

Greetings Council Members. My name is De Herman and I live in Ward 5. Tonight, I am representing *Climate Action Coffee*, a two-year old subgroup of Takoma Park Mobilization and TALLE, Takoma Alliance for Local Living Economy.

The City declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019. We agree and we believe this emergency demands urgent and sustained attention. I'm speaking tonight to share the Good, the Bad and the Actionable in our community in this regard.

The Good: As you may well know, Climate Action Coffee (CAC), focuses on regional climate action and education. Given the Climate Crisis stresses we are suffering, particularly among our youth, we've just initiated the Climate Action Club, an after-school program for middle schoolers, that meets on Fridays from 4-6 p.m. Since its inception October 29th, we've held our first two meetings at the Heffner Rec Center building, a well-located place for local kids and an appropriate space for making art, with easy to set up tables and chairs, sink, and ventilation. With the help of Carpe Diem Arts and, despite a short lead time to publicize the program, 17 middle schoolers initially registered. Participants must be vaccinated and masked. The need and desire among young people for a safe place to talk, make art, and figure out how they can act upon the climate crisis is urgent and immeasurable.

The Bad: Kids are worried. Here are some of the comments they wrote during our first meeting:

"It's Us Who's Gonna Perish"

“The Planet is the WORLD-The Only one with THE People YOU LOVE”

“There’s not much hope for Earth, but maybe we can do better in our next planet”

“I believe that there are so many amazing wonders on the earth that need to be protected”

“I want to learn what I and the average person can do to help with the climate change issue that could make significant changes”

The Actionable: We, the club organizers, are grateful to have been able to use the Heffner Rec Center building at no cost for the first three meetings. After that, it will cost the club \$70 to rent the space for each two-hour session. We would like to invite other local artists and to provide proper supplies for the kids’ future projects. To keep club costs affordable, particularly for students from limited income households, what would help this endeavor is for the City to make the Heffner Center available at no cost beyond this Friday, when we would otherwise need to collect sufficient funds for its rental. We welcome more participants who can easily register at www.carpediemarts.org.

On behalf of the Club’s organizers, I would like to thank members of the City Council for considering our request.