TOOLKIT FOR ORGANIZING A CATHOLIC CLIMATE PETITION DRIVE
“On climate change, there is a clear, definitive and ineluctable ethical imperative to act.”
— Pope Francis

Thank you for joining this global effort to raise the Catholic voice on climate change!

This November, world leaders will be meeting in Paris at the COP21 Climate Summit to negotiate a treaty to address our current climate crisis. We have an opportunity to speak as one Catholic people, 1.2 billion strong and send a resounding message that climate action must be taken. Our children’s futures depend on it.

The Catholic Climate Petition is a way to show leaders that Catholics around the world stand behind Pope Francis and his encyclical Laudato Si’ in urging all people to care for creation.

This toolkit will provide you with the tools you need to promote the petition in your parish, congregation, school, or community.

All of the materials found in this toolkit can be found on our website in English and Spanish.

Please send us pictures and stories of your successful petition campaigning! This will help to inspire others around the world to take action for climate justice. You can send your pictures and stories to hello@catholicclimatemovement.global.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in your efforts to educate and inspire others to live their vocations of stewards of creation!

In gratitude,

Christina Leaño
The Global Catholic Climate Movement
| Step 1 | Decide how and where you are going to promote the petition. | 1 month before |
| Step 2 | Choose the date of your event | 1 month before |
| Step 3 | Reach out to the appropriate contacts to coordinate your petition drive. | 1 month before |
| Step 4 | Recruit volunteers to collect signatures after each mass. | 3 weeks before |
| Step 5 | Make arrangements to place an announcement in the bulletin 1 week prior to the event. | 2 weeks before |
| Step 6 | Collect any necessary materials for your campaign and develop any promotional materials for your petition drive. | 2 weeks before |
| Step 7 | Follow up with your priest about announcing next week’s petition campaign. | 8 days before |
| Step 8 | Post fliers at mass to announce next week’s petition campaign | 1 week before |
| Step 9 | Host a training for all volunteers who will be collecting signatures. | 1 week before |
| Step 10 | Check in with your parish contact or priest about announcing the petition campaign after mass to encourage people to stop at the tables to sign. | 3 days before |
| Step 11 | Double check you have all supplies necessary. | 2 days before |
| Step 12 | Confirm with your volunteers that they are ready for the drive the next day. | 1 day before |
| Step 13 | Make sure your tables and posters are up for people to see on their way into mass. | 1 hour before mass |
| Step 14 | Pray with your volunteers and trust in the Holy Spirit! Don’t forget to take pictures throughout the process! | |
| Step 15 | Meet with your volunteers to thank them for their work and celebrate your accomplishments! | After the drive |
| Step 16 | Report back | After the drive |
Step 1: Decide how and where you are going to promote the petition.

Ready to promote the Catholic Climate Petition, but not sure how? Here are 5 different ideas.

IDEA #1: IDENTIFY A WEEKEND IN YOUR PARISH TO GATHER SIGNATURES AFTER ALL SUNDAY MASSES (WITH PAPER SHEETS OR WITH LAPTOPS AND TABLETS)

Inspiring story: On one weekend Rhett Engelking of the Franciscan Action Network collected over 1100 signatures from St. Camillus Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland and the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, DC. They had an especially large group of support from parishioners in the Latino Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee at St. Camillus. They got the most signatures from the Spanish speaking community at the parish and significant numbers from kids (don’t forget that the world we are saving is there’s too).

IDEA #2: HAVE A MOBILE VOLUNTEER CREW COLLECT SIGNATURES AT LARGE GATHERINGS OF CATHOLICS

Inspiring story: During a recent trip to the Vatican, Global Catholic Climate Movement members spent an hour collecting signatures from pilgrims in St Peter’s Square (watch video). Catholics from Norway, the United States, Japan, Colombia, Argentina and other nations all joined the movement for climate justice! Volunteers from the GCCM’s Italian partner FOCSIIV will continue to collect signatures at St. Peter’s Square on an ongoing basis.

IDEA #3: SET UP A TABLE IN A LOCATION WITH A LOT OF TRAFFIC. THIS COULD BE AT A CONFERENCE, FESTIVAL, OR MORE LOCALLY LIKE A STUDENT UNION OR CAFETERIA HALL.

