



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Protecting the future with a cleanup that works.



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# Resistance is Key

## A Message from the Executive Director & Board Chair

It took a lot of grit and perseverance for many to successfully navigate 2021. Fighting for a safe and effective Hanford cleanup was no exception. Thank you for sticking with us and fighting for a Hanford cleanup that protects our water, land, people, and way of life in the Pacific Northwest.

One highlight for us in 2021 was hearing from former Governor Chris Gregoire—our Hanford Hero Award Recipient at our Annual Spotlight Gala—about the origins of Hanford cleanup starting in the 1980's. As a signatory to the Tri-Party Agreement, she was presented with a broom symbolizing her cleanup efforts, which a local newspaper snarkily invited her to ride back to Seattle. Governor Gregoire reminisced about the clear hostility to the State of Washington in the 1980's when Ecology inspectors were denied access to the site, and even turned away at gunpoint. Hanford cleanup was born of resistance. A safer, cleaner future won't be handed to us on a platter—we must continue to fight for it. Thanks to a broad coalition of allies, we are doing just that. Listen to her full, motivating speech [here](#).



Nikolas Peterson with Gov. Chris Gregoire at the 2021 Spotlight Gala

Looking ahead, we have some important news. On April 1, Tom will transition to the role of Senior Advisor as we welcome our existing Deputy Director Nikolas Peterson as our new Executive Director. After many years of succession planning, we are incredibly excited for the future of our organization under Nikolas' leadership. Stay tuned for many opportunities to celebrate Tom's legacy and to hear from Nikolas about his vision for the future of Hanford Challenge.

Of course, these transitions will not affect our mission and current agenda of resisting federal Energy Department efforts to re-label high-level tank waste and to use cement as a disposal medium instead of glass to cut corners. We are working with our allies in Washington, Oregon, the Native American community, labor, and other public interest groups to assure that the federal government sticks with the plan to vitrify tank waste and bury that waste in a deep geological repository, as required by law.



**HANFORD**  
CHALLENGE

We will continue our advocacy to treat Hanford's radioactive and chemical wastes onsite, instead of sending it offsite to Perma-Fix Northwest. That is a place not only situated in a residential community, but it has been riddled with worrisome safety and compliance issues.

We continue to champion concerned employees who catch problems and work to keep cleanup on track. They provide us with essential information about the cleanup and help target our research on the technical complexities of Hanford cleanup. This assistance focuses our attention on the important cleanup issues that enable all of us to take action.

No matter what challenges come our way, Hanford cleanup is a long game and requires our collective efforts now and moving forward.

We cannot do this work alone. Together with you and our allies, we will persevere and realize our vision of an effective cleanup and a safe future.

Thank you for investing in this vision.



**Tom Carpenter**

Executive Director



**Victoria Vreeland**

Board Chair



# Our Mission & Vision

## Our Mission

To create a future for the Hanford Nuclear Site that secures human health and safety, advances accountability, and promotes a sustainable environmental legacy.

### Hanford Challenge exists to:

- Ensure **permanent protection for the planet and its inhabitants** from the effects of contamination at Hanford.
- Ensure **worker rights, safety and security** at Hanford.
- Ensure **transparency and accountability to the public** for the most efficient and effective cleanup of Hanford available.



## Protecting the Planet

Hanford Challenge protects the planet from the dangers posed by the most contaminated nuclear site in the western hemisphere. We strive to protect the planet and its inhabitants in the short and long term, working towards a safer, cleaner future.



## Transparency & Accountability

Hanford Challenge stops attempts to evade regulations, challenges cleanup shortcuts, and empowers individuals to act. We form strategic networks of unions, tribes, environmental organizations, community groups, public officials, and concerned individuals to hold Hanford accountable.



## Hanford Workers

Hanford Challenge provides legal representation and advocacy for Hanford workers and whistleblowers. We support workers who report waste and fraud, health and safety risks, and violations of laws at the Hanford Nuclear Site. We also fight for workforce access to protective equipment and healthcare.



HANFORD CHALLENGE

# Program Accomplishments



**237k**

People Reached on Social Media



**50k+**

More than 2020!



**20**

Mentions and Quotes in the News Media

**65**

Hanford Advisory Board Meetings on Hanford Cleanup Policy



The Hanford Advisory Board is a regional advisory board for the Tri-Party Agencies.

We participate to make sure workers are protected and the public is involved.



