

Climate Justice with and for Children and Youth in Churches

Get Informed, Get Inspired, Take Action



Suggestions and good practices for Sunday schools, church-run schools and summer camps to implement the "Churches' Commitments to Children"

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Children and Youth in Churches
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**Suggestions and good practices for Sunday schools,
church-run schools and summer camps to implement
the “Churches’ Commitments to Children”**

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**World Council
of Churches**

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Introduction

When it comes to the treatment of children and their involvement in issues that affect their future, the [Churches' Commitments to Children](#) (co-developed by the WCC and UNICEF) serves as guide and a framework for all World Council of Churches (WCC) member churches. As underlined in the third commitment, “children are more exposed than adults to the impacts of climate change . . . [and] its consequences will be even greater in the lives of future generations, representing a threat to their very survival.”

In 2015, world leaders gathered in Paris to show a strong commitment to reducing the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions that fuel global warming. Yet, despite commitments by many, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) [Emissions Gap Report](#), delivered in November 2019, concluded that even if countries meet commitments made in Paris in 2015, a 3.2 degree temperature rise over pre-industrial levels is all but inevitable. Lasting systems changes are therefore urgent to address global warming.

Climate change affects every aspect of child rights. Only joint efforts at every level will enable us to bend the CO₂ emissions curve and protect our planet for future generations.

This toolkit provides resources for churches, church-run schools, and summer camps to support intergenerational climate and environmental justice and promote care for children by stopping further global warming. All churches are encouraged to promote education and action to address climate change, reduce CO₂ emissions, and protect the environment in their activities for and with children and youth.

The resource has three main sections:



GET INFORMED. This section includes resources available to educate children of various age groups about climate change and environmental challenges.



GET INSPIRED. This part presents inspiring initiatives happening around the world, from global movements to church communities and small groups of individuals.



TAKE ACTION. This section illustrates that, from small acts to major movements, everyone can do their part to address environmental challenges and promote behaviours and choices that respect creation. Anyone can help to stop global warming

We hope you will find inspiration and support for your work with children and young people in these pages.

Our churches must undertake initiatives that promote the protection of the environment and subsequently, our children.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Get Informed



The basis for any process of change or advocacy is an understanding of the situation and why change is necessary. This section provides links to a selection of resources for children and adolescents on the environment and why engagement for our planet is important for people of faith.

“Change things now and make a difference for us!”

“God gave you an amazing heart to make the world a better place for everyone. Have a heart to change things now and make a difference for us!”

Child from Liverpool Anglican Church, UK

The Roadmap for Congregations, Communities, and Churches for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice

This WCC [roadmap](#) (available for download in versions for professional and home printing) offers a five-step programme to change the way we deal with the economy and our ecological surroundings in the following areas:

- living in accordance with the covenant with God and creation,
- renewable energy and climate protection,
- just and sustainable consumption, and
- economies of life and networking.

Churches are encouraged to involve children and youth in this journey.

WCC Eco-School of Water, Food, and Climate Justice

The [WCC Eco-School](#) provides a space for young people, under the age of 30, to discuss the nexus between water, food, and climate justice in an ecumenical setting. Participants have the opportunity to study the local, regional, and international manifestations and causes of the water crisis and food insecurity as affected by climate change. They examine the situation and challenges from a perspective of faith and ethics and search together for possible ecumenical responses to these challenges. Eco-School participants are expected to submit project proposals that may be implemented in their communities.

The *Theopopettes* Take Care of Their Planet: A Puppet Show by WCC and the Protestant Church of Geneva

“A lot of people in the world get together to make our world more beautiful and above all, more just. . . . [They] try to take care of everything they come across on the planet.”

Puppet characters Theo and Popette were created to help younger children (ages 4 to 9) understand the purpose of the WCC and how the organization works for children’s rights. To hear what Theo and Popette say about taking care of the planet, including the quote above, watch [Chapter 8 – Children, Come on Board](#).

