

Alliance for a Viable Future

2024

IMPACT REPORT

**We work in the Northeast bioregion
at the intersection of
grassroots climate solutions
and intercultural peacemaking.**

Alliance for a Viable Future



“

Change flows through relationships, at the speed of trust.

-AVF's Core Values

Our world is facing convergent crises in every sector of society.

While the climate crisis tends to be understood as an environmental problem, in reality it is an expression of the breakdown of human systems, which is causing the volatility of earth systems.

The urgency of this moment is here and now. The climate crisis is not up ahead, at some point in the future. It is upon us. More than solutions, we need to establish real relationships, rooted in trust, that allow us to build viable pathways for our children's future.

This collective impact work calls us into a very different kind of leadership, grounded in deep listening, compassion, respect for indigenous wisdom, and a capacity to let go and embrace the unknown. As a bioregional capacity-building organization, we are building a movement that is rooted in alliance-building to restore our human systems and ecosystems.

This is the future you're helping to create by supporting AVF.

Thank you for finding your place in this Alliance.

Deep bow,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lev Natan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lev Natan

Founder & Executive Director



Alliance for a Viable Future

IMPACT TO DATE

13

Major Events

Including cultural, ceremonial, and community events deeply rooted in peacemaking.

2500+

Community Participants

AVF'sh public and invite-only events and programs are growing a regional network of engagement.

\$500K

Funds Raised

Foundations, sponsors, and donors make up the base of a solid fundraising strategy.

15

Participating community members from 15 indigenous tribes

Including the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohicans, Navajo Nation, and Tuscarora Nation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

30+

Organizational Allies + Partners

Building a vast network of nonprofits, cultural orgs, wellness centers, & businesses.

15+

AVF Team Members

Expertise in Rights of Nature, entrepreneurship, leadership, peacemaking, & communications.

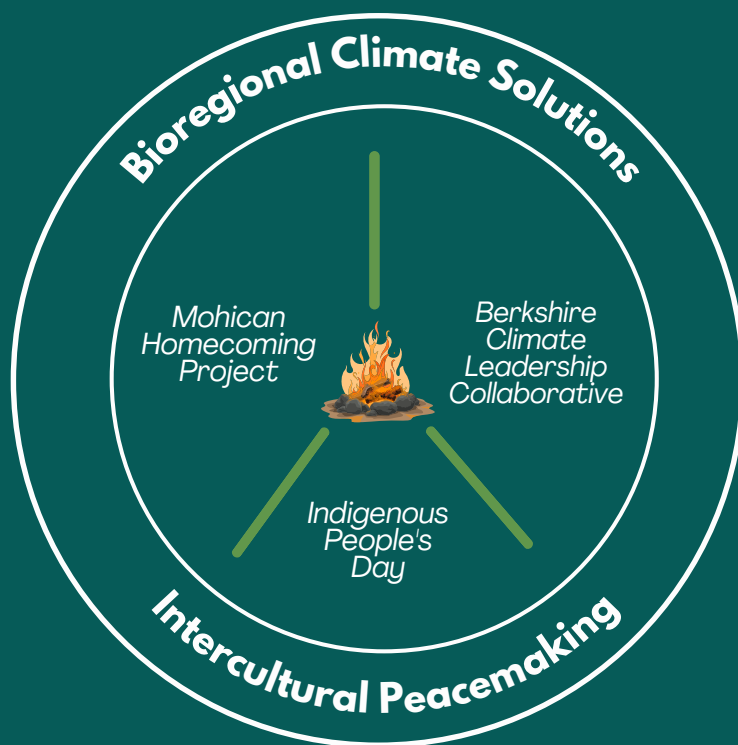


Alliance for a Viable Future

Our mission is to build alliances and develop leadership at the intersection of bioregional climate solutions and intercultural peacemaking.

Bioregional Climate Solutions emerge from a conscious choice to do everything in our power to create a viable future for the generations to come. Through collective impact initiatives, we mobilize our network of allied organizations and communities from me to we; from ego to eco; from siloes to ecosystem literacy and engagement.

Intercultural peacemaking guides us to acknowledge the root causes of our convergent crises: genocide, slavery and the plundering of Mother Earth. Collective healing and systemic-change grow from relationships grounded in shared understanding, values, and trust.



