



CENTER FOR
Sustainable
Climate Solutions

STRATEGIC PLAN

July 2021

OUR MISSION

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions advances thinking and action in Anabaptist and other faith communities to address climate change as one of the most crucial moral challenges of our time. We work towards climate justice by inspiring action, developing leadership, and building networks.

OUR VISION

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions inspires and equips Anabaptists to be fully engaged in actions that address climate change. We envision CSCS as a leader in addressing climate change by promoting engagement and understanding through the perspectives of justice, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.

OUR VALUES

The work and goals of the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions are built on the following core values: a faith-informed perspective, a priority on marginalized and vulnerable groups, a focus on empowering youth, and an evidence-based approach to solutions.

1. **Faith-informed perspective:** CSCS views climate change as a moral issue for which Anabaptist values such as peacebuilding, reconciliation, simple living, and closeness to the land can uniquely contribute towards understanding and addressing climate change.
2. **Priority on marginalized and vulnerable groups:** CSCS promotes the underrepresented voices of communities who are directly affected by climate change, and focuses on a justice perspective which understands climate change as an intersectional issue that is intertwined with racial justice, land justice, food security, migration and other challenges.
3. **Focus on empowering young adults:** CSCS equips college-aged young adults to be agents of change on campus and in their communities, encouraging and preparing them toward careers that have an impact on climate change. We believe climate change is an

intergenerational issue that requires careful attention to the obligation to future generations, and believe youth are uniquely positioned to create change.

4. **Evidence-based approach to solutions:** CSCS believes progress on climate change is best effected by promoting evidence-based solutions from multiple disciplines. We promote engagement on multiple levels from individual behavior to advocacy, use a model of shared values and trusted voices, engage with communities through the power of storytelling, and support researchers and scholars searching for solutions.

OUR IMPACT

By the end of this 5 year plan (2026) we aim to:

- See a continuing increase in knowledge, attitudes and practices within Anabaptist churches that reflect the importance and urgency to act on climate change.
- See an increase in engagement of climate issues on the campuses of Mennonite colleges.
- Have a set of resources available for churches and institutions who wish to engage with climate issues.
- Be the central point of networking among Anabaptists and Anabaptist organizations that are engaging with climate change.
- Build a solid core of supporters for financial sustainability of CSCS.
- Increase visibility of Anabaptist perspectives on climate change outside of the Anabaptist community.

OUR OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND MEASURES

Each of the three objectives is outlined in the context of four program areas – students*, global voices, congregations, and innovation. Within all of these program areas, we focus on the following strategies which are operationalized as crosscutting activities:

- defining the work of climate action and its intersections with other justice issues
- storytelling
- connecting Anabaptist values to climate change
- equipping for advocacy
- educating, and providing tangible resources

*We use the term 'student' as an easily understood term, in our case referring to college-aged young adults who are either in college, or recently graduated.

Objective	Outputs (What we do - Strategies and Activities)	Outcomes (The change we see)
Inspire Action	<p>Student* Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support student-led activities on college campuses through the ambassador program. • Equip students with career skills through deeper internship and fellowship opportunities. • Resource students and recent graduates to mobilize and inspire their colleagues by supporting student-led activities. <p>Global Voices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide events and venues for voices of globally marginalized communities to be heard (e.g. through church or college engagement, speaking at conferences, etc). • Create resources (written, video) which give voice to diverse underrepresented communities. <p>Congregational Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities, such as retreats, for church leaders which equip them to engage their congregations more with climate change. • Provide opportunities (speaking events, advocacy training, resources, etc) for church members to take action on climate change. • Provide constituents access to resources (written, video, etc) that help them engage with climate issues from different perspectives. • Cultivate continued action in climate issues both within the church, and in general society including through social media networks. 	<p>Student Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mennonite colleges have more climate related activities and goals. • Students are equipped to engage with their communities and colleagues on climate change. • Churches and young adults are empowered to advocate on issues surrounding climate change. <p>Global Voices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement on impacts of climate change on global marginalized communities, and perspectives of these communities. • Constituents are aware and taking action in response to increased awareness of global impacts/perspectives. <p>Congregational Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church leaders incorporate climate activities in their congregations • Denominations engage more with climate issues in their activities and goals • Church members act on climate change. • Churches and young adults are empowered to advocate on issues surrounding climate change.

	<p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support development and dissemination of novel approaches to addressing climate change.• Provide opportunities to build skills of practitioners and researchers who can provide tangible and effective solutions to climate change.	<p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audiences access project results and incorporate results or lessons in their activities, reducing their climate impacts.• Anabaptist institutions have reduced their climate impacts by implementing effective solutions.
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<p>Develop Leaders</p>	<p>Student Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train students with skills, and provide opportunities to apply skills to work on their campuses, and to their future careers. • Provide opportunities which empower students to creatively seek approaches and solutions. <p>Global Voices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide leadership opportunities for those from communities who have been given less voice in climate issues (through Global Voices tours/events, and through other programs such as student programs) <p>Congregational Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip church leaders through retreats, webinars, and other resources to lead congregations on climate issues. <p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support practitioners and researchers as they become leaders in novel approaches to addressing climate change in their fields. • Lead the climate conversation in Anabaptist communities understanding what climate change means (for example, through intersectional issues, or through lenses of peacebuilding and reconciliation). 	<p>Student Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students engage in activities that lead the charge on climate action on their campuses. • Alumni of student programs go on to positions working on climate change, and/or pursue additional training/education equipping them to work on climate change. <p>Global Voices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Voices participants take leadership roles on climate issues, including by building networks with climate justice organizations, and working at intersectionality. <p>Congregational Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor and other church leaders include climate issues within their worship and ritual life, engaging in practices of both celebration and lament that lead to hopeful action. • Congregations become centers of communal climate conversation and action with impact in households and broader communities. • Leaders help congregations move to next level on advocacy and action <p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioners and researchers are resourced as experts in their fields. • Climate conversations in the Anabaptist communities incorporate themes of intersectionality, climate justice, peacebuilding and reconciliation, and other leading-edge concepts)
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<p>Build Networks</p>	<p>Student Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain ambassador program for engaging Mennonite student leaders together. ● Build a network of leaders and professionals who have worked with us as students, and that CSCS can continue to resource. <p>Global Voices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build a diverse network of organizations that CSCS works with on climate issues. ● Use networks provided through MCC and other organizations to connect globally with folks working on climate action and mitigation. ● Strengthen Global Voices participants personal networks, as well as the CSCS network of contacts. <p>Congregational Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build a network of pastors and church leaders who are passionate about climate change. ● Build a network of churches who are engaged in and interested in advocacy. <p>Innovation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create, collect and house a network of resources that can be used by CSCS for communication, teaching, etc. ● Build an interdisciplinary network of practitioners and researchers who are passionate about climate action and its role in the Anabaptist community 	<p>Student Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students on Mennonite campuses collaborate in a common effort to initiate campus climate activities (through ambassador program). ● Additional campus connections and activities results from students serving as conduits for connecting with broader campus efforts (for example, through the planned sustainability summit). <p>Global Voices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global impacts and perspectives of climate change are highlighted through networking with other organizations. ● Collaborations initiated through networks established with Global Voices participants, and through organizations that work globally. <p>Congregational Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Church networking results in pastors and their congregations increasing climate-related activities. ● Church advocacy activities are enhanced by connecting churches together in their advocacy efforts. <p>Innovation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A diverse set of resources is available for individuals, congregations and groups engaging with climate change. ● Practitioners and researchers are connected together through venues (e.g. meetings) or other mechanisms (e.g. publication sharing).
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