

Climate Impact Advisory Committee: Fletcher Wilkinson

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Monday, January 4, 2021 5:26:32 PM

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 Mr.

First Name Fletcher

Last Name Wilkinson

Today's Date 1/4/2021

Street Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED]

Zip [REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED]

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

Email Address [REDACTED]

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Climate Impact Advisory Committee

Committee

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?	No
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You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to	Attached
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the following questions

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

I have over 5 years of professional experience in the climate change and renewable energy fields. I'm the Hopi Tribe's Energy Manager, tasked with transitioning the Tribe away from coal, and developing renewable energy as a long term revenue generator. Previously, I was the Samish Tribe's Climate Adaptation Specialist, in charge of evaluating climate risks to Samish Traditional Territory and creating a climate adaptation plan to mitigate these risks. I have an M.S. in Climate Science and Solutions from Northern Arizona University.

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

Climate change is a major threat that must be addressed. I'm passionate about working towards long term solutions, and want to get involved in helping to create solutions for our community.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Todd Woodard, Natural Resources Director, Samish Indian Nation - (360) 630-7992
Karin Wadsack, Program Manager, National Renewable Energy Laboratory - (928) 699-0122
Markus Virta, Western Solar Inc - (360) 201-2067

Signature of applicant:

Fletcher Wilkinson

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA

(Section Break)

Fletcher Wilkinson

Summary

- Renewable energy and climate resiliency professional with 6 years of progressively responsible experience including energy development, project management, climate adaptation and strategic energy planning, grant writing, policy analysis, and collaboration with diverse stakeholders.
- Conducted greenhouse gas inventory for the Flagstaff Unified School District.
- Analyzed electricity use data for Northern Arizona University and modeled a peak-shaving battery storage system that could reduce emissions and save over \$30k/year on demand charges.
- Collaborated with community members, government staff, and elected officials on climate and energy policy, planning, and implementation.
- Examined complex climate and energy policy at the local, state, and federal levels and clearly communicated key points to diverse constituencies.

Education

Master of Science, Climate Science and Solutions

Dec. 2015

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

Emphasis: Climate and Energy Policy
Honors: Graduated with distinction, 3.89 GPA

Bachelor of Science, Environmental Studies

Dec. 2012

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

Emphasis: Global and Environmental Change
Honors: *Dean's List*

Experience

Energy Manager

Aug 2019 – Current

Hopi Utilities Corporation, Flagstaff, AZ

- Liaison between federal, tribal, and private partners on multiple energy initiatives.
- Leading effort to develop utility scale solar projects that will generate over \$500,000 in annual land-lease revenue for the Tribe.
- Drafted Hopi Utilities Corporation Strategic Energy Plan based on stakeholder input.
- Coordinating effort to form an operational tribal utility.
- Spearheaded multiple energy policy initiatives with Hopi Tribal Council.

Climate Adaptation Specialist

Dec 2017 – Aug 2019

Samish Indian Nation, Anacortes, WA

- Oversaw community-based climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan aimed at preserving over 209 culturally and economically important planning areas for the seventh generation.
- Facilitated Climate Working Group meetings to gather input from Samish tribal members, staff, and council members.
- Led gov-to-gov consultation regarding proposed EPA policy changes with the support of Samish Tribal Council.
- Wrote and was awarded two BIA Tribal Resiliency grants worth ~\$300,000 during a very competitive grant cycle.
- Cultivated relationships with regional agencies in order to build partnerships for future projects.

Tribal Renewable Energy Program Coordinator

Mar 2016 – Dec 2017

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

- Performed an electricity use analysis and created a baseline report for the Hopi Reservation.

- Coordinated with the Hopi Renewable Energy Office, National Renewable Energy Lab, and Bureau of Reclamation to outline economic development opportunities for the Hopi Tribe through renewable energy policy.
- Analyzed renewable energy development options for the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation emerging from the then-pending closure of Navajo Generating Station coal-fired power plant and consequent available regional transmission capacity.

Climate Change Program Coordinator

Aug 2016 – Dec 2017

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

- Co-led multi-day climate change adaptation trainings focused on building capacity of tribal environmental staff to integrate climate change planning into their current work and to complete climate adaptation plans for their tribe in the future.
- Presented at the National Academy of Sciences March 13, 2017 workshop on Protecting the Health and Wellbeing of Communities in a Changing Climate.

Wind Policy Analyst

Jan 2016 – Dec 2017

Four Corners Wind Resource Center

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

- Engaged stakeholders and decision-makers in local and county governments to support their energy policy and planning efforts.
- Authored renewable energy based blog posts for the organization's *Regional Updates* webpage.
- Performed regular reporting to summarize task work and benchmark against a complex set of performance metrics.

Policy Analyst

Feb 2016 – Aug 2016

National Tribal Air Association

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

- Lead author of the *2016 Status of Tribal Air Report*, which was used by federal and tribal leadership to support decision-making regarding tribal air quality funding, management, and programs.
- Coordinated with EPA and tribal staff to analyze and communicate complex information related to federal policy including the Clean Energy Incentive Program and the Revised Regional Haze Rule.

Climate Science and Solutions Master's Degree

Sept 2014 – Dec 2015

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

- Prepared transitional greenhouse gas inventories for Flagstaff Unified School District using The Climate Registry's *General Reporting Protocol*.
- Served on a NAU Facilities panel to evaluate and select a solar PV project for the university, resulting in a \$4 million investment and reducing annual CO₂ emissions by nearly 1,000 tons.

Climate and Energy Fellow

Summer 2015

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Washington, D.C.

Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Sept 2014 – Dec 2015

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

Climate Policy Intern

Oct 2013 – July 2014

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, Bellingham, WA