

**Religious Organizations
Taking Action
on Climate Change**

**Compiled by Elizabeth Allison
for the Garrison Institute**

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Thanks to Rev. Harper for sharing a list of environmental and religious organizations that he developed with Peter Sawtell, Executive Director Eco-Justice Ministries, and Mike Schut, editor of *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*.

EDITOR'S NOTE

It should be noted that many, many other religious, spiritual, and religiously influenced groups work on issues of environmental conservation and sustainability. This document surveys those that are most active on climate change, with an attempt to include a wide variety of traditions. Much of the work of climate change action takes place at the state and local level, in groups that are part of larger networks. This document describes these larger networks, and contact information, when available, is list for state/local level organizations.

INTERFAITH

Earth Ministry

Contact:

LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director
laberes@earthministry.org
Earth Ministry
6512 23rd Ave NW, Ste 317
Seattle, WA 98117

Website:

<http://www.earthministry.org/>

Engagement with climate change:

Earth Ministry provides resources and events to assist people of faith and congregations, primarily in the Pacific Northwest, in becoming more environmentally sustainable.

Programs related to climate change:

- The website provides education and outreach through email listserves for creation care news and action, a study guide *The Cry of Creation: A Call for Climate Justice: An Interfaith Study Guide on Global Warming*, and a guide for “greening” congregations.
- Earth Ministry sponsored an Agriculture, Energy and Climate Change Field Day and Symposium in June 2006 in Pullman, Washington.

Commitments related to climate change:

Climate change is placed in a larger context of creation care. The organization’s mission is “to inspire and mobilize the Christian Community to play a leadership role in building a just and sustainable future.”

Faith in Place

Website:

<http://www.faithinplace.org>

Contact:

Faith In Place
2532 W. Warren Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60612
info@faithinplace.org
Phone: 312-733-4640
Fax: 312-733-4610

Engagement with climate change:

Faith in Place collaborates with religious congregations to promote clean energy and sustainable farming.

Programs related to climate change:

- Illinois Interfaith Power and Light is a program of Faith in Place. I IPL provides congregations with education, energy audits, and assistance with switching to clean energy sources.

Commitments related to climate change:

“Our mission is to help people of faith understand that issues of ecology and economy—of care for Creation—are at the forefront of social justice. At Faith in Place, we believe in housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked. But even if we do all those things, and love our brothers and sisters with our whole heart, it will not matter if we neglect the ecological conditions of our beautiful and fragile planet.”

Green Faith**Website:**

<http://www.greenfaith.org/>

Contact:

46 Bayard St., #401
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-565-7740 (ph)
732-565-7790 (f)
info@GreenFaith.org

The Rev. Fletcher Harper
Executive Director
revfharper@greenfaith.org

Engagement with climate change:

From the website, “GreenFaith mobilizes religious institutions and people of diverse faiths to strengthen their relationship with the sacred in nature and to take action for the earth.”

Programs related to climate change:

- Through its Stewardship program, Green Faith provides information on energy conservation for individuals and institutions.
- To encourage the use of renewable energy, Green Faith is working with Sun Farm Networks to place solar panels at 25 faith-based sites around New Jersey.
- Green Faith’s Adopt-a-Windmill Campaign encourages people to purchase electricity from a New Jersey wind farm.
- Green Faith has provided testimony to the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection on climate change.

Commitments related to climate change:

Green Faith’s environmental advocacy is based in the religious tenets of stewardship – the principle of protecting the earth as a sacred commons – and justice – the principle of caring for the poor and vulnerable.

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility**Contact:**

Leslie Lowe
Program Director
Phone: 212-870-2623
E-mail: [llowe @ iccr.org](mailto:llowe@iccr.org)

Website:

<http://www.iccr.org/>

Engagement with climate change:

One of the priorities of ICCR members is “reversing global warming.”

Programs related to climate change:

- ICCR members address climate change through ICCR’s Global Warming working group, which works with corporations in those sectors most directly responsible for greenhouse gas emissions: oil and gas; electric power; automotive; and appliance manufacturing to measure, monitor, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Global Warming Group encourages these industries to disclose the risks and opportunities posed by climate change to their shareholders.
- The Global Warming working group also directs shareholder efforts at the financial sector, working to encourage the top three mutual fund companies – Fidelity, Vanguard, and American Funds, whose collective assets total more than \$1 trillion – to start taking climate change seriously. The Global Warming Group, together with Co-op America, is leading consumer action to get these large mutual fund companies to vote positively on shareholder resolutions that respond to climate change.

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website, “ICCR is a thirty-year-old international coalition of 275 faith-based institutional investors including denominations, religious communities, pension funds, healthcare corporations, foundations, and dioceses with combined portfolios worth an estimated \$100 billion. As responsible stewards, they merge social values with investment decisions, believing they must achieve more than an acceptable financial return. ICCR members utilize religious investments and other resources to change unjust or harmful corporate policies, working for peace, economic justice and stewardship of the Earth.”

Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign

Contact:

110 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 108
Washington, DC 20002
202-544-2350
info@nccusa.org

Website:

<http://www.protectingcreation.org/>

Engagement with climate change:

A partnership of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL), and the National Council of Churches, the state campaign is primarily an information and advocacy network that provides a way for people of faith to make their voices heard by decision-makers on critical environmental issues. Together, NCC and COEJL have organized interfaith climate change campaigns in 18 states. State-level campaigns and coordinator contact information can be accessed through the [protectingcreation.org](http://www.protectingcreation.org) webpage.

Programs related to climate change:

- State campaign organizes state-level interfaith activities, which involve faith leaders and congregations in education, energy audits, and public policy advocacy
- 1,200 religious leaders signed a statement on energy conservation, directed to Senators, in 2002
- In 2002, religious leaders sent a letter to major auto manufacturers calling on them to increase fuel efficiency in their fleets
- The [protectingcreation.org](http://www.protectingcreation.org) website provides tips for congregations and household on decreasing their energy usage.

Commitments related to climate change:

The state campaign work stresses climate change as a justice issue, in that it will disproportionately affect poor people; it will affect the lives of future generations; and it affects all of God's creation.

Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Contact:

P.O. Box 270147
West Hartford, CT 06127
Phone: (860) 231-8554
Email: info@irejn.org

Website:

<http://irejn.org/>

Engagement with climate change:

The mission of IREJN is “to engage people from diverse faith traditions in prayer, dialogue, education, advocacy and celebration of the sacredness of creation.” “The network encourages faithful living that reflects a right relationship between humankind and the environment.”

Programs related to climate change:

- IREJN sponsors Connecticut’s Interfaith Power and Light activities.
- IREJN encourages congregations to become Creation Care Congregations by committing to the 20% by 2010 campaign, which involves purchasing clean, renewable energy; committing 20% of congregants to do the same; and advocating for the municipality to do the same.

Commitments related to climate change:

“The network encourages faithful living that reflects a right relationship between humankind and the environment.”

