



2023 Annual Report



"We likely will not rest in the shade of the trees we have planted. But someone will. In planting them, we provide a visible act of hope for the future. We join the millions of others who care for the Earth, who are concerned about our warming climate."

- Climate Land Leader Meg Nielsen, Tree of Life Farm

The land stewards in the Climate Land Leaders Initiative are building soil health, increasing biodiversity and protecting water so that ecosystems and communities will thrive in a rapidly changing climate.

"I would not have made the changes to our farming practices without the encouragement of the Climate Land Leaders."

In 2023, Climate Land Leaders Initiative:



Held more than 30 opportunities for the Climate Land Leaders to meet, including three in-person meetups.



Increased our focus on the agricultural and land use practices that are best for the climate: trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs.



Expanded into Illinois, under the capable leadership of Illinois landowner Christina Foster.



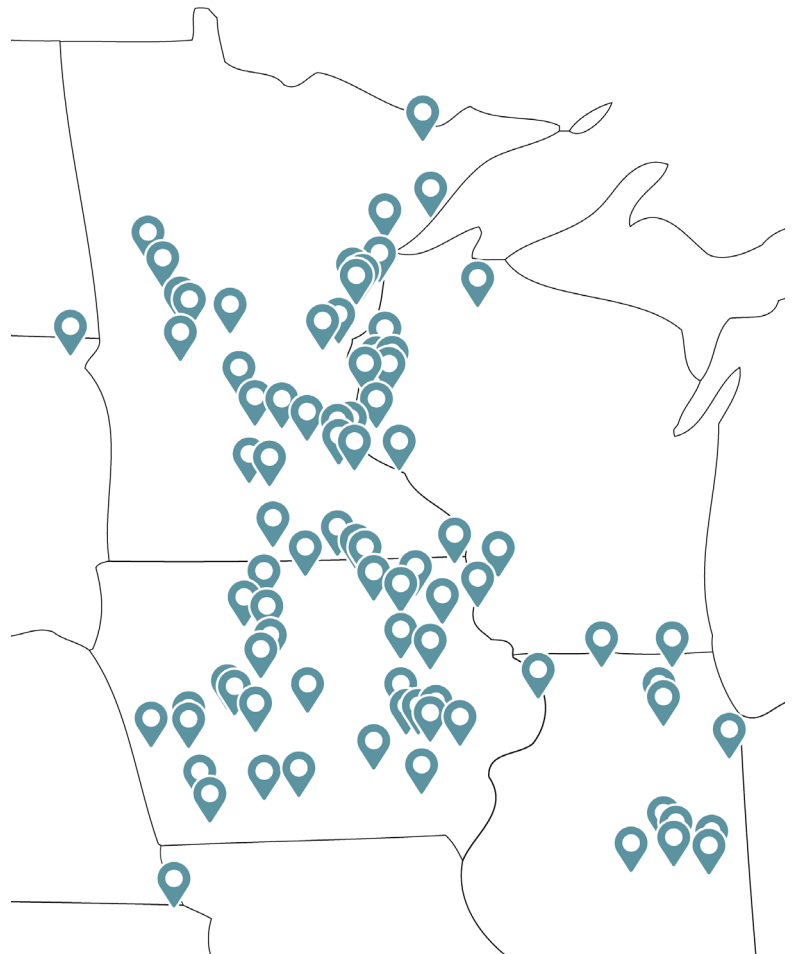
Distributed \$23,000+ in "cropland to perennials" stipends to 33 land stewards.



Activated 20+ Climate Land Leaders who advocated for historic policy wins for climate and agriculture.



Secured national and state media and social media coverage for 50+ Climate Land Leaders.



2023 CLIMATE LAND LEADERS FARMS



LAND STEWARDS TAKE ACTION

Above, founding Climate Land Leaders Carol Bouska, Peg Bouska, Sally McCoy and Ann Novak completed prairie and windbreak maintenance and worked with their farming tenant to plant cover crops in 2023.

Below, in 2023, Farmer Wendy Johnson, Federal Policy Co-Lead, had editorials published in Civil Eats and gave numerous speeches on agriculture's critical role in alleviating climate change.



