

Resolution on Synod-wide Greenhouse Gas Emission Goals

Whereas, At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recognizing the gravity of the threats posed by climate change and in support of the goals set by the United States, and at the recommendation of 16 ELCA Synods, memorialized the urgent goal of reducing its net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050; and

Whereas, the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report (2023) states that human-induced global warming of 1.1 degrees C. has spurred changes to the Earth's climate that are unprecedented in recent human history, and that climate impacts on people and ecosystems are more widespread and severe than expected, and that future risks will escalate rapidly with every fraction of a degree of warming; therefore be it

Resolved, The Northeastern Iowa Synod will support the Synod's Care for Creation Network, who will together commit to assisting at least 15 congregations, educational facilities, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities every two years in reaching the goals set by churchwide for greenhouse gas reductions; and be it further

The Northeastern Iowa Synod office will continue to partner with the Care for Creation Network to implement best management practices (e.g., energy efficient HVAC and lighting systems installed in 2021 and 2022) to serve as an example for its member organizations and work to further conserve energy with an updated energy audit in order to accurately measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; to investigate the use of renewable energy sources (e.g., solar panels and wind turbines) and utilize them where feasible; and to manage property grounds for sequestering carbon (e.g., by planting native vegetation); and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations, educational institutions, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be invited to share with the Care for Creation Network and the Synod office the energy-saving steps taken and the measurable energy savings realized.

Submitted by:

Northeastern Iowa Synod Care for Creation Network 4/21/23