

Climate Change: why it matters

Two degrees, one chance

Temperature rises of more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels will mean:

- Water shortages for up to 4 billion people
- Food shortages for 250 million people
- 40-60 million more Africans exposed to malaria

Source: Stern Review on the economics of climate change, 2006

“When I was a child, there was so much rain that we prayed for it to stop. Now we pray for rain. There has been a big climate change within living memory.”

Archbishop Pius Ncube of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Niger tackles extreme weather

In 2005, Niger, the world's poorest country, suffered drought and a catastrophic food crisis. CAFOD's local partners – Caritas Niger, Catholic Relief Services and Islamic Relief – set up feeding centres for malnourished children and communal food banks. In 2006, communities were better prepared for the “hungry season”, thanks in part to new soil preparation methods. Yet extreme weather is an ever present threat, and scientists say Niger could face more frequent and intense droughts as global warming causes the monsoon rains to fail.

Climate change affects us all – but those hit first and hardest are people living in poverty. Already, 150,000 people die each year from the effects of climate change, almost all in developing countries¹. For CAFOD, climate change is an issue of justice. While the rich world consumes far more of the Earth's resources, poor communities bear the brunt of extreme weather.

CAFOD invites you to take action on climate change as part of a commitment to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor communities.

Climate change: there's no denying it

There is no doubt that human activity is warming the Earth. The world is warming faster than at any time in the last 10,000 years². Scientists say that if we continue at today's rate of greenhouse gas emissions, temperatures will rise by more than 6°C in the coming decades, devastating life on earth³. The scientific and political consensus is that rises must stay below 2°C to limit dangerous climate change. This will require fundamental changes in human behaviour – and even then daily life will be disrupted, especially in developing countries.

Why is climate change an issue for CAFOD?

CAFOD's partners in developing countries are already tackling the effects of climate change on the health and livelihoods of the some of the poorest communities on earth.

Extreme weather such as floods and droughts cause crops to fail, kill livestock, disrupt water supplies and increase the spread of pests and disease. Those living on the margins of survival have been coping with climate disruption for many years. They are struggling to adapt to more frequent and severe shocks. Climate change threatens to reverse any progress towards eradicating poverty.

How is the Church responding to climate change?

The Church has identified environmental degradation as a major challenge for the whole of humanity⁴. It also gives us hope and a route to restoring the broken relationship between humanity and the rest of creation, guided by key principles.

Stewardship is a guiding principle in Christianity, encouraging us to live sustainably and respect God's creation.

Sharing: the Church calls for a more equitable distribution of wealth and natural resources, between people and between rich and poor nations.

Harmony with nature: this means thinking about human development as more than about money. It's an understanding of what helps humankind flourish, including living in harmony with our environment.

Putting the poor first: as Christians, we stand alongside the poor and marginalised, making their cause our own.

Solidarity: the natural environment is something to be nurtured and shared by all. Our responsibilities towards it stretch beyond our own lifespan to embrace the needs of generations to come.

Who is responsible for climate change?

People in rich countries have an obligation towards those living in poverty, because through our far greater consumption of the earth's resources we have contributed far more to climate change.

A nation's ecological footprint helps us to see how fast it is consuming the Earth's resources. If a country's footprint is ranked as above 1.8 it means it is consuming at a rate faster than the planet can sustain. Source: www.globalfootprint.org



People in Europe and North America are contributing far more to climate change than those in Africa and Asia. We owe an ecological debt to people in poor countries, who are hit first and hardest by extreme weather. We also have the knowledge and accumulated wealth to tackle the problem.

How is CAFOD responding to climate change?

