This December, world leaders will gather in Paris for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21), to negotiate a new international agreement that will determine the future of the world’s climate. Pope Francis, through his encyclical Laudato Si, has chosen this crucial year to call on every living person to act on climate change and protect our common home.

Development and Peace shares the concerns of Pope Francis: everyone in our global village is affected by climate change, but it is the poor who are paying the biggest price. We can look to the Philippines, Ethiopia and Honduras to see the impacts on countries that are extremely vulnerable to climate change, as they suffer the consequences of typhoons, droughts and environmental degradation.

The movement for climate justice is diverse, strong, and global. Development and Peace has joined a three-year campaign on sustainable lifestyles, led by CIDSE, an international alliance of 17 Catholic development organizations from Europe and North America, called Change for the Planet - Care for the People. We have also joined the Global Catholic Climate Movement, which is urging world leaders to commit to ambitious climate action and solve this urgent crisis. We are inspired by our Catholic faith and the belief that collective action can halt climate change. This movement has grown across all of the world’s continents, from North to South, and East to West.

In the Global South, the partner organizations of Development and Peace are reminding us not only of the need to support them in their efforts to adapt to climate change, but also of the need to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions in order to reduce the dramatic impacts of climate change. The transition away from an economy founded on fossil fuels is a challenge. But it is possible and — above all — necessary. By reducing our consumption as well as demanding political action from our governments, we address the structural causes that are at the root of climate change.

As part of this campaign, Development and Peace invites Canadians to make a commitment, through the use of an action card, to reduce our consumption and to make sustainable choices. With the action card, we are also challenging our federal government to make a commitment to make the transition towards an economy based on renewable energies and energy efficiency, and to unconditionally support the adoption of a new global agreement on climate change in Paris that is fair, ambitious and legally binding.

Be a part of this global movement to protect the Earth! Join Development and Peace and people around the world who care about our planet and the world’s people by taking action on climate change. Let’s stand with Pope Francis and protect our common home. Together, we can achieve climate justice!
Dear Development and Peace Supporters,

Every day, we observe the beauty of God’s creation all around us. Our Creator has given us the air we breathe, the water that sustains life, and the food that feeds us. All of this God created and found “very good.” When we show gratitude and care for God’s creation, we show respect for this incredible gift.

Today, we are seeing signs of a changing climate that is dramatically altering our world. We must question whether we are truly respecting creation, which God made for the entire human family.

From prolonged droughts in Ethiopia to recurring typhoons in the Philippines, people in the developing world are struggling to survive in the face of extreme weather events. Because of the changing climate, people must leave their homes and communities because they don’t have enough food, drinking water or arable land.

The sad irony is that the people who are suffering the most from the effects of climate change have done the least to cause it. In fact, Canadians are among the highest consumers of fossil fuels, and have one of the highest carbon footprints in the world.

God entrusted creation with all of us. We need to take action together to ensure that all of God’s children, including future generations, can enjoy the gift of creation. By making the transition to a sustainable way of living which is based on Gospel values, we can respond to global climate change.

This fall, I invite you to join the Development and Peace campaign Create a Climate of Change and to create a climate of change with your family, at your school, in your community, and across our country. Together, we can care for all of God’s creation.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Paul-André Durocher
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Archbishop of Gatineau
Campaign Timeline

September - Early October

**Workshops and Planning:** Contact your animator to set up a time to organize a formation/workshop, or to get some materials and tips on hosting your own.

**Build a team:** Meet with other Development and Peace members and supporters to discuss and plan the campaign for your parish and/or school.

**Build a network of key campaign supporters:** Talk to priests, members of parish pastoral committees, student and youth leaders, chaplains, teachers, etc. Share your ideas, get their suggestions, and think about how you can work together. This is an ideal time to plan online strategies, such as sharing fall campaign activities, events and materials with friends on Facebook or Twitter.

**The Action Sheet and Action Card:** Hand out the Action Sheet one week in advance so that people can read it at home. Inform them that they will have the opportunity to sign an Action Card the following week. Use our Liturgical Reflection to make a presentation or announcement about the campaign during Mass the following week. Leave the Action Card, along with pens, in the pews or put a stack on a table at the entrance of the church or parish hall and invite people to sign. Ask Development and Peace members or other parishioners available to host a table with materials and to answer questions. Collect the cards and mail them. They will be sent directly to the Prime Minister’s Office and do not require postage.

