Education, Connection, Advocacy.

Climate Change: A Hot Mess
October 15, 2017
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#GreenTeamSummit

@faithinplace
Climate Justice: What is it and Why Do We Care?
Impact of Climate Change on our Environment

- TEMPERATURE (Extreme Hot, Extreme Cold, Seasonal Changes)
- PRECIPITATION (Flooding, Drought)
- SEA LEVEL (Sea Level Rise, Storm Surge, Salt Water Intrusion)
- EXTREME WEATHER (Hurricanes, Tornados, Winter Storms)

Some Climate Change Threats to Health in the US

- **HURRICANES / TORNADOS**
  - Asthma
  - Mental Illnesses
  - Waterborne diseases
    - Bacteria in drinking water
  - Heat/Dehydration
  - Vectorborne diseases
    - Ticks, Malaria, Zika

"A Human Health Perspective On Climate Change"; National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS); 2010 - Gutierrez and LePrevost, Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2016
Climate Justice

“Climate justice is a local, national, and global movement to protect at-risk populations who are disproportionately affected by climate change.”

Climate Injustice

Climate-related deaths:
- malaria
- malnutrition
- diarrhea
- inland flood-related fatalities

Climate Justice

The Problems

• Fossil-fuel burning power plants emit pollutants that exacerbate asthma and greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

• The negative impacts of climate change (heat waves, droughts, floods) are disproportionately felt by people and countries that did the least to cause the problem, and can least afford to respond.

• Illinois leads the country in the number of fossil fuel burning plants located in communities of color.¹

• Children of color are four times as likely to be admitted to the hospital for an asthma attack and ten times as likely to die from one as white children.²

Climate Justice and Spirituality

• Justice is a common theme in most faiths and forms of spirituality

• Stewardship – a spiritual imperative to ensure justice

• Climate justice is a form of spiritual practice
ENCYClical Letter Laudato Si’
POPE FRANCIS (2015)

“Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods.”

“Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited.”

“Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded.”

"... race was the best predictor of the location of hazardous waste facilities in the U.S."

In October 1991 the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit was convened in Washington D.C. More than 300 environmental groups of color gathered and all agreed:

If this nation is to achieve environmental justice, the environment in urban ghettos, barrios, reservations, and rural poverty pockets must be given the same protection as that provided to the suburbs."
Speakers in video clip
Manish Shah – Board Member (former)
Anne White – Board Member (former)
Dan

...much like this picture called, "Earth Rise" from the first Apollo mission changed our perspective how we thought about the planet and our relationship to one another. We started seeing ourselves as one people, on one planet, with a common destiny. This workshop material helped me to change my perspective to one of hope that we can over come the barriers to climate action.

ID #2

This image was extremely powerful in jump-starting a modern global environmental movement. It was taken on December 24th, 1968 by the first Apollo spacecraft to go around the moon. This image became known as Earthrise. Within two years of this photo being taken, the first Earth Day was organized. This image changed the way people thought about our relationship with our planet.

DESCRIPTION: Photo of Earth taken from the moon by Apollo 8, December 22, 1968
ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: This photo, called *Earth Rise*, was taken by astronaut Bill Anders. The photo was the first to show Earth from this perspective, and demonstrates the fragility and finite nature of Earth.
Dan
We will kick off this segment with a video by the Climate Reality Project called, "Good News."
"Good News" Climate Reality Project video: 3:16
What makes for, “A Hot Mess?”

Even with climate change science being proven beyond a shadow of a doubt and on top of that all of the good things related to renewable energy we still see many people in the US reluctant to support the conversion to a clean energy economy.

The “Hot Mess” is how we dialogue about these issues and one of the worst things to happen is when we adopt an “Us vs, THEM” attitude.
We often try to talk to others about climate change and these top 5 myths usually come up and make The Hot Mess even worse. We'll go through these one by one and bust them.

We use humor to illustrate our ideas to keep the climate issues from getting too heavy so we have humorous intros to each section with a The Far Side cartoon and we use metaphors and parallels in Star Wars movies to make points about what type of climate messaging is most effective with people to build bridges and promote climate action.

