

# IMPACT REPORT



**CENTER FOR**  
Sustainable  
Climate Solutions

[sustainableclimatesolutions.org](https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org)

# 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.

Our strategic plan focuses on the three goals of building networks, inspiring action and developing leaders. These are implemented through our four program areas.



# CSCS Impact

## Student Programs

**9** campus locations have student sustainability ambassadors

**7,000** students on Mennonite campuses that can engage with campus sustainability activities

**35** students and recent graduates engaged in fellow, intern and/or ambassador roles

## Church Leadership

**134** congregations reached through pastor climate retreats (including **17%** of all MCUSA congregations).

**17,000** estimated church members reached through their pastors who attended retreats.

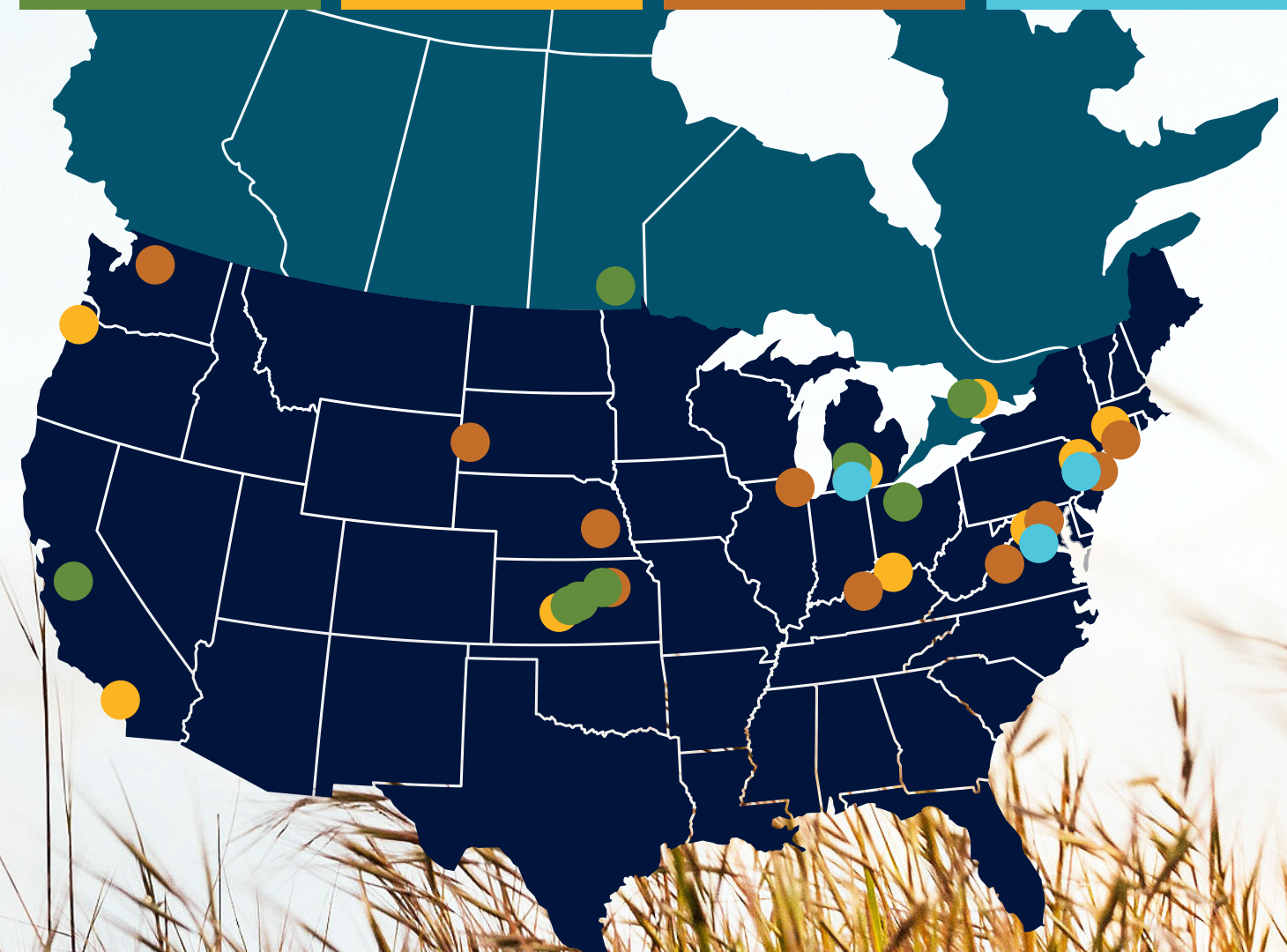
## Global Voices

**2,000** people reached with stories of climate impacts in other countries.

**40** venues heard from speakers during the first two global voices tours.

## Innovation

**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).



# Student Programs

## Training tomorrow's leaders

At CSCS we are building capacity for climate leadership by training the next generation of leaders. Youth are central to the climate movement, want to make their voices heard, and hold great potential for making climate action a reality.

## Dhiraj Adhikari:

### Future Global Leader for the Environment

Dhiraj Adhikari is passionate about making an impact on the world. When he started working with CSCS the first thing he mentioned was his lifelong dream to start an Environmental Protection Agency in his home country Nepal. Working with CSCS began to equip him with the tools he needed to make that dream a reality. Dhiraj started working with the Center as a Campus Sustainability Ambassador at Tabor College, and then went on to complete the Climate Advocacy internship in Washington DC.