Alliance for a Viable Future

BOARD & TEAM

[Full bios available here](#)



Shawn Stevens
Mohican Nation
Board Member



Cheryl Demmert
Fairbanks, Esq.
Tlingit Nation
Board Member



Kristine Marie Hill
Toscororo Nation
Board Member



Sara Jolena
Wolcott, M.Div
Board Member



Lev Natan
Executive Director,
Board Member
& Founder



Chief Jake Singer
Navaho Nation
Spiritual Advisor



Thomas Linzey
Rights of Nature
Legal Advisor



Michael Foster,
Ed.D., M.P.H.
Evaluation Specialist



The Honorable
Robert Yazzie, Esq.
Navaho Nation
Indigenous Peoples' Day
2022 Presenter



Michael Johnson
Berkshires Community
Engagement



Wanonah Spencer
Mohican Ancestral
Healing Fellowship



Daniel Roth,
Leadership & Strategy
Jumpscale
Consultancy



Diana Chaplin
Communications
Specialist

Alliance for a Viable Future



ALLIES & PARTNERS

Life Comes From It Foundation
Christopher Reynolds Foundation
Housatonic Heritage Foundation
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health
NAACP-Berkshires
Mahaiwe Center for Performing Arts
Sacred Oak Homes
Oketeau Cultural Center
Berkshire Natural Resources Council
Berkshires Food Co-op
Guido's Fresh Marketplace
Temascal Wellness
Decamanus Green
The Pass
Jumpscale Consultancy
Multicultural BRIDGE
Mumbet Freedom Farm
Ripple Tree Leadership
Tam Integration
Indian Line Farm
Housatonic Real Estate
Bee Resonance Project
Greenagers
Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire
Berkshire Natural Resources Council
Flying Deer Nature Center
Mass Audubon
Random Harvest
Berkshire Pulse
Railroad Street Youth Project
Back to Heart Center
Williams College Sustainability & Cultural Affairs Centers
Berkshire Pulse
Manos Unidas
Wellspring Commons
Mass MoCA

CORE PROGRAMS

Indigenous People's Day

Since 2021, we have gained significant attention as the official organizers of Indigenous People's Day (IPD) in Berkshire County, MA. Building on this success, our goal is to coordinate IPD events in cities throughout the Northeast.

Berkshire Climate Leadership Collaborative

In 2024, we launched the first cohort of deeply committed community organizations in the Berkshires to build catalytic partnerships and initiate projects for bioregional climate stabilization through a year-long council-based program; a model that will scale into the Northeast Climate Leadership Network.

Mohican Homecoming Project

We are looking for a place in the Berkshires to welcome Mohican community members to travel from their reservation in Wisconsin to their ancestral homelands - the Berkshires. These programs will develop intercultural education, be culturally appropriate, and establish essential groundwork for reconciliation and reparations.

Alliance for a Viable Future

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

Alliance for a Viable Future began organizing Indigenous People's Day (IPD) programs in the Berkshires of Massachusetts in 2020, with each year gaining increasing visibility and community participation.

In 2023, IPD weekend started on Friday with prayer, storytelling, and performance at the historic Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center as we gathered for the second annual Honoring North America public event.

From tales of history to calls for action, it was an unforgettable evening, specially marked by the performance of world-renowned Native American flutist, R. Carlos Nakai.

On Saturday and Sunday, over forty people came to Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health from all around the country, for an Indigenous Peacemaking Council, including a twenty-person delegation of community members from the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans, as well as community members from the Chickasaw, the Comanche, the Diñe, Iñupiaq (i-noo-pee-uhk) – Athabaskan, the Mescalero Apache, the Metis, the Mohegan, the Nipmuc, the Ohlone, the Ramapough Lenape, the Taíno, the Tlingit-Tsimshian (shim-shee-uhn), the Tuscarora and Onandage of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Zuni Pueblo.

In addition, non-native allies participated as representatives of local organizations, including Mumbet Freedom Farm, Harmony Homestead, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Flying Deer Nature Center, Random Harvest Market, and Wellspring Commons.

It was truly a powerful experience as we walked through the process of peacemaking, discussions of racial justice and privilege, and creating unity.

We were also thrilled to celebrate two significant landback announcements in our Berkshires-Taconic region:

1. The return of land back to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of the Mohican Indians Tribal Council people by the Grafton Peace Pagoda in honor of their 30th anniversary.
2. The return of 351 acres, previously known as Fenn Farm on the North side of Monument Mountain, a project that had great support from Berkshire Natural Resources Council.

Finally, our weekend was completed by a Ceremonial Walk down Main Street in Great Barrington, MA, where we gathered in unity to honor Indigenous people across the world.

