

REPORT:
Faith Meets Business: Climate Solutions for the Common Good
February 8, 2020

In broadest terms, **Faith Meets Business's** goal was to enlist a diverse array of participants to begin a wider and more energetic local conversation about solving climate change. We framed the conference to appeal to two communities which we view as central in shaping public perceptions, expectations, and political consensus in Alabama. FMB drew 248 registrants with the following demographic characteristics, compiled from participants' answers to registration questions (no question received answers from all participants):

Primary Interest/Activity

- Business: 28
(Construction/Development-17; Banking/Finance-6; Misc-5.)
- Religious Leaders: 22
- Environmental Action: 61
- Education: 52
- Medicine, Public Health: 4
- Government: 5

Faith Background

- Christian: 134
- None: 28
- Unitarian: 17
- Buddhist: 3
- Jewish: 3
- Muslim: 2
- Other: 4
(Agnostic, Lakota-Sioux, Messianic, Quaker)

Ethnicity

- White/Caucasian: 220
- African-American: 18
- Latino: 5
- Asian: 4
- Other: 2

Age

- 51+: 122
- 31-50: 53
- 18-30: 30
- Under 18: 7

Participant Feedback

Participants' evaluations of the FMB conference were almost entirely positive (summary later in report), including views on our roundtable dialogue sessions. From those sessions we retrieved 230 note cards with questions and comments, since transcribed by the UAB School of Public Health. Some cards posed questions to specific speakers; we have forwarded those to seek responses, which we will share as they come to us. The directed questions appear at the head of the full note card transcription, below.

First, a few summary highlights:

Comments/concerns. Participants recorded a wide array of thoughts, some falling into noteworthy clusters. The most mentioned concern was for greater inclusiveness in climate conversation and action—that is, the need for stronger engagement with the poor and underserved, people of color, and young people. Also oft-mentioned were the needs for climate education and for stronger climate engagement by faith leaders and within faith communities. Second only to the inclusiveness concern was a notable sense of disappointment in Alabama utilities' climate crisis response—which, in particular, seems more resistant to than supportive of rapid solar deployment.

Framed as a climate solutions conference, FMB nevertheless opened a window to a small swarm of worrisome questions: How do we declare a climate emergency? What if any role will next generation nuclear play in reducing greenhouse gases? Will electric cars really help if charged by coal-generated power? How can we scale up composting to make a big difference? What can we do to advance recycling, including of worn-out solar equipment and components? How can we create an Alabama Drawdown plan, something akin to Georgia's?

Of special note were worries as to the root cause of the climate crisis: in short, a troubling sense that rapid climate change is but a symptom of a deeper cultural problem, the values/lifestyle preference for consumption and profit outweighing the humility, empathy and respect for the natural order necessary for our own good. Along with this came some sense that even with good faith effort, our values system will make transition to a more sustainable path quite challenging.

Looking forward, participants said that climate advocacy/action nevertheless should remain positive and emphasize hope and opportunity. Many agreed with the Hayhoe suggestion to make hopeful climate conversation an intentional part of new and existing personal relationships and in a wider range of settings (clubs, etc.). Specific climate action mentions included stronger commitment to public transit, tree-planting, and, in the political realm, engaging with elected leaders and, even more important, voting.

Conference outcomes. CCE/CCL-Birmingham is pleased that FMB already has led to further opportunities for climate presentations and conversations in a range of settings. Beyond those, we have formed a new corporation/fund named "Climate Solutions for Alabama"; CSA has applied for 501c3 tax status; once so designated, it will receive surplus FMB revenue, which will be applied to further climate education efforts in the Birmingham area. We continue to urge all participants to initiate opportunities for an ever-widening climate conversation. CCE/CCL stands ready to collaborate.

Table Questions/Comments to Speakers

Following are table notes as transcribed by the UAB School of Public Health. The transcription includes some asterisks and bracketing where transcribers were unsure of the writers' intent. CCE/CCL-Birmingham thanks Dean Paul Erwin, M.D., for SOPH assistance. Leading off are questions to John Northrop and his responses, followed by questions directed to other specific speakers, then the remainder of comments/questions.

