

Elders Climate Action Report: Plans for Growing Our Voice

(continued)

Here are the major directions identified in our planning to date:

- **Organize Chapters.** ECA members in several states have expressed interest in working on organizing ECA Chapters. Chapters will most likely cover a city, county, or Congressional District. Chapters will work year round to encourage their members of Congress to support our national policy agenda; and may also tackle climate change issues at the state and local level. Our first Chapter is already meeting in Massachusetts. Will your area be next?
- **Mobilize Elder Climate Activists.** In areas where we don't have a Chapter being developed, we'll be recruiting elders to take on the roles of **ECA Ambassador** (spreads the word about ECA by talking to friends and neighbors, setting up a table at community events and passing out ECA literature, or making presentations); and **ECA Congressional Liaison** (establishes relationships with one or more of the district offices of members of Congress that serve your area, periodically brings to them ECA policy position papers, and meets in person with the members of Congress or their staff during Congressional recesses - once or twice a year).
- **June: Participate in the Citizens Climate Lobby Conference, a Round of Congressional Lobbying and ECA Strategic Planning for the next three years.** Members of our Leadership Team (Members of our several working committees) and other interested ECA members are going to meet in Washington in June and participate in CCL's two day Conference, June 19th and 20th, which will bring us up to date on all aspects of the campaign to pass carbon fee and dividend legislation and provide further training in promoting

this solution, both to members of Congress and to the public. Then on June 21st, we will work in teams to visit Members of Congress to press the case for carbon fee and dividend as well as other key solutions on our national policy agenda. Finally, we will spend a day and a half, on June 22nd and 23rd, further developing our strategic plan. ECA members can choose which of these elements to participate in.

- **August - October: Press candidates for Congress to respond on climate change.** ECA will conduct a campaign aimed at getting candidates for Congress to respond to our climate agenda, especially in districts where we have ECA members willing to work on this. We'll send all candidates for House and Senate seats a questionnaire asking for their position on our climate change policies, and give them a chance to state their position on climate change in their own words. ECA members will push for responses to our questionnaire through letters and visits to campaign offices, letters to the editor, questions at candidate forums and campaign events. ECA will publish the results of the surveys by state, and provide copies for ECA members to distribute in their districts.
- **Spring of 2017: Hold Our Next Grandparents Climate Action Day in Washington.** We decided after consulting with allies and Congressional offices, that a lobby day in September, at the height of the election campaign, would not likely be very effective. So we're going to wait until the new Congress gets settled into session in 2017. Specific dates have not yet be set.