National Religious Partnership for the Environment**Contact:**

Paul Gorman, Executive Director
49 South Pleasant Street – Suite 301
Amherst, MA 01002
413-253-1515 Phone
413-253-1414 Fax
nrpe@nrpe.org

Website:

www.nrpe.org

Engagement with climate change:

- NRPE helped launch religious involvement with environmental issues by bringing together faith leaders concerned about the environment, and helping the faith community focus on climate change and energy issues.
- In May 2004, NRPE facilitated a declaration by senior religious leaders and eminent scientists in a statement, "Earth's Climate Embraces Us All," available at http://www.nrpe.org/issues/i_air/air_interfaith01.htm. The statement begins with an interfaith statement on climate change and air pollution, citing biblical perspectives on the “good”-ness of creation. The statement is signed by a number of prominent scientists and religious leaders.

Programs related to climate change:

- “Climate and Air” is one of NRPE’s issue areas. After a general introduction that explains how climate and air are of concern to religiously minded people, the website provides links

to Jewish, Catholic, Mainline Protestant, Evangelical, and Interfaith perspectives on climate and air.

Commitments related to climate change:

- Mitigation of anthropogenic climate change is seen as part of human responsibility to protect Creation, which is intrinsically good. Climate change is discussed as an environmental justice issue, affecting the least among us, as well as a practical issue in that atmospheric changes will affect agriculture, water supplies, human health, and endangered species. The role of economics, energy use, and transportation choices in climate changes is stressed.

The Regeneration Project

Contact:

The Regeneration Project
P.O. Box 29336
The Presidio
San Francisco, CA 94129

Email: info@theregenerationproject.org
Telephone: (415) 561-4891
Fax: (415) 561-4892

Website:

<http://www.theregenerationproject.org/>

Engagement with climate change:

The Regeneration Project is an interfaith ministry “devoted to deepening the connection between ecology and faith.” The Regeneration Project’s Interfaith Power and Light campaign encourages people of faith to respond to global warming and promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation.

Programs related to climate change:

The Regeneration Project puts faith into action by “educating congregations and helping them buy energy efficient lights and appliances, providing energy audits and implementing the recommendations, encouraging people to buy more fuel efficient vehicles and to drive less, supporting renewable energy development through "greentags," working on large-scale renewable energy installation projects such as rooftop solar and advocating for sensible energy and global warming policy.” Interfaith Power and Light consists of over 1,000 congregation members in nineteen states and the District of Columbia, with two more state programs in development.

Commitments related to climate change:

“Global warming is one of the biggest threats facing humanity today. The very existence of life - life that religious people are called to protect -- is jeopardized by our continued dependency on fossil fuels for energy. Every mainstream religion has a mandate to care for creation. We were

given natural resources to sustain us, but we were also given the responsibility to act as good stewards and preserve life for future generations.”

Interfaith Power and Light Initiatives

State-level Interfaith Power and Light Initiatives share the common attributes of being faith-based, inclusive of multiple faith traditions, and being led by ordained religious leaders. IPLs advocate clean energy, conservation, and responsible stewardship of Creation. State IPLs include:

Alaska

Contact: Rev. Paul Klitzke, paul.klitzke@gmail.com

California Interfaith Power and Light

Contact:

Jessica Brown

c/o The Next Generation

1904 Franklin St. Suite 609

Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone: (510) 444-4078 x 319

Email: info@interfaithpower.org,

jessica@interfaithpower.org

<http://www.interfaithpower.org/>

Colorado Interfaith Power & Light

COIPL

c/o Center for ReSource Conservation

1702 Walnut Street

Boulder, CO 80302

Phone: 303-444-4323

<http://www.coipl.org/>

Connecticut (in collaboration with Interreligious Eco-justice Network)

Interreligious Eco-justice Network

P.O. Box 270147

West Hartford, CT 06127

info@irejn.org

<http://irejn.org/>

District of Columbia

Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light

Allison Fisher, Coordinator

c/o CCTPP

4500 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20016

Phone: 202-885-8684

allison@gwipl.org
<http://www.gwipl.org/>

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
P.O. Box 5866
Atlanta, GA 31107
Phone: 404.588.9978
Fax: 404.588.9968
info@gipl.org
<http://www.gipl.org/>

Illinois
Faith In Place
2532 W. Warren Blvd
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: 312.733.4640
Fax: 312.733.4610
info@faithinplace.org

Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
IIP&L Coordinator Tim Kautza
Phone: 515.270.2634
ncrlctk@mchsi.com
<http://www.ncrlc.com/IIPandL-webpage.html>

Maine Interfaith Power & Light
Harry Brown, Executive Director
PO Box 146
Brunswick, ME 04011-0146
Phone: (207) 721-0444
harry@meipl.org
<http://www.meipl.org/>

Maryland (in development)
Ellie Kelly bkelly6313@aol.com

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light
c/o All Saints Parish
1773 Beacon Street
Brookline, MA 02445
Phone: 800-406-5374
Phone: 617-879-0446
MIPandL@MIPandL.org
<http://www.mipandl.org/>

Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
Attn: Fr. Morris

MiIPL
PO Box 4606
East Lansing, MI 48826-4606
Phone: 877-IPL-MICH
Phone: 877-475-6424
info@miipl.org
<http://www.miipl.org/index.html>

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
Congregations Caring for Creation
Lutheran Coalition on Public Policy
Alycia Ashburn Holtebeck, Creation Care Coordinator
and
Rev. Mark Peters, LCPPM Executive Director
105 West University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103-2094
(651) 224-5499
ashburn@lcppm.org
www.lcppm.org
<http://www.c3mn.net/>

New Jersey (in collaboration with GreenFaith)
46 Bayard St., #401
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: 732-565-7740
Fax: 732-565-7790
revfharper@greenfaith.org
<http://www.greenfaith.org/>

New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light
PO Box 27162
Albuquerque, NM 87125-7162
USA
info@nm-ipl.org
webmaster@nm-ipl.org
<http://www.nm-ipl.org/>

New York Interfaith Power & Light
info@nyipl.org
<http://www.nyipl.org/>

North Carolina (in development)
aliceloyd@earthlink.net

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns

0245 SW Bancroft St.
Suite B
Portland, OR 97239
Phone: (503) 221-1054
Fax: (503) 223-7007
inec@emoregon.org
<http://www.emoregon.org/INEC.htm>

Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light
Glenda Keyes, Outreach Coordinator
865-637-6055 Ext. 22
glenda@tn-ipl.org

Texas Interfaith Power and Light
221 East 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: 512.472.3903
info@txipl.org
<http://www.txipl.org/>

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light
Administrator - VT Interfaith Power & Light
P.O. Box 728
Richmond, VT
05477
Phone: 802-434-7307
Fax: 802-434-7306
<http://www.vtipl.org/>

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
PO Box 12516
Richmond, Virginia 23241-0516
Phone: 804.643.2474, ask for Pat Watkins
pat@virginiainterfaithcenter.org
www.vipl.org

Religious Witness for the Earth

Contact:

Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian
Pastor, Haydenville Congregational Church, Haydenville, MA

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda, MD
E-mail: rabbifred@aol.com

Rev. Fred Small
First Church Unitarian, Littleton, MA
E-mail: minister@fculittle.org

Rev. Mathilda Cantwell, half-time coordinator
Religious Witness for the Earth
PO Box 642
Littleton, MA 01460-2642

Website:

<http://www.gis.net/~rwe/>
<http://www.religiouswitness.org/index.html>

Engagement with climate change:

From the website: “Religious Witness for the Earth (RWE) is a national interfaith network dedicated to public witness in defense of Creation.” RWE is led by a steering committee of eight

Programs related to climate change:

- Rally of people of faith and clergy at the United Nations, marking the fifth anniversary of the US failure to sign the Kyoto Protocol, in 2003.
- Interfaith Services of Prayer & Witness for Climate Action in every state capital of New England
- Lobbying, testimony, public education, teach-ins in New York and New England.
- Developing plans for a consciousness-raising walk across Massachusetts and a Climate Witness Tour with Tuvaluans on the cusp of being displaced by climate change planned for the Fall

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website: “Seeing climate change and environmental devastation as issues of justice, RWE invokes the loving spirit, selfless courage, and moral authority of the civil rights movement. Through prayer, education, and nonviolent action, we join hands to protect the Earth, our beloved home.”

BAHA’I

International Environmental Forum (Baha’i inspired)

Contact:

IEF SECRETARIAT, International Environment Forum
c/o Dr. Arthur L. Dahl
12B Chemin de Maisonneuve
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva
Switzerland

Email: ief@bccca.org
goes to the General Secretary Sylvia Karlsson

Website:

<http://www.bcca.org/ief/sustapedia/spethicscc.htm>

<http://www.bcca.org/ief/conf10.htm>

Engagement with climate change:

From the website, “In 2006, European countries have one year's experience in trading CO₂, the Kyoto Protocol is operational, and the United Nations is discussing energy for sustainable development. In parallel, Bahá’í communities around the world are engaged in collective learning processes on how to serve their societies better. The conference will seek to find the meeting points between these two processes through exploring: the latest scientific knowledge on climate change and its impacts on human well-being; the wisdom from the world’s Faiths, including the Bahá’í writings, on the value systems needed to face these challenges; and the practical steps individuals and communities can take to reduce their burden on the future.”

Programs related to climate change:

- September 15-17 2006, the International Environment Forum (IEF), a Bahá’í inspired organization addressing environment and sustainable development, together with BASED-UK will co-sponsor The 10th Conference of the International Environment Forum: Science, Faith and Global Warming: Arising to the Challenge, at Balliol College, Oxford University, Oxford, England. The conference is limited to 90 participants. To register for the electronic version of the conference please send your name, full mail address and e-mail address to j_fienieg@hotmail.com.

Commitments related to climate change:

Baha’is believe that combating climate change requires a fundamental shift away from excessive materialism and toward a spiritual awakening. “The Baha’i Faith is unequivocal in its belief in the power of religion to establish concord amongst the peoples of the world.” From the website, “Climate change is ... a physical demonstration of the spiritual principle of humankind's essential unity and therefore calls for the abandonment of divisive, nationalistic, and materialistic ideologies and traditions. This requires an acknowledgement that humanity has evolved through various stages of unity and is now in the process of creating an ever-advancing global civilization, based on an organic model of humankind, in which each member plays a crucial role in the well-being of the whole. Decisions on climate change must be made in this context. It is also necessary to acknowledge that humanity has both spiritual and material natures. The present civilization has emphasized the material at the expense of the spiritual, and its political and social institutions and relationships are physical manifestations of the spiritual and moral values (or lack of values) upon which they are built.”

BUDDHIST

Buddhist Peace Fellowship

Contact:

PO Box 3470
Berkeley, CA 94703 USA
Phone: 510-655-6169
Fax: 510-655-1369

Website:

http://www.bpf.org/html/current_projects/environmental_initiatives/

Engagement with climate change:

The Buddhist Peace Fellowship is connected with several projects that address environmental issues from a Dharmic viewpoint.

Programs related to climate change:

- The BPF website provides an article, "Buddhist Energy Reform: Alternate Responses to an Oil War," by BPF board member Chris Wilson.

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website, "The mission of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship (BPF), founded in 1978, is to serve as a catalyst for socially engaged Buddhism. Our purpose is to help beings liberate themselves from the suffering that manifests in individuals, relationships, institutions, and social systems. BPF's programs, publications, and practice groups link Buddhist teachings of wisdom and compassion with progressive social change."

Boston Buddhist Peace Fellowship

Contact:

info@bpfboston.org

Jennifer Jo Davis, coordinator (jen@bpfboston.org)

Website:

<http://www.bpfboston.org/energy.html>

Engagement with climate change:

Members have taken direct action on social issues including peace, energy conservation, and poverty issues, through such activities as peaceful public protests, letter writing, and thoughtful study about how we live our own lives. Members seek to integrate their practice on the cushion with other issues of importance.

Programs related to climate change:

- Webpage provides a discussion of the "connections between energy conservation and true happiness," providing practical energy conservation tips, and then discussing the connections to Dharmic texts.

Commitments related to climate change:

Buddhists seek to distinguish skillfully between true happiness and comfort or convenience. Though energy conservation activities may appear to cause inconvenience or discomfort, they are opportunities to practice generosity, loving-kindness, and renunciation, leading to greater interconnection and true joy. These practices require Right Resolve, the second link on the eight-fold path, leading one to harmlessness.

CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon: Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns**Contact:**

Jenny Holmes, Coordinator, Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign
0245 SW Bancroft St.
Suite B
Portland, OR 97239
Phone: (503) 221-1054 ex. 278
Fax: (503) 223-7007
E-mail: inec@emoregon.org

Website:

http://www.emoregon.org/INEC_energy.htm

Engagement with climate change:

“Energy and Global Warming” is one of the areas of activity of INEC. The Oregon Interfaith Global Warming Campaign educates congregations and religious bodies on global warming; assists them in reduce their climate impact through conservation, purchase of green energy, and advocacy for more sustainable forms of energy; and performs public advocacy about the need to halt climate change.

Programs related to climate change:

- The Oregon Interfaith Energy and Climate Charter asks Oregonians to sign on to a more sustainable future.
- The Oregon Religious Leaders’ Statement on Global Warming, signed in 2000, is available on the website.
- The website provides the *Climate and Faith* electronic alert.
- The website also provides numerous connections to sources of information about climate change.

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website, “Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is an association of 17 Christian denominations including Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox bodies across the state that work together for unity and justice. Through community ministry, public policy advocacy, theological education and dialogue and environmental ministry, EMO participates in the collective task of

building a just and compassionate world for all people. We invite you to participate in this collaborative effort to create a world of possibility for all God's people in Oregon and beyond.”

