



November 2024

Hello ChathamCAN Community.

We expect that we're all processing our feelings following the election and that we are all worried. But one thing is clear, action on climate at the local level is going to be more important than ever. Our focus on solutions, identifying people and groups that are taking action, and building and strengthening our community will serve us well in the days and years to come. To help put things in perspective, we encourage you to take a look at [Your Daily Dose of Climate Hope](#). There are many examples of ongoing progress that won't end and a reminder that "People all over the nation and the world will care for their loved ones. They will be kind to the humans and animals they encounter. They will shelter and protect those who are unjustly persecuted. They will work, dream, imagine, create, inspire, seek, explore, hope. They will do what they can to make their facets of the world better places to live in. **In times of horror, we can still be good and true.**"

UPDATES AND FOLLOW UP

October 29th ChathamCAN hosted a panel discussion about the intersections between food loss and waste, food insecurity and climate change.

Thank you to panelists Shannon Culpepper (Chatham County Environmental Quality), Susan White (Feed Well Fridges), Paula Izquierdo (CORA Food Pantry), and Alesia Bock (Carolina Farm Stewardship/FarmShare program) who shared information about how their programs contribute to addressing food insecurity, promoting sustainable local farms, and reducing methane emissions. Thanks also to Pittsboro Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use their fellowship hall. See [Gaps and Opportunities](#) for more about what was discussed among people in attendance.



A few dramatic take-aways from the evening:

1. It is essential that we stop putting food waste and organic matter in our landfills. It is an easy and low-tech intervention that could limit global methane emissions by 8-10%.

2. We don't have a food scarcity problem, we have a food waste problem. 40% of potentially consumable food is thrown away, while 14% of residents are food insecure.
3. Local farms are an essential resource in building community resilience and a more sustainable food system. They need our support!
4. Changing the way we relate to food as consumers is one significant strategy for reducing food waste in wealthier countries. The majority of food that ends up in US landfills comes straight from people's homes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CALLS FOR ACTION AND RESOURCES

Pittsboro Climate Action Plan - show up! Show your support for climate solutions next month (doesn't matter if you are not a Pittsboro resident). The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners will consider and possibly vote on a Resolution for Policy to Address Climate Change. Such a resolution could lead to a climate action plan - the first in Chatham County! The Board will meet on **Monday, Dec 9 at 6:00 pm at the Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center.**

Take action for FarmSHARE - [write](#) to our state legislators, Robert Reives and Natalie Murdoch, in support of farmers and people who need food. See [FarmsSHARE Partnerships for a Thriving Food System](#) for more information.

Both [Feed Well Fridges](#) and [CORA](#) are welcoming donations and volunteers.

We have a website! Check out <https://www.chathamclimateaction.org/> and watch for more. Give us your feedback and suggestions by replying to this email.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

CORA provides nutritious food to community members in Chatham County facing food insecurity. The ultimate goal at CORA is to build a community without hunger by collecting and purchasing healthy food for distribution through their food pantry, related programs, and network of local partners. CORA distributed 1.8 million meals last year and served more than 12,995 neighbors in need. They envision a community without hunger, where everyone has access to safe, nutritious, culturally relevant foods.

See: [CORA Food Pantry](#)



Building A Community Without Hunger

For a Thriving Chatham County

WHAT WE'RE READING/WATCHING/LISTENING TO (send us your favorites!)

- [ReFED](#) - working across the food system to cut food loss and waste

- **TED Talk:** [Meet Methane, the Invisible Climate Villain](#) (9 minutes)
- A Matter of Degrees Podcast: [What the Election Means for Climate Policy](#)
- **What If We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures** Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, PhD, 2024. “This provocative and joyous book maps an inspiring landscape of possible climate futures. Through clear-eyed essays and vibrant conversations, interviews, data, poetry, and art.”

At this time of Thanksgiving, we are grateful to be in community with you!

Betsy, Carmen, Lenore, Maura, Meredith and Vickie - organizing for ChathamCAN

P.S. Feel free to forward this email to others who might be interested in being a part of ChathamCAN. Let us know if you'd like for us to remove you from our mailing list.