



# EARTH AND CLIMATE ACTION REPORT 2024

## ECAM's MISSIONS

**ADVOCATE** for government policies that protect and restore earth's ecosystems.

**INCREASE AWARENESS** of climate change and environmental degradation and how we can reduce these impacts.

**COLLABORATE** with other groups taking action to protect our earth.

**PROMOTE** Environmental Justice

## ACTIVITIES TOWARD OUR FOUR MISSIONS

A highlight for the year was an increase in the members on ECAM's Steering Committee, creating new energy and new ideas. We started the year with 6 active members and ended the year with 10!

### ALL CHURCH EVENTS:



### EARTH DAY SERVICE AND FOLLOWUP SESSION, 4/27

ECAM shared the major themes which emerged from focus groups discussions about how folks felt about climate and what issues and types of events they recommend that ECAM

pursue. The themes were presented in a form of a skit. The themes were:

- Connect with Nature
- Embrace Indigenous Wisdom
- Acknowledge grief and shift to hope
- Advance environmental justice
- Ensure sustainable planet.

The types of activities folks preferred were:

- Active not passive.
- Intergenerational
- Collaborative within East Shore and with other organizations and communities.

Following the service there was an informal session to offer an opportunity for people to meet and brainstorm and give feedback on their areas of passion, towards finding activities we can sponsor in common later this year.

## **CLIMATE JUSTICE REVIVAL SERVICE AND FOLLOWUP ADVOCACY SESSION, 9/29**

The Earth and Climate Action Ministry (ECAM), in conjunction with the UUA, hosted a Climate Justice Revival event on Sunday, September 29.

The church service focused on the principles of Climate Justice and on Washington's Climate Commitment Act, which is under threat of repeal if Initiative 2117 passes. The Climate Commitment Act is a state law which forces large fossil fuel emitters to pay to pollute. This provides funds to restore and protect our rivers and forests and to address climate justice. At least 35% of funds are for overburdened communities and for tribes. John Chmaj, Ann Fletcher, and Mark Norelius were speakers. Jenny Hall selected and read the Time for All Ages story.

The after-church Advocacy Session was organized by Mark Norelius. Milly Mullarky and Karin Elofson from Right Relations also helped facilitate the discussion. Over 30 members shared their concerns and ideas about what's most important to consider in healing the Earth. Rev Maria Cristina collaborated with us on the service and participated in the Advocacy Hour. Amanda Uluhan and LeAnne Struble provided programming for kids during the adults Advocacy Hour.



ECAM will send updates to the 30 attendees about future climate events. This group will be called East Shore Climate Community.

## **SING IN FOR NO on INIATIVE 2117, 10/27**



Following Board of Trustees vote to support NO on I-2117 campaign and following up on Betsy Gelb's idea of a SingIn, ECAM organized the event. We gathered at the corner where the church sign was, holding posters and signing and chanting. Richard Geld provided lyrics supporting the reasons we want folks to vote NO on I 2117 so we can keep the Climate Commitment Act which protects our environment. Happily, I 2117 was defeated!!

**GOTV ECAM supported two programs to get out the vote.**

**Protect Our Air & Water, Forests & Farmland, Jobs & Transportation Investments**



I 2117 would repeal the Climate Commitment Act.  
Kristi Weir from ECAM reports 500 postcards were sent for NO on I 2117.



sent.

The **Environmental Voter Project** (EVP) uses postcard messaging to increase the number of voters in critical districts who value the environment. Ron Lovell from ECAM reports 1750 post cards were

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

1/28 ECAM assisted in church service.

1/24 ECAM endorsed a letter by People for Climate Action Bellevue to Bellevue City Council regarding the city's Climate and Sustainability proposals.



8/16 Tour of Recology Recycling Center arranged by Mark Norelius of ECAM. It was well organized, very educational and the staff was genuinely interested in connecting with the public.

6/15 ECAM and the Board of Trustees sign amicus brief in support of Our Children's Trust lawsuit.

10/9 ECAM sponsored showing of "Cooked: *Survival by Zip Code*". Two guest speakers from Citizen Climate Lobby discussed importance of Vote NO in I 2117.

10/20 Participated on Grounds Ivy Pull with children from Family Covenant Circle.

12/1 Mark Norelius represented ECAM at church service about commitment to social justice.

12/1 ECAM signed letter requesting President Biden "to shut down the Dakota Access Pipeline before you leave office. Specifically, to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to finalize its Environmental Impact Statement and choose no action alternative two" before he leaves Office and choose no action alternative two" before he leaves Office. "Request came from JUJusticeWA.