

THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Mission

The mission of the William D. Ruckelshaus Center is to act as a neutral resource for collaborative problem solving in the region. Its aim is to provide expertise that improves the availability and quality of voluntary collaborative approaches to policy development and multi-party dispute resolution. The Center is a joint effort of Washington State University (WSU) and the University of Washington (UW) 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, tribal, business, agribusiness, environmental, and other community leaders in their efforts to work together to build consensus and resolve conflicts around difficult public policy issues. In addition, the Center helps advance the teaching, curriculum, and research missions of the two universities by bringing real-world policy issues to the campuses.

“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

“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

Activities

The Center will not duplicate or compete with existing services. When it is invited to assist with a dispute or an emerging issue, it can:

- Provide a neutral and safe forum for parties to define and resolve issues
- Conduct a conflict assessment to determine the most productive means of addressing the issues
- Marshal resources for collaborative problem solving
- Serve as a clearinghouse for resources and research to be used at the option of the parties
- Perform applied research
- Provide knowledge, training, and infrastructure development to improve the collaborative problem-solving capacity of the parties and institutions
- Host policy discussions

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

Governance and Funding

The Center has offices at WSU and UW. 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.

The William D. Ruckelshaus Center Advisory Board

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Michael J. Tate - Washington State University

Jim Waldo - Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, Malanca & Peterson

Bob Watt - The Boeing McDonnell Foundation

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