



Delaware Interfaith Power & Light
A Religious Response to Climate Change
www.delawareipl.org

The Honorable John Carney
Governor of the State of Delaware

Representative Peter Schwartzkopf
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Secretary Shawn Garvin
Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control

Senator David Sokola
Senate President Pro Tempore

*"Climate change: Never before in history have human beings been called on to act collectively in **defense of the Earth**."~ Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu*

*"Adults keep saying we owe it to the young people to give them hope, but I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. **I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.**"*

~Greta Thunberg, 17 yr old swedish activist

We, the undersigned faith leaders of various faith traditions, believe climate change to be a defining moral and ethical issue of our time and an existential issue for the Creator's whole creation. We recognize that the climate crisis is deeply unfair. As responsible stewards, we advocate for policies that protect His creation—with paramount focus on the poorest and vulnerable, the least responsible for fueling this crisis, who are among the frontline victims.

We are reaching out to you now to respectfully ask for your support for a proposal to declare a "Climate Emergency " and to set ambitious climate goals to rapidly decarbonize our economy and phase out deeply polluting fossil fuels achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050. While a Climate Emergency declaration does not grant any additional powers or privileges to anyone in the Government, it is an important step in recognizing the crisis we are in.

As the lowest lying and fourth- fastest warming state in the country, Climate Change is already affecting Delaware and in the coming years we will see –more days of dangerously high heat, heavier precipitation, and sea level rise that leads to significant flooding.



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We recognize and appreciate the work that the Governor, the legislature, and DNREC have done on climate policy so far. But in tune with rapidly accelerating climate emergency we need transformative, bold and comprehensive climate policy that must include:

- A statewide commitment to firm targets of 50% carbon reduction by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.
- Adoption by all state agencies of a Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions Plan, with appropriate monitoring and reporting, utilizing a life-cycle greenhouse gas analysis.
- Intra-agency planning and tracking for emergency mitigation of climate change effects; resilience, adaptation, and research and development programs.
- Adoption and implementation of an effective and equitable public education and stakeholder outreach process.
- Assure that the targets and objectives benefit overburdened and marginalized communities – those most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change while contributing least to the causes.

As religious leaders we stand with science in pursuit of a healthier planet, we commit ourselves to act in our unique roles as community leaders, and as citizens, to protect future generations, respect and take care of the earth and prevent human suffering and harm.

We urge you to do the same. Declare a Climate Emergency for Delaware and set our state to sustainable and carbon neutral future.

In faithful partnership,

Rabbi Yair Robinson, Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington

Irfan Patel, President, Islamic Society of Delaware

Charanjeet Singh Minhas, Founder, Delaware Sikh Coalition

John Sykes, President, Delaware Interfaith Power & Light

The Rev. Dr. Lyle J. Dykstra, Retired Pastor, Presbyterian Church USA

Ed & Jo Klinge, Co-Conveners, Interfaith Leaders for Neighborhood Ministries,
Wilmington

The Rev. Corey Fields, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Newark



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The Rev. Andy Jacob, Pastor, Hanover Presbyterian Church, Wilmington

The Rev. James M. Bimbi, The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew

Pramod (Paul) Mathur, Trustee, Hindu Temple of Delaware, Hockessin

The Rev. Shada Sullivan, The Church of the Holy City (Swedenborgian), Wilmington

Dr. Randi Johnson, Board Member, Metropolitan Community Church of Rehoboth

The Rev. Charles Lane Cowen, Assistant Rector, Trinity Episcopal Parish, Wilmington

La Vaida Owens-White, MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse, 9th Ward Interfaith Clergy Coalition

The Rev. Cynthia Robinson, New Ark United Church of Christ, Newark

Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein, Community Havurah of Delaware

The Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware

Donna Hitchner, Executive Director, Methodist Action Program

The Rev Pamela Adams, D.Th, Faithful and Favored, Inc.

Bishop The Rt. Rev. Kevin S. Brown, The Episcopal Church in Delaware

The Rev. Andrew L. Weber, Unitarian Universalist Minister

Gordon Simmons, Policy Officer, The DE Lutheran Office for Public Policy

Christopher Bookhammer Edginton, Retd. Denominational publisher of Educational Ministries

Rabbi Julie Danan, Seaside Jewish, Rehoboth

The Rev. Susan Loney, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Liz Carlisle and Karen Barker- Social Justice Team, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark

Bishop Dr. John Graham, Temple United Church



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The Rev. Kathy Ierien, Lead Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Pastor CJ Ransdell, St. John's Lutheran Church, Dover