

COMMIT² RESPOND



People of faith and conscience taking action for climate justice.

What Is Commit2Respond?

A coalition of Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience working for climate justice.

**COMMIT²
RESPOND**

commit2respond.org

What Is Climate Justice?

Commit2Respond is grounded in ***environmental justice*** rather than ***environmentalism***.

We will specifically focus on injustices related to climate change.

Climate justice puts people's needs, especially those of frontline communities bearing the greatest burdens, at the center of responding to climate change.

Commit2Respond Sponsors

- Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)
- UU Ministers Association (UUMA)
- UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ)
- Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM)
- UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE)
- UU Environmental Justice Collaboratory

Theological/Spiritual Grounding

This commitment springs from principled theological and spiritual grounding.



- **What in our UU faith calls *you* to commit to respond?**
 - **Our principles** upholding the inherent worth and dignity of all persons, democratic processes, our interconnectedness?
 - The **covenantal nature of our faith**?
 - Our **roots in transcendentalism and liberation theologies**?
 - **Something else?**

The Three Pillars of Commit2Respond Actions:

SHIFT
ADVANCE
GROW

Shift Your Consumption!

- **Take** the Carbon Pledge to reduce your carbon pollution 20% in two years
- **Create** a voluntary carbon tax and tithing program
- **Divest** from fossil fuels and invest in community sustainability
- **Act** on all three pillars by becoming accredited or reaccredited as a Green Sanctuary congregation

Advance the Human Rights of Affected Communities!

- **Build** or deepen a partnership with an organization active in a local affected community
- **Support** an affected community in another part of the world as an advocate or sponsor
- **Serve** and learn shoulder-to-shoulder with affected communities through a UU College of Social Justice faith-based learning experience
- **Act** on all three pillars by becoming accredited or reaccredited as a Green Sanctuary congregation

Grow the Climate Justice Movement!

- **Organize** or support a local community education event or collaboration leading to action
- **Join** the Commit2Respond Climate Activist Network
- **Join** or uplift UU Young Adult leadership in the movement
- **Act** on all three pillars by becoming accredited or reaccredited as a Green Sanctuary congregation

How to Commit

1. **Sign a general pledge to act** on the website.
2. **Review action menus in each pillar and commit to specific actions** in each pillar as one of the following:
 - Individual/family/household
 - Congregation or congregational group
 - Community group or coalition
 - UU-related organization or coalition
3. **Create your own action commitments.**

**Watch the online tally grow and
see how we multiply our impact!**

Green Sanctuary



Certifying? Recertifying?

- Green Sanctuary (GS) requirements dovetail with all three pillar actions.
- GS congregational coaches available.
- UUMFE curriculum available to help with strategic planning and identifying justice points for action.

Why Commit2Respond?

- UUs have many skills, talents, and ongoing projects — we need to coordinate and collaborate for **greater impact**.
- Our justice work often is fragmented and in silos; weaving our work together enables us to be **more strategic**.
- By working together we **inspire hope** and create a stronger community for **accountability and support**.

Who Should Get Involved in Commit2Respond?

- Individuals: clergy, leaders, activists, people who care
- Households and families
- Congregational teams who can organize in the congregation and the community
- Small group ministries, covenant groups
- Whole congregations
- UU State Action Networks and UU justice groups

Launch Calendar

- **January 2015: Climate justice track** at national UU clergy institute. Ministers get briefed on issue and the initiative.
- **March 14–17: National young adult climate justice lobby days and training** in Washington, D.C.
- **March 22: Climate Justice Sunday.** Kickoff of four-week intensive worship and orientation to initiative, launching commitment period.
- **April 22: Earth Day.** End of formal, intensive orientation.
- **June: General Assembly.** Climate justice track of workshops, public witness, special local immersion experiences, teen Activate training, etc. Second round of outreach to clergy and congregational leaders.
- **December: Close of commitment period.** Our commitments will be tallied and showcased with advocacy around the 2015 Paris U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

2016 and beyond: implementation period!

What Will Happen Next?

Together we will do the following:

- Keep growing the Commit2Respond network.
- Track our progress as a movement with online tools and graphics.
- Share our stories of action, carbon footprint calculators, resources, training materials, etc.
- Hold webinars and phone conferences for Commit2Respond activists.

What Does Climate Justice Month Look Like?

- Website becomes fully functional, interactive.
- March 22: free worship resources, posters, and advocacy activities for celebrating World Water Day available through UUSC.
- April 22: Earth Day worship materials and activities available through UUMFE.

Weekly theological themes supported by resources, rituals, and activities for individuals, groups, and congregations.

Young Adult Lobby Training

March 14–17, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

Open to 18- to 35-year-olds

Interfaith setting

- Explore UU theological and spiritual grounding for climate justice advocacy.
- Learn effective lobbying techniques.
- Meet legislative staff, practice lobbying skills, visit representatives' and senators' offices.
- Develop a climate justice action plan to take home!

Very reasonable cost: \$25–\$50 registration fee; \$35 per night for housing and food.

For more information, contact Pamela Sparr,
UUSC's associate director for advocacy, activism, and engagement, at
psparr@uusc.org.

Come to General Assembly in Portland!

- Many workshops on climate justice
- Climate justice public witness event in partnership with Native peoples
- Portland tour and discussion with with local environmental justice activists
- Talks by Cornell West, David Korten, and others
- More advocacy and action opportunities!

Join us!
commit2respond.org