

Actions to mitigate climate change (HospitablePlanet.com)

The following paragraphs identify several actions to mitigate climate change, and by no means represent a comprehensive list.

Two kinds of actions: (1) personal actions, i.e., things that we do. Ex. contribute to environmental organizations focused on climate change mitigation. Join a local environmental organization. Ask your pastor to speak from the pulpit about climate change as a religious issue.

(2) advocacy. Advocacy examples: communicate with political figures at the local, state, and federal levels urging them to enact legislation that addresses climate change. Identify the specific bill, if possible.

Support candidates that pledge to push for climate change mitigation. Make this a top priority issue in your decision making.

Other personal actions: two kinds:

(1) Reduce emissions into the atmos.--- (2) Drawdown carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere—

Two major sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: electricity generation and transportation

Let's start with electricity generation.

- If purchasing a hot water heater or a clothes dryer, select a gas one rather than an electric one (less CO₂ into the atmosphere)
- When purchasing any appliance, look for the Energy Star® label, or prioritize minimum energy usage.
- If you have a dishwasher, try running it at night and do not use the heated dry option.
- Use LED bulbs.
- If you are served by a large electric utility, look on their website for their Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and see what the projected drop in GHG emissions over the plan's years will be. If not adequate, write to utility commissioners and the governor. This has influence.

For NC, access ncipl.org and look for our resolution to Duke Energy. ([Endorse NCIPL Resolution to Duke Energy - NC Interfaith Power & Light](#))

For transportation:

- Plan your trips so you drive as few miles as possible.
- If planning to replace your car or truck, consider a hybrid or electric vehicle. Hybrid is preferable now because the battery recharges every time you use the brakes. An electric vehicle must be recharged from the grid, and most of that electricity is generated by fossil fuels.
- Keep tires at the right pressure ...

Now let's consider drawing down CO₂ from the atmos.---

The book *Drawdown*, ed by Paul Hawken – contains many examples of beneficial actions. Let's focus on just one:

Plant around your home, on church property, or in a community garden deep rooted grasses, or cover crops; bushes, trees. As these grow, they pull down CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Ex. Bermuda grass; dichondra; Kentucky bluegrass.