

Auckland Anglican Response to the Climate Crisis (AARCC) Plan

A Diocesan framework for climate action in response to the climate crisis



Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing our generation.

Archbishop Emeritus Winston Halapua said in a 2015 statement: *“The rising sea level speaks loudly for action. For some of us from Polynesia the truth is as plain as writing on the wall. Our land and our livelihoods are drowning and others refuse to see it.”*

As Christians, we affirm a Creator God who upholds the inherent worth of all creation, human and other-than-human (Gen 1:25). As members within this vast and complex earth community, humans have a role as mutual custodians to ‘serve and preserve’ God’s creation (Gen 2:15).

If we are faithful to Jesus’ call to love our neighbours (Matt 22:39), then we need to consider how our actions impact our collective home – the Earth – for all neighbours who live here today and for future generations who will live here tomorrow.

The Auckland Anglican Response to the Climate Crisis (AARCC) Plan provides a framework for four areas of action that we can focus on as a Diocese, as Ministry Units and as Individuals and Families.

To find the detailed AARCC Plan and other resources go to adjustnz.org and cherished-earth.org.nz

Liturgy and Worship



Our response begins with recognising our role in the world not as dominating consumers, but as kaitiaki – caretakers of creation and its resources. We want our engagement with climate justice to be grounded in our Christian spirituality and liturgical life.

This means:

As a Diocese we will be gathering and developing a range of resources that help us to reflect on creation care and climate action.

(adjustnz.org and cherished-earth.org.nz)

As Ministry Units we can incorporate creation care into our liturgical practices, and participate in the regular celebration of the Season of Creation (1st of September – 4th of October).

As Individuals and Families we can make time to worship in God's creation – going for prayer walks in nature and working in the garden.

We can read our Bible with a greater awareness of creation and the other-than-human (Psalm 104, Jeremiah 12:4-6, Romans 8:19-23).

Education



It is important that we build our understanding of environmental issues in order to engage meaningful action. We seek to learn from experts and practitioners in the area of sustainability as we work together for the common good of all creation.

This means:

As a Diocese we will provide workshops and training opportunities for Sustainability Champions, lay and clergy leaders, and anyone passionate about climate justice to learn more about sustainability issues and how we can respond to the climate crisis.

As Ministry Units we can invite speakers to talk about sustainability issues at our churches and to promote education opportunities and resources with a focus on creation care and climate justice.

As Individuals and Families we can organise small group studies around climate justice and creation care (adjustnz.org and cherished-earth.org.nz).

We can read books, articles and listen to podcasts about care of creation, sustainability and climate change.

Mitigation



In response to the immediate climate crisis we have to consider how we can take responsibility as a Diocese, as Ministry Units and as Individuals and Families to reduce our carbon footprint.

This means:

As a Diocese we will reduce the carbon footprint of Diocesan staff operations and look into opportunities for sustainability audits, renewable energy generation, low carbon transport options and waste minimisation.

As Ministry Units we can calculate our carbon footprint using free online carbon footprint calculators (toitu.co.nz) and explore ways to reduce our carbon footprint, first in the areas of energy, waste and transport.

We can participate in regenerative activities such as tree planting, starting/participating in community gardens and composting.

As Individuals and Families we can calculate our personal carbon footprint and seek to make everyday choices that will reduce it.

Advocacy and Outreach



As the church, we have a role to play in reaching out to our wider community and speaking out on the structural issues that put the environment at risk.

This means:

As a Diocese we will speak out in public spaces for structural and systemic change that builds the common good and upholds the integrity of creation.

We will participate in non-violent public action that demand climate justice.

As Ministry Units we can collaborate with local environmental organisations and community groups who share our values and passion for climate justice and care of creation, on climate campaigns and green projects.

As Individuals and Families we can write to and meet with our local businesses, decision makers and MPs to vocalise our support for meaningful climate action.

Be a Sustainability Champion!

Passionate about climate justice and want to support your Ministry Unit to get more involved in creation care and climate action?

Get in touch:

sustainability.fieldworker@aucklandanglican.org.nz

