

OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thanksgiving and the holiday season give us a chance to reflect on two big things in our lives: appreciating our loved ones and giving back to help those in need.

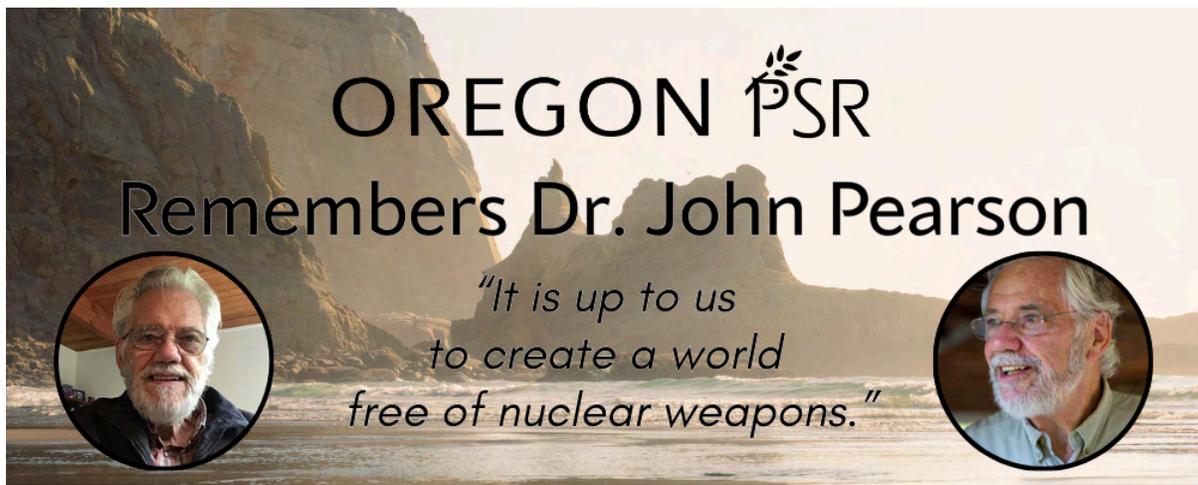
As we continue our work to combat climate change and the rise of a new nuclear arms race, we are reminded that indigenous communities have historically been the victims of nuclear testing, spills from nuclear power plants, and environmental waste and pollution from fossil fuels. Their fight is our fight, and we stand in solidarity with all our indigenous brothers and sisters during this holiday season.

We also need to remember those who may not have family to be with on Thanksgiving, food around the table, a warm place to sleep, or much to look forward to as the holidays approach. We encourage you to do what you can to make life a little bit brighter for so many of those who have far less.

It is also with a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of John Pearson. We will be forever indebted to his commitment to making the world a better place and leaving a legacy that many of us can only hope to live up to. He was and will always be part of our family and will be dearly missed.

Thank you and do not forget: You are needed. You are appreciated, and I am honored to be in the trenches with you all.

Vincent Intondi
Executive Director



Oregon PSR honors the life and legacy of **Dr. John Pearson**, whose decades of leadership and commitment to peace and justice helped shape our organization. John was a colleague and friend to many, and his influence will continue to guide our work. For more than twenty years, he strengthened OPSR through his service on the Board of Directors, his two terms as Board President, his role on our advisory board, and his participation in our programs. John said that what he valued most about OPSR was “the camaraderie...the fact that you’re working with a lot of well-meaning, good, very smart people.”

A pediatrician, pediatric neurologist, and dedicated educator, John devoted his professional life to caring for future generations, including those from families within the OPSR community. That care was amplified by the generosity he and his wife Nena extended to the organization. John understood that preventing harm required addressing the broader forces that shape human and environmental health, and he was a steadfast advocate on environmental issues (specifically concerned with the neurodevelopmental effects of toxins) and the dangers of nuclear energy.

Of the many issues John addressed at OPSR, nuclear abolition was always a central focus of his advocacy, a cause he referred to as [“the most important issue of our time.”](#) He believed in the transformative power of collective action, trusting that *“using our political power, we can overcome the influence of those who profit financially or politically from these weapons.”* He strived for a better tomorrow by sharing his deep knowledge in [letters to the editor](#), remarks before [city councils throughout Oregon](#), [testimony submitted nationwide](#), and many other forms of public engagement.

