

UUAA Climate Crisis Action Team 2019-2020 Annual Report Update

Submitted by: Jeannine LaPrad, Team Co-Lead

The Climate Crisis Action Team is a group of over 70 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.

The Climate Crisis Action Team's time and focus between May and August 2019 was on learning from our activities in 2018-2019, including working with the outcomes of a climate café held in June 2018 and a book discussion of *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class and the Environment*, co-edited by Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom which was co-convened in November 2018 with the Challenging Racism Group. Through these two events members of the congregation generated a list of potential [actions](#) that form the basis for ongoing planning, community engagement, and collective action for our team.

During the same timeframe, Tom Bauld transitioned leadership responsibilities for the team to Jeannine LaPrad and Kate Hutchens. Throughout the transition and the remainder of the year, other members of the steering committee and the congregation have provided critical thought leadership for this work. For example, Ruth Mohr, Larry Junck, Dave Friedrichs, Carrie Hatcher-Kay, and Brian Chambers each have made important contributions and connections to other work and partnerships inside and outside the congregation.

Major activities for 2019 include:

- Our Climate Crisis Action Group was one of the sponsors of the September 20th, 2019 Global Climate Strike rally in Ann Arbor. Since then we've been connecting in with UUA and a broad new vibrant coalition that has come together through the climate strikes that includes amazing youth led groups like the [Sunrise Movement](#) and others.
- On November 21, 2019, the UUAA Climate Crisis Action group sponsored a forum to raise awareness about the ways in which climate change is affecting the Great Lakes and what we can do as residents of Michigan to help heal and protect them. More information about this is on our [climate crisis action team web page](#).
- 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 and taking local action regarding water injustice in Detroit that was exacerbated tied to COVID-19.
- We have also been an active member of the [A2 Climate Action Partnership](#) and many of us have been involved in the planning process to help create the [A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan](#) a plan that invests in the resilience of people and place and doubles down on our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an effective and just way.
- We have also been participating in the [UUAA Vision 20/50 project](#) through which many members of our beloved community have shared their voices and vision for strengthening our environmental and climate justice commitment and action.

Our vision/goal for 2020-2021 is to encourage a core group of members to work together as part of the Vision 20/50 action planning process to build new partnerships inside and outside of the congregation and ensure we're acting together in just, equitable, and sustainable ways.