

How to Organize a Clean Air Act Rally or Meeting

If you live **near a Congressional office**, then you will be **organizing a Clean Air Act Rally or Meeting**. Please see section “Organizing a Clean Air Act Meeting with Your Elected Official” on page 1.

If you are **not near a Congressional office**, then you will be **organizing a Clean Air Act Rally**. Please see section “Rally Recruitment” on page 6.

[Organizing a Clean Air Act Meeting With Your Elected Official](#)

Meeting with your elected officials is one of the most effective ways you can make your voice heard, have a strong political impact, and communicate the need to protect the Clean Air Act, the best tool we currently have to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change at the national level. You can meet with your member of Congress in his/her district! You might also meet with your Congress member’s energy or environmental staffer, or another designated staff person. You do not have to be a climate expert to have a meeting, but having some background on the issues is helpful. Go to <http://www.1sky.org/act/cleanairact> for the most recent information.

Meetings with congressional members are also good opportunities to deliver petition signatures and letters.

If you have any questions, please contact us at local@1sky.org.

Follow the steps below to set up a local lobby meeting with your Senator or Representative.

Part I: Preparing For Your Lobbying Meeting.

1. **Finding your Representative or Senator’s information.** Visit <http://www.congressmerge.com/onlinedb/> to search for the address, phone number, and fax number of your local office.

- Click on the map on the right side of the page to list all the members of Congress from that State.

- In the form below the map on the right side of the page, select only a state to get a listing of all the members of Congress from that State.
- On the left side of the page enter an address (with or without a ZIP code) to match that address to a Congressional district. Or, enter city and state (without a ZIP code) to get all the members of Congress representing that city. Or, type in just a 5 or 9 digit ZIP code to match that ZIP code.

2. Research your elected officials' positions on the Clean Air Act. Visit your elected officials' websites and look at their opinions on the Clean Air Act. Check their voting records, read through newspaper articles, etc. Be prepared for your elected official's stance. Practice your statement of the importance of the Clean Air Act. Some talking points are listed below; please see also <http://www.1sky.org/act/cleanairact>.

- The Clean Air Act is one of the most [successful](#), [cost-effective](#), and popular pieces of environmental legislation ever passed by the United States Congress. Since it was signed into law 40 years ago, it has protected us from numerous airborne pollutants found to threaten public health and welfare. **Right now, big, dirty polluters are working to re-write the Clean Air Act to protect their record profits and block action on climate change.**
- **The Clean Air Act is the best tool we have for reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and fighting climate change at the national level.
- **The Clean Air Act requires regulation of all airborne pollutants found to threaten public health** based on the latest scientific research. Rolling back any Clean Air Act requirements is equivalent to rejecting the latest science.
- **The Clean Air Act drives technological innovation** by requiring the oldest, dirtiest industries to reduce their pollution, giving them a powerful reason to update and keep up with new, cleaner technologies.

1Sky will continue to show that the will exists in the United States to move forward with bold and comprehensive federal action on climate, and to protect and use existing tools we have such as the Clean Air Act.

3. Community Outreach. Recruit your community to hold their elected officials accountable to help save the climate. Invite friends, family, neighbors, business owners, community groups, church groups, environmental allies, and even strangers to participate in the meeting with you to have a larger impact by showing power in numbers. Contact your One Sky Climate Network, if you have one (http://www.1sky.org/files/1Sky-Climate-Team-Story_0.pdf). Try to recruit people with a variety of interests and backgrounds to articulate the diversity of the movement and how everyone is affected in various ways.

Outreach strategies include:

- Phone-banking:
http://www.1sky.org/files/Making_the_most_of_phone_banking.pdf
- Canvass a public area (i.e. park, coffee shop, bookstore, farmer's market, etc.)
- Use your social networks: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc.
- For more information about outreaching to the media, visit
http://www.1sky.org/files/Working_with_Reporters.pdf and
http://www.1sky.org/files/Media_Outreach_Timeline.pdf.

Suggestion: Create a sheet to collect names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of people who are interested in coming to the lobby meeting. Therefore, next time you have a climate gathering you'll have likely attendees ready to be contacted!

