Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions has an ambitious agenda – climate change is too important not to be ambitious – and we must organize effectively to advance local solutions to the urgent challenge of our time.

Why multi-faith local climate justice advocacy? Deep common roots of all faith traditions impel action to care for creation, to act as responsible stewards of the gift of life, and to share in compassion for suffering. FACS creates opportunities and a caring community for people to act from their core values to heal the world.

In 2021, FACS grew. Over 2,600 participants from more than 190 faith communities in Northern Virginia became a presence for positive local change. We successfully pressed NOVA counties to create staffed offices on climate and energy, develop ambitious comprehensive plans to cut greenhouse gasses and improve community resilience, tax single use plastic bags, expand electric vehicle charging stations, establish local green banks, and install solar on government buildings. Local interfaith climate justice hubs in Virginia are getting stronger in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and the North and Central Shenandoah Valley, as well as in Montgomery County, Maryland.

People of faith have unique opportunities to advocate for change. When we meet with local elected officials, FACS members do not speak as Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or libertarians, but as members of the Catholic parish, synagogue, mosque and Presbyterian church in their districts. And we are not seeking change out of self-interest, but from a profound conviction that we are responsible to one another to pass on a world, one better for our having been here. The Buddhist teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh, observed: “We rely on each other. Our children are relying on us in order for them to have a future.”

We have a choice about where we choose to spend our energy, not the energy of fossil fuels, but the energy of individual and collective action. How we use our energy is everything. We can either keep putting our energy into continuing business as usual; or we can choose to use our energy, our skills, training and positions, to help bring about a better future.

In peace and commitment,

Eric Goplerud
Board Chair
The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) was formed to create opportunities for people to act together effectively from their values and moral, spiritual, and religious beliefs. The faith community’s ability to organize large numbers of people, who might not otherwise engage in advocacy, makes it a critical asset to advancing climate justice solutions. Many people aren’t aware of decisions made at the local level that impact climate policies, yet that is where effects of climate change are felt most keenly. Persistent, local advocacy grounded in morality is how FACS makes an impact.

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

AWARDED
$35,900
IN GRANTS

RAISED
$102,143
BY INDIVIDUAL DONORS

RAISED
$14,904
BY FAITH COMMUNITIES

OUR PURPOSE

The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) was formed to create opportunities for people to act together effectively from their values and moral, spiritual, and religious beliefs. The faith community’s ability to organize large numbers of people, who might not otherwise engage in advocacy, makes it a critical asset to advancing climate justice solutions. Many people aren’t aware of decisions made at the local level that impact climate policies, yet that is where effects of climate change are felt most keenly. Persistent, local advocacy grounded in morality is how FACS makes an impact.

OUR IMPACT

190+ Faith Communities

2600 Supporters & Climate Activists
**OUR OBJECTIVES**

**Smart Growth**
Address issues related to development, including land use, tree canopy, transportation, and building a more equitable community.

**Reduce the Waste Stream**
Advocate for Zero Waste, including efforts tied to food waste and food insecurity, elimination of single-use plastics, composting, and recycling.

**Energy and Justice**
Increase adoption of renewable energy, net zero schools, energy efficiency, building codes, and reduce energy burdens in lower income communities.

**GROWING INVOLVEMENT SHOWS RESULTS**

- FACS activists convinced the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to ban plastic yard bags and to tax plastic bags.

- In Prince William County, we encouraged the Board of Supervisors to create an Office of Sustainability and fund a climate action plan and sustainability commission.

- State leaders passed a bill to establish local green banks, which Governor Northam signed into law this year.

Victory! Thanks to years of advocacy by FACS activists, the Fairfax County Board formally accepted the Community-wide Climate and Energy Action Plan.
In June 2021, FACS hosted its Fourth Annual Sustainability Champions Awards with keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Jim Antal.

In November 2021, FACS hosted its Sixth Annual Virginia Climate Crisis Forum: "Our Children's Future."

FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- FACS launched a Solar Sanctuaries program to partner with faith communities to install solar and battery backup systems, providing resilience as we encounter increasingly extreme weather and power outages.

- FACS partnered with SEEK (Sustainable Energy, Equity, and Knowledge-Sharing Project) to help faith communities learn how to use the EPA/ENERGY STAR portfolio manager to establish energy and climate baselines.


- FACS held two webinars that outlined what a Net Zero commitment is and showcased a local faith community’s journey to Net Zero.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

Plan | Restore | Thrive

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jim Antal
Rev. Dr. Jim Antal is a denominational 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.

