

# **Annual General Meeting**

## **May 8, 2025**

Penticton Seniors Drop In Centre,  
29654 South Main Street, Penticton.



### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Welcome and introductions
4. Confirmation of quorum (5)
5. Approval of agenda
6. Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes
7. Business arising from the minutes
9. 2024 Committee reports:
  - Co-Chairs Report: Khati Hendry
  - Treasurer Report: Kathleen Davies
  - Education Committee: Corinne Durston
  - Communications Committee: Margaret Holm
  - Political Action Committee: Sue Kirschmann
  - Events Committee: Lori Goldman
10. Election of Directors for 2024-2025 (Jim Beattie)
  - Board of Director Nominations
11. New Business (if approved earlier)
12. Adjourn AGM

Refreshments

Katherine Hayhoe Video and Discussion

**FIRST THINGS FIRST OKANAGAN  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING May 2, 2024**



**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order by Khati Hendry, Chair** – 6:35 p.m.
2. **Land Acknowledgement**
3. **Welcome and Introduction by Khati Hendry**
4. **Confirmation of Quorum (5)** – 15 members attended.
5. **Approval of Agenda** – Margaret Holm moved acceptance, Linda Ervin 2<sup>nd</sup>.
6. **Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes** – Kathleen Davies moved acceptance, Lori Goldman 2<sup>nd</sup>.
7. **Business arising from the minutes** - none
8. **Review of FTFO Society bylaw changes** presented by Henry Sielmann
9. **Reports (attached):**
  - Co-Chair Report** presented by Margaret Holm
  - Treasurer Report** presented by Kathleen Davies
    - K. Davies moved that her report be adopted, Jim Beattie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
    - K. Davies moved that the membership fees remain the same, Avril Torrence 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
  - Education Committee Report** presented by Corinne Durston
  - Communication Committee Report** presented by Margaret Holm
  - Political Action Committee Report** presented by Sue Kirschmann
  - Events Committee Report** presented by Lori Goldman
10. **Election of Directors for 2023-2024**
  - a) **Board of director nominations:**
    - Khati Hendry, Co-chair
    - Margaret Holm, Co-chair
    - Kathleen Davies, Treasurer
    - Sue Kirschmann, Secretary
    - Corinne Durston
    - Lori Goldman
    - Henry Sielmann
  - b) **Call for any nominations from the floor (x3)**

- c) **Election.** Jim Beattie moved that the slate be elected by acclamation, Linda Ervin 2nd.  
Motion passed.

11. **New Business** – none.

12. **Adjournment** - meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

## **Co-Chair report for 2024**

### **First Things First Okanagan**



2024 was full of lots of political news and diversions, but we still need to keep our focus on ways to maintain a livable planet. It was once again the hottest year recorded globally in history, with CO2 levels well above the previous goal of no more than 350ppm. While the trends are sobering, there is a lot of good work going on everywhere. First Things First Okanagan (FTFO) started 2024 with a thank you celebration to all our members, volunteers and well-wishers—never doubt that what you do matters.

FTFO aims to engage communities, organize events and network with others around climate action, and 2024 was busy.

FTFO continued to do outreach at local community events such as the Farmers Markets, Okanagan College orientation day, Penticton Earth Day and Summerland Fall Festival. With the help of a creative summer student and our wonderful volunteers, we made our tables more interactive and attractive and spoke with lots of people. We partnered with Noble Ridge on a Meadowlark Festival program that addressed the devastating freeze effects on the local vineyards, and the challenges of agriculture in an erratic climate.

It has been inspiring to connect with youth through sustainability clubs in the high schools, and to support the Grade 4-8 Cool-It curriculum. They are the future.

The monthly Deep Dive zoom educational sessions reach people locally, but we have also gotten attendees from around the country keen to learn from the presenters about what they can do for climate action.

FTFO also aims to advocate for effective governmental policies on climate.

