

UUAA Climate Crisis Action Team 2020-2021 Annual Report Update

Submitted by: Jeannine LaPrad, Team Co-Lead

The [Climate Crisis Action Team](#) is a virtual group of UUAA members and friends who share concern about environmental and climate change and seek to take actions, big and small, to move our planet toward a more just and sustainable future.

Congregation members who have participated in activities this year include: Ruth Mohr; Sandy Simon; Ed Lynn; Priscilla Spencer; Hajnal Minger; Julie Dybdahl; Kate Hutchens; Elijah Hatcher-Kay; Larry Junck; Dave Friedrichs; Mark D Sanderson; Ruth Vail; Tom Bauld; Sally Preston; Virginia Preuss; Edith Croake; and Joanie Parker.

Major Highlights May 2020-April 2021

- Due to pandemic much of the climate action and justice work in 2020 happened virtually. For example, we've made the 80 people on the climate action email list aware of the following opportunities for action:
 - *Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County* – advocating for AA City Council to vote to implement and fund its carbon neutrality plan, A2Zero; and showing up for Sunrise and Black Lives Matter.
 - *Detroit and Southeast Michigan* – learning about and advocating for water justice in Detroit tied to COVID-19 and water shut-offs as well as other environmental justice issues.
 - *Michigan* – advocacy regarding the Enbridge Application for Line 5 Project; water and environmental justice; and climate related policies.
 - *National* – advocacy related to the Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America; Increased Environmental Justice Funding through the EPA.
- The team has also been participating in climate action related initiatives and events through [UU Ministry for Earth](#), including sharing information and resources with the congregation for celebrating World Water and Earth days.
- The team has also collaborated with other UUAA members, staff, and ministry group leaders in support of a team of students from the University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Institute who led a project to look for ways for UUAA to achieve carbon neutrality, focusing on the building, and internal processes.
- In late 2020/early 2021 we began discussion with more than two dozen people in the congregation about how to organize our climate action and sustainability work in ways that align with our commitment to climate justice, anti-racism/anti-oppression, and radical welcome.
- To help us evaluate and act on opportunities to lower our carbon footprint, build sustainability, partner with local climate justice groups, and learn from and alongside other UU congregations, in April 2021, we joined the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) [Green Sanctuary 2030](#) certification program.

Future Goals and Plans for 2021-2022

- Our goal for 2021-2022 is to engage many different people and groups inside the congregation in the Green Sanctuary congregational assessment and action planning initiative to advance the vision 20/50 goals related to carbon neutrality and environmental/climate justice.
- Our plan is to work with a steering team to design a series of monthly activities that would allow for some combination of learning, reflection/assessment, and action.
- Groups we plan to include: sustainability/recycling/zero Waste; renewable energy; facilities; mindful eating; YRUU or other UUAA youth group(s); Outdoor Womyn; and Unity.
- We're also continuing to work with the Ann Arbor Climate Partnership; Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice's Caucus on Consumption, Waste, and Climate; the Michigan Interfaith Power and Light; Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network; Michigan Alliance for Justice in Climate; and Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition.