

New Haven/León Sister City Project
 608 Whitney Avenue
 New Haven, CT 06511
 www.newhavenleon.org nh@newhavenleon.org 203.562.1607

**Join or Lead a
 NHLSCP Delegation**

Delegations offer:

- Field-based, experiential approach to learning with professional Nicaraguan staff.
- Cultural immersion and homestays with local families in historic León.
- Meetings/workshops with in-country experts, and community members. Hands on projects in-country rooted in community needs and ongoing programs.
- Connecticut program staff offer unique opportunities for advanced trip preparation and follow up.



New Haven León Sister City Project delegations educate people about how we, individually and collectively, contribute to global problems, and then suggest ways in which we can contribute to positive change locally and internationally.

Contact Chris at nh@newhavenleon.org or 203.562.1607



Smoking at Home is Bad for You!

Help families get smoke out of their homes. Donate to the Nicaragua Carbon Offset Fund

Offset funds donated support the installation of more efficient cook stoves in rural Nicaragua. The cleaner efficient wood stoves



Go to www.newhavenleon.org



(and possibly solar cookers), reduce greenhouse gases, decrease pollution responsible for respiratory disease, and reduce funds and time people need to spend buying or collecting fuel.

14.1.2.2. Future: Climate Scenarios Climate modeling has proven to be extremely useful in building projections for climate change and scenarios of future climate under different forcings. General circulation models have demonstrated their ability to simulate realistically the large-scale features of observed climate, hence, they are widely used to assess the impact that increased loading of the atmosphere with greenhouse and other gases might have on the climate system. Although there are differences among models with regard to the way they represent the climate system processes, all of them yield comparable results on a global basis. However, they have difficulty in reproducing regional climate patterns, and large discrepancies exist among models. In several regions of the world, distributions of surface variables such as temperature and rainfall often are influenced by the local effects of topography and other thermal contrasts, and the coarse spatial resolution of GCMs cannot resolve these effects. Consequently, large-scale GCM scenarios should not be used directly for impact studies, and downscaling and local level (von Storch, 1994); downscaling techniques are required (see Table 14-1). At the large scale, rates of mean annual temperature changes in the Latin American region for the next century are projected to be 1.0°C to 2.0°C (Carter and Hulme, 2000) under the low-emission scenario (B1) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (IPCC, 2000). The warming rate could range between 2 and 6°C for the high-emission scenario (A2). Most GCMs produce similar projections for temperature changes on a global basis, but changes in precipitation are more uncertain. Precipitation changes are crucial to have a prediction of concurrent changes in vegetation and water resources at the regional scale. Various scenarios of climate change for Latin America have been put forward in the literature. GCM projections under the IS92a scenario predict that regional scenarios are based on GCM experiments that are downscaled through statistical techniques. Derived climate change scenarios for Mexico suggest that climate in Mexico will be drier and warmer (Perez, 1997). Several hydrological regions in Mexico are highly vulnerable to decreased precipitation and higher temperatures (Mendoza et al., 1997). A regional climate change scenario for central America in response to CO2 doubling under the IS92 scenario for the year 2010, also obtained through a statistical downscaling approach, shows a smaller increase in minimum temperature as compared to the maximum and larger increases in winter than for winter months, which is consistent with the larger temperature amplitudes (Solman and Nuñez, 1999). In addition, a decrease in precipitation is projected over the region, which is larger for summer (11%) than for winter months (5%). This result highlights an important consequence in the rainfall regime over the region: A large decrease in rainfall projected for the rainy season will seriously affect soil moisture and agricultural production. Global climate change scenarios for other parts of Latin America rely on linear interpolation of GCM output to estimate increases in surface temperature and precipitation (Matsui et al., 1996; Carrillo et al., 1997; Hofstadter and Bidegain, 1997; Paz-Baños et al., 1997; Centella et al., 1998; MINAE, 2000). In the case of Costa Rica (MINAE-IMN, 2000), under the low-emission scenario for the year 2100, the results show a small increase in precipitation in the southern region, but a significant decrease in the northern region. An important decrease—close to 25%—in the northern Pacific region. This latter region already experiences water problems as a result of the El Niño and associated droughts. Infrastructure for tourism and irrigation in the northern region is at risk. In the high-emission scenario, the mean temperature in Costa Rica is expected to increase by more than 1°C by the year 2100, and tendencies in actual climate series (1957–1997) show already an increase of 0.5°C over the last 40 years for the more continental Central Valley areas. This last estimation is related to the increase in the number of hot days and the decrease in the number of cold days. Results from climate scenarios for Nicaragua indicate an additional pressure on productivity sectors and human activities. Under the IS92a scenario, the mean temperature for the Pacific watershed would be 3.7°C higher in the year 2100, and precipitation would decrease by 36.6% for the year 2100. For the Caribbean watershed, the mean temperature would increase, ranging from 0.8°C for the year 2010 to 3.3°C for the year 2100, and precipitation would decrease in a range between 8.2% for the year 2010 and 55.7% for the year 2100. Annual (MAR–OCT) precipitation would decrease by 10% for the year 2100. The global effects of climate change in Brazil suggest an increase of 4–4.5°C in surface temperature as a result of increased CO2 concentrations (de Siqurana et al., 1994, 1999). Central and south-central Brazil may experience increases in temperature and a decrease in precipitation. In the Amazon basin, a decrease in precipitation could appear during December, with high risk of drought during summer, affecting crops (see Table 14-1). Table 14-1. Estimated future projections of climate change under different scenarios for some countries within Latin America region.

N E W
 H A V E N
 L E Ó N
 S i s t e r
 C i t y



widely used to assess the impact that increased loading of the atmosphere with greenhouse and other gases might have on the climate system. Although there are differences among models with regard to the way they represent the climate system processes, all of them yield comparable results on a global basis. However, they have difficulty in reproducing regional climate patterns, and large discrepancies exist among models. In several regions of the world, distributions of surface variables such as temperature and rainfall often are influenced by the local effects of topography and other thermal contrasts, and the coarse spatial resolution of GCMs cannot resolve these effects. Consequently, large-scale GCM scenarios should not be used directly for impact studies, and downscaling and local level (von Storch, 1994); downscaling techniques are required (see Table 14-1). At the large scale, rates of mean annual temperature changes in the Latin American region for the next century are projected to be 1.0°C to 2.0°C (Carter and Hulme, 2000) under the low-emission scenario (B1) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (IPCC, 2000). The warming rate could range between 2 and 6°C for the high-emission scenario (A2). Most GCMs produce similar projections for temperature changes on a global basis, but changes in precipitation are more uncertain. Precipitation changes are crucial to have a prediction of concurrent changes in vegetation and water resources at the regional scale. Various scenarios of climate change for Latin America have been put forward in the literature. GCM projections under the IS92a scenario predict that regional scenarios are based on GCM experiments that are downscaled through statistical techniques. Derived climate change scenarios for Mexico suggest that climate in Mexico will be drier and warmer (Perez, 1997). Several hydrological regions in Mexico are highly vulnerable to decreased precipitation and higher temperatures (Mendoza et al., 1997). A regional climate change scenario for central America in response to CO2 doubling under the IS92 scenario for the year 2010, also obtained through a statistical downscaling approach, shows a smaller increase in minimum temperature as compared to the maximum and larger increases in winter than for winter months, which is consistent with the larger temperature amplitudes (Solman and Nuñez, 1999). In addition, a decrease in precipitation is projected over the region, which is larger for summer (11%) than for winter months (5%). This result highlights an important consequence in the rainfall regime over the region: A large decrease in rainfall projected for the rainy season will seriously affect soil moisture and agricultural production. Global climate change scenarios for other parts of Latin America rely on linear interpolation of GCM output to estimate increases in surface temperature and precipitation (Matsui et al., 1996; Carrillo et al., 1997; Hofstadter and Bidegain, 1997; Paz-Baños et al., 1997; Centella et al., 1998; MINAE, 2000). In the case of Costa Rica (MINAE-IMN, 2000), under the low-emission scenario for the year 2100, the results show a small increase in precipitation in the southern region, but a significant decrease in the northern region. An important decrease—close to 25%—in the northern Pacific region. This latter region already experiences water problems as a result of the El Niño and associated droughts. Infrastructure for tourism and irrigation in the northern region is at risk. In the high-emission scenario, the mean temperature in Costa Rica is expected to increase by more than 1°C by the year 2100, and tendencies in actual climate series (1957–1997) show already an increase of 0.5°C over the last 40 years for the more continental Central Valley areas. This last estimation is related to the increase in the number of hot days and the decrease in the number of cold days. Results from climate scenarios for Nicaragua indicate an additional pressure on productivity sectors and human activities. Under the IS92a scenario, the mean temperature for the Pacific watershed would be 3.7°C higher in the year 2100, and precipitation would decrease by 36.6% for the year 2100. For the Caribbean watershed, the mean temperature would increase, ranging from 0.8°C for the year 2010 to 3.3°C for the year 2100, and precipitation would decrease in a range between 8.2% for the year 2010 and 55.7% for the year 2100. Annual (MAR–OCT) precipitation would decrease by 10% for the year 2100. The global effects of climate change in Brazil suggest an increase of 4–4.5°C in surface temperature as a result of increased CO2 concentrations (de Siqurana et al., 1994, 1999). Central and south-central Brazil may experience increases in temperature and a decrease in precipitation. In the Amazon basin, a decrease in precipitation could appear during December, with high risk of drought during summer, affecting crops (see Table 14-1). Table 14-1. Estimated future projections of climate change under different scenarios for some countries within Latin America region. scenarios of future climate under different forcings. General circulation