

Dear Friends,

2021 began with rising ambitions for Climate policy but ended with disappointment - few substantial commitments at the Glasgow global climate summit and the failure of the Build Back Better bill. We'll look at how this transpired and how this will impact our earth. But first, as we transition from the pandemic, there are a flurry of events and activities this Spring, so we'll begin the newsletter with that positive news.

If you know of others who should receive this newsletter, please forward it to them, and let me know who to add 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



Sustainability and Creation Care Group meetings are held the last Monday of each month. With the February meeting we have transitioned to in-person meetings.

The next meeting will be **Monday, February 28 at 7:30 pm in the Upstairs Parish Hall, Parish of the Epiphany, 70 Church St. Winchester.** *(Note this will be an in-person meeting.)*

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

As the weather warms in New England, Spring brings a host of events and activities. Here are some key events sponsored by the Creation Care group and other Environmental Justice organizations.

Winchester Repair Café

This Saturday, Feb 26 9:30am-12:30pm, First Congregational Church, Winchester.



Recycling can help reduce waste, but even better **don't throw it away in the first place!** *The Repair Café* is an international movement to *fix the things we already have*: clothing, electronics, furniture, bikes, etc. The next **Repair Café in Winchester** will be held **this Saturday at the First Congregational Church, 21 Church Street, Winchester.**

For more info and to sign up visit: <https://www.repaircafewin.com/>

Creation Care is sponsoring the Repair Café with Sustainable Winchester and the First Congregational Church in Winchester.

***Climate Solutions and You* seminar series**

Every Sunday from Feb 20 – March 27 4:00-5:30pm.



Climate Solutions and You is a 6-part seminar series based on the Paul Hawken book *Drawdown*. Each Sunday afternoon (4:00-5:30 pm) you'll join a virtual and interactive discussion on how to meet the climate challenge.

To Register go to: <https://climateandyou.eventbrite.com>

The topics and dates for each of the 6 Sunday sessions are listed on the site.

If you miss a topic, you can view all the topics here: <https://drawdown.org/climate-solutions-101>

Creation Care is supporting this series with the Winchester Unitarian Society and Mass 350 Metro North.

Preaching Hope in a Climate Emergency:

A Lenten Conversation with Jim Antal and Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

Webinar: Tuesday, March 15, 10:00am



If the world's average temperature shoots past the 1.5°C target to ensure climate stability, how do we preach about hope? Geared to the season of Lent, this informal, hour-long conversation will provide a space for reflecting on Gospel hope, keeping in mind the systemic challenge of keeping fossil fuels in the ground and the connections between racial, economic, and environmental justice.

For more info and to register visit: <https://bit.ly/preaching-hope>

EV Chat: Fun Cars

Sponsored by the Green Energy Consumer Alliance

Webinar: Thursday, March 10, 4:00pm



The Green Energy Consumer Alliance EV Ambassadors are excellent at sharing their expertise and experiences driving electric. But we often hear from owners who own the same handful of cars, so we're

branching out to hear about different, fun cars – the Kia Niro and Soul, Volvo XC40, Polestar 2, VW ID.4 and Audi E-tron. Enjoy!

Register at: <https://bit.ly/fun-cars>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY SPOTLIGHT – WHAT NOW FOR THE CLIMATE?

Hopes for substantive change in climate policy rose with Joe Biden's election in 2020. Yet, by the end of the year - at a time when decisive action was needed to slow global warming and reduce emissions growth - global and national leaders were unable to come to agreement. The Glasgow COP26 Summit was unable to reach a resolution to curb fossil fuels and the Biden Administration's bold measures to reduce emissions were shelved when the Build Back Better plan failed to pass.

Emissions in the US rose 6% in 2021 and, unfortunately, global temperatures have now risen 1.2° since the 19th century. The Paris Climate accords set a target of 1.5°, because climate scientists believe that is the "tipping point" after which the cycle of warming cannot be reversed. Even if the current pledges are met, the average temperature is forecasted to increase about a 2.1° by 2100, ushering in an era of extreme weather, wildfires, floods and sea-level rise.

So, the question remains - what's the path forward for reducing emissions? We may need to accept that temperatures will rise above 1.5°, limit warming as much as possible, and focus efforts on resilience and dealing with the damage caused by global warming.

In 2021, climate ambitions soared and crashed in the US and the world



President Biden signs the Infrastructure Bill at the White House in November.
Kenny Holston/Getty Images

After four years of near-silence about climate change in the White House, 2021 brought an abrupt shift. President Biden turned it into one of the defining issues of his presidency, proposing ambitious efforts to replace fossil fuels with clean energy sources and leading a global campaign to cut greenhouse gases.

On Biden's first day in office, he announced that the US was rejoining the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. The administration released a plan to rein in the country's net greenhouse gas emissions, by at least 50% by 2030 and to zero by the middle of this century.