Our Comments Reached

**26k**



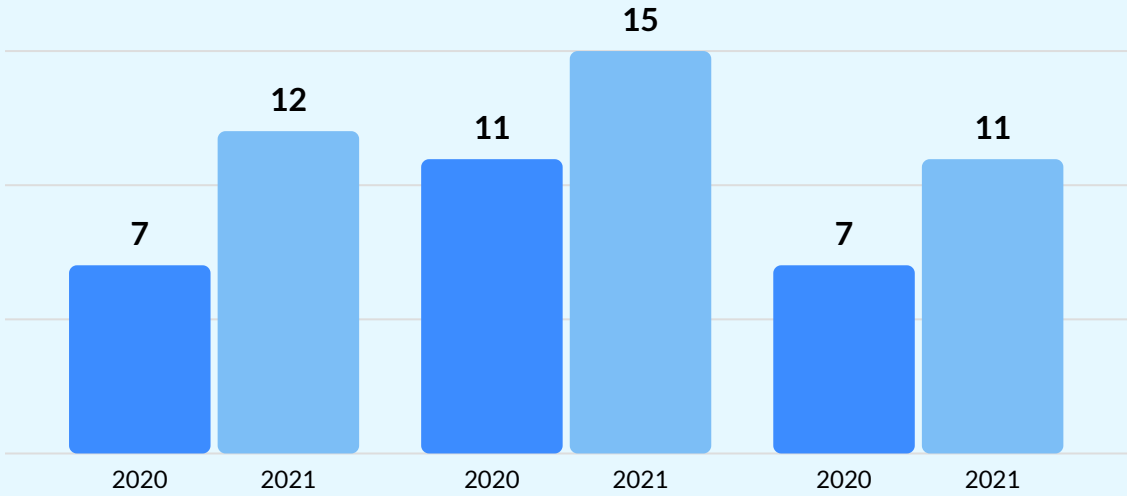
Our Presentations Reached

**16k**



Resulting in **4.8k**

Comments Submitted by the Public



Virtual Events



Comments Submitted by Hanford Challenge



Take Action Comment Guides



HANFORD CHALLENGE

# Program Accomplishments



Our very own Executive Director, Tom Carpenter, was a guest on the nationally syndicated Thom Hartmann radio show to talk about Hanford cleanup and urgent worker health issues. This was an exciting opportunity to reach out to the millions of listeners and followers of Thom Hartmann about an issue important to all of us—the safe and effective cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Site.



#MoreFromThom #ThomandTomCarpenter #Nuclear  
Growing Nuclear Disaster Hidden Pacific Northwest (w/ Tom Carpenter)  
5,034 views · Oct 11, 2021 · You may not have heard about this nuclear disaster brewing in the tranquil Pacific Northwest. Tom Carpeneter from the Handford challenge, explains why you need to know this disaster as much as you know Fukushima.



# High-Level Waste Campaign

In 2021, your donations were hard at work tracking and resisting attempts to shortcut the cleanup of high-level tank waste and as we enter 2022, we are primed for the fight.

Thanks to you, we are ready to file litigation at a moment's notice. We have briefs ready to submit. We have allies ready to fight with us. Our coalition has expanded to include the State of WA and Oregon Dept. of Energy. We deployed new tools to mobilize action on high-level waste cleanup. In a key moment of opposition, we filed a joint letter to the new Secretary of Energy, signed by Hanford Challenge, the State of Washington, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakama Nation, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Columbia Riverkeeper.