The afternoon began with community members speaking about the true history of America, raising awareness around the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women of the U.S., and issuing a call to action for the health of our planet.

From there, we walked in unity and solidarity through town, ending at the Housatonic River where prayers and offerings were given towards the healing of its polluted waters.





LISTEN TO OUR COMMUNITY

Participants in AVF's 2023 Indigenous People's Day Weekend

What you have organized is hard to put into words as it's so outside the standard format of what English would define as a "gathering" or "being in community." It was real vulnerability, trust, and shared kindred energy. It's showing how we can celebrate and understand differences while seeing ourselves as kith and kin. It was a melding pot modeling an honoring and respect and celebration of many peoples' cultures, ways and worldviews. And practice of doing the critical and invaluable work of creating place, within community and with community, for the return home of Mohican community members.

-Keetu Winter, Executive Director of Wellspring Commons



I was more than happy to meet so many new people from all around Turtle Island and hearing about the collective efforts we are all making to make a change on the great Turtle (Earth). For me, the greatest gift was for me to be able to welcome our sister tribal members back home in a good way - Stockbridge-Munsee - with traditional items and to be able to sing songs with them. This is all still unraveling in my mind, about what happened. But we have all connected now and look forward to what the future holds.

-Andre Strongbearheart Gaines, Nipmuc Tribe Cultural Educator



It is always amazing that we get to meet people outside our own communities and learn that great deal of knowledge that they carry from their people and how we are able to network and share with one another and use our ideas and things that are working and things that are not working to gain more and strengthen the work we do. I am very fortunate to develop those new relationships... These gatherings let us see how the movement continues to move across the states, internationally and globally. I am thankful to Lev and everyone who helped put this together.

-Christy Chapman, Esq., BSN, JD (Zuni Pueblo)
Sovereignty 360 Program Consultant and Advisor



In the Alliance for Viable Future circles I was seeing old stuff in myself that I heard spoken through others, the confusion and also the ahas.... Our questions, wounding, confusion, healing, and then recalibration in the circles through slowly growing trust with each other, allowing vulnerability, and, in a way testing each other for proper care, bearing witness to each other and finding strong support is invaluable. I see this and my heart rejoices.

-Sherri Cook, (Metis/Cree from York Factory and the Red River Settlement, in Manitoba, Canada)
Indigenous Ally and Supporter

You can play a vital role by joining our Tap Root Circle.

Learn more at the end of this report.

MOHICAN HOMECOMING PROJECT

This project emerged organically from the Indigenous Peoples' Day 2022 weekend. Wanonah Kosbab, a community member from the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of the Mohican Indians, attended the IPD weekend, and was deeply inspired by the experience of returning to her ancestral homelands.

In response to her proactive inspiration, AVF piloted a Mohican Ancestral Healing Fellowship for Wanonah, from April to October 2023, to support her in her personal healing journey related to ancestral trauma associated with her people's displacement from the Berkshires two-hundred years ago.

AVF is working to create opportunities for her to build her leadership skills to bring back to her community to build a sister organization for cultural revitalization.

Moving forward, the Mohican Homecoming Project intends to strengthen relationships between Mohican community members in Wisconsin and Berkshires community members. Initiatives which need funding and support, include:

1. The Homecoming Journey, which supports Mohicans to visit their ancestral homelands;
2. The Community Leaders Program, which is designed to support Mohicans on a leadership journey, which includes healing ancestral trauma, developing community leadership skills, and deepening relationships with Berkshires-based allies;
3. The Intercultural Education Initiative, which focuses on educating Berkshires residents about the history and current reality of Mohican people as well as other Native Northeastern tribes; and
4. The Peacemakers Delegation, which focuses on inviting allies from the Berkshires to visit the Mohican reservation in Wisconsin to further peacemaking and reconciliation efforts.



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS SAYING



There is so much against us, the odds are that we fail or be mediocre at best. But what we bring is good and could change the world. People are starting to listen, they want to heal and be part of something. We have their attention and it's going to start growing quickly... what our families are doing is incredibly unique and unheard of... It's the hard stuff that no one wants to do for fear of being uncomfortable. But we bring hope for a new kind of world for our kids."

-Wanonah Kosbab, 1st Mohican Ancestral Healing Fellow

"It's really important for us to listen to and honor what Mohican community members have to say about this land and how they want to see it cared for; and to build a relationship so we can be of service."

-Jenny Hansell, President / Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC)



"...Mohican community members are receiving their homeland back. That is a beautiful sign. Mother Earth is happy too. I am very grateful to cry in front of you and tell you as a grandmother my own concerns."

