

Report on Climate Crisis Committee meeting with Nora Elmarzouky, Climate Justice Organizer for POWER Interfaith.

Early in December the CCC met with Nora to learn more about the Climate Justice Campaign organized by POWER Interfaith. Some of the key issues discussed were how to work with communities that have been impacted by decisions harmful to the environment where they live. The key is to allow such communities to lead efforts in searching for justice and better planning for a sustainable future. Nora also discussed advocacy strategies with us such as legislative letter writing and legislative visits as well as the role of the arts in reaching the community and younger people. We learned the core ideals and practice of POWER interfaith and the particular efforts of the Climate Justice Campaign. Nora gave us some ideas for working with other communities of faith and asked us to consider joining with their efforts. While POWER has worked in Philadelphia at the local level to support development of green jobs and to respond to equity issues such as PWG and the Right to Thrive campaign that closed down the biggest gas refinery on the east coast, currently they have a focus at the state level. As a committee our focus has been on the local and national level. We will be considering this new possibility. Nora has set up a meeting the end of January to discuss next steps.