Inspiring story: In July, GCCM partner Caritas Australia collected petitions at a 3-day youth festival by setting up an online stall with a live sign-up opportunity. In addition to paper petitions, having a table or laptop available for people to sign the petition online is a great way to engage people in our tech savvy world.
IDEA #4: HOST A MAJOR PETITION LAUNCH EVENT WITH A BISHOP OR OTHER NOTABLE FIGURE.
Inspiring story: On July 5, Cardinal Tagle of the Archdiocese of Manila and President of Caritas Internationalis, launched a massive petition campaign in the Philippines during an event with over 1000 priests, religious and lay leaders of the Manila Archdiocese. Their goal: to raise at least 10 millions signatures! (You can read more about this story here)

IDEA #5: MAKE A PRESENTATION TO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS AND ANYONE ELSE YOU MEET ALONG THE WAY!

Inspiring story: One of GCCM’s volunteers, Friar Wilson, began a 12 day walk on July 9 between Quito and El Coca, Ecuador in the Amazon rainforest, with the GCCM banner. He will collect signatures along his journey. His walk is to remember Monsignor Labaka and Sister Inés who were killed by the indigenous in the forest after the intrusion of oil companies in their communities. The missionaries were trying to keep peace, but were killed the missionaries were mistaken as being a part of the oil companies.

Step 2: Choose the date of your event. (at least 1 month before)

Good dates are those with parallel meaning (Feast of St. Francis, as part of a nationwide or global effort). Make sure to choose a date that won’t conflict with any major events in your parish, school, or organization.

Step 3: Reach out to the appropriate contacts to coordinate your petition drive. (1 month before)

Contact your parish, school, or organization officials to ask them about hosting a petition drive. Here is a Frequently Asked Questions and a Talking Points sheet (also found at the end of the toolkit here) that can help you prepare for your meeting.
Make sure you work out any logistics, such as where you will be stationed, tables, chairs, and how you can market the event such as bulletin announcements, emails, social media, mass announcements.

**Step 4: Recruit volunteers (at least 3 weeks before)**

Begin to ask friends, colleagues, parish organizations to assist you the day of the petition campaign. You may want to set a date for a volunteer training.

**Step 5: Make arrangements to place an announcement in the bulletin 1 week prior to the event, as well as the week of the event. (2 weeks before)**

Here are some sample bulletin announcements.

**Bulletin Announcement: For week prior to petition drive**

*Next week we will begin our drive for signatures for the Catholic Climate petition. The Pope’s latest Encyclical, Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home, urges us to understand the ethical responsibility we share and to act to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change on all of us, and especially our poorest and most vulnerable sisters and brothers. If any of you would like to volunteer to help with our petition drive, please contact .......*

**Bulletin Announcement: For weekend of petition drive with link to online petition**

*This week, we are kicking off our drive for signatures for the Catholic Climate petition. We are asking each of you to get informed, pray, and take action by signing this petition and committing to living a more ecoconscious spirituality and lifestyle. The petition, along with additional information, can be found at: ...............*

You might also like to supplement this with bulletin inserts with reflections on Laudato Si’ which you can find [here](#).
Step 6: Begin to collect all necessary materials. (2 weeks before)

Here is a sample checklist of things to prepare for your petition drive:

- Petitions in different languages (English and Spanish)
- FAQs, sample talking points and other information sheets on care for creation, climate change (see our Resource section)
- Flyers advertising your petition drive
- Pictures of Pope endorsing the petition (great to paste on the back of the clipboards to show the Pope’s support)
- Posters and banners
- Tape to secure posters and banners
- T-shirts for volunteers
- Clipboards
- Laptops or tablets (if you want to collect petitions online)
- Pens
- Table (if setting up a petition station) and chairs
- Box or bag to transport all materials
- Enthusiastic volunteers
- Prayers before you start your petition campaign
Step 7: Follow up with your priest about announcing next week’s petition campaign. (2 weeks before)

Here are some sample announcements that you can share with him:

Long Form (2 minutes):
The Pope’s latest encyclical, Laudato Si, is a call to all of us to champion our responsibility to care for the environment, or as Pope Francis calls it: Our Common Home. In the encyclical, the Pope reminds us that climate change affects us all, but especially the poorest and most vulnerable of us. Already there are upwards of 30 million people that have been termed “climate refugees” because their homes have been displaced by rising sea levels and violent storms. To stand up for them, and for the future of our own children, action must be taken to curb the negative effects of climate change that we are responsible for. We cannot do this alone. Global collaboration is necessary in order to succeed in guaranteeing a future that is free of the catastrophes of flood, drought, famine, and disease that climate change will bring upon us. That is why next or this week, in collaboration with the Global Catholic Climate Movement, we are kicking off a petition drive that will help our Catholic voices be heard at the UN Climate Change Conference to take place in Paris this December. If we were just asking that you sign you this petition, we wouldn’t be up here right now. We are asking that you do so with an intention to pray and consider what further steps each of you might be able to take to address what some are calling the most important issue that humanity has ever faced. We have recommendations available outside, but only under prayer can we really discern what each of us is able to do.
I look forward to chatting with you outside and adding your voices to this call for action.
Thank you.