For more information on the “Theopopettes,” [see the article on the WCC website](#). Or download and watch all the [episodes](#).

Green Anglicans

Ryan the Rhino

The [Ryan the Rhino](#) workbook is an ideal resource for Sunday school teachers or parish group leaders working with children, ages 5 to 12. It contains worship songs, stories from the Bible, and ideas for activities so that children can learn about the climate while playing.

“Ryan the Rhino, the story of creation. It is colourful, attractive, fun and educational. Parents can monitor the children while they get busy with activities. Children can easily understand and follow instructions. The book can even be used at home for family Bible sessions. Highly recommendable.

Tsholo Mona (Sunday school teacher in South Africa)

Diddy Disciples

Diddy Disciples offers worship and storytelling resources for babies, toddlers, and young children. This toolkit has selected a collection of [Diddy Disciples resources](#) that focus on climate action.

GreenFaith

GreenFaith is an international interfaith environmental non-governmental organization (NGO). It has a long history of working with diverse religious and spiritual communities. The organization believes

that protecting the Earth is a sacred act and that environmental stewardship is a moral responsibility. Members educate others about the moral and sacred basis for protecting the environment.

On the GreenFaith website, [different religious traditions](#) explain their views on climate change. GreenFaith [campaigns and mobilizations](#) also inspire action and change.

Interfaith Rainforest Initiative

The [Interfaith Rainforest Initiative](#) (IRI) is an international, multi-faith alliance that works to bring moral urgency and faith-based leadership to global efforts to end tropical deforestation. The WCC is playing an active role on its Global Steering Committee.

See the IRI website for [country fact sheets](#), [faith toolkits](#), and other useful resources.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth Initiative

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental agency promoting the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system.

UNEP also addresses the role religions and people of faith can play in responding to the climate crisis through the [UNEP Faith for Earth Initiative](#). The initiative has three main goals:

- to inspire and empower faith organizations and their leaders to advocate for protecting the environment,
- to green faith-based organizations' investments and assets to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, and
- to provide them with knowledge and networks to enable their leaders to effectively communicate with decision-makers and the public.

Visit the UNEP website for [reports, stories, and manuals on climate change](#).

Earth School

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, an unprecedented coalition has come together to launch [Earth School](#) – providing free, high-quality educational content to help students, parents, and teachers around the

world who are currently at home. Initiated by the UNEP and TED-Ed, Earth School takes students on a 30-day “Adventure” through the natural world.

The curated Earth School content features videos, reading materials, and activities – which will be translated into ten languages – to help students gain an understanding of the environment while considering their role within it. This is the most significant online learning initiative in the UNEP’s history and is available for free on TED-Ed’s website.

Read the [press release](#) and [access the materials](#).

Youth for Climate Action (UN Climate Change)

Learn how young people, together with the United Nations system, are playing a pivotal role both in the intergovernmental climate change negotiations and in their communities. See the [UNFCCC website](#) for resources, best practices or for more information on youth activities at UN climate change conferences.

World’s Largest Lesson

The [World’s Largest Lesson](#) (in partnership with UNICEF) introduces the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to children and young people everywhere. It aims to unite them in action.

Find out more [about the goals](#) or download the free materials, including [lesson plans](#), [comics and books](#), and [animated films](#).

Story of Stuff

[The Story of Stuff Project](#) is a movement working to change the way people make, use, and throw away their stuff. The animated “Story of...” movies can be found [on the website](#) or the dedicated [YouTube channel](#).

This project can be used by teachers or parish group leaders to inspire open conversations about the environmental (and social) impact of the things that we use daily: including cosmetics, electronics, and bottled water.

The website contains [learning tools](#), and even a [personality quiz](#) for visitors to see what kind of changemaker they are.

Get Inspired



It is easy to feel overwhelmed when facing such a big challenge. Seeing what others are doing or have done about climate change and environmental issues can stimulate your thoughts and actions. In this section we share some of the inspiring activities happening around the world – from global movements down to small-town churches and small groups of individuals

Churches Promoting Eco-Justice around the World

“Our school is promoting the values of sustainability.”

