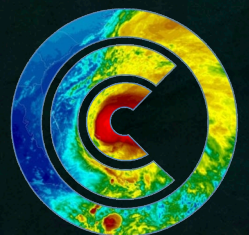




ANNUAL
REPORT
2022



OUR CLIMATE COMMON

Our Climate Common
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Our Climate Common Board



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Concord, Massachusetts
Treasurer



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Boise, Idaho

Cover Photo

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Letter from the President

2022 was Our Climate Common's first year of operation as an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Our mission is to bridge our societal divides *and get something done together* to make the world a better place for everyone.

We see every day how divided we've become. We're divided by politics, income level, occupation, geography (rural/urban), culture, race, gender, age, to name a few. We're so divided by so many things we can't seem to come together around our common interests. We're more united than we know. But it takes hard work and courage to reach out to people who seem different from "us." And yet working with people who are different from us is the key to building broad social will to solve problems that affect us all.

Our Climate Common, by design, builds relationships of trust with people in sectors of our society who have been left out or left behind in addressing the climate problem. Climate change is not at the top of the list of things to worry about for most people. We take the time to listen, to understand what matters to them, and then we design projects with them that advance *their* interests while also helping address the climate problem in some way.

The opportunities to build broad social will to solve the climate problem are huge. But it takes patient listening and learning. It takes building relationships of trust, which takes time. It seems like painstaking, slow work, but we believe it's the most efficient way to build social will and get lasting results.

We thank our many funders who have made our first year far more successful than we could have imagined. I hope you'll take a few minutes to review the projects of this small, fledgling organization in its first year of operation.



John Hagan, President and CEO

1 The INTERGEN Climate Group

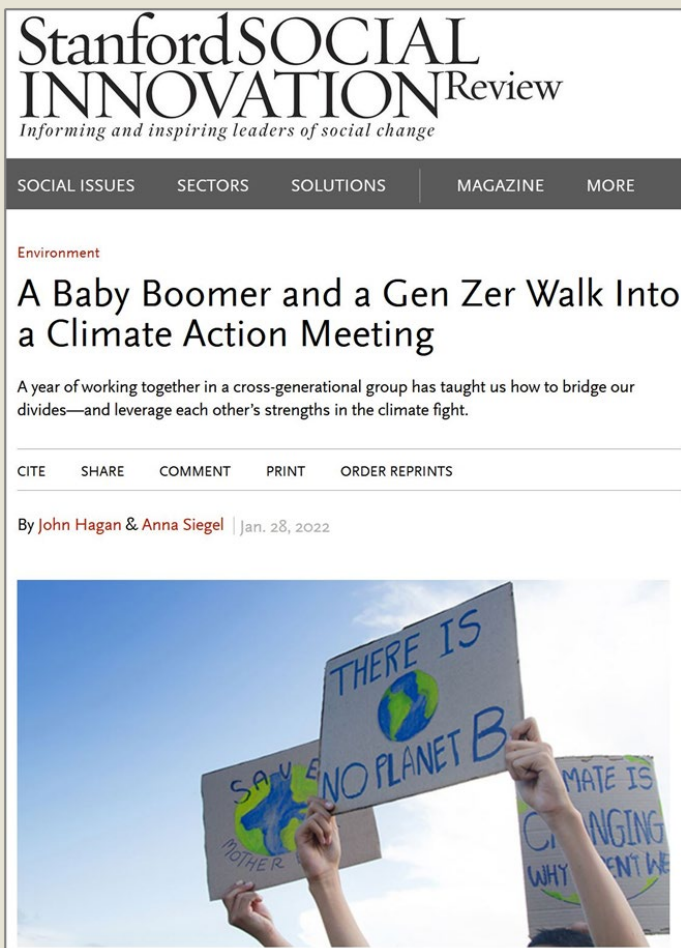
At present, the generations largely work separately on climate change. We are often pitted against each other—the younger generation impatient with elders' lack of sufficient action to protect their future, and the elder generation impatient with youths' lack of understanding of the political, social, and technical complexity of the systems that need to be changed.