To John Northrop (answers in *italics*)

I heard that the carbon tax that currently exists not working. True? Why? Why do we think HR763 is different?

Hasn't the Revenue Return Model been used successfully in Canada? How do we get the Border Carbon adjustment past the "Unreasonable restriction on Trade" complaint in international courts?

Carbon-tax-and-dividend like HR763, but with variations, is working in Switzerland, and in Canada at the provincial level (British Columbia). Here's what we read from 2016 about B.C.:

In 2008, the British Columbia Liberal Party, which confoundingly leans right, introduced a tax on the carbon emissions of businesses and families, cars and trucks, factories and homes across the province. The party stuck to the tax even as the left-leaning New Democratic Party challenged it in provincial elections the next year under the slogan Axe the Tax. The conservatives won soundly at the polls.

Their experience shows that cutting carbon emissions enough to make a difference in preventing global warming remains a difficult challenge. But the most important takeaway for American skeptics is that the policy basically worked as advertised.

British Columbia's economy did not collapse. In fact, the provincial economy grew faster than its neighbors' even as its greenhouse gas emissions declined.

"It performed better on all fronts than I think any of us expected," said Mary Polak, the province's environment minister. "To the extent that the people who modeled it predicted this, I'm not sure that those of us on the policy end of it really believed it."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/02/business/does-a-carbon-tax-work-ask-british-columbia.html>

Based on provincial success, Canada went all-in last year with a national, revenue-neutral carbon tax/dividend system. <https://www.chatelaine.com/living/politics/federal-carbon-tax-canada/>

As to a carbon border adjustment, it could well invite legal challenge internationally. But here's from the most relevant source I've found:

As a starting point, we strongly recommend the 2013 report, [Changing Climate for Carbon Taxes: Who's Afraid of the WTO?](#), by former WTO appellate officer Jennifer Hillman, published by the American Action Forum and German Marshall Fund. Hillman concluded that both the

letter and spirit of WTO trade rules permit countries with carbon taxes to adopt “non-discriminatory harmonizing tariffs.” These would protect energy-intensive trade-exposed industries by eliminating the competitive advantage enjoyed by exports from countries that don’t tax carbon emissions. These tariffs would also create incentives for non-carbon taxing countries to adopt carbon taxes, since harmonizing tariffs represent revenue that the exporting country could garner by imposing its own carbon tax.

Following a thorough analysis of the WTO provisions governing harmonizing border provisions for carbon taxes, Hillman concluded:”... provided that policymakers carefully design a [carbon] tax, keeping in mind the basic requirements of the WTO not to discriminate in favor of domestic producers or to favor imports from certain countries over others ... the threat of WTO challenges should not present a barrier to policymakers wishing to adopt a carbon tax system now.” <https://www.carbontax.org/issues/border-adjustments/>

This position makes sense to me.

HR 763- How does the money that’s generated by producers get regulated when given back to the consumers, i.e., are there strings attached?

So with HR 763 we’re giving \$ back to families. Do we care what the families do with this \$?

HR 763- How does the redistribution of the tax be mandated to be spent on sustainable energy generation?

Carbon dividends all will go to households (not organizations and enterprises) to spend as they see fit—“no strings attached.” This will guarantee the poor and middle class some choice in how they address inevitably rising costs for goods and services due to the carbon tax.

How does revenue to citizens affect welfare—i.e., will receivers of HR 763 lose food stamps?

No. Here’s the bill’s actual wording:

“(E) FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND FEDERAL ASSISTED PROGRAMS.—The carbon dividend amount received by any individual shall not be taken into account as income and shall not be taken into account as resources for purposes of determining the eligibility of such individual or any other individual for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance, under any Federal program or under any State or local program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.”

I was very interested to see the map of Alabama in the first presentation. Can you please tell us the ways in which the highlighted counties will be most impacted by climate change?