When [John memorialized OPSR co-founder Dr. Charlie Grossman](#), John described him as living “a life dedicated to medicine, peace, and the abolition of nuclear weapons.” Today, those words reflect John’s own legacy. His dedication, his enthusiasm, and his hope for a better future strengthened OPSR and inspired all who worked with him.

John will be deeply missed by colleagues, volunteers, community partners, and all who were touched by his generosity and compassion. Our thoughts are with his family, his friends, and everyone who is grieving his loss. As we remember John, we strive to honor his legacy by carrying forward the causes he cared so deeply about: advocating for peace, climate justice, and the abolition of nuclear weapons, because as John said, “it is up to us.”

To offer additional reflections on John's legacy, we are grateful to share a statement from Kelly Campbell, Oregon PSR's Executive Director from 2009 to 2023 and a current Advisory Board member.

Below is Kelly's letter:

John Pearson was a pillar of the Oregon PSR community. I can hear him now, scoffing at that statement, and making some self-deprecating joke. But it's true: John was integral to the work of the organization over the past two decades. John served in the leadership of the organization as a board member, did several stints as board president, and later joined the advisory board. Along the way, he was an active participant in the Healthy Climate team and the Peace and Justice team, attending meetings, representing the organization in coalitions, and doing a lot of the behind-the-scenes work.

John and his wife Nena often hosted PSR events at their lovely home—from board retreats to holiday parties—and regularly put up out of town speakers overnight. John was passionate about all the issues PSR works on, none so much as nuclear weapons abolition. He presented to many Rotary Clubs, schools, and other organizations on the topic and even recruited his granddaughter as an intern on the subject.

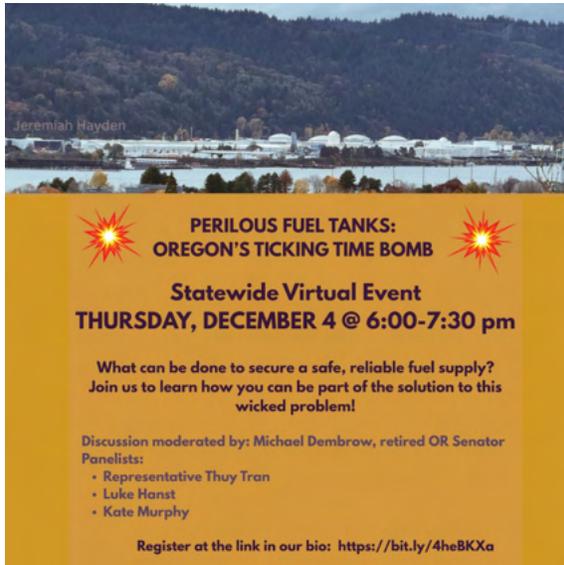
I got a chance to visit with John a few weeks before he passed. He was the same John, reminiscing about old times, talking with pride about his children and grandchildren, and even ribbing me about a long-running strategy disagreement we've had. It was hard to believe that he would not be with us much longer.

One of my favorite memories of John was at a board meeting where we had just wrapped up a particularly contentious discussion. As board president, John spoke up in his perfect Monty Python accent, "and now, for something completely different," eliciting widespread laughter and breaking through the tension, allowing the group to come back together as one.

Thank you, John, for bringing your enthusiasm, curiosity, leadership, and sense of humor to Oregon PSR. You will be missed.

—**Kelly Campbell**, Oregon PSR's Executive Director 2009-2023, current advisory board member.

*In another profound example of the commitment and generosity the Pearson family has shown to OPSR, **Nena Pearson** has requested that any donations in John's memory be made to Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. We are deeply grateful for her kindness and for the family's continued trust in our work during this difficult time. oregonpsr.org/donate*



Perilous Fuel Tanks: Oregon's Ticking Time Bomb

Statewide Virtual Event
Thursday, December 4
6:00–7:30 PM (PT)
[Register Here](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

- **90%+ of all the liquid fuel used in Oregon** (gas, diesel, oils, jet fuel, and more) comes into the state and is distributed from a single location

- That location, aka the CEI Hub, is **in a quadruple hazard zone**
- **Less than 2%** of the Hub's fuel storage tanks **are seismically stable**

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SECURE A SAFE, RELIABLE FUEL SUPPLY?

Join us to learn how you can be part of the solution to this wicked problem

Discussion moderated by: [Michael Dembrow](#), retired state Senator
Panelists:

- [Rep. Thuy Tran](#) (HD 45), Chair of House Emergency Management Committee
 - [Luke Hanst](#), Partnerships Manager, PSU Civil & Environmental Engineering Dept
 - [Kate Murphy](#), MPH, Senior Community Organizer, Columbia Riverkeeper
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Join Multnomah County's Climate Justice Plan Community Forums

As part of Multnomah County's ongoing Climate Justice Plan process, a series of twelve community forums held through the remainder of the year, will invite public input on the goals, strategies, and metrics shaping the County's climate and equity commitments. Each forum will focus on a specific topic area and bring together community members, partners, experts, and staff to strengthen strategies and identify actions with the greatest impact on equity, justice, and carbon reduction.



Upcoming Forums in December:

Green Infrastructure

Tuesday, December 2

3–5 PM

Every community member is surrounded by and connected to nature, parks, and green infrastructure.

Multnomah Building Room 126 or via [Zoom](#)

[Register](#)

Transit

Thursday, December 4

3–5 PM

Every community member has access to affordable, reliable, and safe transit, biking, and pedestrian infrastructure.

Multnomah Building Room 126 or via [Zoom](#)

[Register](#)

Clean Energy

Tuesday, December 9

3–5 PM

Every community member has access to affordable clean energy.

Multnomah Building Room 315 or via [Zoom](#)

[Register](#)

Fossil Fuels

Thursday, December 11

3–5 PM

Every community member is safe from the risks posed by fossil fuels and energy infrastructure.

Multnomah Building Room 126 or via [Zoom](#)

[Register](#)

[Housing](#)

Tuesday, December 16

3–5 PM

Every community member has safe, healthy, and affordable housing.

Multnomah Building Room 126 or via [Zoom](#)

[Register](#)



[Apply to Serve on Multnomah County's Advisory Committee on Sustainability & Innovation](#)

Multnomah County is recruiting new members for its Advisory Committee on Sustainability & Innovation (ACSI), which helps guide the County's sustainability strategies and ensures that climate action advances social and racial justice. If you believe every community member should benefit from the transition to a renewable future and want to help shape long-term, systemic change, you are encouraged to apply.

ACSI members serve from **January 2026 through December 2027**, participate in **quarterly meetings**, and may join **monthly subcommittee meetings** if they choose. The deadline to apply is **Sunday, December 7 at 11:59 pm**. Apply using [the form on this page](#). The information submitted will be used to make appointments (and will become part of the public record).

Questions can be directed to: sustainability@multco.us

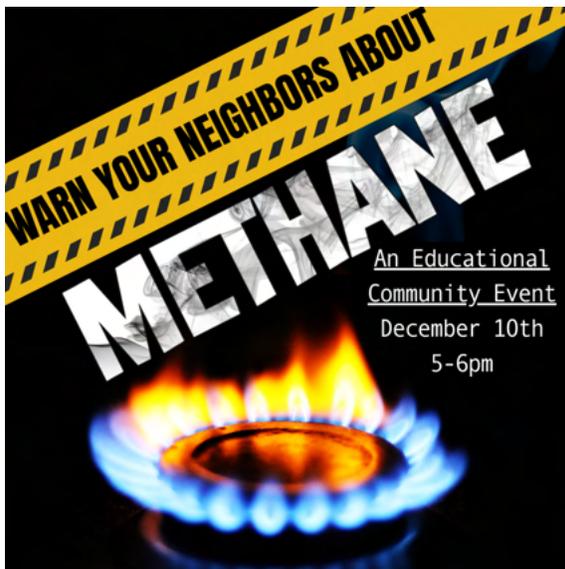
If you are ready to support a healthier and more equitable future for Multnomah County, we hope you will consider applying.

Join HCAT & Attend the Next Meeting

A reminder that on Tuesday, December 9th we are having our next HCAT (Healthy Climate Action Team) meeting. The meeting will be from 4-5:30 pm and will be focused largely on the upcoming legislative session and prepping comments for the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub Policy Project draft.

The destabilization of Earth's climate is a grave threat to human health. Advocating for a life-sustaining planet and policies that put human health first, Oregon PSR's Healthy Climate Program works for a rapid transition to a highly efficient clean energy economy that will provide direct improvements to public health.

