



Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 13 Targets:

13.1) **Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity** to climate-related hazards and national disasters in all countries

13.2) **Integrate climate change** measures **into national policies**, strategies, and planning

13.3) Improve education, awareness-raising, and **human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation**, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning

13.a) **Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

13.b) **Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management** in least developed countries and small island developing states, including focusing on women, youth, and local and marginalized communities

See further resources on goal 13 and climate change on page 5.

Take action toward achieving goal 13

Take action locally:

- **Congregational actions:** *Engage members of your congregation in action through volunteering, advocacy, exercises, or wider congregational changes.*
 - Check out the [Cool Congregations Calculator](#) to assess your congregation's current energy use, then ask about switching your congregation to renewable energy sources.
 - Use [Interfaith Power and Light's Guide](#) [PDF] on making your congregation energy efficient, along with their other [tips to save energy in your congregation](#).
 - Learn more about [UU organizations already relying on renewable energy resources](#).
 - Make a congregation-wide commitment to **eat less meat and dairy**, especially beef. Moving toward a plant-based diet and decreasing meat consumption is an [essential tool in combatting climate change](#). Start by avoiding meat and dairy products in coffee hour.
 - Encourage your congregation to start a [Climate Action Team](#) to get involved with and raise awareness for environmental justice issues at local, national, and international levels.
 - Challenge the members of your congregation to **bike, walk, or take public transportation to church** instead of driving. Hold a table at coffee hour to provide information about the various sustainable transport options in your area
 - Use these websites to locate [options by state](#) and [alternative fueling station locators](#) in the US
 - Use this guide to learn about options in [Canada](#), especially under *Sustainable Transportation Initiatives*.
 - If your community does not yet have enough sustainable transportation options, [learn how you can successfully introduce them](#), and write a letter to your local government representative.
 - Have your congregation [calculate their carbon footprints](#), then introduce ways to reduce your carbon footprint using resources from [carbonfund.org](#), [Carbon Offsets to Alleviate Poverty](#), [Mashable](#) and [Brave New Climate](#).
 - Encourage your local businesses (start with the one you work for) to join the [UN Global Compact](#) or [Green Business Network](#) (US) which help businesses commit to sustainability.
- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for climate action in the U.S. and Canada. Collect signatures at your congregation by booking a table during coffee hour.*

- [Tell the government of Canada](#) to set a target of abolishing all fossil fuels by 2050.
- [Declare your support](#) for President Obama's Clean Power Plan.
- [Urge the United States Government](#) to pass a carbon tax, which would significantly lower carbon emissions nationwide.
- [Tell Congress](#) to end Fossil Fuel Handouts.
- [Call on the Minister of Environment and Climate Change in Ontario](#) to deny Nestle's 10-year extension on their water taking permit in Aberfoyle, ON.
- Tell your government to protect and not sell [2 million acres of federal lands in the US](#) and up to [99% of lakes and rivers in Canada](#)
- [Urge Publix supermarket](#) to switch to plant-based plastic bags.
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on climate change in the U.S. and Canada at your congregation.*
 - [Pump](#): A history of oil in the United States with an emphasis on how we can end the fossil fuel industry's current control of American energy.
 - [An Inconvenient Truth](#): a documentary film about former United States Vice President Al Gore's campaign to educate citizens about global warming, woven with the science behind global warming itself.
 - [Carbon Nation](#): a film focused on technological and community-based energy solutions to the growing worldwide
 - [A Climate of Change](#): a Canadian produced aimed to debunk the skepticism of global warming deniers through insights from Canada's foremost Climate Scientists, and examine Canada's checkered history of environmental advocacy.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on climate change in the U.S. and Canada.*
 - [An Environmental History of Canada](#): Laurel Sefton MacDowell discusses how Canadian history and culture have led to the country's current problems related to climate change.
 - [Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution - and How It Can Renew America](#): Thomas L. Friedman explores the dangers of a changing climate and how the United States would benefit from developing its renewable energy industry.
 - [The West without Water: What Past Floods, Droughts and Other Climatic Clues Tell Us about Tomorrow](#): B. Lynn Ingram and Frances Malamud-Roam document the tumultuous climate of the American West over twenty millennia, and examine the region's current water crisis from the perspective of climate history.
 - [America's Climate Century: What Climate Change Means for America in the 21st Century and What Americans Can Do about It](#): Sen. Rob Hogg calls on Americans to make the fight against climate change our new national purpose.