**Municipal governments:** Meet with local politicians to ask what they are doing to combat climate change and suggest ways to make your municipality more sustainable.

**Federal election preparations and meetings with MPs:** Arrange to meet with your current Member of Parliament and the other federal candidates in your riding prior to the federal election. Ask them their party’s position on climate change and renewable energy. Ensure that local Development and Peace members attend the election debates and ask questions of the candidates. Use the 2015 Development and Peace Fall Election Guide, which can be found at devp.org, for asking questions.

October 19

**Federal Election:** Be sure to exercise your right to vote today!

October 23-25

**Days of Action and Prayer for the Climate:** Organize a vigil in your parish or school on October 23, 24, or 25. Invite other parishes, denominations, faith groups, and members of the community to join in praying for the Earth and for definitive action on climate change at COP 21 in Paris.

Early November

**Mailing of action cards:** Don’t forget to mail in the action cards no later than early November to ensure that our elected Prime Minister receives them before COP21.

November 29

**COP21 Global Day of Action:** On the eve of the climate negotiations in Paris, climates marches will be organized worldwide. Be part of the global climate movement by organizing a Development and Peace group to take part in your local march. If possible, ring the bells of your church to bring attention to this important day of global mobilization on climate change.

November 30 – December 11

**COP21:** A Development and Peace delegation will join Catholic organizations from around the world for an international pilgrimage to the COP21 in Paris. Follow their activities on devp.org, and Facebook and Twitter.
Change your lifestyle

Change starts with each one of us. To reduce the impact of climate change on people living in poverty in the Global South, I commit to: (Choose one and/or insert your own.)

• Making my home more energy-efficient and reducing my energy use.
• Carpooling, using public transport, walking, and bicycling whenever possible.
• Choosing local, organic, or fair trade food whenever possible.
• Reducing waste by buying less, re-using, repairing, recycling, and composting.

Change your community

Invite your school or parish to assess the ecological impact it is having and commit to making changes to operate more sustainably. Look into the Green Church initiative which aims to empower faith communities in adopting environmentally-friendly practices and rediscover an eco-spirituality from the Christian tradition: egliseverte-greenchurch.ca. Find a Green School certification program in your region which can guide you in making your school climate-friendly. You may also be interested in looking into joining the Fossil Free movement which was started by 350.org.

Change our country

Ask people to sign the action card or to sign the on-line action card addressed to our Prime Minister, which calls on Canada to do its part and contribute to solving this urgent crisis. The action card calls on the Canadian government:

1. To adopt a fair, ambitious, and legally-binding international agreement on climate change to ensure that the world’s temperature rise does not exceed 2°C;
2. To provide the resources necessary for the most vulnerable communities in the world to adapt to climate change;
3. To make the transition from a carbon-based economy and develop a new model for energy and the economy which is based on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Living with limits, living well!
Hints for neighbours on an endangered planet

In the fall or in the new year, organize a workshop or a series of discussion sessions using the workbook Living with Limits, Living Well, produced by the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice and published by the CCCB Publications. You can order it for $15 plus shipping by calling 1 800 769-1147 or at cccbpublishations.ca. Visit the resources section of our website at: devp.org/climateofchange.

In the workbook, you will find a step-by-step guide for organizing a series of discussions on subjects related to the spiritual dimensions of living more simply. Encourage participants to read the chapters before each meeting. Start each session or ‘module’ with a related TED talk video, an episode from GreenSpirit TV or other video resources. Divide into groups of 4-6 people and use the study questions at the end of each chapter to have a discussion. If time permits, allow for a plenary session with everyone at the end.

Video Clip Links:
GreenSpirit TV - greenspirittv.com
Story of Stuff - storyofstuff.org
TED Talks - ted.com/talks
Films for Action - filmsforaction.org
Days of Action and Prayer for the Climate

October 23-25
Organize a Vigil!

Types of vigils

• A spiritual vigil offers a ray of light in challenging times. Share in a moment of calm to pray for the Earth and for world leaders who will meet in Paris in December to discuss climate change.

