

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A045  
**TITLE:** Restricting use of Bottled Water, Energy and Water Conservation  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns  
**COMMITTEE:** National and International Concerns

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility  
2003-D046 Urge Stewardship of Water Resources  
2000-A048 Encourage Consideration of the Environment When Choosing Electric Energy Supplier  
1997-A041 Reaffirm Resolution on Environmentally Sound Behavior  
1994-A044 Adopt Environmentally Sound Practices at Church Meetings  
1991-A195 Affirm Environmental Responsibility and Establish an Environmental Stewardship Team  
1979-C036 Maintain a Simple Life Style at Church Meetings  
1979-D144 Call Upon Members to Exercise a Responsible Life Style

**Indirectly Related:**

2003-D070 Work for a Clean Water Policy  
1997-A040 On the Topic of Environmental Stewardship (Rejected)  
1994-D048 On the Topic of Environmental Stewardship (Rejected)  
1991-A111 On the Topic of Environmentally Sound Practices (Rejected)

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*



**Resolution Number:** 2006-C018  
**Title:** Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize that the use of fossil fuels harms air quality and public health and is contributing to changes in the global climate that threaten the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors around the world; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention affirm that our Christian response to global warming is a deeply moral and spiritual issue; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm Resolution 1991–A195, adopted by the 70th General Convention, declaring that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm Resolution 2000–D022 (MDGs and the ONE Episcopalian Campaign), adopted by the 73rd General Convention, encouraging all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention acknowledge with praise and appreciation the work of Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit initiative that helps congregations, religious institutions and others work for a more just, sustainable and healthier Creation (website of Interfaith Power and Light – [www.theregenerationproject.org](http://www.theregenerationproject.org)); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention encourage all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to consider prayerfully whether to partner with Interfaith Power and Light by incorporating respect and care for Creation into programs of worship and education, by reducing energy use through conservation and increased efficiency, and by replacing consumption of fossil fuels with energy from renewable resources.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 484-485.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-D046  
**Title:** Urge Stewardship of Water Resources  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention urge dioceses, congregations, and communicants to regard water resources as precious, and to recognize that the right use of water is an explicit means to show love for one's neighbor, since water connects people and all creatures throughout the global community; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations, and communicants to become active stewards of their water resources through conservation efforts including reduction of consumption; through examination of water discharge such that contaminated water does not improperly leave church grounds; and through the creation of environmental programs for stewardship of water and the whole of creation and for the education of congregants in regard to good and faithful stewardship of the earth's resources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations, and communicants to undertake one or more of the following four stewardship steps:*

- **When and where possible, install water-saving devices, such as low-flow commodes and aspirators on sink faucets.**
- **Replant church grounds and home gardens with plants and trees that are drought-tolerant and have low needs for water, and that are native to the region and therefore able to survive local climatic conditions.**
- **Devise drainage systems that allow rainwater to flow from gutters and drain pipes to spread onto the lawn and landscaped areas of church grounds and home gardens, thereby reducing water lost to sewer systems.**
- **Pave new or repave existing parking lots with materials that are pervious, so that water penetrates into soil beneath parking areas, thereby reducing the flow of oil and other auto fluids into streams.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 314f.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-A048  
**Title:** Encourage Consideration of the Environment When Choosing Electric Energy Supplier  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Submitted  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention encourage all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions, in choosing electric energy suppliers, to examine the choices of energy generation, and to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources, especially those deriving from sun and wind; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the church at every level seek out expertise in selecting an energy provider through such resources as Episcopal Power and Light.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 329.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A041  
**Title:** Reaffirm Resolution on Environmentally Sound Behavior  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirm Resolution 1994-A044, adopted by the 71st General Convention, calling upon the Church to adopt practical, environmentally sound, and energy-efficient lifestyle behaviors that discourage wasteful consumption and encourage the recycling of material resources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Executive Council implement this resolution in concrete ways that are accountable to the Church at large through annual written reports of accomplishments during the remainder of this triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That all future General Conventions and conferences of the Episcopal Church be models of the stewardship of God's Creation, and that the General Convention Office and Planning and Arrangement Committee be directed to implement the following:*

- provide recycling centers for newspapers, office paper, computer paper, aluminum cans, glass, and plastic;
- use pottery or glassware instead of plastic cups, when possible;
- eliminate the use of polystyrene cups and plates due to their toxic by-products;
- photocopy both sides of paper distributed at conventions and conferences;
- use recycled papers, non-toxic dyes, and/or appropriate technologies for printing; and be it further

*Resolved, That, if necessary, registration fees be increased to cover any additional costs incurred to implement these changes; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Executive Council be the model for such environmentally responsible behavior, and implement these changes at the Episcopal Church Center, conference centers, and Episcopal Church-sponsored conferences.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p.92.



