

UUAA Climate Crisis Action Team

2021-2022 Annual Report, May 2022

Submitted by: Sandy Simon, Climate Action | Climate Justice Leadership Team

UUAA has greatly increased focus on our Vision work in 2021-22 and the Climate Action | Climate Justice team organized a lot, learned a lot and took part in a lot more than will fit into this annual report.

This year the *Climate Crisis Action Team* was combined with the Climate Action | Climate Justice team that is guiding the work on the climate/ environment goals in our [Congregational Vision](#). The ClimateAction listserv is provided with updates and asked to contribute ideas to and volunteer to help with new climate projects at UUAA. They are also informed about opportunities to engage in local/ national calls to action and webinars, etc. New members are always welcome! (contact climate@uuaa.org).

Major Highlights April 2021-May 2022

- In April of 2021, UUAA enrolled UUAA in the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) [Green Sanctuary 2030 re-certification program](#). (We were certified under an earlier GS program in 2003). This process helps 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. The process emphasizes the need for congregational cultural transformation so that every part of the congregation is involved in climate work in some way. Transformation is also focused on promoting collaborative work within UUAA groups and with our city, county and state non-profit groups.
- From September thru January we collected wonderful ideas and climate-related data about our congregation through a survey, the fall Gathering Table and meetings with groups from Congregational Life, worship and climate justice. This trove of information will inform our roadmap of climate action and justice projects over the next years.
- We have spent much of this year exploring many forms of collaboration and outreach and are happy to find that UUAA is already on the road to transformation:
 - there are increased group collaborations and multi-group dialogs going on at UUAA;
 - the climate leadership team participates in the "Ann Arbor 2030 District HoW" (Houses of Worship)
 - We share resources with our GS 2030 "cohort" of US and Canadian UU congregations;
 - We have been sharing information with Temple Beth Emeth's Dayanu Circle that has overlapping climate projects. We hope to expand to other local congregation's climate groups.
 - We have connections with Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice programs, the Michigan UU Justice Network, Interfaith Power & Light, and non-faith-based groups working on climate justice issues.
- We have collected and posted many climate/ environmental resources for the congregation—available on the website (uuaa.org/climate) – most are resources created for the fall Gathering Table.
- We have hosted monthly climate meetings and events, most open to the whole congregation;
- *New* - a "Green Corner" weekly and monthly green tips column now runs in our Weekly News and Newsletter-- in response to congregant requests in the climate survey and this year's climate discussions.
- We began learning more about Climate Justice outreach to the wider community. In January our team hosted a forum for community organizers, leaders, and activists from the Michigan Alliance for Justice in

Climate, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, Michigan UU Social Justice Network, and the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice to learn what their work looks like and how UUAA might interface.

- We will be participating in the end-of-year vision progress reflection and celebration events organized by the Vision Steering Committee.

Future Goals and Plans for 2021-2022

- Complete and get UUA feedback on our GS 2030 Opportunity Assessment, while we are simultaneously creating our Action Plan and getting many of those plans under way.
- Implement suggestions from the U of M Graham Sustainability Institute Report and UUAA's June energy audit – Dependent on results of the capital campaign.
- Continue to explore climate justice opportunities in our outside community.
- Continue to locate UUAA leaders who have passion for some of the Climate Action / Climate Justice prioritized projects... over the next year and more.
- Continue key collaborations with the UUAA Food Justice Group, Pastoral Care, SGD and vision groups.

Climate Action | Climate Justice Leadership Team: Jeanine LaPrad, Ruth Mohr (co-chairs) and Kate Hutchens, Ed Lynn, Sandy Simon