History


- 1992 program “Renewing the Earth: An Environmental Justice Program.” To promote a distinctively Catholic approach to environmental concerns, to foster stewardship of God’s creation and to link environmental protection and social justice.

- 2001: Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good

- 2006: Catholic Coalition on Climate Change
Climate Change: a Faith Issue

- God created the earth (Col 1:15.23, In Christ All Things Have Their Being).
- God said it was good (Gen 2:4-7).
- God entrusted us to take care of it (Gen 2:15).
- We are called to be wise & faithful stewards of God’s resources; to use them for the benefit of all (Gen 9).
- “The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole.” (Benedict XVI, 06. 29.09)
Today, we all see that man can destroy the foundations of his existence, his earth, hence, that we can no longer simply do what we like or what seems useful and promising at the time with this earth of ours ... we must respect the inner laws of creation ... if we wish to survive.

...And if we must be obedient to the voice of the earth, this is even truer for the voice of human life.

July 25, 2007
Prudence  Poverty  The Common Good
Climate Change: a Life Issue
Climate Change and Poverty
What are the potential impacts of climate change?
Encouraging signs of greater public awareness of the interrelatedness of the challenges we face have been emerging...

Archbishop Celestino Migliore
Catholic Climate Covenant:
The St. Francis Pledge to Care For Creation and the Poor
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The St. Francis Pledge

✓ PRAY about our duty to Creation and Poor People
✓ LEARN about Catholic teaching and climate change
✓ ASSESS our contributions to the problem
✓ ACT to change behaviors and choices
✓ ADVOCATE on behalf of those without a voice
Polling Shows Progress

Zogby International Poll: 1,000 Catholics. March/April 2009

Catholics who have or are willing to:

- Pray: 47% Willing, 53% Have
- Learn: 54% Willing, 46% Have
- Assess: 43% Willing, 57% Have
- Act: 66% Willing, 34% Have
- Advocate: 28% Willing, 72% Have

I am persuaded to do something about climate change because:

- 83% It shows respect for Creation
- 66% It leads to a safer world for my children
- 64% I am obligated to protect poor from harmful impacts
- 65% I am obligated to help those with fewest resources
What Others are Doing

SUPPORT

- Archbishops of Cincinnati and Hartford and Bishops of Stockton, San Jose and Green Bay, Houma Thibodaux, Rochester endorse
- 24 National Catholic Organizations promote the effort.
What Others are Doing

- **St. Matthias: Redwood City, CA**
  - Focus group on city’s Climate Action Plan
  - 100 Mile Potluck

- **St. William: Louisville, KY**
  - Solar Panels produce 30% of electrical needs

- **St. Clement: Lancaster, WI**
  - 93% efficient boilers
  - Insulated 18,000ft² attic
  - 20% of costs covered with energy grant
What Others are Doing

- St. John the Evangelist Kindergarten: Naples, FL
  - Gave copy of St. Francis Pledge to all students and students wrote own pledges
  - Discussed “Who’s Under Your Carbon Footprint” Video
  - Gathered litter around the school as a service project
- Ambrosio Family: Little Falls, NJ
  - Replaced gas mower with push mower
  - Brita water instead of bottled
  - Clothes line instead of dryer
  - Lights and computers off when not needed
  - Installed geothermal: carbon footprint down 70%
“The real ‘inconvenient truth’ is that those who contribute least to climate change will be affected the most and have the least capacity to cope or escape.”

USCCB testimony on the Religious and Moral Dimensions of Global Climate Change before the Senate
US Bishops’ Core Principles:

- Climate change is real
- Prudence demands action, governments have a role to play
- Climate policies should not make the conditions of the poor worse
- Domestically:
  - rises in energy costs should not disproportionately impact poor families
  - workers in impacted industries will need resources
- Internationally:
  - developing counties must help poorest countries adapt
Cap and Trade vs. Carbon Tax?

House Bill:
- Good on domestic
- Bad on international adaptation

Senate Bill:
- Senator Kerry champions IA (Lugar, key)
Catholic Climate Covenant: The St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor

What You Can Do

- Join by Pledging
- Encourage others (your family, workplace, parish)
- Explore the website and sign up to receive weekly e-mails
- Highlight (link) the Covenant on your university's website
- Write a brief reflection about the Covenant and care of Creation and climate change for your school newspaper.

catholicclimatecovenant.org
Who's under your carbon footprint?

The impact of climate change falls heaviest on the poor. Our faith invites us to tread lightly on a thin and fragile earth.

Our care and investments in energy conservation and mass — whether burning a larger carbon footprint — means more climate change harm and harm to the poor who will be hit hardest. With more droughts, floods, hunger, and joblessness.

As faithful Catholics, we have a moral obligation to care for Earth's Creator and the poor. Pope Benedict XVI notes, “There is no way in a democracy to make courageous decisions to curb climate change.”

Take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and Our Faith: Pray, Learn, Act, and Advocate.

Join Catholics taking action in our families, parishes, schools and communities to reduce our carbon footprint. Care for "beautifull earth" 10% and let our space on behalf of Creator and the Poor.

Go to CatholicClimateCovenant.org