Interested in joining HCAT? Contact [Samantha Hernandez](#), the Director of the Healthy Climate Program for OPSR.



[Warn Your Neighbor About Methane Community Event](#)

As the weather gets colder, many households are bracing for higher utility bills. If you use "natural" gas, also known as methane, you may see an even bigger jump this winter because of [NW Natural's latest rate hike](#). Methane carries significant health and environmental risks as well. Join Oregon PSR and Building Resilience for an [educational community event on Wednesday, December 10th](#), to learn more about methane's impacts on our homes and neighborhoods.

Date: Wednesday, December 10th

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm PT

Place: [Zoom](#)

[RSVP here!](#)

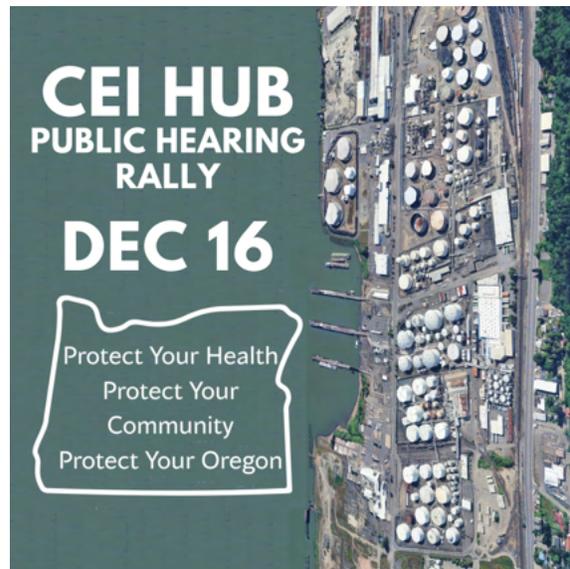
Methane is often marketed as “natural,” but that doesn’t make it safe. It affects indoor air quality, contributes to climate pollution, and increases the cost of living. Protecting our communities begins with understanding what methane really is and why shifting to clean energy sources like solar and wind is so important.

We hope you’ll join us for this educational community event to learn how methane affects health and the environment, and to get answers to any questions you may have. With this knowledge, you can help your neighbors stay informed and safe.

Your conversations with others can truly make all the difference. RSVP today and take part in this community effort on December 10th.

Stand with Us at the CEI Hub Public Hearing Rally on December 16

The City of Portland is holding a public hearing on the CEI Hub on **TUESDAY, December 16**, and community members are gathering beforehand for a rally to show support for stronger protections. The CEI Hub stores most of Oregon’s liquid fuel in a high-risk seismic zone, and this hearing is a key opportunity to call for real safety measures that protect our communities.



The **public hearing** will take place at the **1900 Building, 1900 SW Fourth Ave., Portland, OR 97201**, and will be held **in person and online**. Community members can give **oral or written testimony**.

Oral testimony can be delivered in person, by phone, or on Zoom, but requires [pre-registration by 5:00 pm on December 15](#).

Written testimony can be submitted through the [Map App](#) (Deadline is Tuesday, December 16th at 3:59 p.m.).

Join us at the rally, attend the hearing, and make your voice heard. Strong public participation is essential for holding industry and agencies accountable and for reducing the risks posed by the CEI Hub.

For more background and resources, visit our CEI Hub page:
https://www.oregonpsr.org/cei_hub



[Hiroshima's Tower of Life](#)

(Photo by Shunkichi Kikuchi)

Documentary available until December 21st

Hiroshima's Tower of Life examines newly uncovered records from the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital following the atomic bombing. Drawing from notes kept by hospital director Dr. Ken Takeuchi and a recently discovered patient log, the documentary documents the conditions inside the hospital near ground zero as hundreds of injured survivors arrived.

The film incorporates archival materials, dramatic reenactments, and testimony from individuals who were present, including former nursing students.

According to chief producer Hidefumi Matsuki of NHK Hiroshima Broadcasting Station, the production team sought to find effective ways to present this history to modern audiences while preserving remaining eyewitness accounts.

The documentary is [available for streaming](#) until **December 21**.

[Fueling Sickness: The Hidden Health Costs of Fossil Fuel Pollution](#)

Earlier this month, twelve national health and medical organizations—including Physicians for Social Responsibility—released *Fueling Sickness: The Hidden Health Costs of Fossil Fuel Pollution*. These processes drive illness and premature death across every stage of life—from before birth through old age—and across every system within the body.



