This report is the result of the incredible work of the elders from Elders Climate Action who commit their time to acting on climate change for their grandchildren and future generations.

Compiled by Geri Freedman and Leslie Wharton ECA Co-Chairs, and Jen Chandler, ECA Director of Operations.
This year was full of challenges and accomplishments for climate action. We watched critical EPA regulations get overturned, read the IPCC report and other reports - each full of dire warnings, while many in our country felt direct effects of climate change. The year had its moments of deep concern mixed with moments of hope and inspiration. We can embrace the small victories for climate action in 2018 and push for strong action in 2019 and into the next election cycle. The real accomplishment this year for climate action is people are talking about it, people are concerned, and people are mobilizing. We intend to remain central in the effort, to help build bridges rather than wedges, and help unify the call to action. Climate change isn’t a partisan issue, it’s a human reality and the context of all issues we face in our future.

**HISTORY OF ECA**

Elders Climate Action was conceived in 2014 by a small group of committed people as a project of the Conscious Elders Network. Conscious Elders Network, now known as the Elders Action Network (EAN), recently changed its name to better reflect the mission and focus to encourage elders into action. Elders Action Network is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and as such, functions as the parent organization for Elders Climate Action.

ECA is dedicated to building movement to mobilize elders throughout the United States to address climate change while there is still time to protect the wellbeing of our grandchildren, future generations and all life. We are dedicated to using the power of our caring, our

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wisdom and our numbers to push for strong energy policies that will reduce greenhouse gases in our atmosphere to a level consistent with life thriving on our planet.

The Elders Climate Action Leadership Team consists of elder volunteers with the exception of one contractual Director of Operations. These committed elders have built ECA from the ground up with limited funds, relying on the dedication and caring of a small Leadership Team. This team has planned and implemented nationwide campaigns and organized two national events in Washington D.C., hosted monthly calls and more. ECA remains committed to creating tools, resources and opportunities to assist elders in taking action on climate change. As we know, 2018 has been a difficult year for climate action, however we are now seeing the conversations change. Despite the challenges, the energy, work and passion of ECA elders has not stopped, it’s only grown and we will continue to to be diligent in the year ahead.

**ELDERS CLIMATE ACTION TIMELINE**

2014
- ★ 2014 marked the birth of Elders Climate Action

2015
- ★ Elders Climate Action website launched.
- ★ The first event by ECA, Grandparents Climate Action Day: Elders performed a Flash Mob in Union Station and a congressional dining room.

2016
- ★ Elders Climate Action conducted campaigns throughout the year.
  - ○ Congressional Candidates Climate Project.
  - ○ Elders Climate Voter Pledge
  - ○ Letter writing campaigns to Members of Congress.
- ★ The first ECA chapter was formed in Massachusetts
- ★ ECA conducted an extensive Strategic Planning process to map the future for the

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next 4 years.
★ ECA expanded relationships with other organizations.

2017
★ Membership continues to grow.
★ Chapters grew from 1 to now 5 chapters.
★ ECA received two grants
★ The second Elders Climate Action Day was held in April of 2017 Elders participated in the People’s Climate March in Washington, D.C. Letter writing campaign to Members of Congress on the impacts of climate change on the health of all people.
★ Letter writing campaign to Members of Congress to recognize climate change and take legislative action.
★ ECA now has over 62 partner organizations.

2018
★ Collaboration with DearTomorrow to write letters to be read in 2050
★ Collaboration with Environmental Voters Project to Get Out the Vote sending over 231,000 text messages to registered voters
★ Delivered a four part webinar series for ECA members with renowned speakers including Bob Inglis CEO of republicEn, Nathaniel Stinnett Executive Director of Environmental Voter Project, Climate Scientist Katharine Hayhoe, and Community Organizer Heather Booth
★ Elders signed a pledge in collaboration with Environmental Voter Project, to vote in every election and also consider the environment when voting
★ The NorCal chapter planned and presented a one day event in San Francisco in conjunction with the Global Climate Summit

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ECA BY THE NUMBERS

Members by state

Only showing those members that we have State information for

Donations By State

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ECA GIVING in 2018

Number of Donors vs Number of Gifts 2018

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Participation in ECA Webinars and National Calls

ECA Members (including Social Media)

ECA Members & Social Media Followers

- Members Including Social Media
- FaceBook Followers Only
- Twitter Followers

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COMMUNICATIONS

● Produces monthly newsletters for all ECA members and Social Media followers.
● Climate Tea and Talk, casual conversation for ECA members
● Monthly National Calls with guest speakers and important and inspirational information. These calls are gaining popularity and participation is on the rise.
● Our social media presence has increased through our addition of Twitter in 2019. Yes, elders can be on Twitter too.
● Produces all branded marketing, informational materials, and creative content.
● Produces ECA YouTube Channel

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

● As Elders Climate Action grows it is apparent that in order to support the growth additional funds will be necessary. ECA had a Leadership pledge drive with 100% participation by the Leadership of ECA. 