FTFO has made presentations to local councils on Zero Carbon Step Codes and sponsored a Penticton council candidate's night on environmental issues. We followed up on the BC Utilities Commission ruling that stopped a new Fortis gas line in the Valley, pointing out problems with Fortis' response.

We also dealt with some of the housekeeping issues such as updating our organization by-laws and refreshing the website functionality. We were pleased to welcome Bill Laven to our Board in 2024 and are sad that this will be the last year as Board Director for Kathy Davies, who has served long and well as our treasurer. We look forward to working with new and known friends and climate activists in 2025.

## 2024 Education Committee Report First Things First Okanagan



Committee Members:  
Corinne Durston, Lori Goldman and Bill Laven

The Education Committee works with the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) to deliver the Cool It! Program. The program is presented by an educator to two classes per school. The students take a climate challenge to reduce their carbon and ecological footprint and to see which class achieves the boldest reductions.

Educator, Bobby Bovenzi, delivered the program to 3 Summerland and 4 Penticton classes. Over 175 students took the challenge and reduced their impact on the planet by over 20 tons of GHG emissions. It's a great opportunity for families to reassess their actions and how they affect the earth.

FTFO is committed to promoting the Cool It! program in 2025 and hopefully extending the program to Naramata and more Penticton classes.

For a second summer, a student work doing education outreach by attending local markets and conversing with passersby. They distributed climate focused material to hundreds of visitors and residents. This outreach will continue for 2025.

To provide a venue for climate discussion, the committee proposed to run a Views & Tales group for 2025. It will consist of a mix of books and documentaries on current climate topics.

In 2025, we will continue to educate children and adults about climate issues and provide opportunities for ongoing discussion.

In 2024, funding was received by the City of Penticton and Summerland to deliver the program

## **2024 Communication and Outreach Committee Report**

Members of the Communication Committee: Lori Goldman, Margaret Holm, Sue Kirschmann, Henry Sielmann

The Communication Committee is focused on Goal 1 of our Mission Statement: which is to “Inform Okanagan communities about the consequences of climate change and inspire them to take action.”

Sign-up for our monthly FTFO newsletter continues to grow. Our monthly bulletin featuring local events, webinars and climate news is emailed to over 1300 people.

Since 2020, we’ve hosted thirty-five monthly webinars that profile the people and projects behind climate solutions. In 2024, topics covered Strong Towns, EVs, home retrofits and sustainable buildings, green roofs, agriculture and climate, xeriscaping, local forestry and water stewardship.

Through a summer student grant, we hired Sophie Robinson to organize summer displays at farmers markets where we chatted with hundreds of people on climate topics. Sophie designed a new interactive and eye-catching “spinner” display and new take-away bookmarks. Sophie also worked on support for high-school sustainability clubs and their anti-idling campaign.

We continue to produce new information bulletins on varied topics aimed at different levels from children’s climate colouring sheets to issue sheets on climate topics. We also write short information bulletin on relevant topics that are sent to municipal council members.

Climate groups are finding it harder to use social media for outreach since posts are scrutinized for political content and there are restrictions on advertising. Our website is regularly updated with climate action events, campaigns, and special pages devoted to topics such as “Take Action”, “Current Issues”, videos and blog posts.

## **First Things First Okanagan**

### **Political Action Committee Report (PAC) for 2024**

FTFO continues to advocate for climate action in our little corner of the world. In these times of political uncertainty, with other concerns overshadowing the climate emergency, the task can seem daunting. However, we know that climate solutions can help address issues such as affordability, health and community resiliency, and that change at the municipal level has wide-reaching impacts, so we are motivated to forge ahead.

One of PAC's key projects in 2024 was to continue advocating for local municipalities to fast track the Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC). The ZCSC was added to BC's building code to minimize carbon emissions in new homes and by adopting it, communities can not only reduce GHGs, but also save residents money and prevent the need for future expensive retrofits. To date we have given presentations to Penticton, Summerland and Oliver councils and committees, and have met informally with numerous municipal staff and several councilors to discuss the issue.

