



Sightline
INSTITUTE

2021

Gratitude Report

2021

Sightline's mission is to make Cascadia a global model of sustainability—strong communities, a green economy, and a healthy environment.

Smart solutions for a sustainable Northwest

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The year 2021 promised to be the one in which Cascadia beat Covid and turned its attention back to climate change. Instead, Covid slammed us with first Delta and then Omicron. Climate change hit us with a heat dome of unprecedented intensity and atmospheric rivers that isolated first

Vancouver, BC, and then Seattle from the rest of the continent.

The Anthropocene is not for the faint of heart. Fortunately, you and I and all of us who have made Sightline a force for good these last 28 years have never been faint-hearted. No matter what the year threw at us, we persevered. Indeed, we often prevailed. And we did so against climate change.

As described in these pages, Sightline—with a fast-growing staff thanks to more generous support than ever before—helped win four breakthroughs for abundant, low-carbon housing. We helped pass a new law in Cascadia's most-populous county that will decarbonize many new buildings. And our work powered large coalitions that defeated the fossil fuel industry twice: beating back the proposed Kalama methanol plant and the planned Jordan Cove liquified natural gas plant. Kalama would have consumed more natural gas than all the power plants in Washington combined; Jordan Cove would have been the largest source of greenhouse gases in Oregon. And now, they'll never get built.

All of this progress is a credit to you. You believed in Sightline and, undeterred by Covid, you fueled us to new heights. For that, I extend my heartfelt gratitude,

Alan Durning, Executive Director
SIGHTLINE INSTITUTE

Reader support makes progress possible across Cascadia

Here are updates from 2021 in three of our primary programs:

Rolling back fossil fuel infrastructure:

After years of coalition efforts in a movement known as the “thin green line,” two major fracked gas projects ran aground, likely never to move again: a methanol plant in Kalama, Washington, and a liquefied natural gas facility on Jordon Cove in Oregon. The impact: saving the region from staggering volumes of climate pollution.

King County, Washington, passed an ordinance to eliminate gas appliances from its clean energy financing program. Sightline provided detailed input on how to revise energy efficiency programs to exclude gas and thus speed electrification in the building sector.



Promoting equitable voting reform:

Sightline worked across Cascadia on improving and implementing voting systems to dampen extremism, including advising on implementation of Alaska's new open primaries/ranked-choice general election and with the Portland Charter Commission on adopting proportional representation.



“I appreciate that whenever I need help, Sightline is there. I’m so grateful for the flow of information in the daily emails, the help from staff, and the climate justice centering point that Sightline provides. Thank you!”

GRACE S. / SEATTLE, WA



Advancing abundant, low-carbon housing:

Sightline helped win passage of legislation to end roommate caps in both Washington and Oregon; no longer will zoning codes dictate who can live together based on exclusionary definitions of “family,” allowing more people to live in our lowest-carbon residential areas.

In addition, we helped win four other initiatives: legalization of tiny backyard homes on wheels and group housing in Portland, reform of Portland's design review process, and passage of an Oregon pilot subsidizing in-law apartments and backyard cottages.

Sightline in the news across Cascadia and beyond:

Sightline research was quoted or cited in, or shaped the content of over

650

media stories in 2021

including placements in most major Cascadian daily papers and public radio stations plus the Canadian Press and the New York Times.

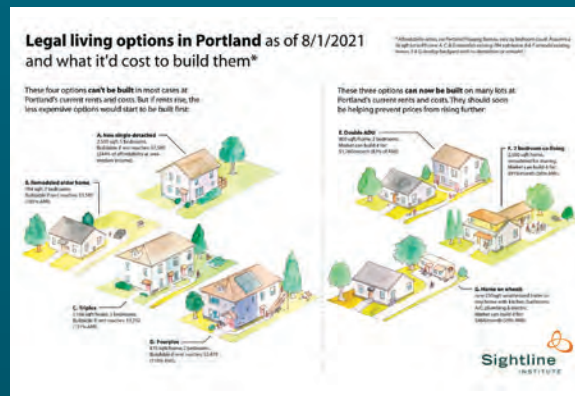
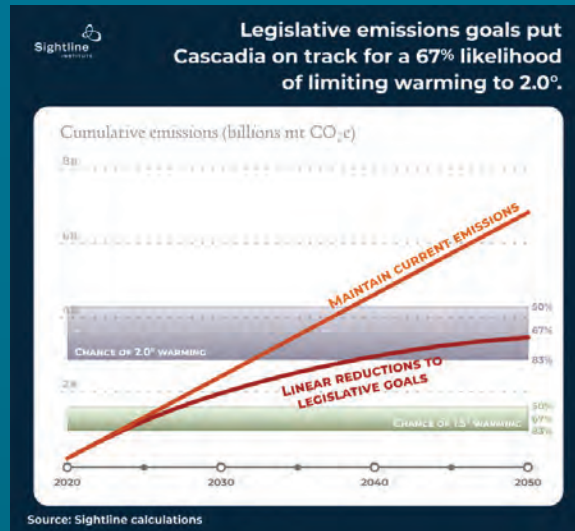
Sightline staff spoke at more than

25 virtual events

across Cascadia, with groups based in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.

"You have such great information! I love the mix of environmental, political and regional issues. Your articles are insightful and thorough. I especially appreciate the emphasis on finding solutions."

CARRIE P. / VANCOUVER, WA



STAFF PROFILE:

Jeannette Lee

Senior Researcher and Alaska Lead

I applied to be Sightline's first-ever Alaska-based researcher in March 2020, just as the pandemic was unfolding.

