

Faith Climate Action Guide

Send a postcard to your senator!

Urge them to consider the costs to our country and climate if they weaken the agencies and laws that protect the environment.

Call your Senator!

Your senators need to hear from you about your concerns for the climate. Taking the time to make a personal phone call is more impactful next step beyond your postcards and letters. You can call the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and asked to be connected to your senators office.

Be informed!

In order to take action, it's important to be well informed, and know how the issues affect you and your community.

- IPL state affiliates around the country are involved in a variety of local environmental issues. For information on local IPL programs, activities, and resources, go to: www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/about/state/
- The EPA does thousands of projects around the country to help clean up environmental disasters. There may be a project near you. Find out what they are doing in your home town to stop pollution and climate change that will harm you and your family www.epa.gov/home/epa-your-state
- In addition to the EPA, a number of other state and federal agencies work to limit pollution and conduct research on climate change. For a list of environmental agencies in your state go to www.epa.gov/home/health-and-environmental-agencies-us-states-and-territories
- For information on the science of climate change, and common climate myths, go to: skepticalscience.com
- For up-to-date information on environmental conditions in your area, go to: www3.epa.gov/enviro/myenviro/
- For further resources, go to: www.epa.gov/communities
- See what the faith community has said about caring for Creation: www.faithclimateactionweek.org/resources/religious-statements-on-climate-change/
- Want more? For books and further reading on the intersection of climate change and faith go to www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/books/

Be reflective!

Sustainable advocacy is based in deep personal conviction. Consider the following questions:

- Why do I care about global warming?
- What does a changing climate mean for me? My community? My children?
- How does my faith inform my relationship with Creation?
- What can I do in my life to affirm my commitment to care for the Earth?



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Attend a town-hall meeting!

This is a chance for your congressperson to hear the concerns of their constituents. Be a voice for Creation!

- For a quick guide to finding and preparing for a town hall meeting from the Sierra Club go to sierraclub.org/compass/2017/02/your-guide-town-halls

Meet with your representatives!

While getting a meeting with a member of congress in Washington can be difficult, it is also one of the most effective ways to make a difference.

- For a quick guide on meeting with your representatives from the NAACP go to action.naacp.org/page/-/washington%20bureau/resources/HowToAdvocate.pdf

Write an op-ed!

Op-eds are often a highly effective way to make sure your message reaches a larger audience, and your local representatives usually pay attention to them.

- For a succinct guide to writing an op-ed by Duke University go to styleguide.duke.edu/toolkits/writing-media/how-to-write-an-op-ed-article/
- Every paper will have their own op-ed guidelines. Here is an example from the New York Times: www.nytimes.com/content/help/site/editorial/op-ed/op-ed.html
- Many in the faith community have already written op-eds in papers around the country! Look through these news articles for examples of people explaining their faith-based commitment to care for Creation: www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/category/in-the-news/state-press-clips/

Use Social Media!

Today almost all our elected officials are active on social media. It is one way to continually engage them in your message.

- Find their social media accounts at www.socialseer.com/resources/us-senator-twitter-accounts/
- Photos get the most attention. Print out a bunch of the "I care about the climate because..." sheets and have people fill it out. Then take photos of them with their filled out "I care about climate because..." sheet and post on social media. Remember to add your senators Twitter/Instagram/Facebook name and #FaithClimateActionWeek in the post.
- Take a photo of your prayer flag project and post about your prayer for the climate tag Interfaith Power & Light on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with @Interfaithpower or #FaithClimateActionWeek

