

# Advocacy for Systemic Change

On issues related to  
Creation Care

*Thanks to the Presbyterians for Carbon  
Dividends organization for adaptation of a  
slides developed for another presentation  
prepared by their members.*





Jenny Holmes, Co-facilitator, PEC Advocacy Team  
At Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Presenter  
Rev. Fred Milligan  
Co-facilitator, PEC Advocacy Team

1. Introduction: Going fast vs going far: Forming coalitions for effective advocacy.

“The church believes that advocacy is “vital for living a spiritual and holistic life,” Jimmie Hawkins, Director, Office of Public Witness, PCUSA

2. Stories from participant experiences
3. ENV Overtures passed by the 225th General Assembly (2022)
4. Directions for the future  
Setting Priorities for overture and public advocacy.



# Rationale for Advocacy and Action

Today we are facing human-induced changes to the global climate system which threaten all life on the planet. **Already more vulnerable communities of color and the poor are experiencing profound effects...**

**Now is the time to take concrete and measurable actions to not only preserve and conserve the natural world we now have but to seek the beloved community, the peacable kingdom envisaged in scripture.**

# Presbyterians Marching for an End to Fossil Fuels 9/17/23



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ENV 08

**Overture to 225<sup>th</sup> PCUSA General Assembly:**

**THE TIME IS NOW**

**TO**

**“CHERISH CREATION, CUT CARBON, AND SPEAK UP”**





<https://www.pc-biz.org>



Item	Item Title	CA	AA
[ENV-01]	▶ On Learning About and Starting the Process of Divestment from Fossil Fuels	+	+
[ENV-02]	▶ Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy	+	+
[ENV-04]	▶ On Creating the Presbyterian Tree Fund	+	+
[ENV-05]	▶ On Reducing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Carbon Imprint	+	+
[ENV-06]	▶ On Affirming the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris Agreement)	+	+
[ENV-07]	▶ On Fossil Fuel Divestment	+	+
[ENV-08]	▶ On Declaring the Time Is Now to “Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up”	+	+
[ENV-09]	▶ On Actions in Support of an Energy Transition	+	+
[ENV-10]	▶ Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) Response to 223rd General Assembly Directive on Environmental Policy	+	+
[ENV-11]	▶ On Protecting the Diversity of Creation	+	+
[ENV-REPT]	▶ Environmental Justice Committee Report		

# Here is what was approved...



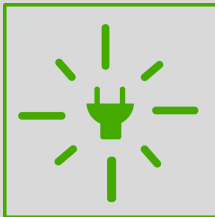
**ENV 02: Investing in a  
Green Future**



**ENV 04: Presbyterian  
Tree Fund**



**ENV 05: Reducing the PC  
(USA) Carbon Imprint**



**ENV 09: Supporting  
Energy Transition**



**ENV 10: The MRTI Report**



**ENV 11: Protecting the  
Diversity of Creation**

[ENV-02]

## Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation

From the Advisory Committee on  
Social Witness Policy



Work towards 100% renewable  
energy by 2030



Make use of PC (USA) eco-justice  
resources

[ENV-02]

## **Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation**

**From the Advisory Committee on  
Social Witness Policy**



**Make restoring creation a  
key priority in Matthew 25  
programming and  
advocacy**



**Many recommendations  
regarding the church's  
public witness**

[ENV-05]

# On Reducing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Carbon Imprint

Call upon the whole Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.) to reduce our carbon imprint by 25  
percent in the next four years.



All PCUSA Agencies

All Synods and Presbyteries

All Congregations

All Faithful disciples

[ENV-04]

## On Creating the Presbyterian Tree Fund

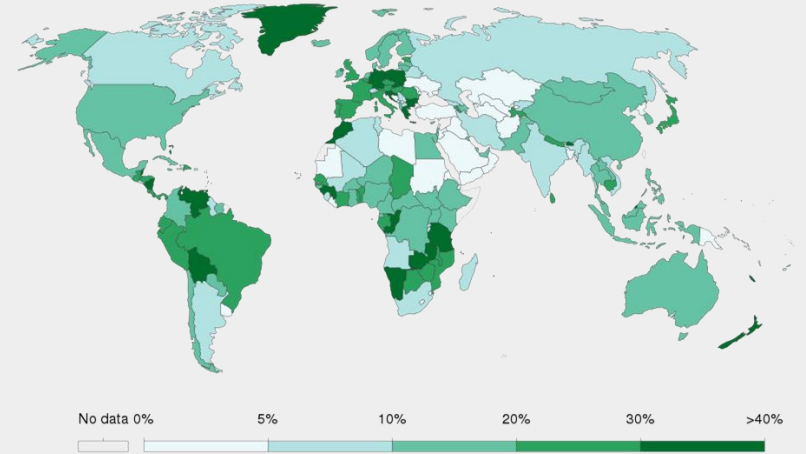
Donations will fund grants for tree-planting and other climate-friendly projects