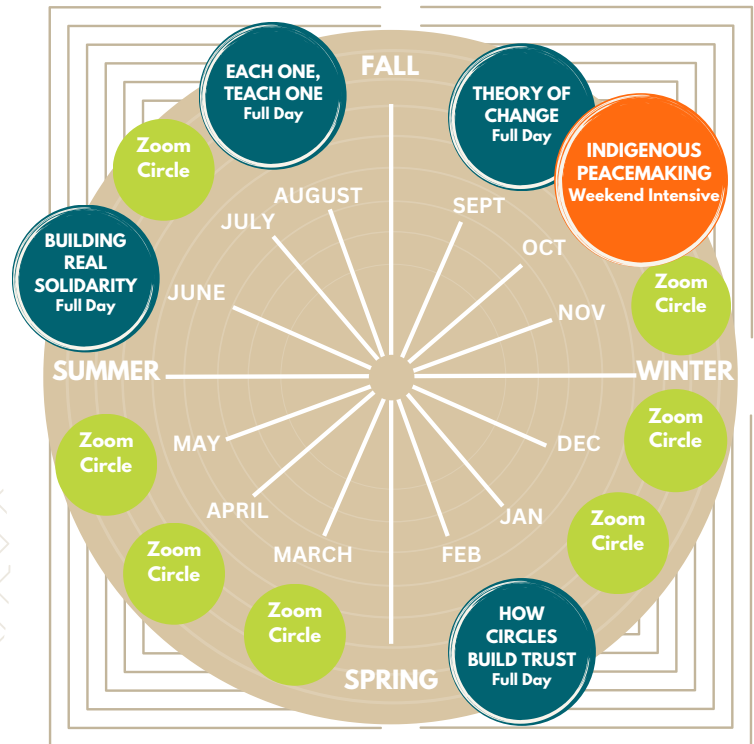
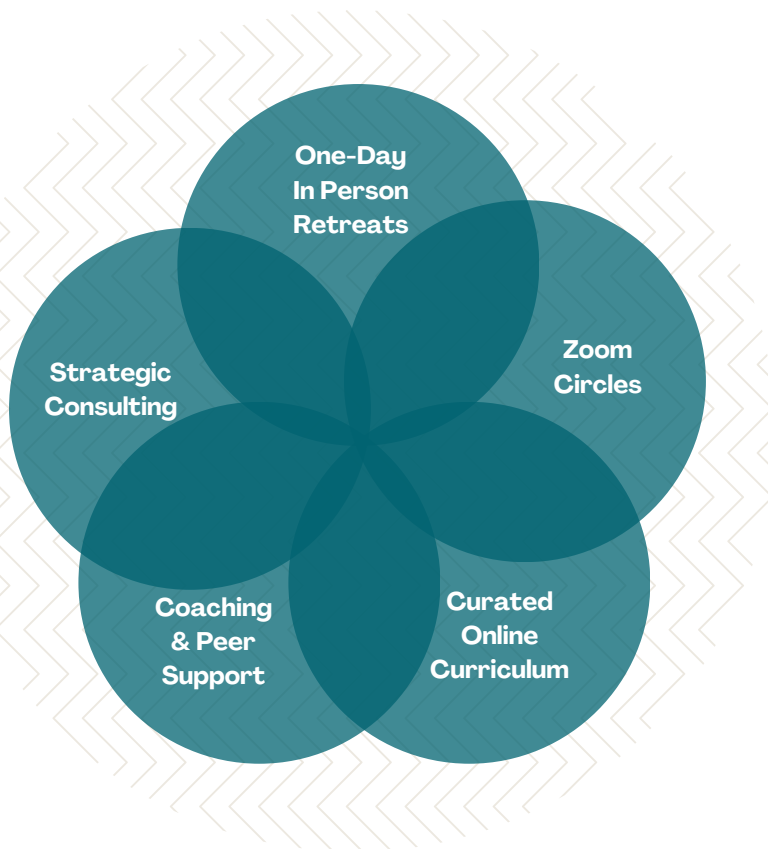
-Margaret Behan, International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers

BERKSHIRE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

Outreach efforts began in 2023 to businesses and organizations for this yearlong cohort council-based leadership journey. The inaugural group began in January of 2024 with 12+ organizational representatives coming together to establish bioregional climate solutions among trusted colleagues.

Our goal is to (1) learn indigenous principles to adapt in the face of uncertainty, (2) build strategic partnerships across diverse stakeholder groups, and (3) initiate breakthrough climate projects in our community and region. This cohort-model is intended to cultivate a networks of organizational members throughout the Berkshires, and thousands throughout the Northeast.

