

UUCF Climate Action Group



Minutes: January 18: NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 1 BY PHONE!!! 712-432-0360 426443

Attendees: Eric Goplerud, Judy Gallimore, Bruce Wyman, Katy O’Grady, Jean Wright, Kathy Price, Sophie Zager, Bill Repsher, Dave Culp, Mike Rowe, Loretta Rowe, Bruno Walker, Clare Walden

Coverage of the Climate Action Group table in the Commons after services.

Sunday	Theme	9:15	11:15	Special draw
22-Jan	Home Energy	Bruce, Jean	Kathy	
29-Jan	Home Energy	Bruce, Catherine, Jean	Bruno	
5-Feb	Food and Water	Eric, Judy	Sophie, Bill, Loretta	Water bottles
12-Feb	Food and Water	Eric	Judy	Food
19-Feb	Food and Water	Judy	Loretta, Mike, Judy	Hydroponics
26-Feb	Food and Water	Loretta, Mike, Eric	Bill, Sophie	Free Trade

What is each group going to offer for the UUCF Auction?

	Offering	Who will submit
Home energy	Training on home energy, money saving	Kathy, Jean, Eric
Food and water	Vegan dinner	I forget who
Transportation	Bicycle ride	Catherine
Recycling, reuse	UUCF Yard Sale	Rita, Jean

What is the social justice action that each group is offering the congregation?

	Social justice action	Who will submit
Home energy	Petition to McAuliffe on Clean Power Plan, EQAC hearing, Feb 28 testimony on Ffx 2% annual GHG reduction, County budget hearings in February & March, Budget testimony Ap 4-6	Jean, Eric
Food and water	Plastic bottle ban on UUCF campus	
Transportation		
Recycling, reuse		

January: Carbon Footprint: Home Energy

- Petition to Governor McAuliffe** in support of Virginia voluntarily complying with the Clean Power Plan is the civic action that will be promoted this month, along with support of Fairfax County fulfilling its pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2% each year. Fairfax is 21 ½% behind its commitment! More information contact Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (www.faithforclimate.org).

- **Interviewing families**, developing brief vignettes for posting about what families are doing to reduce energy use – video best, maybe photos for display and for UUCF website. Rita Roth suggested idea and will start interviewing. Recruit from table, best to shoot videos right at the table with your smartphone and send to Rita.

February: Carbon Footprint: Food and Water (workgroup: Bill, Sophie, Josh, Judy, Bruno, Mike, Loretta)

- **Send Eric Sticker Ideas:** Eat less meat, Vegetarian, Vegan, Cut Food Waste, Buy local, buy organic, seasonal food, avoid processed food, compost, eat leftovers, meatless Monday, grow your own, garden, Cut out beef, cut out lamb, cut out nuts, shower, full loads of dishes, full load clothes wash,
- **Promotional and engaging material for the table in commons – FOOD – Cookies?**
 - Hydroponic gardening display - Judy Gallimore will bring in
 - MOMs samples, good products that are healthy, food at the table, healthy options, samples. Vegan eating healthy on a budget. Sophie
 - Display of environmental impact of food. iPads or multiple laptops to show the environmental impact of food choices – from Nature Conservancy. Bill Repsher will follow up. Bill will take a week in February.
 - Vegetarian, vegan cookbook for UUCF – Sophie Zager will lead. Need to recruit computer and editing savvy: Wini.
 - Well-fed world: Lois will find out more
 - Water impact of food production. Bill Repsher
 - Composting, gardening, worms! – Jerry Poje (Judy will follow up to get him to bring his worms)
 - Mushroom logs – Eric to bring in Shitake mushroom logs
 - Water bottles – Barbara Harding, Loretta Rowe.
- **Ideas** – plastic bottle ban at church, plastic bottle awareness among congregants and RE, show “Tapped” or “Plastic Paradise” and hand out BPA free water bottles. Make vegan cookies to give out, with recipes. Green Spring Master Gardeners, displays on composting; Unity of Fairfax has an organic Sunday, a green insert one time a month, sell reusable water bottles,
- **SRR potential** – Amanda Hitt, whistle blowers on food safety.
- **Social Justice Action?**
- **Vespers** – March 10. They are willing to have us provide food

