

Social Action Committee – New 2021 Priorities

The Social Action Committee has recently developed 3 priorities to focus on for 2021. We believe that having these 3 priorities will allow us to have a greater impact rather than spreading our efforts across a larger number of causes. Our 3 priorities are:

- **Reduce Our Carbon Footprint at Home** - We ask our members and friends to reduce their monthly household energy use (electric, gas/oil) starting in 2021 (comparing each month energy use on your heating bills to the previous year's listed on each month's bill). This can be achieved by applying as many of the most-energy-draining practices as possible: Moderate home temperature (start by turning down our thermostat by two degrees), keep your refrigerator/freezer doors closed more, taking shorter showers, use a programmable thermostat, switch to solar energy through your provider or by installing panels, getting a home energy audit and use the findings to make your home more efficient, insulate, switch to a heat pump and mini-splits for more efficient heating and air conditioning, less or no use of your dryer and take shorter showers. **Our first priority for the next six months is for as many people as possible to turn down their thermostats by two degrees and wearing an extra layer to stay warm. This will save each of us an average of \$100 and cut our combined carbon footprint by over 350,000 pounds released into the atmosphere.**
- **Support Upper Cape Food Security:** Food insecurity is a growing problem on the Cape due to COVID and its negative economic effects. We will work with the Food Pantries, Cape Kids Meals program and other Upper Cape organizations for both funding support and volunteering from our members and friends. **Our Food Pantry Initiative (in the December Sandscript) is the start of this effort. We are asking UU Falmouth members and friends to consider making or increasing your donations to the local food pantries until June 2021**
- **Stand in Solidarity with the Wampanoag Tribe:** It is important to support our neighbors. We will work with the Wampanoag leaders to understand how we can help. This will include the following items. As we learn more, this list will probably grow.
 - Include financial support for tribal health, education and social service efforts in the UU Falmouth food certificate and share-the-plate programs.
 - Financially support the Wôpanâak Language (Wampanoag Language) Reclamation Project
 - Encourage UU Falmouth members and friends to visit and patronize the tribal store at Mashpee Commons, the **Wampanoag Trading Post**
 - Support ongoing Federal court litigation and/or pending Federal legislation to confirm the trust status of tribal land.
 - Continue to encourage UU Falmouth members and friends to email or phone their representatives in the Massachusetts House to concur in a Senate resolution (S. 2848) that would establish a special commission to study the need for changes in the official seal and motto of the Commonwealth appearing on

our State flag. (A raised arm holding a broadsword above an indigenous figure could be interpreted as a message of white supremacy.)

While these will be our primary focus, we will still be involved with other causes as they arise. These may include health care, education, senior citizens, legislation, racial justice/diversity and inclusion, immigrant justice and others.

If you have an interest in supporting these initiatives, or have other Social Action suggestions, please let us know.