Our committee also intervened on Fortis Energy Inc (FEI)'s proposal to build a small LNG storage facility in Kelowna, arguing that capacity shortfalls in FEI's gas system could better be met by switching more buildings to electric heat. We were disappointed when the BC Utilities Commission approved the LNG facility, however we remain somewhat hopeful as FEI was asked to also explore long term solutions, such as electrification, that would avoid the need for further gas infrastructure.

PAC was involved in a number of other actions throughout the year:

- Hosted an all-candidates forum on environmental issues prior to the BC election;
- Assisted Penticton High School Sustainability Club students in an anti-idling campaign. Following presentations by the students, the School Board and Penticton Council endorsed a public education campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of reducing idling;
- Kept an eye on local government issues and provided input where possible via open houses, surveys, at public meetings, and through letters. For example, we supported the highest level of Penticton's Urban Forest plan and encouraged the City to explore ways to use waste heat from its proposed new ice sheets.
- Provided input into provincial and federal policy by participating in surveys, writing letters, and meeting with elected officials and ministers when opportunities arose. We were fortunate to be invited to participate in a round table on the Environment and Ecosystem Health Strategy with BC Minister Heyman, MP Cannings, MLA Roly Russell, along with numerous other non-profit groups.

Each year our network of connections grows and these relationships are vital to our work and in keeping us motivated. FTFO members, municipal staff, elected officials, other climate groups, business associates, and friends – thank you all for your support.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Kirschmann (PAC chair)

## Events Report for 2024

Members of the Events Committee: Lori Goldman

The Events Committee is focused on Goal 3: Inspire individuals and communities to reduce their GHG footprint by inviting the community to participate in organized events. We work towards this Goal by



- planning events with local organizations;
- joining public actions with other groups;
- and sharing climate solutions information with our community.

In 2024 we organized or participated in these events:

- Penticton Seedy Saturday talking to attendees about climate solutions and fossil fuel disinformation
- February Party **Love Your Planet, Love Yourself** event. The event was organized by our assistant, Nyah, and was a raging success. There were raffle prizes, trivia games, food, beverages, and lots of great conversations and connections. About 70 people joined the fun.
- March was Youth Climate Corps Watch Party at Okanagan College, joining youth and leaders across Canada to urge the Canadian government to fund a corps of youth to get training and good jobs in sustainable industries. There were 30 attendees including city councillors and media.
- Earth Day April 2024 with Penticton and the District of Summerland: organized a display and table information by the George Ryga Arts and Cultural Centre in Summerland. Joined Penticton City for rock painting with youth and children (helped by PenHi Sustainability Club) and had a display table.
- Meadowlark Festival: Noble Ridge Winery and Vineyard: Had an educational display and games for children and partnered with Benoit Gauthier, winemaker, for a tour of the vineyard. He discussed climate change and the impact of Jan 2024 deep-freeze effects on the grapes/plants.
- Farmer's Markets in Naramata, Summerland, and Penticton through the summer educated the public on personal actions they can take on emission reductions and informing them about the FortisBC Renewable "Natural" Gas information and why it is not a viable use for buildings due to methane leakage and pollution. Another topic was the Zero Carbon Step Code from the BC government for new buildings to be fossil fuel free.

- Okanagan College Student Orientation: spoke to new and returning students and staff about climate impacts and solutions.
- Summerland Fall Fair: Educated the public about climate impacts and solutions. Provided materials for making Climate Prayer Flags ahead of Oct 1 Seniors for Climate event.



- Climate Strike September with students from PenHigh.
- Partnered with Seniors for Climate to make Climate Prayer Flags, march to City Hall, present climate demands to City Council, and get a Proclamation for Seniors for Climate Day Oct 1 from the Mayor of Penticton.

