

# Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Dear Anna,



## **Reflecting on Another Powerful Hiroshima & Nagasaki Remembrance Event**

On August 6th, 2024, Oregon PSR worked with an incredible group of organizations to host a moving remembrance to mark the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We are proud to share that the event had over 170 community members coming together to honor the memory of those affected and to reflect on the enduring importance of peace. This year's event was in memory of Carol Urner, who served on our Peace Work Group and helped organize the earliest Hiroshima/Nagasaki memorial events in Portland.

We gathered in a community under the shade of the Japanese American Historical Plaza, featuring a rich tapestry of performers, each bringing their unique voice to the evening. With Portland Taiko's moving cello solo to start the

night off, our MC Jeff Selby (Director of the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights) led us through a collection of speeches from local non-profits, original poetry (with a surprise appearance from Oregon's former poet laureate Kim Stafford), traditional Japanese folk dance (Tsubaki Buyo Doukou Kai Dancers), and ended with a striking story from our keynote speaker Michiko Kornhauser, a Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor). Their words and performances resonated deeply with all in attendance, reminding us of the profound impact of these historical events and the ongoing need to advocate for peace and understanding.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, as well as to those who attended. Your support is what brought meaning to this annual event, reinforcing our collective commitment to a more peaceful world.

"If you care about people, it's something you have to do, want to do, you can't not do it. And of course if you're working with others, it becomes joyful.... You know you're doing the right thing. What better thing to do with your life?"

-Carol Urner

[Link to full program](#)



## **Environmentalists, customers raise concerns over NW Natural hydrogen project**

We just found out that NW Natural, the state's largest fossil fuel utility, **has begun blending dangerous hydrogen into the gas system without any public outreach or oversight.** The utility has started adding hydrogen into the gas mix in Southeast Portland, which increases exposure to health harms and increases safety risks while offering negligible emissions reductions.

While NW Natural claims that this project will help to reduce the climate pollution from its dirty fossil fuels, **hydrogen blending is nothing more than a greenwashing project that will endanger the health and wellbeing of Portland residents.** And this is not the first time that NW Natural has risked community health and safety in the name of a public relations effort. In 2022, the utility attempted a hydrogen blending pilot in Eugene. This project was put on permanent hold, citing the need for further community engagement due to



strong backlash from the neighborhood association and community partners. Instead of prioritizing public engagement when they began their Portland project, NW Natural decided to sidestep it all together by exploiting regulatory loopholes.

**We need your help to demand that lawmakers stop this risky project until regulatory measures can be put in place.** Taking action by customizing and sending this letter takes a few minutes and will let local leaders know we need them to protect our health and safety, and hold NW Natural accountable!

Take Action

Oregon PSR and 46 other organizations sent a letter to Governor Tina Kotek asking her to immediately halt NW Natural's dangerous hydrogen blending project in SE Portland.

Check out the coverage we received in [OPB](#) and the [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)!



### **No Nuclear Waste in our Communities!**

On May 30, the U.S. Department of Energy (Energy), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) announced a set of public meetings (in Richland, WA, Olympia, WA, & Hood River, OR) and opened a 90-day public comment period regarding changes to Hanford cleanup. A four year closed door negotiation resulted in a “holistic”

settlement agreement (the settlement) between the agencies. **The negotiations did not include Tribal Nations, nor the public.**

The settlement's proposed changes to clean up will alter treatment, storage, and disposal plans for highly toxic and radioactive waste currently stored in aging tanks and the soil beneath them. **The most radioactive, toxic waste from this process is stored in Hanford's 177 underground storage tanks, legally classified as high-level waste.** Under the law high-level waste must be turned into glass and buried in a deep geological repository. **The settlement seemingly changes this plan.**

There have been major changes to the Hanford cleanup and timeline. This includes: **a new proposal for high-level tank waste treatment, the shipment of tank waste to other communities in Utah and/or Texas, and radioactive waste shipments through Oregon and Washington communities.** We are also being asked to accept the principle that it is okay to turn tank waste into grout rather than glass, a major departure from the law and Washington's "as good as glass" principle for immobilizing highly radioactive waste.

**Take Action today!** [Submit a comment](#), [sign the petition](#), [learn more](#), and tell a friend!

Take Action



**Gas 101 Workshop Recap**

In early August, Oregon PSR helped organize a "Gas 101" workshop in partnership with the Build/Shift Coalition. Our Healthy Climate Program Director gave a brief presentation about gas, the risks that oil and gas infrastructure and transportation pose to human health and the environment, and the greenwashing tactics practiced by for-profit gas corporations advertising false climate solutions as "clean energy". Jaycob Padron, Senior Program Specialist at Multnomah County, spoke about the health harms of gas stoves and harm reduction strategies to protect your health from the negative health impacts of gas stoves. Over 20 community members attended and expressed interest in learning more about the upcoming Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) rebates.



### **[Electrify Portland! Home Electrification Fair](#)**

Time/Date: Sunday, September 15th from Noon-4pm

Location: The Redd - 831 SE Salmon St. Portland, OR 97214

Get ready to make your home healthier, more comfy, and resilient! Join us for the Electrify Portland! on Sunday, September 15th, hosted at the beautiful Redd on Salmon Street. Whether you're a homeowner or renter, this free, festive home electrification fair offers inspiration and practical tips for switching from gas or older electric to efficient, renewable electric. Electrify Portland! is your one-stop shop for exploring high-efficiency heat pumps, heat pumps water heaters, solar, EVs, and even electric lawn equipment—all with the guidance of trusted local contractors who specialize in home electrification. Hosted by ElectrifyPDX. Get your free ticket and more info at [ElectrifyPortland.org](https://www.electrifyportland.org)



## **OCERA: Oregon Coalition for an Environmental Rights Amendment**

We are proud to sponsor the Oregon Coalition for an Environmental Rights Amendment ([OCERA](https://www.oceraunited.org)), a grassroots coalition dedicated to amending the Oregon Constitution with a fundamental, enforceable right to a healthy environment. During times of compounding climate crises facing Oregon, it is important now more than ever that we establish our right to a healthy environment for current and future generations. The devastating health impacts of fossil fuel-induced climate change are already being felt, especially by frontline communities, and we need urgent action to ensure the health of people and the planet.

Sign up to be a member of the coalition <https://www.oceraunited.org/get-involved>.

**OCERA Lobby Day:** Join OCERA members in Salem to educate our legislators about the 2025 legislation to refer the constitutional amendment to the ballot.

**Please sign up** here to meet or attend the lobby day virtually. Contact Catherine Thomasson for more information at [Team@OCERAUnited.org](mailto:Team@OCERAUnited.org)

Learn more about OCERA on their [website](https://www.oceraunited.org).





## [Volunteer with Oregon PSR](#)

Are you passionate about advocating for a healthy, peaceful and just Oregon?  
Join one of our volunteer teams!

### [Healthy Climate Action Team](#)

[Learn more about HCAT](#)

### [Peace and Justice Action Team](#)

[Learn more about PJAT](#)

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility · 4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd, #758, Portland, OR  
97214, United States

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