The Forgotten Sector: Climate Justice and Local Food

Presenters: Veronica Kyle and Christina Krost
Facilitator: Avijit Ghosh
Our Mission

Faith in Place empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

Since 1999, Faith in Place has worked with over 1,000 houses of worship throughout Illinois to protect our common land, water, and air.

Faith in Place is the proud Illinois Affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light
Our Staff and Offices

Offices:
- Chicago
- Lake County
- North & West Suburbs
- Urbana/Champaign

Additional Staff in:
- South Suburbs
- Neoga

- 15 Full Time; 2 Part Time
- 56% of overall staff ALAANA
- 38% of Staff Directors are ALAANA
Our Program Areas

- Energy & Climate Change
- Sustainable Food & Land Use
- Water Preservation
- Advocacy
Green Team Model
Climate Justice

Climate Justice is a social justice issue.

- *Intersections of environmental degradation and racial, economic, and gender inequalities.*

- *Those affected most contribute to climate change the least.*
Illinois ranks 49th among states for the percent of land remaining in native vegetation

9% of people in the Chicago Metro region live in areas without close access to a grocery store

11% of households in Illinois are food insecure

Red meat (beef, pork, and lamb) and dairy production together account for nearly half of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the US food supply chain

Brent Kim, Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
History of Food Justice Work

- Food justice work since 1999
- In 2002, Taqua Farm Initiative began as a response to 9/11

Statewide in 2017:
- **209,000 pounds** of food grown on 4 CSA farms and various house of worship gardens
- Over **30,000 pounds of produce donated** back to the community

Taqua Farm Initiative
Food Justice

Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do, or Do Without!

http://www.eisenhowerfoundation.net
CSAs

Congregation Supported Agriculture

- Members purchase shares in the project
- Opportunity to know farmers & farm
- Volunteers assist with the farming
- Members receive fresh produce throughout the growing season
- Farms donate 10%+ to local food banks

Mother Carr’s Farm
Faith in Place Connects!

Sola Gratia Farm
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Urbana, IL

Mother Carr’s Farm
Vernon Park Church of God
Lynwood, IL
CSAs

Jubilee Farms

People Helping People

Clinton, IL
CSAs

Charleston, IL
Community Gardens

- Faith in Place provides guidance and support
- Provide local, sustainably grown produce
- Educational opportunities for gardening & healthy eating
- Build a sense of community

Intergenerational gardening at Ascension Catholic Parish
Winter Farmers Markets

Why winter?
• Support local farmers and artisans
• 10-14 houses of worship
• November-March
• Vendors from 250 mile radius
Winter Farmers Markets

Accept LINK and SNAP, double value for produce
Education

• Educational materials & curriculum to promote healthy, sustainable, and just eating
• Download at https://www.faithinplace.org/our-programs
Movie screenings

- A Place at the Table
- Fed Up
- Food Inc.
- Food Patriots
- In Defense of Food
- The Future of Food
Connecting migrations of birds, monarch butterflies, insects & other pollinators to human migrations through:

• Nature Outings
• Land Stewardship
• Story Circles
• Native Plant & Butterfly Gardens
Question for discussion:

What are you inspired to do in your house of worship or community related to food?
Exhibitor Passport

- Visit Exhibitor tables throughout the day
- Have them stamp your passport
- Turn in your passport with at least ½ stamped & completed Exit Survey to be entered into a drawing for prizes
Join the conversation!

#GreenTeamSummit

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