

The Episcopal Church and Climate Change

The Episcopal Church is a powerful witness for addressing climate change at the local, national and international level. Our General Convention policy calls on lawmakers **to significantly reduce carbon emissions within this century, to promote renewable energy technologies, and to financially support developing nations as they transition away from fossil fuels.** Grounded in the understanding that environmental sustainability and economic poverty are inexorably linked, we strive to engage climate change mitigation and adaptation with a particular emphasis on the needs of vulnerable populations.

Advocacy engagement

The Episcopal Church engages the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process through educating and empowering our grassroots base to advocate to policymakers for a strong international climate agreement. **This agreement should reduce global carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, and ensure that all member states contribute their fair share to lowering global carbon emissions, accounting for the economic and environmental realities within each state.** The Church is also sending a delegation of Episcopalians to the COP 21 to communicate these principles directly to decision-makers in Paris.

We understand that a strong international climate agreement depends upon robust funding for developing states to transition away from fossil fuels, and ambitious carbon reduction goals for every member party of the UNFCCC. The Episcopal Church continues to call upon members of U.S. Congress to support the Green Climate Fund and has communicated to policymakers the grassroots support of Episcopalians for the new carbon emission reduction rules initiated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Additionally, in partnership with the Gwich'in Indians who live in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve in Alaska – approximately 90% of whom are Episcopalians – we've worked to prevent harmful oil drilling in this sacred land, a practice that would not only increase carbon emissions but would also threaten the subsistence livelihood of the Gwich'in people.

Programmatic engagement

In May 2013, The Episcopal Church partnered with the Church of Sweden and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to convene an international ecumenical summit on climate change in Washington that was made accessible to the wider Church online. In March 2015, The Episcopal Church convened a thought-leadership live event and online forum in Los Angeles entitled "Climate Change: A Community Response."

We also award grants to dioceses in which innovative environmental work is taking place and are investing in new and creative ecumenical partnerships for ecological advocacy and witness. In the past triennium, The Episcopal Church has allocated \$32,500 for eco-justice grants and \$96,000 for eco-justice fellowships to Episcopalians who are pioneering networks, educational initiatives, and programmatic engagement around environmental stewardship.

