

CLIMATE CHANGE



GUIDE:

- Find out when and where political candidates are going to speak. Specifically, look for “town hall” style meetings where audience members can interact with candidates and/or policymakers.
- Research the stance that the candidate/policymaker takes on environmental issues and plan your questions accordingly. Be mindful that terms like “climate or “climate change” can be viewed as polarizing and shut down an opportunity for meaningful discussion.
- Ask your questions in a polite but firm manner. Avoid yes/no questions and instead ask more open-ended questions.
- If allowed, speak with a candidate before or after an event for a more in-depth conversation.

Menno Simons called on government authorities to uphold just policies: “you must see to it that justice is done between two parties in dispute and to free the oppressed out of the hand of the oppressor” (“Foundation of Christian Doctrine,” 1539). For U.S. citizens, we have a duty to ourselves and our communities to participate in our elections. If you have not registered to vote yet, visit:

washingtonmemo.org/register-to-vote

Many who reside in the United States still struggle for the right to vote. Even those who are not registered voters can still find opportunities to engage candidates at public events or through other means of communication such as letters and social media.

Introduction

Climate change is an issue that affects our communities at local, national, and international levels, with the most vulnerable populations being the least responsible and the least able to cope when we fall short in our stewardship. It is vital that we take steps to achieve individual sustainability, in order to embrace our role as stewards of God’s creation. With campaigns in full swing as we approach November elections, it is also vital to engage in active discussions with candidates and to elect officials who support positive action.

The prophet Ezekiel admonishes the overuse of the resources that God has given us: “Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet?” (Ezekiel 34:18) As Christians, it is our duty to care for our planet and to ensure that we protect both our environment and our fellow human beings.

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions (CSCS) is a collaborative initiative of Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College and Mennonite Central Committee to lead Anabaptist efforts to respond to the challenges of climate change.

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