

**“Once we start living in a way that is people-friendly to all of God’s family, we will also be environment-friendly.”**

**—Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

## **Raise the Clamor for Climate Justice!**

Climate change is now widely recognized as a looming environmental danger that affects the entire global community. It is less widely recognized as a matter of global justice.

In the U.S., many people are waking up to the reality of our warming climate by taking small steps toward lessening their own adverse climate impact—for instance, by switching to energy-efficient light bulbs, weatherizing their homes, and buying more fuel-efficient vehicles.

But are our individual measures enough? What is our collective responsibility, as citizens of a nation responsible for a disproportionate amount of climate-warming emissions?

How can we act in solidarity with people in the developing world who already feel the impact of climate change—through worsening droughts, more frequent natural disasters, water scarcity, and increasing malnutrition and disease?

How can we respond as people of faith who believe in the principle of responsible care for Creation?

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is launching an important new initiative to promote reflection

about our role in climate change and to galvanize a common Catholic commitment to address its impacts. To guide Catholics in responding to this call to care for Creation and stand with poor and vulnerable people affected by our changing climate, the Coalition has developed the *St. Francis Pledge*. Read the pledge below. Then see the next page for resources that can prepare and guide you in your efforts to promote climate justice.

### **The St. Francis Pledge**

- **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God’s creation and protect poor and vulnerable people;
- **LEARN** about and educate others on the moral dimensions of climate change;
- **ASSESS** our participation—as individuals and organizations—in contributing to climate change (i.e., consumption and conservation);
- **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors contributing to climate change and;
- **ADVOCATE** Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact poor and vulnerable people.



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**NETWORK**  
A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

**NETWORK**—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace  
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**“Securing the blessings of liberty for ourselves and future generations requires that we shape our economic and regulatory systems so they are balanced and sustainable. We cannot have healthy human organisms on a sick planet because all life relies on interdependent, healthy ecosystems.”**

—Platform for the Common Good

## Pray

Begin each meeting with prayer, such as the prayer of St. Francis:

*Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds  
rich blessing on our way,  
O praise God! Alleluia!  
The fruits and flowers that verdant grow, let  
them [her] praise abundant show.  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.*

This and additional prayer resources can be found at: [www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/resources/prayer.html](http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/resources/prayer.html)

## Learn

How is climate change impacting different parts of the world, and especially people in poverty?

What are possible policy responses?

- ❖ [www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/resources/education.html](http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/resources/education.html)
- ❖ [www.maryknollogc.org/ecology/climate-change.htm](http://www.maryknollogc.org/ecology/climate-change.htm)
- ❖ [www.pewclimate.org](http://www.pewclimate.org)

**“Ecological responsibility requires that we manage and distribute material resources across all humanity and into future generations.”**

—Platform for the Common Good

## Assess

How do I and the organizations to which I belong contribute to the sources of climate change?

How can I be a part of the solution?

- ❖ [www.coolcongregations.org](http://www.coolcongregations.org)
- ❖ [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
- ❖ [www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx)

## Act

Commit to change personal behaviors harmful to our climate and to work with congregations and businesses to reduce their contributions to adverse climate change.

- ❖ [www.greenpeace.org/usa/getinvolved/green-guide](http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/getinvolved/green-guide)
- ❖ [www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/)
- ❖ [www.theregenerationproject.org/takeaction.htm](http://www.theregenerationproject.org/takeaction.htm)

## Advocate

For policies to reduce our individual and collective energy use, move our economy toward reliance on clean energy, and fund climate adaptation programs for vulnerable populations already losing their land and crops.

- ❖ [www.catholicsandclimatechange.org](http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org)
- ❖ [www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/)
- ❖ [www.nrdc.org/legislation/default.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/legislation/default.asp)

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