

Report of the Environmental Action Team for the Board's March 20, 2021 Meeting

Since the December Board meeting, the Environmental Action Team has finalized its priorities for 2021 and begun advocacy work in support of those priorities. The Team's priorities stress the need to pursue rapid decarbonization in all sectors of the economy, while at the same time making sure that the measures adopted serve to alleviate income inequality, wage stagnation, the historic impacts of racism, and the needs of indigenous communities.

We were pleased to see that the Biden Administration's environmental and climate priorities also recognize the pressing need for a just and equitable transition to a clean economy, and believe there will be good opportunities to pursue these objectives. In January we posted an action alert urging that legislation addressing the climate crisis also address the enormous disparities in health, economic inequality, and job opportunities that have dramatically worsened during the pandemic.

The recently-approved grant from UUFPP contemplates working on environmental justice issues in partnership with other UU groups that share our concerns and with impacted communities. Accordingly, we are now working closely with UUMFE and UUJEC to plan an Earth Month WHWN as part of the Season of Sacred Activism efforts of these groups. We will ask UUs to "Tell Congress to Support a Just Transition to Climate-Friendly Agriculture" and will highlight two bills -- the Justice for Black Farmers Act and the Climate Stewardship Act -- as examples of legislation that addresses racial injustice and economic unfairness while also fighting climate change and environmental degradation. This WHWN effort will be featured at this year's UU@UN Intergenerational Seminar on April 9-11, entitled "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability." We also will be looking for impacted communities to partner with, consistent with the grant.

This month, members of the EAT participated in planning and executing an event on the National Mall to "Sound the Alarm for Climate Action" and to publicize 10 demands. One of those demands -- to commit to and fund the U.S. fair share of the Green Climate Fund designed to assist less-developed nations transition to clean energy economies -- is featured in a UUSJ action alert this month. This event was planned in partnership with the UUA and Greenfaith.

David Shilton Team Convener
at recent Zoom meeting (multi-tasking)