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation



February 26, 2021

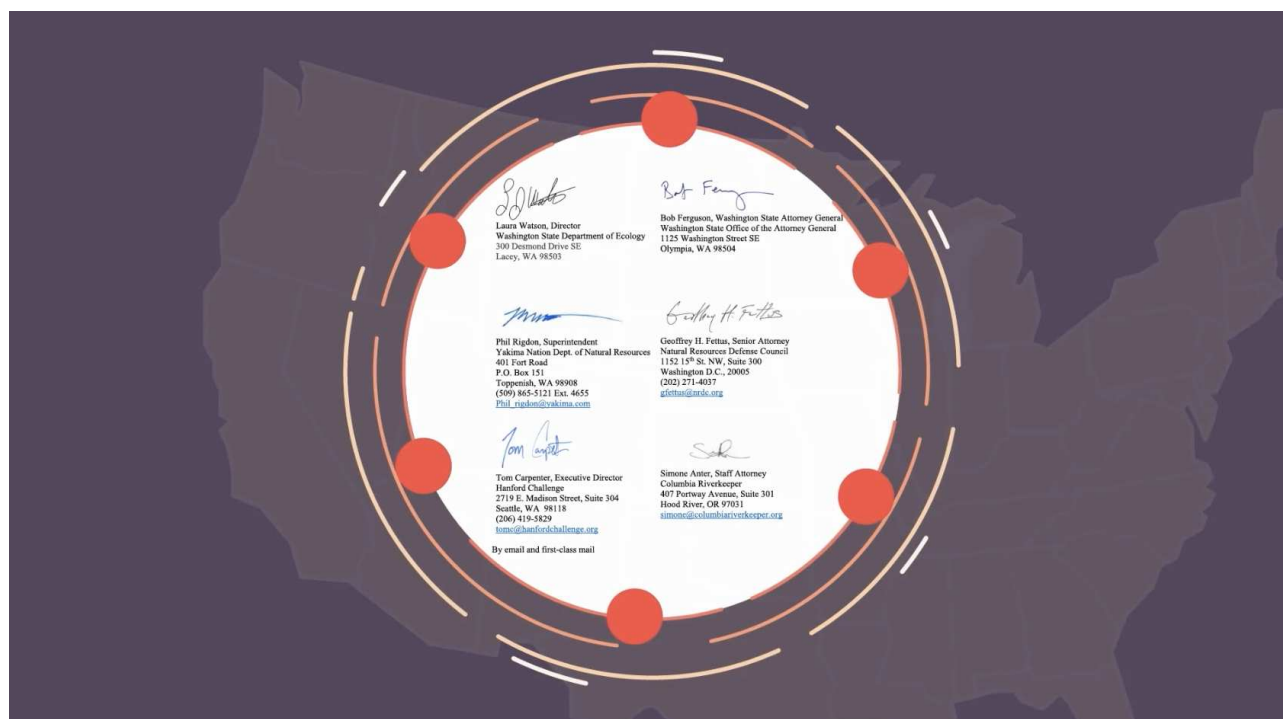
Hon. Secretary Jennifer Granholm  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: Request to Rescind High-Level Radioactive Waste Interpretive Rule**

Dear Secretary Granholm:

The State of Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Attorney General's Office, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Hanford Challenge, and Columbia Riverkeeper offer our sincere congratulations on your recent





The Department of Energy knows much of this and has avoided making any decision that could trigger that litigation, which we count as a victory.

Hanford Challenge developed tools to counter a DOE report to Congress claiming that up to 80% of Hanford tank waste could be reclassified as other than high-level waste and grouted to save money and time. We were a key voice of resistance, researching and producing plain language guides including objections to DOE's Congressional report, and a Frequently Asked Questions detailing the background behind high-level waste definitions, DOE's reclassification effort, and concerns with replacing vitrification with grout. We also published a history of Hanford's failed grout program.

As you know, this is a multi-year campaign that requires ongoing vigilance. As we have discovered in the past year, commitments that seem rock solid can be broken depending on who is in power. It will take constant surveillance, organizing, coalition building and pressure to defend the cleanup agreement for Hanford tank waste treatment and disposal. We thank you for standing with us to ensure that this work continues to protect the future.

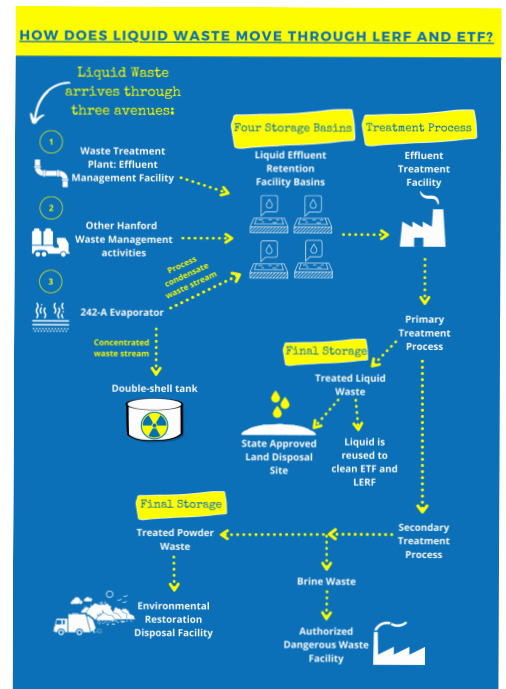


HANFORD CHALLENGE

# Take Action!

In 2021, Hanford Challenge continued to file public comments on emerging issues. Thanks to your generous donations, we tackled an upsurge in public comment periods, filing 15 sets of public comments, empowering you to write comments with 12 Comment Writing Guides, and presenting interactive "Take Action!" comment writing workshops.

