



THE CASE FOR SUPPORT **CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**



CENTER FOR
Sustainable
Climate Solutions

sustainableclimatesolutions.org

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions (CSCS) is a collaborative initiative of Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College and Mennonite Central Committee to lead Anabaptist efforts to respond to the challenges of climate change.



VISION

We envision Anabaptists fully engaged in actions to mitigate climate change, and Anabaptist perspectives influencing the larger climate conversation.

We envision the church responding to climate change as a moral equivalent to peacebuilding.

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GOOD



I am moved by the quantity and quality of CSCS projects underway. In particular, many young minds are focusing on the present and future good of the larger community – discipleship in its most productive form.

Ben Brabson, Emeritus Professor of Physics at Indiana University
CSCS Board of Reference Member



Director Doug Graber Neufeld, PhD

CSCS was founded with a clear vision to **move the needle on climate issues within the Anabaptist Churches**, and to be the **distinctive voice of Anabaptist tradition on this critical issue**.

To this end, we seek to advance climate solutions and conversations, with an initial focus on the Mennonite Church. CSCS works in research, innovation, education and collaboration to catalyze faith-informed, justice-focused activity in the Anabaptist community that promotes care for creation, and environmental justice.

CSCS's work in this area is uniquely needed now. **Why?**

First, scientists tell us that climate change is among the most urgent issues facing us. The 2018 special report by the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) is a clarion call that amplifies the message we've known for years now – we have a dozen years to make dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid the most serious impacts.

Yet, the urgency of the need for addressing this issue is not matched by action in our society.

Second, Mennonites and other Anabaptists have a deep tradition of responding to the needs in our world. Our survey work shows that 72% of those in MCUSA think that caring for the earth should be an essential part of the mission of the church.

Yet surveys in the general U.S. society show that most of us are not talking about the issue. Mennonites, like the general society, are thus not translating our concerns into action.

CSCS is working hard to address these issues by motivating Mennonites to action, and promoting actions that lead to solutions.

The voices of Mennonites and other Anabaptists are needed and desired in the climate community. Anabaptists have a reputation for matching their action to their words, for caring for those in our world that suffer, and for living close to the land.

CSCS brings these Anabaptist voices and sensibilities to bear on climate issues, and needs your partnership to have an impact on "the issue of our time".

THE CSCS IMPACT

CSCS's activities within and beyond the Mennonite Church work to impact knowledge, attitudes and practices through several key programmatic areas.



"Climate Futures Fellows" (Sarah Longenecker, Michaela Mast, Harrison Horst)



Global South Voices participants: Sibonokuhle Ncube from Zimbabwe, and Durga Sunchiuri from Nepal

STUDENTS: Engaging tomorrow's leaders

- Student interns are **learning skills in climate leadership, and engaging with churches and organizations** in climate-related efforts.
- CSCS supports **student internships**, such as our two 2018 interns working with advocacy in Washington D.C., and with congregational engagement in northern Indiana.
- Our year-long Climate Futures Fellowship program allows recent graduates to **propose how their own project will uniquely advance the discussion of climate issues.**
- **CSCS is in communication with all of our Mennonite colleges in the U.S.** Our climate ambassador program has one student representative at each of the 7 U.S. Mennonite colleges, who are coordinating campus activities related to climate change.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS:

Creating original research that helps us find viable solutions

- **Innovative solutions are being researched and promoted** by leveraging expertise of university faculty, such as a project on the economics of solar energy which helps homeowners decide when it is advantageous to invest in solar panels.
- **A comprehensive survey** was implemented in early 2017 giving us the first quantitative understanding about Mennonite attitudes and practice on the issue of climate change.
- The **distinctives of Anabaptist theological understandings of climate change** are being explored and articulated through work by faculty exploring ethics and theology.