For details: https://www.brookings.edu/research/how-the-geography-of-climate-damage-could-make-the-politics-less-polarizing/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosgenerate&stream=top

Consensus of support for HR 763

I take this note as asking to what extent there is bipartisan consensus on HR763. Not much yet. HR763 does have one Republican co-sponsor along with about 70 Democrats. There is no bipartisan companion bill in the Senate. There was one in 2018, with a now-retired Republican co-sponsor. CCL will endorse only legislation with bipartisan sponsorship; we support policy with a chance to survive electoral swings.

We have forwarded the following questions/comments to specific speakers. We will share their responses as we receive them.

To Laszlo Juhasz (answers in italics)

What are the relative environmental impacts of traditional petroleum buses and 1. Electric buses- the cost of power production? 2. Fuel cell buses- the cost of H2 production? *The current emission limits were introduced in 2017. In 2021, new, even lower emission requirements will be carried into effect. Diesel engines that are being used for transit buses are getting cleaner and the environmental impact is low, but these engines still put out some carbon dioxide. I don't have enough information to answer question #1 and #2.*

Will you talk to New Flyer executives about signing a Community Benefit Agreement to environmental justice, and to lead the way on sustainability at your Anniston Plant? *On March 11, 2020, New Flyer announced that in partnership with the Transportation Diversity Council, it has launched its Community Benefits Framework ("CBF"). The CBF will complement local agreements that New Flyer establishes with transit agencies and community partners across America, and is the foundation that will govern, create, and implement robust programming at all New Flyer facilities. For more information, please see the following resources:*

- <https://www.newflyer.com/2020/03/new-flyer-of-america-in-partnership-with-tdc-launches-its-national-community-benefits-framework-establishes-new-model-of-local-support-for-people-and-communities/>
- <https://www.newflyer.com/our-impact/community-benefits-framework/>

What would be the first step to bringing your technology of the electric bus to Birmingham? *The first step has already been taken. New Flyer has established a "Founding Partnership" with the BJCTA. There are two zero emission battery electric buses on order.*

Do you make school buses or plan to? *New Flyer's product list includes a wide variety of bus models (including three zero emission types) but excludes school buses. The company is not planning to build school buses.*

How does diesel public transit help the environment and what impact does transit have on helping lower income communities? *One 40' clean diesel transit bus can safely transport 60-70 passengers which*

results in less cars on the road and less emission. Transit buses service low income areas as well providing safe, affordable transportation to all residents.

To Michael Malcom and Ivan Holloway (answers from Rev. Malcom in *italics*)

What approach/tactic/demeanor is effective for having a lasting impact when you want people to maintain consideration of our neighbors in less affluent conditions when making decisions that affect all of us? *I believe that experiential learning is the best way to leave a lasting impact. Get to know your neighbors so that you can see them and their conditions. There is no better way.*

Poor/POC people don't have the luxury to care about climate change (ex. Financial, time, energy). How do we address this? *Anytime I speak to a collective of white people this question inevitably comes up. Unfortunately, my answer will not get you any closer to a solution. I reject your assumption in your question. You've assumed that Poor/POC people don't care about climate change. I would say that that is a false narrative based on a misconception of privilege. Poor/POC are often the ones that suffer most as a result of climate change. However, we would see it as pollution and scarcity. In other words, see, help, and speak to our conditions that we live in. These conditions are the reason why climate change is accelerated. Pollution is killing people and the planet. Help the people, heal the planet. If you want to see Poor/POC people mobilize around climate change, stop talking to them about climate change, see and speak to where they live.*

To Jack West (answers in *italics*)

Drawdown- One of the concerns about solving these problems with an economic lens is that we make dire ecological mistakes that end up causing more problems down the line. (planting trees is good but not if all the same type and not native forest species as an example). Can we be certain these solutions are not looked at in a vacuum? *Certainly, we should not look at individual solutions in a vacuum, and we should do our absolute best to evaluate the potential negative consequences of any actions we take to address climate. Drawdown calls such solutions "regrets solutions" (trash-to-energy is one such solution; same with older nuclear technologies). The broad lens of Drawdown, which assesses solutions across every sector, helps us avoid near-sightedness and over emphasizing a single solution or small set of solutions that may have unintended ecological consequences. For example, large-scale solar is a highly ranked solution, but all energy project (renewable energy included) must be properly sited and developed because they have environmental consequences. And before implementing a large-scale afforestation project, experts should be consulted to plant the proper native species and not create monoculture plantations that have negative impacts.*