In developing countries, CAFOD is:

- Helping to protect livelihoods from extreme weather
- Bringing aid to people hit by climatic disasters
- Helping communities affected by climate change get their voices heard by decision-makers

In the UK, CAFOD is:

- Finding out how big its own ecological footprint is and seeking ways to reduce it
- Campaigning for a stronger UK Climate Change Bill
- Encouraging people to reflect on and change their own lifestyles

Take action

- Campaign with CAFOD to strengthen the Climate Change Bill: www.cafod.org.uk/bill
- Make a promise to live sustainably: www.cafod.org.uk/livesimply
- Reduce your own footprint; find out how at: www.icount.org.uk
- Find out about CAFOD's work on climate change: www.cafod.org.uk/climatechange

To order more copies of this climate change briefing or a climate change lobby guide call **020 7095 5692** or email campaign@cafod.org.uk

Journalists contact the CAFOD press office: **020 7095 5541** or **07785 950585**

Someone in the UK puts the same amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in 22 weeks that someone in Tanzania does in their whole lifetime.

Source: New Economics Foundation

"Individual choices can seem insignificant when faced with ... global challenges. But multiplied individual actions can indeed make a real difference."

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, *The Call of Creation*

Footnotes

- 1 *Nature* 438, 310-317, 17 November 2005
- 2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2007: the Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers*, p.5
- 3 HM Treasury, *Stern Review on the economics of climate change*, Part II, Ch 3, p.57
- 4 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, *The Call of Creation: God's Invitation and the Human Response*, 2002

Join us – Boost the Bill

MPs are debating and amending the Climate Change Bill during 2007-08. CAFOD is part of the I Count coalition that wants the government to commit to reducing carbon emissions by at least eighty per cent by 2050, in order to keep global temperature rises below 2°C.



Make the Climate Change Bill Count

Lobby guide

If we choose, we can make our politicians take the action needed.
Together, **we can stop climate chaos**

January 2008



We **can** stop climate chaos

Make the Climate Change Bill Count

- 1 How your MP can make the Bill count, p3
- 2 Bill & campaign timeline, p4
- 3 Working with other groups, p4,5
- 4 Meet your MP, p5-7
Poster template, p6
- 5 Tell us what happens, p8

2008 is a critical year for the I Count campaign. Through the Climate Change Bill we have a fantastic opportunity to set the UK on track to cut its emissions.

The Bill would:

- ✓ legally commit the UK to take action to prevent climate change;
- ✓ give the UK a strong mandate in international negotiations;
- ✓ be a world first and set an international precedent.

But to be effective the Bill needs to be made stronger, which is why we're calling for the following Top 3 Changes.

%

It was pressure on MPs from people like you that led to a draft Climate Change Bill. Now, pressure on MPs again could make the Climate Change Bill count.

More information

CAFOD is a member of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, which runs the I Count campaign. To download more about the Top 3 Changes we are calling for, together with tips on writing to MPs, getting media coverage and much more, go to:

www.cafod.org.uk/bill and www.icount.org.uk

These printed resources are also available from CAFOD on **020 7095 5692**:

- * Climate Change 2-page briefing
- * Climate Change Bill MP briefing
- * More copies of this Climate Change lobby guide

What is the Climate Change Bill?



The Climate Change Bill is a proposal for a new piece of legislation that will set UK carbon dioxide reduction targets and help stop climate chaos. I Count has been campaigning hard for this and there is now all-party support for the existing Bill. Over the next few months, the Bill will pass through various stages for consultation and changes and **this is when your MP could make the Bill stronger and more effective.**

Make the Climate Change Bill Count

- 1 How your MP can make the Bill count, p3
- 2 Bill & campaign timeline, p4
- 3 Working with other groups, p4,5
- 4 Meet your MP, p5-7
Poster template, p6
- 5 Tell us what happens, p8

1. How your MP can make the Bill count

Your MP could make the Climate Change Bill count.

Your MP represents you; let them know what you want.

Your MP will vote on the Bill, and you can influence how they vote. We will need the majority of MPs to support our Top 3 Changes to the Bill (see below). This could mean that your MP will have to vote against their party line, so they will need to feel strongly convinced, that you – their constituent – really want them to do this.

%

What are MPs saying about making the Climate Change Bill Count?