GLOBAL SOUTH VOICES:

Hearing the stories of our brothers and sisters around the world

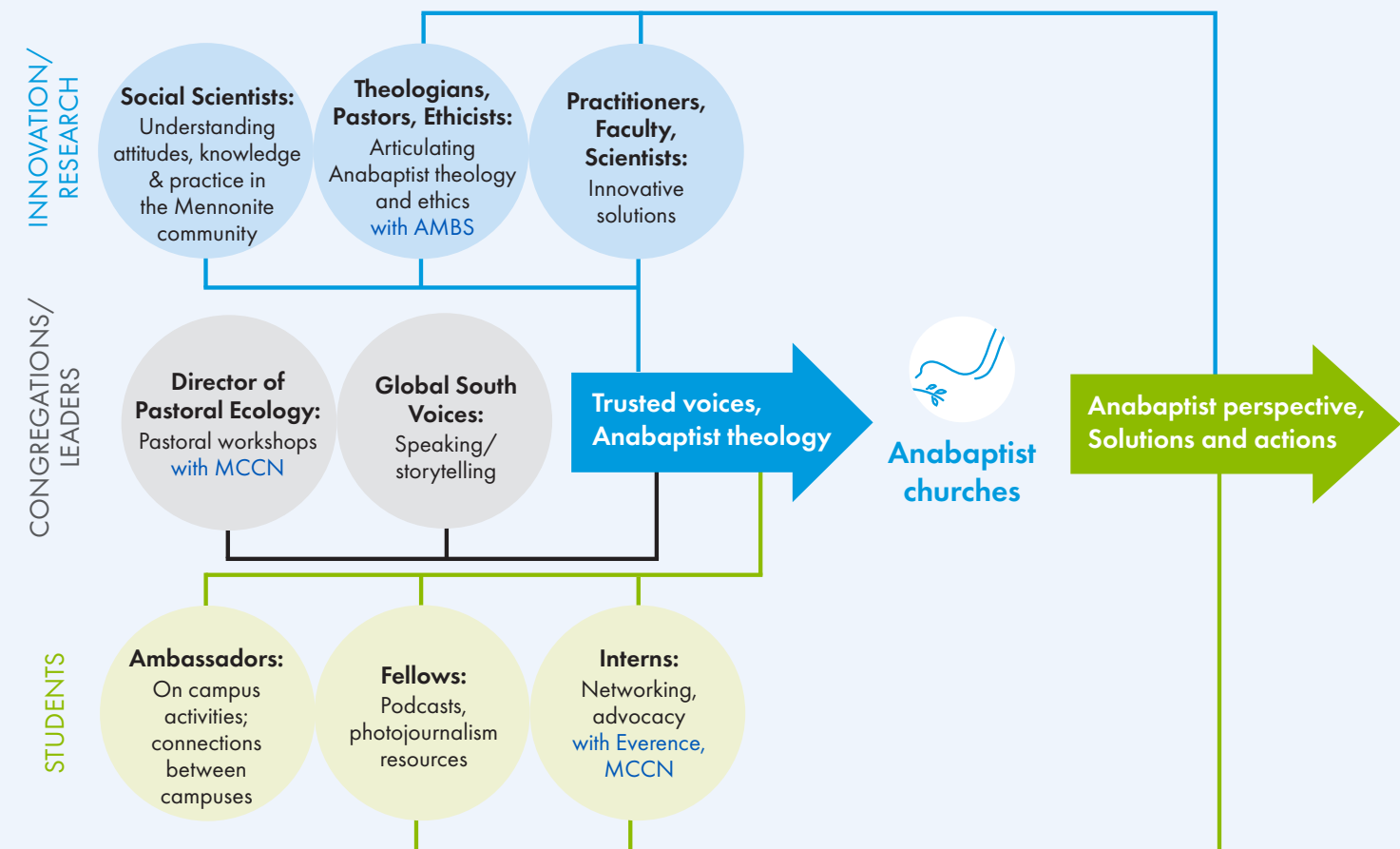
- We are **giving voice to those in the Global South**, who are among those most affected by climate change, but whose stories are not often heard.
- Our first group of **Global South Voices participants** spoke at 30 events, reaching over 1,100 people in congregations, universities, businesses and the U.S. capital.

