

## Attendee Feedback Summary

### 1) Goals

- “Government level action was treated as irrelevant”; “Needed to promote more political action to change policies to protect environment.”<sup>1</sup>
- Need to reach more Jewish people as well as Muslims, African Americans, Native Americans
- Extend scope of conference to include consideration of:
  - Churches that use gas-fired boilers for heating with hot water,
  - Why it is important to transition from GMO’s to organics

### 2) Most Useful

- Keynote - Dr. Scott Denning (3)
- Brett KenCairn’s talk – Restoring our grounds and zero waste
- Closing challenge by Rev. Sawell
- Thursday pre-conference workshop; coverage of a variety of options -solar, geo-thermal (2)
- Examples, steps, systems, human element; hearing experience of many; the process used by First Universalist; member funded financial strategies; emphasis that churches large and small can take action; being in the facility and seeing the passion and hard-won expertise of the green first team
- Learning about the Interfaith community

### 3) Least Useful

- All was useful (2)
- Friday afternoon - there was some repetition
- The Pre-conference workshop was great but ran through info very quickly
- About an hour too long
- Tech \$ info; Details of ground source system

### 4) Challenges

- Overcoming the natural conservative movement of those placed in positions of responsibility (i.e. Boards, Committees with Stewardship of faith bodies)

### 5) Topics for Further Discussion

- Regenerative land use
- Converting to all electric power
- Learning to lead from position in congregation, not member of clergy or Board
- Single family homes, apartments
- How best to get additional churches /places of faith involved
- Alternative funding
- Geothermal info (2)
- Trash, etc. perhaps covered by other concurrent session
- Political action needed

### 6) Topics to Add / Delete

- More Networking Time

- Soils Regeneration - CO2 sequestration through regenerative agriculture

**7) Social Media?**

- Yes – to get the youth involved
- Email
- Have symposium content available ASAP
- Not Facebook. Maybe Twitter

**8) Follow up meetings, webinars, etc.**

- Annual Conference; Make this symposium content available in other cities in Colorado
- Follow up is important (2)
- Sharing videos of sessions (2)
- Partnering with a church that has “been there” would be helpful for those who are beginning the process

**9) Steering Committee** (Five attendees expressed interest)

**10) Other Comments / Suggestions**

- Include a wider range of Faith-based groups & cultural backgrounds and political angles (2)
- Add module on water-energy nexus. Saving water saves energy & vice versa
- Good conference – Thanks (5); Very complete coverage of many topics; Great job on affordability of the symposium; Appreciated the emphasis on doing the right thing for creation
- Need to promote more political action to change policies to protect environment (2)
- Offer overnight hospitality or a block of affordable rooms reserved nearby.

**Thanks to everyone who provided “post-conference evaluations.” The Conference Steering Committee will review these thoughtful comments and attempt to respond to as many of them as possible in future events.**

## Actual Evaluations by Attendees

- 1) **What goals were not addressed sufficiently?** 1: Reaching more Jewish individuals and groups. Reaching Muslims, African Americans, Native Americans; 3: Yes – very good; 4:I have no criticism. Well done!; 5:None; 8:Great job! Interested in geothermal system for churches with boilers!; 10:None; 12:None; 13:Government level action was treated as irrelevant; 14: Add session on GMO's to Organics – Why Important.
- 2) **What was most useful?** 1: Closing challenge; 2: Examples, steps, systems, human element; 3: Brett KenCairn's talk – Restoring our grounds and zero waste, "member funded financial strategies"; 4: Scott Denning- exceptional. Milt Hetrick –excellent; 5: The Thursday pre-conference; 6: Learning about interfaith community; 7: The coverage of a variety of options (geo-thermal, solar) and the emphasis that churches large and small can take action; 8: All of it! Good overview; 9: I liked being in the facility and seeing the passion and hard-won expertise of the green first team; 10:hearing experience of many; 11: Denning' talk / geothermal info; 12: The process used by the church; 14: Keynote - Dr. Denning
- 3) **What was least useful?** 1: Tech \$ info – next time, I need to bring the right buddy; 4: All was useful; 5: Friday's afternoon I was drowsy and there was some repetition; 7: All was useful; 8: The Pre-conference workshop was great but ran through info very quickly; 9: About an hour too long. (Participants clearly voted with their feet); 10:details of ground source system;
- 4) **What are your organization's challenges in working towards zero carbon emissions that were not addressed in the conference, i.e. what did you want to hear but didn't?** 1: I came into conversation about facility renovating a bit late to be included in early plans – I can still ask questions and I will; 3:None; 4:Overcoming the natural conservative movement of those placed in positions of responsibility (i.e. Boards, Committees with Stewardship of faith bodies); 5: We don't have a worship building anymore. Single-family homes, apartments; 8: Did a great job of addressing the questions I came with. 12:None; 14: Just starting;
- 5) **Were there areas you would like to discuss further?** 1:YES; 3: Regenerative land use; converting to all electric power; 4: Learning to lead from position in congregation, not member of clergy or Board; 5: Single family homes, apartments; 6: How best to get added churches /places of faith involved; 8: Alternative funding, geothermal info; 10:Trash, etc. perhaps covered by other concurrent session; 11:geothermal; 12:Political action needed; 14: No;
- 6) **Were there topics or sessions that you would change / add/ delete?** 1: More Networking Time; 3: None; 4:All were useful – Perhaps offer overnight hospitality or a block of affordable rooms reserved nearby. But in the whole you did amazing work! 5: Soils Regeneration – I was stunned the CSU prof did not reference CO2 sequestration through regenerative agriculture – CSU extension recently sponsored Soils Regeneration Conference; 8: Not sure yet; 14: See # 1;
- 7) **Would some form of social media be appropriate to continue these discussions?** 1: Perhaps; 2:Yes – how to get the youth involved; 3: Email; 4:having symposium content available ASAP; 8: I