Re: The statements by West "Plant rich diet is cheaper" Not true. Our gov't subsidizes make sugary, highly processed foods cheaper than vegetables. This is a personal choice issue only for those with enough income. For everyone else, this is a Public Policy issue, to make healthier food affordable. *Issues of access to food, income equality, and equity must be taken into consideration during this conversation. For an excellent, researched discussion of this issue, I suggest checking out Jonathan Safran Foer's book We Are the Weather, which arrives at the following conclusion (note the issues of healthy vs. non-healthy and meat-based vs. plant-based):*

"It is true that a healthy traditional diet is more expensive than an unhealthy one—about \$550 more expensive over the course of a year. And everyone should, as a right, have access to affordable, healthy food. But a healthy vegetarian diet is, on average, about \$750 less expensive per year than a healthy meat-based diet. (For perspective, the median income of a full-time American worker is \$31,099). In other words, it is about \$200 cheaper per year to eat a healthy vegetarian diet than an unhealthy traditional diet. Not to mention the money saved by preventing diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and cancer—all associated with the consumption of animal products."

I agree whole-heartedly that access to healthy food should be a right and a public policy priority. The good news is that at any income level, you can reduce your food budget by moving from a meat-based to a vegetarian diet. Foer cites the following sources for his research:

Flynn, Mary M. and Andrew R. Schiff. "Economical Health Diets (2012): Including Lean Animal Protein Costs More Than Using Extra Virgin Olive Oil." Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition 10, no. 4 (2015): 467-82.

Caba, Justin. "Eating Healthy Could Get Costly: Healthy Diets Cost About \$1.50 More Than Unhealthy Diets." Medical Daily, December 5, 2013.

Say more about Bamboo- I am so interested in this solution. *I am too! Check out <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/bamboo-production> for Drawdown's info, and check the Alabama company Resource Fiber that is making products from bamboo. Also check out Wilderness Park/Bamboo Forest in Prattville, AL.*

To Mr West-How to increase the composting solutions for a city-wide solution and how can citizens help out on that. Thanks, Raha. *Composting can keep organic materials out of landfills and save money. Engaging with our local elected leaders (city council members, mayors) and conveying our interest in setting up a city-wide compost system would be one way citizens can get involved. Contacting commercial composting businesses could also be a good way to get started. Check this out for more resources and to see how some cities are succeeding: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/11/climate/nyt-climate-newsletter-food-waste.html>*

Drawdown- Plants and Animals Active Carbon Cycle. Lot size for Geothermal? *Not sure how to respond.*

Drawdown Ong- Plants and Animals are part of the Healthy Active Carbon Cycle. Why are Fossil Fuels not the number 1 issue since we burn so much? *Breaking the addiction to fossil fuels and decreasing their use is the #1 issue. And Drawdown features many, many solutions that do just that. However, we should also evaluate the non-energy solutions we have to address climate change.*

Did project Drawdown evaluate energy efficiency in building as a solution? I think it is one of the most impactful solutions for reducing GHG emissions from energy consumption. *Yes! The cleanest electron is the one we don't use, and while "energy efficiency" is not a single solution categorized by Drawdown, it cuts across numbered solutions such as Building Retrofitting, Insulation, High-Efficiency Heat Pumps, and LED Lighting.*

Jack West. Drawdown rates & models known solutions to climate change. *Not sure how to respond.*

Very excited about Drawdown. *Me too!*

If we purchase carbon offsets, will funds go toward supporting the types of solutions urged by Project Drawdown? Answer: *yes A better answer here is "it depends" and that we shouldn't use offsets as excuses not to change our behavior. All carbon offsets are not created equally. ProPublica recently did something of an expose on carbon offsets that concluded some work and some can actually be more harmful than doing nothing. Check it out: <https://www.propublica.org/article/united-nations-agency-criticizes-carbon-offsets>. And <https://features.propublica.org/brazil-carbon-offsets/inconvenient-truth-carbon-credits-dont-work-deforestation-redd-acre-cambodia/> Do your research before purchasing. I would check out some carbon offset marketplaces like Nori.com and also consider supporting startups that are working on carbon removal technologies.*