Presbyterians can contribute to the fund to offset their carbon emissions related air travel, and/or to contribute to reforestation efforts on a global scale

[ENV-11]

## On Protecting the Diversity of Creation



Source: World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

**Endorse the international and U.S. goal of protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030**

[ENV-11]

## On Protecting the Diversity of Creation



**Advocate for Indigenous  
sovereignty and treaty rights to be  
upheld** in protection of lands and  
water



[ENV-10]



# **Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) Report**

**Place the following on the General Assembly Divestment/Proscription List:**

- **Chevron**
- **ExxonMobil**
- **Marathon Petroleum**
- **Phillips 66**
- **Valero Energy**

[ENV-10]



# Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) Report

**Continue engaging Climate Action  
100+ companies and add the  
following to its list:**

- **American Airlines**
- **Delta Airlines**
- **Enbridge**
- **Kinder Morgan**
- **Occidental Petroleum**
- **PPL Corporation**
- **United Airlines**

# Recommendations from four Overtures were added to actions on ENV 09

[ENV-01]

**On Learning About and Starting the Process of Divestment from Fossil Fuels**



[ENV-06]

**On Affirming the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**



[ENV-07]

**On Fossil Fuel Divestment**



[ENV-08]

**On Declaring the Time Is Now to “Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up”**



[ENV-09 Revised]

## On Actions in Support of an Energy Transition



### Ramp up our investment strategy work

- **Support the Paris Agreement** as the global framework
- **Reach out to the top 50 historic emitters**
- **Ratchet up the MRTI screening criteria** so they integrate with the Paris Agreement
- **Commends the Board of Pensions, the Foundation, and the Investment and Loans Program** for their careful risk management and stewardship and **urges them to continue at a faster pace** towards a world divested from fossil fuels

[ENV-09 Revised]

## On Actions in Support of an Energy Transition



Support our communities who work in the fossil fuel industry as we transition

[ENV-09 Revised]

## On Actions in Support of an Energy Transition



### Become Carbon Neutral

Urges our congregations and members to **become the needed, faithful change we seek by being carbon neutral, net-zero, or even climate positive by 2030**

[ENV-09 Revised]

