

CLIMATE CHANGE/ENVIRONMENT

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

We are part of a global community charged with being good stewards of the earth’s environment, what Pope Francis calls “our common home,” which is being threatened. These challenges are at the heart of public life and at the center of the pursuit of the common good.¹ They are intertwined and inseparable. ¶2

The current and projected extent of environmental degradation has become a moral crisis especially because it poses a risk to humanity in the future and threatens the lives of poor and vulnerable human persons here and now ¶29

Pope Francis underscores that environmental degradation can often force the poor “to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children” (no. 25). Pope Francis underscores that environmental degradation can often force the poor “to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children” (no. 25). ¶51

The United States should lead in contributing to the sustainable development of poorer nations and promoting greater justice in sharing the burden of environmental blight, neglect, and recovery. ¶86

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM	REPUBLICAN PLATFORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United States should lead in contributing to the sustainable development of poorer nations and promoting greater justice in sharing the burden of environmental blight, neglect, and recovery. (p 17) Democrats will increase funding to support the next generation of farmers and ranchers, with particular attention given to promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. (p. 24) • Democrats share a deep commitment to tackling the climate challenge; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ creating millions of good-paying middle class jobs; ○ reducing greenhouse gas emissions more than 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050; and ○ meeting the pledge President Obama put forward in the landmark Paris Agreement, which aims to keep global temperature increases to “well below” two degrees Celsius and to pursue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Republican Party will encourage and ensure diversified domestic sources of energy, from research and development, exploration, production, transportation, transmission, and consumption in a way that is economically viable and job-producing, as well as environmentally sound. • We support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ opening the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for energy exploration and development and; ○ opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for exploration and production of oil and natural gas; and ○ allowing for more oil and natural gas exploration on federally owned and controlled land. <p>We support this development in accordance with applicable environmental, health and safety laws, and regulations. (p. 16)</p>

“Climate Change/Environment” excerpted from Election Guide 2016, created by justice promoters group members in LCWR Region VII, which examines a number of issues using the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* guide and the Democratic and Republican party platforms

<p>efforts to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius. (p. 27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democrats are committed to closing the Halliburton loophole that stripped the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of its ability to regulate hydraulic fracturing, and ensuring tough safeguards are in place, including Safe Drinking Water Act provisions, to protect local water supplies. (p.27) • We will streamline federal permitting to accelerate the construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy over the development of new natural gas power plants. (p.27) • The impacts of climate change will also disproportionately affect low-income and minority communities, tribal nations, and Alaska 29 Native villages—all of which suffer the worst losses during extreme weather and have the fewest resources to prepare. Simply put, this is environmental racism. (P.28) <p>We believe the United States must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat... (p.45)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will respect the States’ proven ability to regulate the use of hydraulic fracturing, continue development of oil and gas resources in places like the Bakken formation and Marcellus Shale, and review the environmental laws that often thwart new energy exploration and production • The environment is getting cleaner and healthier. The nation’s air and waterways, as a whole, are much healthier than they were just a few decades ago. Efforts to reduce pollution, encourage recycling, educate the public, and avoid ecological degradation have been a success. (p. 18) • Experience has shown that, in caring for the land and water, private ownership has been our best guarantee of conscientious stewardship, while the worst instances of environmental degradation have occurred under government control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Congress should reconsider whether parts of the federal government’s enormous landholdings and control of water in the West could be better used for ranching, mining, or forestry through private ownership. (p. 18)
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