Electric cars: Does production of electricity create pollution, making electric cars counterproductive? Tim Thomas *It depends on how we generate the electricity we use to charge our EVs. If that energy comes from a carbon-intensive source like burning coal, then we may not make much progress shifting to EVs. But if we charge those cars with cleaner forms of solar and wind energy, electric cars can avoid burning gasoline and diesel. The transportation sector in the US is now the largest emitter of greenhouse gases (larger than the electricity generation sector), so moving to EVs as our electricity becomes more and more decarbonized will have a tremendous impact in reducing emissions.*

Can Alabama Drawdown draw on Georgia experience and research to issue a report faster? What do you need to do that? *I hope so. One starting point would be to pull together interested members of the academic community, the business community, the environmental community, utilities, and state and local government to begin examining the findings from Georgia and see what might work in Alabama. We should certainly reach out to the researchers in Georgia to express our interest in continuing their research and tailoring the findings to Alabama.*

To create a Drawdown Alabama, what's the first step? *See above.*

Very interested in the idea of an AI Drawdown. *Great!*

Multiple solutions are necessary. *Absolutely.*

FMB Participant Questions and Comments

Following are the remaining note card questions/comments. At this time, we've treated most questions as rhetorical or needing investigation. For questions where factual answers are readily available, we have answered in *italics*.

Were any members of the business community invited? <i>Yes. Actual participation reported above.</i>
This conference gave us many ideas on solutions; to talking with and influencing people to work toward solutions.
Continue CCL Interfaith workshops (like this) with consideration of other locations to promote participation by people who are not here today. Scholarship offerings. Include transportation and childcare for options to attend faith CCL meetings.

[Provide] General resources in community [to] give to, join. Use your voice, take the message out to our communities. Need more science-based data. Focus children.
I am wiser and I know more because of being here.
We need an avenue to further this conversation
Advice for planners: Consider less content and more interaction and discussion time. Table felt it was hard to process so much content.
This is a marriage of policy and practicality. Government is not the solution alone, people are the solution. Best opportunity our table has had in 3 years.
Plant trees - good for water.
What are the low hanging fruits that are economically- viable (local tool-kit) for the Birmingham community? -Solution- (many of these tools already exist in our local community). How can we tap the local knowledge in our communities?
We in Bham need to attend city council meetings and ask questions about items in the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.
City-wide: sustainability plan, community effort messaging for increasing stakeholders.
How can Birmingham declare a climate Emergency?
Disappointment in panelist's negativity about solar.
Noted the difference of understanding: the usefulness of solar. Would like to come to a common <u>informed</u> understanding.
Question about solar energy in AL.
Discusser @ solar panels. Recycling. Can AL power incentivize solar generation?
Housing- How to influence consumer decisions. Make sustainability options legal; law <u>territory act</u> AL Power is the only legal avenue for solar power. Unless energy savings contract for a nonprofit. Make energy efficiency solutions legal.
The last speaker said there is no reliable way to store solar. However in Alaska they are able to use and store solar year round. So yes, actually, there is a reliable way to store solar.
How can Alabama Power so represent (via Energy Institute of AL and via Signature Homes) and not address their role in discouraging Solar use (via the solar tax) and in degrading the env via their coal plants?
Why is AP uninterested in reducing energy consumption but penalizing rooftop solar?
How do we eliminate/reduce APC surcharge on roof top solar?
My understanding is that Alabama Power does not reward/encourage the use of solar panels, is this true? What can be done about it?
Big thought: What is AL Power's plan for equitable access to clean energy options?
Who are the solar farms benefitting in Alabama?