## On Actions in Support of an Energy Transition

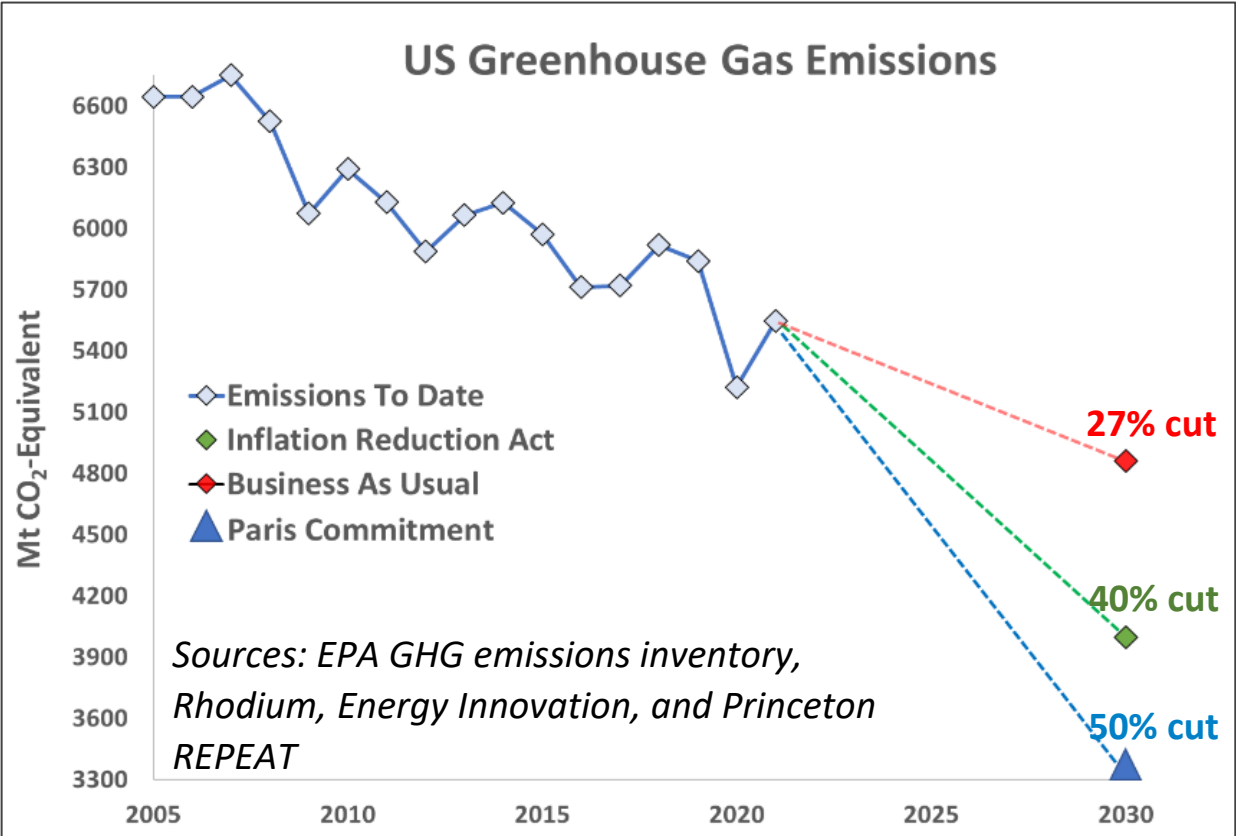


**Advocate for a just fee on carbon and other greenhouse gas pollution**

Advocate through all PC (USA) channels **the implementation of Overture 08-12 regarding carbon fee & dividend**, approved by 80% of commissioners in 2018

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000325>

# Our current path gets us to 40% by 2030





So, that's a high-level summary

**A couple of big themes:**

1. Let's model the way by reducing our own emissions
2. Advocate for policies that
  - a. Help meet the Paris Agreement targets
  - b. Promote environmental justice

# What's Next?

Each of these items requiring action have been assigned to one of the PC (USA) Agencies for implementation:

- Board of Pensions
- Office of the General Assembly
- PC (USA) Foundation
- Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program
- Presbyterian Mission Agency
- Presbyterian Publishing Corporation



Looking Forward

# Questions for discussion

**What stood out to you on the GA decisions?**

**What next action do we want to take?**

- a. To reduce our carbon footprint? (As a church, as individuals, as an institution or all three?)
- b. Advocate for policies in our community, state, nation or world
- c. What overtures should we pursue in the next General Assembly to follow on the good work that has already been achieved?

*You may want to begin as the General Assembly suggests by studying **Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation***

# Overtures for 2024 General Assembly in Salt Lake City

- Divesting from fossil fuels
- Eliminating single use and non recyclable plastics
- Supporting permanent legislation to establish 30X30 land preservation plan as the law of the land
- Other?

# Resources

# Fossil Free PCUSA



Presbyterian  
Peace  
Fellowship

God's call to love all creation directs us to be good stewards of the earth and to live lives that are sustainable. Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be. Fossil Free PCUSA challenges us to be faithful through our individual and collective actions that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and we continue to encourage divestment from the industry that harms the planet the most

Fossil Free PCUSA has been organizing for over ten years to categorically divest from fossil fuels in the Presbyterian Church (USA). While we often take a sabbath following each General Assembly, we are extending that into a hibernation period: we are taking a long winter's nap until late winter/early spring of 2023.

We have stored all sorts of great information in a shared google drive for you to use during this time. In particular, we encourage you to help your church, presbytery, and synods divest from fossil fuels using our divestment toolkit. Our co-moderators are available to respond to particular requests for information and support, but will not be actively organizing for the next few months as we rest and recover from the challenges of this work.

# Interfaith Power & Light

## Program offers:

- Starter kits
- Carbon Calculators
- Project ideas (what other churches have done)
- The Cool Congregations Challenge--a national contest with prizes for winners!



<https://www.coolcongregations.org>





Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

## Certification Involves:

- Taking the Earth Care Pledge
- Completing activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach
- Submitting an application between January 1-February 15



## Earth Care Pledge

Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.

