

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A087
Title: Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030
Proposer: Task Force on Care of Creation & Environmental Racism
Topic: Environment

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A014 Create a Pilot Carbon Offset Program
2018-A020 Divest From Fossil Fuel Companies and Reinvest in Clean Energy
2018-C008 Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change
2018-C020 Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
2009-D031 Urge Commitment to Lower Carbon Output
2006-B002 Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming
2006-D055 On the Topic of an ACC Resolution on Global Warming (Rejected)

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2018-A213 Collect Data on Parish Energy Usage
2012-D055 Advocate for Reducing Climate-Changing Emissions

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

A087 - Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force on Care of Creation & Environmental Racism

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$145,000.00

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 20 - Environmental Stewardship & Care of Creation

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the Episcopal Church commit to a goal of net carbon neutrality in its operations and the work of staff, standing commissions, interim bodies, and General Convention by 2030, through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop's staff to take concrete actions to reduce fossil fuel emissions from travel by said groups, such as through online meetings or regional gatherings; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop's staff to draft a policy to offset one hundred percent of fossil fuel emissions from unavoidable travel by said groups, either through an internal offset program or through purchase from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners, with appropriate accountability and oversight; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$70,000 per year for the implementation of this resolution, taken from existing travel budgets, in order to offset approximately 3500 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (the average annual travel emissions of said groups from previous years) at a rate of \$20 per ton; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop's staff to establish an internal offset program including such activities as carbon forestry and regenerative agriculture, with appropriate oversight to ensure that the program meet the five commonly accepted traits of responsible offset programs: real, permanent, verifiable, additional, and enforceable; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$25,000 to establish this internal offset program, comprising \$15,000 to cover wages and benefits for a part-time Offset Specialist and \$10,000 for implementation and promotion of the program; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage parishes, dioceses, schools, camps, and other Episcopal institutions to pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop's staff to develop and share resources for parishes and dioceses to commit to and work toward this goal, such as the online carbon tracker already created by the Diocese of California, as well as other online and print resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$50,000 to fund the development and promotion of these resources.



Resolution Number: 2018-A014
Title: Create a Pilot Carbon Offset Program
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention recognizes the reality of human-caused climate change through continued reliance on fossil fuel-based transportation; and be it further

Resolved, That because travel done on behalf of The Jesus Movement contributes to this problem, we recognize the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce, and ultimately eliminate this carbon footprint; and be it further

Resolved, That, as a first step in the process, by offsetting the impact of the travel done on behalf of The Jesus Movement, the Church witnesses to its care for God's creation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Executive Council to draft a policy in 2018 requiring the use of socially responsible Carbon Offsets with particular attention to the social, political, economic, and ecological implications of carbon-credit generating programs by the Episcopal Church Center, and that such a program be tested and piloted as during the triennium for the work of The Episcopal Church including the travel of its staff, standing commissions and interim bodies; and be it further

Resolved, That a plan for a broader offset program for all church travel be presented for consideration at the 80th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That \$25,000 be allocated for the pilot carbon offset program.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1109-1110.



Resolution Number: 2018-A020
Title: Divest From Fossil Fuel Companies and Reinvest in Clean Energy
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention call upon the Investment Committee of the Executive Council to report to Executive Council all steps taken in the past triennium to divest from fossil fuel companies and reinvest in clean renewable energy in a fiscally responsible manner in accordance with General Convention resolution 2015-C045; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention reaffirm the language of resolution GC2015-C045 urging all institutions, dioceses, and congregations of the Episcopal Church to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy and encourage them to share progress toward this goal with the Executive Council and the Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the Church Pension Fund for its passion in responding to climate change and for its statement “This does not mean that we would never divest; to do so, however, we would have to believe that divesting would not negatively impact the financial performance of our portfolio” (CPF Report to the House of Deputies, November 2, 2017, page 6); and be it further

Resolved, That in light of this statement, that the General Convention urge CPF to be mindful of the Church’s desire to become increasingly invested in renewable and clean energy; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Church Pension Fund provide a report that includes a sustainability plan to the 80th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1095-1096.