- 4. Schedule your meeting.** Call your local office and ask to speak to the scheduler. Suggest specific dates and times for your meeting, and be sure to let the scheduler know that you are a concerned constituent, and that you would like to meet with your elected official or a staffer to discuss the Clean Air Act.
- 5. Confirm your meeting.** Mail or fax a confirmation letter to your district office (a sample letter is provided on the next page). The letter must verify the date of the meeting and a list of the meeting's attendees with their affiliations. Call the office scheduler after the letter is sent to confirm your meeting your meeting request. Be persistent! Don't be afraid to call the office repeatedly to follow-up. They're very used to people calling frequently.
- 6. Make Signs and Props.** Be creative to make signs and props for your event.

Sign/Prop Ideas:

- The 1Sky logo can be found at <http://www.1sky.org/logos>
- Use old cardboard boxes, old bed sheets, and poster board to make creative messages like:
 - Cut carbon 80% by 2050
 - One Climate. One Future. One Chance.
 - 350 parts per million.
 - Protect the Clean Air Act.
 - Protect What We Share, Protect our Air.
 - Fight for What's Fair, Everyone Should Have Clean Air
 - Clean Air, not Clean Coal.
- Signs of pollutants: CO₂ (carbon dioxide), CO (carbon monoxide), O₃ (ozone), Nitrogen Oxides, SO₂ (Sulfur Dioxide), Pb (lead).

- Umbrella with the names of pollutants painted on, to represent what the Clean Air Act protects us from
- Smokestack of “dirty air”
- Solar panels
- Wind Turbines
- Wear gas masks, to represent the dirty air we would be breathing.
- Wear signs to represent the illnesses dirty air pollution can cause (i.e. asthma, lung cancer, lung disease, etc.)

Part II: During the Meeting.

- 7. Be Confident.** Be yourself, and keep it simple. You are the best advocate to show why your Congressperson should take bold action on to protect the Clean Air Act. You might feel intimidated to meet with a Congressperson or staff member, but don’t worry. As a constituent, no matter your age, it makes a big impression that you are motivated and care deeply about an issue! Don’t forget to dress in formal attire to make a good impression.
- 8. Introduce yourself and your lobby group.** Take a moment to introduce yourself to your elected official or his/her staff. Tell a personal story from a member of your lobbying group (example below).

“When growing up, my neighborhood was near a coal power plant. Several of my family members became ill with asthma or lung cancer due to the pollution of the coal power plant. This made me very passionate about protecting the Clean Air Act in order to protect human health and our environment for future generations.”

Let your elected official know why you care about the Clean Air Act. You can find talking points at <http://www.1sky.org/act/cleanairact>.

- 9. Introduce the movement.** When people come together in social movements, politicians listen. Tell your member of Congress that thousands of people like you across the country are taking action with the 1Sky campaign and are demanding protection of the Clean Air Act. Tell them that this is an issue your generation is passionate about. Be sure to give some background on 1Sky. A 1Sky brochure can be found at http://www.1sky.org/files/1skyBrochure_Jan09FINAL.pdf, and the 1Sky story can be found at <http://www.1sky.org/about/our-story>.
- 10. Call for bold action.** Tell your member of Congress or his/her staffer that you are calling for protection of the Clean Air Act.



- Ask your elected official to pledge to support the 1Sky platform as a foundation for developing a series of policies that are at the scale of the climate challenge before us. Remind them that strong climate policy means a strong green economy and a secure America. More details on 1Sky’s policy platform can be found at: <http://www.1sky.org/learn/solutions>.

11. Thank them for their time. Ask when you should follow up with the office to see if your member will support the 1Sky pledge. Be sure to exchange contact information. **Don’t forget to take a picture of your meeting!** A how-to guide for picture-taking can be found at http://www.1sky.org/files/Climate_action_photos.pdf. If you’d rather video record the meeting, a how-to guide can be found at http://www.1sky.org/files/video_guide.pdf.

Part III: After the Meeting.

12. Document your visit. Take a picture with your elected official and his/her staff and email it to us at local@1sky.org. Once your visit is complete, we will send you an “online report back form” so we can track all the amazing action taking place across the country. Imagine that your lobbying meeting will be the last piece to a puzzle for national climate action!