1. Class 2 Permit Modification LERF/ETF- Mass Balance
2. Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis on Proposed Alternatives for 200 West Area Tier 2 Buildings/Structures Non-Time Critical Removal Action
3. Congressional Action to Fund Hanford Cleanup Campaign
4. New Tanks Now Campaign
5. TPA Agency Changes to Cleanup Milestones for M-091
6. RCRA Permit Modification for Integrated Disposal Facility Leachate Collection System
7. FY 2023 DOE Field Office Budget Submittal Cleanup Priorities
8. Test Bed Initiative Draft Environmental Assessment
9. Take a Stand for Workers Rights Campaign
10. U.S. DOE 5-Year Plan
11. Waste Treatment Inspection Plan
12. LERF/ETF Decontamination



This block features several key documents from the Hanford Challenge. At the top, there are 'SAY WHAT? COMMENT WRITING GUIDE' documents for December 2021, one for the 'Treatment Plant Action Plan' and another for 'Take Action! on Tank Waste Treatment'. Below these is a 'Hanford Cleanup Budget' document for the U.S. Dept. of Energy Fiscal Year 2023, with a comment deadline of August 15, 2021. A 'WHAT?' section with a green arrow icon is also present. The 'BACKGROUND' section explains the budget process, noting that certain parts are embargoed and that the current year's budget is being developed while the previous year's is still being executed. It mentions that the DOE local field offices are prioritizing cleanup to know what would 'fall off the cleanup plate' if the cleanup was not fully funded.

The slide is titled 'What are LERF and ETF?'. It includes two photographs: one showing a large industrial building and another showing several large, rectangular tanks. A video inset in the top right corner shows a woman speaking. The slide explains that LERF (Liquid Effluent Retention Facility) and ETF (Effluent Treatment Facility) are part of the waste management process. It notes that the WTP (Waste Treatment Plant) is up and running, and that the various laws and regulations that govern the cleanup are being updated. It also mentions that the DOE local field offices are prioritizing cleanup to know what would 'fall off the cleanup plate' if the cleanup was not fully funded.



**HANFORD  
CHALLENGE**

# Take Action!



**New Tanks Now!**  
Urge your senators and representatives to protect our health and environment from leaking nuclear waste at Hanford.

First & Last Name

Email

Address

City  Zip

**Next**

Powered by OneClickPolitics



### New Hanford Tanks Now!

#ActionAlert We are out of time and space at Hanford. The recent news of another tank leak creates even more urgency for Congress to increase cleanup funding to build new tanks.

We must act now to protect the environment and the public from the nuclear waste leaking from these aging tanks. It is important that we act now. Take action today!

As you know, Hanford's underground storage tanks continue to fail and leak waste into the ground and groundwater, threatening the health and safety of the Columbia River and future generations. Our New Tanks Now Campaign, to urge lawmakers to build new tanks at Hanford to combat this crisis, resulted in 4,500 comments to elected officials! Thank you! You are amazing!



#takeaction  
**FUND WORKER PROTECTIONS!**  
HANFORD CHALLENGE

### Take a Stand for Workers Rights Campaign

Stay tuned in 2022, as we keep fighting for workers rights and protect Washington's compensation law which continues to be a target of the federal government.





HANFORD CHALLENGE

# Hanford en español

At the end of 2021, Hanford Challenge created a Spanish-language introductory presentation and brochure. By increasing accessibility to basic information about Hanford in Spanish, Hanford Challenge hopes to increase opportunities for the Spanish speaking community to weigh in on cleanup.

In 2022 we'll be partnering with community organizations that work closely with Spanish speaking communities in Eastern Washington. We hope to foster strong relationships with these communities and organizations over the coming years. We will also continue to translate and provide information about Hanford in Spanish.

## QUIÉNES SOMOS

Hanford Challenge aporta una mayor responsabilidad, la transparencia, y reforma a la limpieza del sitio nuclear de Hanford. Nuestro trabajo aumenta la seguridad en Hanford, mejora la limpieza, previene el derroche y el fraude, empodera a los trabajadores e inspira la acción pública.

