Climate Action Forum

The Climate Action Forum is designed to educate and train climate change activists. The CAFs would try to identify strategies that have real or apparent potential for arresting climate catastrophes within a reasonable timeframe.  It complements the Climate Action Group.  Each CAF session will lay out the current science, controversies, and actions underway to address climate change.  The presentations would be brief, especially if relevant background material is distributed ahead of time. The main part of the session would be a discussion of the issues and arguments, concluding with a wrap up of key points and conclusions.  It would be useful to identify advocacy groups that focus on the topic.

The background materials, any presentation materials, presentation videos and brief interviews could be made available online.  Distribution could be done via YouTube, dedicated websites, or TopicCentral and we would encourage wide sharing to extend the reach to people outside DC metro and people who prefer online resources.

Members of the Faith Alliance for Climate solutions and co-sponsors would act as facilitators, not subject matter experts.  It would be useful to have subject matter experts, but not necessary that these be high profile. The DC metro area has many experts who could be invited. But these are not designed to be lengthy content-heavy presentations. The aim is to present the significant issues, controversies, and provide participants with sufficient information to make up their own minds about the forum topic.

The purpose of the Climate Action Forums is to empower activism. It is not to simply provide information. The idea is to enable potential or actual activists to more fully master all the dimensions, and reach informed views about them.  With such informed views, they can be more effective in subsequent direct action and indirect action through groups.  The Forums would help advocates focus on strategically important actions, and avoid “feel good” but ineffective solutions.

Climate Action Forum topics:

01. Strategy: Putting an economic price on carbon - cap and trade
02. Strategy: Putting an economic price on carbon - carbon tax
03. Strategy: Promoting natural gas as a bridging energy source
04. Strategy: Promoting nuclear technology for power generation
05. Strategy: Decentralizing power generation
06. Strategy: Promoting the development and use of renewable energy sources
07. Strategy: Strengthening the enabling infrastructure for renewable energy sources
08. Strategy: Promoting the use of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS)
09. Strategy: Curbing extraction/exploitation of fossil fuel - tar sands
10. Strategy: Curbing extraction/exploitation of fossil fuel - off-shore drilling, mountain top removal, and drilling on public Lands
11. Strategy: Curbing extraction/exploitation of fossil fuel - hydraulic fracturing (fracking)

12. Strategy: Curbing the influence of the fossil fuel industry
13. Strategy: Reducing individual and local carbon footprints
14. Strategy: Promoting better human eating habits
15. Strategy: Promoting better farming and land use practices
16. Strategy: Adopting geoengineering techniques - removing atmospheric carbon
17. Strategy: Adopting geoengineering techniques - solar radiation management
18. Strategy: International considerations - provide global leadership
19. Strategy: International considerations - curb globalization
20. Strategy: International considerations - curb fossil fuel exports

In each Climate Action Forum we would hope to address the following questions:

What do you see as the "moral" dimension?  Why are we discussing this within a faith tradition? Who should articulate the interpretation of the 7 Principles (or other moral statements) that we'd employ? What about other forms of moral statements (other than the 7 Principles) - which ones to include? Who should be the authoritative voice?