The INTERGEN Climate Group (ICG) was formed to try to get past this divide, because *both* generations have valuable assets to bring to addressing the climate crisis. The group includes eight younger gen (Gen Z) and eight older gen (Boomers) members who meet monthly. Our principal aim is to better understand each other's perspectives about the climate crisis. The hope is that greater mutual understanding will lead to effective intergenerational action on climate change.

Goals of INTERGEN:

- To make meaningful progress on solving the climate crisis by implementing projects (i.e., actions) where youth and elders are working together in some way.
- To provide a regular forum where youth and elders can discuss some of the most difficult topics relative to climate change to better understand both the challenges and possible solutions.
- To help place more young people in leadership roles in non-profits, for-profits, and government entities working on climate.
- To share what we learn about working together intergenerationally with others who might also be interested in intergenerational work.

Bridge being built: between younger generations and older generations



In January 2022, Anna Siegel (Gen Z) and John Hagan (Boomer) published an article in Stanford Social Innovation Review on what they learned from working together on the INTERGEN Climate Group. Click [here](#) to read the article

2 Youth On Boards / Action on Climate

Young people today will inherit a climate that will be costly to them for the rest of their lives. They are, in effect, the principal stakeholders in decisions made today about how, and how fast, our society addresses climate change. Yet young people are typically not at the table where critical determinations affecting their future are being made.

Meaningful representation of youth in climate-related decision making is not just a matter of moral obligation, but it's also a practical imperative. We believe the boards of nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses, as

well as governmental entities at all levels will benefit from the perspectives of youth when making business decisions. Youth bring innovation and out of the box thinking to confront the climate crisis, complementing the knowledge and experience of those who are older.



A meeting of the INTERGEN Climate Group to design the Youth On Boards / Action on Climate Project.

Youth On Boards / Action on Climate was started by the INTERGEN Climate Group (previous page). YOB/AOC is a program to place youth in leadership positions, especially board positions. The program goes beyond mere placement of

youth in key positions. It also deals with the educational and cultural challenges associated with the equitable and effective inclusion of youth as decision makers. To succeed in our efforts, both youth and boards need to be prepared for the inclusion of youth. To that end, YOB/AOC systematically assesses both board and youth readiness. We provide training for youth and boards to make sure youth are not tokenized. We also provide youth with basic knowledge about organizational governance before joining a board.

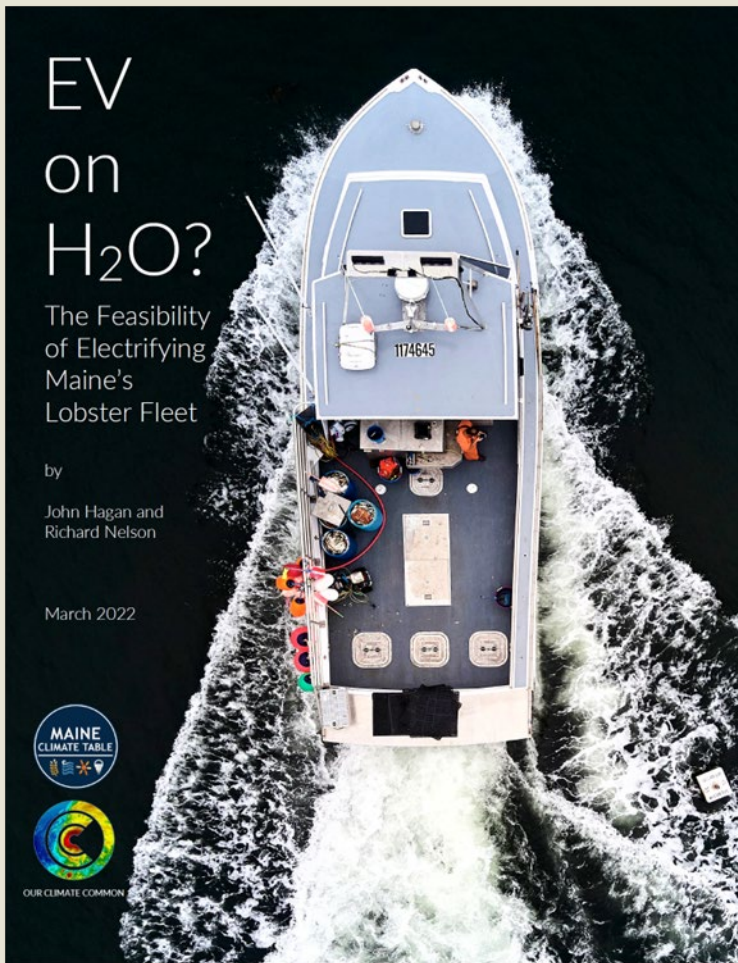
YOB/AOC is co-led by Bethany Humphrey (younger gen) and Steve Kaagan (older gen). Bethany and Steve, with the help of Sara Freshley, Kayla King, Cathy Lee, and Ann Tartre, plan to expand YOB/AOC in 2023 and 2024.

