

Climate Change & Faith Communities

A Community Partnership

Climate Change and Faith Communities is a partnership between the City of Columbus, Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, and area congregations that wish to learn more about climate change and the positive steps they can take to protect public health and the environment. The initiative works with faith communities to increase their understanding of how climate change impacts our planet, and to explore how they can help protect its people and natural systems.

How will our goals be accomplished?

- **We'll begin with a Climate Conversation** to discuss climate change in ways that encourage the sharing of values, concerns, and hopes. Through these conversations we can explore together our shared connections and responsibilities.
- **We'll discuss questions** such as "What are your stories of connection, to one another and to the Earth?" and "What do you think and feel about climate change?"
- **We'll offer possible strategies** that can help participants protect the environment, while helping them to save money and live healthier lives.
- Your church and/or individual congregation members can **select action steps** that can make a positive impact.
- **We'll periodically check in** with participants on the progress of their pledges to measure the resulting environmental benefit.

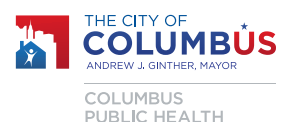
Why hold a Climate Conversation?

- If you believe that the natural environment is the source of life for all of us and should be protected.
- If you believe that acting on this problem will help prevent the suffering of millions around the world - now and in the future.
- If you believe in the principles of justice and equity. Though climate change affects all of us, the biggest impacts are often felt by those who've contributed least to the problem.
- If you believe strategies adopted can save your church money - money that your congregation can use for other important church needs.
- If you believe we have a responsibility to leave a healthy, safe environment for our children and future generations.

Our Goals:

- **Explore the issue** of climate change with members of your congregation
- Work with your faith community to **adopt climate change action strategies**
- **Calculate the impact** of following these strategies and share it with your congregation
- Through these strategies, empower your faith community to **make positive changes** to their health, the community and the environment

For more information, contact Rebecca Mellino
Office of Environmental Protection & Sustainability
Columbus Public Health
(614) 645-6940 / RKMellino@columbus.gov



COLUMBUS
PUBLIC HEALTH