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FAITH COMMUNITIES GO GREEN

Discovering our power for good!

Saturday, January 24, 2026



Dear Advocates for Creation,

It's a new year, and we've embraced our resolution: to share the stories of Ohioans who are making real headway in protecting environmental safety and justice. Each presenter will share strategies you can use. Then, once a quarter, we'll gather face-to-face for a potluck supper and story-sharing at one of Faith Communities Go Green's member congregations.

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Ohio advocates are bending the arc towards sustainability. Please invite your friends!

- Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7:30: Let's lift Community Solar over the finish line!
Speaker: Roger Sikes, MPH, Solar United Neighbors. [Register here.](#)
- Feb. 24, 7:30: Building Power to Tackle the Dangers of Data Centers
Speakers: Jessica Sharp, Wilmington Residents for Responsible Development and Molly Bryden, Policy Matters Ohio. [Register here.](#)
- March 22: Potluck and Story Sharing: Washington United Church of Christ
2950 Sidney Avenue in Cincinnati's Camp Washington neighborhood, 4-6 pm
[RSVP here.](#)

On the federal level, we also include links to [sign up](#) for the Jewish Earth Alliance's Feb. 3 Virtual Lobby Day.

Finally, wonderful news: the City of Cincinnati is on track to hit net-zero carbon emissions by 2050! We link you to Becca Costello's article about Sustainability Director Oliver Kroner's January progress report to City Council.

Your partners in care of creation,
Ted Bergh and Ariel Miller, Faith Communities Go Green Advocacy Co-Chairs

Photo: multi-faith creativity at work! The brainstorming session at FCGG's 5th Anniversary Center at the Sisters of Charity's Casa del Sol in Delhi.



Jan. 27, 7:30 on Zoom: Let's lift Community Solar over the finish line!
Roger Sikes, MPH, Solar United Neighbors

FCGG members have written hundreds of letters pleading for community solar bills that nevertheless died miserably in the Ohio Legislature, snuffed out by the animus of key leaders against renewable energy. But last year's surging electric costs and the looming electricity demand of data centers drove legislators to adopt an all-of-the-above approach to generate more electrons. The House passed HB 303 last fall by a huge bipartisan majority: 77-8! Hearings could begin in the Senate as soon as February. Overcoming the leadership's opposition will not be easy.

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in on the unexpected allies uniting for HB 303, and how you can help. [Register here](#).

Here are his top two asks:

- Write your Senator now. [Click here](#) to find out who represents you. [You can also use this template](#) provided by Ohio Citizen Action and customize your letter.
- Ask your local government to pass a resolution endorsing the bill. Roger has provided a [toolkit](#) to do that, including a sample resolution.

"A core part of our strategy is to pass as many LOCAL Community Energy support resolutions (city, county, township) as we can. We're asking solar supporters across Ohio to leverage their existing relationships with local elected officials to make this happen," Roger writes.

Last summer Ohioans' electric bills rose 26%. The savings of solar power have been out of reach for people least able to afford their utility bills. HB 303 would create a "Community Energy pilot" under which community solar would finally be legal in Ohio. So, for example, a house of worship could build a solar array and let neighbors subscribe.

Here are some of HB 303's benefits you could include in your letter:

- Provide many more families access to lower-cost electricity.
- Build a more competitive and diverse energy market in Ohio.
- Expand energy generation by adding up to 1,500 megawatts of small-scale energy installations throughout the state.
- Generate up to \$490 million in local tax revenue and \$5 billion in local economic investment.

Here's Solar United Neighbors' [fact sheet](#) with more on how HB 303 would help reduce electric bills, improve grid resilience and strengthen Ohio's energy independence. "This bill is about putting Ohioans first — keeping energy dollars in our communities and giving people real choice," said Rep. Jim Hoops, one of the sponsors. "Community energy projects are already lowering costs in more than 20 states. HB 303 brings that same opportunity to Ohio families, farmers, schools, and small businesses who need it now more than ever."