To learn more about YOB/AOC, please visit our website [here](#).

Bridge being built: between youth and power centers in our society

3 “EV on H₂O: The Feasibility of Electrifying Maine’s Lobster Fleet”

In 2020, the State of Maine set an ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. This is a call to action for all sectors of Maine’s economy. To meet a goal this big, we need the creativity and ingenuity of everyone. Ideas we didn’t think were possible will become reality.



Download the report [here](#).

Maine’s 4,600-boat lobster fleet is powered by relatively carbon-intensive diesel engines. Fuel can account for as much as 60% of total fishing costs.

John Hagan (Our Climate Common) worked with Richard Nelson, retired lobsterman in Friendship, Maine, to study the feasibility of electrifying Maine’s 4,600-boat lobster fleet. Marine propulsion systems are evolving rapidly. Electric engines are now being used in ferries, but these boats are large and can carry heavy batteries.

Our report lays out alternative propulsion systems that could reduce emissions in the lobster fishery. Maine, with its diverse and capable boatbuilding industry, 3,000 miles of coastline, and a large fishing fleet, is the perfect place to pioneer these new technologies.

The report is an example of two people coming from different worlds, and combining knowledge to get something done. Neither John nor Richard could have produced this report without the other.

Now we need to build an electric lobster boat.

Bridge being built: between climate change advocates and the lobster industry

4 The “30-Year Bird Study”

North American breeding bird populations have declined by an estimated three billion individuals (30%) since 1970. Habitat loss and degradation are likely the primary causes of declines. Maine’s commercial forest is the largest

contiguous tract of intact (non-developed) forest east of the Mississippi and is in the heart of the largest globally significant Important Bird Area in the contiguous U.S.



Ryan Andrews (left) and Kelsi Anderson (right) conduct an early morning bird survey on timber company land in the Moosehead Lake region.

Given the national-scale changes in bird populations and changes in forest management in Maine, Our Climate Common and partners are replicating a study led by John Hagan in 1990s.

This project is an extraordinarily rare opportunity to replicate a study using the exact same methods in the same location 30 years later.

Replication of this study could influence forestry practices for the benefit of bird conservation, especially in the face of climate change, for the next 30 years. We have an opportunity to make a measurable difference in bird populations at a meaningful scale—the commercial forest of Maine. Our collaboration with commercial landowners on this project ensures a ready, willing, and able partner.

Bridge being built: between conservation biologists and the forest industry

[Where is the study?](#)

[Meet the field crew](#)

[Bird species list](#)

5 FCCL- Forest Carbon for Commercial Landowners

Each year Maine’s forests sequester the equivalent of roughly 70% of Maine’s fossil fuel emissions. Maine’s forests therefore play a huge role in getting Maine to its carbon neutral (“net zero”) goal by 2045.