• An awareness-raising vigil is intended to alert and educate the public. Launch a call for vigilance in addressing climate change and the commitments that Canada will make in Paris. Raise awareness about climate-related issues and the impact of our lifestyles on the people living in countries in the Global South.

How?

The vigils can showcase a traditional, religious or artistic practice. They are frequently, among other things, opportunities for oral, artistic, or musical expression.

Some tips for organizing a vigil

BEFORE:

• Form a group of two or three organizers.
• Identify an easily accessible place for the people you wish to rally (church, school, community centre, park, etc.).
• Invite your community to participate (have people register), promote the event, notify your local media. Inform the Development and Peace animator in your region of the location, date and nature of your vigil.

DURING:

• Offer activities that inspire reflection, sharing and mobilization that are tailored to the participants (prayers, songs, candlelight vigil, a march, testimonials, artistic performances, etc.).
• Distribute Development and Peace action cards for signatures, distribute campaign materials, etc.
• Take pictures.

AFTER:

• Send pictures to the Development and Peace animator in your region.
• Testify about your experience in the local newspaper, your parish newsletter or the school newspaper.

Thank you for your support!
This letter was written by Bishop Donald Bolen of Saskatoon, Chairman of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. We hope that it inspires you and that you use sections of it for speeches or announcements at meetings or for your message from the pulpit. A longer version of this message is available on the resources page at devp.org.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is my privilege to write to you in all our parishes and schools throughout the land, encouraging you to take up Pope Francis’ invitation to engage in an open and honest conversation about our world, and about how we can learn to live on this Earth in a way which is sustainable and life-giving for all.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis notes that our world is “falling into serious disrepair” (61). Our way of living is contaminating the Earth's waters, land and air; we are losing forests and woodlands, and stripping the world of its natural resources; plant and animal species are disappearing; we are generating millions of tons of waste, much of it non-biodegradable; and our actions are now resulting in changes to the climate that, if unchecked, will have grave implications for future life here.

Pope Francis also draws attention to the human dimensions of the current crisis: many parts of the world no longer have access to safe drinking water; there is increasing economic inequality that is leaving billions of people in poverty; the “structurally perverse” way in which the resources of developing nations enhance the quality of life of wealthy nations, while the vital needs of their own citizens go unaddressed (52; cf. 95). Environmental degradation has a particularly negative impact on those who are poorest and most vulnerable (48).

The situation is not without hope; “humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home” (13), and God is with us as we do so. But an old saying comes to mind: *If you do not change direction, you are likely to end up where you are heading*. The challenge before us is urgent, and prosperous nations such as Canada bear a special responsibility.

There is an increasing recognition here, as elsewhere, that we are depleting our natural resources (and those of other nations) and are not living in a way which is sustainable; nor are we living in a way which can be replicated the world over. We are among those who do have the human and...
economic resources to take initiatives both in relation to the environment and in addressing the needs of our sisters and brothers in need in developing nations. But it would require a genuine conversion from us, with personal, corporate, economic and political dimensions.

Pope Francis raises a few specific challenges to us. Firstly, he asks us to honestly and directly name our current crises concerning the environment, inequality and poverty. Pointing to obstructionist attitudes, the masking of problems and manipulation of information, and the prioritizing of short-term gain and private or national interests above the global common good, he pleads that we cease treating issues of environmental concern or global poverty as an afterthought (14, 19, 26, 49, 54, 169, 184). Secondly, he summons us to “a new and universal solidarity,” grounded in the conviction that humanity is one people living in a common homeland (14, cf. 164). We have a shared responsibility for others and for our world. This includes a responsibility towards future generations, as the environment “is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the next” (159).

Do we love our children and grandchildren, and their descendants, enough to change our way of living and our economic systems? In addition to the need for an ‘inter-generational’ solidarity, we stand in urgent need of an ‘intra-generational’ or global solidarity with those of our own day who are deprived of basic human needs. Are we mature and generous enough to value the well-being of those more vulnerable than we are, even at the cost of our nation’s accumulation of wealth and power? Finally, he calls us to a mature faith which integrates and gives priority to justice and care for the environment. “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue” (111). Written into creation and the created order is the challenge to live meaningfully together on this planet; God has given us this challenge.

