

# Episcopal Creation Care Pledge

As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we long to grow loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with the whole of God's Creation. Together, we pledge to protect and renew the Earth and all who call it home. Together, we are living the Way of Love and make this commitment to specific actions. Learn more about our shared call at [www.episcopalchurch.org/creation](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation).

**Loving:** We will share our stories of love and concern for the Earth and link with others who care about protecting the sacred web of life.

Because I want to share my strong love of God and God's Creation, I will...

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Examples (get even more ideas in the vision document that follows)

- Record a 1-minute video answering the questions "When have you experienced wonder in God's Creation? What is your commitment to protect what you love?" Stretch yourself and post to social media networks or to [creation@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:creation@episcopalchurch.org).
- Form a Care of Creation group in your congregation or diocese, or connect with a group in your local community. Stretch yourself and organize your group to apply for a Creation Care Grant.

**Liberating:** We will stand with those most vulnerable to the harmful effects of environmental degradation and climate change – women, children, poor people and communities of color, refugees, migrants.

Because I want to stand in solidarity with my sisters and brothers, especially those being harmed by environmental degradation and climate change, I will...

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Examples (get even more ideas in the vision document that follows)

- Sign on for alerts from the Episcopal Public Policy Network at <https://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org>. Stretch yourself and engage in advocacy around an environmental justice issue close to your heart.
- Learn more about a specific way that climate change or environmental degradation affects people near you. Stretch yourself and listen to the stories of hurting neighbors, and find ways to ally with them.

**Life-Giving:** We will change our habits and choices in order to live more simply, humbly and gently on the Earth.

Because I want to change my own life so that my flourishing is woven together with the flourishing of the Earth, I will...

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Examples (get even more ideas in the vision document that follows)

- Personally use the carbon tracker at [www.diocal.org/climate](http://www.diocal.org/climate). Stretch yourself and organize your whole congregation to sign up and track their carbon footprint.
- Change your eating habits by consuming less meat and reducing the amount of food your family wastes. Stretch yourself by committing to a goal, like one meatless meal per day.

# An Episcopal Vision for Care of Creation

The Jesus Movement is the ongoing community of people whose lives are centered on Jesus of Nazareth. We follow him into loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with God, with each other and with Creation.

As a whole church, we have promised to place the care of God's Creation at the heart of our common life. Together, we have taken up church-wide action in order to safeguard the integrity of Creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth. Learn more about our shared call at [www.episcopalchurch.org/creation](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation).

Below are goals and a vision for Care of Creation, developed by the Presiding Bishop's Office and leaders of the Advisory Council on Stewardship of Creation and in alignment with actions by the 79th General Convention (concurring resolutions indicated with titles like A013 or C008). Search for the resolutions at [www.generalconvention.org/legislative-information-gc2018](http://www.generalconvention.org/legislative-information-gc2018).

**Loving – Goal #1** – Create and sustain a network of Episcopalians dedicated to the care and protection of the whole Creation, especially by providing grants and cultivating circles for Story Sharing among practitioners in local and regional ministries.

- Introduce new staff position with special attention to Care of Creation (A013)
- Continue Care of Creation Grants program (A013, A008)
- Facilitate development of networks of practitioners, by state and/or affinity (A008)
- Link with StorySharing work like Beloved Community StorySharing Project, Called to Transformation, and Climate Reality to prepare to share stories of our love for God and Creation

**Liberating – Goal #2** – Stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable victims of the impact of climate change – particularly women, poor people, and people of color – as part of seeking the liberation and flourishing of all God's people.

- Develop 2-3 eco-justice sites where the church invests significant energy and resources
- Oppose environmental racism, sexism, classism (A011, B027)
- Support advocacy and governmental engagement via the Office of Governmental Relations, the Episcopal Public Policy Network, and participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of Parties (A018, C008)
- Advocate to protect vulnerable people/lands/species, especially in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Resolution X023)
- Inhibit exploitative extraction practices (A011)

**Life-Giving – Goal #3** – Set climate mitigation benchmarks as individuals and as a church, in order to live more simply, humbly, and gently on the Earth.

- Develop, curate and distribute formation resources to support Episcopalians who wish to commit to simple, humble, gentle living on the Earth
- Support use of the carbon tracker at [www.diocal.org/climate](http://www.diocal.org/climate) (C008)
- Promote conscious food decisions and local, sustainable agriculture (C049)
- Support use of the carbon tax and carbon offsets (A014, C020)
- Ask diocesan officials to track energy use as part of the parochial report, and promote energy and water efficiency across the church (C039, A213)
- Adopt the Paris Accord at state, regional and local levels (A010)
- Work toward regenerative agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and habitat restoration (D053)
- Help communities to transition to clean energy economies and encourage stewardship of creation with church-owned lands (D081, D053)
- Promote ocean health and phase out use of bottled water in church-related facilities (C063)
- Incentivize renewable energy and track fossil fuel divestment/reinvestment (A020, C021)