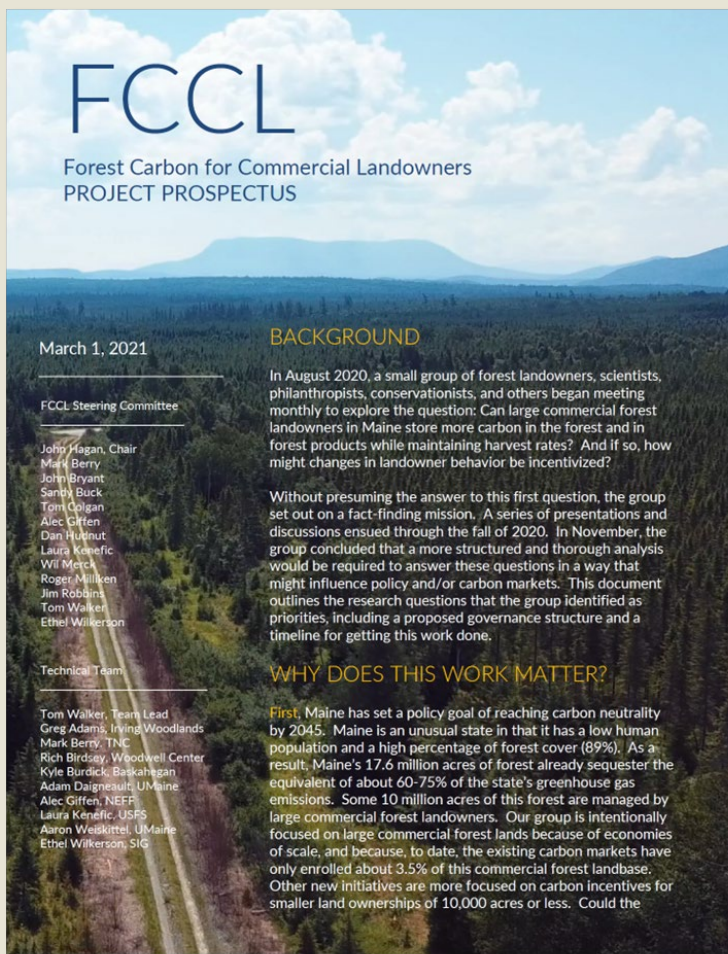
Many forest carbon offset projects are fraught with weaknesses. For example, if forest landowners are paid in the offset marketplace to just let their forest grow, rather than harvest wood, it is likely that someone else, somewhere else in the region or globe, will cut that wood anyway. It’s called “leakage.”

Our Climate Common has been serving as convener of a diverse group of commercial timberland owners, scientists, conservation organizations, and philanthropists, to figure out if Maine’s 9-million acres of commercial forestland could store even more carbon than it is now, *while maintaining harvest levels* (and therefore not leaking). It’s called the FCCL Project (Forest Carbon for Commercial Landowners).

The FCCL Report is due out in early 2023. The report is a perfect example of different interests coming together, combining knowledge, and producing something that makes a difference.

The FCCL Report will show that commercial forest landowners could store 20% more carbon per year while maintaining harvest levels, with new investments in various silvicultural practices.

Bridge being built: between climate interests and the forest industry



The FCC report can be obtained by emailing John Hagan at jhagan@ourclimatecommon.org.

6 Late-successional Forest Mapping

Late-successional (100-200 years old) and old-growth (>200+ years old) forest can be challenging to conserve in a commercial forest landscape where the optimum financial age of forest is 50-70 years old.

While conducting the “30-YR Bird Study” (page 6) in the summer of 2022, Our Climate Common discovered that LiDAR (light detection and ranging), a remote sensing technology, is almost foolproof at locating LSOG (late-successional and old-growth) forest from the air. It appears we have a new tool for mapping and managing LSOG forest.

