

United States Catholic Mission Association Resolution on Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

Approved during the 2009 Mission Conference

Today the great gift of God's creation is exposed to serious dangers and lifestyles which can degrade it. Environmental pollution is making particularly unsustainable the lives of the poor of the world. We must pledge ourselves to take care of creation and to share its resources in solidarity. Pope Benedict XVI

Let it be resolved that:

As people of faith we foster the appreciation and interconnectedness of all creation. To build on the strength of our 2006 resolution and previous actions, we, the members of the United States Catholic Mission Association, join the Leadership Council of Women Religious to take measurable steps to reduce our congregational, community and personal carbon footprint.

Rationale

Whereas across the world, people living in poverty who have fewer resources and emit less carbon dioxide will suffer the most dire consequences of a changing climate.

Whereas even within the United States the poorer communities will bear an unequal burden of the impacts of climate change.

Whereas the evidence is strong that by reducing one's carbon footprint, (the measure of the amount of carbon dioxide generated by a particular lifestyle) will have a positive effect on Earth in all its dimensions.

Whereas reducing our carbon footprint will demonstrate both our respect for creation and our concern for those most impacted by climate change.

Suggested Actions

1. Set a measurable goal for yourself and for your community to reduce carbon footprints. For specific suggestions see www.carbonfootprint.com and www.timeforchange.org
2. Monitor national policy development on global warming and influence legislation.

Resources

- **National Council of Churches of Christ**, "Carbon Reduction Campaign"
- **Stop Global Warming:** www.stopglobalwarming.org
- **The Catholic Coalition of Climate Change:** www.catholicsandclimatechange.org
- **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**, studies and documents: www.usccb.org
 - *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good* (2001) US
 - *Bishops Call for Moral Focus on Global Climate Change; New Report Demands Urgent Attention:* Office of Media Relations (Feb. 7, 2007)