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

32,000 acres under stewardship by Climate Land Leaders as of December 2023

70% of Climate Land Leaders reported making a conservation change in 2023

180+ conservation projects tackled, including:

- Planting trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs
- Restoring wetlands
- Finding conservation-minded farming tenants

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Partners

McKNIGHT FOUNDATION



BUILDERS INITIATIVE

The Acreage at Osceola
AgArts



RURAL CLIMATE
PARTNERSHIP

Climate Bridge Strategies
CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)
Ecological Design
Hmong American Farmers Association
Indigenous Speakers Series
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
The Land Connection
Land Stewardship Project
Lumpkin Family Foundation
Tiffany LaShae, soil scientist
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
1000 Farms
RE-AMP Network
Renewing the Countryside
Savanna Institute
Sharing Our Roots
Somali American Farmers Association
Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota
USDA Agricultural Research Service
Wild Rivers Conservancy

Individual Donors (2023)

Scott Anderson	Carolyn Levine
Linda Appelgate	Ben Lilliston
Jackie Armstrong &	Becky Lourey
Gary Levinson	Jane Maland Cady
Pam Arnold	Sally McCoy
Prescott Bergh	Margaret McQuown &
Carol Bouska	Steve Turman
Peg Bouska	Ray Meyer
Kathryn Brooks	Kate Moos & Valerie
Carolyn Brue & Pat	Arganbright
Collins	Mark Muller
David Clausen	Meg & Glenn Nielsen
Heather Cusick	Doug & DeAnn
Des Moines Intentional	Opheim
Eucharistic Committee	Paul Opheim
Carol Dines	Teresa Opheim & Rich
Christina Foster	Schuler
Richard Fuller	Deb Paulson
Liz Garst	Ruth Rabinowitz
Anna Geyer	Jodi Reese & Terry
Dan Guenther &	Langan
Margaret Pennings	Suzanne Rhees
Helen Gunderson	Jim Sayers
Joyce Hanes	Jane Shey
Ranae Hanson	Dick Sloan
Ferd Hoefner & Diane	Sylvia Spalding
Curran	Barb Strandell
Mary Hunt	Lee Tesdell & Cindy
Sarah Hunt	Hemingway
Jeremy Iggers	Tim Welsh
Wendy Johnson	Rebecca Wiinanan
Karin Jokela	Bonnie Winslow-
Kathy Jones & Sherwin	Garvin
Skar	Ann Wolf
Catherine Jordan	Mark Ziemer
Theresa Keaveny	

In 2023, Climate Land Leaders became a 501c3 public charity. Thank you to Sharing Our Roots for incubating the launch and then serving as a fiscal sponsor for Climate Land Leaders.

In addition, the Initiative expanded the ethnic and gender diversity of its Board and began work to ensure that diversity, equity and inclusion are centered in all of the Initiative's work.

Finally, the Initiative secured individual donations from more than 60 donors and expanded foundation support and coalition partnerships.

***"The best benefit of Climate Land Leaders:
the smart, caring, creative and engaged
people that are a part of it."***

OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

- Jackie Armstrong
- Ben Lilliston
- Dr. Michelle Montgomery
- Kate Moos (Treasurer)
- Meg Nielsen (President)
- Jane Shey
- Sylvia Spalding

Equity Subgroup Co-Chairs

- Sally McCoy
- Paula Westmoreland

Staff and Consultants

- Naima Dhore, Equity and Local Foods Advisor
- Christina Foster, Illinois Lead
- Suzi Howk, 100 Degrees Consulting
- Sarah Hunt, Program Director
- Wendy Johnson, Federal Policy Co-Lead
- Theresa Keaveny, Minnesota Policy Consultant
- Teresa Opheim, Executive Director

2023 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sharing Our Roots served as fiscal sponsor for The Climate Land Leaders Initiative until June 2023, when Climate Land Leaders became a 501c3 public charity. See www.climatelandleaders.org/accountability for more information.

Total Revenue:	\$329,659
Total Expenses:	\$320,788
Net Revenue:	\$8,871
Total Assets:	\$206,868
Total Liabilities:	\$152,449

Individual donations accounted for 7.6% of revenue.
91.6% was from grants and .8% from interest income.

Prepared by Suzi Howk, Consulting CFO, 100 Degrees Consulting