1. **[Pat] Hello, we are Pat and Steve Miller from Middletown. Steve is the Climate Chair of the Sierra Club Shore Group. Pat is a member of the Middletown Green Team. During Earth Week in April, we organized a series of 5 talks on the topic – how to get to clean energy. We saved the Earth Day time slot for ourselves and gave a talk on Greening Your Life – as an individual, a town, the state, the US or the world. The focus was on the steps anyone and everyone can take to get to 50% GHG reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050. We think climate action is the NUMBER 1 priority for saving the world, and everyone should be working toward that goal. We have really reached a tipping point – we must see a significant result within the next 8 ½ years by 2030. And we have the support now of both state and federal government to do it, and of at least 70% of people in the US. And last week the leaders of the G7 agreed.
SLIDE 1 You see the logo at the bottom with all the organizations in the Earth Week Coalition? One of them is Sierra Club. One thing we have learned in this work is the power of our networks of environmental activists. It is both satisfying and fun to have friends and activists in all these different organizations – we see people we know and like everywhere we go.**
2. **[Steve] To become a volunteer is scary. It requires a decision, “take a chance” and take the step. That 1st step can lead to a JOURNEY of WONDER.
Pat and I are always a “two for the price of one” team in our climate work. (And the price is free.) By the roll of dice or the hanging Florida chads in the year 2000 election, or the Supreme Court, sunk Al Gore’s chance to be US president was sunk. He**

**then founded the nonprofit “Climate Reality Project”. SLIDE 2 I was enticed to attend Gore’s Climate Reality training in Denver in 2017 and invited Pat to go with me. I was SOO pleased she said YES. I can’t describe how inspiring was this training.
Led personally by Al Gore, there were over 1000 of us seated around tables in the convention center, listening to motivational talks and doing activities with our table groups. (Ours was all from NJ.) It was truly life changing. To graduate, we were asked to commit to doing 10 “Acts of Leadership” within a year. I was nervous to sign such a big commitment! But I took the pledge. We are still at it and actually exceed our bogey by 10 times that many. Currently over 30,000 people have been trained by Al Gore. We have volunteered to mentor during training and are Executive Committee members for the NJ Chapter of Climate Reality graduates.
 The day we got home from training, we took a chance with that first step, and attended a Middletown Committee meeting, and each of us stood up and spoke. Pat asked that the new municipal complex be built to clean energy specs, and Steve asked for a Green Building element be added to the Middletown Master Plan – this was our first Act of Leadership – and each of us is now seeing our request being enacted in Middletown!
We have one fundamental principle: rapid elimination of GHG emissions.**