<p>Why can't we collect CO2 and bury it? Money should not be a deterrent to do this. The technology is already being used in countries in Europe. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. - Susan Barrow</p>
<p>Inefficiency of existing homes--how to help, costs, etc.</p>
<p>More ideas for making existing housing more energy efficient? Start a 501 C3 that will help businesses and not for profits lower CO2 footprints, save money, and educate people- Called: Co-Create</p>
<p>Make efficiency solution legal--this is an important 1st step to influencing consumer decisions towards sustainability.</p>
<p>Electric cars energy sourced from coal?</p>
<p>In Alabama are electric cars more green if electricity is generated with coal?</p>
<p>What is the payback time for Natural Gas Powerplant? i.e. How long before utilities can afford to switch to newer, more renewable technology?</p>
<p>One big thought, Policy: Need policy changes to improve use of renewables- commercial and Residential.</p>
<p>What are the environmental costs of fracking? <i>Fracking helps increase methane (natural gas) production. Methane produces CO2 when burned; a greenhouse gas itself, methane adds to global warming when it escapes unburned. A very big concern is the potential damage to aquifers by the chemicals pumped underground to frack.</i></p>
<p>Comment on impact of wind power on birds--can mortality numbers be reduced?</p>
<p>What is happening in Alabama regarding the development of mini or more hydroelectric?</p>
<p>We need mini nuclear! There are 4th generations plans at the nuclear regulatory agency but no political courage to discuss implementing. Need that and also a test city to demonstrate the benefits and how new nuclear controls the damages people fear and taps fuel rods. Requires risk communication- Andria Cimino</p>
<p>Comment on recycling potential of solar panel.</p>
<p>Plastics have to be controlled.</p>
<p>Are solar panels and * able to be recycled?</p>
<p>Ways to create solar panels that do not require *. Ways to extend life of solar panels.</p>
<p>How do we dispose of expired solar panels and how much does the creation of panels and disposal contribute to greenhouse gases--in comparison to fossil fuels?</p>
<p>Is the electric magnetic radiation of concern to the electrical company, when they plan buildings for new communities? Has the electric magnetic radiation been any influence on climate change?</p>

None of the solutions we heard address the fact that climate change is a symptom of a disease infecting our political systems. Profit-obsessed corporations and corrupt politicians have co-opted our local, state, and federal governments. Unfettered capitalism is part of the problem, not the solution. Carbon fees, fracked gas, and rooftop solar are like treating stage- 4 cancer with bandaids and painkillers. What will it take for us to see real, systematic change we need?

Deal with tax evasion, tax havens - collect money!

of people with income (0-20, 20-40, 40-60, 60-80, 80-100) and Distribution of income (40-60, 60-80, 80-100)

When one person decides to act in favor of benefitting a common resource, i.e. not buying a gasoline car to preserve air quality, or not using plastic bags to preserve ocean life, the effect can be: 1) too small an increment to solve the problem, and 2.) perceived as not fair because those who buy gasoline cars and use plastic gain their utility without paying any cost for their use. Small businesses feel these negatives by virtue of regulations that bring added costs to their families when 'others' aren't so impacted. How can individuals and businesses be persuaded that they aren't being duped because others aren't doing their part?

Discouragement because it's going to the radical lifestyle changes to "fix" this problem.

Connections between global poverty and climate change? *Generally, the poor feel greater ill-effects from hostile changes in the environment. More particularly, huge numbers of global poor live on or near the world's coasts. As global warming/climate change continue and sea levels rise, the livelihoods and lives of these people face growing challenge.*

Anyone: Why is there a \$100 per year fee for owning a hybrid automobile?

Working towards a more peaceful (less aggressive & warring) world in our process to nature, instead of destruction.

GA vs AL for climate action?

Groundswell movement from bottom up is required! (table 14).

Always a balance - What are the tradeoffs we make in building, shopping, transportation in combating climate change?

Workforce needs to travel, costs of transport, transitioning from an existing system...

must use conscience

worries about wildlife extinction and future gens

Dominion doesn't equal Domination An Abrahamic concept of land does not mean we should use/abuse nature. We are a part of nature, interconnected, and dependent on a fragile biosphere. We have to limit our footprint- and have empathy for all living creature regardless of our beliefs/non-belief.

