

Canberra Statement Responses to Climate change

We see hope and rejoice in progress made. We heard at our meeting that:

- The Kyoto Protocol is now legally binding in 128 nations.
- Many provinces, dioceses and parishes within the Anglican Communion are actively pursuing actions towards environmental sustainability.
- Task forces within the Anglican Communion are addressing inter-related issues, such as trade and poverty, and women's issues.
- Parishes in some provinces have begun to use programs to help them reduce the environmental footprint of their activities (Eco-congregations / Footprint Files, etc).

In the light of these hopeful signs, we encourage all Anglicans to:

- recognise that global climatic change is real and that we are contributing to the despoiling of creation.
- commend initiatives that address the moral transformation needed for environmentally sustainable economic practices such as the Contraction and Convergence process championed by the Archbishop of Canterbury (See [Note 2](#), below).
- understand that, for the sake of future generations and the good of God's creation, those of us in the rich nations need to be ready to make sacrifices in the level of comfort and luxury we have come to enjoy.
- expect mission, vision and value statements to contain commitment to environmental responsibility at all levels of church activity.
- educate all church members about the Christian mandate to care for creation.
- work on these issues ecumenically and with all faith communities and people of good will everywhere.
- ensure that the voices of women, indigenous peoples and youth are heard.
- press government, industry and civil society on the moral imperative of taking practical steps towards building sustainable communities.

There are specific steps which we believe must be undertaken urgently:

- Include environmental education as an integral part of all theological training.
- Take targeted and specific actions to assess and reduce our environmental footprint particularly greenhouse gas emissions. Such actions could include energy and resource audits, land management, just trading and purchasing, socially and ethically responsible investment.
- Promote and commit ourselves to use renewable energy wherever possible.

- Revise our liturgies and our calendar and lectionaries in ways that more fully reflect the role and work of God as Creator.
- Press for urgent initiation of discussions leading to a just and effective development beyond the Kyoto Protocol, which includes all nations.
- Support the work of the World Council of Churches Climate Change Action Group.
- Bring before governments the imperative to use all means, including legislation and removal of subsidies, to reduce greenhouse gases.

We express our gratitude to his grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, for his outstanding leadership and his championing of this vital aspect of our Christian commitment. And call on Anglicans everywhere to follow this example.

We commit to pray for one another, especially our sisters and brothers who courageously set standards in developing countries, knowing that in the short term these very standards may slow the process of development.

We commit ourselves to maintain this global network, to share resources with each other, and to lift the Anglican Communion to new levels of both awareness and commitment to these aspects of our Gospel imperative. We call on all provinces to become involved in the work of the network.

Note 2 - Rowan Williams in the Independent, Sunday, April 17, 2005

http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/sermons_speeches/050417.htm