

# Climate Impact Advisory Committee: Licia Sahagun

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Date:** Saturday, December 26, 2020 1:07:37 PM

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## Board and Commission Application

### Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

#### Public Statement

*THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.*

Title Ms.

First Name Licia

Last Name Sahagun

Today's Date 12/26/2020

Street Address 2814 Victor St

City Bellingham

Zip 98225

Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

Primary Telephone 8152196795

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

Email Address liciasahagun@gmail.com

### Step 2

1. Name of Board or Climate Impact Advisory Committee

## Committee

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Climate Impact  
Advisory Committee  
Position:

I have previous work or educational experience in climate change.

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2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?

Yes

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3. Which Council district do you live in?

District 2

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4. Are you a US citizen?

Yes

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5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?

Yes

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6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?

No

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7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission?

No

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8. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?

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No

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You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to

[L.Sahagun Resume 2020.pdf](#)

the following questions

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9. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

I am currently serving as the Executive Director for Wild Whatcom, a local nonprofit organization that fosters lifelong connections to nature in local youth and families in an effort to raise a generation of environmental changemakers. Previously, I was the Deputy Director for the Green Energy Institute at Lewis and Clark Law School, a legal and policy research center that supports elected officials, policy advocates and regulators with comprehensive energy reform strategies. In this role, I also organized events that convened elected officials (including Governor Kate Brown, Senator Merkley), CEOs (including Vestas, SunPower, and Pacific Power), and regulators (including President of the CPUC and FERC Commissioner Glick's office) to discuss renewable energy legal and policy strategies. Prior to this work I received my Masters of Studies in Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy Law at Lewis and Clark Law School. In 2015 through 2018, I was also involved with an organization, Our Climate, which organizes, educates, and empowers young people to advocate for climate policies. See attached resume for more information.

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10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

I believe that a transition away from fossil fuels will require regional energy systems reliant on more localized economies. Thus, counties and cities stand to develop innovative policies and systems to serve as replicable models for other jurisdictions in the transition to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energies. My prior work in Portland, Oregon collaborating with Multnomah County's sustainability office demonstrated that local jurisdictions are poised and ready to lead, and I would like to support and encourage Whatcom County to do the same. Working alongside elected leaders and community organizers dedicated to moving our economies to renewable energy also gives me hope for our shared future and that of generations to come. I look forward to the opportunity to join these discussions, share my knowledge and expertise, and learn from others doing this work in Whatcom County.

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References (please include daytime telephone number):

Melissa Powers, Jeffrey Bain Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law at Lewis & Clark Law School, (503) 768-6727

Meredith Hayes, Chair of Wild Whatcom Board of Directors, 303-520-5824

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Signature of applicant:

Licia Sahagun

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Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA

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(Section Break)

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# LICIA SAHAGUN

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Lewis &amp; Clark Law School</b>	Aug 2016-May 2017
Masters of Studies in Environmental, Natural Resources, and Energy Law	
<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois</b>	2006-2009
Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a concentration in Sustainable Development, Minor in Anthropology	
Dean's List, James Scholar Honors, Cum Laude	
<b>University of Minnesota, Sustainable Development Program</b>	GPA 3.82/4.00
Studies in French in Dakar and Toubacouta, Senegal	
	Aug 2008 – Dec 2008

## EXPERIENCE

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### **WILD WHATCOM**

**Bellingham, WA**

*Wild Whatcom is a non-profit organization that aims to foster lifelong connections to nature through outdoor education, social and emotional learning, mentorship, and community service.*

#### **Executive Director**

April 2019-Present

- Develop and direct organizational strategy including spearheading the strategic planning process, developing annual budgets and fundraising plans, and managing suite of programs
- Manage a staff of 20+ individuals and oversee daily business operations for a mix of fee-based, donation-based, and grant-funded programs
- Oversee the delivery of successful programs, supporting with metrics tracking and analysis, program development, and creation of new programming
- Ensure the organization is compliant with applicable laws and regulations, including financial, HR, and otherwise
- Develop and implement annual fundraising plans to bring in sufficient donations, grants, and sponsorships
- Represent the organization to funders, participant families, program partners, and the broader community through regular outreach in person, digitally, and as a public speaker

### **GREEN ENERGY INSTITUTE AT LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL**

**Portland, OR**

*The Green Energy Institute is a legal and policy research center of Lewis & Clark Law School and develops smart and comprehensive strategies to transition to a 100% renewable energy system.*

#### **Advisory Council Member**

April 2019-Present

#### **Deputy Director**

March 2018-April 2019

- Supported the Executive Director in implementing the strategic plan and fiscal year budget
- Worked with Executive Director and staff attorney to produce high-quality work product and experiential learning opportunities for fellows and law students
- Actively engaged, energized, and recruited advisory council members, alumni, partnering organizations, and funders
- Coached and developed the fundraising, management, and communications skills of GEI's

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existing team while working to retain existing staff and increase staff and volunteer capacity

- Developed effective systems to track GEI's work product, regularly evaluate program outputs, and effectively communicate successes to funders and other supporters
- Organized the content, logistical planning, sponsorships, and speakers for 2019 energy conference [Tomorrow's Energy System](#), including elected officials (Gov Kate Brown and Rep Blumenauer), CEOs and regulators

## **Capacity-Building Consultant**

Aug 2017-February 2018

- Organized and coordinated October 2017 [Re-Energizing the West](#) conference, a convening of elected officials (Sen Merkley and Rep Blumenauer), renewable energy executives, regulators, and advocates
- Supported the development of a business plan, including an annual budget with revenue and fundraising plan, strategic plan, and staffing plan
- Formalized and developed the Advisory Council
- Assisted fundraising efforts via funder prospecting, grant applications and event planning

## **OREGON CLIMATE/OUR CLIMATE**

Portland, OR

*Oregon Climate began as a statewide grassroots campaign for fair and effective climate policy; it is now a nationwide organization, Our Climate. The organization empowers young people, giving them the tools and avenues to be strong climate policy advocates.*

## **Development & Capacity-Building Consultant**

Aug 2017-March 2018

- Institutionalized fundraising best practices and integrated customer relationship management software to maximize program tracking and quality assessment
- Created Fundraising Plan with input and assistance from staff, volunteer committees, and Board of Directors
- Established and grew Development Committee to support staff with fundraising
- Developed fundraising materials and framework for annual appeal and Giving Tuesday

## **Chair of the Board of Directors**

May 2016-Aug 2017

## **Program Director**

Oct 2015- April 2016

- Managed statewide grassroots programming including the Oregon Climate Fellows
- Oversaw field campaigns and event planning. Examples include:
  - o Designed, coordinated, and implemented the construction of a 1,200-piece salmon mosaic made from "climate tiles" from individuals around the state. Construction was completed during a Portland event with Mayor Hales, Mayor Gamba, Representative Nosse, and a representative from U.S. Senator Merkley's office
    - o Organized and coordinated a Youth Lobby Day in Salem, which included energy economics training, lobby training, and meetings with more than 30 legislators. The event was filmed by National Geographic's *Years of Living Dangerously*, co-produced by James Cameron and Arnold Schwarzenegger

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*Additional experience, certifications, and skills available for detail upon request*

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