

Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action End-of-Year Report 2024

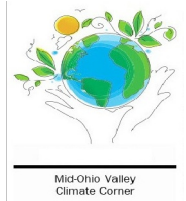
Dear Friends of Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action,

Thank You!

Whether you volunteered at MOVCA events, attended one of our programs, followed the postings on our Facebook page, read our *Climate Corner* column in the *Parkersburg News and Sentinel*, displayed a Climate Voter sign in your yard, visited us at a local festival, or donated a dollar - or thousands of dollars! - to Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action, please know how much your efforts and support mean to us. Knowing that it takes **ALL of us working together** to effect change in the ways our world addresses the climate crisis, here are highlights of MOVCA projects and activities in 2024:

Communicating with the Community

"Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Corner," our weekly column in the *Parkersburg News & Sentinel*, has kept climate crisis issues in the public eye. Our team of knowledgeable local writers contribute to the column as well as submit letters to the editors of regional publications. **You can read past and current columns in the "Blog" section on our website: movclimateaction.org**, where we post information about our activities and upcoming events. We're also active on Facebook, with informative postings about climate concerns in our area and around the world.



We developed and distributed informational **pamphlets on the climate crisis** ranging from advice for parents talking to children about climate to the dangers to health and well-being of ourselves and the planet from petrochemical industries. We distributed **yard signs** promoting voting to protect the planet. We sponsored **billboards** in Parkersburg and Marietta celebrating Earth Day; encouraging climate voters; and eliminating single-use plastics.



We staffed informational booths at the **Earth Day Celebration** in Marietta, the **Library Fest** at the Parkersburg Library, the **Multicultural Festival** in Parkersburg at City Park, and the **Rivers, Trails, and Ales Festival** in Marietta.



Reaching Out To Youth

The **Youth Climate Ambassadors Program** channels the power and energy of the younger generation in our communities toward protecting the Earth that we all love. With guidance from a new Youth Climate Ambassador Coordinator, **Kayla Engle**, these high schoolers design and carry out individual projects reflecting their own environmental interests, as well as participating in MOVCA activities and other special experiences in the wider community. MOVCA provides financing for each Ambassador's project, as well as honoring their work with a small stipend. Projects included building and installing bird houses, creating a school garden using eco bricks, creating butterfly sanctuaries, and raising awareness of environmental concerns through organizing Nature Clubs at their schools. You can learn more about the Youth Climate Ambassadors projects here: <https://www.movyouthca.com/>

Thanks to Kayla's efforts and guidance in collaboration with local groups and officials, MOVCA and Youth Climate Ambassadors were recognized by the City of Parkersburg and the Tree Commission for participation in **Arbor Day** – helping to educate youth and distribute trees and plant trees at Quincy Park. Ambassadors also had the opportunity to join MOVCA and WV Rivers Coalition in Charleston for **Environmental Day at the West Virginia Capitol**. In October, Climate Ambassadors hosted a **Purple Air Monitors educational workshop** led by WV Citizen Action Group organizers, with whom they are participating in distributing the free monitors to area residents.



Working with Others

Building coalitions with other climate action groups has strengthened our outreach. Signing on to joint projects and learning from their experts has enriched our programs. We partnered with **West Virginia Rivers Coalition**, tabling at their "**Clean Water for All: Reflecting on the 2014 Water Crisis and Shaping a Water Secure Future**" event in Charleston, where a dramatic mural was created and later displayed at the Capitol during E-Day. MOVCA arranged for transport of the mural to the Parkersburg Art Center, where MOVCA promoted the display and cohosted a family-friendly event to share information about the mural tour and our vision for clean water along the Ohio River.



We promoted an informational program open to the community on solar power presented by **Solar Holler**. In addition, many of our members are in contact with other local and national groups, forging our connections with allies in the broader climate movement.

Sharing Information about Sustainability and the Climate Crisis

Throughout the year, MOVCA has presented public programs featuring documentaries, expert speakers, and discussions identifying environmental problems and offering possible solutions to make our Earth a better place for all creatures.

A virtual showing of *Atomic Hope: Inside the Pro-Nuclear Movement* was followed by a lively open discussion.

The **Green Sanctuary Committee** of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta invited MOVCA members to co-host an in-person **screening of *Common Ground***, a documentary on regenerative agriculture offered to faith communities by Interfaith Power and Light. MOVCA followed up with a panel discussion on the relationship between **regenerative agriculture and the climate crisis** featuring local farmers and homesteaders who use regenerative practices. We revisited **Plastic Free July** this year, using online information and suggestions to act individually on "saying no" to single-use plastics. At the end of the month, we gathered virtually for a wrap-up on our struggles to eliminate using plastic. After which we heard from **Dr. Randi Pokladnik** on the dangers from plastics and the science behind making them.