“We are avoiding plastic bottles or any throw-away plastics, and we raised the slogan, ‘Beat Plastic Pollution.’ In order to counter plastic bags, we use cloth bags. We have adopted a ward consisting of 400 houses for propagating waste management techniques. A batch of five students visited around 30 houses along with the parents. It became a programme of the whole village with the participation of different categories of people. All the waste from the village has been removed from the village with the support of other agencies and recycling units. Our school owns a biodiversity park and a good kitchen garden. Our school is promoting the values of sustainability.”

*Ms Krishnapriya S, studying in Class 4 (primary school), age 9
Ennooramvayal CMS LP School, Vechoochira, Kerala, India*

The United Church of Zambia: Youth Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change

In the United Church of Zambia (UCZ), most of its three million members are youths. The UCZ equips youth and children with skills to mitigate the effects of climate change. Several of UCZ’s secondary schools have adopted a policy that each student must plant a tree and look after it during their stay at the school. Some of the schools also have environmental clubs.

UCZ is also running an environmental summer camp for children in conjunction with GreenFaith. Children at the camp are taught about water science, ecological footprint management, and caring for creation.

For older youth and young adults, UCZ teaches climate-smart agriculture through its Chipembi College of Agriculture – including “Conservation Farming,” which is sometimes referred to as “farming God’s way.” Other measures and training activities include sustainable forest management and renewable energy.

Through different projects from the UCZ Synod and Plan Zambia, youth also learn the importance of agroforestry and afforestation, as well as beekeeping. Students are also trained in sustainable and ecological fishery methods.

To learn more about the UCZ’s experience and to consider replicating some of their initiatives, contact Damon Mkandawire: damon.mka@uczuniversity.org

United Church of Christ

Justice for each generation (#eachgeneration)

The Justice for #EachGeneration site has put out a [call for sermons from adults and youth of all faiths](#) – anyone can pledge to deliver a sermon that seeks justice for every generation.

Resource guide on generational justice

This resource guide by Creation Justice Ministries has [excellent material for small group discussions](#). With many biblical references, questions for reflection after each chapter, a “children’s sermon starter,” and a draft liturgy, it is a perfect tool for those who wish to reflect more deeply on climate change in their parish or congregation.

Church of South India

[The Church of South India \(CSI\)](#) is the largest Protestant church in India. The church is committed to engaging its member institutions in initiatives to protect the environment and address climate change.

CSI’s [Department of Ecological Concerns](#) focuses on education around the Sustainable Development Goals. [See this short video](#) for a summary of the department’s work. You can also review the list of this department’s [books on ecological concerns published in January 2020](#).

The [Green Schools Programme](#) helps students to think critically about environmental issues. It provides solutions toward more sustainable patterns of living and empowers students to use natural resources responsibly and efficiently.

The WCC and CSI convened an [International Eco Conference](#) in August 2019. At the conference, colleges and schools discussed eco-activities in a programme called How Green Is My School/College? For more details, you can read the [conference report](#).

Church of England

The Church of England's [Environment Programme](#) aims to support, encourage, and enable the church to pray, speak, and act prophetically on environmental issues.

Diocese of Liverpool

The Liverpool Diocese is committed to [becoming an eco-diocese](#). The diocese tasked its churches with finding ways to become as eco-friendly as possible.

To mark [World Children's Day 2019](#), a dozen [children visited the home of the Bishop of Liverpool](#), the Rt Reverend Paul Bayes, to express their concerns about climate change. The group challenged Bishop Bayes on how his care for the environment affected life in his own home.

These children were all members of the [Mini MU](#): a junior [Mothers' Union](#) formed in West Derby, Liverpool. Too young to be in the Mothers' Union, they took the initiative to start their own. Among other things, the group works on a plastics initiative (collecting plastic and making eco-bricks).

