States can demonstrate to the federal government that progress on climate change is possible. A recent Jackson Foundation program with the Wilson Center’s Environmental Change and Security Program, and the University of California Berkeley’s Center for Law, Energy & the Environment, offered clear examples. The discussion featured experts from Washington, California, and Louisiana who have been at the forefront of implementing statewide policies. By highlighting successes at the state level, the partners hope to build momentum for federal climate action, and encourage more states, as well.

Becky Kelley, Senior Policy Advisor for Climate to Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, noted how Washington State has passed a suite of significant climate policies in the last several years. She said, “Persistence is a theme in our state and our journey . . . the Governor making this issue a priority for the last decade has made a difference. The advocacy community and key legislators have just kept pushing – creating a sense of inevitability and culminating in some important pieces of legislation getting across the finish line.”

Matthew Botill, chief of the Industrial Strategies Division on the California Air Resources Board, discussed California’s 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan, which provides a roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. He remarked, “The policies we need to get to carbon neutrality are here … We need to reduce fossil fuel emissions and find alternative energy sources to meet energy needs. It’s not an easy task, but we’re finding that it’s doable.” He suggested that connecting policies to the outcomes people want can make them more receptive to change.

While California and Washington state have prioritized climate policy for some years, Louisiana acted only recently. Harry Vorhoff, Deputy Director in Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards’ Office of Coastal Activities, explained that his state just released its first climate action plan, putting it on track to achieve net zero by 2050. He emphasized, “Every inch of sea-level rise that’s avoided means greater protection for our coastal communities and greater longevity for our productive coastal ecosystems.” Harry encouraged other states to “lean heavily into partnerships and listen to others who have been there before … and engage actively with communities on the ground.”

We were pleased to spotlight these three states moving forward to address climate and to continue our partnership with the Wilson Center. We encourage you to watch the program here.
At long last, Jackson Fellows Visit DC!

After a two-year hiatus, the Jackson Leadership Fellows 2022 cohort travelled to Washington D.C. in June for several packed days. This trip gave the Fellows the opportunity to see effective leaders in action, including members of Washington state’s congressional delegation and our grantee partners. Board Member Chuck Blumenfeld, Executive Director Katy Terry, and Program Manager Carol Vipperman accompanied the group.

We began with Michael Evans, Chief Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff for the Senate Finance Committee, who grounded the Fellows in how the Senate Finance Committee works on critical issues, including recent sanctions on Russia that used the Jackson-Vanik amendment as a model. Mike offered us an inspiring example of public leadership.

Focusing on climate, we met with our partners at the Center for Climate and Security and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute. The groups described how they address global warming and strive to meaningfully inform climate policy by anticipating the needs of policymakers and the media.

Human rights took the stage in our conversations with Freedom House and Human Rights First, two partners that work together on Global Magnitsky sanctions. Instrumental in the adoption of the Global Magnitsky Act, the targeted sanctions tool to hold human rights abusers and corrupt actors accountable worldwide, the groups now steer the NGO coalition that submits proposed sanctions to the federal government. It was encouraging to hear about the 400 individuals and organizations that have been targeted by Global Magnitsky sanctions – and how a significant portion of those came from the coalition.

Natalia Arno, founder of the Free Russia Foundation (FRF), gave a compelling report on her human rights work. FRF made an amazing pivot after the invasion of Ukraine, evacuating over 10,000 refugees from Ukraine since the war started. As Natalia explained, “This is not a war between Russia and Ukraine, but a war between dictatorship and democracy.” Her personal story of being forced into exile due to her democracy work in Russia was quite moving for the Fellows.

Finally, we met with Senator Maria Cantwell in the newly named U.S. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith Room in the capitol, and with Representative Derek Kilmer, who chairs the Select Committee on Modernization of Congress. Both spoke candidly about the challenges the nation faces, and had practical advice about how to be successful and stay true to one’s values in an increasingly polarized country.

The Fellows asked challenging, thoughtful questions, and walked away with a deeper appreciation of the Foundation’s work. We look forward to our 2020 and 2021 cohorts getting this opportunity later this year and in 2023.
A novel approach to decarbonizing buildings

With support from the Jackson Foundation, Seattle-area nonprofit 2050 Project recently organized a case competition at the University of Washington focused on clean buildings. Held in conjunction with ReThink – a UW Foster School of Business student club – the event challenged students to create innovative outreach and communication strategies to engage commercial building owners.

Buildings produce the second-largest amount of emissions in Washington state, after transportation, and Washington state and the City of Seattle serve as national models for commercial building performance standards. Examples of commercial buildings include residential housing, office space, healthcare, government, and schools. The 2050 Project competition aimed to help building owners better understand new local policies and begin to implement decarbonizing projects. For instance, recently available financial tools can help commercial building owners pay for upgrades in existing buildings, yet many owners do not know about the new standards or programs.

At the end of spring quarter, 64 students gathered to present communications ideas and 15 local-industry experts served as judges. Winning approaches included creating a class with real estate associations, collaborating with entities on campus to spread the word such as the UW Evans School and the UW Business Group, and creating a new major at UW focused on Environment, Sustainability and Governance. John Kennedy, co-founder of 2050 Project, reported, “The feedback that the judges provided to the students was invaluable; it will certainly help them better understand the nuances of the market and how they might pursue their proposed ideas.”

2050 Project specializes in environmental communications and embraces positive messaging, collaboration, and community-led involvement. The nonprofit brings an action orientation to its work and uses media – such as the short video it created about the competition – to connect with its audience, particularly youth. John started the nonprofit as a UW Evans School graduate student, where he was a Henry M. Jackson Environmental Fellow.

We proudly provided funding that supported the student prize awards, and applaud 2050 Project and the UW students for this innovative project.
**Fellows on the Move**

**Tom Bugert** recently joined REI as the new state and local government affairs manager. In this role, Tom will lead the build out of its state-level government relations work across the United States.

**Ilana Cone Kennedy** moved from her position as the Holocaust Center for Humanity’s long-time director of education and now serves as its chief operating officer.


**Kristine Reeves** is running for Washington State Representative in the 30th Legislative District.

**Tamara Power-Drutis** has become the senior Communications and PR manager at Blue Origin, where she manages internal communications for the New Glenn rocket.

**Hans Zeiger** has been named the new president of the Jack Miller Center, which supports the scholarship, teaching, and study of the central ideas and themes of America’s founding principles and history.

**Ilana Cone Kennedy** moved from her position as the Holocaust Center for Humanity’s long-time director of education and now serves as its chief operating officer.

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