

Climate Leaders Meeting

Thursday Sept. 24, 2026

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 22 at 4 pm PT

Topic: Envisioning the Future, facilitated by Malcolm Knapp (plus intros from all)

Present: Josh Salinger, Steve Cook, Liz Winograd, Libba Pinchot, Tara Atkins-Brown, Stephan Crawford, Marianna Grossman, Raj Padmanabhan, Malcolm Knapp, Cole Roberts

Note on the Notes:

The first set of notes were taken by Marianna. The second set was generated by Zoom AI, with a bit of editing by Marianna. Let me know what you think of each.

Josh Salinger: [Birdsmouth Design|Build](#), Owner of a design/build company focused on high performance homes, remodels and multifamily housing. Instructor in [Passive House](#) and high performance building. Working with Marianna to build an ADU for Center for Resilience in Portland.

Steve Cook: land conservation, advocate on climate policy and action. Works with [Columbia Land Trust](#) (now as a volunteer) and advises other projects to acquire land for wilderness protection, including with indigenous tribes.

Liz Winograd: Is Deputy Director for Early Childhood Education for [LIIF](#) Community Development Financial Institution. She facilitates development for early childhood education providers, especially green building. Co-located with affordable housing. Based in SF

Josh: Liz, a good resource for sustainable building is Phius: <https://www.phius.org/>
There are plenty of examples of Phius buildings with schools/daycares, etc.

Libba Pinchot: Is a leader of [Innovera](#), they are applying for a grant in SF, building community resilience hubs that are community focused and demonstrate legally binding requirement to have all the partners to protect each partner from being exploited by things like AI build outs. Libba taught Head Start teachers in the 1960s when it was new.

Innovera gave a presentation at NYC Climate Week on addressing wildfires, with community resilience. Working with communities to increase capacity to protect themselves from disaster. Organizing a meeting next month with insurers of last resort (state funded), community members, academics and others.

Tara Atkins-Brown: Organizational development and leadership coaching. Personally, Tara is passionate about climate and community development. Moving from Portland to

Florence, Oregon. Working with [Western Lane community emergency response team](#). Helping communities to be robust in advance of disaster.

Stephan Crawford: [ClimateMusic Project](#) linking US kids with children in countries that lack electricity. US kids raise funds to put solar on paired school (first one in Nigeria), with music connecting youth. Working with schools in Latin America and Africa. Nationally lived streamed concert in June. <https://climatemusic.org/becool-connections/>
<https://climatemusic.org>

Marianna Grossman: Working on ADU project to create a Center for Resilience. Attended Building Community dinner with 80 people in the Portland area working on a variety of sustainability infused projects. Attended a remote session for this year's Balaton meeting in Hungary, of people bringing systems thinking into policy and programs around the world. Founded by Donella and Dennis Meadows in 1982 in Balaton Hungary. Here is a post by Alan Atkisson which explains the [history of the Balaton Group](#). Working with Josh and his company to build a high-performance ADU over a garage which will double as a meeting place. Already hosted 4 tours for building industry folks and one for neighbors. Will continue to host in person and virtual tours. Excited to be promoting design, systems and materials that provide resilience and contribute to carbon drawdown.

Malcolm Knapp: collecting stories for the future to combat images of apocalypse. [findingthefuture.org](#) Visualizing what a good future could be like. Not just focusing on ending problems. If we succeed, what do the solutions add up to? What is the vision of the future towards which we are heading? How do we get there? Surfacing the information about where are the cool things happening in the world.
<https://findingthefuture.org/>

Raj Padmanabhan: IT consultant now based in Austin, presentation on AI based app for carpooling to events with friends. Presentation on platform he created to help friends find local events and arrange carpooling. [EventCarpooling.com](#); [AustinCares Daily Deals](#). Raj's personal site: <https://customersuccessforgood.com/author/rajpaj12/>

Josh: Went to son's high school coding class on back to school night. Is there a future in teaching coding when AI is here?

Malcolm: where do you host everything? Raj uses his Wordpress site.

Libba: inspiring to see organizing at the community level

Steve: Will this help, or hurt, getting to a sustainable climate? AI uses a lot of energy, and we are having a hard time moving away from fossil fuels with electricity demand rising in part due to AI.

