

2017-2018 Green Task Force Annual Report

Chair: Lisa Petrie

Members: Jan Creamer, John Glasheen, Larry Kelland, Marie Schopac, Robert Malin, and Suzanne Marcy. Carolyn Hurdis was a member until this spring, then left to lead the Racial Justice Committee along with Penny Hall.

Goals: To help protect the interconnected web of life through education, advocacy, and action within the congregation, in the community, and beyond.

Activities/Accomplishments, May 2017-April 2018

Organized the **Local Foods Banquet at UUCSC**, 9/22/17, a potluck featuring local and/or sustainable foods, with live music and information on how to get involved in environmental action locally.

Worked with the Social Justice Team to organize the **Legislative Forum at UUCSC**, 11/8/17, and presented on environmental issues.

Partnered with Fossil Free RI and Southern RI Progressive Alliance to organize a local viewing of climate action non-profit **350.org's nationwide "Fossil Free Fast" Live-Stream Event** at The Collective in Peace Dale on January 31. Bill McKibben and a diverse group of climate and environmental leaders from around the world discussed how they are working toward a swift and just transition away from fossil fuels.

Partnered with Tomaquag Museum to organize a **screening of the documentary AWAKE, A Dream from Standing Rock**, on 2/20 at UUCSC. After the film, Loren Spears led a discussion with 3 local Water Protectors and film co-Director Myron Dewey about the film, the significance of the action at Standing Rock, and what people could do to support indigenous rights and fight fossil fuel expansion.

Hosted a talk by Rick Enser on **Biodiversity and the Burrillville Power Plant** on 4/11 at UUCSC about the biological significance of the forest where the power plant would be built and the devastating impacts it would have.

Partnered with Bethany Vaccaro and UUCSC Youth to organize the **Earth Day service, "Borrowed from Our Children: Climate Change and Intergenerational Justice**, at UUCSC on 4/22.

Our members are also active in Nature's Trust Rhode Island, Fossil Free Rhode Island, the UU Legislative Ministry of Rhode Island, RI Interfaith Power & Light and especially its South County Action Team, and the Environment Council of Rhode Island.

Through these connections, we helped to organize several other events, including the **Annual Meeting of the UU Legislative Ministry** at Westminster Unitarian on March 18, a **screening of the Leonardo di Caprio's new documentary "From the Ashes"** at Peace Dale Congregational Church on June 23, and an **Interfaith Gathering on "Climate Action Close to Home"** at Peace Dale Congregational Church on April 5.

Our members participated in and helped to publicize numerous other environmental events organized by RI Interfaith Power & Light, Solarize RI, the Environment Council of RI, Climate Action RI, and others. We testified at the **People's Hearing to Stop Offshore Drilling** on 2/28, and gave testimony at several other public meetings against the LNG facility and the power plant and in support of Vineyard Wind, a large off-shore wind project proposed for Massachusetts.

Goals for 2017-2018: To continue to raise awareness about the interconnectedness of all living things and the urgency of the climate crisis; promote renewable energy and sustainability in all facets of life; oppose the power plant and the LNG facility; and promote environmental justice by supporting the struggles of low-income individuals and people of color for clean air, clean water, healthy food, etc.