Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

Media Consortium is a network of 65 independent progressive news outlets including Mother Jones, The Nation, KCETLINK, Free Speech Radio News, Colorlines, and many more.

Our mission is to support and grow the impact of the independent news sector; we believe there is a critical role in any democracy for a press that is unfettered either by corporate shareholders or by the government.

The role of media is to inform, educate and engage members of our society. Yet we can only do our work if everyone has open access to a diversity of media sources. That’s why we are convinced the news media has a duty to translate media policy for the public.

Thanks to the generous support of the Media Democracy Fund, for the past several years we have been able to train a corps of journalists in media policy. By providing journalists direct access to policy experts, by holding monthly policy briefings, and by taking journalists to NCMR, we were able to push out over 80 stories on media policy last year. More than that, those reporters will continue to produce stories on media policy for the rest of their careers.

We hope you will attend our session today, Building Better Media Policy Reporting from the Ground Up, which will be structured as a discussion between 20 media policy reporters, 5 policy experts, and whoever else chooses to attend. Our focus will be how to link media policy to other policy issues that audiences will be more likely to recognize.

On a personal note, I also will be moderating the Occupy panel this afternoon, and speaking at an informal panel at lunchtime on strategies to better tell the story of extreme energy.