

Dear Friends,

For the January Sustainability and Creation Care newsletter, we're taking a new approach. With the incoming Biden administration, this issue is dedicated to the impact of National and State policies and legislation that will impact Climate. We're also launching a new section called "Climate 101" which helps to develop a baseline of understanding around the science of Climate change.

If you know of others who should receive this email, please forward it to them, and let me know who, so I can add their name to the email list. More up-to-date info can be found on the Sustainable Winchester Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SustainableWinchester, please like that page and share with others who should know.

In Faith,

Josh

Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care Group Meetings



The Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care Group Meetings are held the last Monday of each month from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. In the first half of 2021 they will be Zoom Meetings.

The next Zoom Meeting is **Monday, Feb 22.**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8734975675>

Meeting ID: 873 497 5675

Dial by Phone at: 929-205-6099



As a group committed to environmental justice, we stand with those calling for racial justice, accountability and an end to violence. We grieve for the loss so many are experiencing in our community, and we stand with those most affected by racist structures and systems. We commit to educating ourselves on the historic and current systems of racism in New England and to advocate for policies and elected leaders that are willing to address these issues.

CLIMATE 101 – UNDERSTANDING OUR IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

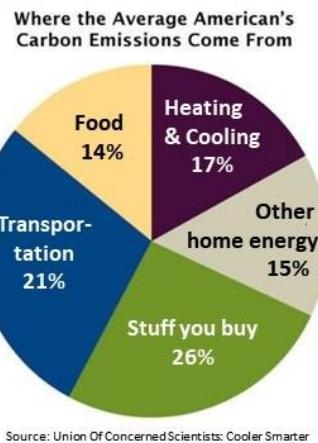
What part of our lives have the greatest impact on carbon emissions?

On average, each US resident add some 21 tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year. That's more carbon dioxide than you would cause by driving an average car all the way around the world at the equator.

To reduce our emissions, it's helpful to know where they come from. Emissions are sourced from five areas: transportation, heating/cooling your home, appliances and other energy users in your home, your food, and all the stuff you buy.

Each month we'll explore the sources of emissions in each of these areas. You can dig into the details of emissions from each of these areas right now at:

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/cooler-smarter geek-out-data>



THE NATION: BIDEN CLIMATE POLICY & INITIATIVES

The new Presidential administration is making a substantial change in direction for climate policy. In his first days in office President Biden has reversed many of the Trump policies, and they have pledged ambitious policy goals. This month's newsletter examines these policy changes in more detail.

Biden, Emphasizing Job Creation, Signs Sweeping Climate Actions



President Biden signed a slew of executive orders aimed at combatting climate change this week. The array of directives — touching on international relations, drilling policy, employment and national security, among other things — elevate climate change across every level of the federal government.

The President's series of executive actions — ranging from pausing new federal oil leases to electrifying the government's vast fleet of vehicles — are being positioned as much about job creation as the

climate crisis. Mr. Biden said his directives would reserve 30 percent of federal land and water for conservation purposes, make climate policy central to national security decisions and build out a network of electric-car charging stations nationwide.

Read the NYT article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/27/climate/biden-climate-executive-orders.html>

Analysis: How the president plans to tackle climate change



In the election campaign, Joe Biden pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and to decarbonize the U.S. power sector by 2035. He also pledged an investment of \$1.7 trillion to reduce U.S. emissions over the next 30 years by about 75 gigatons of carbon dioxide

Yet, despite winning the Senate in the Georgia runoffs, the Democrats are unlikely to be able to enact ambitious legislation. Instead, Biden is likely to use executive powers to fight climate change.

Read 10 ways Biden plans to fight climate change, with or without Congress.
<https://www.vox.com/21549521/climate-change-senate-election-joe-biden>

Renewables chief hails ‘crucial’ Biden climate agenda as administration plans massive energy overhaul



The Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency has hailed the U.S. decision to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord as a “crucial” step forward in the fight against climate change.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/25/renewable-energy-chief-hails-crucial-biden-climate-change-plans-.html>

Administration's Climate Plan Could Reduce Global Warming by About 0.1°C



In addition to COVID and racial justice, Climate is one of the top priorities of the new Administration. . The Columbia University Earth Institute estimates that the policies Biden has announced could help the US reduce global warming by about 0.1°C by 2100 making the goals of the Paris Agreement more attainable. Even more important is the US resuming the lead in fighting Climate change. According to the same forecasts, China's initiatives would prevent global temperatures from rising 0.3°C. And the impact is greater if the US and China are joined by Japan, South Korea and the European Union.