In 2022, Our Climate Common started to map LSOG forest, to the acre, for the entire 10-million acres of Maine’s unorganized townships (townships where not enough people live to have any form of local government). We have started working with land trusts to screen prospective land purchases, and with commercial timberland owners to map LSOG forest so they can more effectively conserve it under their sustainable forestry guidelines.

LSOG forests contain very high stores of carbon, which is one reason they are important for climate change. But LSOG forest also contains a lot of genetic diversity, which will be important as climate zones shift northward.

Bridge being built: between conservationists and the forest industry



A late-successional hardwood forest near Greenville, Maine. *(photo by J. Hagan)*

7 Climate Communications '101'

How do you talk to someone who may not share your concern about climate change? Why does it matter?

It matters because we still lack the broad social will to solve climate change. Unfortunately, climate change has become a divisive issue. Livelihoods could be impacted by both solving the climate problem, and by not solving it.



Tyler Kidder, Environment Program Officer at The Onion Foundation, leads a Climate Communications workshop.

We don't all see the same urgency. But is there a way we can work together anyway?

Yes, we can. But we need to learn how to engage people about climate change who don't think about climate every day, like we do. Many people are just trying to make ends meet. They already work long hard days. If we drown them in climate facts, they tune us out.

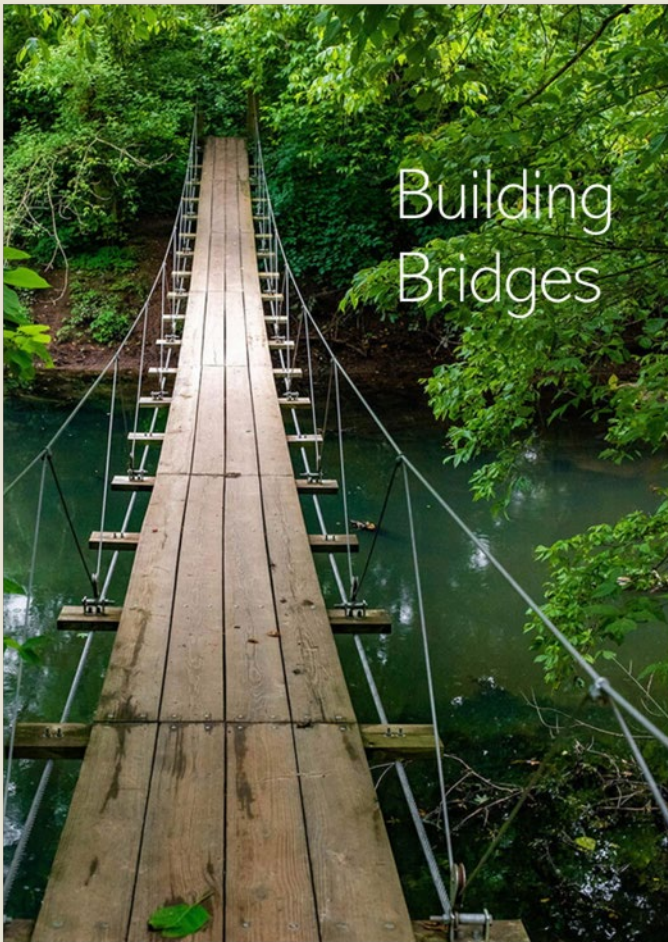
In 2022, we updated the climate communications workshop developed by Tyler Kidder several years ago for the Maine Climate Table. We've included some of the latest research from social psychologists.

Over 700 people have taken Tyler's workshop. We are teaching people how to listen, and how to connect climate change to the values, interests, and needs of others. That's how we find common ground and get to work together.

Bridge being built: between the climate in-group and out-group

8 The “Building Bridges” Discussion Group

The climate crisis is not a science problem. It’s a relationship problem. We know what needs to be done, technically, but we can’t come together as a society to get it done. We lack the broad societal support for solving the climate crisis. More than ever, we’re a divided citizenry. Because of our widening divisions, we can’t combine our skills to solve big problems together– like climate change. We can’t get big, important things done that matter to everyone.



