

UUC-EJT Climate Action Programming Updates  
Greg Evanylo, Chair – Climate Action Committee  
November 2, 2020

The following are updates from the UUC-EJT Climate Action Planning Teams reported in September-October, 2020.

Energy Team (Leaders: Jim Flowers, Bill Baker)

1. The Energy Check has been completed but requires \$800 to pay for the report & recommendations in order to prioritize what steps can be performed to increase the energy efficiency of the building.

Plans for addressing solar are:

1. The outlook for solar is good and will be great if there is a federal administrative and senate majority change in January 2021.
2. We need to understand the carbon footprint of solar panel production and recycling. Bob Lineberry performed the C footprint calculations that needs to be evaluated. The feasibility of recycling solar panels is still being discussed in the literature.
3. We need to become knowledgeable about solar legislation at local, state and national levels.
4. We need to understand how to purchase solar without placing undue burdens on budgets and people. Wayne Neu will request a price estimate for solar panels from a local vendor.
5. Once we have adopted solar, we need to encourage other congregations to do the same by sharing performance and savings data via in-person and online communication platforms. Part of this would be education on health effects of fossil fuel burning.
6. We may need to replace our roof before adding solar. Dick Luke may be able to offer advice on this.

Landscaping (Leaders: Sally Pfeiffer and Mary Ratliff; Liaison: Susan Baker)

1. Under the direction of Susan Baker, 16 trees have been planted this summer and fall. Leaves are used as mulch in designated areas. Our leaf blower and hedge trimmer are electric (rechargeable battery operated), and Susan is researching a battery operated chain saw.
2. Susan reported (upon querying from Chrissy Teets) that there is a dual-compartment compost cage on the upper lawn that receives landscaping brush. Because the brush does not undergo any size reduction and is not combined with other feedstock to ensure ideal decomposition, composting is not efficient. In order to perform efficient composting, people will need to volunteer to maintain the bin, including proper blending of feedstock, mixing, and emptying for use, with or without screening. Greg Evanylo has volunteered to take on this task.

Recycling (Leaders: Arthur Snoke and Chrissy Teets)

Chrissy reported:

Montgomery County

1. Town of Christiansburg is closing all of its recycling drop off sites.
2. [Also, from the Montgomery County website](#): AS OF JULY 1, 2020, MRSWA WILL NO LONGER PROVIDE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS, UNIVERSAL WASTE RECYCLING (INCLUDING ALL ELECTRONICS) OR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. (they have also discontinued shredded paper and book recycling). Panel will discuss changes to local recycling: [See here](#)

#### NRV

3. [Sustainable Blacksburg recycling page](#): Includes information and resources
4. [Freecycle](#): Put up items no longer needed or ask for something that you need
5. [Waste resources in NRV](#): A list made in 2017 of places to recycle items in the NRV that cannot be taken by single stream
6. [Trex Plastic bag recycling](#): Locations on page – Arthur Snoke and Joe Powers continue to work on this project.
7. [New River Creative Reuse Center](#): Takes different materials (list changes) for kids projects.
8. [YMCA thrift store](#): List of what can be recycled there is at bottom of page.
9. [Best Buy](#): Best buy takes a lot of different household electronics for recycling (list in link).
10. [Food Lion](#): They are supposed to take plastic film, but I'm not sure if this is still happening.

#### Outside NRV

11. [TerraCycle](#): Provides a box for a lot of different things that someone/ a congregation might use a lot of, however many of them are paid recycling. The front page has a list of free boxes.
12. [Crazy Crayons](#): Takes used/ unwanted crayons. You pay shipping.
13. [Ring Leader Recycling Program](#): Free program for helping recycle plastic drink rings.
14. [Gimme 5](#): They take #5 plastic (they provide a box, you pay to ship). They use the plastic to make stuff they sell.

#### Advocacy (Leaders: Janet Sawyers, Lisa and Greg Evanylo)

1. A Sunday Circle event featured a member of the local Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), Ingrid Mans, who explained how citizens can make a difference by lobbying their congressional representatives. UUC-NRV members were encouraged to join.
2. A training workshop will be held, either in-person or online, to show how to join the CCL and lobby congressional reps.

#### Education and Communication (Leaders: Dick Bauman and Clyde Teets)

1. Dick and Clyde regularly share climate change announcements via Slack and the UUC-EJT listserv.

#### Spiritual (Leader: Pam Phillips)

Nothing to report