



Introducing the Catholic Climate Covenant



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.



**The Catholic Coalition
on Climate Change**

Dan Misleh

Executive Director,
Catholic Coalition on Climate Change



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**The Catholic Coalition
on Climate Change**

The impact of climate change falls heaviest on the poor. Catholics are pledging to tread lightly and act boldly.

Our cars, power plants, growing energy consumption and waste are leaving a bigger and bigger carbon footprint. Scientists tell us that means more climate change. And it is the poor in the U.S. and around the world who will be hurt the most—with more droughts, floods, hunger, unemployment and less capacity and resources to respond.

Pope Benedict XVI has said of climate change: *"The problems looming on the horizon are complex and time is short."* He has said: *"Before it is too late, it is necessary to make courageous decisions."*

In response, Catholic families, parishes, schools, hospitals, and other agencies are taking the **St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor.**
Pray • Learn • Assess • Act • Advocate.



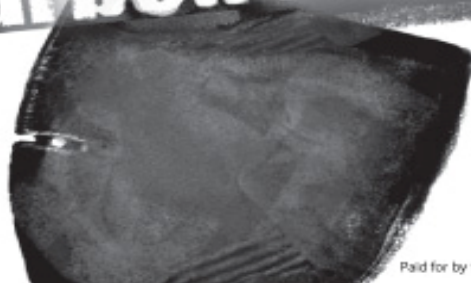
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Learn more. Join us. Go to
CatholicClimateCovenant.org

Sponsored by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change including:
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Carmelite NGO
Catholic Charities USA
The Catholic Health Association of the United States
Catholic Relief Services
The Conference of Major Superiors of Men
The Franciscan Action Network
The Leadership Conference of Women Religious
The National Catholic Rural Life Conference
The National Council of Catholic Women



**Who's under your
carbon footprint?**



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Most Reverend William S. Skylstad

Bishop of Spokane,
Former President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
Honorary Chairman of the Catholic Climate Covenant



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**The Catholic Coalition
on Climate Change**

Scope & Breadth of Support

- Builds on who we are what we do and what we believe
- Calls Catholics to live out faith in confronting impacts, costs, and consequences of climate change
- It offers concrete challenges and tools to our Catholic people



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Pope Benedict

The brutal consumption of creation begins where God is not...where the whole is merely our property and we consume it for ourselves alone...I think, therefore, that true and effective initiatives to prevent the waste and destruction of creation can be implemented and developed, understood and lived, only where creation is considered as beginning with God.

—*Pope Benedict XVI, August 2008*

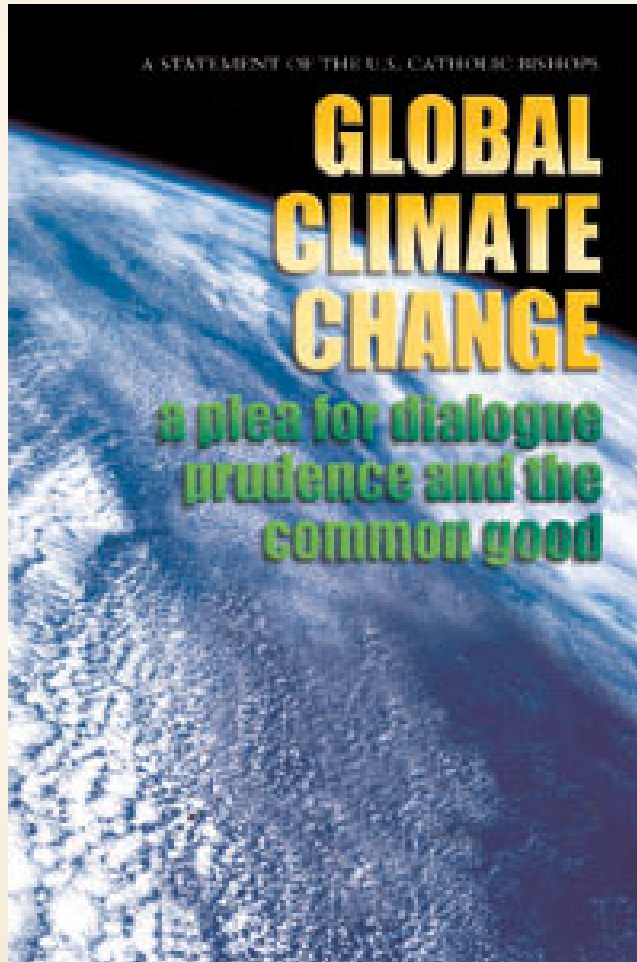


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U.S. Bishops



The whole human race suffers as a result of environmental blight, and generations yet unborn will bear the price for our failure to act today.