We need an antidote to these divisions. We need to begin by learning how to trust and respect each other again. That means having the courage to build bridges and forge relationships of trust with people who are different from us. Then, we can get things done on the ground that make the world better for everyone.

The Building Bridges Discussion Group was formed to explore whether Maine would benefit from an initiative of some sort– e.g., a learning and doing network of bridge builders who are getting things done by bridging our divides. This work requires skill, courage, humility, compassion, and an inordinate ability to listen. Bridge building is not for everyone.

We will see where this project takes us in 2023.

Bridge being built: ultimately, go to scale by building many new bridges throughout civil society through a new network of bridge-building practitioners

9 WORKSHOP: Understanding Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Gulf of Maine's Seafood Industry

Fishing and seafood are vital parts of Maine's economy and heritage. State landings of lobster continue to be Maine's most lucrative fishery, and aquaculture for shellfish, finfish, and seaweed is growing rapidly. Other wild fisheries continue to be important, such as scallops and herring.

To help limit global warming, Maine has set ambitious goals for reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions. All sectors of Maine's economy, and indeed the global economy, are working to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing emissions is a business imperative in the 21st century.

Harvesting is only a part of the seafood supply chain. Input materials, mechanical operation and maintenance, bait procurement, transportation, processing, refrigeration, packaging, retailing, and waste management are also components, and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions along the seafood supply chain. With innovation, we can reduce emissions so the region's seafood industry remains competitive in an increasingly climate-conscious global marketplace.

Working with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and the Island Institute, Our Climate Common organized and hosted a conversation where seafood harvesters, suppliers, processors, distributors, retailers, and others could learn how to assess and interpret emissions throughout the business supply chain. The workshop started with an 'Emissions 101' session, followed by a facilitated discussion among participants about what the industry wants or needs to know about emissions.

Bridge being built: between climate interests and the seafood industry

The poster features a blue background with a white sidebar on the left containing logos for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Island Institute, and Our Climate Common. The main text is centered and includes the workshop title, date, time, and a 'REGISTER' button. It also contains several paragraphs of text describing the workshop's focus on the seafood supply chain and the need for innovation to reduce emissions.

Understanding Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Gulf of Maine's Seafood Industry
A WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESSES
Tuesday, April 26, 9:30-11:00 AM, via ZOOM [REGISTER](#)

Join us for an industry-focused conversation about greenhouse gas emissions in the Gulf of Maine's seafood industry. Learn who's working on this issue and explore new ideas to reduce emissions.

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Help catalyze a low-carbon future through a healthy, growing, globally-competitive seafood industry.

Organizers:
John Hagan, OCC
David Reidmiller, GMRI
Emma Wendt, Island Institute

For more information:
John Hagan
jhagan@ourclimatecommon.org
207-837-4868

Learn more about the workshop and watch the recording [here](#).

10 “Sparking Conversations: New Approaches for Engaging Public Garden Visitors on Climate Change

Over a hundred thousand people visit the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (CMBG) in Boothbay each year. The gardens offer a perfect opportunity to engage the public in a conversation about climate change.

In 2022, CMBG received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences to create a program that uses dialogue, or conversation, to engage visitors on climate change. The gardens feature many exhibits that can tell a climate change story, such as snapped off trees from a severe storm, wetlands that absorb water during heavy rainfall events, and the apiary where people learn about the role of bees as pollinators.



The Heafitz Wetland Bridge at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.
(photo courtesy of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens)

CMBG reached out to Our Climate Common for help in developing these dialogues. In the tradition of how Our Climate Common works, we know that *listening* to visitors is more important than a one-way flow of climate facts.