National Council of Churches USA Eco-justice Programs

Contact:

Eco-Justice Program Office
110 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 108
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202.544.2350
Fax: 202.543.1297
Email: info@nccecojustice.org

Website:

www.nccusa.org
http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/sgw_partner.asp?83225
<http://www.nccecojustice.org/climatehome.htm>

Engagement with climate change:

- The NCC, and its affiliated Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox member communions, to which approximately 45 million congregants belong, works to combat climate change through development of worship materials for thousands of churches, involvement in the Interfaith Climate Change state campaigns, and regional climate justice training programs for clergy and lay leaders across the country.
- The National Council of Churches is one of the featured partners of [StopGlobalWarming.org](http://www.stopglobalwarming.org)
- Together with COEJL, NCC launched the 18-state interfaith state climate change campaign to help people of faith understand climate change as a religious issue. The campaign is carried out through state ecumenical agencies.

Programs related to climate change:

Environmental concerns, including “Climate and Energy,” are discussed on the NCC’s Eco-justice website. The website provides access to faith-based resources on climate change, connections to state-levels campaigns against climate change, examples of people of faith taking action, and information about personal and congregational actions to combat climate change.

In 1998, the NCC launched a four-part strategy to deal with climate change that included:

- Letters to President Clinton and to senators urging the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol;
- A strategy packet sent to 540 environmental justice coordinators in NCC communions throughout the country, which included a public service announcement, suggestions for op-eds, and climate change study materials for congregations.
- A nine-state effort employing coordinators to organize statewide interfaith efforts in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, Michigan, North Dakota and South Dakota – states likely to experience significant effect from the Kyoto Protocol.

- A Midwest Interfaith Climate Change conference, October 25-26 in Columbus, Ohio for environmental leaders from NCC communions, evangelical Christian, Jewish, and Catholic congregations.

These strategies led to the Interfaith state climate change campaign.

Commitments related to climate change:

From StopGlobalWarming.org, "As Christians, we are called to care for all of God's children, especially the most vulnerable, and to protect and restore God's creation. Climate change is a threat to all people and all of creation. As people of faith, we understand our responsibilities to protect the sacred gifts given by God and to heal a world torn by brokenness and human strife. Global warming, like all human-induced environmental degradation, is a sign of this brokenness.

Many of the Council's 35 religious denominations such as the Presbyterian Church USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have developed policy statements on the need to address global warming and are taking action in their own faith communities. In addition, interfaith and ecumenical groups in eighteen states across the USA have formed coalitions of religious people from all faith communities to educate and advocate on the issue of global warming. The National Council of Churches USA and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life support these interfaith campaigns.

Since 1983, with the formation of Eco-Justice Working Group, the National Council of Churches has been providing an opportunity for the national bodies of member Protestant and Orthodox denominations to work together to protect and restore God's Creation. "A major task of our environmental ministry is to provide program ideas and resources to help congregations as they engage in eco-justice. We join this march because of the importance for protecting and caring for God's creation by addressing global warming."

Dr. Bob Edgar is general secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the leading U.S. organization in the movement for Christian unity.

EVANGELICAL

Evangelical Climate Initiative

Contact:

info@christiansandclimate.org

Website:

<http://www.christiansandclimate.org>

Engagement with climate change:

From the website, "The Evangelical Climate Initiative is a group of more than 85 evangelical leaders who—as a result of their commitment to Jesus Christ and concern for His Creation—have signed the statement entitled *Climate Change: An Evangelical Call to Action*. It represents their efforts to encourage action by evangelical Christians and all Americans to make life

changes necessary to help solve the global warming crisis, and to advance legislation that will limit emissions, while respecting economic and business concerns. The Initiative grew out of the Sandy Cove Covenant taken by evangelical leaders in June 2004.”

Programs related to climate change:

The website provides:

- A climate change listserve
- Information about actions individuals and congregations can take to combat climate change
- Educational resources and fact sheets on climate change, along with a poll of evangelical Christians on their attitudes toward climate change

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website, “First, we care about the world our children and grandchildren will inherit. We must begin to fix global warming now to make it easier for our kids and grandkids to deal with it in the future. Second, we care about fulfilling our Lord's teaching to love our neighbors and care for "the least of these." Global warming will make hungry kids hungrier, droughts dryer, floods fiercer, hurricanes harsher, and health concerns like malaria more menacing. Loving our neighbors today includes reducing the impacts of climate change tomorrow. Third, society is looking for evangelical leadership on major problems. We are articulating a biblical, Christ-centered, business-friendly evangelical approach to climate change and providing a different way of understanding the problem.”

Signatories include prominent pastors such as Rick Warren; CEOs of major evangelical organizations such as Todd Bassett of the Salvation Army and Richard Stearns of World Vision; heads of denominations such as Jack Hayford; and college and seminary presidents such as Duane Litfin of Wheaton College, and Timothy George of Beeson Divinity School. Other signatories are prominent black leaders like Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr. of the West Angeles Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles; the Rev. Floyd Flake of the Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral in New York City; and Bishop Wellington Boone of the Father's House and Wellington Boone Ministries in Norcross, Ga.; as well as Hispanic leaders like the Rev. Jesse Miranda, president of AMEN in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Evangelical Environmental Network

Contact:

Jim Ball, director
jim@creationcare.org
een@creationcare.org or (202) 554-1955

Website:

<http://www.creationcare.org>

Engagement with climate change:

EEN is a network of individuals and organizations, including World Vision, World Relief, InterVarsity, and the International Bible Society. Its primary engagement with climate change is through the What Would Jesus Drive? Campaign, and through the Sandy Cove Covenant of 2004.

Programs related to climate change:

- What Would Jesus Drive? Campaign, which shows evangelical Christians how transportation is a moral issue having to do with loving one's neighbor, and encourages Christians to reduce fuel consumption and pollution from vehicles. The campaign has included a 'road trip' to introduce congregations across the country to the principles of WWJD?, a pledge and a bumper sticker to raise awareness.
- Sponsored a conference on creation care, which led to the Sandy Cove Covenant and Invitation of June 2004. The Covenant stated in part, "We covenant together to engage the evangelical community in a discussion about the question of climate change with the goal of reaching a consensus statement on the subject in twelve months," but agreement has not yet been reached.
- Provides info on climate change/ global warming on its website, citing Sir John Houghton, a "senior scientist who is also a devout Christian."
- Provides staff support for the Evangelical Climate Initiative.

Commitments related to climate change:

EEN maintains that many environmental problems are actually spiritual problems. Biblically understood, "the environment" is actually part of God's creation, of which human beings are also a part. Understanding that Christ died to reconcile all of creation to God (Col. 1:20); all of creation belongs to Jesus (Col. 1:16; Ps. 24:1) requires Christians to fulfill the Great Commandments to love God and love what God loves and to care for the poor and the less powerful (Mt. 25:37-40). Caring for creation is seen a part of loving God.

