



TASK FORCE ON CARBON NEUTRALITY

Journey together for climate justice

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From May 10 to 12, 2025, the Climate Justice Committee of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC, in collaboration with various ecumenical partners is hosting Pilgrimage for the Planet: A Climate Action Pilgrimage and peaceful demonstration in support of the global call Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. A core of pilgrims will be completing the a 194-kilometre trek from Montreal to Ottawa by bicycle over the course of two days.

At its best, faith calls us into deep, respectful, and caring relationships with all of creation. This is a lesson we learn from multiple Indigenous elders and leaders. It is also a message we hear in the Christian tradition, as Easter connects us to the rhythms of the earth: Life and death and life. We need each other as we work for climate justice—in all our diversity, creativity, humility and faith.

The challenge with burning fossil fuels is that we have ignored the climate crisis for so long that there is an urgent need to reduce our Green House Gas (GHG) emissions as quickly as possible. The ELCIC supports the global call for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty as an expression of care for creation and out of deep concern for the people, nearby and far away, who are most affected by climate change.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has made a commitment to work towards carbon neutrality. Becoming carbon neutral is a huge challenge but it is attainable. The implications and difficulty of specific options for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions vary from context to context. We understand the call for a treaty to be a call for nations, leaders, business, communities and people of goodwill everywhere to work together to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

I express my gratitude to the cyclists making the journey from Montreal to Ottawa in order to raise awareness of the need for fossil fuel treaty. Your pedal power is a reminder, inspiration, and encouragement to the church.

This Pilgrimage reminds me of other initiatives:

The 2023 Report of the Task Force on Carbon Neutrality, adopted by the ELCIC Special Convention, includes *Be Inspired by Youth & Young Adults: DARE to be BRAVE* (page 19). DARE stands for: Decolonization, Accountability, Relationships, Engagement. BRAVE stands for: Bold, Reciprocal, Action oriented, Vocal, Empathetic. You can read the provocative and poetic DARE to be BRAVE beginning on page 19 of the report.

The 2023 report also invites faith communities to monitor GHG emissions using the ELCIC GHG Inventory Calculator for Congregations.

For the Love of Creation FLC is a faith-based initiative for climate justice. We come together as people of faith in the hopes of making a meaningful contribution in the next decade towards a sustainable future for all life on the planet. FLC provides resources for Faith Climate Conversations.

Jubilee 2025 is a global movement calling for the cancellation of unjust ecological debt for low-income countries. From June 12 to 15, 2025 the movement will gather in Calgary for the G7 Jubilee People's Forum and Public Actions. The People's Forum will be a place where people—pilgrims and activists from around the world and across Canada—will connect for community, learning, prayer and action during the G7 period.

In an ecumenical letter in advance of Earth Day this year, Lutheran and Anglican leaders remind us that Climate justice is Easter work.

Today, I am grateful that I walk with many others on the meaningful, challenging, important, urgent journey toward climate justice.