So that you're prepared, here's a bit of background on what MPs from the major parties are already saying about making the Climate Change Bill stronger.

Liberal Democrat MPs are broadly supportive of our Top 3 Changes to the Bill.

Conservative MPs broadly support these changes though they haven't explicitly called for international aviation emissions to be included.

The Government position is that 60 per cent is already an ambitious target. However Gordon Brown has committed to look at strengthening this target. The Government has also made clear that international aviation emissions should only be included once there is an international agreement in place, and that five year carbon budgets in line with the Kyoto Protocol are adequate. **Many Labour MPs will support these lines and will need to be convinced by you to vote for a stronger bill.**

Three different parliamentary committees, representing all the major parties, have agreed that a 60 per cent carbon dioxide reduction target by 2050 does not reflect the latest science in preventing climate change; that excluding international aviation and shipping emissions from the targets weakens the Bill; and that binding carbon budgets with annual milestones need to be set in order to properly track progress.

How do I find my MP?

Call 020 7219 4272 or go to www.parliament.uk



Make the Climate Change Bill Count

- 1 How your MP can make the Bill count, p3
- 2 Bill & campaign timeline, p4
- 3 Working with other groups, p4,5
- 4 Meet your MP, p5-7
Poster template, p6
- 5 Tell us what happens, p8

2. Working together with other groups, convince your MP to support our Top 3 Changes.

- * Invite your MP to a public meeting, team up with other groups and make it high-profile with local MPs and political figures;
- * Visit your MP together;
- * Write a joint letter to your local paper.

MPs act when they know lots of people want them to do the same thing. There are more than 60 national organisations in the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, with about 4 million supporters between them. That's a lot of voices calling for a strong and effective Bill.

4. Meet your MP

Meet your MP: it's the strongest way to make your voice heard. Tell them why you're concerned about climate change and what you want them to do to make the Bill stronger.

1) Before the meeting

a) **Arrange a meeting:** It's easiest to talk to your MP at their surgery. Call your MP's office to find out when and where their surgery is. Or you could invite your MP to a public meeting, team up with other groups and make it high-profile. Invite a local celebrity or other high-profile person to open the meeting. Use the poster on the following page to let people in the area know it's happening.

What is a surgery?

Most MPs hold a surgery to give the people in their constituency an opportunity to meet them and discuss matters that concern them. MPs usually hold surgeries once a week and advertise them in the local press and sometimes in the local library.

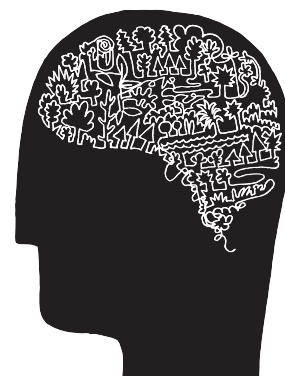
b) **Team up with others in your local area** and visit your MP together if possible. The I Count Communities map, at www.icount.org.uk, makes it really easy for you to find other groups. Use the message boards to find out who else is planning what and how you can get involved. Use them to ask for support if you've got a great idea, but need other people to help make it happen.

