

First, let's face the hard truth that the darkening US environmental policy happening now is gravely intensifying the climate threat. It should be no surprise that the current administration - after asking for and receiving billions in campaign donations from the fossil fuel industry - is zealously doing their bidding and systematically wiping out hard fought climate protections. The world over is already experiencing widespread destructive impacts of man made climate change in the forms of *extreme* flooding, wildfires, drought, hurricanes, record heat and on and on. But, make no mistake, the actions of the current administration will cause levels of harm never seen before, including irreparable harm to those struggling the most from - yet contributing the least to - the build up of greenhouse gas emissions, and including exponential harm to our precious economies from absorbing the astronomical costs to clean up the accelerating devastation we are causing. For the life of us, what was the majority of our electorate thinking?! *Do they know not what they did?*

Instead of asking these fruitless questions, or giving undue attention to this administration, it's far better that we decisively answer this question: **what are we going to do about it?**

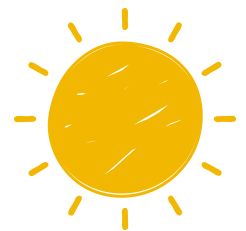
We are going to **take direct action!** When we act, we focus on the task at hand, we help solve the problem, we enter the light of day & we demonstrate solidarity with our fellow inhabitants. CCLI is announcing our new direct action project called **RACE for the Climate**—which is about encouraging & supporting brave climate action. Please click the link, check it out and help us spread the word.



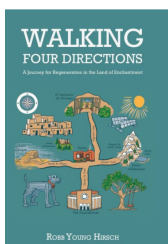
We are going to **choose soil health & regenerative agriculture** which means: upholding life on earth; growing crops without pesticides, nitrogen based fertilizers & fossil fuel byproducts; producing food with much greater nutrient density; becoming resilient to extreme weather; capturing precious water and sequestering carbon in the ground; ensuring a cleaner ecosystem; saving consumers' health while saving producers money from less inputs. This movement is upon us, foundations are stepping up big time & grassroots communities are taking the lead. **Come join the soil health movement @ www.nmhealthysoil.org.**



We are going to **embrace the sunshine** by reading **Bill McKibben's new book** about sun power and then going out and reflecting the positive energy in how we conduct our lives. Solar is cheaper and cleaner than any other energy source so it is rapidly becoming ubiquitous. The fossil fuel industry is petrified that they will lose their hold on our civilization so they are desperately lobbying corrupt politicians to stay in power. Turn away from them and towards the sun!



We are going to **harness other foundational ways to solve the climate crisis** including unleashing humanity's can do spirit while humbly choosing nature based solutions and drawing on the leadership of those who came before us while uniting in common purpose. The eBook edition of **Walking Four Directions** is out and it's a book worth revisiting because it's all about the capabilities we already have within us to rise to this occasion.



We are going to **vote like no tomorrow** for candidates with the most integrity whom care the most about overcoming our shared challenges and together ensuring life on earth with freedom and justice for all.



And we are going to **honor climate leaders in our society**. See below for the announcement of **CCLI's 2025 Climate Leadership Awards**.



2025 Update: Direct Actions & Climate Leadership Awards

CCLI's 2025 Climate Leadership Awards

The climate leadership awards come with financial prize money, publicity & a plaque while drawing light on & building upon CCLI's key pillars of societal change making which are direct action, education, justice, innovation, conservation & stewardship.

Climate Courage Award to Jane Fonda for her unwavering dedication

She said we're the first generation to experience the climate crisis and the last that can do anything about it. And wow has she been doing something about it—in her 80s no less. She is leading Fire Drill Fridays, getting arrested multiple times for civil disobedience, writing a [book](#) on the subject, starting her own [JanePAC](#) to elect climate champions at the state and local level...“The whole point is to let people know they are needed!” She says solving the climate emergency is “going to require incredibly brave actions, and I know we can be brave!”

Justice Award to Carlos Matutes, the NM State Director for Green Latinos

a national non profit facing local environmental issues in the Latino/a/e community. By increasing shared resources and collective power, [Green Latinos](#) is in New Mexico & other pivotal states working to achieve climate justice, protect public land, secure water equity, support urban greening & farming, which Carlos says “helps feed our communities, provides invaluable career skills for youth, & connects students to our cultural and agricultural heritage.”

Education Award to Esha Chiochio with Good Earth Media

for raising awareness about the vital importance of environmental stewardship & regenerative agriculture through [her medium](#) of photography & videography. Through her creativity and by featuring true stories of families safeguarding soil & now the forests, she is upholding a sense of place, engendering a collective caring for the land and developing a feeling of possibility that we can not only be resilient, we can rise to the challenge of healing our relationship with nature. Esha created Good Earth Media and has earned [her feature](#) in National Geographic.

Conservation Award to Maggie O'Knapp w/ NM Bison Restoration Network

which is striving for the reintroduction of Bison which helps regenerate the land. Maggie & the Network are [researching](#) the viability of using virtual fencing for Bison herds, which would significantly bring down costs and open up territory for them to roam, and rangeland application of compost, biochar & mulch which is crucial for climate resiliency. The group also focuses on watershed restoration emphasizing the help of nature's best engineers: Beaver & Bison. The Network advocates for re-wilding, noting the preponderance of wild animals meaningfully draws down carbon & restores the soil.

Innovation Award to Alan Weisman, climate writer & researcher

In his recent book [Hope Dies Last](#), Alan states the dire facts of our climate emergency while focusing on the incredible promise of visionary people & revolutionary ideas! Some are out of the box thinking; others are proven pathways swiftly rising and/or transforming the status quo. Whether growing mangroves or offshore sustainable cities; budding techniques like Pivot Bio helping avoid nitrous oxide emissions from toxic fertilizers or vastly populating climate refugee camps bunny hopping industrialization by using distributed solar, electric scooters & mobile lap tops—we have vast opportunities to prevail over the climate crisis ***if only we seize the day!***

Direct Action Award to Linda Rakestraw, a citizen from Silver City

Linda, who is 85 yrs old, is speaking out & standing strong for climate action in her community. She pleads we have to take this climate matter mighty seriously, organize & lead a climate movement together, and we must help the most vulnerable, who are most in danger from the climate catastrophe. Linda is taking action at the grassroots level by for example organizing a book display at her local library featuring climate leadership works like Greta Thunberg's book [No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference](#). She is also working to find a comfortable space in Silver City where people may gather, develop grassroots climate solutions & build solidarity.