

Climate Conversations

Many of us are worried about how climate change is affecting God's beautiful creation, and think it should be addressed during Canada's Covid-19 economic recovery. But what can we do? One simple but effective action we can take is having conversations with climate deniers and the unconcerned. Even short conversations about droughts, storms, famines, species loss, rising sea levels and climate refugees may move them to support needed political action.

How can we have effective conversations?

In November an ecumenical faith-based initiative for climate justice, **For the Love of Creation** sponsored four zoom meetings on how to have these conversations, and published three conversation guides. They stress the importance of starting conversations with our common interests and values, like concern for our children's future, to avoid polarization. Try to enjoy the conversation by listening and not trying to win points. People understand issues better through stories about extreme weather events and why we care, more than statistics and charts.

These conversation guides are available free online at: <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/resources/>

Creation, Climate and You – Designed for people who have rarely, if ever, talked about climate change in a group setting before, this guide focuses on gently surfacing peoples' emotions and underlying thoughts about climate change.

From Concern to Action – For people who may have a basic understanding of climate change or are concerned about the effects of climate change, but remain uncertain about the best ways to act in light of this reality.

Build a Better Future – Meant for people who have already been involved in climate action at some level, this guide focuses on enacting political and systemic change to address the climate emergency.

Printed copies are also available in the Church Library.

An inspirational resource which could support climate conversations is Seth Klein's new book "**A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency**". It details how a zero-carbon economy can be achieved while creating good jobs and reducing inequality.