models have demonstrated their ability to simulate realistically the large-scale features of observed climate, hence, they are widely used to assess the impact that increased loading of the atmosphere with greenhouse and other gases might have on the climate system. Although there are differences among models with regard to the way they represent the climate system processes, all of them yield comparable results on a global basis. However, they have difficulty in reproducing regional climate patterns, and large discrepancies exist among models. In several regions of the world, distributions of surface variables such as temperature and rainfall often are influenced by the local effects of topography and other thermal contrasts, and the coarse spatial resolution of GCMs cannot resolve these effects. Consequently, large-scale GCM scenarios should not be used directly for impact studies, and downscaling and local level (von Storch, 1994); downscaling techniques are required (see Table 14-1). At the large scale, rates of mean annual temperature changes in the Latin American region for the next century are projected to be 1.0°C to 2.0°C (Carter and Hulme, 2000) under the low-emission scenario (B1) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (IPCC, 2000). The warming rate could range between 2 and 6°C for the high-emission scenario (A2). Most GCMs produce similar projections for temperature changes on a global basis, but changes in precipitation are more uncertain. Precipitation changes are crucial to have a prediction of concurrent changes in vegetation and water resources at the regional scale. Various scenarios of climate change for Latin America have been put forward in the literature. GCM projections under the IS92a scenario predict that regional scenarios are based on GCM experiments that are downscaled through statistical techniques. Derived climate change scenarios for Mexico suggest that climate in Mexico will be drier and warmer (Perez, 1997). Several hydrological regions in Mexico are highly vulnerable to decreased precipitation and higher temperatures (Mendoza et al., 1997). A regional climate change scenario for central America in response to CO2 doubling under the IS92 scenario for the year 2010, also obtained through a statistical downscaling approach, shows a smaller increase in minimum temperature as compared to the maximum and larger increases in winter than for winter months, which is consistent with the larger temperature amplitudes (Solman and Nuñez, 1999). In addition, a decrease in precipitation is projected over the region, which is larger for summer (11%) than for winter months (5%). This result highlights an important consequence in the rainfall regime over the region: A large decrease in rainfall projected for the rainy season will seriously affect soil moisture and agricultural production. Global climate change scenarios for other parts of Latin America rely on linear interpolation of GCM output to estimate increases in surface temperature and precipitation (Matsui et al., 1996; Carrillo et al., 1997; Hofstadter and Bidegain, 1997; Paz-Baños et al., 1997; Centella et al., 1998; MINAE, 2000). In the case of Costa Rica (MINAE-IMN, 2000), under the low-emission scenario for the year 2100, the results show a small increase in precipitation in the southern region, but a significant decrease in the northern region. An important decrease—close to 25%—in the northern Pacific region. This latter region already experiences water problems as a result of the El Niño and associated droughts. Infrastructure for tourism and irrigation in the northern region is at risk. In the high-emission scenario, the mean temperature in Costa Rica is expected to increase by more than 1°C by the year 2100, and tendencies in actual climate series (1957–1997) show already an increase of 0.5°C over the last 40 years for the more continental Central Valley areas. This last estimation is related to the increase in the number of hot days and the decrease in the number of cold days. Results from climate scenarios for Nicaragua indicate an additional pressure on productivity sectors and human activities. Under the IS92a scenario, the mean temperature for the Pacific watershed would be 3.7°C higher in the year 2100, and precipitation would decrease by 36.6% for the year 2100. For the Caribbean watershed, the mean temperature would increase, ranging from 0.8°C for the year 2010 to 3.3°C for the year 2100, and precipitation would decrease in a range between 8.2% for the year 2010 and 55.7% for the year 2100. Annual (MAR–OCT) precipitation would decrease by 10% for the year 2100. The global effects of climate change in Brazil suggest an increase of 4–4.5°C in surface temperature as a result of increased CO2 concentrations (de Siqurana et al., 1994, 1999). Central and south-central Brazil may experience increases in temperature and a decrease in precipitation. In the Amazon basin, a decrease in precipitation could appear during December, with high risk of drought during summer, affecting crops (see Table 14-1). Table 14-1. Estimated future projections of climate change under different scenarios for some countries within Latin America region.

