

Environmental Justice Team

Purpose / Mission Statement: “UUC will be dedicated to preserving and protecting the earth. In our work, we will combine service, advocacy for structural change, and a focus on environmental justice; we will promote environmental justice for the peoples of the earth”

We support a mission of our congregation to *transform our community and the world*

We support a vision of our congregation to *join with other organizations and faiths to work for just causes.*

Members and chair: Richard Ashley, Bill Baker (co-chair), Alan Moore (co-chair), Helen Renqvist, Janet Sawyers, Mary Virginia Woods, and Rev Pam (ex officio)

Achievements and activities from the year:

- We continue to meet monthly on 4th Thursdays in the Library at 4:30
- In May, we wrapped up our Environmental Justice Film Series for the year, to return in September in collaboration with other social justice committees. Several guest facilitators and many visitors joined our screenings and discussions
- We prepared and submitted a solar energy proposal to the Board
- Several of our members and other congregations strengthened their advocacy against the Mountain Valley Pipeline
- We set up a Promise Tree to help nurture our individual and collective commitments to the Earth
- We continue to work on the Green Sanctuary renewal process
- We continue to work with other organizations such as Appalachians Against Pipelines, Climate Change Lobby, Interfaith Alliance for Climate Justice, Interfaith Power and Light, Last Plastic Straw, Sustainable Blacksburg, Stand with Union Hill
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Our Long-term goals:

1. UUC members, families and friends will become more aware of how their choices impact the environment and advance/counter climate change
2. UUC will assess and address its internal practices related to the environment and climate change
3. UUC will offer multi-generational programs on, and opportunities for, environmental stewardship
4. UUC will partner with other organizations (local and global) for service and advocacy efforts on behalf of environmental stewardship and issues related to climate change.
5. As we develop programs and activities, we will consider how environmental policies and activities affect people living in their path/nearby. We will consider class aspects of decisions.

Lessons learned / short-term goals

- Improve communications with the congregation and our public partners
- Center youth and marginalized voices
- Better support of congregation to engage in advocacy efforts at both the global scale (air & water stewardship, population) and the local scale (Mountain Valley Pipeline, open burning at the Radford Arsenal)

UUC Climate Change & Environmental Justice - WHAT CAN I DO RIGHT NOW?	
<u>Reduce Carbon Footprint:</u> improve efficiency and conserve compost and recycle waste less food / eat less beef say NO to plastic drive the speed limit use public transportation divest and invest go solar / hybrid buy carbon offsets	<u>Support Climate Science and Policies:</u> study explain to others support climate-wise officials and initiatives support policies to price fossil fuels correctly support research: biofuels, renewables, batteries, carbon capture support strengthening of U.S. commitment to accords support efforts to reduce emissions support organizations increase charitable giving