

WHAT IS SSAFE?

1. **SSAFE = Senior Stewards Acting for the Environment**

SSAFE is a Kendal-inspired network of elder communities in action on the path to net zero.

SSAFE is unique – no other elder climate organization is structured around CCRCs.

Started in 2020, SSAFE is now a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. “We’re green, gray, and not going away!”

2. **Mission Statement:** *We seek to unite the more than four thousand residents at Kendal affiliates, residing in ten states, in addressing the greatest challenge facing our planet: climate change. We commit to a collaborative effort that draws on our combined experience, knowledge, resources, and talents. We will ally with the Kendal Corporation and affiliate staff and administrators, other Continuing Care Retirement Communities and elder organizations as we pursue our goals. We believe we must **seize this moment** to avoid climate destruction and promote climate justice. The science is clear and unequivocal; let us act.*

3. **Goals:** *To ensure a more sustainable planet and a more just society by (a) bringing forth our strong common voice that calls on key local and national decision makers to take bold climate action, (b) promoting education, and (c) acting at our communities to foster those same objectives.*

4. **Three-track approach:**

Globally, we will press key national decision makers to present a united front with the community of nations to address the crisis by taking decisive actions to slash carbon emissions, by emphasizing climate justice for all and by restoring American leadership in international agreements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Nationally, we will advocate for enforceable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 50% by 2030 and for achieving carbon net neutrality by 2050.

Locally, we will take action using science-based and professionally guided best practices, setting our own communities on the pathway to 50% greenhouse gas reductions by 2030 and carbon net neutrality by 2050.

5. **SSAFE Board of Directors** (formerly SSAFE Steering Committee):

Representatives from all ten Kendal campuses plus Michelle Goodwin, independent contractor

Chair: Mary Burton (Hanover), Vice-Chair: Ben James (Crosslands)

Responsibilities include planning, training, fundraising.

6. **Three Project Teams:**

Advocacy - Educate and inform members about actions they can take to advance climate-friendly governmental policies. Team Leaders: Mike Burke (Collingwood), Ted Wolner (Oberlin)

Education – Inform the Kendal community in ways that deepen our individual and collective understanding of the nature and urgency of the climate crisis. Team Leaders: Larry Daloz (Hanover), Merle Tanis, Cartmel

Greening Our Campuses - Members think globally and act locally as they develop and carry out greening projects on each Kendal campus to reduce its carbon footprint. Team Leaders: George Alexander (Longwood), Dulany Bennett, Scot Drysdale, and Stu White (Hanover)

7. **SSAFE Website:** <https://seniorstewardsactingfortheenvironment.org>

Visit for more info about SSAFE, membership information, and a wealth of climate crisis resources, including books, feature and news articles, and videos.

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE??

COME JOIN AND SUPPORT SSAFE!!!

1. With approximately 150 members, **SSAFE welcomes and encourages new members** from Kendal communities and beyond. The more members there are, the more that can be accomplished!!!
2. **Membership form is on the SSAFE website.**
3. All members are invited to **SSAFE General Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month, 10:00 AM via Zoom**
4. **Informative, inspirational speakers at General Meetings:** Topics include: recycling, the ways elders can support the youth climate movement, encouraging divestment from fossil fuels in alma maters, banks, and former employers, personal reduction of consumption of material goods, Green Industrial Revolution, activism in the streets and on the phone, and COP26 overview.
5. **General Meetings also include a sharing of current environmental projects being carried out by residents on Kendal campuses... lots of ideas and help for projects on your own campus.**
6. **Members encouraged to get involved on Advocacy, Education, and Greening Our Campuses Project Teams.**

What projects are SSAFE members doing on their Kendal campuses?

1. **Admiral** – Beehive project
2. **Cartmel/Coniston** – Sustainability and Property Committees initiatives: PECO energy audits, encourage switch to LEDs, carbon footprint calculations, comparisons of kWh usage, energy saving additions to be added to Turnover List, informative Courier articles, encouragement for greening Old Stone during renovations
3. **Collington** – Hired consultant to help develop campus sustainability plan, resident composting project
4. **Crosslands** – Climate Resilience Working Group and Crosslands Energy Committee initiatives: Solar plans for new buildings under construction, campus conversion to LED bulbs (including walkways), “Eat Less Beef” buttons to raise awareness of methane release from livestock, campus survey of electric and hybrid vehicles, charging stations installed for vehicles, electric lawn equipment
5. **Hanover** – Electric vehicle survey, campus wide composting project, LED lighting project
6. **Ithaca** – Trex Challenge (plastic bags -> outdoor benches), speakers program on environmental topics
7. **Lathrop** – Seeded large meadow with native plants and grasses on campus, studying trees on campus with local Audubon representative
8. **Lexington** – Looking into solar for campus, create board level task force to implement parts of strategic plan
9. **Longwood** – Kendal Energy Committee initiatives: Hydroponics project – harvested greens and strawberries for Kendal dining room, composting food waste, plan to minimize energy use by residents during peak hours -> saves \$, vehicle survey, discussing solar collectors set up on unused Kendal land, communications with Kendal Corp to adopt SSAFE principles and endorse goals of Paris Accord
10. **Oberlin** – Grant process for solar to power LED lights, transition facilities from natural gas to electricity, solar panels connect to electric vehicle chargers, speaker on long roots of prairie plants sequestering carbon.