

# 3

## What is a Christian to Do About Climate Change?

We've seen a dramatic rise in hurricanes that were so numerous in 2020 that their names exceeded the letters in the alphabet. Wherever we are we can see the effects of climate change. In this session we'll be highlighting three things: the first is to know and love God in all of creation. Second is to understand and share the facts of climate change, especially the impact of our personal choices. And finally, we'll focus on how to live a climate-friendly lifestyle.

### Session 3 of "BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO CREATION CARE AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS"

#### I. Why is recognizing climate change so difficult for us?



Photo by Markus Spiske from Unsplash

Climate Strike 2019

In this new era "everything turns on our actions and choices, with consequences for present as well as distant generations of humankind, together with the other relatives aboard the ark."

—Larry Rasmussen, ethicist

["Getting from Protestant Social Justice to Interfaith Creation Justice: What Does it Take?" Ch. 14, Living Cosmology, Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Orbis, 2016, p. 146f]

#### II. Insights about personal impact.

### We consume more than our share.

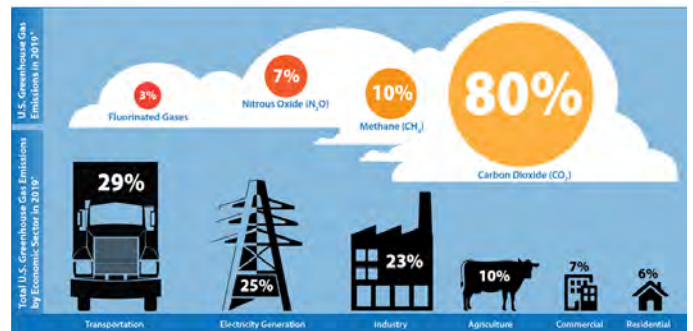
We'd need 5 earths of resources for everyone on the planet to have the average American's consumption.



Photos: climate.nasa.gov

Global Footprint Network (2019) Public Data Package

### Our personal choices matter.



\*Percentages may not add to 100% due to independent rounding and the way the inventory quantifies U.S. territories (not shown) as a separate sector.

Image from [epa.gov](http://epa.gov)

Taking indirect emissions into account our personal choices can impact all sectors of the economy, including industry and agriculture.

## Session 3 of "BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO CREATION CARE AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS"

*"There is no waste in nature, but unfortunately Americans waste over 40% of the food they purchase. Eliminating this food waste of course also eliminates the greenhouse gas emissions that would have come from producing the food. In fact, cutting back on all kinds of waste will lower your carbon footprint." —John Horsley, Ph.D.*

### III. How you can make a difference.

Do some simple things that are good for your health and the health of the planet.



Photo by Shelley Pauls from [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

#### Eat green!

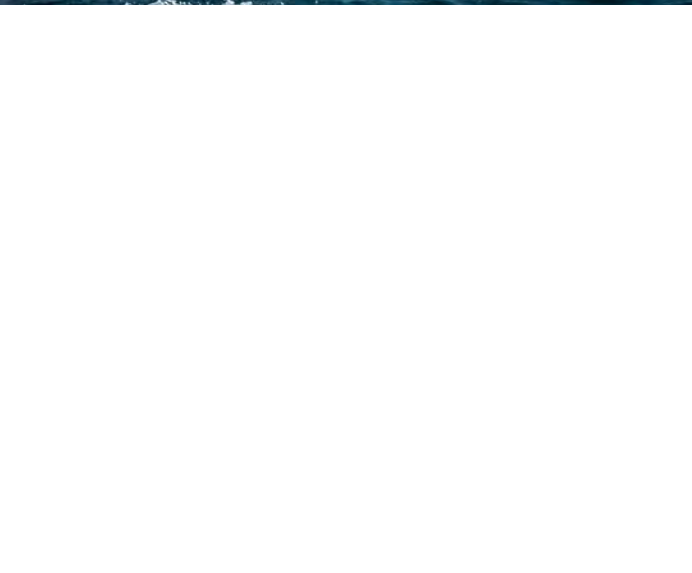
Reducing meals with beef or lamb just once per week for a family of four is the same as taking the average car off the road for up to 1,500 miles.

Our impact

✓ 30,980 TOTAL POINTS	💡 53 ACTIONS COMPLETED	💰 \$1,460 DOLLARS SAVED		
8 TONS CO <sub>2</sub> E	2,367 KWH SAVED	7 THERMS SAVED	29 GALLONS GAS SAVED	0 GALLONS WATER SAVED

Use the resources of the Episcopal Church's [www.sustainislandhome.org](http://www.sustainislandhome.org) to identify how you and your parish can make a difference.

### IV. Your response



**Live Simply  
So that Others  
May Simply  
Live.**

Photo by Stephanie Harvey from [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

For study guides and videos for each session:

[WWW.STBENSLOSOSOS.ORG/A-BEGINNERS-GUIDE-TO-CREATION-CARE-AND-THE-CLIMATE-CRISIS/](http://WWW.STBENSLOSOSOS.ORG/A-BEGINNERS-GUIDE-TO-CREATION-CARE-AND-THE-CLIMATE-CRISIS/)

