

The Power to Change Presbyterians as Stewards of Creation

Out of ongoing concern for the stewardship of God's creation, in June of 2008 the 218th General Assembly adopted a statement *The Power to Change*, urging individuals and families in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to practice good Christian stewardship of creation by taking these steps:

- Pray, asking for God's forgiveness and for the power and guidance to enjoy and care for creation in new ways.
- Study energy sources, their advantages and disadvantages, and the impacts they have on human communities, all species, and the ecological systems that support life on Earth



- Practice energy conservation as a form of thanksgiving and sharing by
 - ⇒ adjusting thermostats
 - ⇒ Walking, biking, carpooling, or using mass transit
 - ⇒ turning off lights and appliances
 - ⇒ Recycling
 - ⇒ minimizing the use of plastic water bottles and other wasteful packaging



- Purchase energy-efficient appliances and fuel-efficient vehicles for use at home and at work.



- Purchase sustainably grown food and other products from local producers in order to reduce the energy associated with producing, and shipping goods.
- Reduce consumption of meat because the production of grain fed to most livestock is fossil fuel-intensive and their waste emits methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas.



- Purchase Green-e certified energy and/or carbon offsets in the pursuit of a carbon-neutral lifestyle. Green-e certification ensures these payments result in additional installations of renewable energy generation capacity as well as verifiable and permanent environmental benefits.
- Invest personal funds in the renewable energy industry and also in companies that demonstrate concern for the well-being of their workers, their communities, and the environment.
- Advocate for change and leadership within the church and in all forms of government regarding energy policy and global climate change.



For more information on the implementation of the *Power to Change* document across the "Fab 5" Presbyteries of the Synod of the Northeast, contact the Rev. Brooke Newell, Advocacy Ministries Coordinator.

Email: brooke@cjgreen.net
Phone: 518-338-6074

