

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2021

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Faith Leaders Honor Sustainability Champions

Awards ceremony will honor local climate heroes who are leaders in their communities to “Plan, Restore, and Thrive”

The public is invited to the online awards ceremony for the winners of the fourth annual Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) Sustainability Champions Awards held Wednesday, June 2 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. The theme of this year's awards, "Plan, Restore, Thrive," weaves in FACS' goal of creating sustainable and resilient communities for current and future generations. FACS knows that climate change effects are felt locally and that decisions made at the local level impact climate policies. The annual awards highlight the people and organizations that have made significant contributions towards the FACS mission of creating moral and equitable solutions to climate change in Northern Virginia. Nominations are received from the community, and winners are chosen by a committee composed of FACS leadership and prior award winners. [Register for this free event.](#)

The day before Earth Day, FACS announced the winners of its 2021 Sustainability Champions Awards. The 2021 winners are:

- **Individual: Karen Campblin.**
Karen's service, leadership, and membership in a variety of local organizations and working groups positions her as an outstanding example of how much impact an individual can have when it comes to climate action and effective, sustainable change.
- **Faith Community: Rock Spring United Church of Christ**
Becoming a Net Zero church is a big step forward, but only the latest action in Rock Spring's decades-long commitment to address climate change. Rock

Spring's response to the climate crisis is an inspiration to other local faith communities.

- **Local Business: OmMade Peanut Butter**

Radhika Murari transformed a hobby of making nutritional snacks for her son into OmMade Peanut Butter, a local company with national acclaim. She infuses sustainability and environmentally sound practices into her production.

- **Local Elected Official: Elaine Tholen, Dranesville School Board Representative**

Elaine managed the Fairfax County Public Schools Get2Green Program and helped found NoVA Outside, for which she co-chairs their Student Environmental Action Showcase.

- **State Elected Official: Delegate Kaye Kory**

Kaye Kory is a leader in the Virginia legislature who sponsored passage of a bill enabling the creation of local Green Banks throughout the Commonwealth.

[Learn more about the current champions.](#)

Meg Mall, Executive Director of FACS, shared, “This year’s awardees exemplify our commitment to equitable, local solutions to the climate crisis. We are honored to partner with these outstanding individuals and organizations as well as all our nominees.”

The keynote speaker for the awards ceremony is the Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, a faith leader, climate activist, author, and public theologian. He serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Antal’s book, CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD, was featured in the Chicago Tribune on Earth Day 2018, and in Christian Century Magazine on Earth Day 2019. Antal received the 2019 Steward of Creation award from the National Religious Coalition for Creation Care, joining the Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley and Prof. Katharine Hayhoe, and previous awardees HAH Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Bill McKibben, the Sioux Nation, James Hansen and Wendell Berry.

Registration information.

Join us in honoring the leadership, commitment, and hard work of our Sustainability Champions on **Wednesday, June 2 at 5:00 p.m.** Eastern time during an online ceremony. The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal will give remarks on addressing the climate crisis: together we can plan, restore, and thrive. Help us celebrate and look forward to a sustainable future! [Register here.](#)

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Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions is a nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization that unites people of faith to develop local solutions to the climate crisis. Our network includes Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, Mainline Protestant, Hindu, Unitarian Universalist, Society of Friends, and other traditions.

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