



Donating to Environmental Causes

Living in an affluent region of the country benefits our quality of life by providing stable utilities (most of the time), a clean source of water, access to a variety of foods, excellent schools and medical services, and an abundance of cultural opportunities, among other benefits. All give rise to a long healthy life. In fact, our neighbor Friendship Heights has the longest life expectancy in the U.S. — 96.1 years!

With every Yin comes a Yang, so we must all consider being extra generous by financially supporting other communities around the U.S. and worldwide. There are many relevant charities and organizations, but I list below a few of my favorites, in particular some that are focused on the environment and creating a sustainable future:

350.org (350.org) is a powerhouse of climate activism, founded by Bill McKibben. 350 parts per million is the health limit of CO2 pollution (presently at 413 and climbing).

Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FossilFuelTreaty.org) is focused on a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (like what the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty did). Our Somerset, as well as hundreds of other municipalities, has already signed this treaty. It could be the tipping point of creating a collective focus to stop using fossil fuels.

Climate Reality Project (ClimateRealityProject.org) is former Vice President Al Gore’s organization, which trains climate leaders worldwide.

Sierra Club (SierraClub.org) is a longstanding activism-oriented organization that focuses on many environmental and racial justice topics.

One Tree Planted (OneTreePlanted.org) supports reforestation projects in numerous countries around the world.

Fridays for Future (FridaysForFuture.org) is a young people’s climate activism campaign begun by Swede Greta Thunberg, with millions marching on Fridays worldwide. President Biden indicated last month that climate strikes were the fuel behind the recently passed climate bill

(Inflation Reduction Act). The Mother Earth Project™ (of which this author is cofounder; **MotherEarthProject.org**) has distributed many hundreds of Parachutes For The Planet® to these young activists worldwide. This organization does not accept donations but encourages and directs you to contact climate strikers in a specific country of interest.

American Red Cross (RedCross.org) is focused on disasters and is a great way to help communities when they are devastated by hurricanes (e.g., Hurricane Ian), forest fires (such as those in California), wars (such as in the Ukraine), and other climate catastrophes.

So Others Might Eat (SOME.org) is a local organization focused on breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness. At the core, environmental causes involve all of the United Nation’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (see graphic below).

Martha’s Table (MarthasTable.org) is a local kitchen, which feeds homeless people daily. You can also volunteer to help with food preparation and distribution.

It is time to remember to make tax-deductible charitable contributions, and considering the state of the world, let’s consider being more generous than usual this year!



Please let us know if you have any comments or ways that our town can become more sustainable by emailing us at: **tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com**.