New Haven, Connecticut

León, Nicaragua Sisters since 1984



León Staff

Luis Chavarria
Finance/Sustainability

Ivett Fonseca
Education Coordinator

Erendira Venegas
Delegation Coordinator

New Haven Staff

Megan Fountain
Development Associate

Patty Nuelsen
Director of Development

Chris Schweitzer
Program Director

Board of Directors

Susan Bramhall, Treasurer; Virginia Chapman, Co-President; Ray Pagliaro, Co-President; Jesse Greist, Henry Lowendorf, Melissa Martinez, Roy Money, Mike Soares, Lori Sudderth, William Vasquez

THANK YOU: Making Some Uncomfortable Then and Now

If you haven't yet read Chris' opening letter, please do. It's important. The start of Chris' last paragraph begins, "Maybe that's what is at the heart of our mission, to make people uncomfortable, to call for a better world and to stretch ourselves."

I couldn't agree more. When we began in 1984, some folks clearly felt uncomfortable. Some thought we were "too political," others feared, "But aren't they communists," while others observed, "Why Nicaragua, we have plenty of problems here!" But we took a chance. We believed that more people would see the need for and welcome a non-violent form of citizen diplomacy in contrast to the belligerent policy of the Reagan administration. How could Nicaragua, a country of 3.5 million mostly poor peasants, possibly be a threat to the U.S., even then the most powerful nation on the planet!



Family shows off home garden that was installed with help from the Youth Brigade.

Times change. Nicaragua is no longer seen as a threat to the U.S. Today the greatest threat to the U.S., Nicaragua and the entire planet is climate change. As an organization we continue to respond to the needs of the times. We are a sister city with Leon and the developing world already is and has been experiencing for years the devastating effects of climate change. So it was that five years ago we began urging the Greater New Haven community to do what we can to lower our carbon footprint. As citizens of the so-called first world, we bear a huge responsibility for global warming. We produce way more carbon than might be our fair share. In the U.S. we emit on average 19.9 tons of CO₂ per person, while the U.K emits 10.9 tons, China 6.1 and Nicaragua 0.63. So, let's each of us face up to the serious challenge of climate change and examine how we live and make a plan. See how we might drive less, eat less beef, advocate for better policies, buy less, fly less, reuse, etc. It is going to take all of us to do our part in any way(s) we can. Pledge to do something! Change is hard, but change we must.

If you are feeling uncomfortable about any of this, know that what you do will make a difference. We can lower our carbon imprint and we can thereby make a contribution to solving this most challenging problem. We owe it to our community, to Nicaragua and the developing world, and to our planet. What you can do is important and it counts.

Thank you for all that you do already to make the world a better one. Thank you for your contributions to the Project. We couldn't do the work without you. Adelante! Together into our 33rd year and beyond.
Abrazos, Patty Nuelsen

NH/LSCP Financial Statements	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2013
Current Assets			
Total assets	162,982	173,371	137,881
Liabilities			
Total Liabilities	41,582	46,430	17,232
Equity			
Total Liabilities and Equity	162,982	173,371	137,811
Statement of Revenue and Expenses			
Support and Revenue			
Contributions	119,984	118,722	128,597
Net Service Revenue	6,183	21,159	17,982
Investment Income	747	3,238	126
Costs of Goods/Services		(11,373)	
Gross Profit	126,914	131,746*	146,705
Expense			
Program	108,204	108,337	120,866
Supporting Services	10,210	9,296	10,340
Fundraising	14,040	14,040	14,418
Total	132,454	131,673	145,624
Net Income	(5,540)*	73	1,081