Read the full analysis at: <https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2020/11/11/bidens-climate-plan-reduce-warming/>

MASSACHUSETTS CLIMATE POLICY

Legislators re-file ambitious Mass Climate Bill that Governor Baker vetoed



The Mass Legislature reintroduced the extensive climate and emissions bill vetoed by Gov. Charlie Baker last week. The bill would establish the most ambitious timeline for carbon emission reductions in the country. It requires Massachusetts to become carbon neutral by 2050 and reduce emissions for 2030 of 50 percent below 1990 levels. And (at a level of detail that is unique in the US) it sets a series of 5-year targets to achieve those goals.

House and Senate leaders hope to quickly return the legislation to the governor, and may have the votes to override a veto if it comes. The bill had cleared the branches last session by veto-proof votes of 145-9 in the House 38-2 in the Senate.

Read the full story at WBUR.org: <https://www.wbur.org/earthwhile/2021/01/19/state-legislature-climate-bill-refile>

Here's a recap of the original Landmark Climate Bill.

<https://climate-xchange.org/2021/01/05/mass-legislators-approve-landmark-climate-deal/>

OTHER NEWS

CEO of world's largest investment firm calls for net-zero emissions



Larry Fink, the CEO of BlackRock has stated that Climate change will be “a defining factor in companies’ long-term prospects.” This week he issued a letter this week calling on all companies “to disclose a plan for how their business model will be compatible with a net-zero economy,” which he defines as limiting

global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial averages and eliminating net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Coming from the world's largest investment firm - BlackRock controls nearly \$9 trillion - this letter landed with seismic force in boardrooms across the globe. While, the firm has been accused of greenwashing, this week's statement presents a blueprint for businesses that's even more ambitious than past statements.

Read the NYT article at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/26/business/dealbook/larry-fink-letter-blackrock-climate.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Recycling

The Real story on recycling



Recycling of metal, glass and (to a lesser degree) paper are effective and financially viable. But the story around plastic recycling is much more complex. Plastic film (like Saran wrap and shrink wrap) are not at all recyclable and actually cost money since they need to be removed from the recycling stream.

A clear plastic water bottle can be recycled into other items like nylon cloth. But despite the triangle label on the bottom of many plastic containers, jugs, jars and other items, much of this is not profitable to recycle. The best strategy is to reduce the use of these containers by using non-plastic containers.

Hear a more complete story of plastic recycling on this Gimlet Media Podcast:
<https://gimletmedia.com/shows/howtosaveaplanet/brh3jeg/recycling-is-it-bs>

DID YOU KNOW?

Epiphany Runs on 100% Green Electricity



Parish of the Epiphany runs on 100% fossil-free electricity today! For over 3 years, Parish of the Epiphany has sourced its electricity from [WinPower 100](#) (the 100% renewable municipal electric aggregation program in Winchester).



WinPower 100 electricity is generated from New England solar, wind and low-impact hydro sources. It supplies green electricity for both the Rectory and Parish building. Over 180 homes and businesses today use WinPower, and in 3 years it has saved over 7.2 million pounds of CO₂, the equivalent of taking 700 cars off the road for a year.) For more info on WinPower 100 visit www.WinPowerMA.com. For similar programs in other towns visit www.greenenergyconsumers.org/aggregation

RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS

Here are some organizations committed to climate change. This is only a small sample of the many environmental groups. If you have other groups that should be included on this list, please email joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com

350 Mass is a legal non-profit at 350mass.betterfutureproject.org

350 Mass Action engages in political action and is at: www.betterfutureaction.org

Cool Winchester www.coolwin.org

Heat Smart <http://heatsmartccl.org/>

Green Car Reports <https://www.greencarreports.com/>

Green Energy Consumers Alliance <https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/>

Mass Clean Energy Center <https://www.masscec.com/>

Mass Interfaith Power & Light <https://www.massipl.org/>

Mothers Out Front.org <https://www.mothersoutfront.org/>

Sustainable Winchester www.facebook.com/SustainableWinchester

WinPower Community Choice Electricity www.winpowerma.org

Wright Locke Farm <https://www.wlfarm.org>