CHURCHES AND CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP:

Bringing conversations and actions into our faith communities

- Doug Kaufman, director of pastoral ecology, has developed a training curriculum, and is running **pastoral workshops** in three locations that focus on climate issues.
- Our first Climate Futures Fellows are creating two 10 episode seasons of a podcast, "**Shifting Climates**," which seeks to rehumanize the climate conversation.
- We are bringing the conversation to **Mennonite professional gatherings**, such as the Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship, and **faith meetings outside of the church** through workshops.

OUR STRATEGY:



OUR MISSION

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions advances thinking and action in Anabaptist and other faith communities to mitigate climate change. Our work in research, innovation, education and collaboration catalyzes faith-informed, justice-focused activity that promotes sustainable living, environmental justice and care for creation. To this end, we:

- **Conduct and synthesize** interdisciplinary research to increase faith communities' and faith-based organizations' understanding, engagement, and advocacy around climate change.
- **Develop, implement and document** innovative strategies and programming that individuals and organizations can adopt to mitigate their contributions to climate change.
- **Educate and equip** students and constituents to take action that reduces individual, organizational, and systemic contributions to climate change.
- **Connect and strengthen** advocacy and climate change mitigation efforts across congregations and organizations in order to maximize engagement and impact.

OUR PARTNERS

CSCS began with the vision of Ray Martin to help fund a program that would transform the Mennonite Church's engagement on climate issues. CSCS was started as a unique collaboration of three Mennonite institutions - Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College, and Mennonite Central Committee - who could **work together in a unique way to address climate issues.**

- Our Oversight Board - an operational group of 9 from the core partners (EMU, Goshen, and MCC) who make decisions about CSCS's direction and activities.
- Our Board of Reference - an advisory group of 9 from outside the core partners, who contribute their diverse perspectives to the overall strategy of the Center.
- Our Strategic Partners - a group of three key Mennonite institutions (Mennonite Creation Care Network, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and Everence) who are invested in making an impact on climate issues.
- Other Mennonite institutions and organizations working with climate issues - we are connecting with a range of Mennonite institutions who can have an impact on climate conversations.



CSCS Board of Reference, Oversight Board, and staff

CSCS NEEDS **YOUR** HELP

We are blessed to have visionary leadership support from Ray Martin and Brent and Deirdre Alderfer who are providing seed funding this year and next year.

These generous leaders are challenging others who understand the urgency of this issue to join them in support for the Center.

PLEASE JOIN US BY BECOMING A CLIMATE SOLUTIONS PARTNER AT ONE OF THESE LEVELS:

\$1,000

\$2,500

\$5,000

\$10,000

An amount meaningful to you.

FUNDING OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS:

Make an impact through this year's student, church, and solutions-based programming.

Projected budget for current year (2018-19)

Base operations (staff, networking)	\$109,400
Student engagement programs	\$66,000
Church and congregational programs	\$60,000
Innovative solutions programs	\$120,000
Budget for fully funding existing projects	\$355,400

SCALING UP: *Climate issues need action now, and our response needs to match the urgency of the challenge.*

Partner with us as we enter a phase of expanding our programs in the coming year through:

- **Creating an endowment.** We seek to raise \$1 million in the next year to start an endowment that establishes a base for financial sustainability.
- **Offering more opportunities for students** to engage this issue, by expanding our internship opportunities.
- **Giving voice to more of those affected by climate change,** such as those from the global south, who can motivate us to action.
- **Scaling up our communication,** by increasing the frequency of our outreach through newsletters and other updates.
- **Expanding our staff capacity** to match the need of our growing programs.

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A COLLABORATION OF:



CENTER FOR
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Join our efforts by donating financially,
and by subscribing to our mailing list.

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