

# Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019**

# MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

The science is clear. Greta Thunberg and millions of young people in streets call for all of us to act on that science. Climate change is real. People are causing it. It's hurting people right now. We must act now to stop it from getting worse.

How does change come about? Where should we start? The history of progressive social movements in the US -- child labor laws, abolition, women's suffrage, the anti-war movement, civil rights, fair wages—none came from the government. Faith communities were at the front. We no longer have the option of looking away.

In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking about civil rights: "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people." History has put climate change on our plate. We can't walk away from it.

2019 saw the success of many advocacy goals that FACS has worked for over the years. But, as important as advocacy goals are, just as important is how we care about one another as whole people.

Earthcare is a natural fit because stewardship and reverence for the web of life are at the core of every faith. FACS inspires people to take action as individuals, communities and citizens. We can either keep putting our energy into continuing business as usual; or we can choose to use our energy to help bring about a better future.



ERIC GOPLERUD

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Joe Cohen

Mr. Donald Craig

Ms. Laurie Dodd, J.D.

Ms. Ani Fete Crews

Dr. Eric Goplerud

Mr. David Kepley

Mr. Scott Peterson

Ms. Shyamali Roy Hauth

Rev. Sarah Scherschligt

Rev. Dr. Jean Wright



Eric Goplerud receives the *Boomer* award from Leaders in Energy

## Welcome New Board Members



Donald Craig  
Community Activist



Laurie Dodd  
Attorney, Solo Practice



Ani Fete Crews  
Dir. Blessed Tomorrow



Shyamali Roy Hauth  
Legislative Dir. Sup. Alcorn



# ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Our Fairfax to Zero campaign gained momentum during its second year. In response to sustained advocacy by FACS and our partners, the county has dramatically increased its efforts to cut GHGs. In 2019, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and School Board:

- Created and staffed a new Office of Environment and Energy Coordination;
- Allocated the second tranche of \$4 million to implement the County Operations Energy Strategy, approved in 2018;
- Approved and funded a County-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and appointed FACS to the steering taskforce;
- Awarded contracts for solar installations at 113 schools and government buildings, the largest government solar procurement in the nation this year.
- Permanently staffed the Schools' Get2Green environmental stewardship program.

## FACS, A RESPECTED VOICE IN THE COUNTY



FACS Executive Director Meg Mall

FACS' hyperlocal focus on advocacy makes us one of the few organizations that actively works with the Fairfax County Public School Board representatives. Having testified at school board meetings and accompanied constituents to meet with school board representatives, Executive Director Meg Mall was a natural choice for the newly created Joint Environmental Task force.



FACS receives the Environmental Excellence Award from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

## Lifting our voices

FACS joined local marches and the National Climate Strike, as well as sending petitions, postcards & letters.

FACS members spoke at meetings of the County Board of Supervisors, Committees, and the School Board.

Building personal relationships with our District Supervisors is at the heart of FACS, success.



FACS members at the Youth Climate Strike in DC.



Rev. Dr. Jean Wright testifying at the EQAC.



Members of Hunter Mill FACS advocacy team visiting Sup. Cathy Hudgins



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FACS empowers individuals and congregations to learn and take action at home, in their community and in the County.

## Educating

- Over 300 people attended the **Climate Crisis Forum**, hosted by FACS, to discuss Environmental Justice in partnership with IPL and Va Poor People's Campaign. Action items included stopping the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast pipelines.
- FACS board member, David Kepley spoke at the Arlington County Clean Energy Celebration.
- FACS hosted webinars on Solar Investing, CPACE financing, and Solar in your congregation,
- FACS spoke at the Plastic Free Forum.



## Connecting



FACS helped to bring **Climate in the Pulpits** to Va for the first time. Over 60 congregations across the state preached about climate justice, reaching over 4,000 people. FACS hosted the Sustainability Champions Awards and Showcase.



## Taking Action

FACS helps individuals and communities take actions that matter. Pictured:

1. Creek Clean Up with Shyamali Roy Hauth and FACS churches and partners
2. Recycling plastic bags into Trex decking-launch with Unitarian Universalists of Fairfax
3. Local food with youth program at Arcadia Farm
4. Tour of waste processing at Covanta facility.





# IMPACT



75 Faith Communities



2500 People of Faith

## Congratulations to the FACS 2019 Sustainability Champions



**SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK**

**MT. VERNON DISTRICT**

"They [FACS] are informed, highly engaged and easy to work with. Our interactions over the last year and half helped inform the Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter and other environmental advocacy and initiatives advanced by our office. I look forward to our continued collaboration."