National Association of Evangelicals

Contact:

Richard Cizik, VP of Governmental Affairs
rcizik@nae.net
(202) 789-1011

Website:

www.nae.net

Engagement with climate change:

- In the Sandy Cove Covenant and Invitation of 2004, the NAE led a process that resulted in the following statements: "We covenant together to make creation-care a permanent dimension of our Christian discipleship ... We covenant together to draw upon the very best and most trustworthy resources that can help us understand the particular environmental challenges we face today, ... We invite our brothers and sisters in Christ to engage with us the most pressing environmental questions of our day, such as health threats to families and the unborn, the negative effects of environmental degradation on

the poor, God's endangered creatures, and the important current debate about **human-induced climate change**. We covenant together to engage the evangelical community in a discussion about the question of climate change with the goal of reaching a consensus statement on the subject in twelve months."

- As of Feb. 2006, the NAE's executive committee declined to take a strong stand on climate change, "recognizing the ongoing debate" on global warming and "the lack of consensus among the evangelical community on this issue." Cizik and NAE **did not** join the Evangelical Climate Initiative, nor did they sign the 2006 "Evangelical Call to Action."
- NAE President said that he personally thinks climate change is a major problem, but did not want to sign the Call to Action because it would be interpreted as endorsement by NAE.

Programs related to climate change:

- Rick Cizik participated in a panel discussion, "Climate & Culture: Religious Perspectives on Environmental Stewardship," at the Center for American Progress on May 2, 2006, along with John Carr, Secretary, Department of Social Development and World Peace, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Sister Patricia Daly, Executive Director, Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment; Rabbi Daniel Swartz, Coordinator, Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, and moderator John Podesta, President and Chief Executive Officer, the Center for American Progress. Video clip available at <http://www.americanprogress.org/site/apps/nl/content3.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=593305&c t=2249681>

Commitments related to climate change:

NAE is divided on the issue of climate change, and some members have pressured the organization to recognize an 'on-going debate' about it. NAE represents 45,000 churches.

Restoring Eden

Contact:

Restoring Eden
PO Box 877
La Center, WA 98629
360-574-8230
info@restoringeden.org

Website:

www.restoringeden.org

Engagement with climate change:

"Restoring Eden makes hearts bigger, hands dirtier, and voices stronger by encouraging Christians to learn to love, serve, and protect God's creation."

Programs related to climate change:

- Restoring Eden and the Evangelical Environmental Network have joined forces for the Evangelical Youth Climate Initiative, a declaration in which young people assert the moral and biblical imperative for action on climate change. The Youth Climate Initiative is a follow-up to the Evangelical Climate Initiative.

Commitments related to climate change:

“Consistent with our commitment to the speaking out for endangered wildlife, natural habitats, and threatened cultures, we at Restoring Eden believe that global climate change is something which must be addressed quickly. The facts are conclusive – humankind’s burning of fossil fuels has been a key contributor to climate change in the past 150 years. We believe that urgent action must be taken to cut our meddling in God’s providential systems.”

Rick Warren, author, The Purpose Driven Life

Website:

<http://www.purposedrivenlife.com/>

Engagement with climate change:

- A signatory of the 2006 “Evangelical Call to Action,” which argues that there is no longer real debate about climate change, and that the government must act. The statement was the first step in the "Evangelical Climate Initiative" (<http://www.christiansandclimate.org/statement>) which has included spots in states with influential legislators, informational campaigns in churches, and educational events at Christian colleges.

Programs related to climate change:

- Signatory of “Evangelical Call to Action” on Climate Change.

Commitments related to climate change:

The Evangelical Call to Action asserts that climate change is real, is likely to hit the poor the hardest, and that Christian moral convictions demand a response to climate change based on biblical injunctions about loving God and God’s creation, loving the other as ourselves, and exercising proper stewardship over the earth. The statement calls for urgent action to reduce CO2 emissions through cost-effective market-based mechanisms.

ISLAM

Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences

Contact:

Fazlun Khalid, Director
93 Court Road

Balsall Heath, Birmingham
United Kingdom
B12 9LQ

Phone: 44 (0)121 440 3500
Fax: 44 (0)121 440 8144

Website:

<http://www.ifees.org>

Engagement with climate change:

IFEES promotes an Islamic understanding of environmental issues through articles on its website, project development, publications, and consultancies.

Programs related to climate change:

In journal articles and newsletters, IFEES explains how and why climate change is an issue of importance to Muslims.

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website, “Muslims comprise at least one fifth of the human community and they can contribute much to the thinking that is vital to re-evaluate the future direction of the human community and save its home for itself and other life forms.

From tentative beginnings in the mid 1980's IFEES has established itself as perhaps the only internationally recognized body articulating the Islamic position on these matters and at the same time attempting to give practical manifestation to this. This web site may be seen as evidence of its purpose and intentions.”

JEWISH

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Contact:

443 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10016
212-532-7436
info@coejl.org
(Currently seeking an Executive Director)

Website:

www.coejl.org

Engagement with climate change:

- COEJL is a featured partner of The Virtual March to Stop Global Warming.
- COEJL played a key role in creating the Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign, which is among the largest field operations on energy and climate issues in the U.S. and has

gained widespread recognition in the press and on Capitol Hill. ICEC has built a state of the art electronic advocacy system, the Interfaith Climate Change Action Network.

- More than 600 rabbis signed a “Let There Be Light” Open Letter on Energy Use to President Bush and Congress. 1,200 religious leaders, including a many notable national Jewish leaders and more than 200 rabbis, signed an Interfaith Letter on Energy Policy that was delivered to every Senate office along with relevant press clippings.
- In October 2005, COEJL spearheaded an Interfaith Letter to Congress Supporting Raising CAFE Standards signed by major religious groups and delivered to all Congressional Representatives on the Hill.
- Offers an Energy and Climate Change Platform
- Offers tips to make synagogues “greener” and more environmentally friendly
- Provides textual resources on climate change, compiled by Rabbi Fred Dobb are available at <http://www.coejl.org/Hanukkah/documents/jtexts.php>

Programs related to climate change:

- Distributes “God’s Creation and Global Warming” video and study guide, which explain climate change and why it is an issue of faith
- Provides “An Inconvenient Truth” study guide
- Provides Global Climate Change Resources from the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism.
- Through its chapters, national partner agencies, and electronic advocacy network, COEJL mobilizes the Jewish community to advocate on a wide range of environmental issues, with a particular focus on global climate change and energy conservation

Commitments related to climate change:

Much of the response to climate change is based on Jewish ethics. Humans are responsible for the careful stewardship of God’s earth, and Jews are required to pass on a healthy future to our children and grandchildren — l’dor v’dor, from generation to generation. Climate change may disrupt the climate and agriculture of Israel. Further, the Jewish commitment to social justice requires concern for the poor and disadvantaged – those who are most likely to suffer ill effects of climate change.