Marianna: CRMs required trust to share contacts for Customer Relationship Management. When Raj helped Sustainable Silicon Valley implement Salesforce, I was reluctant to put my contacts into the systems because of the relationships I had developed.

Raj: When will we have a crisis from AI (drone or electrical system shutdown, etc)?

Malcolm: EE2 Energy Efficiency of Computing by 1000% by 2040.

<https://www.energy.gov/cmei/ammto/articles/doe-seeks-input-dramatically-increase-energy-efficiency-semiconductor>

Scientists and companies are working to reduce energy use throughout the AI/IT system from chips to data centers, using air cooling vs water cooling, etc.

Josh: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jevons_paradox

“The **Jevons paradox** (pronounced /'dʒɛ.vənz/, *JEV-ənz*) or **Jevons effect** is an **economic** phenomenon said to occur when **technological improvements** that increase the **efficiency** of a resource's use lead to a rise, rather than a fall, in total consumption of that resource.^{[1][2][3][4]} Greater efficiency reduces the amount of the resource needed per application, lowering its effective cost; if demand is sufficiently **price elastic**, this **induces demand**, frequently resulting in a net increase of total resource consumption.^[5]” From Wikipedia

Steve: I wish I had confidence that 1000% efficiency was possible

Marianna: How to apply vibe coding to creating a network of centers for resilience?

Raj: Go to local hackathon to build apps using AI to get help with using the tools.

Check out Greenermind for events in the SF Bay Area:

<http://www.greenerminds Summit.com/>

AI Notes from Zoom

Quick recap

The meeting brought together a group of climate and community resilience professionals to share updates on their projects and discuss the use of AI for community building. Members introduced themselves and their work, including sustainable building, land conservation, early childhood education facilities, wildfire mitigation, and community emergency response. Raj presented his AI-powered platform, eventcarpooling.com, which uses AI to aggregate local events and facilitate carpooling, highlighting its potential for hyperlocal community engagement. The discussion touched on the implications of AI, such as trust, data privacy, and energy efficiency, with Malcolm mentioning efforts to increase computational efficiency. Marianna shared her project to build a resilient, green ADU and garden as a model for sustainability. The group also welcomed new members and discussed potential connections and collaborations, particularly among those based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Next steps

Liz

- Review the websites and resources shared in the chat and share them with her colleagues.

Malcolm

- Prepare and facilitate a session for the October 22nd meeting focused on envisioning the future and connecting participants' work to larger systems.

Marianna

- Send out a summary of the meeting, including links and resources shared in the chat, to all participants.
- Organize the next Climate Leaders meeting for October 22nd, with Malcolm facilitating a session on envisioning the future.

Raj

- Advice: Consider connecting with local hackathons or Meetup groups to further develop community-focused AI tools.

Stephan

- Shared links to the Climate Music Project website with the group.

Summary

Professional Backgrounds and Projects Introduction

The group held an introduction meeting where members shared their professional backgrounds and current projects. Josh Salinger discussed his sustainable building company focusing on custom homes and retrofits, while also working on a resilience center project with Marianna. Liz Winograd introduced herself as new to the group, working at a community development financial institution focused on early childhood education facilities development. Libba shared updates about Innovera's work on wildfire mitigation and community protection, mentioning their recent presentation at Climate Week in New York.

Climate and Sustainability Initiatives

The meeting included introductions from several participants, including Tara Atkins-Brown who discussed her work in organization development and climate advocacy, moving to Florence, Oregon to join the West Lane Emergency CERT team. Stefan Crawford from the Climate Music Project shared details about their Be Cool Connections program matching youth groups in the US with schools in Nigeria for solar installation projects. Marianna described her personal sustainability project involving building a green garage with an ADU and garden, while Malcolm Knapp introduced his "Finding the Future" project focused on collecting stories of positive futures.

AI Event Carpooling Platform Presentation

Raj presented his project eventcarpooling.com, which uses AI and Replit's Vibe Coding platform to create hyperlocal event newsletters and carpooling networks for communities. He demonstrated how the system can generate event listings across multiple cities and connect people interested in attending the same events, all without writing a single line of code. The discussion explored the environmental and trust implications of AI-powered applications, with participants discussing the difference between community-built tools versus corporate solutions like Meta's Muse app. The group agreed to focus the next meeting on October 22nd on integrating vision planning with the ongoing project sharing format.