

THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



“Unfortunately, we have historically lacked an institutional theater in which science and policy-making can come together efficiently, and produce more light than heat.”

– WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS

For more information on the William D. Ruckelshaus Center, please visit our web site at: <http://RuckelshausCenter.wsu.edu>

about the center

Mission & Vision

The mission of the William D. Ruckelshaus Center is to act as a neutral resource for collaborative problem solving in the State of Washington and Pacific Northwest. The Center provides expertise to improve the quality and availability of voluntary collaborative approaches for policy development and multi-party dispute resolution.

The Center is a joint effort of Washington’s two research universities and was developed in response to requests from community leaders. Building on the unique strengths of the two institutions, the Center is dedicated to assisting public, private, tribal, non-profit and other community leaders in their efforts to build consensus and resolve conflicts around difficult public policy issues. The Center also advances the teaching and research missions of the two universities by bringing real-world policy issues to the academic setting.

The Center envisions a future in which governmental leaders, policy makers, stakeholders and citizens in the state of Washington and the Pacific Northwest routinely employ the tools of collaborative decision making to design, conduct and implement successful public policy processes.

Services

The Center can:

- Provide a neutral and safe forum for parties to define and resolve issues
- Conduct a situation assessment to determine the most productive means of addressing the issues
- Provide facilitation, mediation, dispute resolution, project management, strategic planning and other services that help parties reach consensus and resolve issues
- Serve as a clearinghouse for resources and research to be used by the parties
- Perform applied research and fact finding
- Provide knowledge, training, and infrastructure development to improve the collaborative problem-solving capacity of the parties and institutions
- Host policy discussions

“Good environmental policy is crafted by involved citizens working in partnership with government. It requires a delicate balancing of viewpoints and a creative and civil search for solutions. The courtroom is no substitute for intelligent cooperation.”

—DANIEL J. EVANS



Projects

The Center offers assistance, training, and research to advance some of the most challenging issues in the state, including natural resources policy, socio-economic issues, and regulatory reform. The Center provides expertise in the process of defining the issues, enhancing the ability of stakeholders to address the substance of the issues and come to agreement.

Prior to conducting a project, the Center follows a deliberate approach of first seeking confidence of the affected and interested parties through consultation with key stakeholders. The Center’s role is to improve understanding among parties and enhance the possibilities for progress on issues, rather than dictate an answer from the universities. The results belong to the parties themselves; the Center provides an independent forum and neutral resources that create the possibility for these results to take shape.

Governance and Funding

The Center is hosted at the University of Washington by the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, and at Washington State University by WSU Extension. The Center has offices in Seattle, Olympia and Pullman. It is overseen by an advisory board chaired by William Ruckelshaus and composed of prominent local and state leaders representing a broad range of constituencies and geographic locations in the region. Funding for the Center is sought from a mix of sources, including foundations, corporations, individuals, agencies, other state and federal sources, and fees for services when appropriate.

WSU Extension and UW Evans School of Public Affairs programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.

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William D. Ruckelshaus Center
121 Hulbert Hall
PO Box 646248
Pullman, WA 99164-6248
509-335-2937
RuckelshausCenter@wsu.edu