In 2018 ECA held the following fundraising appeals

● Earth Day
● Grandparents Day
● Giving Tuesday
● End of Year Annual Appeal
● Special Leadership appeal with 100% participation

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

In 2018, we worked to grow and deepen our partnerships and collaborations with select organizations. Collaborations allow us to unify message of climate action and amplify the

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message among the elder population without placing greater demand on our limited human and financial resources.

**2018 Collaborative Partnerships:**

- Environmental Voter Project
- Moms Clean Air Force
- DearTomorrow
- US Climate Action Network
- Citizens’ Climate Lobby

**POLICY**

A group of ECA members work together to evaluate various policies to reduce greenhouse gases and make recommendations for ECA’s Core Principles and Policies. Many of the Policy committee members have backgrounds in science and policy, in addition they participate in US Climate Action Network (USCAN) Committees, working to unify our policy with other climate related organizations.

**ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE & COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS**

Beginning in June 2018, the Engagement Committee and Council of Chapters held combined meetings to focus on chapter development and support. In the past, the Engagement committee has focused on providing support to new and existing chapters, and the Council of Chapters, has been a forum where chapter members can meet to share ideas, discuss challenges, and work to build a wider community of elder climate activists. The combined meeting has included robust discussions with chapter leaders and those interested in forming new chapters to identify the challenges, opportunities and build strategies and resources to help us move forward. By the end of 2018, we had three new chapters in Michigan, Tennessee, South Carolina and several more in formation. We

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brought 2018 to a close by planning a series of ECA orientation meetings in early 2019 to create a shared, common platform for chapter development and support.

### ECA CHAPTERS

#### ARIZONA CHAPTER

Arizona was officially approved as a chapter in October 2017, and originated from a ECA meeting in conjunction with the Wild West Regional Conference for Citizens’ Climate Lobby. In 2018 the chapter piloted the ECA Candidates Pledge Climate Action Project, ultimately the chapter grew out of this project. The chapter has worked to support clean energy efforts in Arizona. In addition, the AZ chapter marched with a banner at the Women’s March in Phoenix and co-sponsored the Environmental Action Day at the AZ State Legislature.

#### ANN ARBOR CHAPTER

The Ann Arbor Chapter is one of the first chapters in ECA approved early in 2017. With a mix of both activist and educational activities with opportunities to socialize in order to build a strong community. Our primary focus is local issues, working in conjunction with partner climate organizations. We are currently working on a pilot project, called “More Composting, More Carts!” which is the first recipient of a new grant program, “Sustaining Ann Arbor Together.” The project seeks to increase the use of Ann Arbor’s composting program, divert waste from landfills, and educate residents about the value of composting.

#### MARYLAND CHAPTER

The Maryland chapter was very active in 2018, registering voters, tabling at the Montgomery County Greenfest, and working closely with other climate-focused groups opposing the building a fracked

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gas pipelines through Maryland. The chapter is looking to expand the membership into a DC Area regional chapter in the summer of 2019.

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

In 2017 the Mass. Chapter went from being a lonely solo to being one of five chapters. The chapter’s priorities will continue to focus on influencing the Mass. State House, which continues to consider a large number of bills relevant to climate action in 2019. The chapter continues to coordinate strategies for influencing the State legislature with partner climate change organizations, mobilizing members to make calls, write letters, and attend protests and rallies and making presentations to elder groups on “What can one person do about climate change?”

NORCAL CHAPTER

The NorCal Chapter, located in Northern California was conceived at the 2017 Elders Climate Action Day. Chapter members are located throughout Northern California and are working on issues specific to their communities and well as greater California. The chapter focuses on supporting state legislation, community governance, community education, congressional contact, media and individual action. Some of the accomplishments of the NorCal Chapter members include a Letter to the Editor published in San Francisco Chronicle.”. The NorCal chapter is the first chapter to hold a one day conference during the Global Climate Summit. The conference was hugely successful with over 79 elders participating.

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<th>Chapters in Formation</th>
<th>Prospective Chapters</th>
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ECA has bold plans for the future. The Elders will not be silent and will not sit back and watch the planet deteriorate further without taking action. In the year ahead, ECA is committed to mobilizing more elders, creating more chapters and teams and providing more resources, opportunities and actions to stem climate change. From local and state actions to federal legislation, elders are stepping up and making commitment to climate action. ECA will work to deepen our partnerships and collaborations to work with others to amplify the voice of elders in this critical effort. We will be active in voter outreach, education and mobilization through our Elders Promote the Vote partnership project with the Environmental Voter Project. In 2019, ECA will host a number of regional events including a day at the US Capitol with Moms Clean Air Force. We will continue to collect stories to share with future generations with DearTomorrow through the Letters to Loved Ones Project. We are committed in helping to build intergenerational climate action and supporting the youth fighting for the future. Our grandchildren, future generations and all life are depending on the choices we make now.

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