



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY CLIMATE  
COLLABORATIVE





# A CLEANER PLANET STARTS RIGHT HERE AT HOME



## OUR MISSION

C3 catalyzes climate action at the community level through evidence-based planning, collaboration, programs, and advocacy which directly reduce climate pollution and elevate the climate leadership of communities.



# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

**55**  
climate action  
kits delivered  
to elementary  
school students

**75** businesses  
participated in the  
Better Business  
Challenge

  
**1,000+**  
signers to our policy  
advocacy letters


**4** years  
serving the  
Charlottesville  
community

**ALL 3**  
of our recommendations were  
included in Albemarle County's  
Climate Action Plan

  
**12+**  
C3 supporters spoke  
at a Charlottesville  
City Council Meeting  
last fall

policy  
reports  
published  
**4**

  
**8** families  
participated in  
our electrification  
pilot with LEAP



# CONTENTS

03.  
A Letter from Our  
Executive Director

04.  
Engaging Our  
Communities

06.  
Understanding the  
Issues

07.  
Enacting Policy  
Solutions

08.  
Celebrating Victories

09.  
Community Matters

10.  
Financial Report and  
Donor List



# THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

## A Letter from Our Executive Director

---



The Community Climate Collaborative believes the power to fight climate change resides within our communities. Our lives are touched by every sector in our community (businesses, schools, neighborhoods, and local government) and, **because climate also touches every sector, community issues are climate issues.** Whether the issue is affordable housing, transit, or economic development, climate is impacted by every decision we make. It is up to all of us to ensure that we are meeting the needs of everyone in our community while making the right choices on climate.

To help guide our decisions, we often look to our leaders, especially in challenging times. The past year has challenged us like no other. Yet our communities came together and persevered. Our leaders stepped forward to build critical networks of support across all sectors, which ultimately aided teachers and students learning at home, fed medical workers while supporting local restaurants, and advocated for the systemic change necessary to build better and more just communities going forward.

Addressing climate change will require a similar level of community collaboration. We all must work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our homes, our businesses, our schools, and our transportation systems. We also know that systemic change will be necessary to ensure that all members of our community are protected from the increasing impacts of climate change. Making decisions with climate in mind will require new ways of thinking.

With your support, we are continuing to build an impressive community-based network of leaders who are demonstrating these new ways of thinking and will continue to make sound choices for climate even when C3 isn't in the room. Every day our network is growing and our impact is deepening!

In community,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan Kruse



# ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

While staying home to protect our community from the spread of COVID-19, our team transitioned to remote work without missing a beat. We researched climate action strategies, continued our engagement programs, and found new opportunities to be a trusted resource for the community. In what could have been a year where C3's influence retreated, we flourished - acting with the agility, compassion, and fervor needed to respond to both a global pandemic and the climate crisis.

## The Youth are the Hope for Our Future

Children of all ages across the globe are now being recognized as climate leaders. C3 encourages young people in our community and equips them with the tools to be successful advocates for climate action.

In response to the pandemic, our team pivoted to support students, families, and teachers at home. **In April 2020, we launched our first Virtual Climate Camp.** Over five weeks, C3 staff provided campers with quality educational content that encouraged students to take real-world actions on climate (and stave off boredom)!

Last December, we partnered with the Virginia Discovery Museum to **deliver 35 Climate Action Kits to 4th graders at Agnor-Hurt Elementary School.** This launched our pilot program to help local elementary school students gain a better understanding of home energy use and greenhouse gas emissions while connecting families to local energy-efficient solutions like the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) and the Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP). This initiative has continued into 2021 and, to date, **we have delivered 1,200 kits to elementary school students across Charlottesville City and Albemarle County.**



“These kits have meaningful and applicable activities that encourage students to save energy in their homes and at school. These activities will make such a positive impact on our students and their environment this school year and beyond!”

- Chris Snyder, Walker Upper Elementary  
Math/Science Teacher

# Reducing Emissions for Households and Businesses

C3 believes in “meeting people where they are”, and that proved especially important last year. In 2020, we expanded our Home Energy Challenge to local businesses to reduce emissions for employees suddenly working from home, and hosted virtual lunch and learns for our Better Business Challenge participants. Even during a global pandemic, we were able to expand our reach. **We now have worked with over 500 households and 150 businesses to reduce more than 5,000 metric tons of carbon from our community!**

In collaboration with LEAP, we partnered with eight income-qualifying homeowners in Charlottesville City and Albemarle County. The Fuel-Switching Program replaced fossil fuel furnaces, water heaters, and ranges with more efficient, electric infrastructure at no cost to the residents. This program is essential in making electrification and renewable energy accessible across our entire community and meeting our net-zero climate goals by 2050.

