Sierra Club Virginia Chapter

Transportation & Smart Growth: Clean, Equitable and Accessible
Transportation and climate change are closely connected

45% of regional GHG are caused by transportation

Vulnerable populations suffer the most
Priorities

- Air quality
- Transportation equity
- Land use and affordable housing

Expanding public transit can help cut toxic pollutants like nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, which heavily impact communities of color.
Current Issues

- I-495 Express Lanes
- Bus electrification: local routes/
  Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
  Authority (WMATA)
- Rt. 1 bus rapid transit
Volunteer Opportunities

- Team leadership - Advocating for a particular project or issue
  - Trails & bike/pedestrian paths
- Writing
  - Letters to editors, emails to elected officials, Influencing friends and neighbors to write
- Action alerts/ petition signing
- Speaking at or attending public input meetings
- Story collecting
JEMEZ PRINCIPLES

Be inclusive

Emphasis on bottom-up organizing

Let people speak for themselves

Work together in solidarity and mutuality

Build just relationships among ourselves

Commitment to self-transformation
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Racial justice & environmental justice talking points

• Polluting projects like highways are disproportionately placed in communities of color

• Black Americans are particularly impacted as they are three times more likely to die from air pollution exposure than white Americans

• Systemic racism and the climate crisis are intertwined. Climate change is fueled by the practice of protecting some communities while exploiting others