

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A COMPLEX ISSUE THAT ENCOMPASSES MANY DIFFERENT AREAS OF PUBLIC POLICY. SEE THE LIST OF SUGGESTED TOPICS AND QUESTIONS BELOW OR CREATE YOUR OWN QUESTIONS.

Sustainable development

In order to ensure that future generations can live in a clean and healthy environment, promoting sustainability initiatives in our communities is a crucial first step. This can be achieved through multiple avenues, but as Christians, we should strive to ensure that this development benefits everyone, particularly the most vulnerable members of society.

- What steps would you take to move us in a more sustainable direction?
- How would you ensure that such development is enjoyed equally among all of your constituents, including low-income and other marginalized communities?

Climate refugees

Ecological disasters such as storms, floods, and drought can often be an underlying cause of mass migration, food insecurity, political unrest, and violent uprising. Many argue that these types of disasters will cause one of the largest migrations in modern history, primarily in the global South, with upper estimates of 140 million global “climate refugees” by 2050.

- What steps would you take to mitigate the risk of ecological disasters leading to mass migration in other nations?
- How are we preparing for potential displacement due to ecological disasters in the United States?

Disaster preparedness

Over the last several years, we have seen an increase in both the occurrence and severity of extreme weather events. Often, the least privileged members of society are the last to receive help both during and after a crisis. Disasters such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods have cost thousands of lives and billions of dollars in property damage.

- On a local and national level, how are we preparing for a potential increase in both the frequency and severity of natural disasters?
- In recent years, we have seen examples of marginalized groups facing discrimination during and after natural disasters. What steps would you take to ensure that everyone has adequate access to resources to help them rebuild after such a crisis?

Renewable energy

When it comes to caring for God’s creation, moving away from non-renewable energy sources to “green” renewable sources is key. While many economists agree that switching to alternative fuels would benefit the U.S. economy in the long run, there are still concerns over potential job losses in the short term.

- What policies would you support to invest in more renewable energy sources?
- What steps would you take to assist workers in fossil fuel industries during this transition period?

Climate and health

Extreme heat, increased periods of heavy rainfall and drought, and air pollution can affect human health in negative ways. The World Health Organization estimates that this will increase health care spending in the United States by \$2 billion to \$4 billion per year by 2030. Along with causing an increase in health issues among vulnerable populations, warming temperatures will also increase the spread of diseases, especially in the global South.

- What policy changes do you support to protect our communities from the negative impacts to human health caused by air pollution, extreme heat, and increased periods of heavy rainfall and drought?

Sources: World Bank, World Health Organization

For more in-depth information on these topics and others, visit sustainableclimatesolutions.org.