators.
 - Participate in monthly Climate Change Work Group calls.

Other activities (Applicable at Council and Chapter Level) might be:

- Participating in monthly Climate Change meetings.
- Assisting with implementation of Work Group work plan.
- Promoting angler science programs (e.g. stream temperature monitoring, flow monitoring, phenology projects)
- Writing a "climate change" blog post for TU publication (contact Helen Neville, TU Senior Scientist).
- Sharing and liking Trout Unlimited climate change awareness posts on social media.
- While at the stream engage in casual conversations to express your concern with higher temperatures and the impact of flooding and drouths on fishing.
- Help build the bench by identifying climate change champions within your chapter(s).
- Invite speakers from organizations promoting solutions to facilitate TU's Climate Policy goals of transitioning to clean energy.
- Incorporate climate change awareness into fishing and habitat events by providing press releases, project signage and flyers.
- Partner with your local Citizens' Climate Lobby chapter on advocacy and presentations, calls to legislators, op-eds, letters to the editor.
- Discuss climate change concerns with legislators during stream walks or in-district visits.
- Explore and promote how we can reduce our own carbon footprint.
Make a short video for use in advocating to congressional members
- Partner with other local organizations, such as Citizens' Climate Lobby, that promote climate legislation consistence with TU's mission or reducing emissions and preserving coldwater fisheries on advocacy, presentations, calls to legislators, op-eds, letters to the editor.

- Discuss climate change concerns with legislators during stream walks or in-district visits.
- Explore and promote reducing our own carbon footprint.

Change Coordinator can help the council/chapter: (Applicable at Council and Chapter Level)

- Participating in Climate Change Focus Group, part of the TU Online Communities. This is an invitation-only community for members to share climate change information (current science, relevant articles, etc.) and share thoughtful discussion.
- Showing members the tools and resources, especially the blogs, on the [NLC Climate Change Workgroup page](#) during a meeting and include in a newsletter.
- Invite speakers from organizations promoting solutions to facilitate TU's Climate Policy goals of transitioning to clean energy.
- Incorporate climate change awareness into fishing and habitat events by providing press releases, project signage and flyers.