Churches Mobilizing for Climate Action: Participation in the Fridays for Future Movement

Talks for Future: Weekly Webinars from Friday for Future

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Greta Thunberg announced a new initiative in March 2020: a series of weekly webinars titled "[Talks for Future](#)." The digital events feature climate experts such as scientists, activists, and journalists to carry on the spirit of the climate strikes online.

The following are some examples of how churches supported young people through the Friday for Future movement in the past.

Uniting Church in Australia

The religious organization behind some of Sydney’s most prestigious private schools encouraged its 10,000 students and their teachers to skip class for the climate change rally in 2019 as part of a broader push to respond to the “crisis confronting the planet.” You can read more about the motivation of these young people in this [news report](#).

Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI)

In Nagaland, India, Dimapur schools joined the “global strike for climate justice.” [Students participated in a signature drive](#) at the Holini Memorial Higher Secondary School. More than 200 participants joined the event, which was supported by the Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI).

Church of Scotland

In September 2019, church representatives, including members of the National Youth Assembly, joined thousands of people in the [strike in Edinburgh](#) to demand urgent action on climate change.

United Church of Christ (USA)

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is active in climate change activism. Before local climate strike events in 2019, the UCC national offices hosted a [pre-event convocation](#) in Amistad Chapel. They gathered for an interfaith service to ground themselves in the values and beliefs that motivate them to be part of this struggle.

Episcopal Church (USA)

As young people joined in climate marches all around the world, youth from the Episcopal Church were joined in making posters and in marching by [supporters from the congregation](#), staff, and other people of faith.

Episcopal bishops stepped out of their fall House of Bishops meeting in Minnesota [to join the 2019 Global Climate Strike](#).

Court Cases on Climate Change

United Church of Christ (USA)

In a landmark case – Juliana v. the United States – 21 courageous youth filed a lawsuit against the US government for its role in causing climate change and violating their rights to life, liberty, and property, while also failing to protect essential public resources. The children asked the court to compel the government to end fossil-fuel subsidies and adopt policies that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. UCC clergy and congregants [stand with the young plaintiffs](#).

The [Youth v. Gov website](#) contains more information about the plaintiffs and updates on the case. In January 2020, the lawsuit was dismissed. According to the decision, “The panel reluctantly concluded that the plaintiffs’ case must be made to the political branches or to the electorate.” However, the battle is far from over. For more detailed information and scientific background, read an [overview](#) on Grist.

The WCC made a [statement supporting this youth initiative](#).

From Colombia to Pakistan to the Netherlands, kids are claiming a right to a clean environment – and sometimes winning.

National Geographic

A Child-Led Complaint to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

On 23 September 2019, [16 child human rights defenders filed a complaint](#) about the climate crisis with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This complaint alleges that five countries (Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, and Turkey) are violating the rights of children by failing to address the climate crisis. [The complaint is the first of its kind](#) received by the committee – the first to be filed on behalf of a group of children and the first to advance the economic, social, and cultural rights of children globally.

The People’s Climate Case (EU)

The [People’s Climate Case](#) is litigation action initiated by ten families from Portugal, Germany, France, Italy, Romania, Kenya, Fiji, and the Saami Youth Association Sáminuorra. They claim that their homes,

livelihoods, traditional family occupation, and culture are affected by climate change. They are taking EU institutions to court to protect their fundamental rights and to prevent climate change.

Urgenda Climate Case (Netherlands)

On 20 December 2019, the Dutch Supreme Court, the highest court in the Netherlands, upheld the previous decisions in the [Urgenda Climate Case](#). It found that the Dutch government has obligations to urgently and significantly reduce emissions in line with its human rights obligations.

The website provides an [English translation of the judgment](#).

Colombia

Ruling in favour of a group of 25 children and youth, the Supreme Court of Justice of Colombia [ordered the protection of the Colombian Amazon](#) from deforestation. With the support of the advocacy group Dejusticia, these children sued the Colombian government for failing to protect their rights to life and a healthy environment.