- Hanford Challenge existe para
- Asegurar la **protección permanente de la Tierra y sus habitantes** de los efectos de la contaminación en Hanford.
  - Asegurar los **derechos y la seguridad de los trabajadores** en Hanford.
  - Asegurar la **transparencia y la responsabilidad al público** para la limpieza de Hanford con la mejor metodología disponible.



## NUESTRO TRABAJO

### PROTEGER LA TIERRA

Hanford Challenge protege la Tierra contra los peligros presentados por el sitio nuclear más contaminado del hemisferio occidental. Nos esforzamos por proteger la Tierra y sus habitantes a corto y largo plazo, trabajando por un futuro más seguro y limpio.



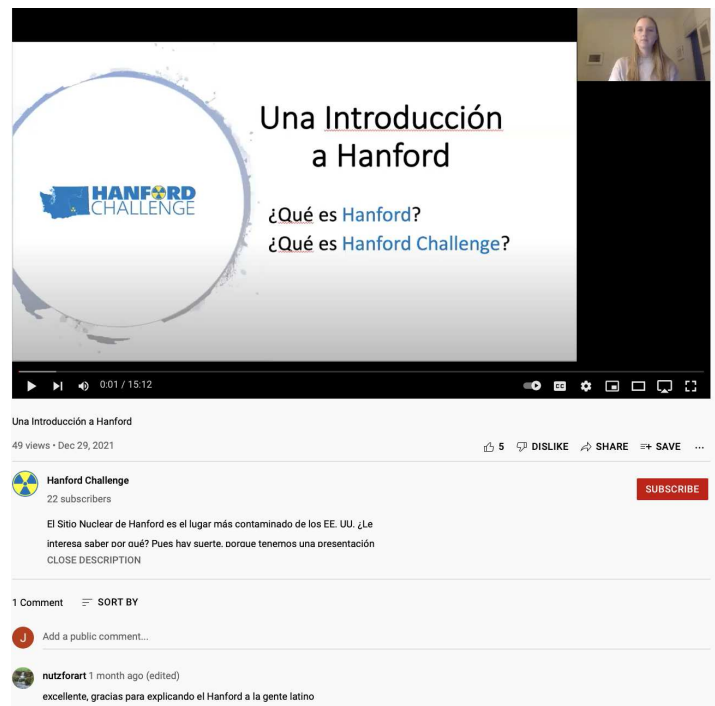
### TRANSPARENCIA Y RESPONSABILIDAD

Hanford Challenge detiene los intentos de evadir las regulaciones, reta los atajos de limpieza y da el poder y la información a los individuos para actuar. Forma redes estratégicas con los sindicatos, las tribus, las organizaciones ambientales, las comunidades, los funcionarios públicos y los individuos para hacer responsable a Hanford.

### TRABAJADORES DE HANFORD

Hanford Challenge ofrece la representación y el apoyo legal para los trabajadores y los informantes ("whistleblowers") de Hanford. Apoyamos a los trabajadores que denuncian el derroche y el fraude, los riesgos de la salud y seguridad y las violaciones de las leyes en el sitio nuclear de Hanford. También luchamos para que los trabajadores de Hanford tengan mejor acceso a la asistencia médica.

HANFORD CHALLENGE SIRVE A LOS 9,000 TRABAJADORES DE HANFORD Y SUS FAMILIAS, LOS CONTRIBUYENTES ESTADOUNIDENSES, LAS GENERACIONES FUTURAS Y EL MEDIO AMBIENTE.



Starting in 2021, Challenge has partnered with Juntos Consulting Collaborative for a 5 year series of DEI trainings to deepen organizational opportunities for learning, sharing, and acting based on a systemic analysis of equity in action for Hanford Challenge.



# Legal Update

## Battle for Hanford worker comp law continues in the United States Supreme Court

In January 2022, the United States Supreme Court agreed to review a Washington law that made it easier for Hanford workers to obtain medical care for occupational diseases resulting from exposure to hazardous substances at Hanford. The law afforded Hanford workers the same presumption of occupational disease that this State created for firefighters in 1987. And like those firefighters, Hanford workers keep the rest of us safe, and as a result are exposed to unknown concentrations of waste. The law was previously upheld by the federal district court as well as the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In response to this news, Hanford Challenge, the Washington State Attorney General, UA Local 598, and Hanford workers united for a press conference on September 16, 2021. Check out the news coverage by King5 and The Seattle Times.