Feb. 3: Jewish Earth Alliance Virtual Lobby Day for Climate Solutions

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facilitator who will be the meeting leader. Once you register, the facilitator will let you know of any Zoom planning meetings before Feb. 3 and send you talking points. Your very presence on the meeting with Senate staff will be powerful, demonstrating that Jews from your state care about the climate. **[Sign up now.](#)**



Tues, Feb. 24, 7:30 on Zoom:
Building Power to Tackle the dangers of Data Centers
Jessica Sharp, Wilmington Residents for Responsible Development
and Molly Bryden, Policy Matters Ohio

Last fall, Wilmington City Council was poised to greenlight a massive Amazon data center. The deal they had negotiated behind closed doors would surrender 70% of the property tax, without requiring protections for residents. That's before social worker Jessica Sharp started asking questions. She and her husband had just built and moved with their newborn child into what they hoped would be their forever home, near a soybean field she subsequently discovered would be the site of a giant industrial operation with 252 diesel back-up generators and a host of other environmental and financial hazards.

Join us to find out how Jess mobilized over 3,000 residents in less than two months to track this issue and insist that City Council address their safety and concerns. Wilmington residents have won two delays, but now face the probability that a second data center will be added. Together, the two data centers would consume over 1,000 acres, all near residential neighborhoods.

Jessica will explain how to monitor local government decision-making, the telltale signs that a data center deal is in the works, and effective ways citizens can capture public attention and compel accountability. Molly Bryden will report how Policy Matters Ohio is working to build a statewide coalition with the critical mass to prevent or mitigate the harm of data centers. **[Register here.](#)**

Photos, from left: Jess Sharp and Molly Bryden



**Sunday, March 22, 4-6 pm: FCGG Story-sharing and Potluck,
Washington UCC, 2950 Sidney Avenue, Camp Washington, Cincinnati**

At FCGG's five year anniversary celebration last November, Mimi Rook thrilled us with her vision of how the old industrial neighborhood of Camp Washington can become one of Cincinnati's sustainability showplaces. She told us about the dynamic role of her church, Washington UCC, whose mission is to be "a partnership with Camp Washington to create a community that is safe and clean, where people have enough food, decent housing, opportunities for education and work, and live in an environment that nurtures all families." We are thrilled that Pastor Melissa Stevens is opening the door wide for FCGG members to come together March 22 to share stories of advocacy and environmental action. [**RSVP here.**](#)

Graphic: a drawing of beloved community from the website of Washington UCC



Green Cincinnati Plan on track to meet climate goals despite federal cuts!

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This progress continues even as emissions rose nationwide last year. The City's Director of Environment and Sustainability says we are on track to hit the goal of 50% reduction by 2030, and net-zero by 2050. Ollie believes this can still be achieved despite the federal government clawing back up to 64% of the climate grants awarded by the Biden Administration. He cited surging electric costs and AI demand as market forces aiding the transition to renewable energy. "One of the grants in active litigation is nearly \$10 million for a new solar array on a former landfill in Winton Hills. The city is moving forward with the project using alternative funds," wrote WVXU's Becca Costello in her [article on Kroner's update to Council](#). You can read Ollie's progress report in her story.

To all of you who provided input for Cincinnati's 2023 Green Plan or are working to help it succeed, congratulations! **Hats off especially to Kylie Johnson**, advocacy director for the Ohio Environmental Council, **who chairs the city's Environmental Advisory Board** and has helped FCGG discover opportunities for advocacy over the past four years.

Send us your news and comments!

We'd love to hear what you are doing as an environmental advocate, issues you want us to cover, speakers you recommend, and news of your house of worship. Let us know if you'd like to host one of our seasonal pot-lucks at your congregation, to hear about its work and impact as we share stories face-to-face. You can reach us at advocacy@fcgg.org.

Be of good cheer!

Ted Bergh and Ariel Miller, FCGG Advocacy Co-Chairs

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