In the lawsuit, the children and youth emphasized that [future generations will be the ones to suffer](#) the worst climate change effects. Therefore, they demand not only that the government stop deforestation, but that it also guarantee public participation in creating an intergenerational plan to achieve this goal.

Inspirational Young Leaders

Vanessa Nakate (age 23, Uganda)

Vanessa Nakate began a solitary strike against inaction on the climate crisis in January 2019. For several months, she was the lone protester outside of the gates of the Parliament of Uganda. Eventually, other youth began to respond to her calls on social media for others to help draw attention to the plight of the Congolian rainforests. Nakate founded the Youth for Future Africa and the likewise Africa-based Rise Up Movement. In December 2019, Nakate was one of a handful of youth activists to speak at the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) gathering in Spain. In early January 2020, she joined around 20 other youth climate activists from around the world to publish a letter to participants at the World Economic Forum in Davos, calling on companies, banks, and governments to immediately stop subsidizing fossil fuels.

Marinel Ubaldo (age 22, Philippines)

Marinel Ubaldo's life was turned upside down when a super typhoon ravaged her home in the Philippines. She's now campaigning for her community to be safely rehomed and for her government – and governments across the world – to start facing up to the true impacts of climate change. [Read more about Marinel.](#)

Helena Gualinga (age 18, Ecuador)

Helena Gualinga is a voice for Indigenous communities in the fight against climate change. She is spearheading a campaign called [Polluters Out](#) that launched on January 24, 2020. This project involves over 200 young climate activists, scientists, Indigenous people, and members of grassroots organizations from over 40 countries around the world. Latin America is heavily represented in the list of member countries, which includes Ecuador, Argentina, and Colombia. [Read more about Helena.](#)

Ridhima Pandey (age 12, India)

Ridhima Pandey filed a complaint against the government of India for its inaction. She was also one of the 16 children in the Children vs Climate Crisis case in September 2019, filing an official complaint in New York City to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. [Read more about Ridhima.](#)

Melati Wijsen (age 18, Indonesia)

Melati Wijsen is an 18-year-old Indonesian/Dutch activist and change-maker. She founded [Bye Bye Plastic Bags](#) with her younger sister and has been leading the movement driven by youth since 2013. They successfully banned plastic bags, straws and Styrofoam on their home island Bali as of 2019. Read more about [Melati](#) and the [team](#).

Generation Greta (documentary)

More examples of young inspirational climate activists can be found in the documentary [Generation Greta](#). It presents the stories and testimonials by nine girls / young women between the ages 12 and 24 from all over the world, including those mentioned above. This film can be inspirational for discussions in Sunday schools, church-run schools, and summer camps.

Inspirational Materials

Liturgical resources (WCC)

The WCC has a list of [songs, prayers, and Bible readings](#) on climate and ecology. Although not mainly focusing on children, these resources are useful for sharing with groups and congregations, as well as for personal reflection.

Materials by Catholic Creation Care

[Resources are available for teaching children](#) about *On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si)*. They include classroom resources, creative activities, music lists, and booklists.

Laudato Si' Animation (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development [CAFD])

Resources are available explaining Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'* to [children \(primary school\)](#) and [youth \(secondary school\)](#). You can also find additional resources (colouring sheets, activities, worship materials) on the CAFD website.

Comics Uniting Nations

[Comics Uniting Nations](#) is a partnership between PCI Media and UNICEF, in collaboration with [The World's Greatest Lesson](#) and [Reading with Pictures](#). Its aim is to make the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accessible to more people through comics in various languages.

Opportunities for Church Engagement at the Municipal Level

Many local regions and municipalities are involved in efforts to address climate change. It may seem as if these efforts are unrelated to the everyday lives of children and young people. These campaigns provide wonderful opportunities for children and young people individually and in Sunday schools, church-run schools, and summer camps to become active citizens in their local communities.