On the day of my initial interview, the sound on my laptop stopped working. We used our cell phones for audio while interfacing on Zoom. I live in Anchorage but am from Hawai'i and was in Honolulu on a family visit. My mom was trying her best to keep my kids from interrupting the call. It all felt so awkward.

The interview process continued with more video calls and introductions. But at the same time, countries were closing their borders. Hunker down orders were spreading. My optimism and excitement about Sightline felt almost inappropriate given the uncertainty and suffering I was reading about every day. And making such a big life change at the outset of a pandemic seemed risky. What was I doing? I had the chance to join this amazing organization that shared my vision for a better future. But would there be a future at all?

As it turns out, Sightline has been the best place to be in the most stressful and momentous two years of my life. Envisioning and writing about the future is central to my role as a senior researcher for Sightline's democracy and housing programs. Juggling work with other demands of the pandemic has been hard, but the work itself and



the virtual camaraderie have been a psychological and intellectual lifeline. I'm grateful for the opportunity to build the future we teach our children about: A just and compassionate society. Healthy, sustainable, people-centric urban environments. Strong democratic institutions. A Cascadia that meets its climate goals.

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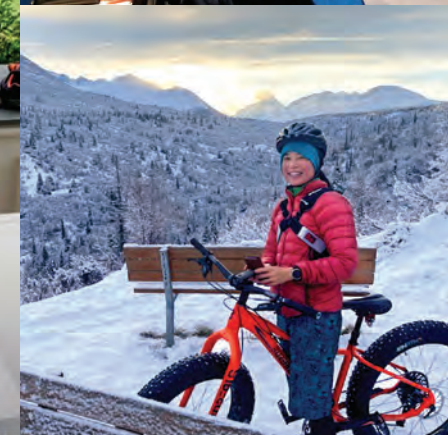
I also love that the professional choices I've made along the way all tie in to Sightline's work. I've worked on climate issues at the United Nations and the World Bank. I've researched liquefied natural gas markets and financing for the federal government. As a journalist, I wrote about a range of topics: Alaska's oil industry, Congressional hearings on energy grids, the melting of the Arctic ice pack, and the difficulty of building housing in downtown Anchorage. Everything is interconnected, and Sightline operates in accordance with that reality. It feels gratifying to now build on these past experiences and the relationships I have built to advance our mission.

When I first landed in Anchorage in 2005, I hadn't planned on staying in Alaska for more than a year, but the longer I stayed, the longer I wanted to stay. My husband and I did move away to DC for five years, but we missed the comforting grandeur of the mountains, Anchorage's abundant parks and trails, and our supportive network of family and friends. The birth of our daughter gave us the excuse we needed to return in 2013. Now we get to do all the outside activities that keep us happy, and our kids have access to a strong public-school system, a close-knit and diverse community, and the privilege of growing up in a singular and beautiful place.

My colleagues at Sightline hear all about my love for Alaska in our Monday morning staff check-ins. Describing my latest outdoor adventure and sharing photos of neighborhood moose may seem like regular office chit-chat, but my true purpose is to convince folks to come visit or even consider moving here. (Not joking.) In the short-term, though, I am looking forward to finally meeting my coworkers in person in the coming months as the pandemic recedes. After nearly two years of seeing them on my laptop screen every week, meeting face-to-face will now be the awkward part! I can't wait.



Jeannette Lee with her husband Bill Falsey and children James and Stella.



Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Cash and investments	\$ 5,710,196
Donations and grants receivable	548,956
Other assets	53,304
Total assets	\$ 6,312,455

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 16,582
Credit Cards	5,846
Other Current Liabilities	255,551
Total liabilities	277,979

Net assets

With Donor Restrictions	1,262,247
Without Donor Restrictions	4,772,229
Total net assets	6,034,476
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 6,312,455

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

REVENUE

Grants	\$ 2,318,864
Contributions	747,973
Investment revenue	508,983
Fees for services and miscellaneous income	16,067
Total revenue	3,591,888

EXPENSES

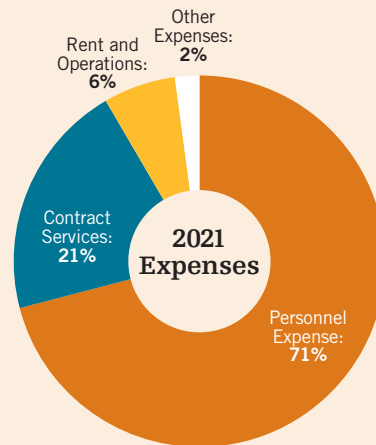
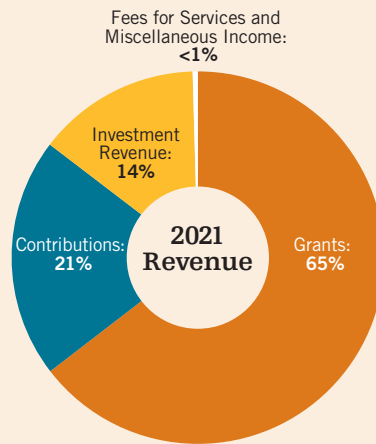
Personnel expense	1,708,265
Contract services	497,157
Rent and operations	151,562
Other expenses	51,075
Total expenses	2,408,059
Change in net assets	1,183,828
Net assets, beginning of year	4,850,647
Net assets, end of year	\$ 6,034,476

Change in Cash and Investments

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Net change in cash and investments	\$ 744,371
Cash and investments, beginning of year	4,965,824
Cash and investments, end of year	\$ 5,710,196

These figures are preliminary and have not yet been audited by an independent accountant. For a copy of the audited financial statements, please contact Meaghan Robbins by calling 888-447-1880 ext. 110.



Sightline
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