

As We are God's hands in the world, it is ours to act to address Climate Change and embrace stewardship towards Creation.

In 2021 The Anglican Church, The Roman Catholic Church, and the Greek Orthodox Church for the first time collectively published a joint statement on Climate Change. [Joint statement on climate change by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch – The Episcopal Church](#)

As we observe more extreme weather-related events such as hurricanes, floods, droughts, and forest fires, or as we observe health data which demonstrate the disproportionate impact to those in both urban and rural settings, we need to find ways to address Climate Change and develop and collectively implement solutions.

LEARN

What is Climate Change?

Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures. Clearing land and cutting down forests can also release carbon dioxide.

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. [What Is Climate Change? | United Nations](#)

What is the Status of Climate Change in New Jersey?

[NJDEP| Climate Change | Home](#)
[Climate Change in New Jersey: Impacts & Effects](#)
[Video on Climate Change NJ Project](#)
[Need more details?](#)

The United Nations & Climate Change

Under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainable Goal 13: [Climate Action - United Nations Sustainable Development](#) calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It is intrinsically linked to all 16 of the other Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Learn more about [Goal 13](#), and for the latest United Nations climate news, visit un.org/climatechange.

What Does The Episcopal Church Say?

For God's sake, we will adopt practical ways of reducing our climate impact and living more humbly and gently on Earth as individuals, households, congregations, institutions, and dioceses.

Under the Episcopal Church Creation Care Ministry Program, climate care is embraced under [Life-Giving Conservation – The Episcopal Church](#).

The General Convention has passed dozens of resolutions concerning and advocating study and action related to Climate Change. Key resolutions include the following:

- Support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals [2022-A020](#)
- Continue the Work of the Task Force for Care of Creation & Environmental Racism [2022-A086](#)
- Divest from Fossil Fuels Companies & Invest in Renewable Energy [2022-A089](#)
- Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change including use of web tools to track carbon use (ie Carbon Footprint tools) [2018-C008](#)
- Set Forth Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration [2018-D009](#)
- Support Disaster Relief, Recovery, and Prevention [2018-D007](#)
- Call for Model Policies for Sustainable Church Land Use [2018-D053](#)
- Advocate for a Just Food System [2015-A091](#)

Act – Get Involved

Resources & Education

The Episcopal Church Creation Care Ministry Program promotes several tools and resources:

- [Moving Forward – A Guide to Building Momentum on Climate Solutions in Your Congregation and Community](#) is a valuable resource on reducing energy and identifies actions to build resilient communities.
- Endorses several partner organizations that can provide guest speakers, offer collaborative educational and faith based on-line programs, and maintain social media postings ([Partner Organizations – The Episcopal Church](#))
- Collaborative Congregational Partnerships utilizing The Diocese of Newark Asset Map tools [Diocese of Newark | Episcopal Asset Map](#)
- [Glossary on Sustainability, Creation Care, and Eco-Justice](#)

Engage your congregation or organization

- Study the [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#) and weekly or monthly add a goal or two to your Prayers of the People and Prayer Circles.
- Consider forming a Green Team at your Parish or a collaborative Green Team among Parishes if you do not already have one.
- Partner with other faith and local community organizations for Earth Day and Cleanup Days.
- Engage youth through Sunday School and VBS Materials [Climate Justice Curriculum for Youth and Young Adults](#)
[30 Days of Climate Change Actions](#)
[EPPN Series on Children: Kids and Climate Change – The Episcopal Church](#)
- Consider restoring some of your church property by completing and implementing a [Native Plant Property Restoration Plan](#) or installing a [Good News Gardens – The Episcopal Church](#) area to address food security. Then reimagine those spaces as sacred grounds to offer outdoor worship. [Reimagining Gardens as Sacred Space - The Diocese of Newark](#)

Education & Collaboration: Systemic change starts locally. Consider getting involved with our Diocesan Climate Action Group or touch base with the Commission for Justice, Peace, and Racial Reconciliation to find keynote speakers or to serve.

In the fall of 2023 the Episcopal Church partnered as a founding member with [One Home One Future](#) on an interfaith campaign to share resources among communities of faith. OneHomeOneFuture provides [7 Pathways Tools to Address Creation Care](#). OHOF provides resources, training, and consultation to assist congregations on their Creation Care journey of reconciliation and stewardship practices. As of Spring 2025, some of our congregations (Messiah Chester, St Stephens Millburn, St Paul's Chatham) as well as The Community of St John Baptist have already partnered with OHOF.

In 2024 The Diocese of Newark published this article on Creation Care [Honoring the call to act justly, love kindly, and walk humbly: Resources to address creation care and environmental racism - The Diocese of Newark](#)

Advocate for Change

But advocating for change will take changing policies. The work of advocacy within the Episcopal Church nationally falls under the [Office of Government Relations](#) (OGR) where you can sign up for action alerts and [Contact your Representatives](#).

OGR posts numerous updates and action alerts under [Creation Care – The Episcopal Church](#) In January 2025 OGR posted this call [Episcopal Church Statement on Creation Care – The Episcopal Church](#). .

And of course...

Pray

Gracious God, we recommit ourselves anew, this day to provide guidance towards addressing systemic patterns which have led to climate change,
Empower us to speak out for all of Creation,
Guide us to address the causes of environmental degradation and to acknowledge its impact in our communities and in our world.
Give us strength to work together to create a just society where no one or your creation is subject to future degradation and impact.
Grant us basic respect for the now and for the future especially for the marginalized.
Empower our religious leaders to gain wisdom from the ancient practices grounded in Scriptures and modelled by indigenous cultures.
Guide our engineers and scientists to find viable solutions.
Guide us to personally and collectively make wise choices for the creatures, plants, lands, waterways, air, and earth materials.

Amen.

Justice, Peace, and Racial Reconciliation Commission

Julie Crawford, Member and Climate Action Group Co-Leader