(All pictures used are either free use pictures from the internet and The Far Side cartoons are used by permission)
Dan
The Story that I would tell myself when conflict would arise during conversations about climate change was that "they just don't get it" and it was their fault that they didn't understand. I thought they were similar to Darrell in this Far Side where it says, (Read cartoon caption) where there seems to be something wrong with Darrell because after he picked up the spoon and it was upside-down he thought it was a trick spoon that was un-usable and evidently this has happened to him before.
Dan

Climate discussions can get pretty heated so sometimes I think that we couldn't possibly work together but this these poll results show that maybe there is hope for common ground as (read slide) Everyone also wants clean air, clean water, and clean land which is an equal chance of being healthy and happy which is a good common starting point.
Dan
Using a metaphor about debating which Star Wars movies are better, the original or the new.
Things can get heated as people are passionate about what they like and can be threatened by disagreement.
We get to the point where we ask each other why do we even see the Star Wars movies?
Dan
Villains! - When we see a movie preview we get drawn into it if there are compelling villains or bad guys. Darth Vader is mysterious, how did he get like this to need a mask, he's powerful and seems mad all the time, probably a formidable foe.
Dan
But people are really drawn in by the Heroes. We like them to be real people like us with shortcomings, they work together to help solve the problem created by the villains, but they don’t just bring things back to neutral, they make things better than before. That’s a compelling uplifting story that most people love to see again and again.

It's similar with climate issues that people first get drawn in by hearing all the bad and scary things but if there is only the bad and scary then people want to run and hide and they will metaphorically in their hearts and mind and try not to think about it which is very unhealthy.

But if there is a positive message added about all of the good things that working on climate solutions will do then they are more likely to get involved to help avoid the negative but really to help bring about what they see as the, "better world." The more layers of healthy changes that are added the amount of people that help can grow exponentially.

I don't like all of the problems that climate change is causing right now. I do like the
idea of all people coming together to find solutions to this crisis and help solve other problems at the same time and we're doing just that.
Dan
I used to try to give all of the possible benefits of climate solutions until I learned from others that a general positive message works the best. Research shows a general, "Building a Better Future" message is non-specific and everyone has different things in mind when thinking about what makes for a better future. I learn a lot when I say that and ask others what does building a better future look like to you?
Dan
Han Solo in the Star Wars movies decided at first to not participate in the climatic battle at the end of the, "A New Hope" movie because he thought it was too risky and that there wasn't enough possible reward in it for himself to want to help.

With climate there's a balance where self interest is good when trying to work on a solution as people are more likely to take action and be involved long term which is very important. The general thing that everyone thinks that is important is our finances as we all need money to survive. Most people think having more money can be better for them and the messaging needs to be slightly different for the person who thinks that they have a lot of money the message of, "not wasting money" makes the most sense to them and, "saving money" makes the most sense to people who feel that they don't have that much money.
The Share: Key elements that help me when talking about climate
1. Connect – Establish what we have in common – what do we both love?
2. Short – No "Dan-a-logs" (Monologue) or going on forever, no one likes that. Keep it short like an elevator speech.
3. Avoid facts – Most people don't have a positive reaction when we quote facts at them for why they should believe in "X" or change "X" behavior. People react in a negative manner as they feel like that you’re basically saying you know more than them and they just need to learn more about the issue and then they’d be smarter about it. No matter how good our intentions are, “the facts” are a bad place to start.
4. Sincere – stay on a topic that you care about.
5. Personal – Use "I" statements and not the dreaded, "You Should" statements. I want to do this because "X"
Then ask what is important to the other person.
Then be quiet and Listen!
Dan
When someone starts to get angry I stop and check myself to see how I'm doing with these suggestions. If I'm doing OK with them then I know that we are finally getting somewhere as they have gotten down to the emotions that are blocking them from hearing new information on the subject.

So I stop and ask them how they are feeling and I listen without assumptions and let them vent. I ask myself what is their core issue behind the emotion.

Example: They say you can't promote renewable energy because you're irresponsible and you'll crash the economy. Behind the issue is fear of losing a job (or friends or family doing so) and making it hard to pay bills and provide food for themselves and their loved ones.

Connect personally by acknowledging that the same result scares you too, losing a job because you fear the same things.

