

FAQ: EcoFaith Recovery

EcoFaith Recovery is an ecumenical leadership development effort through which volunteer leaders lift one another up to equip our congregations to take courageous public action for the recovery of human life and the healing of God's Creation.



Q: How does EcoFaith Recovery do this work?

A: By engaging with one another in a set of recovery practices. Our *Practices for Awakening Leadership* include spiritual grounding, relational conversations, telling our stories, rhythms of engagement, mentoring and conscious leadership development.

Q: What has EcoFaith Recovery done?

A: With your support and the efforts of our volunteer leaders we have....

- *Engaged* over 90 existing and emerging leaders in the *Practices for Awakening Leadership* through independent practice groups, congregational teams, and a seven-session *Coming Home to Earth* course with Pastor Mark Brocker of St. Andrew Lutheran Church;
- *Offered* a new course developed and led by two of our interns and attended by 15 people of faith: *Columbia River Watershed Discipleship: Faith and the Ecology of Liberation*;
- *Provided* monthly Grounding for Action Beyond Fossil Fuels gatherings since August 2013. Attended by over 120 people from a wide range of congregations and other community groups, this Initiative partners with organizing efforts like Leaven Community and 350PDX to build and deepen relationships for power and action;
- *Supported* 175 leaders and their congregations through online forums to network with one another in our efforts to bring healing to our communities and God's creation;
- *Developed* the leadership potential of 16 stipended youth and young adult interns through special projects mentored by experienced volunteer leaders. One intern developed a new EcoFaith Youth Camp; another created EcoFaith videos to inspire people to engage in caring for God's creation; and one teenager worked on a sustainable farm to integrate values of sustainability with his Native American culture and spirituality.
- And much more!

Q: Does EcoFaith Recovery have full time staff?

A: No, EcoFaith Recovery relies on its volunteer leaders and networks to carry out its work. We have very part-time staffing that supports our volunteer leaders in living out their vision.

Q: What's EcoFaith Recovery's budget and what does it support?

A: Our modest \$70,000 per year budget provides the staff and virtual office systems through which we connect new leaders with EcoFaith Recovery, communicate the vision of our leaders with the larger community, provide the online tools our leaders need to coordinate and network with one another, and offer the administrative support needed so *our leaders are free to engage each other and their congregations in taking courageous action for the recovery of human life and healing of God's creation.*

Q: Who funds EcoFaith Recovery?

A: We receive a \$25,000 grant from the InFaith Community Foundation each year. To fund the rest of our \$70,000 budget, we depend upon direct financial support from our volunteers, supporters, and congregations, to live out our vision of faith-inspired healing and recovery for the entire earth community.

Q: Who Are We?

A: Meet Two of Our Many Volunteer Leaders

Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin, Beyond Fossil Fuels & Organizing in the Biocommons Initiatives



Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin is the pastor of The Wilderness Way Community, a small emerging faith community, which seeks to ground and cultivate “wild” Christian disciples and fearless spiritual leaders to participate in the Great Work of our time – the transition from industrial growth society to life-sustaining civilization. Solveig is on the leadership team of EcoFaith Recovery’s Beyond Fossil Fuels “Grounding for Action” meetings and co-taught the “Organizing in the Biocommons” course. She is a spiritual director, published author and accomplished musician. She built a yurt in her back yard and continues to dream of the day when all Christian communities will worship in yurts.

Chris Bekemeier, Care for Creation leader at Central Lutheran Church

Chris Bekemeier has a background in non-profit administration, is a mom of two amazing young adults, and a long-time member of Central Lutheran Church (CLC) in NE Portland. Among other volunteer roles at Central, she serves as a leader of CLC’s Care for Creation team. Chris was first drawn to EcoFaith Recovery’s Beyond Fossil Fuel initiative as a faith-based source of support and inspiration for her work at Central. What she found in BFF was an incredible gathering of passionate people, full of wisdom, skills, insight and determination. Doing this work in small numbers is lonely. Together – drawing on the Spirit, in relationship and in music – it becomes Great Work. Together, we are building the movement!



Meet the two Part-Time Staff That Support Our Volunteer Leaders



Rev. Robyn Hartwig, Part time Pastor/Organizer

Rev. Robyn Hartwig helped a group of volunteer-leaders who founded EcoFaith Recovery in 2009. She serves as part-time pastor/organizer for EcoFaith Recovery and part-time associate pastor for St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Beaverton. She is passionate about starting small groups that deepen community and foster spiritual recovery from consumerism’s addictive and devastating effects upon our lives and the life of our Earth home. Contact her at PastorRobyn@ecofaithrecovery.org

Rachael Johnson, Part time Operations & Communications Coordinator

Rachael Johnson has been with EcoFaith Recovery since August 2013. In addition to assisting with the communications and administrative projects for EcoFaith Recovery, she supports the volunteer leaders of each Initiative and Core Team. Contact her at Office@ecofaithrecovery.org

