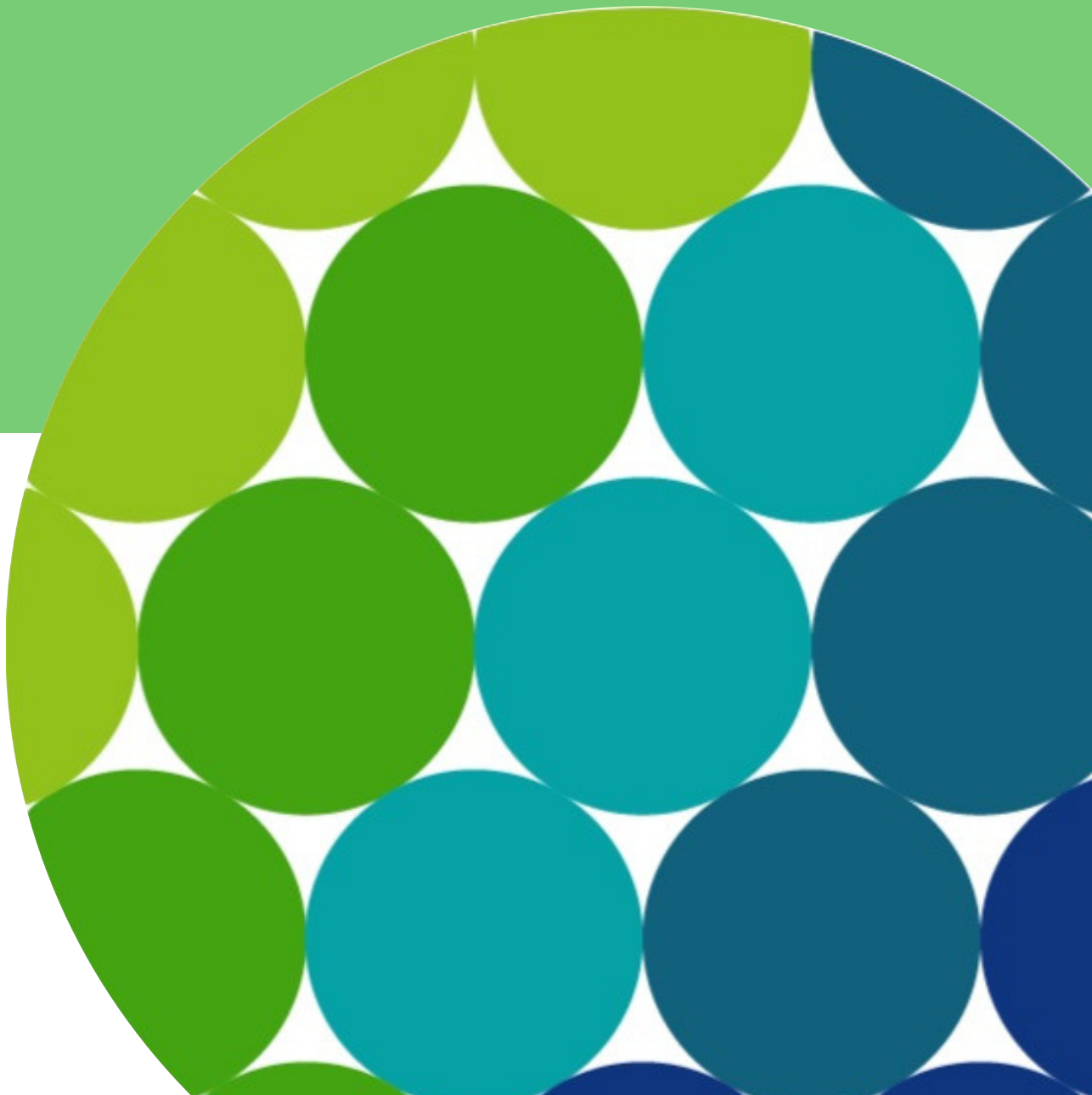




# Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018



# MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

This past year, all of us working together in the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) have achieved notable successes, which the Annual Report describes. FACS is a growing, nonpartisan, interfaith organization of more than 70 congregations in Northern Virginia. We believe that climate change is the urgent moral challenge of our time.

