

First UUAA Congregation of Ann Arbor

Climate Cafe

June 18, 2018

Report Part 1

Summary of the event with top ideas gathered from the attendees and request for recommendations for **Top 3**
Actions

UUAA Climate Café Summary Report

Part I

How can we build an urgency-focused climate action program that will thrive, be sustainable and reflect our UU Principles?

This is the question that drove the discussion at the June 10, 2018 Climate Café hosted by the UUAA's Climate Action Group.

Ideas generated at the Café to address this question ranged from specific “what to do” both within UUAA and within the greater Ann Arbor area to thoughts on “how to do”.

The list of ideas attached was harvested from the longer initial one produced during the six small group discussions of the Café question above. This is the list we promised to share with you.

Next Step: The Climate Change group needs to determine the top three items for action. We need your help for this. Please review the items on the attached list. We will send you a Survey Monkey survey via email and ask you to give us your five recommendations for action in the next year by January 31st, 2019. We will compile the results and begin the process to develop action plans.

As you review this list, please also keep in mind this second question:

How can we, the members of UUAA Climate Action Group, act from our UU values, beginning or deepening partnerships and learning to follow the lead of those whose communities bear the brunt of environmental injustice?

This question was raised by the November 11 discussion of the book, *Justice on Earth* which our group co-sponsored with the Challenging Racism Group.

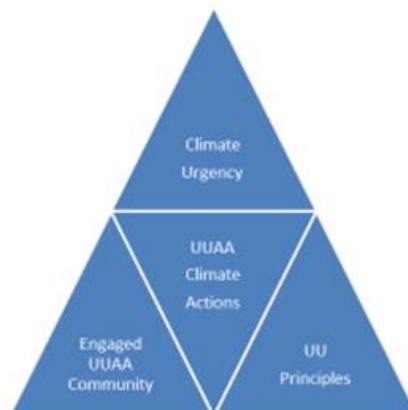
Background of UUAA Climate Action Group's Climate Café:

The Climate Café began as an idea during one of the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) meetings following the showing of Naomi Klein's movie, "This Changes Everything" at the May 2018 First Friday event. Some attending this event asked for the opportunity to talk further about climate change.

In addition, the Steering Committee was looking for ways to attract attention to the issue of climate change within the UUAA congregation and thought that engaging a larger group would help us to come up with a range of ideas for future action. We thought a Climate Café event in June 2018 was an opportune moment in anticipation of the arrival of Reverend Manish and before the coming program year began.

Our hope was to capture our best thinking about what we can do as a spiritual community, guided today especially by our 1st principle, recognizing the worth and dignity of every human being and the 7th principle recognizing the interdependent web of life of which we are a part. Climate change is certainly a global problem, but we live here and must act locally as individuals and as a community to impact the global issue.

In developing the program, we posted and kept in mind the elements of the UUAA Climate Action Group's Triangle of Action. It was developed as the members of the Climate Action Steering Committee considered how the work of this group would differ from a secular approach to climate change.



Café Agenda

- Introduce the attendees to the concepts of a Climate Café, provide the agenda and present the central question we are gathered to answer.
- Attend the Climate Change keynote presentation by Steven Volk on the *State of Michigan's Climate* as one large group (45 minutes)
- Separate into three rooms and in small groups of 4 or 5 persons, answer the UUAA Question and document the answers (25 Minutes)
- Break
- Separate again into three rooms but in different small groups of 4 or 5, and answer the UUAA Question and document the answers (25 Minutes)
- Assemble attendees as one large group for group review and discuss the collected ideas.

Meeting Facts

We promoted the meeting by placing notices in the Weekly Bulletin and the UUAA Newsletter and by one-on-one interactions during Social Hour. Members of the Steering Committee sent personal emails to encourage their UUAA friends to attend. Our collaborating social justice group on Challenging Racism spread the message to their members. "Please try to make the Climate Cafe this Sunday, June 10. We will be working with them to lead a discussion on the book **Justice on Earth.**"

We invited Steven Kolk, a trained facilitator from Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, to provide a keynote on the ***State of Michigan's Climate*** to kick off the day.

The Question

Central to the concept of a Café event is the Question or Questions that the small groups will discuss for 25 minutes and report out on. We elected to focus on only one question and to repeat the small group exercise two times for that question but with different group members each time. After deliberation and modification, the CCSC decided on this question.

How can we build an urgency-focused climate action program that will thrive, be sustainable and reflect our UU Principles?

