



## CARBON OFFSETTING



**A Carbon offset** is a way to compensate for your emissions by funding an equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere. Our everyday actions, at home and at work, consume energy and produce carbon emissions, such as driving, flying and heating buildings. Carbon offsetting is used to balance out these emissions by helping to pay for emission savings in other parts of the world.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** 13% of the global population still lacks access to modern electricity. 3 billion people rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. Energy is the dominant contributor to climate change, accounting for around 60 per cent of total global greenhouse gas emissions. The world needs to triple its investment in sustainable energy infrastructure per year, from around \$400 billion now to \$1.25 trillion by 2030. [UN Sustainable Goal 7](#)

**Carbon Budget:** The world technically has only one-fifth of its "carbon budget"—the total is 2.8 trillion metric tons—remaining in order to avoid warming the Earth more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. Halting the trends in motion will require more than just phasing out fossil fuels. In fact, the paths to halting global temperature increases of 1.5 or 2 degrees C, the two goals outlined by the IPCC, rely in some way on adopting methods of sucking CO<sub>2</sub> from the sky. Those include planting trees, conserving existing forests and grasslands, and capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from power plants and factories. [National Geographic](#)

**Deforestation:** Forests also play a critical role in mitigating climate change because they act as a carbon sink—soaking up carbon dioxide. Deforestation is a particular concern in tropical rain forests because these forests are home to much of the world's biodiversity. In the Amazon around 17% of the forest has been lost in the last 50 years, mostly due to forest conversion for cattle ranching. [WWF](#)

### Church Teaching

**Care for creation:** The relationship between human activity and global warming must be constantly monitored for "the climate is a good that must be protected".

[Vatican's Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, para 470](#)

**Climate As A Common Good:** The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it [Laudato Si para 23Soctrine of the Church, para 470](#)

**Global Inequality:** We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. [Laudato Si para 49](#)

### Ideas for Action



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- [Trees for life](#) - help restore the Caledonian Forest in the Scottish Highlands, transform bare hillsides into healthy young woodland.
- [World Land Trust](#) - By planting trees with World Land Trust (WLT), you are helping to restore forests that have been lost to deforestation across the world.
- [25 Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint](#) - tips on driving, air travel, home energy and more.
- [Calculate and compensate for your emissions](#) – Work out the financial compensation for the flights, car journeys, holidays, day to day living etc you do.

### Liturgical Resources

- [Sisters of Mercy](#) Laudato Si and Sisters of Mercy's Critical Concerns
- [Peacemeal](#). Liturgy ideas for sharing a meal
- [Season of Creation](#). An excellent booklet containing liturgies on the environment, including biodiversity
- [Caring for God's Creation](#). A downloadable booklet produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with suggestions for liturgies
- [Greening Worship](#). A web page from EcoCongregation with lots of useful suggestions for worship.
- [Liturgical, Prayer and Spiritual Resources](#). Splendid resources page from the Global Catholic Climate Movement