**“We had no idea how we were going to pay for a new system since we are both retired, living on a fixed income, with four people to care for.”**

**- Charlotte Terrell, Charlottesville resident and recipient of fuel switching upgrades**

In 2020, we launched the fourth round of our Better Business Challenge, with 75 participating area businesses and organizations. The 16-month initiative culminated with an online awards night celebrating those who took the most action to reduce emissions.

We also laid much of the groundwork for our Green Business Alliance (GBA), solidifying the membership, analyzing their data, and working as a team to set ambitious climate goals. **The GBA launched in May of 2021 and consists of 16 Virginia-based businesses that have committed to reducing their collective emissions by 45% by 2025!**



**“We need all hands on deck, and it is an honor to highlight these successful home-grown businesses who are working to ensure a sustainable future for all Virginians.”**

**- Virginia Governor Ralph Northam**

# UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES

## Uncovering Energy Inequity

Energy burden has been a prevalent topic of discussion in light of the past year's racial injustices, public health crisis, and economic downturn. Advancing the conversation here at home, the C3 team examined which Charlottesville neighborhoods are most at risk of bearing unsustainable energy costs. Our in-depth report, *Uncovering Energy Inequity: An Analysis of Distributed Energy Burden in Charlottesville, VA*, revealed **1 in 4 Charlottesville households experience an unsustainable energy burden, spending more than 6% of annual income on energy costs, and 1 in 5 households pay more than 10% of their income on energy.** The unfortunate reality is that most of these households are lower-income and people of color.



Gaining widespread attention from local government, we were invited to present our findings at a Charlottesville City Council meeting last fall. In collaboration with the Charlottesville Low-Income Housing Coalition and Sin Barreras, we held two webinars, with over 120 attendees, to share the key data and reactions to this report.

Thanks to the advocacy of C3 and our community partners, Charlottesville has confirmed its intention to address energy inequality by setting leadership-level climate goals and achieving an equitable housing market. This report is a roadmap to help the City achieve these goals. C3 will continue to engage with stakeholders to develop comprehensive and targeted solutions in conjunction with our climate action efforts.

**“C3 has given a moral imperative to craft targeted policy that simultaneously lowers emissions, improves affordability, and delivers climate justice to our most vulnerable populations.”**

