

# Carbon pricing system can benefit the economy

Thanks to the [Times Union](#) for reporting on Iona Lutey's training program for a new [Citizens'](#) Climate Lobby chapter ("Teaching skills to fight climate change," Sept. 25). I appreciated the reasons people attended: they love nature, have grandkids, feel responsible for protecting lives or their faith tradition calls for environmental stewardship.

I joined Citizens' Climate Lobby because my husband, a scientist, kvetched about climate change for 40 years, but I didn't really understand what it was. Then a friend told me about Citizens' Climate Lobby and its proposal for a carbon pricing system that won't hurt households and can benefit the economy. I joined with my friend to be supportive of her and to find out more about carbon emissions and this climate change thing.

I was shocked by what I learned: ocean acidification, ticks, Lyme disease, methane's dangers, and less snow means less of the sun's heat is reflected into space and more heat is absorbed by the Earth thus accelerating climate change (called a positive feedback loop). I hated learning this stuff. It's scary. It makes me miserable to think about ways I contributed to climate change for decades, completely unaware. I just didn't know that my car, household utilities, airplane travels and purchases of manufactured products cause grievous harm to the climate — undermining our safety.

Citizens' Climate Lobby taught me that legislation can induce expeditious changes to our energy systems so we can live without destabilizing the climate further. Being part of an organization with more than 300 U.S. chapters that work only on climate legislation helps me feel empowered and hopeful.

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