1. **SLIDE 3 [Steve] Let me show the core of our message in two slides. This pie chart shows the major sources of GHG emissions: transportation (46%), electricity generation (20%), and space heating (22% for residential and commercial) comprise MOST of NJ GHG.**
2. **SLIDE 4 [Steve] We have done the analysis, and now we, along with all the other such studies, have all settled on a simple, common message that we repeat and repeat, and repeat again. There are 3 basic steps to eliminate most GHG emissions – in a household, in a town, or in NJ state. Here they are: 1) electrify all gas and diesel vehicles, 2) convert to 100% clean electricity from sources such as wind or solar, and 3) electrify space heating & water heating, and make it as efficient as possible, to reduce energy used.**
3. **SLIDE 5 [Pat] We started immediately after the training to give Al Gore’s Climate Reality presentation that we had been trained on, to everyone who would listen – church groups, other environmental groups, Brookdale science club, our friends, neighbors, and family. And we were always asking people to sign up to be part of our network.
Here we are giving our first talk to the Shore Group’s Science Monday at Brookdale. You can see we are really having fun with the audience Q&A – it was very successful, close to the highest turnout they had ever had (they told us 2nd only to Frank Pallone – what an honor!) Steve and a small committee also started the monthly letter writing to legislators. And soon Steve became SIerra Club “Climate Chair”.**
4. **SLIDE 6[Steve] We arranged for the Sierra Club national Ready for 100 team to travel to NJ and give a training session for our network of volunteers from several Monmouth County towns. Thus began our ongoing mentoring by Ally Samuell [Ally is Sierra Club North East US “Ready for 100” coordinator). We gave birth to our own organization, Middletown for Clean Energy. We have recruited several hundred Middletown people to sign on to work toward getting our town to commit to 100% Clean Energy. (Middletown is reluctant to commit to anything in writing, but we and our neighbors meet with them regularly and attend Committee meetings, and continue to achieve small successes with the town. They know who we are and consider us friendly but persistent.) You see, our mission is to leave a legacy of a livable world for our children and grandchildren, and nobody tries to argue with that.**
5. **SLIDE 7 [Steve] And these are the grandsons who make us so determined to save their world.**
6. **SLIDE 8 [Pat] We organized a large People’s Climate March and Rally in Red Bank, as part of 350.org’s international event (1000 marches around the world). Through their website we had over 300 people sign up, although it rained on and off and dampened turnout a bit. We had 10 speakers at the rally in Marine Park after the march, 10 display tables, and 10 plug-in electric vehicles on exhibit, all shepherded by a team of 35 volunteers. Our network was growing by leaps and bounds. We also talked our Middletown mayor into speaking on behalf of clean energy.**
7. **SLIDE 9 [Steve] Middletown for Clean Energy erects a booth at the annual Middletown Day, where we recruit Middletown residents to our cause. Middletown for Clean Energy meets monthly – it was in person at our house before the pandemic and then on Zoom for the last year. We strategize on what our next ask will be of our township officials, and try to meet with them regularly, as well as attending and speaking up at Committee meetings. We also have attended and speak at state hearings on the NJ Energy Master Plan and various legislative issues, and sign petitions and get clout by representing “Middletown for Clean Energy”.**
8. **[Pat-wait for sound] SLIDE 10 A fun thing that we have done is to attend some of the large marches and rallies that were happening more than weekly, until the pandemic cut short our ability to gather in large crowds. This was the big climate march in NYC in Sept 2019, in which Greta Thunberg spoke. We were there for that. Young people all over the world need us to make it happen. Their future is on the line. People and governments need to step up! And we are asking you to join us in this effort. You don’t have to do everything. We can do all that we do, because there are 2 of us, and we are retired. But every little step helps – we need to get cities and states to commit and get started toward clean energy. Just getting started is the key that unlocks the potential.**
9. **[Steve] I remember that NYCity March like it was yesterday! You and I thanked the policeman stationed on each block of the march, and we sat on the grass in the shade, listening to Greta at the rally in Battery Park.
 During the pandemic, most all work seemed to halt in our town and a lot of others. Starting in May of 2020, Sierra Club ran a Get Out the Vote letter writing campaign for the national Nov 2020 election. They gave us template letters and lists of names and addresses in battleground states, and asked us to handwrite 10 letters per week up until the mailing date in Nov. (And after that came the 2 Senate races in GA on Jan 5.) We decided that our most valuable contribution to climate action would be these elections. If we couldn’t get climate-friendly leaders in office at the federal level, there would be no climate action. So that is what we did, upping our game as the deadline grew closer. By the final mailing date at the end of December, the 2 of us had written over 2000 personal letters to potential voters. Here is Pat delivering one batch to the PO. I believe we influenced the Georgia vote. Our personal letters were addressed to likely environmental voters throughout Georgia. The result is the current U.S.Senate Democratic tie-breaker.
TURN OFF “SHARE”**

 **I hope we have given you some ideas of the work that turns us on. We invite you to join our newest step forward. We created a “50 x 30” team – stands for 50% GHG reduction by 2030. Join us to learn how to encourage YOURSELF, YOUR NEIGHBORS, and YOUR TOWN to cut GHG emissions by 50% by 2030. Just enter your name, email, and city in CHAT. As Pat said, you don’t have to do it all, but whatever you choose, it is important and valuable work. IN FACT, the future of the world’s grandchildren and beyond depend upon YOU.**