Short Form (30 seconds):
Hello, My name is....
Next week or (Today) we are kicking off our Catholic Climate petition drive in response to Pope Francis’ call to care for creation. The petition, which has been endorsed by Pope Francis, is being signed by Catholics around the world to encourage our international leaders to take climate action at the United Nations Climate Summit in December. We invite you to visit us outside to sign the petition and learn about other actions you can take to save our planet, our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters, and our children from climate change. Together, with God’s help, we can succeed!
Thank you.

Step 8: Post fliers at mass to announce next week’s petition campaign (1 week before)

Here is an editable flyer you can use to advertise your petition drive.
Step 9: Host a training for all volunteers who will be collecting signatures. (1 week before)

Here is a sample training outline. Check out the YouTube videos that you might want to use as well.

Sample Training Outline for Petition Volunteers

I. Welcome
   A. Welcome everyone and introduce yourself.
   B. Thank the volunteers for being a part of this important effort.
   C. Begin with a prayer (can use one of the prayers from the end of the encyclical)

II. Overview
   A. Introduce GCCM using the powerpoint or video
      1. 5.5 minute video on the Global Catholic Climate Movement and the Catholic Climate Petition [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7ZQYC2dlG8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7ZQYC2dlG8)
      2. 3.5 minute video on the Pope’s Call and the Global Catholic Climate Movement: [https://youtu.be/J4AWPrnkgag](https://youtu.be/J4AWPrnkgag)
   B. Explain the problem
   C. Overview of climate change
   D. Goal of Catholic Climate Petition campaign: 4 million signatures from around the world to present at COP21
   E. Explain the important role of the volunteers
      1. Part of the change called forth by Pope Francis to care for creation
      2. Part of a global effort!
      3. This is a wonderful opportunity to put our faith into action and invite other people to do the same

III. Go through the talking points

IV. Role-play in front of the large group what it might look like to approach someone to sign the petition. (Ask one of the volunteers to pretend to be a passerby). Point out some of the things you did (Introduce yourself, ask questions, show the picture, etc.). Then ask 1 or 2 volunteers to come up and take your place for the role play.

V. Invite volunteers to practice in groups of threes with two people role playing and third person providing feedback. Time this activity to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to play all three roles.

VI. Come back together in larger group and get feedback, answer questions.

VII. Invite people to set a goal of how many signatures they will get

VIII. End with prayer
Step 10: Check in with your parish contact or priest about announcing the petition campaign after mass to encourage people to stop at the tables to sign. (3 days before)

Please see sample announcements.

Step 11: Double check you have all supplies necessary. (2 days before)

Mentally walk through the petition drive in your head to make sure you have everything covered.

Step 12: Confirm with your volunteers (1 day before)

Make sure to call and email your volunteers that they are ready to volunteer the next day.

Step 13: Make sure your tables and posters are up for people to see on their way into mass. (1 hour before)

Step 14: Pray with your volunteers and trust in the Holy Spirit! Don’t forget to take pictures throughout the process!
Step 15: Meet with your volunteers to thank them for their work and celebrate your accomplishments!

This is also a good time to celebrate the great work you have done. You may also want to evaluate what went well and what could be improved.

Step 16: Report back!

Let us know how your drive went! Send your update, any pictures, and scan your signed petitions to hello@catholicclimatemovement.global
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CLIMATE PETITION

What is the goal of the Catholic Climate Petition?
In late November 2015, world leaders will meet in the U.N. Climate Summit at Paris with the goal of signing a treaty to tackle climate change. Through this petition we urge our political leaders to commit to ambitious climate action and solve this urgent crisis. Petition signatures will be delivered to world leaders at the summit, together with the petitions of other interfaith and secular organizations. Ultimately, we aim to raise a strong Catholic voice supporting Pope Francis’ words: “On climate change, there is a clear, definitive and ineluctable ethical imperative to act.”

Who has endorsed the petition?
Pope Francis endorsed the petition in May when he met with members of the Global Catholic Climate Movement in the Vatican. Cardinal Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, endorsed the petition in Bolivia in July. Cardinal Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis, recently signed the petition as part of a country-wide launch to gather 10 million signatures in the Philippines. A full list of major endorsers of the petition can be found at http://catholicclimatemovement.global/endorsers/

What is climate change?
Climate change refers to changes in the global climate beyond those which we would expect to see due to natural climate variations. It is caused by carbon and other trace greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as a "change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods."