The world's scientists emphatically agree. We have about 12 years left to make dramatic changes. That's the clear message from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. To avoid some of the most devastating impacts of climate change, the world must slash carbon emissions by 45% by 2030, and completely decarbonize by 2050. The IPCC report states: "urban and rural municipalities are key to developing and reinforcing measures for reducing weather- and climate-related risks." Thirteen U.S. government agencies issued the National Climate Assessment in 2018, which concluded that climate change is already seriously affecting America's health and wealth. The report shows that Virginia is already experiencing longer and hotter heat waves, extreme storms, tidal surges along our coasts and rivers, and public health threats from insects and degraded air quality.

Climate change is solvable. We must all pitch in. For the last five years, FACS has worked with local government, civic leaders and congregations in Northern Virginia to craft local solutions.

We are now well into year two of the Fairfax to Zero Campaign, an effort led by faith communities in Northern Virginia to cut county- and region-wide greenhouse gases by at least 2% every year, reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. In 2019, FACS' Fairfax to Zero campaign will continue to press local elected officials to become leaders in cutting greenhouse gas emissions. We will partner with all sectors to make this happen – businesses, developers, healthcare and educational institutions, governments and congregations.

Religious leaders of all faiths are calling all of us to act. Pope Frances exhorted: "There is no time to lose: We received the earth as a garden-home from the Creator; let us not pass it on to future generations as a wilderness." In a response to Laudato Si', more than 300 rabbis wrote: "We call for a new sense of eco-social justice – a tikkun olam that includes tikkun tevel, the healing of our planet."

Together we can.



ERIC GOPLERUD

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Goplerud

Scott Peterson

Rev. Dr. Jean Wright

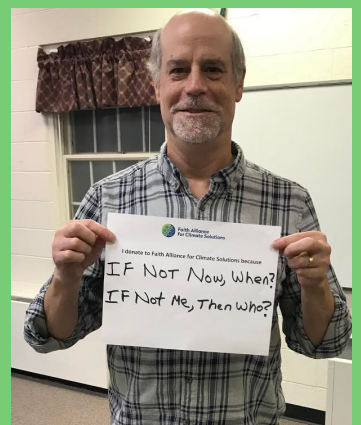
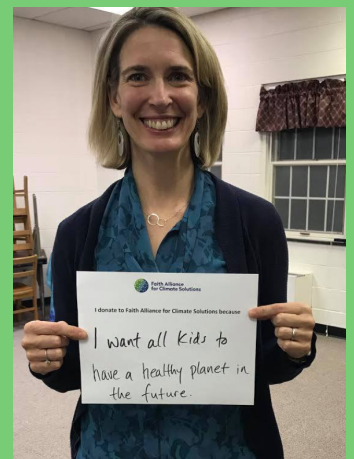
David Kepley

Joe Cohen

John Cartmill

Rev. Sarah Scherschligt

Jaydee Hanson



# ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

FACS is launching year two of the Fairfax to Zero Campaign, an effort to call on Fairfax County elected leaders to enact policies that will reduce greenhouse gasses by 2% every year, reaching carbon neutrality in Fairfax County by 2050.

In the first year of Fairfax to Zero FACS has made notable progress:

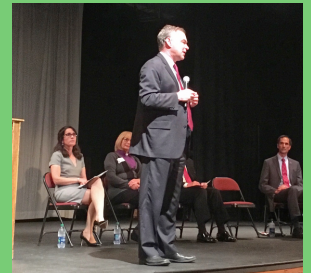
The Fairfax Board of Supervisors adopted its first ever County Operations Energy Strategy, allocating \$4.5 million to begin implementing the plan.