Regional affiliates include:

Arizona	COEJL of Southern Arizona	Josh Protas (520) 577-9393 saz_coejl@yahoo.com
California: Los Angeles	COEJL of Southern California	(310) 841-2970 info@coejlsc.com
California: San Francisco	ecoJews	David Seidenberg (510) 219-5834 rebduvid86@hotmail.com
California: Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz COEJL	Howie Schneider (831) 425-7779 chaim@mac.com

California: Ventura and Santa Barbara	Jewish Environmental League	Jeff Auerbach (805) 647-7760 ja@executivecoachcollege.com
Colorado: Basalt		Catherine Greener (970) 927-7311 Catherine.Greener@domani-llc.com
Colorado: Boulder	Jews of the Earth	Daniel Ziskin (303) 998-0606 ziskin@jote.org
Colorado: Denver		Pam Bloch Mendelson (303) 744-7397 pam@intowndenver.com
District of Columbia	Shomrei Adamah of Greater Washington D.C.	Rachel Lettre (301) 563-6367 rachellia@gmail.com
Florida: West Palm Beach		Nason Goldstein (561) 333-7698 nasgold@yahoo.com
Georgia: Atlanta		Daron Joffe (706) 369-8217 joffedaron@aol.com
Iowa	ICCN - Iowa	Tim Kautza (515) 270-2634 ncrlctk@mchsi.com
Louisiana		Myron Katz (504) 866-1243 myron.katz@gs.net
Maine	Maine Council of Churches	Anne (Andy) Burt (207) 772-1918 adburt@gwi.net
Maryland	Pearlstone Family Education and Judaic Environmental Education	Margaret Presley (410) 735-5029 mpresley@cjebaltimore.org
Massachusetts	Boston COEJL	Rabbi Katy Allen (508) 358-5996 coejl-owner@yahoogroups.com
Michigan: Detroit	Michigan COEJL	Sara Bernstein (248) 642-5393 mi-coejl@jfm.org
Michigan: Saginaw	ICCN - Michigan	Patty Gillis (586) 779-8015 voices4earth@juno.com
Minnesota	Center for Judaism and Sustainability	Terry Gips (612) 374-4765 tgips@mtn.org
Missouri	St. Louis Jewish Environmental Initiative	Marci Mayer Eisen (314) 442-3894 meisen@jrcrstl.org
New Jersey	GreenFaith	Nathalie Shapiro (609) 394-1090 nshapiro@greenfaith.org

New Mexico: Albuquerque	Albuquerque COEJL	Sherry Lewis (505) 766-5484 lewrab@earthlink.net
New Mexico: Albuquerque	New Mexico Conference of Churches	Stan Euston (505) 255-1509 sustainstar@earthlink.net
New York	Hazon	Nigel Savage (212) 685-7908 nigel@hazon.org
New York	Teva Learning Center	Nili Simhai or Noam Dolgin (212) 807-6376 teva@tevacenter.org
Ohio: Dayton	Marianist Environmental Education Center	Sister Leanne Jablonski (937) 429-3582 jablonski@udayton.edu
Ohio: Akron		Rich Swirsky (330) 864-7390 rswirsky@neo.rr.com
Oregon: Portland	Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Jenny Holmes (503) 221-1054 inec@emoregon.org
Pennsylvania: Philadelphia	ICCN - Pennsylvania	Joy Bergey (215) 836-5978 joybergey@earthlink.net
Texas: Austin	Texas Impact	Bee Moorhead (512) 636-3135 bee@texasimpact.com
Texas: Plano		Rebekah Rosenberg (972) 618-5302 tikunolam2000s@yahoo.com
Washington	Washington Association of Churches	Thea Levkovitz (206) 625-9790 tlevkovitz@THEWAC.org
West Virginia: Charleston	ICCN - West Virginia	Denise Poole (304) 617-7073 deniseap@earthlink.net
West Virginia: Charleston		Allan Tweddle (304) 925-9184 (304) 610-2656 allantweddle@msn.com
Wisconsin: Madison	Wisconsin ICEC	Sarah Streed (608) 873-3273 info@wicec.org
Wisconsin: Madison	Wisconsin Jewish Environmental Initiative (WEJI)	(608) 441-1338 hillel@wisc.edu

Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism

Contact:

Rabbi David Saperstein, Director and Counsel
Arthur and Sara Jo Kobacker Building
2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202.387.2800

Fax: 202.667.9070

Email: dprice@rac.org, rac@urj.org

Website:

<http://rac.org/advocacy/issues/issuecc/challenge/>

http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/sgw_marcher.asp?9393

Engagement with climate change:

- The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism is one of the featured partners on StopGlobalWarming.org
- The Reform Movement considers climate change to be one of the most important challenges facing us today.

Programs related to climate change:

- Climate change is one of the issues featured on the website at <http://rac.org/advocacy/issues/issuecc/>. The webpage provides background on the science of climate change, the status of legislative response, and provides the Reform Jewish position on climate change, based on two resolutions passed by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The web page provides links to other sources of information on climate change, and allows readers to take action by following links to send letters to their congress people.
- The website provides an action update listserve, and suggestions for discussions and sermons about climate change.

Commitments related to climate change:

From StopGlobalWarming.org: “Today, as we survey polluted rivers, contaminated land, and unbreatheable air, we find ourselves enslaved by our own actions in a world that will not be indefinitely inhabitable. As global warming continues to take its toll on the earth we see changing ecosystems, the number of endangered species increase, our water sources dry up, increasing public health crises, and receding coastlines. We must be aware of the fragility of our environment and the interconnectedness of humanity's well-being with the earth's. As Jews, we have a responsibility to protect and sustain God's creation: the earth and its resources.

According to rabbinical commentary, upon presenting the wonder of creation to Adam, God said: "See my works, how fine and excellent they are! Now all that I created, for you I created. Think upon this, and do not corrupt and desolate my world; for if you corrupt it, there is no one to set it right after you." (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:28) We do well to heed these words today. By marching we at once rejoice in God's creation and rise up to fulfill the commandment: l'ovdah, u'l'shomrah, to serve, to till, to guard, to tend (Genesis 2:15).”

The Shalom Center

Contact:

Rabbi Arthur Waskow
6711 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia,
PA 19119, USA
tel: (215) 844-8494
email: office@shalomctr.org
Arthur Waskow at Awaskow@aol.com

Website:

<http://www.shalomctr.org>

Engagement with climate change:

The Shalom Center's "Beyond Oil" campaign seeks to "cut US oil consumption by seven-eighths and replace oil as an energy source by conservation and by use of non-fossil, non-CO2-producing, non-nuclear sources of renewable, sustainable energy" by 2020.

Programs related to climate change:

The Beyond Oil Campaign will:

- Organize "Oilholics Anonymous" groups in synagogues and other congregations for people to help each other "kick the Oil habit" in their household and congregational lives.
- Encourage rabbis and other communal leaders to urge all congregants to make their NEXT car purchase a hybrid or other high-mileage car (Kosher Kars).
- Work for a Carbon Tax on various energy sources according to their effective production of CO2, high enough to push users to seek other energy sources, with proceeds of the tax to be channeled to lower-income and middle-income people.

