We made significant progress together this year. Every day we show the power of mobilized people, inspired by their faiths, to change local climate policies and to lead by example within our faith communities.

FACS' mission is to organize that power to advance local solutions to the urgent moral challenge of climate change. We show up and advocate for meaningful local government actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase community resilience, and address environmental injustice. We deepen faith communities' involvement in climate work within their congregations. We assist faith communities in Virginia and Maryland to come together and create local, interfaith, climate justice hubs.

As a result of our advocacy, local governments developed climate plans and are funding actions to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Dozens of faith communities are working with FACS to cut pollution from their facilities, install renewable energy, cut waste, and green their sacred spaces. As a testament to the local power we have built, Fairfax County turned to FACS to show how the county’s climate plan can be put into practice.

All of our successes are possible because of your prayers, actions, advocacy, and generous financial support - and we have a lot of work still to go.

Join me in sharing this simple message with your friends and family: climate change is real; we are causing it; the effects are harming people right now; it will get worse; and there's hope – and together, we are acting on that hope.

I would like to express personal gratitude for the service of outgoing FACS board members, Pastor Sarah Schersligt, Shyamali Hauth, Ani Fete Crewes, and Anthony Granado for their years of caring for the Earth.

And thanks to all of you who make our mission possible.
The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) was formed to create opportunities for people to act together effectively from their values and moral, spiritual, and religious beliefs. The faith community’s ability to organize large numbers of people, who might not otherwise engage in advocacy, makes it a critical asset to advancing climate justice solutions. Many people are not aware of decisions made at the local level that impact climate policies, yet that is where the effects of climate change are felt most keenly. Persistent, local advocacy grounded in morality is how FACS makes an impact.
Our annual Advocacy Day Workshop featured climate leader Bill McKibben.

We helped to stop Gov. Youngkin’s nomination of Andrew Wheeler for the Sec. of Natural and Historic Resources, through our emails from supporters to state senators.

Thanks to the advocacy of our Alexandria hub and other local groups, the City of Alexandria proposed a new $2M fund for initiatives to address climate change and created a new Office of Climate Action.

Arlington County created a new Office of Climate Coordination and Policy and new investments of more than $4.65M to execute climate resilient programs to combat climate change, in response to persistent advocacy by FACS participants.

Our advocates pushed Fairfax County Public Schools to fulfill climate and energy commitments made in 2021; five months later, the district approved $1.4 million to fund six new staff positions.

Fairfax County formally asked FACS to lead the “Climate Champions” faith sector pilot to implement the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP).

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**OUR OBJECTIVES**

Reduce the Energy Burden in Low-Income Households
Build an equitable community through the expansion of rooftop solar, energy efficiency, and affordable housing with better access to public transportation.

Electrify Transportation to Slash Climate Pollution
Shift from roads to transit, walking, biking, and vehicle electrification. Install charging stations in multifamily communities.

Encourage Action in Public Schools
Install solar panels, purchase electric fleets, increase recycling, reduce solid waste, and train students for green jobs.

Protect and Enhance our Parks and Rural Areas
Focus development to maintain natural spaces in urbanized areas and avoid heat islands. Change land use rules to preserve mature trees.

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**ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Our annual Advocacy Day Workshop featured climate leader Bill McKibben.
- We helped to stop Gov. Youngkin’s nomination of Andrew Wheeler for the Sec. of Natural and Historic Resources, through our emails from supporters to state senators.
- Thanks to the advocacy of our Alexandria hub and other local groups, the City of Alexandria proposed a new $2M fund for initiatives to address climate change and created a new Office of Climate Action.
- Arlington County created a new Office of Climate Coordination and Policy and new investments of more than $4.65M to execute climate resilient programs to combat climate change, in response to persistent advocacy by FACS participants.
- Our advocates pushed Fairfax County Public Schools to fulfill climate and energy commitments made in 2021; five months later, the district approved $1.4 million to fund six new staff positions.
- Fairfax County formally asked FACS to lead the “Climate Champions” faith sector pilot to implement the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP).
In June 2022, FACS hosted its Fifth Annual Sustainability Champions Awards with the theme “Together to Zero” hosted by Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington.

In September 2022, FACS hosted its Seventh Annual Virginia Climate Crisis Forum: “Climate Change is a Health Emergency!”

This year, FACS launched five campaigns in response to Fairfax County asking us to lead the faith sector pilot implementing the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP): Solar Sanctuaries, Creation Care Kitchens, Tree of Life, FACS Transit Corps, and Clean Cars. Solar Sanctuaries creates resilience hubs through energy efficiency, solar, and battery storage. Creation Care Kitchens supports electrifying faith buildings and reducing waste. Tree of Life encourages preserving, restoring, and expanding natural systems, green spaces, and soil quality on faith community grounds. FACS Transit Corps focuses on walking, bicycling, and safe convenient transit. Clean Cars supports electric vehicle adoption.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS!