**- Laura Goldblatt, Commissioner for the Charlottesville  
Redevelopment and Housing Authority**



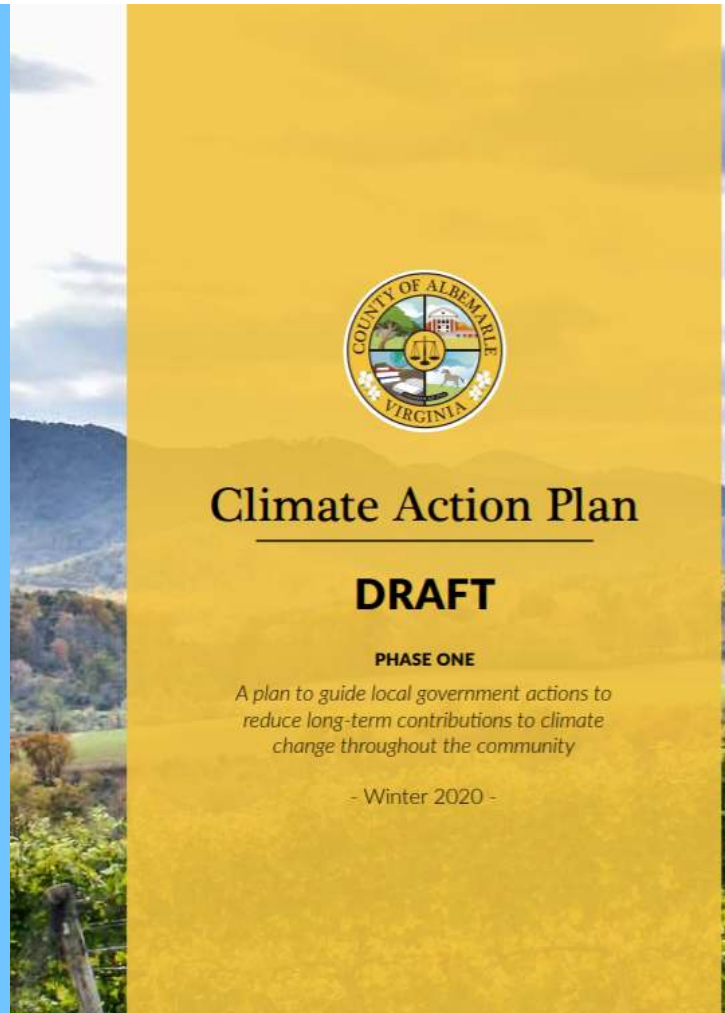
# ENACTING POLICY SOLUTIONS

## Progress in Albemarle County

In March 2020, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors published the first draft of its Climate Action Plan (CAP) - Phase 1. Following its release, C3 organized a County Resident Sign-On Letter to demand improvements through the addition of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound) targets, biennial greenhouse gas inventories, and a greater commitment to equity.

**The final version of the CAP - Phase 1 was approved last year with all three of our recommendations included.** Thanks to our supporters, Albemarle County's plan is now much stronger and equitable.

While the County works on Phase 2, C3 will continue to engage with key decision-makers to ensure that the right actions are taken for both our community and climate.



We are in a defining decade for climate action. Two years ago, the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% by 2030, and reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

We have the leadership-level targets in place. By harnessing the power of community, we can achieve our vision for climate solutions and ensure an equitable transition to a greener future.

**"Thank you Susan et al. for the push for more specific targets and less planning...We have been stuck in the planning...for a decade."**

- Ann Mallek, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

# CELEBRATING VICTORIES

## Inspiring Action and Identifying Connections

The connection between climate and community cannot be understated. Climate touches every aspect of our lives - our homes, health, food systems, jobs - and impacts every part of our community.

At C3, we are focused on identifying the thread that connects all of us to the climate movement, elevating climate leadership in our community, and celebrating every action that helps us reach our climate goals. **We love to showcase success stories on our blog to spur conversations and inspire others to act on climate!**



**Sarah Dellimore** took advantage of public transportation with JAUNT's Crozet Connect. The Wi-Fi-enabled bus takes approximately 45 minutes, door-to-door, and allows Sarah time to work and check social media. Taking their car off the road saves the Dellimore family \$15 a week (over \$700 a year) on gas, and reduces their local carbon emissions by almost 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

"There's no single large-scale solution to climate change. It requires each of us to do our part, a part that can seem meaningless in its smallness, but in the aggregate is the only way forward, the only way we achieve anything."

- **Sunshine Mathon, Climate Connections**



"It gives me great hope to see how passionate and involved the young people in our country are right now about pushing our lawmakers to pay attention to our current climate crisis. When I think of them as our future leaders, voters, and environmental stewards it inspires me."

- **Claudine Ebeid McElwain, April 2020 Climate Leader**



# COMMUNITY MATTERS

## 2020 Communications

C3 is all about being an ally for the community. **We are dedicated to developing mutually beneficial relationships with local businesses, residents, schools, and other nonprofits to inform and inspire our shared vision for climate action.**

While we were unable to gather in person last year, C3 galvanized the community by elevating our issues and celebrating our shared success across social media and in the news.

See what the community is saying about our work!

**UVA Sustainability**  
March 10, 2020 · 🌐  
A great read from Community Climate Collaborative's Erica Gaines!

**City of Charlottesville, Va - Government** ✓  
July 28, 2020 · 🌐  
Our community partner @C3climate invites you to attend an important webinar on energy burden in Charlottesville entitled Uncovering Energy Inequity on Thursday, July 30th at Noon at 5:30pm. Learn what the revealed; where energy burden exists in Cville; and potential reasons why.

**Sierra Club - Virginia Piedmont Group**  
March 16, 2020 · 🌐  
In case you haven't heard, the City's proposed budget includes \$0 to address the climate crisis (actually negative dollars with the slashing of the sidewalk fund). Tonight is the first public hearing on the budget - the Sierra Club will be commenting (virtually) in support of C3's reasonable proposals to remedy that. Join if you can, or read C3's plan and sign on to speak out for sanity. Thanks!