Is climate change real?
The level of agreement by informed scientists is exceedingly high. More than 99.9% of scientists published since 2013 agree that human activity is causing climate change. There is consensus among scientists that the climate is being changed by human activity, in the same way as there is consensus on the links between smoking and lung cancer.

Why should I care about climate change?
The impacts of climate disruption are here and now, evident in extreme weather events such as floods, extreme storms, heat waves, and droughts. These impacts are projected to get a lot worse for everyone, especially those who are the most vulnerable, not least the poor, the unborn and future generations. As Catholics and Christians, we are called to care for our brothers and sisters and all of creation. Popes and Catholic Social Teaching are clear on our obligation to name systemic problems and damage such as climate change and address systemic injustice when it is needed.
Why are you asking for 1.5 degrees?
Bishops from all continents and now the Pope have issued letters and signed onto statements calling for limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. In the past year, scientists have said limiting increases to 2 degrees Celsius is “utterly inadequate” for protecting those at most risk, given the already observed impacts on ecosystems, food, livelihoods, and sustainable development. Further, the World Health Organization stressed that there is no “safe” level of warming and that current impacts and risks from climate change are already reaching unacceptable levels, with significant and inequitable health impacts on breathing, clean water, heat, flooding, and displacement.

Can this petition really make a difference?
With the Holy Spirit, yes! Our leaders will not act unless we send a clear signal that we want immediate action on climate change to safeguard our common home and the future of our children. At the same time, the Pope has stated the need for “ecological conversion” by all, and a total structural change. People will be converted one at a time, through personal testimony and witness. It is all of our responsibility.

What else can I do about climate change?
In Laudato Si’ the Holy Father says we must get off fossil fuels “without delay.” Burning large amounts of fossil fuels — coal, oil, natural gas — is the biggest cause of global warming. Each of us is responsible for helping bring the call for “ecological conversion” to our families, parishes, communities, and societies. Talk with your priest, your parish, friends and family about climate change. Encourage them to pray with you, to sign the petition, and think together about ways to bring about the systemic change the Pope calls for. The Global Catholic Climate Movement had compiled resources for action at all levels at: To get more ideas at www.catholicclimatemovement.global/resources

Who is behind the Catholic Climate Petition?
The Global Catholic Climate Movement is promoting the Catholic Climate Petition in collaboration with our larger network of 150 plus Catholic organizational partners and the thousands of individuals who feel called by their faith to respond to and raise awareness about human-induced climate change.

For more information, please visit the Global Catholic Climate Movement at www.catholicclimatemovement.global
Talking Points for Petition Drives

SUGGESTED SCRIPTS

Long version: Hello, I am a volunteer with the Global Catholic Climate Movement. Have you read the Pope’s encyclical?

If yes: “Great, what did you think of it? Would you like to take action for the environment? You can sign this Catholic Climate Petition, which Pope Francis recently endorsed. The petition calls on world leaders to take action on climate change and will be presented to the UN at the Climate Change Conference in Paris this December. Would you like to add your name to it?”

If they answer they did not read the encyclical respond, “Pope Francis issued an encyclical entitled Laudato Si. It was a letter addressed to the Catholic and global community regarding our moral responsibility to care for creation. Creation is a gift from God. Yet we have been harming our environment, which is harming the poor among us and threatening our children’s futures. Would you like to join the Pope in caring for creation by signing this petition which he has endorsed? [SHOW PICTURES OF THE POPE WITH THE PETITION] It will send a signal to our world leaders to protect our environment and take action on climate change. The petition will be presented to the UN at their Climate Change Conference in Paris this December. Would you like to add your name to it?

Short version: Hello, I am a volunteer with the Global Catholic Climate Movement. We are collecting signatures around the world to show our leaders that we support Pope Francis’ encyclical to care for creation. The Catholic Climate Petition was recently endorsed by Pope Francis [SHOW PICTURES OF THE POPE WITH THE PETITION] and calls on our world leaders to take important action on climate change for our future generations. Would you like to join our Holy Father in caring for creation by signing this petition?

Very short version: Would you like to join Pope Francis in caring for creation? Sign this petition which he endorsed asking our world leaders to take action on climate change when they meet this December. [SHOW PICTURES OF THE POPE WITH THE PETITION]

Things to keep in mind

- Smile, say hello, introduce yourself as a volunteer with the Global Catholic Climate Movement
- Show picture of Pope Francis looking at the petition.
- Some people may not be interested in signing or even listening. Don’t be discouraged!
- Pray before you begin that the Holy Spirit might work through you in your efforts.
Thank you for living your vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork!

Any questions? Please feel free to contact Christina at the Global Catholic Climate Movement at christina@catholicclimatemovement.global or 786-459-5667