#### Key Student Programs:

- Climate Futures Fellowships provide unique opportunities to implement climate projects, such as the Shifting Climates podcast.
- Climate Ambassadors on Mennonite colleges support climate action, and build a network for mutual support.
- Internships give youth the skills needed for engaging in climate leadership, and develop resources such as guides for climate advocacy.



# Global Voices

## Hearing the stories of communities around the world

At CSCS we are inspiring action by giving voice to stories and perspectives of those most affected by climate change, and those who suffer climate injustice.

## Sibonokuhle Ncube

### Giving Voice to Global Impacts

"Being grassroots based, it makes sense for the church to also lead from the front, because to a very large extent, don't we have the greatest moral responsibility to be leading from the front? It then becomes a very big opportunity for the church to take leadership and live out radical discipleship from its identity."

#### Key Global Voices Programs:

- Climate stories are promoted through multiple venues — churches, conferences, universities, townhalls, webinars, articles, videos and social media.
- Climate Ride 2021 raised climate justice issues through five townhall events across the country. "Moving the Story" documentary highlights the voices of communities across the United States.
- Climate and racial justice is highlighted in our popular "For the Beauty of the Earth" webinar series.



# Church Leadership

## Supporting pastors to engage their congregations

As Director of Pastoral Ecology, Doug's successful pastoral retreats were highlighted by the Yale Climate Connections. "I think everyone, no matter what you do, you need to be thinking about how you can address climate change. One congregation helped the members of the congregation to discern the fossil fuel investments of their banks and decide which bank they want to invest in. And they're thinking of doing that now with retirement funds and other investments as well. Participants are more likely to talk about climate change and they're more hopeful about climate change than they were before they attended the retreat."

Participants Katerina Friesen summed up her retreat experience in a conference article: "I felt a resurgence of hope that the church can witness to the broader gospel of God's love in Christ for the whole earth in the midst of climate change."



#### Key Congregational Programs:

- Congregational outreach to multiple Anabaptist denominations in the US and Canada; now piloting as a model for an ecumenical retreat.
- Retreats led by our Director of Pastoral Ecology have doubled pastor's participation in political advocacy, increased by 50% the number of pastors who feel can talk about climate change adequately, and halved the number who found it depressing and hopeless to talk about climate.
- Resources such as our Creation care action plans are developed based on the latest best practices in climate communication.

# Innovation

## Research on novel climate solutions

At CSCS we are inspiring action by translating original research findings into actionable solutions. Original research produces viable solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

## Clara Weybright

### Training churches to advocate for system change

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.



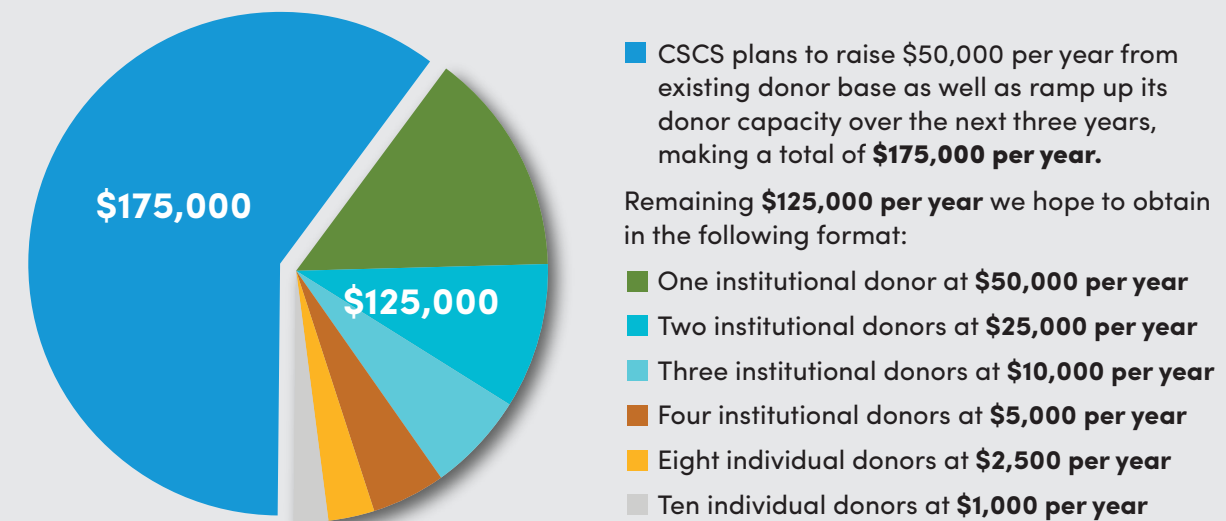
# Finances

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 those three years, ending June 30, 2025.

To date we have commitments for nearly \$125,000 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 **marklancaster116@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

## TOP 5 GLOBAL RISKS

■ Environmental ■ Societal

1	Climate action failure
2	Extreme weather
3	Biodiversity loss
4	Social cohesion erosion
5	Livelihood crisis

Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Perceptions Survey 2021-2022

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 that 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



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

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