March – Transportation -- Dave Culp, Catherine Ives

- **Sticker ideas:**
- **Ideas for table:** local bike maps, discount metro cards for seniors, carpool information, bicycle recycling promotion, free conference call lines
- **Walking the talk:** hold Climate Action Group meetings by conference call, committee meetings by video chat; push carbon tax at personal and at government level
- **SRR potential or separate presentation** – military largest user of fossil fuel for transportation, military security and climate change – George Kralovic or other veterans
- **Advocacy opportunities** – letters to the editor, county budget will be under public review during March

April: Carbon Footprint Game: Recycle, Reuse

- **Big push will be the UUCF yard sale.** Joanna Walker leads. Neither FACS nor UUCF Climate Action Group can be a recipient, but we can volunteer hours credited to Social Justice Council.
- **Exploring bicycle recycling,** perhaps other recycling activities associated with Earth Day. Jean and Rita are investigating.

Paris Pledge at UUCF

- Container in the parking lot, installation of LEDs throughout the campus should be done in January
- Savings will be tracked and plotted to show impact on energy use.
- Grant submitted to county, UUCF applying for 501c3 designation

Movie: “Blood on the Mountain” <http://bloodonthemountain.com/>

- April 8 Saturday night as a pre-Earth Day event. Cosponsored by Sierra Club and others. Jean Wright has contacted the director to see about her availability to come. Check with Unity of Fairfax Church about their interest in cosponsoring.

People’s Climate March: Washington DC April 29

- Big march organized by the same people that put together the NYC People’s Climate March. Expect that we will be heavily involved.

Thank you for your financial commitment to the 7th Principle:

- In December more than 100 individuals and families pledged to financially support the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions’ campaign to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Fairfax County. We are still accepting contributions if you didn’t get to it. Please [give here](#).

Other dates into the future:

- Adult Retreat – in fall, very interested in substantive workshops on energy, environment, climate change. Contact Judy Gallimore
- DC healthier food system: February 18. Connect into Food Month?
- Fairfax Spring Fest April 29

Innovations, Shifting to Higher Activism

- West Virginia UUs – Mike Rowe will recontact Megan Foley. If no response, we’ll just go forward with a call.
- Lee Stewart, a member of [UU Young Adults for Climate Justice](#), a member of All Souls Church in DC, and [Beyond Extreme Energy](#) is reaching out to connect with UU young adults (18-35) in the DC area who would like to join in creating a special young adult led service on climate justice for the spring. jlstewct@gmail.com. [703-999-2634](tel:703-999-2634)

- *Energy Masters* – Kathy Price, Jean Wright and Eric Goplerud finished training from Arlington Energy Masters to do home energy audits, weatherization in low income housing. Plans to do first trainings for UUCF in spring 2017. Could be an auction item
- *Connecting with Mindfulness Center* <http://www.mpcf.org/>. Claire Walden will connect us with Thu Nguyen, great sympathy of goals in reverence and centeredness. Potential integrating Buddhist practice, mindfulness and leading meditation into nature.
- *Connecting with businesses* locally that have sustainability commitments and local offices. Claire Walden and Bruno Walker to explore. Natalie Pien from UUC Leesburg and 350.Loudoun also very interested.
- *Getting faith communities to endorse the Citizen Climate Lobby's* call for carbon fee and dividend. Bruno leads. UUCF Climate Action Group will endorse.
- *Develop new communications, table materials* – Katy O'Grady to assist
- *UUA questions for candidates* – submitted. Almost 100 organizations and individuals have co-signed to questions. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G9XR7K7>.
- **Fairfax County Budget: Advocacy opportunity.** February 28. Public testimony on budget. Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions will begin public push for 2% annual reduction in county greenhouse gas emissions. Budget hearings before Board of Supervisors: April 4-6.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 1 from 7:30-9:00 PM, CALL IN NUMBER: 712-432-0361 426443

Eric Goplerud

Article in Washington Post, Sunday, January 22, 2017.

Environmentalists say Fairfax lacks focus on climate-change effort it championed

By [Antonio Olivo](#)

Nearly a decade after the launch of a national campaign to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas carbon emissions, the progress of the effort's chief advocate in the Washington region is murky, environmental groups say.

