

From: [Jenna Kay](#)
To: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Subject: FW: Best Climate News of the Year
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:49:39 PM

For the record

From: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2025 8:03 PM
To: Climate Action of Southwest Washington <Washington-SW-Climate-Action@lists.sierraclub.org>; CASCADE-LOOWIT-COAL-FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org; Cascade Loowit Conservation Forum <CASCADE-LOOWIT-CONS-FORUM@lists.sierraclub.org>; Coal-WA-SW-Leaders <Coal-WA-SW-Leaders@lists.sierraclub.org>; Kalama Methanol Refinery Forum <WASHINGTON-KALAMA-REFINERY@lists.sierraclub.org>; Longview listserv <COAL-EXPORT-LONGVIEW-VOLUNTEER@lists.sierraclub.org>
Subject: Best Climate News of the Year

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From Don and Alona Steinke – Climate Action of Southwest Washington

Hello everyone,

Here is the best Climate news I've heard all year.

Australia has a surplus of roof-top solar connected to the grid. They can't sell it so they give it away.

Starting in July of 2026, Australians will get 3 hours of free electricity every afternoon.

Free mid-day electricity will encourage hospitals and hotels to do the laundry when power is abundant.

Free mid-day electricity will encourage EV owners to re-charge when electricity is free.

Others can store the free electricity in a battery and use it later.

Manufacturers with flexible production lines could shift substantial portions of their load into free-energy windows, materially reducing operating costs.

This saves the utility the cost of adding capacity or paying for net-metering.

In Australia, it takes less than a week to get 3 bids, get permits, get a utility interconnect agreement and job completion. In America its takes 2-3 months.

In Australia, the cost of residential solar is about 50 cents per watt in terms of capacity. In America it's about \$3 per watt of capacity.

We need market reform and regulatory reform to speed up the process and lower the cost here. I never thought I'd say this, but here we need to get government out of the way and let free enterprise go to work.

We need people to run for Clark PUD and push for reform. Or just show up at their board meetings to speak. Or write LTEs.

I highly recommend listening to this [free Dave Roberts' podcast](#) for the rest of the Australian story.

I first became concerned about climate change in 1988 when George HW Bush said if you vote for me, I'll address climate change.

As late as 2006, we had no notion of how to replace fossil fuel power plants. At that time, the *manufacturing* cost of solar was about \$4 per watt. Now it's 13 cents per watt. It was government policy and subsidies that drove the cost down.

In 2006, we had no zero-emissions cars. Now China is leading the world in EV sales. China copied the California policy that required manufacturers to sell a gradually increasing number of zero-emissions vehicles.

As Pete Seeger sang,

[When you see the world is not what it should be, God's counting on me, he's counting on you.](#)

Don and Alona Steinke

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