Core Components



Program Overview

Alliance for a Viable Future

TEN YEAR VISION

2023 TO 2033

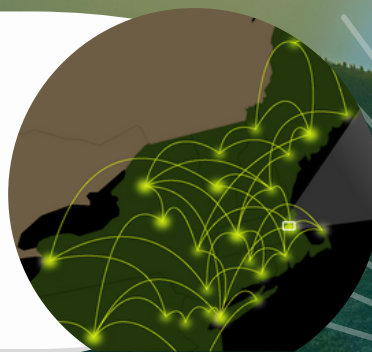
Build a Network of Indigenous Peoples' Day Events

throughout the Northeast with "host organizations" taking leadership in 25+ towns & cities, supported by an IPD Matching Grants Programs.



Develop the Northeast Climate Leadership Network,

with a goal of 7000+ engaged participants, representing 2500+ mission-aligned businesses and organizations throughout our bioregion.



Establish infrastructure and programming for Mohican Homecoming,

for the purpose of ancestral healing, land acknowledgement, truth & reconciliation, and reparations in partnership with the Berkshires community - a model for communities throughout the Northeast.



Build partnerships with nature-based centers for

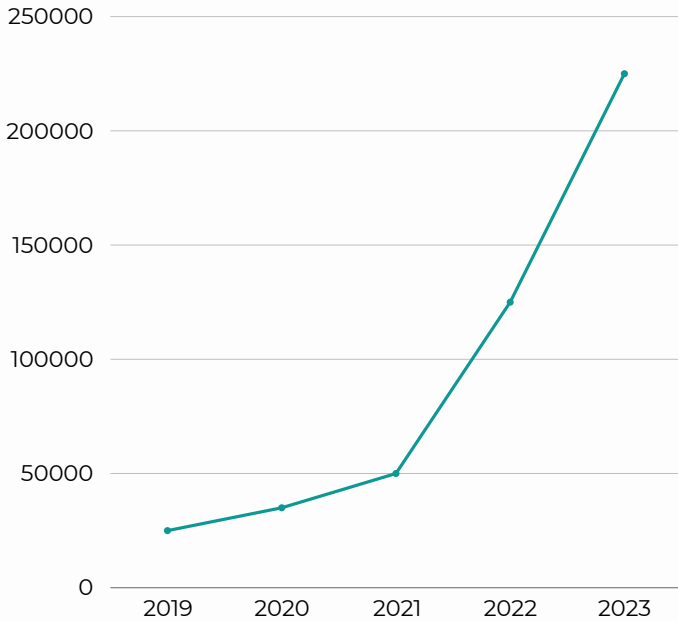
immersive healing & leadership retreats for participants in AVF's core programs.



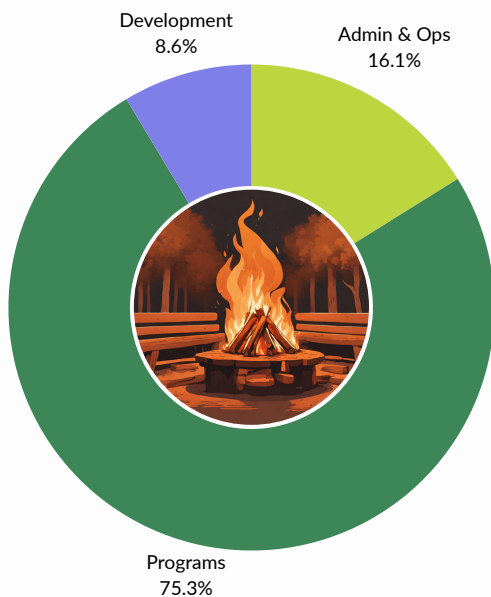
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FINANCIALS

