



# CLIMATE ☉ CARE CHALLENGE





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**As people of faith, we believe that God created this world, called it good and told humans to care for it. We are blessed to have this sacred task.**

Burning carbon-based fossil fuels—like coal, oil and natural gas—for our energy produces greenhouse gases which warm the planet. This causes an increase in devastating fires, floods, droughts, and storms. These effects often impact impoverished and vulnerable communities first and most deeply. While not all Presbyterians have the same passion around climate change, we all want a healthy world with clean air and clean water for everyone.

Changes made by us in the U.S. have a greater impact because of our energy usage. Americans use 40% of the world's oil and emit 25% of the world's greenhouse gases, even though we are less than 5% of the world's population. We can and must change these patterns.

In 2006 the General Assembly passed a policy about becoming “carbon neutral.” In this policy, Presbyterians are called to take the results of our energy consumption seriously, to pray asking for God's forgiveness and guidance, to reduce energy consumption, and to calculate carbon emissions and offset their negative impact. Children and youth are

passionately acting to protect the earth and their future, and they encourage us in our lives to become protectors of God's creation. As we follow this policy, we can help make this earth a safer place for our children and grandchildren.

We have the knowledge, skills, and resources to reduce our energy consumption and switch to alternative energy sources that are less harmful to the environment. Prompt action and leadership can keep global climate change from causing its worst impacts.

***Let's act now to answer God's call!***

*Carbon neutral achieves a state in which the net amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere is balanced by actions which reduce or offset these emissions.*

## Personal steps climate care

- **Walk/bicycle**, take public transportation, carpool, drive more efficiently, and avoid air travel.
- **Eat** a (more) plant-based diet or grow your own food.
- **Plant** a tree or help restore a wetland. [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)
- **Reduce** your energy use: replace your lightbulbs with LEDs, add insulation, air dry clothes or do an energy audit.
- **Reduce** waste: recycle, compost, and buy less.
- **Purchase** renewable energy or carbon offsets.
- **Talk** about why you care about climate change to your friends and family. [bit.ly/btletstalk](http://bit.ly/btletstalk)

## Outward steps climate care

- **Host an Earth Day Sunday worship** or become an Earth Care Congregation. ([www.pcusa.org/earthday](http://www.pcusa.org/earthday) and [www.earthcarecongregations.org](http://www.earthcarecongregations.org))
- **Learn about and support** groups and communities working for environmental justice. [bit.ly/ourpowercommunities](http://bit.ly/ourpowercommunities) and [bit.ly/e-racism](http://bit.ly/e-racism)
- **Make energy efficient** renovations, transition to more renewable energy at your church, school, or workplace.
- **Use your voice!** Advocate for strong climate action on local, national, and international levels. ([capwiz.com/pcusa](http://capwiz.com/pcusa))
- **Follow, learn from, and participate** in global conversations about climate change—from the UN climate talks to global partner stories ([usclimatenetwork.org](http://usclimatenetwork.org) and [www.presbyterianmission.org/together-justice/category/climate-change](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/together-justice/category/climate-change))
- **Challenge** your school, workplace, church or other institutions to set a goal, such as going 100% renewable energy or carbon neutral by 2030.
- **Help move** investments and pension funds to climate-supportive options and challenge climate-harming practices. ([bit.ly/TIAAact](http://bit.ly/TIAAact) and [bit.ly/ffpension](http://bit.ly/ffpension) and [bit.ly/invest-green](http://bit.ly/invest-green))

**For more resources and to accept the challenge go to:**  
[pcusa.org/climatecarechallenge](http://pcusa.org/climatecarechallenge)

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Visit [www.pcusa.org/climatecarechallenge](http://www.pcusa.org/climatecarechallenge) to download resources

## Accept the Challenge

visit [pcusa.org/climatecarechallenge](http://pcusa.org/climatecarechallenge) to commit to:

- 1** Make a personal step
- 2** Make an outward step (community, church, school, workplace, global)