In 2007, Fairfax County [spearheaded](#) a "Cool Counties" initiative with the Sierra Club to push local communities to reduce their carbon emissions by 80 percent before 2050. Since then, municipalities in the region have been duly reporting their successes under that initiative and a similar one called "Cool Cities," with the District and Arlington and Montgomery counties all showing reductions in greenhouse gases.

Virginia's largest jurisdiction, however, has kept its residents guessing about its progress — and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D) says the county needs to do better.

Environmental groups say the county's enthusiasm for climate initiatives appeared to wane during the recession that began in 2008, weakening tax revenue and depleting funds needed for a variety of services.

Since 2011, Fairfax has followed through on just two of 24 climate-oriented recommendations made by an Environmental Advisory Council appointed by the board of supervisors, including establishing a greenhouse gas reporting system for individual buildings so that environmental groups can pressure property owners to keep emissions down. A similar system already exists for Fairfax County public school buildings.

The county has also released conflicting, out-of-date information about its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Critics say the government hasn't done enough to pressure area businesses to help reduce pollution in a community with 1.1 million residents and some of the nation's most heavily traveled roads.

Bulova said she plans to convene an environmental task force of community and business leaders in hopes of re-energizing private-sector efforts to combat climate change. A similar task force disbanded in 2010 after about a year of work.

"I would say that we've made some significant progress," Bulova said. "But when you look at our website, we probably should include fresher information and describe better where we are."

As part of the regional initiative, jurisdictions are aiming to reduce emissions at least 20 percent from 2005 levels by 2020.

Last year, Arlington County reported that its greenhouse gas emissions were down 15 percent, to 2.3 million metric tons per capita, since 2005. Montgomery County showed an 11 percent drop during the same period, to about 6.5 million metric tons per capita. In the District, greenhouse gas emissions were down by 23 percent in 2013, the most recent year reported.

Fairfax officials haven't monitored their emissions as closely. A "Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory" posted on the county website is dated 2013 and shows emissions increasing 3 percent — to 12.2 million metric tons per capita — between 2006 and 2010.

After environmental groups complained about the available information, the county this month began circulating data that shows a 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gases — to 13.1 million metric tons per capita — between 2005 and 2012. That report includes environmental improvements made at Washington Dulles International Airport. The 2013 report did not include Dulles, which is why the emissions output was lower, Fairfax officials said.

They said the public should focus on region wide data recorded by the Metropolitan Council of Governments, which they called a more accurate reflection of the regional challenges on climate change. That entity shows a half-percent drop in greenhouse gases throughout the region through 2012 — to nearly 69 million metric tons per capita — a measurement that factors in air travel and other aspects of life in the area that aren't specific to one community.

But environmental advocates said the region's largest jurisdiction should be putting out its own up-to-date figures.

“If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it,” said Eric Goplerud, chair of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. The group has criticized Fairfax for not following through on some climate-oriented initiatives — such as studying the local effects of rising sea levels — and points out that surrounding jurisdictions have entire departments dedicated to environmental conservation while Fairfax, with 1.1 million residents and 406 square miles, has a lone “environmental coordinator” charged with overseeing green initiatives.

“This county can be a leader by showing its commitment to reducing its greenhouse gases in its buildings and of its energy uses,” Goplerud said. “It is certainly not showing it. We have a lack of information, a lack of accountability and a lack of leadership to make it happen.”

Kambiz Agazi, the environmental coordinator, says the county has been vigilant about offsetting the impact of its large carbon footprint. Those efforts include promoting walkable, mixed-use developments in some neighborhoods and encouraging developers to use green-friendly technology in their buildings.

A federally mandated \$660 million upgrade of underground water pipes in the county is geared toward reducing the flow of pollutants into tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, and a “waste-to-energy” plant in Lorton produces enough renewable energy to fuel 80,000 homes, county officials say.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), the most conservative member of the board of supervisors, lauded those efforts and dismissed the Cool Counties initiative as “hot air.”

Still, Bulova and others say that working against climate change is something the county takes seriously.

Larry Zaragoza, vice chairman of the county’s Environmental Advisory Council, said launching initiatives in a community as large and complex as Fairfax County can be a lengthy and often laborious process.

“It’s taken time to try to make sure that we have everyone on the same page and that we have a constructive path we can take in order to make progress,” Zaragoza said. “But, we’re not where we want to be. We want to do more.”