

Policy Priorities for 26th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Glasgow, November 2021

The Episcopal Church is committed to growing loving, liberating and life-giving relationships across the human family and with all of God's creation. Our commitment to the call of Jesus has led us to engage in mitigation and right-sizing our lives as individuals and ministries, and to stand with frontline communities in laboring for environmental justice, ending environmental racism and finding a swift and just solution to the climate crisis.

Therefore, during the COP26 negotiations, we urge Parties and all other stakeholders to embrace these priorities:

- **ACCELERATE AMBITION.** We urge ALL stakeholders – member states, private sector, civil society and individuals — to accelerate ambition and reduce carbon consumption and emissions to keep global warming to 1.5C degrees above pre-industrial levels. We urge member states to fulfill their Paris Agreement commitments and intensify the impact of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), focusing particularly on nature-based solutions, sustainable cities and the blue economy. We applaud ambitious commitments by member states, including the U.S.'s new NDC of 50-52%.
- **INCREASE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCING LOSS AND DAMAGE.** We urge all stakeholders to “leave no one behind” in accordance with Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, by prioritizing and sustaining multilateral commitments to the most vulnerable populations. We urge member states to offer generous political and financial support for the Warsaw International Mechanism, including an accountable and effective governing structure. We encourage UN officials and negotiators to recognize the unique sectoral contributions of faith-based communities in confronting climate change and to work with them as they respond to the spiritual and psychosocial needs of those facing climate grief and trauma.
- **PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND AFFIRM CLIMATE AND ECOJUSTICE IN ADDRESSING ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION.** We commend member states who have committed to adaptation and mitigation solutions and ask for swift action, significantly increased adaptation finance, progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation, and support for multinational and multi-sectoral initiatives. We ask negotiators to affirm climate justice, reject environmental racism and prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable, including small island developing states and least developed countries, Indigenous peoples, climate migrants, youth and women (in accordance with the Gender Action Plan). We urge negotiators to design solutions that protect the human rights and authority of Indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent mandated by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We ask negotiators to ensure a just transition for fossil-fuel dependent communities.
- **BOOST CLIMATE FINANCE AND MECHANISMS.** We urge member states to fulfill their financial pledges to the Green Climate Fund and other climate finance mechanisms and to enhance their reporting capacities in order to improve honest tracking, transparency and accountability. We support the \$100 billion mobilization goal.

As part of our own commitment to lead sustainable lives, The Episcopal Church is taking thoughtful action and making choices that right-size our impact on the Earth, bearing witness to the challenges facing our frontline communities, strengthening the adaptive resilience of climate-impacted peoples and supporting vulnerable populations coping with irreparable loss and damage.

- We have introduced a churchwide [Covenant for the Care of Creation](#) that invites individuals, churches, dioceses and Episcopal institutions to commit to deeper formation, public advocacy, and mitigation.
- Over 2,000 households and congregations are measuring carbon footprint via our [Carbon Tracker](#).
- We are setting and working to achieve church-wide goals for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
- We are working on an ambitious reforestation project in Haiti and supporting forest protection in the Amazon.
- We are planting “[Good News Gardens](#)” and partnering locally to improve access to good, affordable food.

The Episcopal Church has participated in the UNFCCC Conference of Parties since COP 21 in 2015. We are more committed now than ever to dramatic action; we urge negotiators and other stakeholders to ramp up their action, as well.



Follow this QR code for Episcopal climate action resources, a video message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, The Episcopal vision for creation care, and more!

Follow The Episcopal Church's COP26 delegation on Twitter and Facebook using #EpiscopalClimate. For year-round information on Episcopal environmental justice, follow @EpiscoClimate on Twitter and Episcopal Creation Care on Facebook. For UN-focused COP updates, follow @EpiscopalUN on Twitter and Facebook and #EpiscopalUN.



How is our Church implementing the Paris Agreement goals and addressing the climate emergency?

- **Enacting churchwide resolutions and policies on climate change, environmental issues and sustainable development.** The Episcopal Church's governing bodies affirmed support for the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goals in 2016. In 2018, our governing bodies passed 19 resolutions relating to creation care, from adaptation projects to fossil fuel divestment, carbon tracking to sequestration, ending environmental racism and supporting the rights and needs of Indigenous peoples and women.
- **Partnering with the United Nations, UNFCCC and UNEP as an observer.** The Episcopal Church is a Christian denomination with 2 million members in more than 15 countries in North America, Latin America & the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. It enjoys ECOSOC accreditation and DGC association with the UN, and observer status with the UNFCCC (since 2017) and UNEP (since 2020). The Church promotes environmental priorities across various UN frameworks and meetings, including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Participating annually at COPs from the Paris Agreement forward.** Beginning with COP21 in 2015, The Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop has sent delegations to the annual UN Climate Change Conferences to advocate for strong and just climate policies. The Church also educates Episcopalians about the COP negotiations and advocacy opportunities to facilitate their engagement with Paris Agreement goals in their homes, communities and churches.
- **Collaborating with ecumenical, interfaith and civil society partners.** As a member province of the worldwide Anglican Communion (third largest Christian communion, with 85 million members in 165 countries), The Episcopal Church joins with Anglican and other faith-based partners in supporting spiritual approaches to climate action and advocating for climate friendly policies and practices, including GreenFaith, Interfaith Power and Light, ecoAmerica, and Creation Justice Ministries. At COP26, The Episcopal Church is partnering with the Anglican Communion, ACT Alliance/ World Council of Churches/Lutheran World Federation ecumenical delegation, and the Interfaith Liaison Committee for the sake of joint advocacy, social witness, prayer and worship.
- **Accelerating ambition targets.** The Episcopal Church has raised ambition towards implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency through resolutions and is developing a churchwide ambition as part of our Creation Covenant.
- **Supporting the Green Climate Fund.** The Episcopal Church has urged support for the Green Climate Fund in past years through its [Episcopal Public Policy Network \(EPPN\)](#), a network of Episcopalians that organizes grassroots advocacy efforts directed toward U.S. government officials. We are currently asking the U.S. to fulfill its unmet \$2 billion pledge.
- **Promoting adaptation and mitigation.** The Episcopal Church funds projects to advance climate change education, advocacy and adaptation, and awards grants to ministries undertaking innovative environmental work. Between 2015 and 2021, the Church has allocated \$1.5 million for ecojustice work, pioneering networks, educational initiatives, and programmatic engagement around environmental stewardship. The Episcopal Church also supports the development of a [Carbon Tracker](#), designed by the Diocese of California to mobilize individuals, households, faith communities and the whole church for climate action.
- **Helping people face Loss and Damage.** Episcopalians follow Jesus' example in prioritizing concern for the most marginalized and vulnerable. As more and more people suffer from climate-induced Loss and Damage, the Church is providing hope and practical action, offering teachings on faith and creation, hosting community centers for action and refuge, and offering trauma counseling, liturgies, prayer and spiritual support for climate grief.
- **Standing with communities at risk.** The Episcopal Church is a strong partner in the Faith for the Arctic Network, a diverse coalition of religious organizations committed to permanently safeguarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and supporting the Gwich'in people, an Indigenous Alaskan population heavily impacted by climate change. The Church also supports fossil-fuel dependent communities, understanding that a just transition must account for their needs.

For more information, contact our Presiding Bishop's delegation at COP26:

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