Resolution Number: 2018-C008
Title: Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention in keeping with the House of Bishops' 2011 commitment to combat climate change urge that the members of The Episcopal Church strive to transform our individual and communal lives towards sustainability; and be it further
Resolved, That Episcopalians be encouraged to use a web-based tool to support healthy, sustainable choices; and be it further
Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$30,000 to be devoted over the triennium 2019-2021 to make a web-based carbon tracking tool such as "Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home" available to all Episcopalians.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 404-405.



Resolution Number: 2018-C020
Title: Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church shall work with people of good will to materially reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to stabilize our climate; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support public policy which may include Carbon Fee and Dividend model or other means accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from carbon based fuels to mitigate further irreversible climate change; and be it further

Resolved, That in implementing any such policies, the church will advocate for appropriate measures to reduce the economic impacts on poor people and people of modest income, which means might include use of a trust fund paid for with carbon fees and distributed to the poorest people first.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 405.



Resolution Number: 2009-D031
Title: Urge Commitment to Lower Carbon Output
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urge President Obama and Congressional leaders to commit the United States to a course of action, in collaboration with the other nations of the world, to lower the output of atmospheric carbon (measured as CO2) by 25% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050; and be it further

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Washington Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church to actively promote such action by the United States government.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 358-359.



Resolution Number: 2006-B002
Title: Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention affirm that Global Warming threatens the future of God's good creation, and the effects of Global Warming disproportionately hurt the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in the United States and around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That Episcopalians and The Episcopal Church at every level support efforts that seek to reduce Global Warming, including national and international legislation that increase the supply of clean energy and reduce consumption of fossil fuels; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention commend the Executive Council and particularly its Socially Responsible Investment Committee (SRI) for the work they are now doing with the Global Warming Shareholder Campaign (GWSC), and the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES) and the leadership they exercise as a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR); and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge the Executive Council and its SRI to:

- (a) use resources of The Episcopal Church, including its investments, to promote a sustainable global environment;
- (b) seek by shareholder resolutions to change current policies and behaviors of those companies that are significant contributors to Global Warming, and if necessary, divest from those companies;
- (c) call upon the expertise of Episcopalians who are closely connected with the GWSC to assist in this initiative;
- (d) report the results of this initiative to Executive Council no later than its fall meeting in 2007.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 662.



Resolution Number: 2006-D055
Title: On the Topic of an ACC Resolution on Global Warming
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died with Adjournment]
Text of the Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention endorse and implement Resolution 13/32 of the Anglican Consultative Council's meeting in Nottingham in 2005, submitted by the Anglican Communion Environment Network, which:

Recommends all Anglicans be encouraged to:

1. recognize that global climatic change is real and that we are contributing to the despoiling of creation
2. 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
3. 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
4. expect mission, vision, and value statements to contain commitment to environmental responsibility at all levels of church activity
5. educate all church members about the Christian mandate to care for creation
6. work on these issues ecumenically and with all faith communities and people of good will everywhere
7. ensure that the voices of women, indigenous peoples, and youth are heard
8. press government, industry, and civil society on the moral imperative of taking practical steps towards building sustainable communities.

Asks Provinces to take the following steps urgently:

1. Include environmental education as an integral part of all theological training.
2. 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.
3. Promote and commit ourselves to use renewable energy wherever possible.
4. Revise our liturgies and our calendar and lectionaries in ways that more fully reflect the role and work of God as Creator.
5. Press for urgent initiation of discussions, which should include all nations, leading to a just and effective development beyond the Kyoto Protocol.
6. Support the work of the World Council of Churches Climate Change Action Group.
7. Bring before governments the imperative to use all means, including legislation and removal of subsidies, to reduce greenhouse gases.