

UUCF Climate Action Group



Attendees: Eric Goplerud, Bruce Wyman, Jean Wright, Sophie Zager, Bill Repsher, Mike Rowe, Loretta Rowe, Christine Stencil, Dave Culp, Lois Phemister, Rita Roth, Suzi Foster, Catherine Ives.

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

Sunday	Theme	9:15	11:15	Special draw
19-Feb	Food and Water	Judy (other volunteers)	Loretta, Mike, Judy	Hydroponics
26-Feb	Food and Water	Loretta, Mike, Eric	Bill, Sophie	Free Trade, CSA, Farm Market

UUCF Auction.

Ideas from Christine Stencil – dinner parties, bring a vegan/vegetarian meal to someone’s house, for example offer a meatless Monday delivered to your house. February 10 is deadline for submitting item. Auction painted rain barrels. Sherri McFarland would be great at this. February is heart month. Link in with warm heart, warm homes. BritePaths soliciting funds to help people afford their energy bills.

	Offering	Who will submit
Home energy	<i>Learn to reduce your energy bills and save the planet. What could be better? Jedi Masters Eric Goplerud, Jean Wright and Kathy Price will instruct Energy Master Apprentices to wield the Infrared Light Saber thermometer to find energy force field leaks (poorly insulated windows, door frames), apply weatherization caulk and insulation, low flow aerators and shower heads used by the Moisture Farms to keep out the winds of Tatoonie, and LED lighting approved by Master Yoda. Jedi Knights Academy Saturday, November 18 9:30-11:30 am at UUCF. Breakfast will be provided.</i>	Kathy, Jean, Eric
Food and water	<i>Vegan dinner emphasizing the environmental advantages of vegan diet. The date is tentatively set for July 15, 2017. It will take place at 2202 Loch Lomond Dr., Vienna, Va 22181.</i>	Lois, Wini, Sophie, Joshua
Transportation	<i>Family Bicycle ride (and lunch) for Climate Change with fellow UUs. We’ll meet at <TBD>, ride out as far as we can at our own pace for 30 minutes, turn around, and ride back, one hour round trip. Then we’ll lunch together at the park.</i>	Catherine, Dave, Eric and Terry
Recycling, reuse	<i>UUCF Yard Sale culmination, celebration</i>	Rita, Jean, Clare Warden

Social justice action

	Social justice action
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
Food and water	Plastic bottle ban on UUCF campus, collecting food for food bank for Merrifield, check – BritePaths home energy --

Transportation	Writing letters on bike paths, federal government infrastructure, including alternative energy in scope environmental concerns. Advocate UUCF meetings by phone – cutting gas, time and transportation. Volunteer carbon tax – promote and show what the benefit is. Show what has been done with the monies.
Recycling, reuse	Movie – <i>Blood on the Mountains</i> , April 8, <i>People’s Climate March</i> , April 29. Arranging carpools or buses - Jean. Buses from church – Jean sent question to David Miller. Engaging the Youth Advisory Committee – Eric connect with McKinley. Bike collection – youth group? Scientist march April 22 may be at the same time as the climate march. May 8 yard sale.

Carbon Footprint: February: Food and Water:

- Amazing trifolds developed: 10 reasons to use tap water, pages of facts from water authority, national geographic. Giving away reusable water bottles from Fairfax Water Authority. Loretta, Lois making vegetarian chili and vegan cheese cakes. Vegetarian family recipes. Pete Bridgeman to provide recipes from chili cook-off Feb 11. Carol Jensen to give us UUCF cookbooks. Ask Karen Liggett about providing vegan and vegetarian food at Auction, no plastic water containers, disposable or reusable dishes and silverware. Bill developed a quiz, shared after services.
- Getting people engaged at the table: 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. Display of environmental impact of food. 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)

Carbon Footprint: March – Transportation -- Dave Culp, Catherine Ives

- Sticker ideas: Need them before end of February
- Ideas for table: local bike maps, discount metro cards for seniors, carpool information, bicycle recycling promotion, free conference call lines
- Walking the talk: Climate Action Group holding conference call meetings first Wednesday of month, provide conference call option for third Wednesday of the month meetings.
- SRR potential or separate presentation – military largest user of fossil fuel for transportation, military security and climate change – George Karlovac or other veterans
- Advocacy opportunities – letters to the editor, county budget will be under public review during March

Carbon Footprint Game: April -- Recycle, Reuse, Restore

- Big push will be the UUCF yard sale May 8. Neither FACS nor UUCF Climate Action Group can be a recipient, but we can volunteer hours credited to Social Justice Council.

Events

- **Fairfax county budget witness:** February 28 5:00 pm at Fairfax Government Center. The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions is organizing an event to press county leaders to intensify actions

to reduce the county's carbon footprint. Media will be covering the event. We'll be testifying before the supervisors that evening.

- **Weekend long environmental fair at UUCF** March 24, 25, 26. , led by Suzi Foster property stewardship. Lois Phemister, Jerry Poje, Jean Wright will do outreach to Unity of Fairfax, other UUs, Plant NOVA native group, home environment inviting wildlife into yard, Hometown Habitat movie show during fair. Speakers to talk about bringing natives into landscapes, workday on campus, speakers, movie, labyrinth, Saturday speakers, movies. Connect with Barbara Bacon at UU Mount Vernon who led very similar event. Vegetarian meal on Saturday. Spreading the word – connecting with Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners
- **“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 who is able to come.
- **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.
- **DC healthier food system:** February 18. Connect into Food Month?
- **Fairfax Budget hearings** before Board of Supervisors: April 4-6. Community meetings on budget in every Supervisor's district during March.
- **Fairfax Spring Fest** April 29-30
- **Rebuilding Together** April 29

Paris Pledge at UUCF

- Savings will be tracked and plotted to show impact on energy use. Offer a walk around of the buildings to show what has taken place. Fit with the environmental fair.
- Grant submitted to county, UUCF applying for 501c3 designation. \$5,000 grant received from the county.

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. Put some ideas together. Get a group going.
- 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.
- 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.
- **How Do We Know if We are Doing "Enough"?** Reflections for a future meeting (March?) These are difficult, demoralizing times for climate activists. Lots of evidence that extreme weather is increasing -- flooding, wildfires, drought, heat waves. At the same time, the political climate is becoming ever more challenging. Every day we hear climate leaders calling us to do

more. How do we decide where to focus our energies: inner spirituality? individual action? our town? county? state? federal government? Congress/laws? Executive Branch? We will reach out to Greenbelt Climate Network who have used a facilitated discussion to explore our individual and collective answers to: How Do We Know If We Are Doing Enough? How can we nurture ourselves and one another so we can stay for the long term, maintaining faith and hope?

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 15 from 7:30-9:00 PM, In person and CALL IN NUMBER: 712-432-0361 426443

NOTE: First meeting of the month (March 1) will be by phone, second meeting (March 15) will be in person with conference call capability.

Eric Goplerud