SDG Cities

The UNGSII Foundation have shortlisted [25 leading cities and five Indigenous communities](#) to implement all Sustainable Development Goals by 2025 and prove it is possible.

The best performing city in the group – Mendoza, Argentina – has submitted over 268 SDG-related projects. Other leading cities on the shortlist include Abu Dhabi/Masdar, Braşov, Iaşi and Mexico City.

C40 Cities

C40 is a [network of the world's megacities](#) committed to addressing climate change. C40 supports cities to help them collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable, and sustainable action on climate change.

OneNYC 2050 Strategy: A Liveable Climate

OneNYC 2050 is [New York City's long-term strategic plan](#) to address climate change. According to this plan, New York City will achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. It will end its reliance on fossil fuels and equip the city with 100 percent clean sources of electricity.

UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative

The [Child Friendly Cities Initiative \(CFCI\)](#) is a UNICEF-led initiative that supports municipal governments in ensuring the rights of children at the local level. It is also a network that brings together government and other stakeholders, such as civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, media, and, importantly, children themselves.

Environmental Education

Italy to Make Climate Change Education Mandatory

In September 2020, Italy will be the first country in the world to [include mandatory teaching hours](#) on subjects linked to climate issues. According to Lorenzo Fioramonti, Minister of Education, the ministry will build 33 hours a year into the curriculum on this critical topic. Church-run schools can help accelerate this good practice across the world.

New Zealand Schools to Teach Students about the Climate Crisis

Every school in New Zealand this year will have access to [materials about the climate crisis](#) written by the country's leading science agencies. This will include tools for students to plan their activism and to process their feelings of “eco-anxiety” over global heating.

Take Action



This section provides resources that show that – from small acts to large movements – everyone can participate in drawing attention to environmental issues and reducing the human impact on the environment.

“If you make just one small change to how you live . . .”

“If you take the time to listen to children and make just one small change to how you live your life – today life. It will make a bigger difference to in the future for all of us.”

Child from Liverpool Anglican Church, UK.

By Promoting Sustainable Systems Change

Make a Difference

The Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany, the Protestant Guide and Scout Association, and the Lutheran World Federation provide [thirty ideas young people can use](#) for residential events and meetings, camping trips, international exchanges, and other visits.

Care for Creation Manual for Confirmation and Youth Groups

[This manual](#), developed by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, is intended for 13-to-18-year-olds taking confirmation classes or involved in youth groups and youth guilds. Each session starts with an icebreaker and an experiential learning activity, followed by input and Bible study and a discussion of actions to implement.

Season of Creation

Creationtide, or the [Season of Creation](#), is a global movement of Christians around the world celebrating creation from September 1 to October 4 every year. Some pray, some do hands-on projects, some advocate. Download the [Ecumenical Celebration Guide](#) for the Season of Creation, as well as other resources such as webinars, denominational resources, and promotional resources.

Voices of Youth

Voices of Youth is UNICEF's digital community for youth, by youth. [The website](#) has ideas for young people to show support for climate action and share their ideas with this global community.

WCC Handbook: Stopping Global Warming by Talking to Our Banks

This resource, soon to be available on the WCC website, will provide links to good practices by churches, UN agencies, and partners to stop global warming through stakeholder engagement with banks and financial institutions. A youth-friendly summary is expected to be ready in September 2020. While young people and children are not well-placed to make financial choices, they can learn about the power of stakeholder engagement and discuss these opportunities with adults.

By Planting Trees

Develop a "Tree Partnership" for Churches

In recent years, the United Church of Christ USA has successfully challenged partner churches to plant trees, and updates are regularly posted on the [Mission 4/1 Earth](#) website. Projects exist in several countries, and the costs vary. Planting trees is something simple that anyone can do for the planet – and it is more effective than most people think.

All WCC member churches and partners are encouraged to join the challenge and plant trees.