**Community Climate Collaborative**  
March 15, 2020 · 🌐  
The first public hearing on the City Budget is scheduled to be a virtual webinar that allows public input (details are coming on Monday from the City). Read our climate policy recommendations for the budget to ensure that climate is more than just a verbal commitment, but contains action and investments! And one thing you can do right now from home: SIGN ON TO OUR LETTER TO COUNCIL! Tell your friends too.  
<https://theclimatcollaborative.org/.../act-now-on-the...>

**Chris Meyer - resident of Cville** @cm1347 · Oct 19, 2020  
Kudos to @c3climate for educating the public on this

**Community Climate Collaborative** @c3climate  
@LEAP\_VA & C3 embark on a fuel switching project for a handful of area households from natural gas to electric. This project will improve health, safety, energy costs, & reduced climate emissions. We share why this is a viable climate solution. #electricity #climateaction  
[ow.ly/bMfp50BUvky](https://ow.ly/bMfp50BUvky)

**Carrie Hearne** 🌱🐾🌻🙌 @carrieella · Jun 12, 2020  
"We can no longer look away." Excellent post on racial justice intersection of climate action and the importance of digging in from @kruse\_susan, ED of @c3climate. #blacklivesmatter #climateaction #antiracism #dothework  
[theclimatcollaborative.org/news/2020/6/10/](https://theclimatcollaborative.org/news/2020/6/10/)

**Sun Tribe** @SunTribeSolar · Jun 22  
We're so proud to be a Better Business Challenge Award Winner for 2020-2021 -- showing our entire team's dedication to sustainability and being a leader in our hometown. Thanks to the @c3climate for hosting this competition!

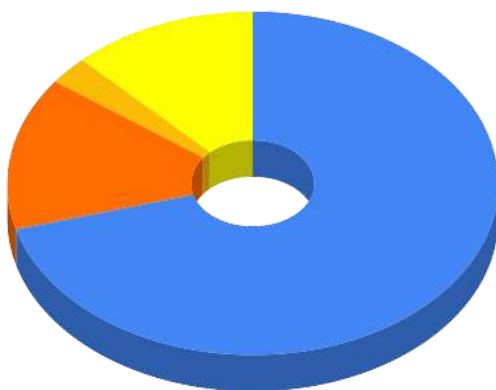
# FINANCIAL REPORT

C3 believes the power to fight climate change resides within our communities. When all sectors of our community work collectively, we can effect positive change and reduce emissions right here at home. Thanks to contributions from our generous supporters, we are continuing to build climate leadership from the ground up and making great strides in realizing our vision for an equitable clean energy future.

## TOTAL REVENUE RAISED:

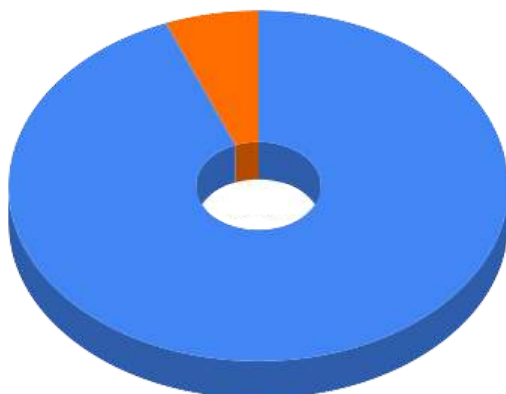
**\$609,980.27**

### 2020 Revenue Sources



- **Foundation Support**  
\$429,850
- **Individual Donor Support**  
\$87,897
- **Business Income**  
\$16,165
- **Government Support**  
\$74,500

### 2020 Expenses



- **Programs**  
\$525,085.80
- **Administrative & Fundraising**  
\$33,822.16

**Thank you for supporting our work!**



# 2020 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

## **\$50,000+**

Aduvans Foundation  
Energy Foundation

## **\$20,000 - \$49,999**

The D.N. Batten Foundation  
Sonjia Smith

## **\$5,000 - \$19,999**

Andrea Larson  
CACF Bama Works Fund  
City of Charlottesville  
Greyson and Ariana Williams  
Local Energy Alliance Program  
Patagonia  
Pete and Liza Borches  
Ryan and Shannon McCall  
The Farkas Family Foundation

## **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Nathalie and James Andrews  
Sun Tribe Solar, LLC  
University of Virginia Community  
Credit Union, Inc.  
Wendy Brown and Jack Brown