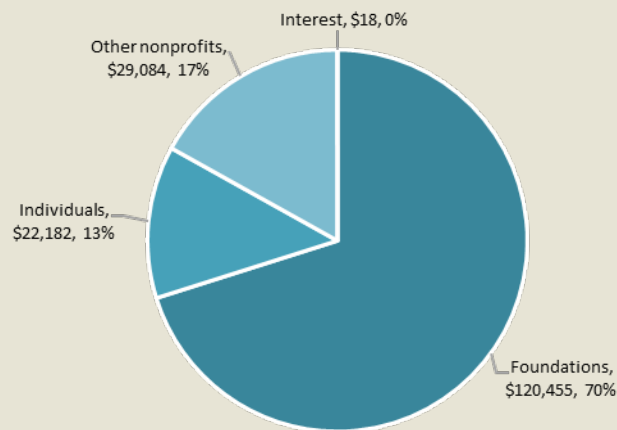
The goal of the project is for visitors to leave more willing to talk about climate change with their friends, family, and neighbors. We want garden visitors to learn how to listen too, so they can create a healthy conversation about climate change. That’s how we’re going to build the broad social will we need to solve climate change—respectful conversations.

Bridge being built: between the “climate concerned” and “interested bystanders”

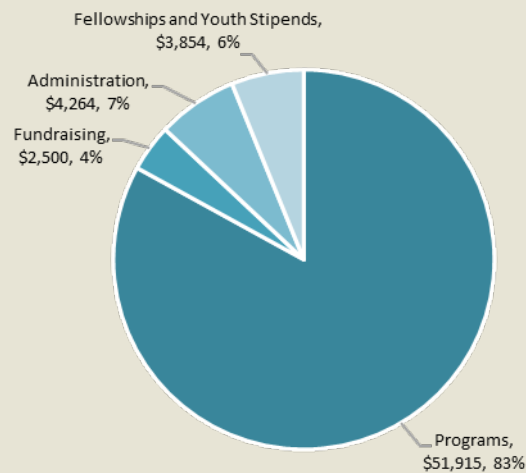
2022 Our Climate Common Financial Report

The work described in the previous pages reflects an incredibly successful inaugural year of proposal writing and fundraising and project work. Our Climate Common received nearly \$188,000 in grants and individual donations, over three times our goal. We will go into 2023 with about 80% of our funds already in-hand.

2022 Sources of Revenue



2022 Uses of Revenue



2022 Statement of Financial Activity

	Total
Revenue	
Interest Income	\$18
Restricted Contributions	\$171,720
Unrestricted Contributions	\$15,985
Total Revenue	\$187,723
Gross Profit	\$187,723
Expenditures	
Contract & professional fees	\$51,062
Events	\$155
Fellowships	\$2,000
Meals & Meetings	\$575
Office expenses	\$6,345
Supplies	\$11
Travel	\$509
Website	\$21
Youth Stipends	\$1,854
Total Expenditures	\$62,533
Net Operating Revenue	\$125,190
Net Revenue	\$125,190

FUNDERS

Ann Tartre
Daniel Hildreth
Dr. John (Jay) Holt
Horizon Foundation
John and Rebecca Hagan
Maine Climate Table
Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust
National Council for Air and Stream Improvement
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation
Steve Kaagan
The Betterment Fund
The Climate Initiative
The Dorr Foundation
The Onion Foundation
UMaine Cooperative Forest Research Unit
Weyerhaeuser

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Cathy Lee
Steve Kaagan

Tyler Kidder
Ann Tartre

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Kayla King
ShaSha Kingston

Anna Siegel
Benjamin Shamgochian

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Appalachian Mountain Club
Baskahegan Co.
Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
Forest Society of Maine
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Huber Forest Management
Island Institute
Landvest
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
Maine Climate Table
Maine Environmental Education Association
Manomet
Northeast Wilderness Trust
New England Forestry Foundation

Robbins Lumber Company Spatial Informatics – Natural Capital Lab
The Climate Initiative
The Onion Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Trust for Public Lands
Tufts University
UMaine Cooperative Forest Research
University of New Hampshire
Wagner Forest Management
Weyerhaeuser
Wheatland Geospatial Lab