Plant for the Planet: The Trillion Tree Campaign

By Plant for the Planet and supporting the United Nations Environment Programme, the [Trillion Tree Campaign web-app](#) presents tree planting organizations and projects from all over the world. It provides an easy way for anyone who would like to support reforestation projects.

Ecosia: The Search Engine That Plants Trees

[Ecosia](#) is a search engine that uses the income generated by ads to [support tree planting](#) programmes around the world. Its servers run on renewable energy.

In July 2019, [Ecosia pledged to plant](#) 80,000 trees in Uganda and Indonesia – one for every person who attended the music festival in Paris: We Love Green.

By Influencing Consumer Behaviour

Footprint Calculators

Footprint calculators are tools designed to help us measure our carbon footprint in view to reduce our environmental impact. Various organizations have developed, these to be used by [younger children](#), [teenagers](#), [adults](#), or even an [entire congregation](#).

Let There Be . . . Stuff?

Subtitled “A Spirit-Filled Response to a Consumer-Crazed World” and created by the Green Anglicans and GreenFaith, the faith-based programme [Let There Be . . . Stuff?](#) is designed for groups of youth from 13 to 18 years of age and can be implemented in any house of worship. Each section provides opportunities for young people to think, reflect, engage, get inspired, and take action on what they have learned.

Living the Change Initiative

[Living the Change](#) is a faith-based movement acknowledging that nature is out of balance and feeling a responsibility to respond. Reducing the impact of consumption is seen as a spiritual challenge. Focus areas include reducing energy use, eco-friendly travel and plan-based diets.

[Grounding in Faith](#) is a pilot programme designed to help people of faith deal with the challenges of travelling by air. Tools and resources were created in partnership with [GreenFaith](#) as a component of the Living the Change campaign.

[Time for Living the Change](#) is a platform where members can organize (or join) local activities and discussions. Events that are registered on the website will appear on its world map.

BuyOrNot Application for Smartphones

This app helps consumers make ethical purchases, allowing them to scan the barcode of products and receive information on their impact on health and society. It is presently only available in French. Visit the [BuyOrNot](#) website or download the app from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#).

Youth Climate Leaders

[Youth Climate Leaders](#) (YCL) is a global youth leadership network catalyzing climate careers. YCL was created to support youth in their search for jobs and opportunities aligned with their purpose. It also helps organizations to hire young talents who are willing to dedicate their lives to finding solutions to the climate crisis. This network would be of interest to teenagers and young adults in church communities.

By Playing and Inventing New Solutions

Playing for the Planet Alliance

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has been working with the gaming industry on [Playing for the Planet](#) to explore [how video games can deliver for people and the environment](#). The extensive gaming industry has the potential to be used to inspire young people to learn and act in support of the environment.

Twenty-one of the biggest companies in the video game industry formally committed to harnessing the power of their platforms to take action on the climate crisis. The objective is to generate 1 billion actions and achieve 100 percent carbon neutrality. Related initiatives could be of interest to church youth.

Cartoon Movement

The [Cartoon Movement](#) is a publishing platform for high quality political cartoons and comics journalism. These collections of cartoons address issues such as air pollution, climate emergency, and deforestation and can be used to support the development of campaign materials.

Young Champions of the Earth (UNEP)

Every year, seven young people – one from each global region – are named [Young Champions of the Earth](#). These champions receive seed funding, intensive training, and tailored mentorship to bring their big environmental ideas to life. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative is looking for artists, scientists, economists, communicators, and entrepreneurs from all walks of life with big, bold ideas for the environment, for humanity, and for a greener future. Churches can consider applying for initiatives led by young people in their communities.

A Call for Churches to Unite

Churches bring a lot of hope to children's lives by uniting for climate justice. The suggestions and tools mapped in this toolkit may stimulate churches and partners to exchange with others across the world, sharing on how they engage for climate justice for and with children and youth.

“What would Jesus think about how we treat the earth?”