would rather it not go to Facebook. Maybe Twitter

- 8) **What kind of follow-up meetings, projects, webinars, conferences, workshops, etc. would be helpful? Overflow now.** 1: Ask me in a week; 3: Annual Conference; 4: Making this symposium content available in other areas – i.e. offer it in other cities in Colorado – I hope to offer it in Fort Collins. 5: You are on the right track to follow up; 6: sharing videos of sessions. A follow up meeting; 7:Partnering with a church that has “been there” would be helpful for those who are beginning the process; 8: Not sure yet, Need to process;10: too tired to think of any; 11: video recording of meeting;
- 9) **Would you be interested in serving on an advisory or steering committee to map out the future of the Interfaith Green Building initiative? Please provide your name.** 1: Yes. To reach Jewish community. Sally Klein; 2:Tim Olsen; 3: Anon; 4: Shirley White; 5: Anon; 6:Anon; 7:Anon; 8:Anon; 9:anon; 10:Anon; 11:Anon; 12:Anon; 13: Ruth Hellman; 14: Matt Royster 720-635-3347
- 10) **Any other comments/suggestions?** 1: Feeling kind of blessed/blissful – that there were actually a total of 3 Jews in the room at lunchtime!; 2:How to include a wider range of Faith-based groups & cultural backgrounds and political angles; 4: Great job on affordability of the symposium. Room cost of \$150 with taxes was difficult; 6: Keep up the good work – this is a good fight; 7: I appreciated the emphasis on doing the right thing for creation; 8: Great job! Thank you!; 9:Add module on water-energy nexus. Saving water saves energy & vice versa. Thanks committee!; 10:Very complete coverage of many topics; 12: Need to promote more political action to change policies to protect environment; 13: See above. I realize that the definition of Goals precluded discussion of government actions even though government level action is ESSENTIAL; 14: Fantastic Conference!! Thank you!!

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<sup>1</sup> **End Note Response:** The Interfaith Green Building and Grounds Conference was intended to compliment an earlier “System Change not Climate Change” Conference held in Sept 2018 that did focus on political action and a “top down” response to the climate crisis. The April Conference was designed to focus on the individual and organizational response to climate change working from the “bottom up.” The April Conference planners and facilitators did not adequately reinforce the importance of and need to continue the “top down” reform efforts while concurrently working from the “bottom up.” And there must be pressure from all sides that represent all conceivable perspectives.

We (faith-based organizations and others who are aware of the climate crisis) have the ability and moral responsibility to act NOW, even without government action or political changes in policies.

*[When we think through it, because of separation of church and state principles of this country, there is little likelihood that near term government action is going to spend taxpayer money to help faith-based organizations stop their GHG emissions. ]*

The laws of Nature does not respond to human intentions, thoughts and talk about climate change. Nature does not respond to legislation or changes in environmental policies. The only thing that Nature responds to is an actual reduction in GHG emissions that can be measured (e.g. tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> eq ).

This recent conference was designed to: 1) identify if we as individuals or as members of a faith-based organization were in any way responsible for GHG emissions. 2) if so, how much?, 3) develop a plan (including a funding approach) to stop burning ancient hydrocarbons as our source of energy, and 4) help others to do likewise?