



INTRODUCTION

The world is experiencing a climate emergency. The actions we take in the next decade will determine our future and that of our species and all other life forms.

The work of Sustaining All Life (SAL) strengthens people in their work for change. It gives people an understanding of the central role of oppression in creating and maintaining the climate crisis as well as access to personal healing tools. As a result, people are more able to stay engaged, hopeful, and effective in the face of the escalating crisis.

By providing the theory and tools of SAL to activists from communities most impacted by climate change we can contribute to the world-wide climate justice movement.

We are asking for your support with our efforts to provide these tools to frontline and youth activists across the world working to end the climate crisis.

SAL's History and Work: SAL was organized in 2015 with the goal of taking our tools and understandings to the United Nations Climate talks (called COPs—for “Conference of the Parties”). At the COPs SAL communicates about the following: human vulnerability to emotional hurts that impair our thinking, the possibility of recovery, the importance of these understandings to the work to end the climate emergency and oppression, and the connection between oppression and climate change. SAL attended and presented workshops and facilitated forums, listening circles, and more at COP21 through COP26 and at numerous regional climate conferences.

Over the previous three years, the Re-evaluation Foundation spent about half a million dollars to support the above activities. Our goal is to greatly expand our efforts in the coming years in order to make a more immediate and critical impact on the climate crisis.

MAJOR UPCOMING PROJECTS

1. COPs:

- A 30+-person SAL delegation will attend COP27 in Egypt in 2022. Because this COP is so important, the delegation will be large and inclusive, representing parts of the world where the biggest impacts of climate change are already being felt: Africa, Latin America, and South and West Asia.

- The SAL delegation will be both physically present in Egypt and host a series of online events for those not in attendance at the COP.
- SAL delegations will attend the COPs for the foreseeable future, modifying our participation as we learn how to have the most impact.
- Total cost= \$200k/year; Sponsor a delegate to COP=\$1000

2. Major Climate Conferences:

- SAL delegations will attend and lead workshops at a number of other important climate conferences (e.g., Global Climate Action Summit, Climate Week-New York City and London, From the Ground Up-Glasgow, Earth Day Initiative-NYC).
- Cost = \$10k per conference and approximately 2-3 conferences per year

3. Supporting Younger Climate Activists:

- SAL youth delegations will attend and present workshops on empowering youth and ending racism at The United Nations-sponsored Conference on Youth (COY) for 4 days before the COP. These conferences are important opportunities to take our work to young activists on the front lines of climate organizing.
- Cost = \$25k/year: Sponsor a delegate=\$1000

4. Part-time Organizers for SAL

- Hire part-time organizers to organize and support our work, as well as provide logistical support to RC leadership on climate issues. We recently (1/1/21) hired our first organizer, Janet Kabue, Nairobi, Kenya.
- SAL staff will oversee the SAL website, social media, the SAL mailing list, the planning for COP27 in Egypt in November 2022 (and future COPs) and other SAL activities, and the development of written and video materials.
- Cost = \$20k per part-time organizer per year. Goal is to have 5 organizers.

5. Infrastructure Building for SAL

- **Website:** The SustainingAllLife.org website is being rebuilt to:
 - Create separate, mirror sites in three languages (English, Spanish, French), with improved, up-to-standard code. Restructure content to be more relevant and accommodate anticipated growth.
 - Cost = \$10k
- **Written Materials:**
 - Develop a webpage and pamphlet, pulling together the key ideas about the climate emergency and our work from existing documents and the RC Draft Program on Climate Change, and translate these resources into key languages.
 - Cost = \$30k
- **Support for Climate Advocates**
 - Train people to be climate advocates and more effective organizers on local climate issues, especially members of frontline communities and youth.
 - Cost = \$50k/year

BACKGROUND: THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Since the Paris Agreement in 2015, many studies have been released showing that the evidence on which the Paris Agreement was based underestimated the rate of warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), October 2018 [report](#) “Global Warming at 1.5°C,” warns that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if emissions continue to increase at the current rate. It finds that limiting warming to 1.5°C with limited overshoot (going above 1.5°C and then working to reduce warming) is possible. However, this would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy; land; and urban, infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems.

In 2019, a letter signed by more than 11,000 scientists globally warned that the climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expected. “It is more severe than anticipated, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity (IPCC 2019). Especially worrisome are potential irreversible climate tipping points and nature’s reinforcing feedbacks (atmospheric, marine, and terrestrial) that could lead to a catastrophic ‘hothouse Earth,’ well beyond the control of humans (Steffen et al. 2018). These climate chain reactions could cause significant disruptions to ecosystems, society, and economies, potentially making large areas of Earth uninhabitable.” [World Scientists’ Warning of a Climate Emergency](#), *Bioscience*, January 2020.

As time passes, the bad news escalates. *Science* reports in July 2020 on a huge [study](#) done by a team of scientists at the World Climate Research Programme. The study concludes that doubling the amount of carbon in the atmosphere (which, at current rates, will occur toward the middle of the century) will raise the average surface temperature on Earth between two and a half and four degrees Celsius. This is the first significant narrowing of that range in decades—ever since the 1980s, we’ve been saying one and a half to four and a half degrees. Now, though, researchers are essentially ruling out the bottom end of the range. Two and a half degrees, the best-case scenario, is an enormous number.

With the change in the U.S. administration in January 2021, new possibilities arise for effective climate action. The United States could reverse its own rising emissions and play a leadership role again in the global efforts to curb the climate emergency. Adverse impacts from climate change are already here but taking aggressive action now could avoid the worst consequences. While SAL is global, the majority of our members are in the U.S. and the work there will be one of our priorities.



What is Sustaining All Life (SAL)?

Sustaining All Life (SAL) is a project of the Re-evaluation Foundation and the Re-evaluation Counseling (RC) Community. Addressing the climate emergency is a major goal of the RC Community and SAL. We are committed to the following goal: "The RC Community, recognizing the clear evidence of dangerous and ongoing climate change caused primarily by human activity, will face the challenge of finding and acting on ways to stop it." We are mobilizing members of our world-wide Communities (RC currently exists in 95 countries) to take up this challenge.

SAL uses the tools of RC. RC is a theory and practice that helps people of all ages and backgrounds exchange effective help with each other in order to free themselves from the emotional scars of oppression and other hurts. People take turns listening to each other and encouraging emotional release. By doing this, they can heal old hurts and become better able to think, to speak out, and to organize and lead others in building a world in which all human beings and other life forms are valued, and the environment is restored and preserved.

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