*--Renewing the Earth,
U.S. Catholic Bishops*



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Catholic Climate Covenant

- Two fundamental principles and obligations
 - Care for God's creation
 - Protect and care for the poor and vulnerable
- Stand with and speak for those who have no voice in climate change
- 25 National Catholic Organizations
 - Living in harmony with the earth
 - On the front lines caring for the most vulnerable



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Scope & Breadth of Support

- ✓ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- ✓ Catholic Relief Services
- ✓ Catholic Charities USA
- ✓ Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- ✓ National Catholic Rural Life Conference
- ✓ Catholic Health Association
- ✓ National Council of Catholic Women
- ✓ Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- ✓ Leadership Conference of Women Religious
- ✓ Carmelite NGO
- ✓ Franciscan Action Network
- ✓ National Catholic Education Association
- ✓ Resource Center for Religious Institutes
- ✓ The Jesuit Conference
- ✓ The Roundtable Assn of Diocesan Social Action Directors
- ✓ National Association for Lay Ministry
- ✓ National Catholic Federation for Youth Ministry
- ✓ Catholic Campus Ministry Association
- ✓ National Federation of Priests Councils
- ✓ National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education
- ✓ U.S. Catholic Mission Association
- ✓ National Pastoral Life Center
- ✓ Africa Faith and Justice Network
- ✓ Columban Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
- ✓ Justice Peace and Human Development



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The St. Francis Pledge

- **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God's creation and protect the poor and vulnerable;
- **LEARN** about and educate others on both the reality of climate change and its moral dimensions;
- **ASSESS** your participation—as individuals and organizations—in contributing to climate change;
- **ACT** to change your choices and behaviors contributing to climate change and;
- **ADVOCATE** Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact the poor and vulnerable.

John Carr

Executive Director,
Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



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**The Catholic Coalition
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Public Policy

- Why our voice matters on Capitol Hill, in town meetings, in state legislative assemblies
- Addressing climate change is a serious matter and needs to be done right
- Domestic and International poverty should not be worsened by public policies
- How we can make a difference



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John Zogby

President and CEO
Zogby International

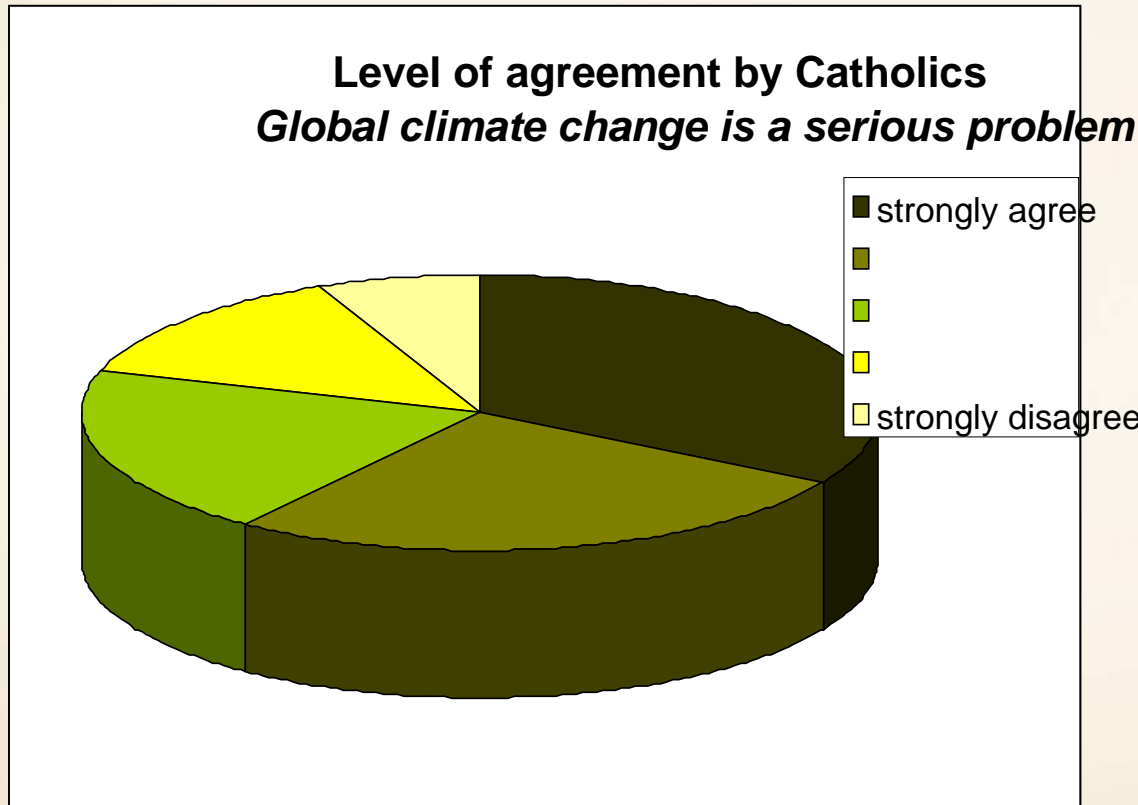


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Catholic Attitudes on Climate Change