But as the year ended, it appeared that the most significant of those proposals had crashed into a wall of opposition from Republicans in Congress and Sen. Joe Manchin. And at the Glasgow global summit, efforts to fight climate change lagged well behind promises to do so.

Biden tried to give his climate plan the force of law. The \$1 trillion infrastructure package included \$7.5 billion to build electric vehicle charging stations as well as money to expand long-distance transmission on the electric grid. Yet those promises still fell well short of what's required to meet a key goal of the Paris Agreement: to cut greenhouse gas emissions enough to limit global warming to 1.5°.

The Biden administration's experience, however, suggests that setting goals is easier than reaching them. The Administration's failure to get its most ambitious climate proposals through Congress also undermined its efforts to provide global leadership at a landmark UN climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

Despite the obstacles that the Biden administration has hit, it did succeed in dramatically shifting the national debate over climate change during 2021. Now we'll see what tangible action can come from that debate.

Read more at: <https://n.pr/3JRXHtf>

The collapse of Build Back Better eliminates climate provisions. What next?



To meet President Biden's commitment to reduce emissions 50% by 2030, the Build Back Better (BBB) plan allocated \$500 billion in measures to fight climate change. This was bucketed into two key initiatives: a rapid transition to clean energy and incentives to electrify transportation, housing and manufacturing.

The energy goal (to achieve 80% clean electricity by 2030) was to be achieved with the Clean Energy Performance Plan (CEPP). Under this plan Utilities would be provided with grants to increase the amount of clean electricity they supply to customers and disincentives if clean energy was not increased. The second initiative involved incentives to purchase Electric Vehicles, fossil-free heating, low-emissions manufacturing etc.

The opposition to the BBB bill from Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, prevented the bill from passing. Political analysts anticipate that Democrats will transition to a strategy of introducing a series of smaller climate-related bills to win some concessions to reduce emissions, but it seems likely that the CEPP bill will not be realized, and it's not clear how the Administration's commitment to reduce emissions can be met.

Read more about the impact of the BBB bill: <https://www.npr.org/2021/12/20/1065695953/build-back-better-climate-change>

Read what was originally in the bill: <https://bit.ly/original-BBB-bill>

Key US senator sees 'path forward' for Build Back Better energy provisions: <https://bit.ly/path-forward>

US Emissions Rise 6% in 2021



Source: Mario Tama/Getty Images

After a decline in 2020, US greenhouse gas emissions rose by 6.2% in 2021. The spike was driven by increased transportation and automobile usage as well as a 17% spike in coal generation, driven by high natural gas prices.

Environmental advocates say it's worrisome - the jump in emissions suggests that the U.S. isn't on track to meet its commitment under the Paris climate agreement. "*We need to see annual emission reductions of around 5% each year, and this year we saw emissions grow over 6%,"* said Kate Larsen, a partner at the independent research provider: [Rhodium Group](#).

Read more: <https://n.pr/3HkeOSC>

What will the world look like if we cross the 1.5° threshold?



Source: Branden Eastwood/AFP via Getty Images

By limiting the planet's warming to 1.5° Celsius, climate scientists believe we can stave off severe climate disruptions that could exacerbate hunger, conflict and drought worldwide.

What is the impact of crossing that threshold? Scientists predict that unheard-of storms will become more common - more than 4 million people in the U.S. are at risk along coastlines. Coral reefs will face an almost complete die-off due to warmer oceans.

And melting ice would lead to flooded cities. Already, in the last 16 years, Antarctica and Greenland have lost enough ice to fill Lake Michigan, and scientists predict sea levels may rise an additional 1-3 feet by 2100, with substantially higher sea-level rise (up to 7 feet) on the East coast of the US.

Read more about the 1.5°+ impact: <https://www.npr.org/2021/11/08/1052198840/1-5-degrees-warming-climate-change>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued an updated report on sea-level rise in the US. Read more about that report here: <https://bit.ly/NOAA-sealevel-rise-report>

OTHER NEWS

Epiphany Environmental Assessment to develop roadmap to zero carbon



Parish of the Epiphany is working with Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MassIPL) to conduct an “Environmental Stewardship Assessment” which is a detailed report identifying short-term and long-term areas to save energy, reduce costs and emissions and develop a long-term roadmap to net-zero emissions. The Property Committee and Creation Care ministry have formed a working group and expect to complete the Assessment this spring.

For a sample *Environmental Stewardship Assessment* visit the Sustainability & Creation Care page on the Epiphany website at <https://3crowns.org/sustainability>

OTHER RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS

Here are some additional 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 (Part of the Better Future Project group) www.betterfutureproject.org

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

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

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

MassSave <https://www.masssave.com/en>

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>