Our **education** will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.

Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.

Our **outreach** will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth as well as oppressed and neglected people.

## PEC offers:

- Education and worship resources
- Ideas for reducing energy waste and cost
- Information on low-cost loans to improve energy efficiency
- Eco-Justice advocacy opportunities
- Workshops/seminars
- And more...



<https://presbyearthcare.org>



## PEC's ADVOCACY TEAM

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As an organization we sign petitions, endorse campaigns and write letters to decision-makers. We also encourage and support members to engage in the public policy advocacy. In addition, PEC helps to draft overtures for General Assembly and informs membership of how they can be involved in supporting and developing resolutions and actions at the presbytery level.



# Additional Policy Resources



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

## Office of Public Witness

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/>



### Tell Congress to Pass the Environmental Justice for All Act of 2021

On Friday, June 30th, the Supreme Court of the United States released a [decision](#) limiting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to regulate carbon emissions from power plants. In this 6-3 decision, the court concluded that the EPA was overreaching in its attempts to mandate carbon emissions. This reckless decision hinders the Administration's ability to address the climate crisis at a time when we need swift action.

The 202nd General Assembly (1990) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted the report for Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice which calls us to [help keep and restore creation, both human and non-human, and affirms that "abuse of nature and injustice to people place the future in grave jeopardy."](#) This decision will have devastating impacts on both people and the environment, with a disproportionate burden falling on low-income communities of color. Every American should have the right to breathe clean air, regardless of the color of their skin. This Supreme Court ruling makes environmental justice for all even more improbable. [On average, people of color comprise 56 percent of the population living in neighborhoods with Toxic Release Inventory Facilities, compared to 30 percent elsewhere.](#) Once again, the United States government has turned a blind eye as communities of color have borne the brunt of

#### Compose Your Message

- US Senators
- US Representative

#### Subject

Pass the Environmental Justice for All Act

#### Message Body

Please add your own story about this issue to personalize your message

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am from [city/town]. This is urgent: Please support the Environmental Justice for All Act.

The Environmental Justice for All Act is

#### Enter Your Info

##### Your Information

Prefix \* First Name \* Last Name \*

Email \*

Send me text alerts

Mobile Number \*

# Jesus and Justice Young Adult Advocacy Training

The Jesus & Justice Advocacy Conference will be Oct. 20-22 at the Presbyterian Center, near Waterfront Park, and will be replicated across the country over the next few years. The first one is mainly intended for people who live in the Louisville-Southern Indiana area or within a short drive, but there also will be ways to participate in some sessions remotely.

“A primary goal is to connect with young adults who are interested in justice advocacy, especially those who want to engage from a faith perspective,” said the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, who leads the [Presbyterian Office of Public Witness](#) and the [Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations](#).

# Carbon Fee Policy Resources

## The Presbyterians for Carbon Dividends

- Speakers
- Slide decks
- Handouts
- Film clips

Contact:

### Why Carbon Fee & Dividend?



PEC Conference, August 15, 2021  
Linda Racine, Curtis Baysinger, Tom Matte  
on behalf of  
Presbyterians for Carbon Dividends

### Our Agenda

- A brief overview of the climate crisis--the scope and urgency of the problem
- An overview of various policy approaches along with strengths and drawbacks with each.
- Why a carbon fee & dividend should be a key part of any legislative package.
- What you can do--actions individuals, churches, and Presbyteries can take.

# Appendixes

Appendix 1-MRTI

Appendix 2-Air Travel Carbon Calculator

Appendix 3- Household Carbon Calculator

Appendix 4 – How the Carbon Fee and Dividend Works



# Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI)



**General Assembly Divestment/ Proscription List.** Each year MRTI produces this list based on the General Assembly's divestment policies. [Download current list.](#)

## Environmental Policy--recent actions

- The 222nd General Assembly (2016)

Directed MRTI to “**pursue its focused engagement process on climate change issues** with all corporations, **particularly with those in the oil, gas, and coal sectors**”

- The 223rd General Assembly (2018)

Adopted [Guideline Metrics](#) and named nine companies for focused engagement: **Chevron, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Marathon Petroleum, Valero Energy, Phillips 66, Duke Energy, Ford Motor Company and General Motors.**

- Report from MRTI for 224th General Assembly (2020)

Three companies scored in the red: **ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, and Valero Energy.** Recommended for divestment.