Fundraising Revenue 2019-2023



Operating Expenses

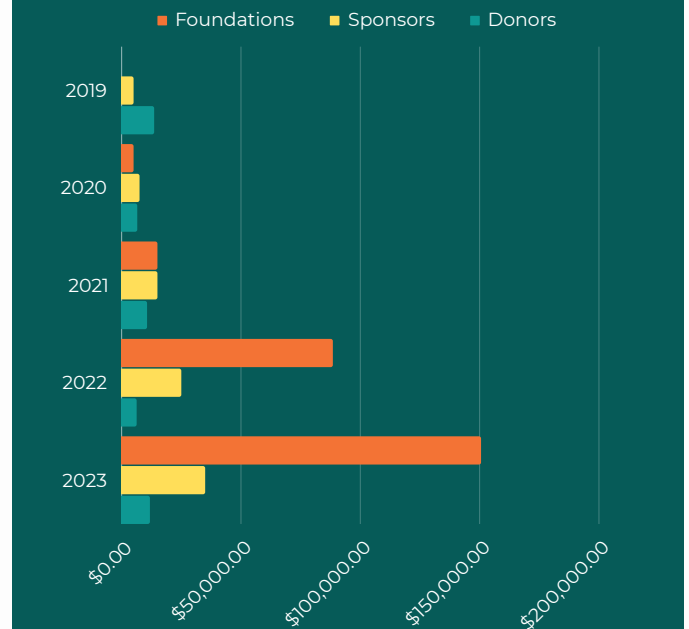


We have raised \$500K to-date.

We began fundraising in 2019 with the Good Work Institute as our fiscal sponsor.

Our annual operating budget has grown to \$500,000.

We continue to build relationships with values & mission-aligned foundations, sponsors and donors.





JOIN OUR TAP ROOT CIRCLE

**We are a circle of allies,
deeply committed to building
a viable future in our region**

We believe that change flows through relationships at the speed of trust.

The purpose of the AVF Tap Root Circle is to ensure that Alliance for a Viable Future continues to be a well-resourced, financially viable organization - in service to our mission:

to build alliances and develop leadership
for bioregional climate solutions
and intercultural peacemaking in the Northeast.

We are equipped with the organizational foundation and network of relationships to sustain and grow our programs in the years to come. The AVF Tap Root Circle is a place to build relationships around our shared values, commitments and goals.

Subheading
CORE PROGRAMS

1 Indigenous People’s Day

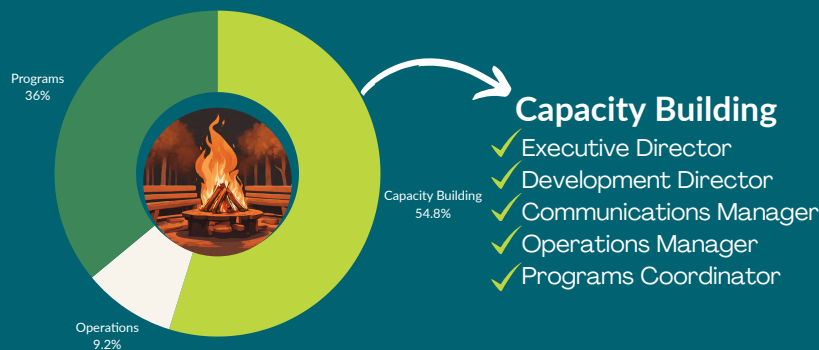
We organize Indigenous People’s Day in the Berkshires, in partnership with community members from the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans, other tribal members from around the country, and hundreds of local Berkshires community members.

2 Berkshire Climate Leadership Collaborative

In 2023, we launched a 12-month cohort program to convene representatives from businesses & organizations in the Berkshires to build catalytic partnerships and initiate projects for bioregional climate stabilization.

3 Mohican Homecoming Project

This pioneering initiative creates opportunities for ancestral healing, community leadership, peacemaking, reconciliation, and partnership between community members of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans and the Berkshires community.



JOIN OUR TAP ROOT CIRCLE

Attend our annual retreat in January of 2025 to meet fellow circle members and take your place in our unique advisory circle to support the next phase of organizational development and community impact.

Contact AVF’s Executive Director, Lev Natan, to learn more about the Tap Root Circle:
845-389-3622 / lev@allianceforaviablefuture.org

Alliance for a Viable Future

Thank You



it's 3:23 in the morning

and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren won't let me sleep
[they] ask me in dreams
what did you do while the planet was plundered?
what did you do once you knew?

-Love Letter to the Milky Way by Drew Dellinger

There is a river flowing now very fast.

Know the river has its destination.
The elders say, let go of the shore,
see who is in there with you, and celebrate.

The time of the lone wolf is over...

We are the ones we've been waiting for.

-Hopi Elders' Prophecy, June 8, 2000

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

*Thank you for your commitment
to building a viable future.*

Together, we have the capacity
to do what needs to be done.

Getting involved is the key.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#)

AllianceForAViableFuture.org/donate

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR TAP ROOT CIRCLE,
CALL OR EMAIL:**

Lev Natan
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lev@allianceforaviablefuture.org