# Legal Update

“The workers need this law. They deserve this law they have worked and paid with their life and injuries to clean up one of the most toxic sites [in the world] and I don’t understand [the challenge to] it,” said Bertolla Bugarin, whose husband, 70-year-old Abe Garza, is critically ill after several exposures to toxic vapors at work. “They’re saying workers at Hanford are a commodity and expendable.”



**Bertolla Bugarin**

“The request from all of us is for this administration to drop their appeal to the United States Supreme Court. They can do that. They have the power to do it and they need to do that. The workers who are with me here today and the many hundreds and thousands more who cannot be here today do not deserve to have this fight before one more court.”



**Bob Ferguson,**  
WA Attorney General

“We join with Bob Ferguson, the local union and others to call upon the Biden administration to drop this appeal. Hanford workers deserve the kind of legislative reform they received that will help them to get the compensation and medical care resulting from illnesses caused by working at Hanford.”

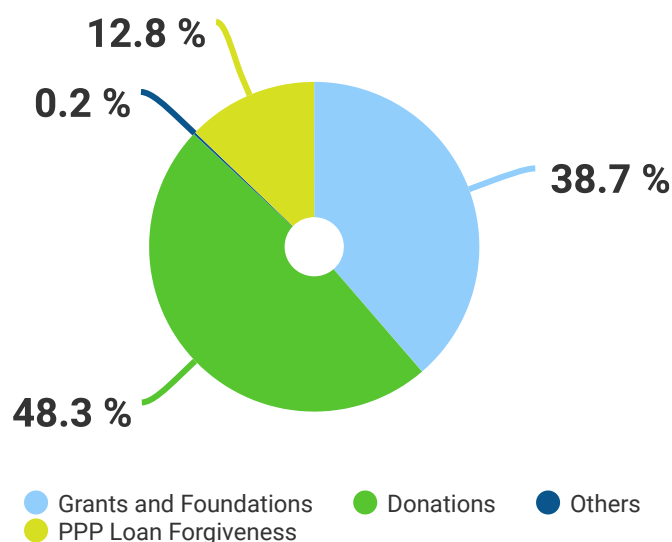


**Hanford Challenge**

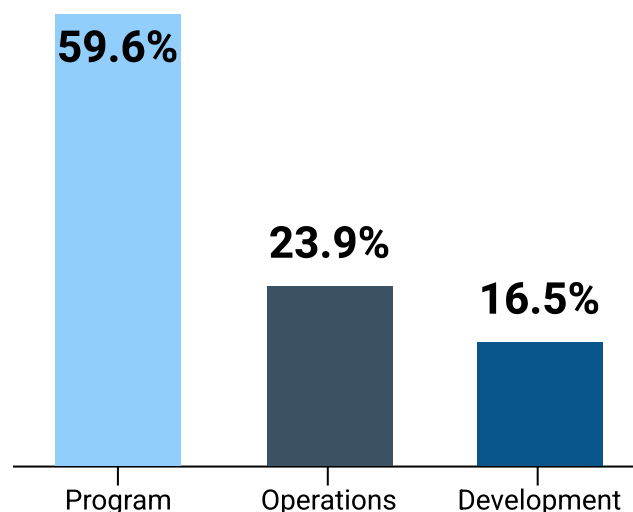


# 2021 Financial Summary

COVID continued to pose challenges for everyone in 2021, including Hanford Challenge. Thank you for stepping up with generous donations to help us weather the storm. Because of you, Hanford Challenge continues protecting the future with a cleanup that works. Your generous donations helped Hanford Challenge end the year with the equivalent of a six-month cash reserve, THANK YOU!



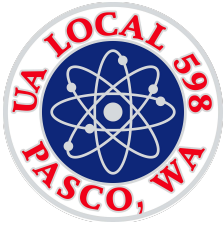
Total Operating Revenue = **\$697,012**



Total Operating Expenses\* = **\$656,771**

\*These are preliminary breakdowns and may be updated with our 2021 Form 990.