## Environmental Policy- recent actions

In 2021, MRTI voted to adopt a policy for the purposes of its report to the 225th General Assembly that any company scoring in the red or orange of MRTI's Guideline Metrics by January 16, 2022, be recommended to be added to the 2023 General Assembly Divestment/Proscription list.

Five companies scored in the red and orange:

**Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero Energy.**

**See ENV 10: The MRTI Report**

# How much carbon did your last flight emit?

The screenshot shows the Climate Stewards USA website's carbon calculator interface. At the top, there is a dark green navigation bar with the logo on the left and menu items: "Our Projects", "Consultancy", "Resources", and "Carbon Calculators". Below this is a row of six icons representing different transport modes: Home, Car, Bus, Airplane (highlighted in green), Fork and Knife, and Clouds. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "In the air", contains a "Quick Tip" box with advice on using IATA codes and calculating multiple flights. Below this is a flight entry form with fields for "From" and "To" (IATA code or airport name), "Flight" type (Roundtrip), "Class" (Economy), and "Passengers" (1). A blue "Add Flight" button is at the bottom right of the form. At the bottom left of the form is a green "Calculate" button with a calculator icon and a "Reset" link. The right column, titled "Your Carbon Footprint", displays the cost per metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> as \$27.00 and a note that a summary will appear as items are added.

**Climate Stewards USA** Our Projects ▾ Consultancy ▾ Resources ▾ Carbon Calculators

**In the air**

**Quick Tip:** You can enter IATA codes to quickly find an airport name - the code will be printed on your ticket, or you can check this [list](#).  
You can calculate up to 10 flights at a time - either individual trips, or the legs of a long-haul flight set each leg to "Single".

1 From  IATA code or an airport name To  IATA code or an airport name

↔ Flight Ⓢ Roundtrip ⭐ Class Ⓢ Economy 👤 Passengers 1

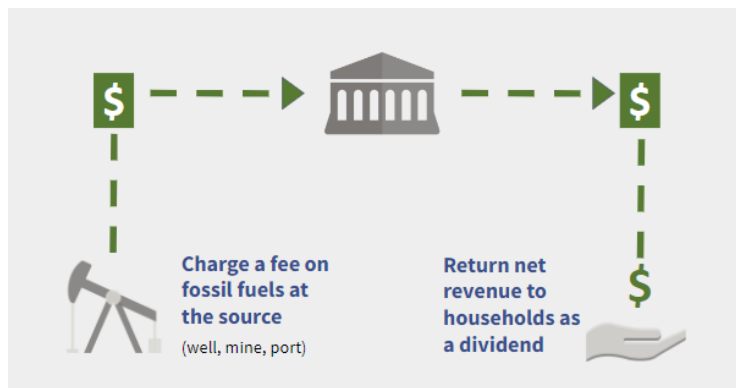
**Calculate** [Reset](#) **Add Flight**

**Your Carbon Footprint**  
Cost per metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> = \$27.00  
As you add items to your footprint a summary will appear here.

# What are your household carbon emissions?

The screenshot shows the CoolClimate Network website's carbon footprint calculator. The header features a navigation menu with links for Home, Research, Tools, Programs, Outreach, and Membership. The main banner displays the CoolClimate Network logo over a background image of Earth from space. Below the banner is a navigation bar with icons and labels for Get Started, Travel, Home, Food, Shopping, and Take Action. The main content area is divided into two sections. The left section, titled 'START WITH A QUICK CARBON FOOTPRINT ESTIMATE', contains two questions: '1. Where do you live?' with a text input field for city or zip code, and '2. How many people live in your household?' with a slider ranging from 1 to 5+, currently set at 2.5 (avg.). The right section, titled 'Your footprint', shows a current footprint of 50 tons CO<sub>2</sub>eq/year, which is 0% (Same as Average) compared to the household average. A bar chart below this shows the breakdown of emissions by category: Air Travel (15 tons), Car MFG (10 tons), Construction (5 tons), and Water (5 tons).

# How a Carbon Fee & Dividend Works



## Carbon Fee

- As these fuels become more expensive, consumers and business choose cheaper, cleaner energy sources.

## Dividend

- Revenue is rebated as a regular cash payment to offset increased energy costs.
- More than two-thirds of Americans could receive more in dividends than they pay in higher costs,

# How a Carbon Fee & Dividend Works