* Does not include In-Kind Services - \$ 5,133

DONORS

Foundations & Grants

Bauer Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater New Haven
Nicholas J. DiTullio Foundation
Peace & Social Justice Fund
Polly Rose Charitable Fund
New Haven Green Fund
New Haven Sister Cities Inc
Trico Foundation

Contributors

Anonymous (5)
Harry & Manette Adams
Jean-Christophe Agnew
Diane Allison & David Godfrey
Lynn & David Alperin
Daren Anderson
Nancy Apfel
Gloria & Bob Appicelli
Kristen & Ron Axelrad
Sherill Baldwin & Kimball Cartwright
Regina Barberisi
Linda Baugh
Betty Bazin
Clarice Begeman
Chris Bell
David & Carolyn Belt
Julia Berger
Carly Berwick
Kathy Bidney & Dean Singewald
Bill Bloss
Eric & Lou Ann Bohman
Taffy & Jay Bowes
Kerry Bramhall
Susan Bramhall & Shelly Altman
Mary & Tom Breen
Janet Brodie
Lois Bromson
George & Josephine Buchanan
Cecelia Bucki
Maz Burbank
Trudy & Ron Buxenbaum
Claudia Buzzi & Pietro Decamilli
Elsa Calderon & Paul Thomas
Ceinwin Carney
Carol Caro
Nancy L. Carrington
Mindy & Antonio Cavicchia
Wendy & John Champion
Cathy Chapman & Victor Polk
Ginger Chapman & David Thompson
Olive Chupka
Shannon Clarkson
Frank Cochran
Elena & Patrick Coffey
Linda & Timothy Cohane
Katherine & Tom Cole
Sally Cole Whiffen & Rob Whiffen
Mary Colwell
Sally Connolly
Maureen Coughlin
Lynn Coville
Martha & Steven Cutts
Paula Diehl

George Dillon
William DiTullio
Mildred & Jay Doody
Cheryl Doss & Doug Gollin
David Duffner
Anne Dutton
Bill Dyson
Sherrill & John Ellis
Emma & Elliot Ephraim
Gloria Eustis
Alice & Bob Evans
Lucille & Robert Evans
Kathy & John Fabish
Paul Fabish
Edith Ferber
Abby Figueroa
Jennifer Filardi & Eric Trucksess
First Unitarian Universalist Society
Bill Fisher
Joelle Fishman & Art Perlo
Elaine Fitzpatrick
Georgeanne Flanagan
Joan Forsberg
Lynne Franford
Teresa Freeman
Becky Friedkin
Patricia Gates & Ronald A. Dieckmann
Bob Gelbach
Tish Gibbs & Bill Collins
Marilyn Gilbert
Amy Glickman & Andrew Kuritzkes
Laurie Godfrey
Yolanda & David Goff
Betsy Goldberg & Allan Brison
Jennifer Goldberg & Marc Blander
Aaron Goode
Carol & Michael Gordon
Emily Gordon
Joy Gordon
Marlene & Neil Greenberg
Barbara Greenwood & Fethi Meghelli
Millie Grenough & Paul Bloom
Frances Grodzinsky
Rich Guandalini
Ioanna & Dmitri Gutas
Hillary Haldane
Diana Hall
Alice & Terry Hallaran
Hildegard Hannum
Yasmin Haque & Ray Pagliaro
Janet Headley
Patricia Helm & Richard Taylor
Dorothy & John Herzog
Elizabeth Hess
Anne Higgins
Lesley & John Higgins-Biddle
Susan Hill & David Dickson
Rob Hoffnung
Susan Holahan
Kyle Howard
Melani Howard
Mary & Arthur Hunt
Lucile Hutchinson
Cathy Jackson
Mary Johnson
Gil Joseph
Margaret Judd & Bennett Pudlin
Merrily Kaplan
Pat Kaplan

Mickey Kavanaugh
& Henry Berliner
Vincent Kay
Eunice Kaymen
Ladies Home
Missionary
Susan Klein &
Henry Lowendorf
Paula Kline & Alan
Wright
Paul Kobasa
Peter & Michele
Koson

