

A way of life

Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:20

We realise that this booklet gives us a long list of things to do. But the truth is, that we all, or at least the vast majority of us, need to do all, or nearly all, of these things over a short period of time. We have only 7 years to halve our carbon emissions, and 27 years to get them to zero.

It may be helpful to consider another perspective. One that starts with a different way of seeing the world: not as a resource to be used, but as God's creation which we are mandated to serve and keep. We find that our society and its ways are not as benign as we've thought, and that the promise of continuous growth comes at a terrible price. Could it be that we are called to a way of life quite different to that offered by our society, and that the changes in this booklet help us start?

Please contact the St Paul's Climate & Ecology Team with your ideas and comments. We are all in this together.



The Climate & Ecology Team

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Keeping the Earth

*The LORD God put humankind in Eden 'to serve it and keep it'.
Genesis 2:15*



Making our voice heard

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Mark 12:30, 31



The UK's 2008 Climate Change Act is one of the best in world. It set up the [Committee on Climate Change](#) to advise Government on policy. The UK Government has set good aspirations, but actual policy and practical action are a long way off track. On behalf of our vulnerable neighbours, future generations and all creation, we need to call for change.

Politicians and business leaders really do notice when we contact them! A very useful tool for contacting councillors and MPs is www.writetothem.com.

If you are in a **pension** scheme, ask them about their attitude to environmental issues.

Almost all of us have a **bank** account – is our money funding damage to the environment? If you decide to switch, tell them why.

There are many charities and pressure groups doing important research, lobbying work, and practical projects. Consider supporting

Tear Fund	https://www.tearfund.org
Christian Aid	https://www.christianaid.org.uk
A Rocha	https://arocha.org.uk
Friends of the Earth	https://friendsoftheearth.uk
Avaaz	https://secure.avaaz.org
Practical Action	https://practicalaction.org

Energy

All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. John 1:3

Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – is the biggest cause of global heating. In the UK, we use oil and gas to generate electricity; to heat our homes and other buildings; to fuel our cars, lorries, ships and aeroplanes; and in industry, such as steel and cement. Government has a reasonably good plan to generate low carbon electricity, although implementation is slow. The general idea is that we must all use less energy, and switch to electric heating and transport as soon as we can.

What can we do?

- Fly only if absolutely essential. There is no low-carbon technology for aeroplanes.
- Drive less, and, unless you have very low mileage, switch to an electric vehicle as soon as you can. Use trains and buses, cycle and walk more. Maybe ask if you really need a car.
- At home, there's a lot you can do to use less energy: Draught-proof your windows and doors. Insulate your loft and cavity walls. For more information see: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/>
- Switch to an Air Source Heat Pump or other electric heating system as soon as you can. Grants are available to help with the cost of this: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-may-be-eligible-for-the-boiler-upgrade-scheme-from-april-2022>

Food

The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Psalm 24:1

Scientists calculate that one third of global heating arises from food production; rainforests are cut down to grow animal feed; industrial fishing empties the oceans; fertilizer and pesticide run-off makes waterways barren, and industrial farming turns rich soil to barren dirt. Methane from cattle and sheep farming is a potent greenhouse gas.

What can we do?

Though this can be complex, there are some simple guidelines we can follow to make a big difference:

- Eat a more plant-based diet. In particular, eat much less beef, lamb and dairy
- Use your LOAF: make every effort to buy **L**ocally grown, **O**rganic, **A**nimal-friendly, **F**airtrade food.

Together these cut carbon; benefit soils, wildlife and waterways; treat God's creatures with compassion; and benefit poorer communities. Eating a more plant-based diet is good for our health and our bank balances too!

The Marine Conservation Society publishes information about which fish and shellfish are "ocean-friendly"

<https://www.msc.org/ocean-emergency/sustainable-seafood>. Look out for their blue "Certified Sustainable Seafood" badge when buying fish.

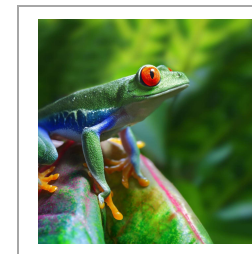
Fairtrade

The LORD has told you, O Mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8



Fairtrade is about better prices, safe working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. Look for the blue and green Fairtrade logo.

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/What-is-Fairtrade>



The Rainforest Alliance aims to protect forests, improve the livelihoods of farmers and forest communities, promote human rights, and help them mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. Look for their green frog logo.

<https://www.rainforest-alliance.org>