The format for the group discussion consisted of an introduction by one of our leaders followed by small group gatherings in three rooms, a short break followed by the second small group gathering.

Participant Answer Process

During the small group gatherings, we captured the answers to the question on large Post-It note pages pasted on the room walls. The last segment of the day was where the total group reassembled in one room with all the Post-It note pages on the walls. Each individual circled the room, reading the comments written by the members of the six small group sessions and selected three or four of the ideas most important to them and wrote them on 8 ½ x 11 cards. These then became our “Top Ideas”.

Below is the list that contains the 53 Top Ideas generated that day. You will see similarities in the entries. They are roughly grouped but not specifically identified as a group.

Top Ideas Harvested from All Small Group Responses

1. Make it relevant to people: How does it affect them? What is the single thing we can do to have the greatest impact?
2. What lessons can we learn from WWII when the country rallied together?
3. How can young people experience JOY (with regard to this [working on climate change]?) And efficacy
4. Energize and involve youth (it's their world): church totally Green as example (interfaith presentation)
5. Urgency driven by economics! Make unsustainable expensive
6. Imaginations (not capture, LIBERATE)
7. Needs to capture the imagination of people
8. Enthusiasm is KEY how to generate it?
9. Education, Imagination, Stories.
10. Teach long-term thinking
11. Collecting a variety of people with talents (writers as well as scientists)
12. Enhance scope by drawing from multi-disciplinary groups including arts, music along with science and children and youth inspire and provide theme of climate of our planet.
13. Involve the arts
14. Build on our UU capacity to move beyond self-interest
15. Solutions: set short, medium, long-term goals; action plans, capture imagination

16. Have measurable projects that can be limited by achievable objectives (don't know what they are).
100% renewable church, e.g., wind, solar will give credibility to your group
17. Quantifiable goals and dates
18. To generate action: mine the talents of UUAA congregants, of people affected by climate change
19. Be mindful of people most affected, e.g., Poor People's Campaign
20. Develop action Plan for UUAA
21. Point people / groups to move forward and sustain efforts
22. Find intersectionality with other groups at UUAA; how does Climate Change affect them [their work]?
23. Partnering with other groups is important
24. Partnerships
25. Partner within and outside church
26. Partner with other groups in UUAA and community
27. Read/discuss/action "Justice on Earth" [book discussion co-sponsored with Challenging Racism Group, 11/11/18]
28. Work with city
29. Green building code in AA
30. Launch petition drive for adoption of green building standards/code requirements in AA and Washtenaw County
31. URGENT IN AA; measurable; solar; partnering with all intersections UUAAJJ, CCL; urgency how to get people to see why they must get involved
32. UUAA and Ann Arbor 100% sustainable model congregation/city work with mayor.
33. Work with UU Church including youth; encourage people to donate \$500 for a solar panel for church roof
34. Goal – UUAA be totally renewable energy by 2025 and publish progress. Promote UUAA success stories
35. 100% renewable energy for UUAA; PROMOTE 100% RENEWABLE
36. Become energy independent
37. 100% renewable energy
38. Involve ministers in the effort;
39. Promote recycling in UUAA, e.g., recycle bins, and develop church policy of use of paper/plastic products
40. Reduce waste
41. Build on things UUAA has had success with, e.g., solar panels
42. Build on solar panel success
43. Promote more energy efficiency, e.g., insulation, solar, LED lights etc
44. Inform congregation of local impacts of Climate Change
45. Provide simple list of specific actions for UUAA congregation: protect our children
46. Stay home Sunday service via webcast, save \$100s in gas
47. Support Climate Action Lobby
48. Promote renewable energy by implementing a carbon fee policy
49. More discussion about climate actions
50. Establish regular interfaith events to promote climate action

51. Organize rallies and protests against fossil fuel plants
52. Engage in political actions
53. In our nation we have climate deniers and climate denied will not succeed; climate despair poses a problem as well. Climate change is multi-generational; we must strive on its behalf whether or not our efforts can reverse it.

Next Steps: The Climate Change Steering Committee will determine the top three items for action following completion of the survey. To augment the work of the Climate Café attendees, we will also obtain broader congregational input by surveying members of the Climate Change large email group.

Part II of the UUAA Climate Café Summary Report will re-present the entire list of the 53 actions, the specifics for the proposed Top 3 actions, the goals and measures associated with each and the projected time lines.

Thank you for your participation in this important event.

UUAA Climate Change Steering Committee