Commitments related to climate change:

The Shalom Center links concerns for social justice, peace in the Middle East, environmental sustainability, and consumption in its actions to promote alternatives to oil, and thus slow global warming.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Contact:

John Carr, Secretary, Department of Social Development and World Peace
(202) 541-3181
jcarr@uscgb.org

Walt Grazer, Policy Advisor, Religious Liberty, Human Rights, and Europe; and Manager,
Environmental Justice Program (202) 541-3182
wgrazer@uscgb.org

3211 4th Street, N.E.,
Washington DC 20017-1194
(202) 541-3000

Website:

<http://www.usccb.org/index.shtml>

Engagement with climate change:

In 2001, Roman Catholic bishops voted unanimously today to issue a statement calling for immediate action to mitigate the effects of global climate change. The Conference of Bishops is a partner in NRPE. Carr and Glazer have been outspoken about the moral imperatives to halt climate change.

Programs related to climate change:

- The Environmental Justice Program is addressing global climate change through a three-part initiative that includes an education kit available to parishes and on the internet; small grants program to help dioceses and Catholic organizations develop local Catholic leadership on climate change; and attention to state and local policy dimensions of climate change.
- A statement on “Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good” is available on the web page. The statement was developed by the Domestic and International Policy Committees in consultation with the bishops' Committee on Doctrine and the Committee on Science and Human Values. It was approved for publication by the full body of United States Catholic bishops at the June 2001 General Meeting.

Commitments related to climate change:

The earth is God’s, and must be respected and cared for as such. Climate change is seen as negatively affecting the possibilities of unborn generations. John Paul II insists, "We face a fundamental question which can be described as both ethical and ecological." Obligations to other humans stretch across space and time, including, most importantly, the poor who may lack resources to adjust.

Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

Contact:

Sister Patricia Daly, ED, tricri@mindspring.com, (973)579-1732
40 South Fullerton Avenue
Montclair, NJ
07042
(973) 509-8800
Fax: (973) 509-8808

Website:

<http://www.tricri.org>

Engagement with climate change:

“The Coalition works with corporations in those sectors most directly responsible for greenhouse gas emissions: oil and gas; electric power and automotive. Through dialogue and shareholder resolutions, our members press companies to measure, monitor and reduce their total greenhouse gas emissions, and to position themselves strategically to profit from opportunities under new regulatory programs.”

Programs related to climate change:

- The Coalition has led shareholder advocacy with ExxonMobil, Ford Motor Company, Chevron, General Motors, The Southern Company, General Electric, and others.
- The Coalition spearheaded a filed a shareholder resolution asking Ford to assess and report to investors on their business exposure from climate change. The resolution was withdrawn after Ford agreed to produce the report, analyzing the business implications of climate change on the company’s strategic planning and overall competitiveness. The report was released in Dec. 2005.

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website, “The TRI-State Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI) is an alliance of Roman Catholic institutional investors primarily located throughout the New York metropolitan area. Our members utilize their power as shareholders to hold corporations accountable to social and environmental concerns... In making decisions about managing resources and investments, Coalition members view local and global economies not only in terms of production and distribution, but also by their effects on the environment and the dignity of the human person.”

SPECIFIC DENOMINATIONS

Anglican Communion Environmental Network**Contact:**

The Rt. Rev. George Browning, Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, (ACEN) Network Convenor.
george.browning@anglican.org.au

Website:

http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ethics_technology/ACENstatementMay05.cfm

Engagement with climate change:

The Anglican Communion Environmental Network was established in 2002 to provide resources for individuals in adopting sustainable lifestyles, and to provide information about policies adopted by synods, councils and commissions, and to facilitate information sharing on best practices. The Network’s first official meeting was held in 2005 and focused on climate change.

Programs related to climate change:

- The Anglican Communion Environmental Network issued a Statement to the Anglican Communion on Climate Change in 2005, recalling the scriptural basis for stewardship of the

earth and stating that excessive use of resources is a sin. The statement notes, “The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned that our continued failure to protect the earth and to resolve economic injustices within and between societies will lead not only to environmental collapse but also to social collapse.” The statement provides a list of action steps for individuals and churches.

Commitments related to climate change:

At international meeting of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, various delegates told of the disturbing signs of climate change, such as coastal flooding, contamination of fresh water, increased range of mosquitoes, and melting of glaciers. The Anglican Communion sees these as signs that it has failed to “safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew earth.”

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth

Contact:

UU Ministry for Earth
PO Box 11
Lyme, NH 03768
Phone: 301-588-0944
E-mail: office@uuministryforearth.org

Rev. Katherine Jesch, Programming and Green Sanctuary Coordinator
E-mail: Katherine.Jesch@uuministryforearth.org

Website:

<http://uuministryforearth.org/index.shtml>

Engagement with climate change:

The UU website and recent Statement of Conscience (June 2006) urge UU’s to take personal, congregational, denominational, and advocacy action to halt and reverse climate change.

Programs related to climate change:

- Global warming is the primary issue addressed on the Unitarian Universalist’s Ministry for the Earth website
- UU’s issued a Statement of Conscience on Global Warming and Climate Change at their General Assembly in June 2006. The Statement contains personal, congregational, denominational and advocacy goals, including calling on UU’s to treat environmentally responsible practices as spiritual discipline.
- The Ministry for the Earth website features a button inviting UU’s to join the Virtual March Against Global Warming.
- Through a partnership with Carbonfund.org, UU’s are invited to reduce their carbon footprint.

- UU has issued an excellent statement “Beyond Science: Ethical/ Religious Dimensions of Global Warming,” available at <http://uuministryforearth.org/globalwarming/BeyondScienceGA2006.pdf>
- The head of the denomination, Reverend William Sinkford, is a featured marcher in the Virtual March Against Global Warming.
- The website offers a Global Warming Action Kit, monthly Climate Change News, and a Global Warming email list.

Commitments related to climate change:

The ethical principals of UU’s provide the foundation for taking climate change seriously. The recognition of the “inherent worth and dignity of every person” and the rights of the individual require that the needs of the entire planet’s people be considered. The UU commitment to democratic process requires that all people of the world have the information and access necessary to participate in decisions that will affect them. Solutions that do not include all stakeholders are inherently undemocratic. UU’s stand on the side of justice – and global justice requires reconsideration of allocation of resources, along with allocation of responsibility for halting climate change, and allocation of responsibility for remediating the harmful effects to both people and the planet. The UU seventh principle, “respect for the interdependent web” requires UU’s to take action on climate change, knowing that the planet will flourish as a whole or not at all. Rev. William Sinkford, the leader of the denomination, has pointed out that UU theology is “radically incarnational--we do not understand the Holy to be separate from this life...As we sing out praises for the beauty of the earth, we also sing out commitment to protect that beauty.”