Dan Storck, Supervisor, Mt. Vernon District

*Presented by Barbara Bacon, FACS Mt. Vernon District Team Lead*



**UNITY OF FAIRFAX**

**PETE CLIFFORD & RICK HARTLEY**

As a founding and contributing member of FACS since 2015, Unity of Fairfax and its Earthcare Ministry are proud to support the climate change solutions and advocacy work of FACS. They created opportunities for our network, including ones focused on Zero Waste, Plastic Free Fairfax and our first Sustainability Awards program.

For seven years, our EarthCare Ministry has supported the reproduction of Bluebirds by installing nesting houses on the church's five acres, including two new ones last year.



**SOLAR ON THE SCHOOLS**

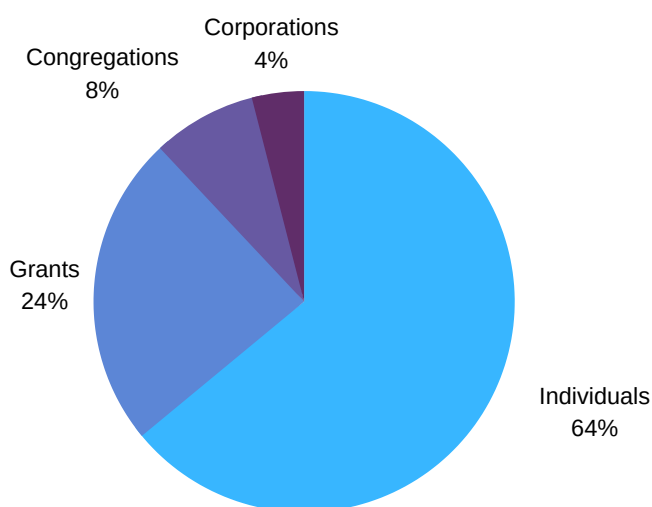
**WENDY GAO & PAT HYNES**

"It has truly been an honor for Solar for Schools to be recognized for the FACS Sustainability Champions award. We are grateful and empowered to see that our school board is taking action on what matters most to our students. Through our driven and passionate students and mentors, who consistently demand more from our representatives, we are proud to see our initiative result in solar funded for 3 schools this year. This would not be possible without the support and efforts of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions." Julia Hakeem, Solar in the Schools, Chair

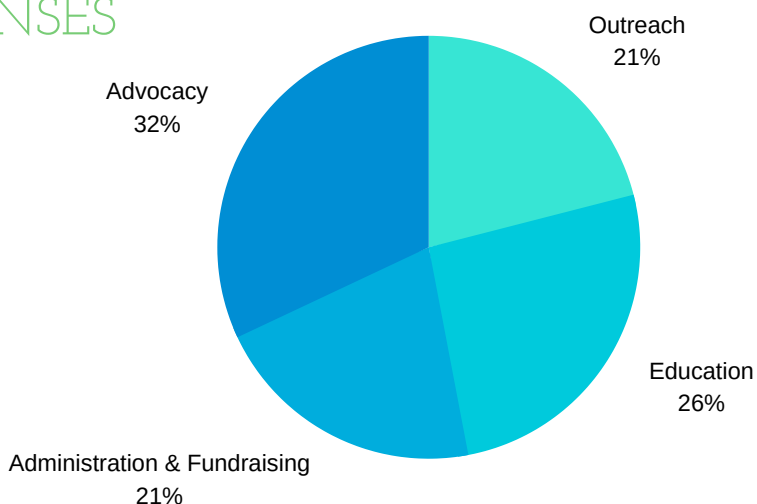
# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, FACS' total revenue for 2019 was \$122,090. Administrative expenses account for only 21% of our overall expenses, meaning 79% of your donations go directly into programs.

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



## 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.



## 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.



### DONOR APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

Kevin Rabinovich, Global Vice President of Sustainability and Chief Climate Officer for Mars, Incorporated (based in Fairfax County) shared his perspectives on why big businesses care about climate change. He shared why bigger problems are sometimes easier to solve, and what the integration of climate strategy and business strategy looks like through an example of Mars' work on renewable electricity.



# 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).



Rev. Paul Wilson



Karenna Gore

## 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

Twitter: [@FaithForClimate](https://twitter.com/FaithForClimate)

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

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

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