Carolyn Kovel
Tony Labruzzo
Maxine Lampert
Rachel Lampert &
Rick Goodwin
Richard Langan

Susan Landon
Heather Lauver & Dietrich Moor
Hannah & James Leckman
Mary Lesser & Roy Money
Patte Lethe
Barbara & Robin Levine-Ritterman
William Scott Long
Adriane Lonzarich
Sam MacDowell
Ruth Magraw & Michael Baron
Sandy Malmquist & Paul Wessel
Al Marder

Liz & Kelly Martin
Juana Martinez
Melissa Martinez
Alicia & Pete McKinnis
Chris McLaughlin
Robert & Lauren McManus
Letitia McPhedran
Cathie & Ron Miller
Gail Mirza
Carol Money & Chip Manfre
James Money
William Morico
Derry Moritz
Nancy & Al Mueller
Bonnie Muller
Barbara & Kenneth Neuberger
Liz Neuse & Francis Braunlich
Trish Niece
Sherry & John Nieman
Jonathan Ogren

Joy Oliver
Gilda Outremont & Dave Forman
Chris Ozyk
John & Charissa Pacella
Paula & Frank Panzarella
Randi Parker
Robert Parker & David Carter
Linda J & John M Pawelek
Alan Pelaez-Lopez
Allie Perry & Charles Pillsbury
Norine Polio
Roberta Pollard
Liz Prete
Joanna & Nathan Price
Jennifer Pugh
Monti & Christine Radler
Helen Ramos & William Vasquez
Margaret & Thomas Riley
Gary Romeo
Beth & Claudia Roth



Preschoolers in Goyena at opening day event waiting to attack the pinata.

Beth Rubenstein Evan Markiewicz
Nina & John Ruckes
Sheri Russell
Tina Santoni & Eric Melita
Jill Savitt

Anne Scheffler
Anne F. Schenck
Karen & John Schneider
Peter Schultheis
Richard Schulz
Jane & James Schweitzer
Andrew Segraves
Dr. Ann Serow
Janet & Larry Settje
Shalom U.C.C.
Rise Siegel

Cyd Sotoroff
Gaddis & Barclay Smith
Toni Smith
Olivia Snyder-Spak
Corrinda & Michael Soares
Michael & Evie Soares
Janet & Gary Spinner
Julianne Splain
Mary & Daniel Sternbach
Jane & Alec Stevens
Lee & Peter Stolzman
Lori Sudderth
Virginia Stripp
Temple Emanuel
Sei Tokuda
Victoria Traube

Susan Trucksess
Semeon Tsalbins
Maria Tupper
Flora Zoe Vandyke
Claudia Vestal
Dora Viacava
John Warburg
Barbara Wareck
Barbara White
Elizabeth & Michael Wills
Raynetta "Red" Woods
Donna & Joel Zemke
Jennifer Zocco

"No challenge --no challenge -- poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change."
President Obama, 2015 State of the Union Address



Yale student Saul Downie working with Youth Brigade members on Troilo water survey in March.

Dear Friends,

The New England Grassroots Environmental Fund asks every grant applicant - no matter what they are applying for - to, "Describe how your program(s) minimize community carbon footprints." Because of climate change, it's come to the point where it's almost the only question that matters. President Obama's quote above underlines the gravity of the situation, and a reading of scientific analysis points to the urgency to act before Earth's systems get out of control through self-reinforcing feedback loops.

Usually annual reports are celebratory, pointing to organizational successes. While we do see those, we are seeing the beginnings of climate change impacts that could undermine our anti-poverty work in Nicaragua. So we want to highlight this unprecedented challenge. For example, on my recent visit to the domestic violence prevention project in rural Troilo, half the time there was spent talking about the pressing water shortage in that community, and the fear that families may be displaced. The increasing number and length of droughts in the region is consistent with climate forecasts for the Pacific region of Nicaragua, which means we'll need to help communities become more resilient... if possible. Unlike California, where the present drought is met with increased spending and public infrastructure investment, impoverished Nicaragua does not have that option.

Out of this concern, NHLSCP has grown over the past five years to be a leader in climate change response in New Haven including organizing the Healthy City / Healthy Climate Challenge, creating a lot of public art to encourage a greater public response, and pushing for policy change including our present effort with the New Haven Climate Movement to have the City update its Climate Action Plan. But we are not just acting out of fear, but also excitement that our communities could be so much more healthy and sustainable with moves to solar and wind power, greater energy efficiency, plentiful alternative transportation options, and in Nicaragua more clean cook stoves.