The Fairfax School Board committed to a feasibility report on solar for public schools, committed to installing solar panels on three schools, unanimously supported a resolution on climate change, and is working with the Board of Supervisors on a joint energy legislative package for Richmond.

In September, we hosted the Virginia Climate Crisis Forum with Virginia's two Senatorial candidates, more than 400 heard their views on solving climate change.

## VA CLIMATE CRISIS FORUM

FACS hosted the Virginia Climate Crisis Forum featuring U.S. Senator Tim Kaine and Corey Stewart, Chairman At-Large, Prince William County Board of Supervisors.



FACS is reaching policy makers on both sides of the aisle to make climate change a nonpartisan issue.



*David Kepley spoke at the Virginia Energy Plan public listening session*



*Rev. Dr. Jean Wright provided testimony at the Fairfax County EQAC meeting*



*Meg Mall testified in support of the Fairfax County 4.5 million energy strategy*



*Attended budget hearings to request funding for a community-wide climate action plan*



*FACS' Advocacy Teams met frequently with county officials*



*Supported young people successfully advocating for solar on Fairfax schools*



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FACS put on a variety of programming for congregations across Fairfax County. Additionally, FACS created a resource handbook for congregations, promoted the Carbon Footprint Game and is now consulting congregations one-on-one with our Ambassador Program.



## SHOWCASE & AWARDS

*A showcase and celebration of individuals and congregations across Fairfax*



## PAUL HAWKEN

*An intimate donor event with the editor of Drawdown*



## ZERO WASTE CHURCH

*Rev. Stephanie Allen spoke about how congregations can reduce their carbon footprint*



## PLASTIC FREE FAIRFAX

*A tour of the recycling facility in Fairfax in conjunction with the Plastic Free Fairfax Campaign*



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*Grandmother Teresa and Juanita Cabrera Lopez spoke about the link of faith and environmental justice*



## ENERGY JUSTICE WORKSHOP

*An Energy Justice Workshops was held at Messiah United Methodist Church*



## EARTH DAY

*Church of the Holy Comforter celebrated Earth Day with a day of work*



## TABLING

*FACS tabled at a variety of events including the Association of United Jain and Hindu Temples Diwali Mela*



## CARBON FOOTPRINT GAME

*A demonstration of the game at an interfaith event*



# IMPACT

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70 CONGREGATIONS



2,000 PEOPLE OF FAITH



**JILL BARKER, ECOACTION ARLINGTON**

*"FACS is an important resource in the Northern Virginia that is bringing knowledge of energy efficiency to the faith community to benefit not only houses of worship, but to help eliminate residential energy poverty in our region. FACS trains volunteers to install energy efficiency devices in low income homes providing cost savings to the residents and increasing their comfort while reducing carbon emissions. FACS is instrumental in leading congregations to live out their love of all people and of God's creation."*



**PAT HYNES, FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
BOARD MEMBER, HUNTER MILL DISTRICT**

*"FACS has been an encouraging, effective partner in the school board's advocacy for climate action. Thanks to FACS and other student and community activists, the school board has elevated the conversation within FCPS about shifting to renewable energy in school facilities. As a result, there is new urgency, which we anticipate will produce real results in the coming weeks and months."*



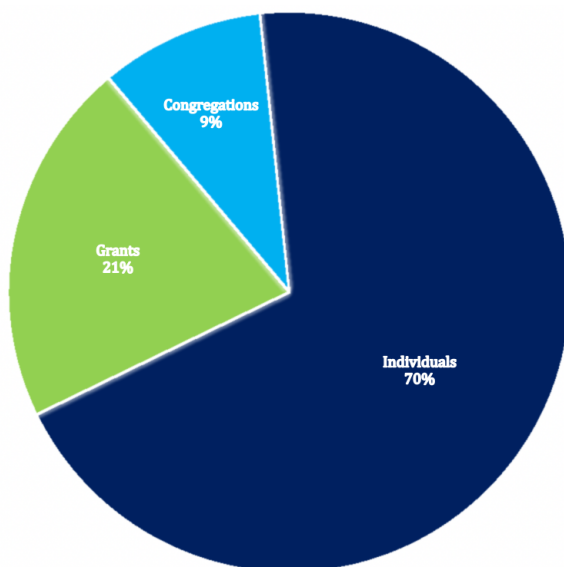
**ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*"We launched the Care for Our Common Home Ministry at St. John Neumann Church in 2016, and FACS has been a valued partner every step of the way. Particularly during our first year, FACS helped to mentor us on setting goals and strategies and getting involved in advocacy at the local level."*