Strengthening our Organization

Last year's **strategic planning session** headed us toward increasing our effectiveness in **organization, awareness/implementation, transportation, and "green" jobs**. Our small, grassroots group was experiencing growing pains! Never doubting the importance of the work MOVCA does in the Mid-Ohio Valley, or questioning the sincerity of our volunteers, we took a hard look at how we operated as an organization and made some changes in 2024. We reorganized our jumbled committee responsibilities into **working groups** dealing with specific areas of responsibility. We worked on increasing efficiency in our **use of technology**. We encouraged closer relationships with our membership with a **potluck picnic social gathering**. We purchased a **professional canopy** to help identify us at festivals and other gatherings where MOVCA staffs information tables. Following sound recommendations about our projects and operating expenses, we added some **efficiency measures to our budget operations**, and we reached out to our more established partners in the larger climate action community for help in financing our ambitious plans. We are ever grateful for the grants and donations we have received.

- **Youth Climate Ambassador Program** stipends and project funding is supported by a grant from the **Dunn Foundation**. With the growth of the program (a wonderful thing!) and added responsibilities for the coordinator, additional funding through a grant from the **Ohio River Valley Participatory Fund** (*The fund gratefully acknowledges its supporters, including The 11th Hour Project, the Argosy Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, the MacArthur Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Myles D. and J. Faye Sampson Family Foundation.*) will enable us to properly compensate the coordinator.
- Our presence at local festivals and climate-related events was greatly enhanced by a **new "MOVCA" canopy** financed through a mini-grant from the **West Virginia Rivers Coalition**. The grant also covered purchase of additional **"climate voter" yard signs** to distribute at festivals.
- Our **Get Out the Vote campaign** featured billboards in Parkersburg, Marietta, and Belpre, advertising in local papers, and PSAs on three local radio stations. All of these were supported by generous contributions from **Nancy and Guy Cordonier** and an additional **anonymous donor**.
- **MOVCA's general fund** covers expenses of record keeping, office supplies, membership and subscription fees, operating costs and some short-term activities. The fund received grants and gifts from other generous **individual donors**.

We are asking for your help and participation

The climate crisis isn't over. We're getting ready for a challenging 2025 ahead. Our board president recently shared these inspiring words:

". . . for the sake of ourselves, our children, and all of posterity, we cannot give up. This is a time for us to come together as households and communities and organizations and groups and renew our resolve.

With that spirit in mind, Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action plans to work with numerous Ohio and West Virginia partners in 2025 to become a central hub of important information on the accessibility, affordability, and feasibility of renewable energies, energy efficiencies, safer and healthier products and practices, and greater sustainability as we build toward a circular economy."

We need your help to make a difference on this most critical issue of our times. Taking action here in the Mid-Ohio Valley where we live and work and raise our families is so important! Ideally, we hope you'll **become an active member of MOVCA**. But if you can't participate with us in person or online, or volunteer at our activities, you can make a contribution to our work. Although we greatly appreciate the grants we have received, those funds are often restricted toward specific project goals, leaving us with a very bare-bones operating budget. Every penny donated goes to further the goals of education, activism, and coalition-building on the danger of climate change and the urgency of action.

Here's how to contribute to MOVCA (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization)

By credit card, debit card, or your PayPal account:

Please visit our website, movclimateaction.org and follow the instructions for using the **DONATE** button.

By check:

Please make your check payable to Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action (**MOVCA**). and mail your check (if postmarked by 12/20/2024, qualifies for 2024 tax exemption!) to our Treasurer at

MOVCA
c/o Julie Schleier
2513 Plum Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Through the Kroger Community Rewards Program:

Anyone who has a Kroger Plus card can register (Registering will not impact the fuel reward points or other benefits that go with the card). The program allocates funds to participating organizations based on the purchases that registered members, family and friends of the organization have made at Kroger using their Kroger Plus card. Each individual who wants to participate should enroll their Kroger Plus Cards online at the Kroger secure website <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. Scroll through the list of non-profits and select Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action. (All donations will be sent directly to MOVCA's Treasurer.) MOVCA is not asking people to shop at Kroger but wants to give people an opportunity to bring in some modest funds to MOVCA.

A sustainable future depends on our actions now.

We thank you in advance for your support!



Eric Engle, President of the MOVCA Board

SAVE THE GRANDCHILDREN