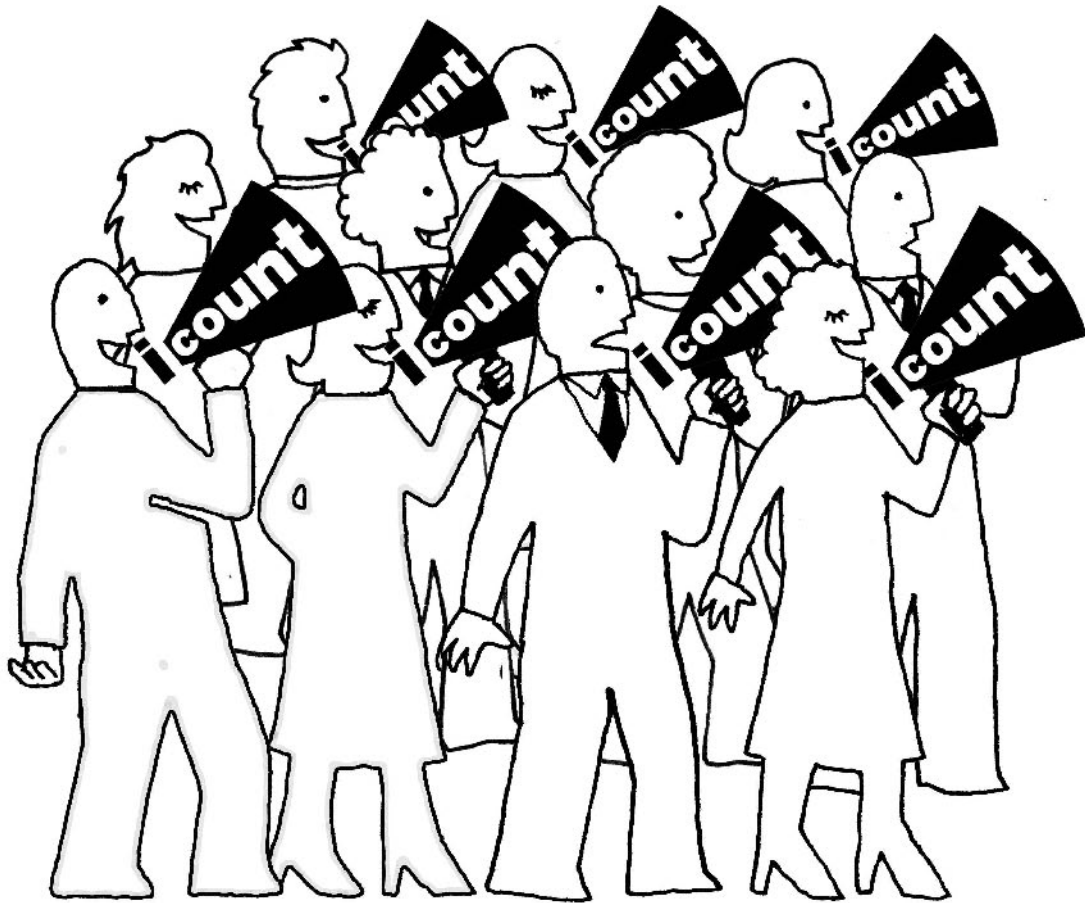
c) **Brief yourself!** For details about where you can find out more about climate change, see the more information section on the first page of this briefing. If your MP asks you something you don't know about, just tell them that you'll find out the answer and get back to them.

2) During the meeting

Tell your MP why you're particularly concerned.

Climate change will have a huge range of impacts on people, wildlife and ecosystems. Your MP needs to know why you care about climate change, and why you believe it's critical to stop climate chaos.





MAKE THE CLIMATE CHANGE BILL COUNT!

What's happening?

Where?

Which day?

What time?

Contact:

Other info



We can stop climate chaos

Make the Climate Change Bill Count

- 1 How your MP can make the Bill count, p3
- 2 Bill & campaign timeline, p4
- 3 Working with other groups, p4,5
- 4 Meet your MP, p5-7
Poster template, p6
- 5 Tell us what happens, p8

- * Climate change will hit the poor first and worst, and yet they are least able to cope with its impacts. They are the most vulnerable to 'natural' disasters; while being the least able to move from affected regions, and the most reliant on harvests coming at the right time.
- * The World Health Organisation says that 150,000 people already die every year from climate change.

Ask your MP to support the following Top 3 Changes to the Bill:

%

Keep the discussion on track: your MP is more likely to listen to you.

Make notes during the meeting so you can hold your MP to what they say. To feed back to us, see the feedback form on the following page.

Give your MP a copy of the Climate Change Bill MP briefing enclosed or available at www.cafod.org.uk/bill.

3) After the meeting

a) **Write to your MP** thanking them for their time, reminding them of the **Top 3 Changes** and what they said in the meeting.