Child in South Africa in a consultation with children organised for the development of the Churches' Commitments to Children by Lynette Julius, facilitator in the St Luke's Parish Woodlands.

You are warmly encouraged to do so through the [Churches Commitments Online Platform](#).

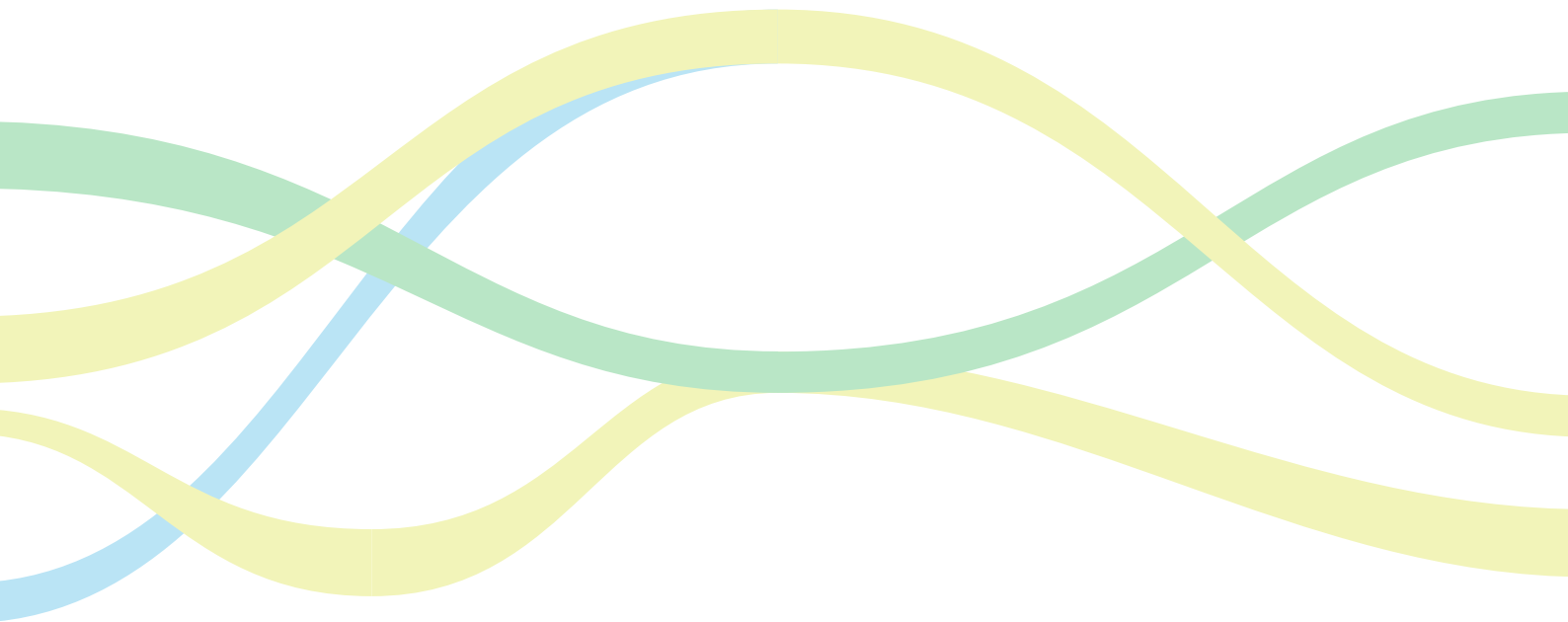
Please also share your resources and activities with us. We plan to update the toolkit as a living document to support facilitators working with children and young people in churches and faith communities. Your submissions to churchesforchildren@wcc-coe.org will be much appreciated.

Sunday schools, church-run schools and church summer camps – through joint actions and with partners – are well placed to speed up solutions in response to the climate crisis.

We have to act now, with and for children and adolescents.

United in faith, in collaboration with partners of good will, we will be able to bend the greenhouse gas emissions curve.

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