Individual: Helene Shore
Helene Shore co-founded 350 Fairfax in April 2017. 50 people showed up at the initial meeting, and the group has since expanded to over 1,300 individuals. Helene frequently testifies before the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, and 350 Fairfax was an active participant in the successful effort to impose a 5-cent fee on single-use plastic bags in Fairfax County. She has led Keystone XL pipeline protests and lobbied the General Assembly in opposition to other pipeline projects like the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Faith Community: Bull Run Unitarian Universalists
Since its original accreditation in 2004 as one of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s first Green Sanctuaries, Bull Run Unitarian Universalists has conducted an energy audit, installed PV panels, and equipped their building with motion light sensors and infrared cameras. They’ve purchased carbon offsets and started a carbon footprint challenge to encourage members of the congregation to minimize their footprints. Bull Run UU actually achieved carbon neutrality in 2020 and in 2021! They have maintained a Food Pantry that regularly feeds over 100 families a month.

Youth Award: James Jackson
Inspired by his grandfather, James Jackson decided in 8th grade that he wanted to have a positive impact on our earth. He adopted Bon Air Nature Park in Arlington, where he removed several acres of English Ivy. He participated in a tree planting project, where 400+ native trees were planted. James also serves as Vice President of his school’s Environmental Club, which fundraised to convert his school to all renewable energy. They have raised almost $2,000, which is enough to convert one of his three school buildings to all renewable energy. They plan to continue until their entire school runs on renewables.
Local Business: Ipsun Solar
Ipsun Solar is a leader in clean energy services in the D.C. metro area. The mission-driven Certified B Corporation balances purpose and profit, aiming to fight climate change by installing as many residential, commercial, and utility-scale solar panels as possible. Founded in 2009 by Herve Billiet and Joe Marhamati, Ipsun Solar wants to make solar available to everyone at a cost that is affordable. They have worked to shape solar policy since the company’s beginning to enable community members to more easily install solar and reduce their carbon footprints.

Local Elected Official: Ellen Eggerton
Ellen Eggerton was the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Alexandria and also chaired the energy conservation committee of the Virginia Building & Code Officials Association. In July 2019, she successfully guided the adoption of the city’s updated Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 2040. Ellen also collaborated on the update of the 2019 Green Building Policy for the City of Alexandria with a goal of net zero public buildings, partnering closely with FACS and others. Ellen was an outstanding and persistent advocate for stringent Virginia state building standards for residential and commercial building energy efficiency.

State Elected Official: Janet Howell
During the 2022 legislative session, Senator Howell was a critical defender of clean energy accomplishments. She has been a leader in defending the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and voted for the FACS-initiated bill to allow localities the option of embracing an energy efficiency standard tougher than the Uniform Statewide Building Code. In 2020, she voted for Solar Freedom legislation and convinced Senator Saslaw not to oppose it. In 2021, Howell voted for Green Bank enabling legislation that was originally proposed by FACS.

Together to Zero Thank you to our sponsors!
In September 2022, FACS held its annual Climate Crisis Forum with the theme, Climate Change is a Health Emergency, featuring former Chief Medical Officer of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Fan Tait, and a panel of health and climate experts (below). Supervisor Dan Storck delivered a special message about a new partnership for climate solutions in Fairfax County.

Dr. Fan Tait  
Former Chief Medical Officer  
American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Neelu Tummala  
ENT Physician & Co-director  
Climate Health Institute at George Washington University

Dr. Samantha Ahdoot  
Pediatrician, Pediatric Associates of Alexandria in Virginia

Bobby Scott  
MD Candidate, VCU School of Medicine

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HEALTH EMERGENCY
Thanks to the generosity of our donors and successful grants, FACS’ total income for 2022 was $207,474. Individual giving accounts for over half of our funding. Thank you!

FACS also received $6,900.85 or 3.3% of our total income from our corporate sponsors.
Welcome New Board Members!

Board of Directors

- Dr. Eric Goplerud, Chair
- Mr. Scott Peterson, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Jack Bowles, Secretary
- Mr. Rick Galliher, Treasurer
- Mr. Donald Craig
- Ms. Josephina Duombia
- Ms. Shyamali Roy Hauth
- Mr. Anthony Granado
- Ms. Bailey Kasten
- Ms. Julie Rosenberg
- Ms. Kris Rosenthal
- Rev. Sarah Scherschligt

Our Team

- Andrea McGimsey, Executive Director
- Meaghan Galvin, Community Organizer
GET INVOLVED

Join one of our six Advocacy Hubs: Fairfax County (our flagship), Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, Loudoun County, Northern Shenandoah Valley, and Central Shenandoah Valley.

- Are you ready to join an advocacy team and put faith into action?
- Is your faith community interested in participating in one of our five Climate Champions campaigns?
- Are you interested in volunteering your time and passion to help support FACS’ operational, outreach, and/or program activities?
- Visit FaithForClimate.org/Advocacy or email us at Info@FaithforClimate.org

LETS CONNECT:

“Hope is that faint small bright light that we head for with all our might and all our strength. And when we get discouraged, we take a breath, we fix our eyes on that hope because what is at stake is too valuable to lose.”

- Kathryn Hayhoe

Thank you

We work today for a better tomorrow, and together we are stronger. Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and the time and effort from our dedicated volunteers. Thank you!

Interested in giving options? Visit FaithforClimate.org/Give.