"And that's why I'm involved in climate change because with the changes happening
our crop yields are going down and sometimes whole crops are lost and that leads to higher food prices. I'm afraid that one day I might not be able to feed my family nor myself if these trends continue.”

(Notice that I did not quote a fact because they cannot argue about how I feel about a situation. If they start saying that I shouldn’t feel that way because of “X” then that could open the door to looking at the facts of why they feel the way that they do)

“There are always good ways to do something and not so good ways to do things like switching to renewable energy that will reduce our pollution and greenhouse gases. We need to definitely do this in a balanced manner that leads to the predicted job growth and not an economic collapse. Would you like to talk about this further sometime?” (Or go to a meeting about this?)
Communication methods
Email blasts and newsletters inform people but rarely draw people to a meeting or event.
- Personal connection drives participation
Invitations to someone that you know is best in a method that is personal to them.
Dan
Clip from the movie, "The Matrix."
"There is no spoon"
This connects to The Far Side cartoon with the spoon. At the start I thought the person was holding the spoon wrong and that they were an idiot for doing so. (Similar to how I felt about people who say climate change is not real and renewable energy is a bad idea)

The clip says that, bending the spoon is impossible, but then you see the truth, which is there is no spoon and then you see that it is yourself that bends and not the spoon.

On first look others might seem in the wrong but when we try to change ourselves and understand them better it is us that changes at first and not the "other" person. Eventually, we stop seeing a "them" or "those people" and over time we see that we have more in common than we are different and that we might be able to work together on projects as we want similar results.
Dan
The Far Side Cartoon
Two Spiders spun a web at the bottom of a slide, "If we pull this off, we'll eat like kings."
Imagine the rewards if we put all of this together and start working together on solutions that work for everyone.
Celeste –
"The Story" part of the presentation that we just saw is a part of the new, "Faithful Communications" workshop which can be tailored to fit your community. Please contact Dan for more information.
Dan
“Not me”
Often climate change seems distance and far off especially to us in the Midwest. It seems that if it is real we personally are not really affected, which leads to people being complacent and not taking action.
Dan

The, “what I love” website is great place to start to make connections how the things that I love are directly affected by climate change. The site lets you choose eight things at a time and it shows that basics about how they are affected by climate and has links to more info as well as solutions.

We are all affected as the basic things we might think of like, forests and rivers, but then it starts to get more personal as food like chocolate chip cookies, strawberries, and coffee are also affected. Family, Freedom and Football are also among the things affected by climate.
Dan
DESCRIPTION: Modified “What Can YOU Do?” slide. Find YOUR Passion. Concept is we can tell someone what climate change project should be important for them to work on, OR we can give people tools for them to find what they care about the most. People are most likely to work on issues longer and more successfully if they are invested in the issue and really care about it. www.whatilove.org website is a good starting point for people to see how what they love is being affected by climate change.

Two things that I care about are forests and coral reefs and when I learned how greatly they are affected by climate now and how it will intensify into the future, I had to get involved to help protect “what I love.”
I didn’t include this slide in the presentation due to time but it is used to cement the idea that we can no longer wait and respond after disasters strike but we need to be proactive and work on solutions that prevent the worst of climate change effects from happening. Solutions that help protect what everyone loves are the most powerful and most likely for people to work on, lowering green house gases through energy efficiency and clean energy are two good places to start and are easier than ever to implement.
Avoid Absolutes:
When I'm discussing an issue avoiding absolutes like, "always" and "never" goes a long way as there are almost no absolutes. Always and Never put people on the defensive and your conversation can get stuck on arguing about if something is absolute or not.

Humble:
A topic is new to everyone at some point and most people don't respond well to others telling them something is obvious and that they should know this already. But, talking about an issue like it was fresher to you with, "I was surprised to learn.." Or "I never knew this was such a big deal but now that I know I want to do something differently” are non-threatening ways to talk about an issue.
Dan
In our houses of worship it can seem like change is inconvenient and so we tend to wait on projects that can have healthy impacts for our communities.

Knowing this at FIP we try to make solutions as convenient as possible.
Celeste-
At Faith in Place we understand the need for action to be as convenient as possible. As green team coaches we lay out a path for you to follow that has the greatest possibility for success in achieving your goals. We start small by forming a green team and then form a road map for your community that includes small steps like having a level 1 energy audit and hosting a smart energy workshop.

