Mission, Vision, & Values

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 toward 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.

CSCS Impact

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<th>Student Programs</th>
<th>Church Leadership</th>
<th>Global Voices</th>
<th>Innovation</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 campus locations have student sustainability ambassadors</td>
<td>134 congregations reached through pastor climate retreats (including 17% of all Mennonite USA congregations)</td>
<td>2,000 people reached with stories of climate impacts in other countries</td>
<td>13 research projects funded (3 survey projects, solar economics, congregational climate solutions, environmental ethics, congregational strategic planning, congregational engagement for advocacy, nitrogen footprinting, prairie carbon sequestration, Mennonite environmental hymnology, sustainable coffee production, creation care theology)</td>
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<td>7,000 students on Mennonite campuses that can engage with campus sustainability activities</td>
<td>17,000 estimated church members reached through their pastors who attended retreats</td>
<td>40 venues heard from speakers during the first two global voices tours</td>
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<td>35 students and recent graduates engaged in fellow, intern and/or ambassador roles</td>
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Impact Report:

- Estimated church members reached through pastors who attended retreats: 17,000
- Campus locations with student sustainability ambassadors: 9
- Campus sustainability ambassadors: 35
- Evangelistic and student engagement: 40 venues heard from speakers during the first two global voices tours
- Research projects funded: 13 (3 survey projects, solar economics, congregational climate solutions, environmental ethics, congregational strategic planning, congregational engagement for advocacy, nitrogen footprinting, prairie carbon sequestration, Mennonite environmental hymnology, sustainable coffee production, creation care theology)
- Student sustainability ambassadors: 7,000
- Campus locations with student sustainability ambassadors: 9
- Campus sustainability ambassadors: 35
- Evangelistic and student engagement: 40 venues heard from speakers during the first two global voices tours
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Climate Futures Fellow Clara Weybright spent a year working with climate advocacy and Mennonite churches. To understand better where Mennonites are at on political advocacy, she undertook an extensive survey of Mennonite churches. Her findings found a surprising receptivity of Mennonites to advocacy — less than 10% of respondents felt engaging with policymakers and policies is a part of my calling as a Christian — but that their preferred activities are not those shown to be most effective at moving policies. These findings were translated into a programmatic strategy, resulting in increased advocacy by multiple churches around the country.

Key Innovation Programs:

- CSCS’s partnership with organizations in multiple sectors gives a network of experts from diverse disciplines.
- Projects resulted in publications for scholarly and public use, presented at national meetings, and made accessible through webinars.
- Research results are available through web resources such as CSCS white papers.
Finances

Finances for 36 months, beginning July 1, 2022

Annual Budget of $300,000 per year

Asking institutional and individual partners to provide financial support for these three years, ending June 30, 2025. To date we have commitments for nearly $125,000 per year.

- CSCS plans to raise $90,000 per year from existing donor base as well as ramp up its donor capacity over the next three years, making a total of $175,000 per year.

Remaining $125,000 per year we hope to obtain in the following format:
- One institutional donor at $50,000 per year
- Two institutional donors at $25,000 per year
- Three institutional donors at $10,000 per year
- Four institutional donors at $5,000 per year
- Eight individual donors at $2,500 per year
- Ten individual donors at $1,000 per year

Your pledge or gift, in any amount, as an organization or as an individual will help to support CSCS’s work in the following areas:

- To enable leadership development and training for young adults in the area of climate change and climate justice.
- To enable our work in support of Global Voices, especially from the developing world, to be heard concerning the impact of climate change in their communities.
- To enable the training of church leadership in the area of spiritual development related to climate change.
- To enable CSCS to serve as a convener of Mennonite and other Anabaptist organizations who desire to collaborate on climate change programming and messaging.
- To enable CSCS to serve as a clearinghouse of climate resources for the Anabaptist community, and to promote Anabaptist perspectives on climate change.
- To enable CSCS to work with Anabaptist organizations who wish to explore new ways they can enhance their work in climate change, climate justice and care for the earth, consistent with their current mission and vision.

Please be in touch with Mark Lancaster, Advancement director of CSCS, if you would like to discuss a financial commitment over the next three years that will allow CSCS to meet its budget needs until such time as CSCS can grow its donor base. You may call Mark at 510.809.6721 or email him at marklancaster16@gmail.com.

A Vision for the Future

Every year, the World Economic Forum evaluates the top global risks by surveying a thousand global experts and leaders. For 2022, the three of the top five risks are related to what we in the faith community sometimes refer to as “creation care” issues – the earth systems that sustain us. Highest on the list of risks is “climate action failure.” We need to act now, and people know that. The most recent (2021) survey of climate attitudes in the U.S. shows the percentage of people alarmed by climate change has doubled in the last 5 years, a trend which is not surprising given that 40% of people in the U.S. live in counties affected by climate-related disasters in 2021.

CSCS believes that we as an Anabaptist community have a moral obligation to respond with urgency and compassion to this as an issue of justice, and that we have a unique and needed contribution to global efforts at addressing climate change. In our first five years, we’ve grown our impact in strategic areas through generous support of those who share our passion, and through collaborations with organizations who are sharing this journey with us.

Now is the time to expand our impact, and CSCS is moving forward with a strategy of accelerating climate action by building closer partnerships with a broad spectrum of Anabaptist organizations. We see the future of the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions as one in which the organization increases its engagement with the broader Anabaptist and Mennonite Communities to recognize the tremendous possible impact these faith communities could have on global climate change. We believe that CSCS can be integral to the process of building partnerships and collaborations on climate change among Anabaptists, train young people as leaders to impact both the church and wider community related to climate change and climate justice, be a resource for the global church community on best practices for reducing global warming and partner with often unheard global voices so they will be heard on the issues of climate change disproportionately affecting their regions of the world.

We all know the trajectory of climate change does not bode well. But we join those persons and organizations who recognize hope comes from working together as a community, and that through collaborative efforts, we can multiply our impacts. We’re committed to that hopeful vision of the future, and invite others to partner with us on this journey.

DOUG GRABER NEUFELD
Director, CSCS
“Working collectively to protect God’s creation forestalls our destiny to become Venus.”

RUSSELL DE YOUNG
Senior Research Scientist, NASA Langley Research Center (retired)
CSCS Board of Reference Member

Climate Riders Greta Lapp Klassen, Sierra Ross Richer, and Anna Paetkau are joined by Doug Kaufman, CSCS Director of Pastoral Ecology, to talk about climate issues with Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) at the U.S. Capitol on July 28, 2021. MCC photo/Tammy Alexander

You can contact us directly at (540)432-4402 or Mark Lancaster, Advancement Director (510) 809-6721 or by emailing cscs@sustainableclimatesolutions.org

sustainableclimatesolutions.org