NHLSCP has always - with its social justice mission - worked not just on meeting current needs and addressing poverty, but also looking at the root causes of problems. So, for example, in the Education Program in Leon, while we continue to offer preschool and afterschool programs, we also continue to demand that the Ministry of Education invest more and provide better teachers. And this means residents there need to step up and come to meetings and protests to push government officials to do more, even if it's outside people's comfort zone.

Maybe that is what is at the heart of our mission, to make people uncomfortable, to call for a better world, and to stretch ourselves. We have the luxury at NHLSCP of being supported by a broad community that is in this struggle together, and we're very appreciative of that emotional, communal and financial support. Hopefully, we tap more deeply into our passion for a just and sustainable future and rise to the new very scary climate challenge.

In hope,

Chris Schweitzer
Program Director

Inside cover photo: Oppressed woman in chains as part of the International Day of Women celebration in Leon on March 8th.

Intern Liz McClean who produced a video of Mother Earth singing a version of *Help!* in 2011.



Youth artist at opening of Planetary Boundaries Project in 2015



Volunteer artists painting banner for NYC climate march in 2014.



In 2013 high school students from four schools helped with the Cows, Cars, Coal, Plane project, calling for less use of each. The Hamden High School students decorated the Car.



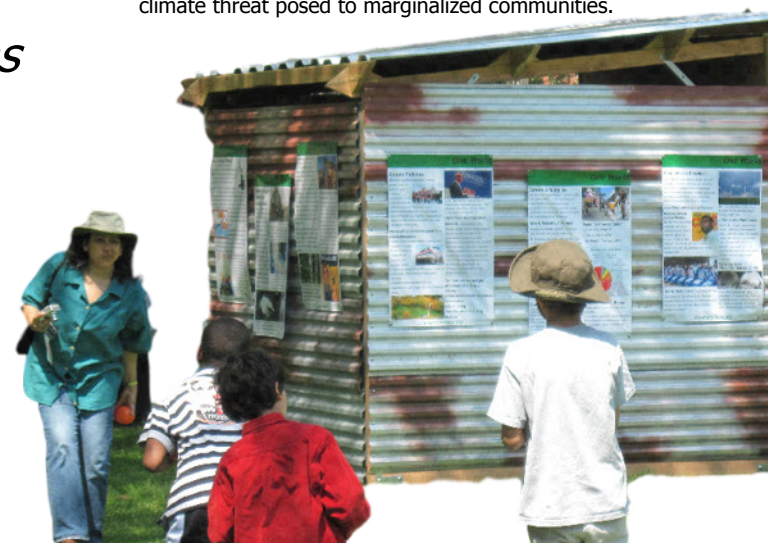
Why Climate Art?

The threat climate change presents to Nicaraguan and US communities is growing. Art creation and public exhibition is a tool for engaging people through a creative, safe medium, both through the art making in schools and organizations, and in getting the art out into the streets. The level of creativity has been impressive, as exhibited in the Planetary Boundaries Banner Project, which produced 10 beautiful 5x5 foot banners on different threats to environmental well being. Rather than being a purely political statement, that art is made more in line with Wendell Berry's quote, "A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives."

The Climate Change challenge: "Our actions and our imagination must match the magnitude of the problem we have created."

Next System Project

2010, the **One World House** invites people to consider climate threat posed to marginalized communities.



What's Next?

NHLSCP continues to generate new efforts to reduce GHG emissions and improve public health, including:

- Working with New Haven Climate Movement Coalition and the City to create a Climate and Sustainability Framework that will set targets for increased GHG reductions.
- Install new SeaChange art which educates about the urgent need to prevent further ocean acidification related to increases CO₂ emissions.
- Working with Healthy City/ Healthy Climate coalition to build a Beef Free campaign given beef's huge negative climate and public health impacts.

The 60 foot Fossil Fuel Parade Dragon was a hit in the 2015 Hartford Climate March, led by lead artist Ceyda Durmaz Dogan as Mother Earth.



Two Hamden High School students brought their chalking skills to the street in front of City Hall in 2014 to call for a clean energy



Intern Elsa Rose Farnam gets out with bike sign to plug New Haven climate march in 2015.