In support of Pope Francis’s appeal, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is inviting Catholic parishes and schools throughout the country to take an active part in its ‘Days of Action and Prayer for the Climate’ from Friday, Oct. 23 to Sunday, Oct. 25. The Days of Action and Prayer provide us with an opportunity to do some fresh thinking about our global environmental crisis, and to ask what we can do to facilitate a change of direction, in our personal lives, our parishes and schools, and our communities and nation.

Playing our part can be as simple as recycling and as complex as rethinking our unsustainable global systems to discern a more just and human way of living.

“Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth” (Laudato Si, 92).

Sisters and brothers in Christ, this work is meant to be carried out with the hope and joy that comes from the Gospel. Let us all, as individuals, families, parishes and dioceses, strive to better integrate environmental concerns into our faith lives, not only during these ‘Days of Action and Prayer for the Climate,’ but always. While the Holy Father speaks of the need for a “bold cultural revolution,” (114) the next step may be a very simple one. He reminds us that an integrated faith-based approach to environmental and justice issues is “made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness” (230). Rather than resigning ourselves to pessimism or apathy, let us daily ask God’s assistance in discerning what the world needs and what we can offer, by living wisely, thinking deeply and loving generously in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,
+Donald Bolen
Bishop of Saskatoon
Chairman of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
The week before your workshop

**Workshop on Development and Peace’s new campaign Create a Climate of Change!**

Responding to the call of Pope Francis to take urgent action on curbing climate change, Development and Peace has launched a new campaign: *Create a Climate of Change!* This campaign calls on all Canadian Catholics and people of good faith to take concrete action to help reduce climate change, which is having the most devastating impacts on the poor and vulnerable in the Global South. Come learn how you can be a part of this campaign and make it a success at a workshop on (DATE) at (TIME and LOCATION). For more information, contact (CONTACT NAME and INFO).

The week before you start the campaign in your parish

**Climate change is an issue of justice!**

The most poor and vulnerable in the Global South suffer the most from the impacts of climate change, yet they are the ones who contribute the least to the carbon emissions that are warming the planet. Did you know that Canada has carbon emissions that are 150 times higher per capita than Ethiopia, one of the countries in the world that suffers the most from drought conditions exacerbated by climate change? Pope Francis reminds us of our responsibility to act in his encyclical *Laudato Si*: “The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of this imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now.” Take part in Development and Peace’s campaign *Create a Climate of Change* to do your part! Learn more at [devp.org/climateofchange](http://devp.org/climateofchange).

Second week of the campaign in your parish or week the Action Sheet is distributed

**What you can do to Create a Climate of Change!**

Development and Peace’s new campaign asks us to take action on climate change. There are many ways in which you can contribute to reducing the carbon emissions that are causing global temperatures to rise and are creating climate-related disasters such as droughts and typhoons. Even small changes in your everyday life can make a big difference. Did you know that one bus replaces 50 cars on the road? Or that fruit produced locally will use 10-20% less gas in its transportation? By reducing your carbon emissions you are showing your solidarity with the most poor and vulnerable in the Global South affected by climate change. To learn about how you can *Create a Climate of Change*, visit [devp.org/climateofchange](http://devp.org/climateofchange).

The week before you hand out the Action Card

**Let’s make Canada a climate leader!**

In December, world leaders will be meeting in Paris at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) to negotiate a binding and universal agreement on the world’s climate. For this agreement to be effective at avoiding future climate-related disasters, the global temperature can’t rise more than 2°C over the coming years. In order to achieve this, however, countries like Canada will need to transition to renewable energies, and move away from fossil fuels. Sign Development and Peace’s Action Card, which will be distributed on (DATE), asking the Prime Minister to sign on to an agreement at COP21 that sets the target to keep the rise in temperature below 2°C and to be a leader in achieving that target. On the card, you can also share with the Prime Minister your own personal action to help reduce climate change. The survival of our planet and its people is at stake!
A week or two before your Climate Vigil

Be part of our Climate Vigil!