Our planet is being destroyed in countless different ways and places. It can only be saved likewise. [in countless different ways and places]
If solution is incremental it's better than doing nothing at all.
Healthy earth planet before pocketbook; country before pocketbook
mindset: move from problem to opportunity
Poverty - resilience We need empathy
Emissions from war not included as 1% but whose chemicals are they being counted as.
What's the effect of space rockets on the environment?
\$ to be made in sustainability
Prevention is cheaper than fixing something.
Fossil fuel may be needed someday for almost unimaginable (but possible) events, such as the asteroid passing by earth in 2028 or a volcanic incident that plunges earth into a colder climate hostile to agriculture. Fossil fuel extraction = a public good - a transition from a for-profit industry, with govt leadership. - Andria Cimino
Unite, and Incentivize the Revolution
One big thought from table 14: We are teetering on the line between hope and despair.
How do we declare a climate emergency?
Encouraging everyone to join Citizen Climate lobby. *Reach out to state representatives! *Concern about passing legislation.
Policy and Awareness. Change is needed: idea that environment is hurting economy has to change.
easier than ... cheaper than... cooler than ... (must have two to succeed)
We have to make changes. We have to talk about climate change to make others aware. We have to share what <u>we</u> are doing and what we want done on a larger scale. We have to vote for change.
Connecting on a heart level is where change will happen. To be impactful policies have to change. For policy to change we need to elect better policy makers.
We all agreed that the most urgent and effective action now is to get out the vote.
Governments were created to protect us. Our government in Washington is not taking action not to protect us. We should elect people who will act to protect us.

We found a lot of shared interest in gardening/ farming/ composting.
Grow bamboo--vs. native plants? Like hemp...
Planting trees is the best way we can deal with this. Anybody can do it. Can start today.
Bamboo does have its good uses. But it is an invasive and can make life hard for native trees and smaller plants. Be careful where you plant it!! Plant <u>natives</u> : trees, shrubs, perennials, to feed birds, bees, butterflies, etc.
Food waste: How can we make the most difference? Is it an individual or a systematic issue primarily?
How can we compost at municipal level?
Promote composting
Prospects for city wide composting in Birmingham.
Composting
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Reducing waste? What are the recommendation for recycling? If the market for recycled products grows then there is more demand and we will be increasingly more successful. Tell us more about the economic factors for recycling - how to reduce waste?
Alabama cities should provide municipal recycling.
How can we as consumers create sustained industries for recycling?
Big Idea: Most communities have a Walmart somewhere. Why not engage them in being a collection site for more recyclables in addition to plastic bags they now receive?
Transportation is a critical piece of the solution.
Mass transit, more ride sharing - community led. Try to make mass transit a civil rights issue. It will reduce wasted emission from stand-still traffic.
Cities and states should create policy for individuals to be able to have good transportation and environmental impact, i.e., recycling
Micro transit as a middle-road solution to increasing transit ridership.
Change state policy to fund public transportation- treating it as essential infrastructure (like roads): Reduced carbon; helps local economy; is an economic justice issue
It seems a chicken and egg question about public transit. Is not enough ridership to support investment, not on time so people don't use it. ** Could churches adopt transit as a human rights issue? Their influence could make a difference.
Trains (fast) like China--may be big frontend costs but long-term savings on pollution and time are worth the investments.
Funding from VW suit that came to state--where did it go? HOV lanes would be simple. More bike lanes are needed. Quaker and Christian at our table. Need to have conversation and listen more.

At least some (maybe all?) of VW's penalties for misstating diesel fuel economy were paid directly to individuals who had bought the cars.

Coal Ash Ponds (no mention of these from panel)?

Watershed protection, trash catching, microplastic pollution.

Water impacts have to be considered.

Is there any way to guide new developments away from expensive, irrigated lawns and guidelines against natural areas? Watering lawns until water runs down the street has a negative impact on our future.

Education, Economics, Communication

Environmental Education must grow.

Educate kids on trash

Education crucial to solving the problem. Public Needs to understand and buy in.