## **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Anna Chytla  
Cannon and Rick Montague  
Monica and Michael Prichard  
Morgan Butler and Casey Williams  
Paige Perriello and Neeral Shah  
Susan and Mike Kruse  
The Blank Family Giving Fund  
Think Little  
University of Virginia Fund  
Wistar Morris and Karen Moran

## **\$500 - \$999**

Jennifer Lehman  
John and Janine Dozier  
Karl and Dana Quist  
Kelli Palmer and James Bennett  
Patricia Connor and Jeff Gleason  
Shawn and Rachel McGowen  
Sigora Solar, LLC  
VA Earth Day Network

## **\$250 - \$499**

Deborah Lawrence and Kim Tingley  
Devin and Alex Welch  
Julia Harrigan  
Martin Chapman  
Quantitative Investment Management,  
LLC  
Volvo Cars of Charlottesville

## **\$100 - \$249**

Albemarle County Public Schools  
Alloy Architecture & Construction  
Angel Wilt  
Bailey Printing  
Brian Sosdian  
Charlottesville City Schools  
Charlottesville Pavilion  
Charlottesville Wellness Center Family  
Practice MDVIP  
Claire Burke  
Commonwealth Computer Research,  
Inc.  
Creatures Great & Small Inc  
Custom Ink  
Dandelion Seed LLC  
Donna Shaunesty  
Elizabeth Woodard  
Engineering Solutions and  
Construction Management, PLC  
Ernie Reed  
Evergreen Recycling, LLC  
Grimm + Parker Architecture, Inc.  
HairSmith & Co  
High Tor Gear Exchange, LLC  
Jennie Moody  
Judy Curry  
Julia Hockenberry  
Kristin and Andres Clarens  
Michelle Amt  
Peggy Van Yahres  
Robert and Marcia Curry  
Robert McCall  
Roberta Williamson  
Roots Natural Kitchen  
Roxanne White  
Schnabel Engineering  
Scivera, LLC  
Sela Knight  
Sena Magill  
Seraphic Group, Inc  
Susan White

The Pie Chest/Lone Light Coffee  
Thomas Jefferson Planning District  
Commission  
Tim Wallace  
Vault Virginia  
Wayne Murphy  
Woodard Properties

## **Under \$99**

Anne Deane  
Center For Nonprofit Excellence  
Charlottesville Day School  
Christopher McLean  
David White  
Deborah Johnson  
Donna Goings  
East Point Energy  
Elizabeth Burdash  
Emily Byers  
Field School  
Generation180  
Jeffrey Boynton  
Jennifer Jacobs  
Joan Rough  
John and Rauna Surr  
Judy Harmon  
Katrina Callsen  
Kevin Chandler  
Kristin Breen  
Leslie Murphy  
Lisa Colosi  
Live Arts Inc.  
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.  
Louise Smith  
Mandira Banerjee  
Mary Bauer  
Mary Capp  
Piedmont House, Inc  
Piedmont Housing Alliance  
Rebecca Dulaney  
Robert Helt  
Roxanne Carter-Johnston  
Southern Environmental Law  
Center  
Susan McCulley  
Tanya Matherly  
Teri Kent  
Terri Keffert  
Tina Morrison  
Tray Biasioli  
Twice Is Nice

## C3 Team

---



(From left to right)  
**Erica Gaines**, former Operations and Engagement Manager  
**Susan Kruse**, Executive Director  
**Claire Habel**, Commercial Program Manager  
**Teri Strothers Kent**, Director of Programs and Communication  
**Caetano de Campos Lopes**, Director of Climate Policy (Not pictured)  
**Andrea Bostrom**, former Residential Program Manager  
**Latricia Giles**, Residential Climate and Equity Program Manager  
**Maggie Stokes**, Director of Development

## C3 Board Members

---

(From left to right)  
**Karl Quist**, Treasurer  
**Morgan Butler**, Secretary  
**Paige Perriello**  
**Pete Borches**  
**Emily Francis**  
**Kristin Clarens**  
**Kelli Palmer**, Vice President  
**Devin Welch**  
**Grey McLean**, President (Not pictured)  
**Barbara Brown Wilson**  
**Harrison Wallace**  
**Ryan McCall**



---

**COMMUNITY CLIMATE**  
COLLABORATIVE

415 8TH STREET NE  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902  
[THECLIMATECOLLABORATIVE.ORG](http://THECLIMATECOLLABORATIVE.ORG)

[INFO@THECLIMATECOLLABORATIVE.ORG](mailto:INFO@THECLIMATECOLLABORATIVE.ORG)