Start small with easy/inexpensive projects that have the most impact (low-hanging fruit). Then tackle bigger and bigger projects over time. It’s important to make sure that the house of worship facility is as efficient as it possibly can be before investing in renewables.
Celeste-
To help pay for larger projects, we are excited this year to launch the, "Nonprofit Green Lending Program!" In partnership with the Illinois State Treasurer the program was formed to level the playing field and allow all houses of worship access to funds for larger projects.

When seeking to secure loans many houses of worship (HOW) have experienced predatory loan terms like the pastor needing to sign the loan and put up personal collateral to secure the loans. These practices are especially experienced by people of color.

Tackling major retrofits is no longer only for the privileged few as in the Nonprofit Green Lending Program funds can be used for a wide range of programs related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Everything like replacing the old roof with a new lighter colored material that reflects the sun or a roof with more insulation which saves on heating bills, to retro-fitting part or all of your house of worship's lighting to LED bulbs, new HVAC, boilers, on-demand water heaters, pretty much anything related to energy efficiency including funds for wind, geo-thermal, and solar energy projects.
What's exciting is many HOW's who do projects like this are seeing that their utility bill savings are larger than the loan payments truly creating a situation where the right thing to do that cuts air and greenhouse gas pollution from our dirty energy sources also helps us save money that we can roll into our core mission.
Celeste –
This program can also be tailored to fit your community, please contact rev. Brian for more information.
Dan
I basically just read what’s on this slide.
I ask for a show of hands how many people want to make sure the actions that they are taking are actually making a difference. Many people raise their hands and I add, “Me too I’m more likely to do something if it can be measured and also continue long term if I see healthy results.”
Dan
The Far Side cartoon shows two prehistoric people working on a solution to needing food, but it’s probably inconvenient for them. Maybe a different approach would be better?
Dan-
To do this we recommend using the Cool Climate Berkeley Carbon Calculator where you can model your house of worship's carbon footprint and your members can use this tool as well as individual households.
Dan
The site just doesn’t measure your footprint but it also gives suggestions for how to lower it. My favorite price point for improvements are free or at a discount so click on this icon on the site to be taken to discounts on that item.
One of the coolest ways that we can measure our impact is by using our smart meters to track our changes each month, or weekly, daily, and even in real time!

Pictured here are an “Outdated” one setting thermostat and electric meter on the left, and the “new” smart phone controlled thermostat and smart meter are shown on the right. Smart meters give you more control to make decisions on how to best use energy and save money in ways that work for you! You can interface with your smart meters any way that you choose via a web enabled device such as tablet, phone, or computer.
Celeste-
To make the entry point into energy efficiency as easy as possible for your HOW and its members you can learn more in one of our free smart energy workshops. We help connect **individuals** to free items that are installed for free by our utility companies such as LED light bulbs, smart power strips, low flow shower heads, low flow sick aerators, pipe insulation, programmable thermostats, and discounts on the web based smart thermostats.
Some of these things are available to HOW's for free and others have big rebates.
Celeste
For more information about these programs please contact the Smart Energy Program Director, Lorena Lopez.
Dan
Read the slide.

Top Myths - 4. There is no hope

Murray did not feel the first real feelings of panic until he pulled the emergency cord
Murray did not feel the first real feelings of panic until he pulled the emergency cord.
There is no hope?
Dan

But he didn’t really panic until the spare chute deployed and it was an anchor. Often we feel like there is no hope so why bother trying, I know I do at times. There are a lot of reasons to be hopeful as there are many great things going on right here in Illinois.

There is no hope?
Raise your hand if you know about the Future Energy jobs Act?
The Future Energy Jobs Act will bring Illinois new clean energy projects, create jobs, and save people money by improving energy efficiency.

It is because of folks in this room that we had this historic win that place on December of 2016. Thank you for traveling to Springfield to lobby your legislators.

There are many elements to the passage of the bill. Today I will be touching the surface of key wins and two programs

(Folks from Amor de Dios United Methodist Church in Chicago met with Rep. Silvana Tabares)
(Folks from Lake County before going to Lobby)
Future Energy Jobs Act directs a budget from utility companies of more than $180 million annually for purchasing clean energy produced in Illinois. This means that individuals, communities, and utility companies that invest in new clean energy will make extra money by putting that power onto the grid and getting the credit back on their utility bill.