Sponsored by:



# 2021 Spotlight Gala

## Unzoomed!

October 21, 2021

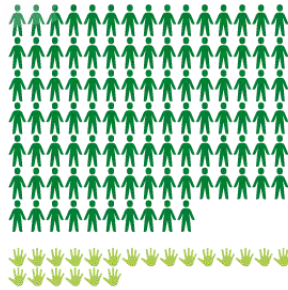
Georgetown Ballroom - Seattle, WA



### HANFORD CHALLENGE

## THANK YOU!

100 GALA GUESTS  
&  
21 DONORS  
WHO COULD NOT  
ATTEND

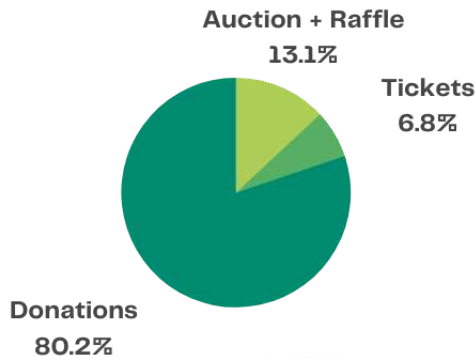


THANKS TO YOU, WE  
ARE NOW AT



OF OUR \$200K  
END OF YEAR  
FUNDRAISING GOAL

## WE RAISED \$155,908



### TOP AUCTION ITEMS



1. One week in Mexico



2. Pocket constitution signed by Gov. Gregoire and AG Bob Ferguson



3. Lunch with Gov. Gregoire



This year's event was one of our best ever, with dynamic speeches from Attorney General Bob Ferguson and former Governor Chris Gregoire. More importantly, everyone had fun while enjoying the (shortened) auction and being out and about to see each other in person.





**HANFORD**  
CHALLENGE

2021  
**HANFORD HERO**  
GOVERNOR  
**CHRISTINE  
GREGOIRE**



At the 2021 Spotlight Gala, we presented the Hanford Hero Award to Governor Christine Gregoire. During her many years of service as Attorney General and Governor, she was the first Washington state official to hold the federal government accountable for Hanford through the establishment of the Tri-Party Agreement, the single most important document for the safe and effective cleanup at Hanford. She also forced Hanford to empty leaking tanks and fought for protection of Hanford workers from toxic chemical vapors.



“



"The fights may change as the years and now decades go by, but thanks to the leadership, the vision, and tenacity of people like Chris Gregoire, like Bertolla and Abe, like Tom Carpenter, and with the support of all of you in this room, I'm confident that it's a fight we can win."

- **AG Bob Ferguson**

”

“

"We've got a long ways to go, but because of [Gov. Gregoire], we are in a much better position than just about any other state in the union that has a big DOE site."

- **Jay Manning**

”



“



"Let's join together tonight with Tom Carpenter and the team at HC. No more dragging of feet. No more risking the health and safety of our Hanford workers. No more distractions. No more excuses. No more delays. It's time, my friends, to get back on track."

- **Gov. Chris Gregoire**

”

2022



**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**05.13.22**

Hanford Challenge's annual gala is moving back to the Spring. We hope to see you on May 13th at the Westin Seattle for our 2022 Spotlight Gala: Legacy! Stay tuned for more details!

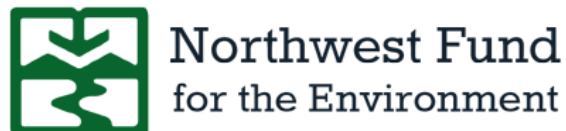
# Grants & Sponsorships



HANFORD  
CHALLENGE



**Horizons Foundation**



**Lucky Seven Foundation**





# OUR 2021 TEAM

## Staff:

**Tom Carpenter**  
Executive Director

**Nikolas Peterson**  
Deputy & Legal Director

**Jeanna Deforeit**  
Development & Operations Director

**Miya Burke**  
Program Manager

**Liz Mattson**  
Senior Program  
Strategist

**Freyja Markee**  
Operations Coordinator

**Alison Tate**  
Events & Outreach Manager

## Board of Directors:

**Vicky Vreeland**  
Chair

**Deanne Meek**  
Vice Chair

**Laura Gerber**  
Secretary

**John Kriese**  
Treasurer

**Allen Brecke**

**Nick Bumpaous**

**Chris Cazares**

**Randal Dick**

**Steven Gilbert**

**Sen. Adam Kline**

**Craig McGlinchey**



**Postal Address:**

**Hanford Challenge**  
PO BOX 28989  
Seattle, WA 98118

**Website:**

[www.hanfordchallenge.org](http://www.hanfordchallenge.org)

**Email:**

[info@hanfordchallenge.org](mailto:info@hanfordchallenge.org)

**Phone Number:**

206-292-2850

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