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH OUTREACH OR CONNECTIONS

TO THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Clinton Global Initiative: Religious Climate Change Awareness & Offset Campaign

Contact:

Eric Carlson, President
Carbonfund.org
ecarlson@carbonfund.org

Website:

<http://www.clintonglobalinitiative.org/home.nsf/cmt/co9FE2711C13E9A38F852570B400673B72>

Engagement with climate change:

This initiative seeks to encourage and invite religious communities to participate in an effort to take action on global warming and to preserve and promote life on our planet. Partners include: Inter-religious Council of Mexico Ecology Committee, Carbonfund.org, Guadalajara Cathedral

(Mexico), Temple Emanuel of Greater Washington, D.C., His Excellency Dr. Karan Singh, Temple of Understanding (India), Central Conference American Rabbis, Environment Office (USA), Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation, Au Sable Institute for Environmental Studies, Episcopal Commission of Social Pastoral (Mexico), Latin American Council of Churches, Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr, Professor of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University.

Programs related to climate change:

The initiative seeks to:

1. Reduce carbon emissions in houses of worship around the world;
2. Empower people in developing countries by supporting reforestation and other carbon-reducing projects in their communities; and
3. Inform millions of people in congregations about the ease and affordability of reducing and offsetting their greenhouse gas emissions.

Carbonfund.org plans to improve its outreach capacity by funding development of a new educational website, and to invite world religious leaders to develop their outreach and offset programs.

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website, “Many people of diverse faiths believe that our atmosphere should be respected and protected as it supports life on Earth and thus unites all humanity. Therefore, common action is needed to protect the earth’s atmosphere by understanding what global warming is, and what effects it will have on humanity; taking simple steps to reduce our carbon emissions, and calculating and offsetting those emissions that cannot be reduced.”

Collaborative Program on the Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change

Contact:

Donald A. Brown, Program Director, Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change;
Senior Research Associate, Rock Ethics Institute;
The Pennsylvania State University,
201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802
Phone: (814) 863-0314
Fax: (814) 863-4837
E-mail: brown@state.pa.us; rockethics@psu.edu

Website:

<http://rockethics.psu.edu/climate/index.htm>

Engagement with climate change:

Ethical issues have not been addressed adequately in climate change policy debates and discussions, which often obscure important ethical questions by framing the discussion with the languages of science and economics.

Programs related to climate change:

The program on the Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change seeks to:

- Encourage and facilitate express examination of ethical dimensions of climate change;
- Identify and facilitate the analysis of ethical issues entailed by specific positions taken by governments, businesses, NGOs, organizations, or individuals on climate change policy matters;
- Create better understanding about the ethical dimensions of climate change among policy makers and the general public;
- Assure that people around the world, including those most vulnerable to climate change, participate in any ethical inquiry about responses to climate change;
- Maintain a bibliography of books, papers, and other writings that examine the ethical dimensions of climate change;
- Develop an interdisciplinary approach to inquiry about the ethical dimensions of climate change.

Commitments related to climate change:

Those most responsible for climate change are not the same as those most vulnerable to adverse climate change impacts. An ethical analysis of climate change policy options must be mindful of the scientific, economic, and social contexts that frame the ethical inquiry.

Environmental Justice and Climate Change Coalition

Contact:

Ansje Miller, Initiative Director
 1904 Franklin St., Suite 600
 Oakland, CA. 94612
 Phone: (510) 444-3041
 FAX: (510) 444-3191
[info @ redefiningprogress.org](mailto:info@redefiningprogress.org)

Website:

<http://www.ejcc.org/index.html>

Engagement with climate change:

From the website, “The Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative is a diverse, consensus-based group of U.S. environmental justice, climate justice, religious, policy, and advocacy networks working together to promote just and meaningful climate policy. Our mission is to educate and activate the people of North America towards the creation and implementation of just climate policies in both domestic and international contexts. To that end, we train new leaders and push for policies that protect the most vulnerable from the impacts of climate change and foster a just transition to a future free from fossil fuels.” Religious body members include: Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Church of the Brethren, United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries, United Methodist Church, and Indigenous Environmental Network.

Programs related to climate change:

- The Climate Justice Institute, a program of the EJCC Initiative, trains and motivates new leaders from communities disproportionately affected by climate change. Through workshops and internships, people learn to engage effectively in the fight for climate justice.
- The Climate Justice Corps, for youth ages 18-28, is a leadership development program for young activists, organizers, and researchers. Corps members come together for a five-day training in organizing and communications and are then housed at different EJCC members organizations and affiliates for a ten-week summer internship.

Commitments related to climate change:

Climate change is seen through the lens of environmental justice, as people of color, low-income people and indigenous communities are most likely to suffer the ill effects of climate change, while being least responsible for its cause.

Indigenous Environmental Network

Contact:

PO Box 485
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Website:

http://www.ienearth.org/climate_campaign.html

Engagement with climate change:

The Indigenous Environmental Network is a “network of Indigenous Peoples empowering Indigenous Nations and communities towards sustainable livelihoods, demanding environmental justice and maintaining the Sacred Fire of our traditions.” Climate Justice is one of the projects of the Network.

Programs related to climate change:

- The Climate Justice Campaign provides information about climate change and its effects on indigenous communities, and encourages tribes to consider the ecological and energy consequences of pursuing fossil fuel energy development.

Commitments related to climate change:

From the website: "The Indigenous Environmental Network has taken direction from elders, traditional and spiritual leaders, tribal nations and our youth that we must get involved with all policy related issues related to global warming and climate change. It is our Indigenous and local communities that are experiencing the impacts of climate change - from every cardinal point of our Mother Earth. This is why IEN has developed an education and organizing campaign addressing the human rights impact that global warming, climate change and weather changes

have on Indigenous Peoples, from the Global South to the North, to the small island states, to the far East and to the West, and most especially our people in the Arctic polar regions."

Yale Project on Climate Change: Religion and Ethics

Contact:

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Yale F&ES Project on Climate Change
School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
205 Prospect Street
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Website:

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Engagement with climate change:

From the website, "In October, 2005, the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies invited more than 100 leaders and thinkers to spend two days together in Aspen, Colorado. Their charge was to diagnose why, in the face of stronger and stronger science, the United States has been so slow to act on the issue of climate change. More importantly, they were asked to make recommendations about how to get things moving while there is still time to effect how climate change unfolds."

Programs related to climate change:

The Religion and Ethics discussion of this project asks: "What impact has values-based mobilization around the issue of climate change had on policy-makers and religious communities in the US? Should science play a role in this effort? Is greater scientific expertise and literacy needed within the religious community itself? If there is a need for greater scientific expertise and literacy, how this can be met through practices that respect the distinct dialects spoken in the two communities? How can the issue of climate change play a role in forging common ground between religion and science and move the issue forward in the process? Project participants are addressing these and other issues to help generate strategies designed to support values-based mobilization around the climate change issue."

Commitments related to climate change:

The project seeks to catalyze action, specifically:

1. Broaden the circle of engagement, facilitate dialogue and devise innovative new collaborations and partnerships across all sectors and communities.
2. Identify institutions, individuals and leaders well-positioned to catalyze implementation of actions,

3. Provide the networks and collaboration tools required by project participants to implement the actions.
4. Monitor progress toward fulfilling the Project's action agenda.