



IOWA INTERFAITH
POWER & LIGHT

We can no longer wait...

2018 Iowa Religious Leaders Statement on Climate Change

Global climate change is one of the most pressing moral challenges facing our world. Today, we call on Iowans to find and implement solutions to climate change.

As religious leaders representing diverse faith traditions in Iowa, we offer the following shared, core beliefs that compel, empower, and guide faithful action. **As people of faith:**

- We must act to solve climate change because it threatens our brothers and sisters in our neighborhoods, throughout our state, across our country, and around the world. We are all neighbors put at risk by a changing climate.
- We can find solutions to climate change by embracing a spirit of hope. Earth sustains our lives. Creation provides a world of abundance. This abundance offers us the path out of our dependence on fossil fuels and the environmental destruction associated with greenhouse gas pollution.
- We know climate justice requires we bear each other's burdens equitably. It is not fair that climate change is affecting most those who are vulnerable and least able to adapt: the poor, the young, the elderly, the sick, and those living in developing countries. Solutions to climate change will unleash new economic opportunities the benefits of which must be shared equitably.
- We are required to work with nature to find solutions to climate change. We are part of nature, not independent from it. Our call to be stewards of the Earth, to care for creation that nourishes us all, demands we work with nature rather than against it and share our first fruits with those who need them most.
- We need to demand and offer leadership at the local, state, national, and international levels. We must pursue policies and strategies to address sustainable energy production and use, to change patterns of consumption, and to model new ways of living in communion with nature. Political leadership to solve climate change must focus on the common good.
- We trust the scientific consensus that human activity is causing catastrophic global climate change. While healthy debate exists about how best to address climate change, the debate about whether or not humans are causing climate change has been resolved. Humans are causing it, and we are capable of fixing it.

Time is of the essence. We can no longer wait. Iowans must draw on the rich resources in our religious traditions to find and implement solutions to climate change.

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2018 Iowa Religious Leaders Statement on Climate Change

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