



News & Updates

February 2026

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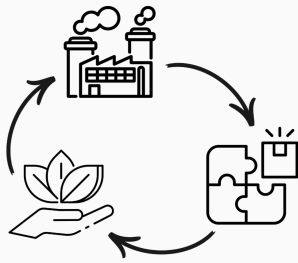


Rachel's Remarks

February has been a month of firsts for Our Valley Our Future. The new subgroups for Industrial Symbiosis met for the first time. We held our first stakeholder interviews for the development of the 2027-31 Action Plan. I visited Olympia to advocate for our Game Changer initiatives and Working Group partners.

There are lots of ways you can be involved in the future of Our Valley. Check out the info below and keep an eye out for our community survey, opening March 1.

What We've Been Up To



Post Carbon Economy Working Group

This working group's current project is Industrial Symbiosis, a collaborative approach to developing a circular economy and improving efficient use of local resources. In partnership with the City of Wenatchee and thanks to a grant from the Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, we are facilitating subgroups of public, private, and non-profit organizations to explore opportunities in our region: local CO2 supply, resource recovery program, and combined head & power. Check out [this NCW News article](#) to learn more.



Wildfire NCW



Fuego NCW

Wildfire Working Group

In partnership with Cascadia Conservation Group, we are launching a bilingual centralized wildfire preparedness, prevention and recovery website for Chelan & Douglas counties this spring. Using grant funding secured by Cascadia and additional funding from the Chelan County PUD, we are coordinating over 40 organizations to create trustworthy, local, relevant content for our community.

Ready, Set, Action Plan!

pssst...

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Opening March 1

*Past voices built what we have today...
add yours to shape what's next.*

Join Us & Get Involved



Early Learning Symposium **March 19, 10am-2pm**

This symposium will address how early learning and care shapes long-term social, emotional, and cognitive outcomes, while influencing workforce stability and economic resilience across North Central Washington. Attendees will hear regional data, explore diverse models of childcare delivery, and learn how community partnerships can



Game Changer **Legislative Priorities**

Our Valley Our Future's legislative priorities are based off Game Changer initiatives, major projects that will positively impact the region. Game Changer initiatives are furthered through Working Groups, coalition-building cross-sector committees convened and facilitated by OVOF. These priorities are provided on behalf

strengthen families, employers and future workforce pipelines.

of the lead partners in OVOF's Working Groups.

[Register Here](#)

[Session Priorities](#)

Action Plan Successes

The shared vision of Our Valley is becoming a reality through the steady progress of our partners' achieving objectives and moving Game Changer initiatives forward. Join us in celebrating these achievements!

- [Bridging the digital divide: how local organizations are increasing access in NCW](#) (NCW News)
- [Career and Technical Education: meeting regional workforce needs with hands-on learning](#) (NCW News)
- [DNR shares NCW wildfire risk maps, seeks feedback](#) (Wenatchee World)
- [NCW Food Council launches regional collaboration focused on food access](#) (NCW News)
- [Newhouse, Murray secure \\$10 million for Wenatchi Landing](#) (Wenatchee World)
- [Wenatchee Valley Museum renovation application complete](#) (Wenatchee World)



Common Ground housing available!

[Common Ground](#) is now accepting applications for the Crail Cottages. Please share [this flyer](#) about the opportunity for a stable, affordable place to call home.

Steve's Reading Recommendations

- [PGE will expand to Washington state, acquiring swath of PacifiCorp territory](#) (The Oregonian)
- [Washington's Elevator Reform Bill Rises Again](#) (The Urbanist)
- [WA braces for another drought year as snowpack lags](#) (The Seattle Times)
- [Microsoft pledged to save water. In the AI era, it expects water use to soar](#) (The Seattle Times)
- [WA insurance commissioner pushes bills for wildfire mitigation, disclose wildfire risk scores](#) (The Spokesman-Review)
- [Washington lost 3,700 farms in 5 years: Here's how to slow the trend](#) (The Seattle Times)
- [Students are increasingly choosing community college or certificates over four-year degrees](#) (CNBC)

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