

Report on the Launch of the Faith and Climate Webinar Series

Introduction

The Faith and Climate Webinar Series, organized in partnership with the Security and Sustainability Forum (SSF), is a new and far-reaching educational initiative of PoWR's Climate Action Program. These dynamic webinars are designed to bring together the diverse voices of religious and spiritual leaders, scientists, lawyers, and other experts to explore the critically significant intersection between the climate crisis and faith communities throughout the world. Our first two webinars, covering the Youth Climate Suit *Juliana et al vs United States* and Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'*, were resounding successes, with the *Laudato si'* webinar receiving the highest rating from attendees in SSF's ten-year, 200+ webinar history. Registrations doubled between the first and second webinars, and we are poised to grow even more as we look toward future installments in the series.



By the Numbers

650 people from 25 countries registered for the *Juliana* webinar, with 284 in attendance. The webinar was rated at 90% in an audience survey.

1,153 people from 67 countries and 46 U. S. states registered for the *Laudato si'* webinar, with 495 in attendance. The webinar was rated at 95% in an audience survey.

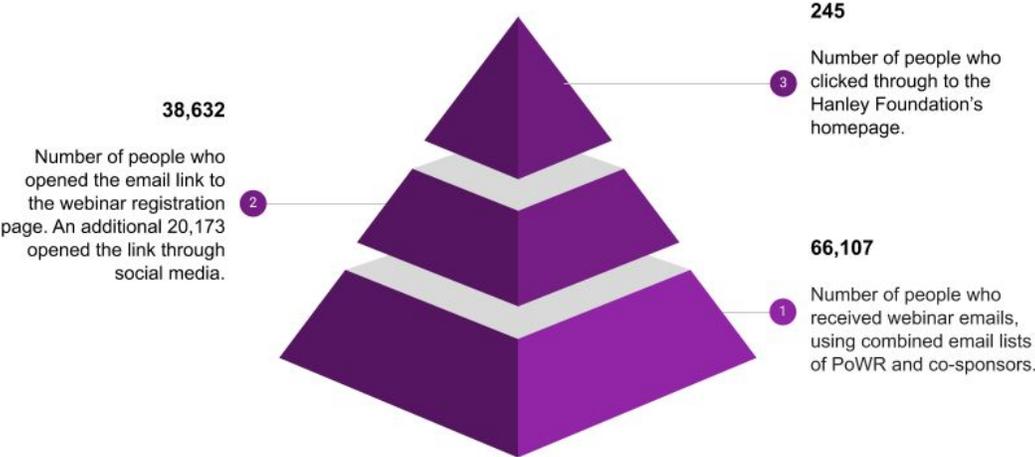
Videos of both webinars are available online and continue to generate a growing audience of viewers:

Juliana et al vs United States <https://vimeo.com/340305822>

Laudato si' <https://vimeo.com/343079607>

354,037
Total number of contacts in which webinar information was conveyed.

The webinars were promoted to a large audience through the combined email lists of PoWR, the Security and Sustainability Forum, Global Catholic Climate Movement, and Interfaith Power and Light



Audience Response

Many webinar registrants took the time to share comments and ask questions. Below is just a sample of their responses.

- I would like to disseminate this webinar discussion and presentation to my community in Indonesia as a lesson learned. Thank you. (*Juliana*)
- I wanted to tell you how informative and fantastic the webinar was. As an advanced practice nurse, I'm concerned about all aspects of the Climate Change (Crisis) and so appreciate all you provide for us. (*Juliana*)
- Thank you for the up-lifting and informative webinar on the Juliana v. US lawsuit yesterday. I enjoyed the presentations by Howard and Brenda, and David's moderation added to their presentations. I look forward to the next. (*Juliana*)
- Thank you for all that went into this session. I appreciated it very much. (*Laudato si'*)
- This Webinar was excellent in a number of ways (i.e. guests, content, questions and comments). I appreciate hearing from a multifaith perspective. I believe that Rabbi Mikva

said it best when she responded to the question about voices from the pulpit by saying “how can we talk about anything else?” (*Laudato si'*)

- Congratulations to all these organizations that are working with people for strengthening and building their knowledge and capacities on climate change. (*Laudato si'*)
- I am encouraged to hear the different organizations' framing of their approaches for advancing their climate change approaches/responses. (*Laudato si'*)
- This webinar on the "10 Green Commandments" was one of the best presentations. I liked hearing from the 3 faiths going back to Abraham and how each religion has its own "Laudato Si". (*Laudato si'*)

Looking Ahead

Based on the success of the first two Faith and Climate webinars, the Climate Action Program has begun developing plans for additional webinars in the months ahead. We are excited about the interest and momentum that is building around the series and its potential to draw together faith leaders and climate activists from all sectors to address our collective responsibility to confront the catastrophic impact of climate change. Our preliminary roster of additional topics in the Faith and Climate Webinar Series includes:

Laudato si' II, continuing the conversation with new, diverse voices from leaders in the Indigenous, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh communities.

Building awareness and resilience networks that connect congregations and spiritual communities in different parts of the world, including indigenous peoples in Africa and North America, Buddhists in SouthEast Asia, and Aboriginal youth in Australia.

The role of religious leaders in facilitating non-technical communication about the realities of the climate crisis and the tools they need to do so.

The Climate Commitments Project — how to work within this growing network to bridge the gap between words and action in committing to a low carbon world.

A webinar in partnership with ASU's Sustainability Education and Energy Knowledge-sharing (SEEK) Project involving a virtual training for congregations in how to transition to renewable energy in their houses of worship.