



Either during or soon after your learning experience, you and your group may want to start addressing climate change in a concrete way. If so, choose this option for a simple living project that can be done as a group or in the near future. More ideas can be found in the “Closing and ACTION” module above.

As you prepared for this climate change learning experience, you probably realized that addressing climate change will involve both corporate and individual action. Below are two activities to choose from: an advocacy project that addresses climate change at the community level and a personal reflection exercise. Select which activity will work best for your group and make the necessary preparations to do it during your time together.

PREPARE A PHONE CALL TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL

A timely phone call to an elected official can have a big impact. A prepared statement that includes certain components will make your phone call the most effective. Use the following suggestions to craft a statement as a group.

STEP ONE: PREPARE

- Before the meeting, select which legislator(s) (state or federal, congress or senate, etc.) you would like to contact. Have their contact information available for distribution to the group.
- Prepare a short summary of the legislator’s background history, especially as it relates to environmental issues.

If you do not already have some sense of how your representatives have voted on climate change issues, you can visit the League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard (www.lcv.org/scorecard) to learn more about their positions.

- Prepare a short explanation of what the phone call will look like. Be sure to tell the participants that when they make the phone call they will speak to staff

assistants who are responsible for recording the issues constituents call about. The call will only take about two minutes. As such, when you prepare your message, keep it short and to the point. One short paragraph is all they’ll have time to read, especially on a call-in day. Finally, have a pen and paper handy to make sure everyone who plans on making the phone call subscribes to e-Advocacy Networks to get notified when their call will make the most difference.

STEP TWO: CREATE

- Either as a large group or in smaller groups, craft a short, one paragraph statement that includes the following components:
 - > Introduction of self
 - > Thank you to the legislator or staffer for his/her time
 - > Appreciation for previous votes you liked
 - > Brief description of your background
 - > Explanation of the issue
 - > The specific request or “ask”

STEP THREE: PRAY

Offer a petition that God would work through your efforts.





KEEP THE RECEIPT

One of the keys to addressing climate change is limiting personal consumption. This exercise will get you and your participants thinking about your spending habits. Depending on the dynamics of your group, you can do the activity as an individual, private reflection or as a group “competition.”

STEP ONE: GET READY

- This activity involves tracking one’s personal spending for one week. At least one week before your scheduled meeting, be sure you contact all the participants and tell them to save their receipts for the upcoming week and to bring the receipts to the gathering.
- Make sure you have the materials you will need for the exercise, including pens or pencils, paper, and a few calculators to share.

STEP TWO: ADD IT UP

- Have the participants take out their receipts and individually add them up for a grand total. If the group is comfortable with it, add the individual totals together and divide by the number of participants to calculate the average spending for the group. If you choose to have a “competition,” by show of hands, see who spends less than the average and more than the average. You can also see which individuals spent the very least and the very most.
- You can have also have the participants add up their receipts according to categories (e.g., food, gas, clothes, entertainment, etc.). Again, if the group is comfortable with it, you can find the total and the average for the group as a whole of the various categories. Again, you can “compete” in the various categories to see who spends below the average, above the average, the very least, and the very most.

STEP THREE: REFLECT

- Ask the participants to reflect on the following questions:
 - > Where did you spend the most? The least?
 - > What surprised you in your spending habits?
 - > What changes do you think you’d like to make?
 - > What changes would be most difficult to make?

STEP FOUR: PRAY

Thank God for all the blessings in your life. Ask for strength to live in a way that honors God and God’s creation.