Do you have to teach people about science to have them accept CC? God + CC denier

Speak to church leaders about ministry aimed at protecting biosphere. *

Is there an effort to have those in pulpit talk about C.C.?

Use houses of worship as venues to encourage climate conversations, create awareness, and come up with concrete actions to take together as a faith community. Idea: speaker series or show K.Hayhoe TED Talk.

Catholic church could be involved through school and philosophy to promote solutions to climate change.

We need to have buy-in from all state holders and perhaps not all are present here today.

messaging for increasing stake holders

Work within our own communities for more justice and connection with other groups and communities.

Big thought: all sides

Getting all voices together and be willing to change own views.

Big Ideas table 10 - Forum for people to visit other groups to learn.

Education/ Collaboration Diversity, Involve: People most impacted, Children of future, Business, Faith.

Engage in diversity
Include lower income people in the climate solution.
Commit to talking to X# strangers a week about climate change--more important to talk to people who are not already on the same side.
Importance of connecting with those who think differently: 1. Respect 2. Story- telling- "What is important to you?"
How to include the "Poor" In the solution?
Solving problems are interdisciplinary and vary must address poverty and inequality, global empathy, take action locally and globally.
As with most problems that we face, the underprivileged and underrepresented feel it the most. This is true for environmental injustice and the crisis brought on by climate change. What can these people do to change their fate?
Advise about how to reach out to underprivileged communities without seeming condescending.
Table 6 1. To get those not like us to the table an invitation is not enough. We need to meet them where they are. 2. Related issues: transportation and price of admission. 3. Need economic and racial justice analysis!
We have to connect more to churches, school, community centers in underserved areas to broaden participation.
Are communities most affected by carbon by climate change being given a voice in Alabama both in terms of Climate Justice and the solutions we need to consider? (communities in industrial areas, lesser served communities in the flood-planes and native people communities).
Center under-represented communities- black and brown voices, poor voices- in their conversations.
Young people are the key, they will lead us.
Discover and share best practice (worldwide) for addressing climate change issues - composting - trash management
Big thought: Motivate the public through education to support public policy and individual efforts.
Big Idea: Motivating and learn about all that is being done: Need to talk about it and find a way to make connections between existing efforts and educate all--esp. youth- on what we can do collectively and individually.
Talk with hope and solutions! We must be educated on the solutions.
Communicate and educate all (to gov't leaders)

How can we get more churches and businesses to talk about climate change and the need to act now?
Once you're comfortable with your relationship with climate change, find different avenues to connect to others about it.
1 Big Thought: Capture the energy from today passion and take it back to our communities.
Conversations, value of talking about the issues of climate change, finding a personal connection, health connection.
One Big thought (from table 14): We need to talk where we live, eat, work, and pray- take our hope into action.
In our conversations: Talk about 1. solutions 2. How we are connected. 3. Be positive.
Meet people where they are--this is where real conversation starts and change happens.
Consumption habits
Choose a "Focus" Advocate for action (don't give up and savor the small successes!) Vote
Always talk when you have the opportunity.
Use our book clubs, clinic clubs, and libraries for education and to encourage climate conversations.
Bringing it back to our consumption--regarding education and moving to more efficient transportation.
Individual effort: Also walk the walk just not talk the talk, i.e., hybrid cars.
hope
Speak to managers at grocery stores about practices (use of plastic bags etc.)
Make one small action in every aspect of your life (individual level changes), LED lightbulbs, etc. Transportation systems and carbon footprint city-wide sustainability plan, community effort messaging for increasing stakeholder worries about wildlife extinction and future gens; very interested in the idea of an AI Drawdown; interest in food policies in Bham to Bham city recently passed food zoning/urban garden, etc.
Social media is extremely effective in younger generations, but face-to-face contact is still the most efficient way to get your point across. Talk to people!
Community Engagement can be done both online and face-to-face, but nothing beats talking to someone in person.
Action items: write congress person, encourage others to join.

As Dr. Katharine Hayhoe told us "Join an organization that can amplify your voice."