

The Christian Response

The Church has continually emphasised our relationship with Creation. We are its Stewards. We have the responsibility to care for God's Creation with love and wisdom.

At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms.. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family.

United States Bishops, 2001

Reasons to Care for Creation

- God is the creator of the Universe
- God has blessed and called all that is created "very good"
- God's plan for Creation is of harmony and order
- God's creatures share a common home

Christians, in particular, realise that their responsibility within Creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith.

John Paul II

What can we do?

Some suggestions

Examine our lifestyles!

- Change to energy saving light bulbs
- Turn down the central heating 1 or 2 degrees
- Don't leave TVs etc on standby
- Boil only the amount of water you need.
- Drink tap water rather than bottled water

Think Waste!

- Recycle, Re-use, Reduce
- Reject unnecessary packaging
- Buy a shopping bag
- Car share
- Walk more, drive less

Get informed! Get involved!

- Christian Ecology Link:
<http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/>
- Eco-Congregation Scotland
<http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland/>
- Live Simply
<http://www.livesimply.org.uk/>

Only when the last tree has died,
and the last river been poisoned,
and the last fish been caught,
will we realise we cannot eat money
Cree saying

God saw all He had made and indeed it was very good.....

Genesis 1:31

Called to Care
for
God's Creation



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Justice and Peace Commission
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Climate change

Scientists and governments generally agree that climate change is the most grave environmental threat facing the world today.

"Climate change is the most complex and serious environmental challenge of the 21st century"

UK Environmental Agency

The Earth's temperature has risen by about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the past century, and even more quickly during the past two decades.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that most of the warming is the result of human activities. By burning fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil and by clearing forests, we have increased the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and so temperatures are rising.

...lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing remedial measures...

Quoted in

www.catholicearthcareoz.net

Consequences

- Melting of glaciers causing a rise in sea levels which will be disastrous for huge numbers of people living in low-lying coastal areas—some of the poorest people in the world.

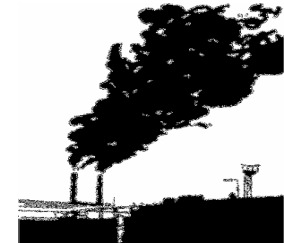
- Heat waves will be more frequent and more intense
- Droughts and wildfires will occur more often
- The number of refugees could increase dramatically
- Loss of wildlife, especially endangered species

Today the ecological crisis has assumed such proportions as to be the responsibility of everyoneIts various aspects demonstrate the need for concerted efforts aimed at establishing duties and obligations that belong to individuals, peoples, states and the international community."

John Paul II

Our Responsibility?

- People in Britain are responsible for emitting as much as 50 times more CO₂ than people in the poorest countries



- The U.S. alone produces 25% of the world's greenhouse gases
- The rate of destruction of Brazil's Amazon rose to its second highest recorded level in 2003. The Amazon, an area larger than Western Europe, has been described as the "lungs of the world" because of its vast capacity to produce oxygen
- We as consumers send powerful signals to the market. We can make our choices count