Be part of the Days of Action and Prayer for the Climate from October 23-25 by participating in a climate vigil on (DATE and TIME). As part of Development and Peace’s campaign *Create a Climate of Change*, vigils are being organized all across Canada that weekend. The vigil will be (describe activity – i.e. walk with candles; artistic activity; etc.) to raise awareness on the issue of climate change. It will be a moment to pray and be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South who are currently experiencing the worst impacts of climate change. We will also pray for our leaders who will be at the COP21 negotiations in Paris, so that they come to an agreement that will address climate change and support countries in the Global South in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

A few weeks before starting your discussion group

Discussion group on how to live simply

The Development and Peace parish council is organizing a discussion group on how to live simply. The group will be using the guide *Living with Limits, Living Well!* which was prepared by the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice and published by CCCB Publications. This workbook will guide the group in engaging on the interconnectedness of poverty, inequality, globalization, ecology and spirituality. It is a great way to begin a spiritual reflection on Pope Francis’ call to move away from a ‘throwaway culture,’ that is based on over-consumption. For more information about the discussion group, contact (NAME and CONTACT INFO).
Poster, Action Sheet and Action Card

These three main tools of the campaign, to be used in your parish, at your school, and in your community, highlight the issues of the Create a Climate of Change campaign, and offer a way for Canadians to learn about the impacts of climate change on people living in the Global South, and to take action on this urgent issue.

Feeling the Heat: How Climate Change is Driving Extreme Weather in the Global South

This 50-page report brings together the science around climate change and the personal experiences of communities and organizations supported by Development and Peace, with recommendations for how Canada can play its part in addressing climate change, and reducing its impact on the poorest countries of the world. This report is available for download from devp.org. An executive summary of Feeling the Heat is available for order on the Campaign order form.

Living with Limits, Living Well: Hints for neighbours on an endangered planet

Written by William F. Ryan sj and Janet Somerville with Anne O’Brien gsic and Anne-Marie Jackson

This colourful 54-page workbook offers information and inspiration to understand how justice for the poor and justice for the Earth are not only deeply interconnected but also firmly based on Catholic social teaching on human dignity, solidarity and the common good. This resource includes reflections, group questions, cartoons, quotes and a list of additional resources.

You can buy the spiral-bound booklet for $15 by calling CCCB Publications at 1 800 769-1147 or at cccbpublishing.ca. You can also download it for free from our website.
Youth Activity Guides

Needs and Wants: An Activity on the Environment for Elementary School Students

With the help of this guide, elementary school teachers and pastoral leaders who work with young children will be able to lead a fun, educational activity where participants will come to understand the global consequences of our consumption choices. This interactive 25-40 minute activity for both small and large groups suits children from Kindergarten to Grade 6, and includes adaptations for younger and older children.

Climate Balloons: An Activity for Secondary School Students

This guide for secondary school teachers and youth leaders explains how to lead a participatory group activity that explores the local human causes of climate change and the global impacts of climate change. After this analysis, the activity suggests ways to take action as individuals and at the community-level to reduce the negative impacts of climate change. This interdisciplinary 45-60 minute activity is aligned with religion, social studies and science curricula and is well-suited to students in grades 7-12.

The youth activity guides are available for download from our website, as well as for order on the School Order Form.

Videos

The fall campaign video clip, as well as short testimonial videos from Ethiopia, Honduras, and the Philippines, powerfully communicate the issues of the campaign, and can be used in parishes, schools, and during community events.

The videos are available on the campaign DVD, which is available from your regional animator. They are also available for viewing and for download on the website.

To read or download all of these resources and more, visit the resources page at devp.org/climateofchange.
Lord, in the joy of your Creation,
The whole human family has received
this unique gift from you:
our planet Earth.

We sincerely thank you, Lord!

Lord, look on our Earth and
help us to recognize that it is urgent
that we act…
…for we are destroying our forests,
devastating our land,
and polluting our seas.

By doing this,
we cause changes to our climate,
and create environmental turmoil
that increase poverty
in the countries of the Global South.

We sincerely ask for forgiveness, Lord.

Yes, it is time to act…
to guide our planet
in its development
and in its peace.

Marie-Paule Malenfant
Development and Peace member,
Trois-Rivières, Quebec