



Welcome to Cornell on Fire!

Thank you for considering collaboration in this new and growing movement.

Below are some basics about who we are, what we want to achieve, and what your organization can do!

Who we are

In becoming an Alliance Partner, you join a diverse and growing group of organizations who share the belief that Cornell must declare a Climate Emergency and rapidly scale up its efforts to slow the unfolding climate and ecological breakdown that threatens our community, humanity, and everything alive on Earth today.

Our goals

Scientific consensus on the accelerating pace of climate change is making many people in, around and connected to Cornell deeply concerned about the future. The escalating impacts are difficult to ignore as we increasingly experience them ourselves. Frontline communities here and populations in the global South are more severely impacted and less prepared to cope. Cornell is in a position to help prevent the worst of what is to come and foreground calls for climate justice put forth by Indigenous and other frontline communities. It has a moral obligation to do so by curbing its sizable environmental impact, and by leading the way among universities in a transition to a sustainable model of education.

This moment is pregnant with crisis and potential. The local landscape is charged with active campaigns: notably TIAA-Divest, Fossil Free Research, Make Cornell Pay, The 2030 Project, and the Indigenous Dispossession Project, among others. Meanwhile, Cornell campus movements, climate science, and public outreach exemplifies what can and should be done. Cornell on Fire champions these currents of action. **We call on the Cornell administration to Declare a Climate Emergency and rapidly transition to sustainability in all areas of the university's operations.** This will empower existing campaigns while catalyzing generative new components of systemic transformation.

Our methods

Through collective action, we can drive the transition, hasten progress, and champion change that is already happening. Cornell's current climate action plan is commendable, but falls short of what is required. We know that Cornell can take action proportional to the severity of the crisis. The Cornell administration needs to know that Cornellians and the Ithaca community demand bolder action.

We aim to send a powerful, clear and sustained message to those who steward Cornell's prestige and resources: the University must prioritize the wellbeing and survival of all at every level of decision-making, policy, and cultural norm-setting. To this end, our methods are to build a large-scale movement that leverages nonviolent direct action, resilient community building, and truth-telling for climate accountability.

We seek to center Indigenous knowledge and insights in these efforts, calling on Cornell to recognize that Indigenous leadership in climate work is [essential](#).

How your organization can support as an Alliance Partner

Movements are made of organizations. Our Alliance Partners consist of organizations **who share common aims** with Cornell on Fire by supporting comprehensive change for climate justice. We welcome collaboration with any organization that supports climate action, education, justice, and an equitable transition in this community, at Cornell, and on Earth.

In practice, becoming an Alliance Partner **involves publicly endorsing the CoF movement and opening a bidirectional invitation** to strengthen and inform mutual aims. Supporting the movement as an Alliance Partner can include the following actions:

Add your organization to the list of coalition members named on our publicity materials. This strengthens the movement and raises awareness of your organization. Cornell on Fire amplifies our Alliance Partners' messages and champions their campaigns.

Share CoF publicity or upcoming actions with your listserv or social media page, and send us publicity to share about your activities. Help each other raise our impact.

Provide support through shared membership (individuals active in both groups).

Join our weekly Zoom Working Group meetings. Alliance partners are welcome to join occasionally or regularly to contribute to strategy and action planning. Invite CoF team members to provide updates and feedback in your own group meetings, when appropriate.

Provide consultation to CoF on an area in which your organization/members have relevant experience/expertise. This may relate to the elaboration of specific CoF demands, or to strategies and connections for building the movement.

Introduce CoF to relevant contacts in your networks. Help connect our networks.

If you have other organizational capacities, please email us at connect@cornellonfire.org.

In short, **Alliance Partners define the parameters of our collaboration.** Many natural ties exist among the justice-oriented organizations and initiatives alive in Ithaca and Cornell. We aim to build a movement that can scale up and lend urgency to our collective efforts for climate justice now. We are inspired by our Alliance Partners' activities and honored by each organization's public endorsement.