

Meeting - Oct 4, 2023

Location: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Attendees: Dr. Deb Gerson (NH Health Care Workers for Climate Action), Andy Armstrong, [Jocelyn Sharp-Henning](#) Karl Hester, Katy Cowen, Bobbe Knickerbocker, Charles Lucas, Jim Jensen, Meg Hamm, Meta Vornehm, Jon Spira-Savett, John Rowntree, Kristy Besada, Joyce Larsen, Erin Scott.

Joining via Zoom: [Mike Apfelberg](#), Matt Hodgkiss, Maggie Dechene, Cynthia Stevens, Sharon Sargent, Christa Tsechrintzis, Cindy Owning, Debbie Thomas, William Manseau, Nancy Meyer, Deb Baker (NH Health Care Workers for Climate Action)

Small Group Question: How is climate change addressed within your faith tradition? How does that look within your congregation?

Presentation: Health Impacts of Climate Change

Dr. Deb Gerson and Deb Baker, NH Health Care Workers for Climate Action

She first became aware of the effects of climate change while living in Florida in 2005. Her area was hit by one of the three major hurricanes that year: Wilma, (Katrina, Rita). She observed the impact after the storm, no power for cooling, refrigeration. Nearly all traffic lights were out. Getting to a hospital was difficult. Climate change effects people less fortunate.

Deb Baker - works at Concord Hospital as an Image Librarian. I recommend these three books that have shaped my understanding of the issues: Braiding Sweetgrass; Saving Us; and Scripture, Culture and Agriculture. I have been concerned about biodiversity loss since my first letter to Congress at age 10. This goes back to the beginning of our relationship with place and with God. It is not new and not political. In many faith traditions there are ancient beliefs in caring for the earth and for people who have the least.

Deb Gerson -

Science of climate change

The green house effect is causing the earth to get hotter since the 1880's when we began using fossil fuels.

CO2 in the atmosphere varied up and down until 1880 and since then has been rising dramatically.

Reducing green house gases can keep the heating increase lower over time.

Climate change impacts lower income people the most. They have done the least to contribute to the causes.

Impacts on human health

Rising temperatures, rising sea levels, more extreme weather are all effects of increased levels of atmospheric CO2.

These contribute to air pollution, extreme heat, water and food supply, and increased allergens.

Health impacts important in New Hampshire

Tick borne illnesses like lyme are moving north and becoming more prevalent.

Burning fossil fuels increase particulate matter

These cause COPD, lung cancer, stroke, heart attacks, increases risk of dementia.

Toxic concentrations in the air impact lower income households and neighborhoods with more black persons.

Mentioned the application for an Asphalt Plant in Nashua.

Solutions and suggested actions

1970 Clean Air Act reduced major pollutants by 73% - 230,000 fewer deaths per year

Zero emissions energy will save \$1.2 trillion dollars in health care costs, prevent 110,000 premature deaths and prevent 13.5 million lost workdays.

Mental Health and Well-Being

Extreme weather events increase mental health problems

Can increase violence and aggression

Causes climate anxiety

How solve

Mitigation & Adaptation

Mitigation: wind and solar are coming online and cost is lower than other sources

Inflation Reduction Act - provides financial incentives for implementing new technologies

Helps us reach targets set in the Paris accords

We need to keep talking about it. Most people in NH believe humans cause climate change.

Q impacts in NH

A heavy rain events that cause flooding, vector borne diseases (ticks and mosquitos)

Crop Walk is on Oct. 22nd Temple Beth Abraham

Bobbe K. found it difficult to set up team and register online.

Annual Thanksgiving Service, Tues. Nov. 21st at 7 pm. Nashua UU.

Rabbi Jon and Allison Palm are organizing the worship. Will be inviting folks to participate.

Nov. 1st meeting will be at Pilgrim Church - why are we participating in the NAIC, what should be our focus? Lots of opportunity for discussion.

Jocelyn gave a brief Water Walk report - raised \$11,000, 100 people walked.

Housing Forum - 80 people attended on Oct. 2nd. We had almost every candidate for Alderman and both candidates for mayor. All presentations were translated into Spanish or English. Four folks presented their stories first.

Multicultural Festival - had 600 attendees. Rain moved event into the library.

Home Health and Hospice Care has been renovated and expanded. Can now house 16.
Dedication ceremony on Nov. 19th. Week of touring. Watch for details to come.