



Vestry Motion 2020 – Taking Action on Climate Change

We, the vestry of __ (parish) __ in the Diocese of Toronto, recognize that there is a global climate emergency. We acknowledge that all sectors of society, including government, business, churches and other non-profit organizations, and private individuals, have an obligation to do what they can to minimize their contribution to climate change.

We call on the government of Canada to commit to the following:

- End public financing of the fossil fuel industry (oil, gas, coal)
- Bring Canada's climate and energy policy into alignment with the Paris Accord emissions targets to do our part to limit the rise in global average temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Support a just transition to a low-carbon economy through investment in renewable energy sources and infrastructure, energy-efficient technologies, and skills development and retraining for high-quality, sustainable jobs in the renewable energy sector.
- Assist Indigenous, northern, and coastal communities, and other vulnerable populations, to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on their local environments.

As Christians, we have a particular obligation to care for the earth as God's beloved creation (Genesis 1 26-28, 2:15), as well as for the most vulnerable among the human family (Matthew 25). Accordingly, we also commit our parish to the following goal(s): _____

Some examples of possible parish goals: (pick one or more)

- Reducing our parish energy use by __ %
- Encouraging use of active and public transportation by parishioners, and/or carpooling where these options are not practicable.
- Eliminating (or reducing by __%) our use of single-use plastic products
- Divesting from investments in oil, gas, and coal and/or investing in renewable energy projects
- Planting a community garden
- Planting [x number of trees] this year [on church or private property, or participating in community tree-planting projects]
- Other: _____