Presbyterian Hunger Program

Food and the Climate Crisis

Sources: ActionAid, Center for Food Safety, FAO, GRAIN, IFPRI, IPCC, Rodale Institute, World Food Programme and World Watch

"With our Lord, we stand with the 'least of these' and advocate for the poor and oppressed in present and future generations who are often.... least able to mitigate the impact of global warming that [is falling] disproportionately on them..." - The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming, approved by the 218th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

How Climate Change impacts Hunger and Poverty



Climate change could raise the number of people at risk of hunger 10-20% and increase the number of malnourished children by 21% by 2050.

Marginalized and poor populations are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to inequalities in socioeconomic status, income and exposure risks.

How Organic Agriculture and Agroecology impacts Climate Change

Organic and agroecological farms do not use synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, resulting in 50% less fossil fuel energy usage and 30% greater biodiversity than that of industrial farms.

For every two acres of organic farmland, 14,000 pounds of carbon dioxide can be removed from the air and absorbed into the soil each year, which is equivalent to removing one car from the road.



Small-scale farmers produce the majority of the world's food, but occupy less than 25% of the world's farmland. Giving land back to small-scale farmers, coupled with policies which support

Organic

= PRODUCT =

local markets and reduce chemical inputs, could reduce GHG emissions by half in a couple of decades.

False Solutions to Climate Change



Biofuels result in greater GHG emissions than fossil fuels when considering the deforestation and land —use change necessary for its industrial production. Biofuels are also a major driver of global land grabs and pose a threat to global food security as its production displaces food production for fuel.

Genetically modified crops are advertised as climate-resistant, but typically require more water, destroy biodiversity and increase toxins in the environment.





Wealthy governments, corporations and international financial institutions are promoting solutions to climate change that permit polluters to pollute and place the burden of good environmental practices on poor communities.

GHG: green house gasses

Elevated carbon dioxide levels and warmer temperatures will compromise the nutritional content of food.









damaged crops.

Male African





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How Food System impacts Climate Change

Increases in temperature

and waterborne illnesses.

and extreme weather events will have

multiple negative implications for food

safety and public health, including

increases in the transmission of food

44-57% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from the global food system: farming, deforestation, processing and packaging, freezing

and retail, transportation and waste.

Demand for water will increase for agriculture, human and animal consumption, and for energy production which will lead to greater water scarcity and competition for water resources.



18% of annual GHG emissions worldwide are generated from livestock production while others estimate that the contribution is much higher at as much as 51%.



The Joining Hands (JH) Initiative of PHP analyzes how free trade agreements, the extractive industries, land grabs, and the corporatization of seeds are increasing poverty and hunger while also contributing to climate change. JH mobilizes people in focused campaigns to tackle these systemic issues both in the United States and abroad as a witness to the wholeness of God's creation. pcusa.org/joininghands

Joining Hands Addresses

























Take Action

1. Eat organic food.

3. Do not waste food.

pcusa.org/food

pcusa.org/hunger

4. Grow some of your own food.

2. Eat food that is grown close to where you live.

5. Support your denomination's hunger programs.6. Advocate for environmentally-friendly agricultural

7. Learn about Food Week of Action and more at

8. Attend a PHP webinar or reflection-action trip at

Sunday worship: pcusa.org/earthday

The PC (USA) Response

9. Incorporate food and climate concerns in an Earth Day

The Presbyterian Church (USA) encourages Presbyterians

to live "carbon neutral lives" while simultaneously calling

for a "just" climate solution which would mitigate the

worst impacts of increased food prices for people living

in poverty, and provide ample adaptation support for the

poorest and most affected communities around the globe.

Additionally, many PC(USA) congregations at the national

level participate in the Earth Care Congregation program,

making commitments to care for God's earth, as well as

PHP is working in many countries around the world

with small farmers and local organizations to address environmental degradation, land grabbing, economic

dislocation, food insecurity and other factors that

contribute to the vulnerability of communities in the face

of the worsening impacts of climate change. Together we

are learning different methods to protect the environment

and natural resources, addressing climate change, and

advocating for people-centered solutions and alternatives

which contribute to ensuring food sovereignty and

taking actions for justice for the earth and all in it.

PHP Empowers

Resilient Communities