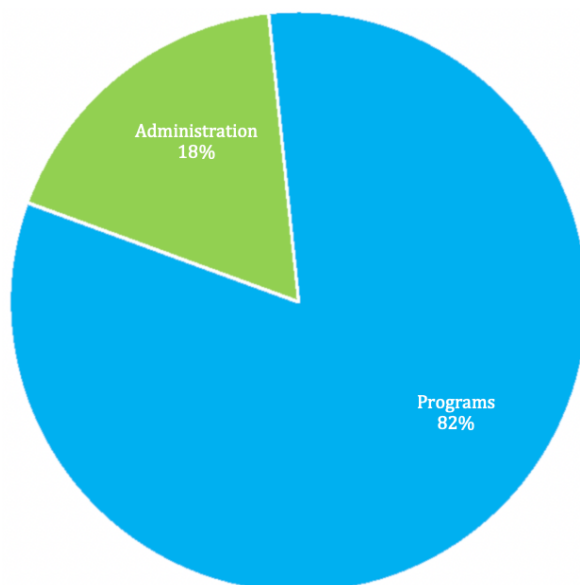
# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, FACS' total revenue for 2018 was \$75,044. Administrative expenses account for only 18% of our overall expenses, meaning 82% of your donations go directly into programs.

## INCOME



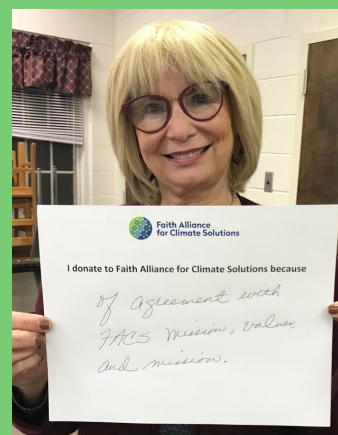
## EXPENSES



*Ed Maibach, Director of George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication, at FACS' donor appreciation event. He noted that "a simple message, repeated often, by a variety of trusted sources" is important to communicating about climate change.*

## MISSION

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions will create a powerful interfaith grassroots advocacy movement in Northern Virginia that motivates concrete actions to move Fairfax to zero carbon emissions by 2050. Creation care will lead to building healthy, resilient, and thriving communities in which environmentally sound choices become the default first choices of individuals, corporations, and the public sector. FACS organizes the power of engaged faith communities to act effectively and advocate for local solutions to reaching zero carbon emissions and adaptation to the effects of climate change, which we view as the urgent moral challenge of our time.



## VISION

Faith communities will lead by example to inspire all sectors of society in Northern Virginia to reduce their carbon footprint to zero by 2050, thus ensuring livable, sustainable, and resilient communities for current and future generations.



# GET INVOLVED

Help us advocate for moral climate policies in Northern Virginia counties and in the Commonwealth. Want to get involved in advocacy or "green" your congregation? Email [info@faithforclimate.org](mailto:info@faithforclimate.org).



## DONATE

Online: [FaithForClimate.org/Donate](https://FaithForClimate.org/Donate)

Mail: Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, P.O. BOX 2012, Reston, VA 20195

## STAY IN TOUCH

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FaithAllianceForClimateSolutions](https://www.facebook.com/FaithAllianceForClimateSolutions)

Twitter: @FaithForClimate

Website: [FaithForClimate.org](https://FaithForClimate.org)

Email: [info@faithforclimate.org](mailto:info@faithforclimate.org)