

## Environment

### Ethical Points

- Caring for creation calls for attention to principles of justice, stewardship, sufficiency and sustainability – “*providing an acceptable quality of life for the present without compromising that of future generations.*” (ELCA Caring for Creations: Vision, Hope, and Justice)
- Damage from global warming will eventually affect most people, but the impact will fall most heavily on the poor and others already oppressed.

### Background

It is now an accepted fact that global warming exists. Some signs of damage to the environment include melting glaciers and permafrost, depletion of non-renewable resources, destruction of habitats, air and water pollution and acid rain.

### Principles for Legislative Action

- Justice
  - mitigate impact of global warming on vulnerable populations, especially people in poverty
  - use clean energy sources to address global warming and carbon pollution
  - distribute benefits and costs equitably
  - begin immediately to take action
  - ensure basic human needs and worker justice

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## Stewardship

- comprehensive/mandatory/ aggressive emission reductions that aim to limit the increase in Earth's temperature to 2 degrees Celsius or less
- a short term goal of reducing U.S. carbon emissions to reach a 15-20 percent reduction in carbon by 2020
- a long term vision to achieve carbon emissions 80 percent below 2000 levels by the year 2050
- a call for major emitters to take responsibility for their actions
- Sustainability
  - sustain and restore eco-systems with economic justice
  - reflect interdependence of creation
  - support energy sources that are renewable, clean, and avoid destruction of creation
- Sufficiency
  - energy conservation in our homes, communities, and places of worship
  - energy conservation in the economy
  - federal government leadership through research and example

## What Will Help

- Strengthen Climate Security Act (S. 2191)
  - include stronger emissions reductions
  - protect people living in poverty when allocating funds and
  - maintain and strengthen financial aid for those living in poverty abroad.
- Introduce legislation in the House that meets the Principles.

(4/08)

## New York State Member Denominations

American Baptist Churches, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.

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