- [*Hard Choices: Climate Change in Canada*](#): Harold Coward and Andrew J. Weaver compile a collection of essays by leading Canadian scientists, engineers, social scientists and humanists which offers an overview and assessment of climate change and its impacts on Canada.
- **NGOs working toward the cause**: *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working toward climate action in the U.S. and Canada.*
 - [The National Center for Science Education](#) does educational and legal work to ensure that scientific topics such as climate change are taught accurately in American public schools.
 - [Idle No More](#) is a group of mostly Canadian Native North Americans which works to pressure government and industry to protect the environment.
 - [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) works to empower citizens to connect with and influence their members of Congress to address climate change.
 - [Carbonfund.org](#) provides carbon offsetting and greenhouse gas reduction options to individuals, businesses and organizations in America.
 - [Climate Action Network Canada](#) unites labor, development, faith-based and aboriginal groups with the common goal of fighting climate change.
 - [American Forests](#) advocates for the protection and expansion of America's forests, and has planted more than 45 million trees since 1990.

Take action internationally:

- **Petitions**: *Sign the following petitions advocating for climate action across the globe. Collect signatures at your congregation by booking a table during coffee hour.*
 - [Tell the government of Australia](#) to put meaningful climate policy in place to curb the country's rising levels of carbon emissions.
 - [Urge world leaders](#) to keep the promises they made at the Paris Agreement.
 - [Tell the Irish government](#) to stop investing in climate change.
 - [Call on the UK government](#) to end subsidies for the Drax power station which burned more wood than was produced in all of the UK in 2015.
 - [Protest the silencing of climate activists](#) in France.
- **Films for screening**: *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on climate change across the world at your congregation.*
 - [The Island President](#): a documentary on the struggle of Mohamed Nasheed, the first democratically elected president of the Maldives, to bring about climate action and save his own country from rapidly rising sea levels.
 - [Chasing Ice](#): a documentary showcasing the images from the Arctic to help convey the already drastic effects of global warming.
 - [Meat the Truth](#): a documentary which specifically highlights intensive livestock production contributes as one of the most important causes of climate change.

- [*The 11th Hour*](#): a documentary narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio which examines the state of the global environment, and details visionary and practical solutions for restoring the planet's ecosystem.

Book club reads: *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on climate change across the world.*

- [*An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It*](#): Former American Vice President Al Gore describes the science of climate change and asserts its deadline if not mitigated soon.
- [*The Rising Sea*](#): Orrin H. Pilkey analyzes the impact sea level rise is already having on island and low-level populations around the world, and what can be done to make communities less vulnerable to its adverse effects.
- [*Six Degrees*](#): acclaimed author Mark Lynas uses graphic journalistic prose to explain the consequences of human pollution, degree by degree.
- [*This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*](#): Naomi Klein argues that the climate crisis challenges us to abandon the "free market" ideology of our time, restructure the global economy, and remake our political systems. [Movie version](#) also available.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working toward climate action across the world.*
 - [Earthjustice](#) is a nonprofit law organization that defends environmental causes across the United States and worldwide.
 - [Greenpeace](#) works in 55 countries to prevent and counter the effects of climate change.
 - [Practical Action](#) uses simple building technologies to increase developing communities' resistance to hazards caused by climate change.
 - [Rising Tide](#) is an international, all-volunteer, grassroots network of groups and individuals who organize locally, promote community-based solutions to the climate crisis and take direct action to confront the root causes of climate change.
 - [350.org](#) unites climate activists in 189 nations in organizing climate-focused campaigns, projects and actions.

Further resources on goal 13 and climate change:

- [Goal 13 targets and related publications](#) on climate change
- [UN facts and figures](#) on Goal 13 and the state of climate action worldwide
- [Global Goals images](#) relating to Goal 13
- [UN Development Program \(UNDP\)'s role in achieving goal 13](#)
- [Global Citizen Report](#) on international progress made to reach goal 13 and the future steps necessary to continue toward its achievement.