



Environment

Ethical Points

- C Damage to the environment will eventually affect most people, but the impact will fall most heavily on the poor and others already oppressed.

- C 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)

Present Situation

- C The US has disproportionately contributed to greenhouse gas emissions.

- C 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.

- C Global warming will continue and worsen if we do not address it now.

- C We can begin to slow global warming by
 - encouraging clean energy
 - reducing carbon emissions
 - expanding energy conservation
 - increasing energy independence
 - encouraging recycling



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What Will Help

- C Enact the Safe Climate Act (HR 1590) that will require an 80% reduction in 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- C Reinstate and increase superfund taxes.
- C Enact Energy for Our Future Act (HR1945) which will
 - C require cars to meet 40 mpg by 2017
 - C increase investments and incentives for research and development and for making homes and appliances more energy efficient
 - C repeal subsidies for oil, gas, coal and nukes.
- C Place a moratorium on new drilling in quality wilderness lands already under lease but not production.
- C Policy changes in the Farm Bill that
 - C gives all farmers access to land conservation programs
 - C funds continuation of Wetlands Reserve Program
 - C fosters growth of local food systems
 - C sets payment limit for Environmental Quality Incentives Program at its pre-2002 level and prohibits funding animal waste storage for large scale operations

(5/07)

Member Denominations

American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Empire Baptist Missionary Convention, 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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