**Resolution Number:** 1994-A044  
**Title:** Adopt Environmentally Sound Practices at Church Meetings  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the Episcopal Church adopt practical, environmentally sound and energy-efficient lifestyle behaviors that discourage wasteful consumption and encourage the recycling of material resources;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That all future General Conventions of the Episcopal Church be models of the stewardship of God's Creation, and that the General Convention Office and the Planning and Arrangements Committee be directed to implement the following actions:**

1. **Provide recycling centers for newspapers, office paper, computer paper, aluminum cans, glass and plastics;**
2. **Use pottery or glassware instead of plastic or paper cups when possible;**
3. **Photocopy both sides of papers distributed to deputies;**
4. **Use recycled papers, non-toxic dyes and/or appropriate technologies for printing;**

and be it further

*Resolved*, **That, if necessary, registration fees be increased to cover any additional cost incurred to implement these changes;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the Executive Council implement these changes and other environmentally responsible actions at the Episcopal Church Center and any conference it sponsors to reflect (and model) a commitment and desire to restore God's Creation to wholeness;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That all dioceses and provinces be strongly urged to take corresponding actions.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 352-53.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A195  
**Title:** Affirm Environmental Responsibility and Establish an Environmental Stewardship Team  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, affirming our responsibility for the earth in trust for this and future generations:**

1. **Declares that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency;**
2. **Calls on all citizens of the world, and Episcopalians in particular, to live their lives as good stewards with responsible concern for the sustainability of the environment and with appreciation for the global interdependence of human life and the natural worlds; and**
3. **Urges all Episcopalians to reflect on their personal and corporate habits in the use of God's creation; to share with one another ideas for new responses; and to act as individuals, congregations, dioceses, and provinces of the Episcopal Church in ways that protect and heal all interdependent parts of creation. Such action should include prayerful theological discernment and factual knowledge. It should also consider global and local links and the balance of environmental integrity with economic sufficiency for human living;**

and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the Episcopal Church, acknowledging the sovereignty of God and God's call to us in the servanthood of Christ, continue to engage environmental issues, passionately caring for the earth and striving to live into the promises and mandates which are ours as stewards of creation;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That this Convention calls upon the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint an interdisciplinary, multicultural Environmental Stewardship Team, 14 members, representing each Province and a broad spectrum of Church membership, whose gifts and expertise are suitable to the task. The mission of the Environmental Stewardship Team is to educate, motivate and facilitate congregations, dioceses and provinces toward local and regional plans, advocacy and action. The Team will work with other environmental groups of common interest;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the 70th General Convention includes in the Program Budget an appropriation of \$100,000 per year during the 1992-1994 triennium to carry out the work of the Team;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the Environmental Stewardship Team report regularly to Executive Council during the triennium and to the 71st General Convention;** and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the 70th General Convention requests the Presiding Bishop to communicate immediately and directly to all Episcopalians, the scope and urgency of this resolution.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 317.



**Resolution Number:** 1979-C036  
**Title:** Maintain a Simple Life Style at Church Meetings  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, **That all national and regional meetings of the Church be dedicated to as simple a life style, in terms of housing, board and energy utilization, as possible.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-67.



**Resolution Number:** 1979-D144  
**Title:** Call Upon Members to Exercise a Responsible Life Style  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 66th General Convention calls every Member of this Church to exercise a responsible life style based on real personal needs commensurate with a world of limited resources by:**

1. **Conserving energy in our homes, jobs, parishes, communities, travels, and leisure activities;**
2. **Altering our own eating and consumption habits;**
3. **Planning family size in a responsible manner;**

and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the General Convention commends to every Member of this Church the spiritual resources of prayer and meditation and pastoral support as persons encounter the tensions of a changing life style**, and be it further

*Resolved*, **That this Convention calls on the several Committees, Commissions, and Agencies of this Church to exercise a responsible life style in planning the meetings and conferences to be held.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-125.

**09 - National and International Concerns**

A045

TOPIC/TITLE: Environment: Restricting use of Bottled Water, Energy and Water Conservation

PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

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1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention ask the  
2 Church to restrict, starting immediately, the use of bottled water at General Convention and at  
3 other Church-sponsored activities; and be it further  
4

5 *Resolved*, That every baptized Christian be encouraged to practice simple energy and water  
6 conservation techniques so that, by working together, we may restore the beauty of God's creation  
7 and ensure that this resource may again be available to all God's children in abundance.  
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