Individual: Karen Campblin
Karen is a member of the Fairfax County Tree Commission, the Land Unit J Task Force, the Joint Environmental Task Force, and the Virginia’s Council on Environmental Justice. Karen serves as the Co-director of the Green New Deal Virginia, the Transportation and Smart Growth Co-chair of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Environmental and Climate Justice Chair of the Virginia State Conference NAACP, and the President of the Fairfax branch of the NAACP.

Faith Community: Rock Spring United Church of Christ
Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ is a community that believes that climate change is real and so is their ability to respond to it in transformative ways. Visible proof of this is Rock Spring’s strong commitment to become a Net Zero congregation, a major accomplishment supported by a congregational vote of 97%. Rock Spring’s plan includes insulation improvements, solar power installation, window upgrades, and automation. 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. Under the guidance of the Eco-Justice Committee our congregation engaged for more than a decade in many green actions, including native gardens, tree planting, Rock Spring’s Plot Against Hunger, and changing out light bulbs. With their actions, they hope to lead by example and inspire other congregations.
Local Business: OmMade Peanut Butter
Radhika Murari is the owner of OmMade Peanut Butter. What started out as a healthy homemade snack for her son and experimenting with unique flavors has transformed into a product with national acclaim and a manufacturing grant from the state and local governments, recognition in People magazine, and a best seller in the Virginia Living Store. She creates her all natural gourmet peanut butter with an eye to sustainability and environmentally sound practices, such as choosing locally sourced Virginia peanuts, organic ingredients whenever possible, plastic-free packaging, and biodegradable and compostable shipping materials.

Elected Official - Local: Elaine Tholen, Dranesville School Board
For eight years Elaine managed the Fairfax County Public Schools Get2Green Program. This district-wide, preK-12 program promotes environmental stewardship among students and staff. She managed the district Sustainability Team and led FCPS to having a nationally acclaimed Green School program. Tholen is a founder of NoVA Outside and has co-chaired their Student Environmental Action Showcase for the past 10 years. The Showcase is hosted in collaboration with George Mason University and allows over 500 regional students to showcase their work. Prior to her work with FCPS, she worked 10 years for SAIC managing a staff focused on large environmental cleanups for the US Department of Energy.

Elected Official - State: 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. Kory has been a delegate in the Virginia legislature representing Fairfax County’s 38th district since 2010. From 1999–2009, she was a member of the Fairfax County School Board. As chair of the House of Delegates’ Counties, Cities and Towns Committee, Kory showed skill and determination in passage of the Green Banks legislation.

Plan | Restore | Thrive
Thank you to our sponsor!
In November 2021, FACS hosted its Sixth Annual Virginia Climate Crisis Forum: "Our Children's Future." We hosted an important discussion with two of our region's most influential leaders, Fairfax County Board Chair Jeff McKay and Arlington County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti.

**2021 VIRGINIA CLIMATE CRISIS FORUM**

Our guest speakers from Our Children's Trust, the world's only non-profit public interest law firm dedicated exclusively to securing the legal rights of youth to a healthy atmosphere and safe climate, based on the best available science.

**LAYLA H. v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

Our guest speakers from Our Children’s Trust, the world’s only non-profit public interest law firm dedicated exclusively to securing the legal rights of youth to a healthy atmosphere and safe climate, based on the best available science.

"I want to fight to see the day where every kid’s bright future includes both access to a healthy environment and unlimited stores of hope and stability."

- Layla H.

[Read more at https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/virginia](https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/virginia)
Thanks to the generosity of our donors and successful grants, FACS’ total revenue for 2021 was $159,047. Individual giving accounts for over 60% of our funding. Thank you!
OUR TEAM

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Jack Bowles
Director of State & Local Solutions, Environmental Protection Agency

Julie Rosenberg
Retired Branch Chief for State & Local Energy & Environment Program, Environmental Protection Agency

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!
GET INVOLVED

Join one of our seven Advocacy Hubs: Fairfax County (our flagship), Prince William County, Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, Loudoun County, Montgomery County, and Northern Valley.

Are you ready to join an advocacy team and put faith into action?
Is your faith community interested in participating in an eco-actions program?
Are you interested in volunteering your time and passion to help support FACS’ operational, outreach, and/or program activities?

Visit FaithForClimate.org/Advocacy or email us at Info@FaithforClimate.org

LET'S CONNECT:  

"Let us be 'protectors' of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment."

- Pope Francis

THANK YOU

We work today for a better tomorrow, and together we are stronger. Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and the time and effort from our dedicated volunteers. Thank you!

Interested in giving options? Visit FaithforClimate.org/Give.