



ECO CHURCH  
RESOURCES

COMMUNITY  
& GLOBAL  
ENGAGEMENT

# Global Campaign Resources

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think



Campaigning must kick in when we need to build pressure on our leaders, on business and on other key players so that they make the decisions needed to create a low-carbon future.

Christian Aid and its partners have been campaigning on climate change since 2006. 'As Christians we are called to love our neighbours,' said the relief agency.

'If our neighbours are suffering the effects of climate change then we can demonstrate that love by making choices to live our lives more sustainably – and to campaign for our politicians to take action.'

As Nazmal Chowdhury, project manager of Practical Action Bangladesh, put it, 'Forget about making poverty history. Climate change will make poverty permanent'. So campaigning must continue.

do



Ordinary heroes are people who do bold yet simple things to change their own economy. That's the message from Tearfund's Ordinary Heroes campaign.

'Some people will fly less or consume only fairly traded products,' said Advocacy Director Paul Cook, 'others choose to use renewable energy in their homes – or invest their savings in ways that avoid exploiting others.'

'Using our power as voters, campaigners and consumers is extremely important, and part of our calling to pray and work for the Kingdom of God on earth – a world of peace, justice and hope.'

As well as calling for policy change, Ordinary Heroes seeks to encourage a grassroots movement of people to take responsibility for bringing about change.

weblink



CHRISTIAN AID

[www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/A-fairer-brighter-future-June-2014.pdf](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/A-fairer-brighter-future-June-2014.pdf)

TEARFUND

[www.tearfund.org/about\\_you/campaign](http://www.tearfund.org/about_you/campaign)



## Take simple steps towards complex changes

We are all interconnected, bound together in a million ways. Christian Aid have issued some practical advice to reflect this. Their leaflet *One Million Ways* tells us to:

- take steps to tread more lightly and lead by example;
- show your love for the world through changes in your own life;
- remember that all your actions, big and small, make a difference.

## Move your money away from fossil fuels

Coal, oil and gas are unsustainable, hurting our earth and accelerating the warming of our world. The shift towards renewable energy is already in motion, but we need to quicken the pace.

People have the opportunity to join in with God's work of renewing creation, and liberating the millions of the world's poorest people already feeling the impact of climate change by leaving fossil fuels behind.

We can do this by shifting our money and actions to where our prayers are, into a clean alternative for our energy, for a better future for the whole of humanity. It's time to leave fossil fuels behind in the past and shift towards a fairer and brighter future.



### ONE MILLION WAYS

[www.christianaid.org.uk/onemillionways](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/onemillionways)

### BIG SHIFT CAMPAIGN

[www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/Big-Shift-Campaign-Briefing-sept-2015.pdf](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/Big-Shift-Campaign-Briefing-sept-2015.pdf)



## Join the campaign for divestment

Bright Now is a campaign run by Operation Noah, and is part of a growing global movement calling for divestment from fossil fuels (also known as divestment). Bright Now is calling on churches in the UK to:

- divest from companies involved in the extraction of fossil fuels;
- take a leading and influential role in the national debate on the ethics of investment in fossil fuels;
- support the development of clean alternatives to fossil fuels through their investment policies.

Bright Now believe that by moving their investments, churches would demonstrate the leadership that is largely missing from the political arena. They would offer hope by showing that radical action can be taken, and that the continued extraction of fossil fuels is no longer morally acceptable.

**BRIGHT NOW**  
[brightnow.org.uk](http://brightnow.org.uk)



## Spread the message of consuming with care

World Environment Day is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment.

Over the years it has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach widely celebrated by stakeholders in more than 100 countries. It also serves as the 'people's day' for doing something positive for the environment.

Consuming with care means living within planetary boundaries to ensure a healthy future where our dreams can be realised. Human prosperity need not cost the earth. Living sustainably is about doing more and better with less.

World environment day is 5 June 2016.

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**  
[www.unep.org/wed/about.asp](http://www.unep.org/wed/about.asp)



## Consider becoming a 'campaign champion'

You could link with a group like RSPB. They report that 15 out of 22 species of albatross are threatened with extinction. But we can help them fly in the face of danger.

According to the RSPB, the main threat to albatrosses is death at the end of a hook on a fishing long-line. Working closely with BirdLife International partners in the Southern Ocean, RSPB is working to stop the needless slaughter of these birds and bring them back from the brink of extinction.

That's just one of several initiatives in which the RSPB is involved. The organisation is calling concerned citizens to become 'nature's heroes' to remind their MPs that environmental issues are important.

For those who like to step up for nature and make a difference, RSPB offer plenty of practical tips and advice. Such 'campaign champions' are equipped to distribute materials, write letters or emails and use social media.  
[www.rspb.org.uk/naturesheroes](http://www.rspb.org.uk/naturesheroes)

Think about becoming an 'environmental champion'. Parish environmental champions help their church and congregation to grow in understanding of the God the Father Almighty, Creator of the heavens and the earth – and how we should fulfil God's command to 'till and keep the earth' (Genesis 2:15).

It is to explore new dimensions of what it means to love our neighbour, against a background of environmental degradation, climate change and overstrained resources. Activities and concerns which a church is encouraged to engage with – supported by its Environmental Champion(s) – may include:

- environmental campaigning and action;
- encouragement, education, enabling, promoting lifestyle changes;
- premises management;
- properties – churches and churchyards, vestries and offices, mission and social care buildings;
- their energy and carbon, water and waste, and the wildlife and ecology of their surroundings;
- eco-justice and eco-twinning – twinning with overseas dioceses and centres of connection with ethnic minority congregations;
- contributing to resilience-raising projects and disaster relief;
- fairtrade and food.

Environmental action is the responsibility of everyone. It can't be done by just one person, or even by a group. The responsibility of a champion is to encourage, support and enable – not to do everything. You don't need to be an expert, just to share a love for God's creation, and a willingness to communicate, listen and learn.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

[www.london.anglican.org/kb/parish-environmental-champions](http://www.london.anglican.org/kb/parish-environmental-champions)



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Put pressure on world leaders. World leaders have committed to 17 'Global Goals' to achieve three extraordinary things in the next 15 years:

- end extreme poverty;
- fight inequality and injustice
- fix climate change.

The Global Goals for sustainable development could get these things done. And a website has been launched to help ordinary people support this movement for change.

From grassroots environmental projects to international anti-poverty organisations, each group brings something unique to the table.