Make sure your letter will be noticed:

- ✓ **Use your own words and make it personal** – write directly from your own experience, remind them of what they said in the meeting.
- ✓ **Be clear that you want your MP to support the Top 3 Changes to the Bill (above).**
- ✓ Keep it **short and to the point** (if writing a letter one side of A4 should be enough).
- ✓ Remember to **include your full name and address** and ask for a reply.

How do I find my MP's address?

To post a letter to your MP use this address:
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

To email your MP, find their email address (if they have one) on www.parliament.uk.



Climate Change Bill MP briefing

The Climate Change Bill is currently being debated in Parliament. The Bill is a welcome first step by the UK Government to tackle Climate Change and to demonstrate international leadership on this issue. However, CAFOD and the Stop Climate Chaos coalition believe three key changes to the Bill are needed if the UK is to do its part in keeping global warming below 2°C. It is widely predicted that global warming beyond 2°C will have catastrophic effects. The three key changes set out below are supported by strong scientific evidence and by the three separate parliamentary committees that reviewed the draft Bill.

CAFOD urges MPs to:

1. Reduce carbon emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050

The current target of 'at least 60 per cent' in the Bill is based on outdated science. If all the countries of the world reached an international agreement based upon this, global warming would exceed 4°C. The latest scientific recommendations suggest that a target of at least 80 per cent cut in carbon dioxide is required to keep global temperature rises below 2°C.

The Environmental Audit Committee has stated:

"The Government's policy towards the UK's 2050 target is incoherent. The Government remains committed to limiting global warming to a rise of 2°C; but it also acknowledged that, according to recent scientific research, a cut in UK emissions of 60 per cent by 2050 is now very unlikely to be consistent with delivering this goal... We recommend that the 2050 be strengthened to reflect current scientific understanding of the emissions cuts required for a strong probability at stabilising warming at 2°C"¹.

2. Setting annual milestones for carbon reduction

The Bill proposes five-year carbon dioxide reduction targets or 'carbon budgets'. The problem is that governments do not have neat five year life-spans; during any five year period there could be two different governments. CAFOD believes that five-year carbon budgets need to be accompanied by annual milestones which would: bring greater transparency; help keep governments on track; and make it easier to set in place new measures if reductions were falling behind schedule. The three committees that reviewed the draft Bill were unanimous on this point.

1. Environmental Audit Committee (2007) *Beyond Stern: From the Climate Change Programme Review to the Draft Climate Change Bill*, par 69

2. Joint Committee on the Draft Climate Change Bill (2007) Draft Climate Change Bill Volume I: report together with final minutes, par 69

The Joint Committee on the draft Climate Change Bill stated:

“We recommend that, in setting the level of future budgets, the Government should also provide indicative annual milestones to help assess progress on an annual basis”².

3. Include the UK’s share of international shipping and aviation

The Bill allows for international shipping and aviation to be included eventually into the binding targets, although it does not set a time for doing so. However aviation is one of the fastest-growing sources of carbon emissions in the UK and, if this growth continues as predicted, and the planned reductions take place in all other sectors, flying could account for almost half of the UK’s contribution to climate change by 2050. CAFOD believes that by ignoring these emissions the Government cannot meet its own objectives of preventing a global temperature rise of more than 2°C. Government objections state that, as yet, there is no agreed international methodology for calculating and reporting the UK’s share of these emissions. However this has been contradicted.

3. Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (2007) Draft Climate Change Bill Volume I: report together with final minutes, par 128

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee stated:

“As the years pass it will become increasingly artificial not to take account of the UK’s share of emissions from international aviation and shipping... The Government argues that there is not yet any internationally agreed basis for allocating responsibility for emissions from international aviation and shipping. But these emissions are already reported to the UN... This suggests that some basis for reporting has in fact been agreed”³.

CAFOD is a member of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition which runs the I Count campaign.



We can stop climate chaos



CAFOD is the official overseas development and relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of the Caritas International Federation.



Registered charity No 285776