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The 2023 Convening featured a dedicated program track for Climate Action, composed of both panels and workshops, that covered all aspects of the climate crisis from a variety of spiritual and ethical perspectives.

The Climate Village functioned as the hub of all climate organizations and presentations at the Convening--with 12 different interfaith partners represented. Within the village, the Green Tent offered a space for climate conversations, networking, and reflection.

We are proud of the overall sustainability of the Convening--with the selection of a carbon-neutral and sustainable venue for the event. You can read about sustainability at McCormick Place here.

You can learn more about Climate Action at the 2023 Convening here.
Opening Climate Action Assembly

With diverse voices and strong youth representation, this assembly set up the week of climate action events by introducing the climate crisis and featuring luminaries such as Dr. Jane Goodall (via video), Carroll Muffett, Elder Moogy Sumner, and more.

An Urgent Call to Protect the Amazon

With partnership from the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, Indigenous Medicine Conservation Fund, and generous sponsors, this main stage event brought Indigenous leaders from the Amazon Rainforest to Chicago to share their traditions and make an urgent call for protections of their sacred homeland.

Closing Climate Action Assembly

Featuring a strong call to action for personal commitment, divestment from fossil fuels, and definitive action from governments, this assembly featured diverse voices including Bishop Marc Andrus, Karena Gore, Rev. Dr Gerald Durley, and more.
Below is a featured list of some of our initiatives in 2023 that were created in partnership with our interfaith and climate change community.

- Monthly webinars of the Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue on Climate Change
- Publication of 3 supplements to the 2020 “Faith Action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals”
- Advocacy on Repurposing the United Nations Trusteeship Council
- The Right to a Healthy Environment: Looking Ahead (one-day conference)
- Webinar on “Faith and a Treaty for Climate Justice” with GreenFaith and the Fossil Fuels Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative
- Virtual premiere of An Urgent Call to Protect the Amazon with the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative

We are excited to share that our Director of Climate Action, Emily Echevarria, in November 2023 earned her Master of Arts degree in Environmental Diplomacy from DePaul University.
In 2024, we envision a new version of the Task Force, focused on smaller, project-based working groups along 3 priority areas of education, partnerships, and advocacy. This will involve a complete reorganization of the current task force in January, followed by a transition period as we orient new members. We will also begin the search for our next Chair.

We are also seeking grants to ensure the financial sustainability of the Task Force and its future projects.

With these goals in mind, we look to develop a network of interfaith partnerships that aid in the call to protect our planet. For anyone interested in working with the Task Force in 2024, please contact Emily Echevarria at eechevarria@parliamentofreligions.org.