

GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)

Advocating for continued support of the Green Climate Fund to promote environmentally friendly development



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

We ask Congress to support the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by voting to fully fund the president's 2017 \$750 million budget request.

Appropriated funding to the GCF will:

- ◆ Reinforce our continued leadership on climate change, disaster response and deployment of clean-energy technologies;
- ◆ Address our moral obligation to help our neighbors who are most affected by extreme weather, sea level rise, and other climate disruptions; and
- ◆ Represent a sound investment in alleviating poverty, ensuring global food security now and in the future.

The importance of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

With each passing year, we witness the growing impacts of climate change throughout the world. As global temperatures change, the first threats and harms of climate change are clearly noticeable, recordable, and very real for communities around the world.

Rising sea levels threaten coastlines and even the existence of small island states. Vanishing glaciers jeopardize future water supplies for major cities in Latin America and Asia. Long-term drought and other forms of extreme weather impact food security and political stability in economically challenged countries.

The consequences of climate change fall hardest on our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are least able to adapt because they live in communities already struggling with poverty and hunger. Many of the countries and populations that cannot be blamed for contributing significantly to our changing climate are being hit first, and worst, by climate impacts. We have a moral responsibility to help these countries adapt to a problem that they did not cause.

The GCF is a multilateral institution designed to address the critical mitigation and adaptation needs of developing nations in the wake of climate change. Through mobilizing international finance and support for poor and vulnerable nations, the fund will help build these countries' capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to limiting future emissions, the fund will provide development funding for adaptation efforts, with up to 50 percent of the funds going to projects that build resilience in communities already suffering the effects of climate change. The strongest emphasis will be placed on projects in African countries, small island states, and the most economically vulnerable countries.

Our Lutheran voice

"This church will seek public policies that allow people to participate fully in decisions affecting their own health and livelihood ... We will insist on an equitable sharing of the costs of maintaining a healthy environment." – ELCA social statement, "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice" (1993)

Called to till and keep God's creation (Genesis 2:15) and commanded to care for our most vulnerable neighbors (Deuteronomy 15:11), we believe that climate change presents an unprecedented threat to all of creation. We are guided by principles of stewardship, compassion and justice in confronting the moral crisis of our changing climate. Climate change presents a threat to creation, but most particularly to vulnerable populations living in poverty around the globe. Through our faith, we have a moral obligation to consider the needs of others and rise to the challenge of caring for them. We are called to "[champion the poor and the needy](#)" (Deuteronomy 24:14-15).

We have an obligation to "[till and tend](#)" the earth, as God told humankind in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). God blesses the world and sees it as "good," even before humankind comes on the scene. All creation, not just humankind, is viewed as "very good" in God's eyes (Genesis 1:31). As people of faith, we are called to be stewards and protectors of God's earth.

Take action now! www.ELCA.org/advocacy

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About the Green Climate Fund

The GCF project was created by the parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and will be an independent multilateral entity. The fund will be managed by a governing board made up of country representatives, evenly split between donor and recipient countries, with climate action as its central objective.

How the funds will be allocated:

50 percent – Adapting and building resilience in the most vulnerable countries

50 percent – Mitigating the effects of climate change

The climate fund is unique in its mission to combat global climate change on both the adaptation and alleviation fronts: To date, institutions funding climate change impacts have focused primarily on mitigating future emissions; the funds dedicated to adaptation and resilience in the Global Climate Fund are greatly needed.

Mitigation and low-carbon development are vital to halting the progression of our changing climate, but we also have a moral responsibility to address the climate impacts around the world that are already occurring or impending, particularly those that are impacting our most vulnerable neighbors. Investment in mitigation and adaptation is not only our moral obligation as a major contributor to climate change but also a sound investment in alleviating poverty and ensuring global food security now and in the future.

What is included in the framework for the Global Climate Fund?

- ◆ A focus on the development and implementation of country-level strategies and plans for climate resilience and low-carbon development
- ◆ Robust monitoring and evaluation of the plans that are developed
- ◆ Social and environmental safeguards
- ◆ Civil society participation
- ◆ Best-practice fiduciary standards
- ◆ Gender inclusive goals

Learn more:

ELCA Social Statement "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice":

<http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/EnvironmentSS.pdf?ga=1.204825175.610576264.1427817985>

Green Climate Fund resources: <http://news.gcfund.org/>