Fossil fuel pollution contributes to asthma, heart disease, neurological harms, endocrine disruption, and other severe illnesses and premature deaths. They also increase the rate of hospitalization among those with Parkinson's or Alzheimer's. These impacts fall hardest on communities living near extraction sites and industrial facilities, as well as historically underinvested neighborhoods, children, and older adults.

“Every stage of the fossil fuel process causes widespread damage to the heart, lungs, brain, and other organs,” said PSR Board President Dr. Mark Vossler. “Transitioning away from fossil fuels is a public health imperative.”

The report urges rapid action to move off fossil fuels, enforce strong safeguards, and invest in public health and clean energy.

Read the full report: <https://psr.org/fuelingsickness>

Create a Healthier Home with Free Guidance from QuitCarbon & Trusted Contractors



Gas appliances release CO₂, methane, NO_x, benzene, and other pollutants that affect indoor air quality and can worsen asthma. [OPSR's bilingual electrification webinar](#) this fall highlighted these health risks and showed how electric alternatives can reduce exposure. QuitCarbon is a free service that provides free ENERGY STAR® certified guidance along with vetted local contractors to upgrade your home with heat pumps, induction cooking, EV chargers, solar, batteries, and more.

They are expanding their services to Oregon in 2026, and adding Oregonians onto their waitlist now.

QuitCarbon creates a customized upgrade plan based on your home and priorities. Their coaches help you understand available tax credits, rebates, and special incentives. They also connect you to vetted local contractors when you are ready for a project and review bids to confirm that the scope and price are appropriate.

The service is designed for homeowners. Renters will also find useful guidance on steps that improve indoor air quality without major changes, with more resources available on the QuitCarbon website. If you want a safer and healthier home, QuitCarbon is a strong place to start.

Good News in the Ongoing Zenith Saga

Environmental advocates scored an important procedural win in their challenge to the City of Portland's approval of Zenith Energy's land use credential. The Oregon Court of Appeals determined that the case must be heard by the Land Use Board of Appeals, a specialized court with stronger expertise in Oregon land use law.



Because of this ruling, the city is now required to provide records and meeting notes that shed light on how the approval was made. The case will move forward in a venue better equipped to evaluate complex land use decisions and could result in a more transparent and public process for determining whether Zenith's operations meet legal requirements.

For a deeper look at what this means, read [Jeremiah Hayden's full story in the Portland Mercury](#).



[Sign up to be ready to volunteer!](#)

As we look forward, we expect mounting challenges as motivated and well-financed interests attempt to undercut our electoral oversight and environmental protections in order to bring nuclear power into Oregon. Sign up to volunteer so we can reach out for your help when needed.

[Training the Next Generation of Climate Leaders](#)

The **Diploma in Climate Medicine** helps clinicians turn concern into leadership. This CME-accredited program from the **University of Colorado School of Medicine** equips health professionals to address climate impacts through clinical care, systems leadership, and advocacy.

The upcoming **Community Resilience Certificate** focuses on local and regional policy solutions and includes a hands-on workshop on climate communication for health professionals.

Learn more: [Diploma in Climate Medicine](#)

Join the interest list: [Interest List Form](#)

If you are a public health practitioner, an international clinician, or have a different background, please reach out to climatemeddiploa@cuanschutz.edu to discuss your eligibility and explore how this program may fit your needs.

Be part of the movement.

Climate and Health Program
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANNE SCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

DIPLOMA IN
CLIMATE
MEDICINE

**COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
CERTIFICATE**

February 27 & 28, 2026
Arlington, VA

CME Eligible | Hybrid Learning
Expert Faculty | Community of Practice

As always, we are deeply grateful for your continued support of Oregon PSR and all that you make possible. Your dedication helps us protect community health, confront the threats of climate change and nuclear weapons, and work for a more peaceful and just future.

To date, generous Oregon PSR volunteers and supporters have pledged \$50,000. Please help us match their donations today! Please give generously and know how much we thank you and will fight for a better tomorrow.

[Donate](#)

Special thanks on the construction of this month's newsletter goes out to **Kelly Campbell**; **Andy Harris, MD**; **Elaine McKenzie, RN, MPH**; **Melanie Plaut, MD** and others.