OUR STRATEGY

Convening and Facilitating: A core activity of the Climate Action Program is convening our global network to catalyze and facilitate conversation. With partners on six continents representing dozens of faith traditions, we are experts in fostering connections. Faith communities are engaging in several actions to mobilize their communities on climate, including education, policy advocacy, greening congregations, shifting energy infrastructure, and pursuing nature-based solutions.

Knowledge Sharing and Disseminating: The Climate Action Program has built an expansive knowledge infrastructure through research and scanning. We work internationally, with multiple partners and collaborations, and through a variety of platforms. We have an intricate understanding of how faith communities draw from their traditions in their climate work and tactics. It is imperative that we enable sharing of this knowledge. We know that our partners are seeking a ‘360 degree view’ of activity within the global faith community.

Inspiring Action: As the world’s largest global interfaith convening body with a 125 year history, Faith-Based Organizations look to us as leaders. Beyond our roles as convenors and knowledge holders, Parliament inspires and motivates action. Through our work with the faith community and mainstream civil society organizations, the Climate Action Program shines a light on our common history and morality, and the teachings in our traditions that compel us to act.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

World Interfaith Harmony Week: Three Chicago faith leaders spoke about why interfaith harmony is important in their work on climate change.
50th Anniversary of Earth Day Commemoration: Board Chair Audrey Kitagawa collected Earth Day blessings from leaders around the world, which were mapped on Parliament’s website. We were invited to organize a prayer service during the global Earth Day event organized by the Climate Strike movement. As part of our ‘Global Conversation’ series, we brought together leaders for a wide-ranging dialogue.

Engagement with the UK Foreign Ministry: We began a conversation with the Civil Society Engagement team working on the UNFCCC Conference of Parties at the UK Foreign Ministry. The resulting partnership will see a webinar and series of climate webforum articles in 2021.

Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue on Climate Change: As a result of overwhelming response to the dialogue in April, we laid plans for an ongoing Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue.

Faith for Earth: A Time for Action: In conjunction with UN Environment, we released the publication in digital and printed form. We also created a roadmap for ‘companion briefs’, which will be deep dives on specific religions, and also a website for the publication.

FBO Action on the SDGs: Progress and Outlook: In conjunction with UN Environment, Bhumi Global, and URI, we released a report assessing the faith progress on the SDGs.

Launch of Faith and Biodiversity Initiative: We are on the advisory council for an emerging project, led by Bhumi Global and WWF, convening faith groups to advance solutions to the biodiversity crisis.

Presentation at the SDG report at the Faith for Nature conference

Presentation at the 2nd Annual Sustainable Energy Education and Knowledge Sharing (SEEK) conference
LEVERAGING OUR SUCCESS IN 2021

Nature-based Solutions: We will continue to engage as a founding member of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative and advisory council member for the emerging faith and biodiversity project.

Partnering with FORE on SDGs: Our SDG report is a living document. As the faith community continues to make progress on SDG targets in the next 10 years, we will track and report on it. We have had preliminary discussions with FORE about partnering on a web platform for collecting and assessing this data.

Publicizing and Building on Faith and Earth: We will continue to disseminate this publication, develop companion briefs, and build a dynamic website to display all of our work.

Ramping up for big international convenings: 2021 will see the UNFCCC COP and the UN Environment Assembly. The Climate Action Program is working to build momentum towards these important events and we will be represented as is feasible.