13. Follow up. Don’t forget to send a thank you letter to your representative and the staff person to reiterate your position on the issues and provide any additional information if necessary, and continue to check in with the office on an ongoing basis. Keep this relationship going to build your power and lay the groundwork for future conversation and action. Make sure you also thank everyone who came to the office with you so that you’re creating a base of active 1Sky supporters in your community! Make sure to have the contact information of your lobbying cohorts so that the next time you have a climate gathering you’ll have likely attendees ready to be contacted.



Sample congressional meeting request/confirmation letter

DATE

[Senator/Representative] _____

OFFICIAL'S ADDRESS

Dear [Sen./Rep.] _____,

As your constituent, I am writing to [request/confirm] an opportunity to meet with you in your district office on **DATE** at **TIME** to discuss climate change and clean energy.

The following people, who are also your constituents, will join me in this meeting:

- **LIST ALL NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS HERE**

I look forward to speaking with you in greater detail about these issues. Please contact me to confirm our meeting at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

YOUR CONTACT INFO

Rally Recruitment

4 Weeks Out

- **Recruitment Goal: 125%** (Your ultimate goal is 200% because you want to recruit twice as many people as you want to actually attend your event).
- Come up with a goal of how many attendees you want at your event and set a goal of recruiting twice as many people—this allows for a 50% attendance rate, which is typical.
- Call your Climate Team. Ask them to take on a role in organizing the event (i.e. Recruitment Coordinator(s), Logistics Coordinator, Materials Coordinator(s), Media Coordinator(s), Speaker(s), etc.) See http://www.1sky.org/files/1Sky-Climate-Team-Story_0.pdf for information about organizing your team.
- Contact local allies and ask them to both participate in the event and to invite their networks

3 Weeks Out

- **Recruitment Goal: 150%**
- Have your Recruitment Coordinators hold a weekly phone bank party between now and the date of the event. People can have fun with this by making it a potluck, serving pizza, etc. Aim to get at least three to five people calling local supporters for 30 minutes to an hour a week.#
- Follow up with local allies that have agreed to invite their membership to see how their recruitment is going. If it is convenient, suggest combining your phone banking nights to make it even more fun and collaborative!
- Check your local papers to see if they have a free community calendar (if so, get your event on the calendar!)

2 Weeks Out

- **Recruitment Goal: 175%**
- Your Recruitment Coordinators should hold their second of three phone bank parties with the focus still being on initial recruitment
- Work to complete your recruitment goal through this week's phone bank party
- Post fliers about your upcoming events to community bulletin boards and in local shops/businesses (Note: Fliers don't usually produce high turnout, but do serve to gather some additional attendees)
- Continue following up with allies

Week of Event

- **Recruitment Goal: 200%**
- Phone bank part should consist of calling confirmed attendees and reminding them to attend the event. Provide directions, event details, and recruit additional last minute help.
- During reminder calls, ask attendees to bring their friends and family to the event
- Contact allies to see what their turnout expectations are, ask them to send out a turn-out blast.
- Make Signs and Props! Be creative to make signs and props for your event.

Sign/Prop Ideas:

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- Wind Turbines
- Wear gas masks, to represent the dirty air we would be breathing.
- Wear signs to represent the illnesses dirty air pollution can cause (i.e. asthma, lung cancer, lung disease, etc.)
- Bring sign-in sheets to your event so you can be sure to invite the attendees to your next event! Make sure you thank everyone who came to the rally so that you're creating a base of active 1Sky supporters in your community!
- Document your event! Don't forget to take a picture of your rally. A how-to guide for picture-taking can be found at http://www.1sky.org/files/Climate_action_photos.pdf. If you'd rather video record

the meeting, a how-to guide can be found at
http://www.1sky.org/files/video_guide.pdf.

- Email us your picture and/or video at local@1sky.org. Once your rally is complete, we will send you an “online report back form” so we can track all the amazing action taking place across the country. Imagine that your rally meeting will be the last piece to a puzzle for national climate action!