- 55% agree that climate change is a serious problem
- Three out of 5 believe it must be addressed now even if not everything is known

Catholic Attitudes on Climate Change

- Two thirds are concerned about children/grandchildren
- Motivates them to action now
- 56% believe a renewed commitment to sacrifice and restraint can lessen climate impacts
- Nearly nine out of 10 Catholics aware of the Pope's and the Bishops' teachings would like to hear more



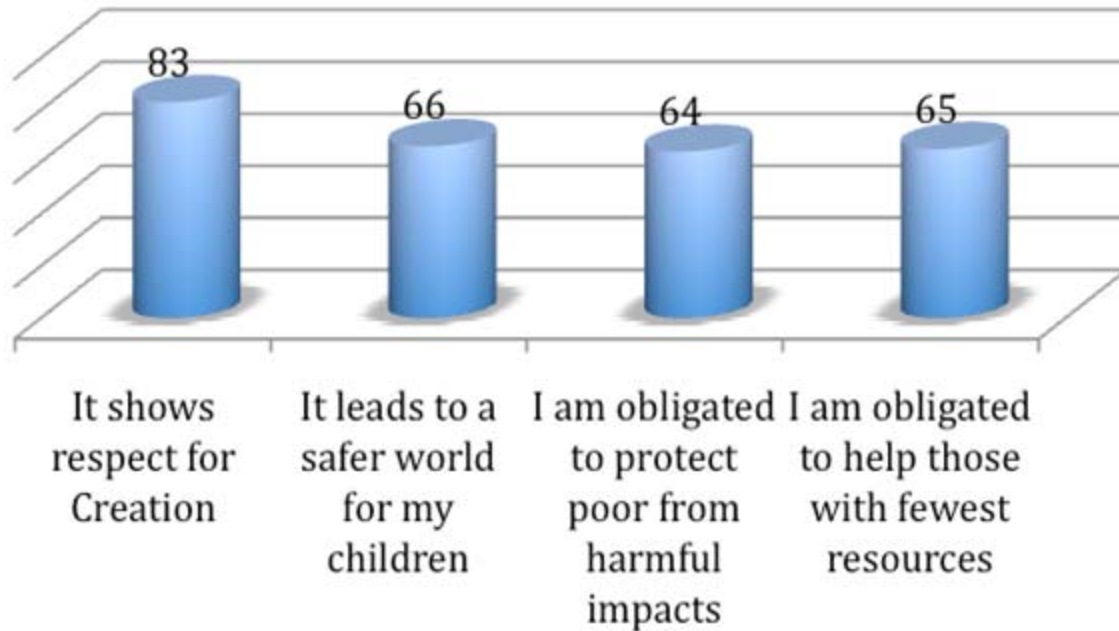
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Polling Data

I am persuaded to do something about climate change because:



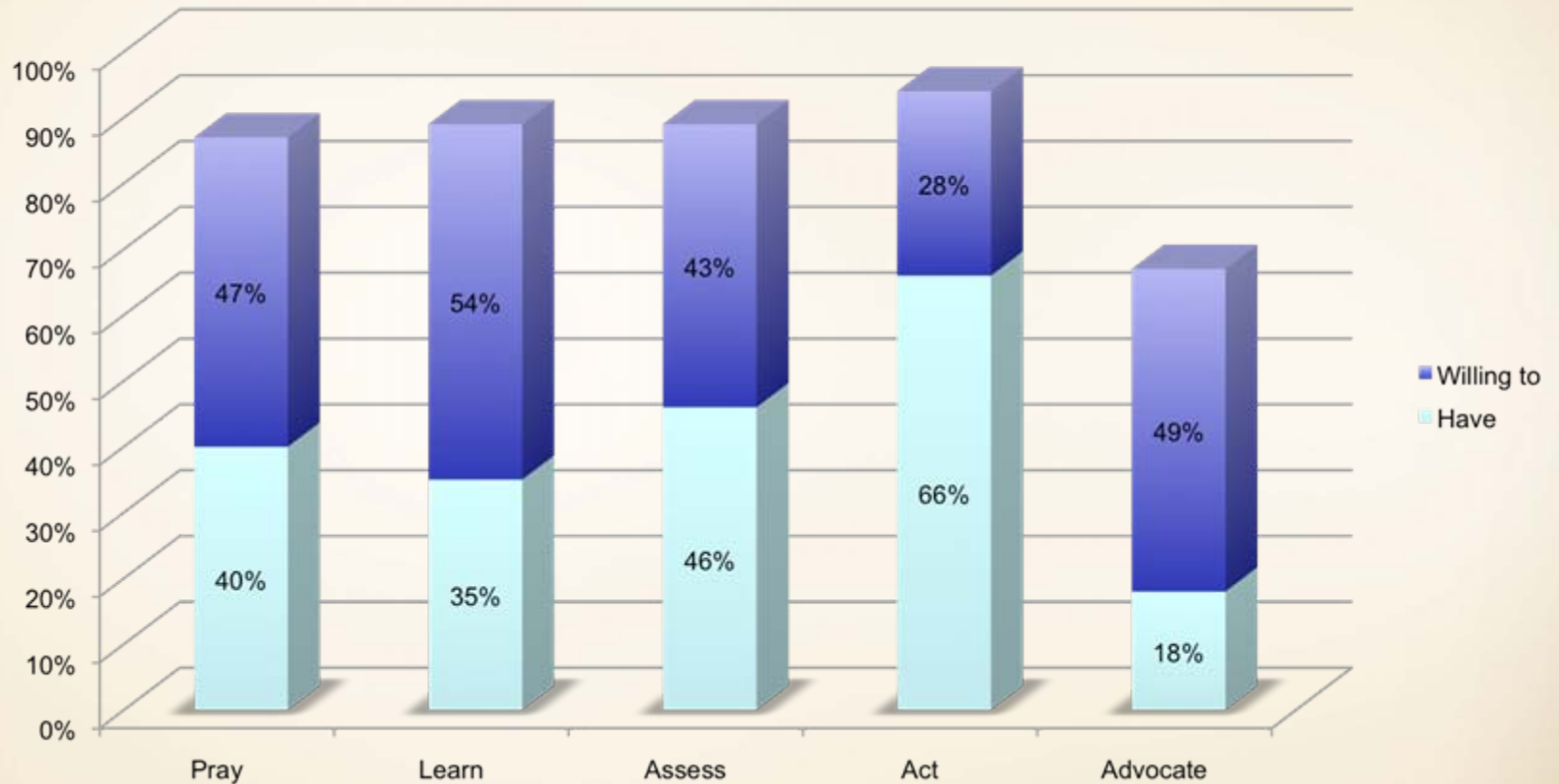
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Polling Data

Catholics who have or are willing to:



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Elaine Bauer

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives
Catholic Health Association of the United States



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Catholic Health Association

- Nation's largest group of not-for-profit health care providers--serving one in six Americans
- For our clients: climate change will have serious consequences for human health:
 - More health emergencies with dramatic weather events
 - More diseases with warming
- For us: hospitals are major contributors to climate change
 - Expend 2x as much energy per square foot



Reducing Catholic Healthcare Providers' Carbon Footprint

- Published “Faithfully Healing the Earth” (March 2009)
- Working to reduce the Carbon Footprint of Catholic health care providers by:
 - Decreasing the use of energy in operations and building design
 - Reducing transportation emissions
 - Reducing waste
 - Rethinking food service operations



Bill O'Keefe

Senior Director for Advocacy,
Catholic Relief Services



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Catholic Relief Services

Serving people in more than 100 countries

- Impacts of climate change already being felt overseas
- Years of relief and development work are being stressed in some of the poorest countries in the world due to severe weather conditions
- New resources for adaptation are needed
- U.S. should lead the way



Kathy Brown

Senior Director for Mission
Catholic Charities USA



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**The Catholic Coalition
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Catholic Charities USA

Serving nearly 8 million Americans through 1,700 agencies

- Local Charities' agencies are considering impacts on their services: housing, jobs, emergency services
- Concerned that climate change legislation include measures to:
 - Create new jobs (weatherization, new industries) for low-income
 - Provide emergency services for heat, droughts, storms



Questions?



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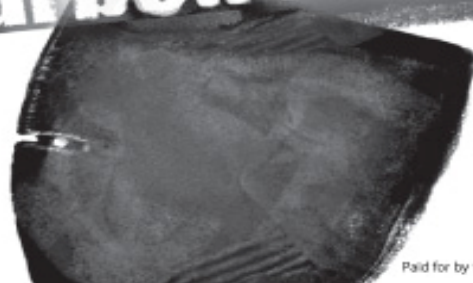
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