

What can we do about... Climate Change



"When our land is submerging slowly but visibly, any ideological debates on ecological issues are only a luxury of the privileged communities"

Rev Tafue Molu Lusama, Pacific Eklasia Kelisiano, Tuvalu.



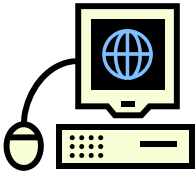
Why is the Church of Scotland Interested in Climate Change?

The Church of Scotland is concerned that climate change poses a serious and immediate threat to people everywhere, particularly to the poor of the earth; and that climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God's creation. We accept the need to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases urgently to avoid dangerous and irreversible climate change; and to promote a more equitable and sustainable use of energy.

Think about your life and your beliefs.

How do you look after creation and how do you love your neighbour? Is your way of life harming others and contributing to the problem. Are you in a congregation? Then why not become an Eco-Congregation? Further details are at:

<http://www.ecocongregation.org/scotland/>



Be aware.

There's no excuse for ignorance. The web is full of information on climate change and scarcely a day goes by without a TV or newspaper story on climate change. For a start, try the BBC climate change website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/climate/>

Get involved.

There are groups across Scotland responding to climate change. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is an umbrella for groups taking action to promote awareness and pressing for change:

<http://www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org/index.php>.



Cut your fuel bills.

Quite simply use less gas, electricity or oil. Read your electricity and gas meters regularly. Try using an online calculator to help you monitor consumption. Check the website:

<http://www.carboncalculator.com/>

Make your house a model of efficiency.

Are you insulated? Contact the Energy Saving Trust for more information on how to warm up your home:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>



Don't shop till you drop.



Consumer madness helps no one. Try to buy only what you need and no more. Do you shop locally? Find out about farmers markets at: <http://www.scottishfarmersmarkets.co.uk/> and Fairtrade at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>



Do you have to fly?

Getting away to the sun is nice but flying is a growing source of greenhouse gases. You can offset your carbon emissions but it's a poor substitute for polluting in the first place. See the

Church of Scotland website for more details about carbon offsetting:

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/churchsociety/csclimate.htm#offsetting>

Support renewable energy.

Wind turbines, wave and water power help reduce our dependence on coal burning power stations. And in many places in Scotland a wood burning stove is a good option too:

<http://www.therenewableenergycentre.co.uk/>



Walk, cycle or hop on a bus.

If you can't cut cars out of your life at least count the miles, and please, don't drive a gas guzzler! The Sustrans website can help find a cycle route near you: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/default.asp>

Finally, have fun!

Cutting the carbon out of your life does not mean being miserable. It could just open the door to a healthier and happier life!



Bible Study and Discussion Material

These links will direct you to some excellent resource material to help you to learn more about, discuss and take action on climate change.

- **Stem the Tide: Bible studies and worship resources**
The Methodist Church

http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opento_world.content&cmid=2140

- **What does the Bible say about climate change?**
Methodist Relief and Development Fund

<http://www.mrdf.org.uk/pages/resource-archive-2.php#LSP08>

- **Find a list of other Bible Studies here:**
Amberlinks

<http://www.amberlinks.org/faith-focus/bible-studies-on-climate-change.html>

- **Carbon Fast**
Tearfund

<http://www.tearfund.org/Resources/Carbon+fast.htm>

For more information about the project 'Responding to Climate Change' see:

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/churchsociety/csclimate.htm>

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