

## 2025 Climate Motivators

**KALEO DUNCANSON-HALES** is a member of St. Peters United Church in Sudbury and a student at Sudbury Secondary School. Kaleo has a passion for learning and climate advocacy, paired with a deep faith. Kaleo is an excellent communicator and networker and has been on the Youth advisory Council of Compass, a youth mental health and social aid organization.

**PROJECT:** Kaleo wants to create a partnership between St. Peters and Compass to create a space for Youth to have a safe space to discuss Climate Anxiety and consider the relationship between mental health and spirituality. They will give youth the space to air climate frustrations and fears, but also the tools to make change.

**NATHAN FAWKES TALBOT** feels fortunate to have been a part of the Mount Seymour United Church community in North Vancouver BC since he was born. He is a recent graduate of Seycove Secondary School and is planning a career in law, specifically with a focus on marine and environmental law, with the hopes of enacting positive change on behalf of nature.

**PROJECT:** Nathan plans to develop educational initiatives within his local community to encourage others to take actions, even small ones, to reduce their carbon footprint and general environmental impact. He plans to connect with as many organizations as possible, including summer camps, his local church, and other community organizations. Nathan will develop a broad curriculum of information to help make a difference in the fight to preserve our natural world.

**SIFA KANYAMUNEZA** is a Grade 11 student at St. Mary's High School in Kitchener, ON with a deep passion for environmental justice, leadership, and faith-rooted action. She is also core member of the Green Team at Trillium United Church in Cambridge, ON.

**PROJECT:** Sifa's project is "Rooted in Action: Growing Greener Communities of Faith Across Cambridge," which will include creative hands-on events where young people can build birdhouses and do some native plant gardening as well learn from a speaker about native plant gardening. In Sifa's previous work as a Climate Motivator she has built a network with 10 other churches in Cambridge and will work again with that network to host a Youth Eco-Event. A particular theme of her work this year will be green cleaning and laundry products.

**HANNAH POLASEK** is a recent graduate of Carberry Collegiate in Carberry, MB. Hannah has been active in the Yong Adults and Youth activities of the Prairie to Pine region and is a member of Carberry United Church. She loves horse jumping and plans to pursue her education and a career working with large animals. Hannah is also a License Lay Worship Leader.

**PROJECT:** Hannah's project focuses on the overconsumption of textile products and she will help people learn how to reduce the consumption of textiles and upcycle current textiles.

**JAYDEN SCHETTLER** has just completed Grade 12 at Vincent Massey High School and has been accepted into Brandon University for fall 2025. Jayden is from Brandon, MB where he is an active member of Knox United Church and a participant in the Young Adults and Youth activities of Prairie to Pine regional council.

**PROJECT:** Jayden is skilled in technology and will teach the people of Knox United about sustainable habits to create a greener earth. He will do extensive research on a variety of things that can be practically reduced within the church to lessen their carbon footprint. Jayden will also work with the Knox Green Team to consider the possibility of advocating for a local city compost system.

**ISLA SHERIDAN-JONAH**, a member of St. Paul's United Church in Oakville, ON is a student at Burlington Central High School and an accomplished gymnast. Isla is deeply concerned about over consumption and wants to encourage people need to take action to create a better future for everyone.

**PROJECT:** Isla will host a community repair day, offering a variety of stations where people can learn skills in sewing, and the repairs of bicycles, technology, and jewelry. She believes that a communal sharing of skills will not only allow people to reduce their need to purchase new items, but will also help to build community.

**BRIAN TIRIWEPI** is a Grade 11 student and a member of St. Paul's United Church in Thunder Bay, ON. He is an honour roll student and is active in soccer.

**PROJECT:** Brian's project will be to host an event educating his local community about climate/sustainable actions, and how it connects to our faith. He wants to focus on teaching people how to live more eco-friendly lives from a Christian perspective.

**PRIMROSE WATSON-LEUNG** is from Brampton, ON and is a student at Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Urban and Regional Planning with a particular interest in environmental planning.

**PROJECT:** A member of Norval United Church, Primrose will work to enhance and develop the pollinator garden that she created last year. She will be part of a team that will formulate detailed plan and logistics to create a substantial and sustainable feature on Norval United's property and seek community approval of the plan as well as funding sources. Primrose will also work with the church's summer camp, which reaches families from across the community, organizing guest speakers and education through engaging games and play.

## **Climate Coordinators**

**CATHERINE BERGS** is currently a Master of Divinity student at Emmanuel College, University of Toronto. Catherine has extensive experience with youth in camps, local communities of faith and with the Ecumenical Campus Chaplaincy at UofT. She believes that climate change is one of the defining struggles of her generation and that it is an ethical imperative for Christians to engage with this issue and advocate for God's creation.

**BLESSING TIRIWEPI** is an honour student at Lakehead University Thunder Bay, ON and a former Climate Motivator. He is the director of the Intercultural African Youth Choir in Thunder Bay and an aspiring medical doctor. Blessing is interested in helping youth bring action to their faith.