

Climate Justice

What is Climate Justice?

Friends of the Earth defines Climate Justice as “fighting for solutions to the climate crisis that not only reduce emissions but create a fairer and more just world in the process”. It recognises that climate change doesn’t just have environmental consequences, but social and political ones too.

UNICEF recognises that climate action is linked with human rights and development, and a just response to the climate crisis needs a human centred approach, not just a technological one.

Why should Christians care?

Creation and creation care is seen throughout the Bible (Genesis 2:15, Psalm 24:1-2, Psalm 104:24, Job 12:7-10 and Colossians 1:16).

As part of the Church of England, the Five Marks of Mission were adopted by General Synod in 1996. Responding to the climate crisis weaves into all Five Marks, especially Marks 4 and 5;

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The impacts of climate change are already starting to be felt and they are not being felt equally, often impacting those in the Global South who have contributed least to the crisis.

Ruth Valerio writes more about this for Tearfund, which you can [read here](#).

What can we do?

One of the first steps is to reduce our own impact- there are a whole range of resources on reaching Net Zero available [here](#).

We can also respond to human need by loving service (as in the third Mark of Mission), by supporting people in crisis. This may be locally- opening up your church as a refuge if flooding hits an area- or globally- supporting calls for Loss and Damage payments.

You can also share the Climate Justice message- Tearfund has a range of resources for your church and small groups [here](#).