

R2024-04: Resolution to develop a diocesan plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030

Whereas The Episcopal Church and the Church of England have set goals to reach net carbon neutrality by 2030; *therefore, be it*

Resolved, that the Diocese of Southern Ohio commit to a goal of net carbon neutrality in its diocesan operations and the work of diocesan staff, standing commissions, interim bodies, and Diocesan Convention by 2030, through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, installing and/or utilizing clean energy sources, and at last resort, purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners. The goal as well as updates on progress toward that goal will be located prominently on the diocese's website as a key diocesan priority; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the 150th Convention create a policy for diocesan staff to take concrete actions to reduce fossil fuel emissions from travel by said groups, such as carpooling, online meetings, regional gatherings, etc. by June 1, 2025; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the 150th Convention direct diocesan staff to work with the Commission on Creation Care to draft a policy to offset one hundred percent of fossil fuel emissions from unavoidable travel by diocesan groups, either through an internal offset program or through purchase from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners, with appropriate accountability and oversight, and report on progress toward the goal by September 1, 2025; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the 150th Convention direct diocesan staff to develop a policy to prohibit the diocese from purchasing new fossil-fuel-powered appliances (HVAC, water-heaters, stoves), vehicles (utility vehicles, cars, vans, etc.), or equipment (lawn tools, etc.) for diocesan use (with diocesan properties) to replace fossil-fuel components once they reach the end of their lifespan but rather purchase electrified, zero-direct-emissions alternatives (when feasible or when appropriate options are available) by September 1, 2025; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the 150th Convention encourage diocesan parishes, schools, and other diocesan institutions to pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the 150th Convention direct diocesan staff to develop and share resources for parishes to commit to and work toward this goal, such as the online carbon tracker already created by the Diocese of California, as well as other online and print resources by November 1, 2025.