



How to Host a Vote Climate U.S. PAC House Party

Purpose of a House Party

Vote Climate U.S. PAC works to elect candidates to get off fossil fuels, transition to clean, renewable, energy and put a price on carbon, in order to slow climate change and related weather extremes. Remember, our goals at each house party are to educate invitees and build relationships in order to:

- Recruit Members – Large membership numbers move decision-makers, donors and others to respond positively to our issues.
- Recruit Volunteers – A large corps of volunteers will assist Vote Climate U.S. PAC in providing help with phone calling, door-to-door canvassing, house parties, the essentials of successful campaigns.
- Raise Funds - Funds raised help to elect candidates, through independent media campaigns, in targeted congressional campaigns, who will provide leadership on climate change.
- Recruit New House Party Hosts – House parties are a classic grassroots-organizing tool, providing ongoing outreach and education. More house parties mean more members, volunteers and funds to accomplish our mission.

Hosting a House Party

If you have friends, family, neighbors and/or coworkers, and a place to hold it - you can host a house party. Here's how:

- Secure a location, set the date and time.
- Develop a list of invitees and send a copy to Vote Climate U.S. PAC.
- Send an email or a snail mail invitation to all of your friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers, with date, time, place, directions, purpose of the house party and host's phone number and email. (See sample invitation, invitee ideas and handout on "deniers.")
- Invite twice as many people than you expect to attend, about half will come.
- Follow-up and try to get firm commitments from people to attend. (See sample script.)
- Make reminder calls the night before your house party to enhance attendance. Remind invitees of date, time, and place.

Hosting a House Party (continued)

- Tell people in advance of the purpose of the house party (see “Purpose of a House Party” above) and ask them to bring their checkbooks.
- Send thank you notes to attendees after the house party.

Where to Hold House Parties

- A house party can be held wherever people will come – yours or a friend’s house, the library, church or school or any other convenient neighborhood meeting place.
- You can have a straight meeting, serve coffee and desert, have a wine and cheese party or have a full-blown dinner party.
- Doing a house party with a friend will give you a bigger list of possible invitees. You can share the work of inviting your contacts, preparing for and hosting the meeting and follow-up.

Role of the Host/Speaker at the House Party

- Invite participants.
- Serve refreshments.
- Be sure that everyone signs in and fills in all requested contact information (See Sign-in Sheet.)
- Make the presentation or arrange for a speaker to make the presentation. Remember from above, your goals at each House party are to educate invitees and build relationships in order to work politically to slow climate change.
- Thank participants.
- If you are the speaker at you own house party or if it is a Skype house party, return sign-in sheets and donations to us at: P.O. Box 341454, Bethesda, MD 20827.

Other Points to Remember

- Looking for potential leaders. You are trying to identify and develop new leaders to build Vote Climate U.S. PAC. Look for people that also have the energy, vision, and talent to act on their concerns and let us know about them in your House Party Report.
- Remember your purpose. You are trying to educate people about Vote Climate U.S. PAC, build relationships with potential new leaders, raise funds, recruit members, volunteers and new house party hosts.
- Lead the meeting. If you are the speaker, you are not just facilitating a discussion - you are leading a meeting. Do not hesitate to assert yourself in order to present all of the information in the house party, power point presentation.

Authorized by Vote Climate U.S. PAC, Mary Gill Treasurer, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.