By 2020 we project that there will be 1350 Megawatts of Solar

1 megawatt is roughly the size of a football field. Imagine a football field covered in solar panels producing renewable energy

Solar energy will come in many forms from Rooftop, community, and brownfield
solar and job training initiative to help economically disadvantaged communities in every part of the state. It calls for job training to be incorporated into every solar installation carried out under the program and companies must commit to hiring new trainees for a portion of their economically-challenged installations.

This includes programing for 2,000 jobs to be created for people with records and alumni of the foster care system.
Celeste-
There are also provisions supporting community solar projects which will make solar available for residents that cannot purchase solar for where they live. This is exciting as anyone can opt-in to the program and "use" solar energy.
Celeste-

Just to stress the previous point that we are very excited that 2000 jobs are set aside for returning citizens and foster care alumni, to learn more about this and the faith in pace action fund, you can join the next workshop in this room, "Beyond Environmentalism."
Dan
I explain what is going on in the cartoon and ask people if they have ever felt similar where people are not listening to them or that they have no voice or role in bringing about the climate change solutions that we need and want.
Dan
All the healthy movements in our history were started by, “the people” and not by a person in power who saw a problem on their own and passed a law that made everything better. It was the people who demanded change and got results by many ordinary every day people becoming inspired that things should and could be different if enough people asked for change.
One of the greatest templates that we use for movements today is the Civil Rights movement lead by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was an inspired individual with a grand vision of how things could and should be healthier for all people. He inspired others to take action and it required millions of people taking action as change did not happen because he gave a speech and the leaders in power then changed the laws.
Buy it was millions of individuals like yourself that wanted change and took collective action. BUT there were thousands of people between MLK Jr and the masses that turned out for the marches. Many individuals like yourselves were inspired and they took the message back to their communities, their houses of worship, they disagreed and argued about the best ways to take action, and over time people of faith have a tendency to start to move in the same direction on issues.

You could be one of those people who take that message back to your house of worship for the first time or someone who energizes the conversation through new tools that you learned and move the conversation and actions forward in a positive direction through healthy communication styles.
Dan
LIGHT BULB = Movements are created or gain momentum when the solutions solve more than one problem, that's a big idea.
WE = there are benefits for most of the people, the solutions are crafted by diverse groups of people, and then ACTION = we get wide-scale action by many people which can lead to healthy changes.
The "WE" who needs to work for climate justice solutions is me, you, our friends, family, the community, and the benefits are for everyone.
Dan
Learn more about the political process though our faithful citizens workshop, contact info above.
Dan
As we start to look at the world from outside ourselves and from other people’s perspectives we can see that we are truly one people on one planet with a common destiny.

...
This image was extremely powerful in jump-starting a modern global environmental movement. It was taken on December 24th, 1968 by the first Apollo spacecraft to go around the moon. This image became known as Earthrise. Within two years of this photo being taken, the first Earth Day was organized. This image changed the way people thought about our relationship with our planet.

DESCRIPTION: Photo of Earth taken from the moon by Apollo 8, December 22, 1968

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: This photo, called Earth Rise, was taken by astronaut Bill Anders. The photo was the first to show Earth from this
perspective, and demonstrates the fragility and finite nature of Earth.
We share a special place that is unique in the universe and so many of us want to take care of it and of each other. I hope that this workshop has changed your perspective as it has mine and together we can communicate in healthy ways to help unite people to work on solutions with healthy results for all people!

...

DESCRIPTION: Photo from Apollo 17, taken as the crew was traveling toward the moon

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS: This picture was taken in 1972, during the last Apollo mission. It is the last photo of Earth taken from halfway between Earth and the moon. It is unique because the entire circle of the earth is revealed; the photo helps us think about our planet in its entirety.
I am only one,  
but I am one.  

I cannot do everything,  
but I can do something.  

And because I cannot do  
everything,  
i will not refuse to do the  
something that I can do.  

- Edward Everett Hale

Have group read poem as a empowerment ending.
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