

CLIMATE & DISASTERS



Climate change intensifies floods, droughts, hurricanes and fires.

These disproportionately affect populations already made vulnerable by poverty and hunger. When we learn about and then work to address climate change and disasters, we stand with those who are poor and hungry.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A warming world means that more precipitation falls as rain, snow melts earlier, and evaporation and transpiration increase; this causes both hydrologic and agricultural **drought**.
- Hurricane Harvey dumped a year's worth of rain on Texas and Louisiana in a few days, breaking all U.S. rain records. This summer in South Asia, 1,300 people died and more than 45 million people were affected by storms and **flooding**. Both are serious threats to food security.
- Since the 1970's, the number of category 4 and 5 **hurricanes** has doubled.
- As **sea levels rise** with increasing temperatures, the risks of storm-surge flooding from hurricanes increases. Warmer sea water leads to more rapid water evaporation which leads to more intense hurricanes.
- **Forest fires** have doubled in the western U.S. over the last 35 years due to the 2.5°F increase in temperature caused by climate change.
- Warmer winters lead to more pests that attack and kill trees, and dead trees are the perfect tinder for **wildfires**.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Commit yourself to personal climate justice actions-- eating organic and local food, reducing energy use, investing in renewables, or getting an energy audit.
- Encourage your church to become an Earth Care Congregation or to go carbon neutral at pcusa.org/climate.
- Examine environmental justice in your area at scorecard.goodguide.com.
- Support Joining Hands partners in global work at pcusa.org/joininghands.
- Learn about grassroots Presbyterian Fossil Free PC(USA), corporate engagement efforts with the elected MRTI committee, and environmental investment options with Presbyterian Foundation.
- Pray every week for people in areas of the world affected by climate change.
- Contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for immediate relief and Presbyterian Hunger Program for long-term, root cause work for sustainability and resiliency.

WHAT DOES THE PC(USA) SAY?

"Earth-keeping today means insisting on sustainability—the ongoing capacity of natural and social systems to thrive together—which requires human beings to practice wise, humble, responsible stewardship, after the model of servanthood that we have in Jesus." (1990 policy "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice")