



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



INTERFAITH SCOTLAND RESOURCE FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

COP 26: What is it?

The 'twenty sixth conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change' (or [COP26](#) for short) will take place, COVID restrictions permitting, at the [Scottish Event Campus](#) in [Glasgow](#) from 1 to 12 November 2021. Since the first COP in Berlin in 1995 there has been painstaking progress towards international agreement. Getting every country in the world to sign up to life changing commitments is not easy but in Paris in 2015 (COP21) there was [agreement](#) to try to limit global warming to 1.5°Celsius above pre-industrial levels and not to allow it to go above 2°C.

Why is the COP important?

As [global temperatures rise](#) so do the range of risks and their severity, particularly for tropical countries which are already suffering terrible [loss and damage](#). The impacts often fall most heavily on [women](#) and [children](#) and those already living in [poverty](#). People living in [small island states](#) and low lying countries are particularly at risk with [rising sea levels](#) and, amongst many others, they have campaigned to limit temperature rises to 1.5 °C. *Without radical action temperature rises of over 1.5°C will very likely happen by mid-century, significantly increasing the risks and impacts of climate change.*

Who is involved?

Diplomatic representatives from all countries will be joined by campaigners, lobbyists, businesses, scientists, NGOs and the world's media. Faith groups campaigning for climate justice will be represented as well as faith-based development agencies through, for example, [ACT Alliance](#), [Islamic Relief](#) and [CIDSE](#). The total number of participants travelling to Glasgow depends on COVID related travel restrictions and the event may take place in part online.

What is up for decision?

The Paris agreement was adopted at COP21 in 2015 and set out a mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Each country has to prepare a plan (called [nationally determined contribution or NDC](#)) to set out how it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NDCs have to be revised and strengthened every five years and the Glasgow COP sees the first revision. *Unless the commitments in the current NDCs are strengthened and put into effect urgently there is no hope of limiting global warming to 2 °C.*



How can you get involved?

There are opportunities for everyone across Scotland before, during and after COP26. Faith groups are working to promote **hospitality** and **transformation**; to be good hosts to those coming to COP26; to listen and to learn from them; and from this to seek to change our lives, our places of worship, the places we live, economy and action by our governments. They are doing this alongside a huge civil society movement called the COP26 Coalition. Follow the links below for more details. *The list is not exhaustive, please be in touch to send us more resources and actions!*

Resources

- [Interfaith Climate Action Resources](#): produced and collated by Interfaith Scotland
- [Religious Leaders Statement](#): The Scottish Religious Leaders Forum call for immediate climate action
- [Faith for Earth: A Call for Action](#): a United Nations Environment Programme document outlining the key beliefs of different faiths on our relationship with the environment and our role in its protection, including an anthology of scripture, poetry and prayers from these faiths
- [Faith for the Climate](#): resources to engage, inspire and equip faith communities for action on climate change from seven faith traditions, as well as interfaith and non-faith based resources
- [Spiritual Vibrations for the Earth](#): Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network have produced a series of videos of prayers / reflections from diverse faiths on the environment
- [A Conversation about the Climate Emergency](#): a resource created by Eco-Congregation Scotland, a Christian environmental charity, to create conversations in your community
- [The Climate Sunday initiative](#) is encouraging local churches to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26. Resources for services can be found [here](#)
- [Women's Voices in Climate Action](#): a series of videos from Interfaith Scotland highlighting the disproportionate effects of climate change on women, inspiring projects undertaken by women to counteract climate change, plus information on world faiths and the environment
- [Faith and the Environment Quote Cards](#): A set of cards with one card per faith, with a short summary of what that faith has to say about protecting the environment. These quote cards could be used in an interfaith dialogue session.
- [World Faiths and the Environment](#): This document provides a brief synopsis of beliefs of world faiths on our relationship with the environment and the ethical imperative to protect it.

Practical Actions

- Take action to reduce your carbon emissions in your place of worship following the guidelines in Interfaith Scotland's [Our Sacred Earth](#) booklet
- Plant trees in the [World Interfaith Harmony Grove](#) with Trees for Life
- Provide accommodation for an activist, scientist or policy maker at COP26 via the [COP26 Homestay Network](#)
- Host an event or activity in your place of worship or hall or offer your hall for others to host an event in it. Register your building with [The Climate Fringe](#).
- Join others to pray for climate justice, for example the [Global Climate Justice Prayer Chain](#)
- Join a pilgrimage to COP26 and welcome pilgrims to Scotland. There are several pilgrimages including a [Scottish Pilgrimage](#), a [Swedish](#) pilgrimage and a [German](#) pilgrimage.



Host or Join an Event

- The Climate Fringe website [events calendar](#) has a comprehensive list of events taking place. If you are organising your own event relating to climate or sustainability, please add it [here](#)
- Take part in [Climate Fringe Week](#) from 18th – 26th September. Ideas for running events are available [here](#). There is also a fund available for groups to apply for by 30th July [here](#).
- Interfaith Scotland is hosting a [variety of events](#) as part of its 'Year of Climate Action'
- *Beyond Climate Crisis*: Interfaith Scotland is hosting a monthly series of [Facebook Live Panel Discussions](#) with keynote speakers from different faiths discussing various aspects of the climate crisis from a multi-faith perspective
- Get involved in [Scottish Interfaith Week](#) from 31st October – 7th November, hosting or attending an event on the 2021 theme of 'Together for Our Planet'. Interfaith Glasgow and Interfaith Scotland will be launching the week with an interfaith prayer and meditation vigil for COP26 on Sunday 31st October in Glasgow. This will be streamed online and accompanied by an international social media campaign that everyone can get involved in.
- Eco-Congregation Scotland hosts [climate action events](#) throughout the year
- SGI-UK (Soka Gakkai International) (Buddhism in Action for Peace) are hosting a [monthly series of webinars](#) looking at the climate crisis
- See [Creative Scotland's Guide](#) to planning events for COP26
- Sign up to the [Dear Green Pledge](#) for ideas for monthly Climate Conversations for your group
- Take part in Oi Musica's singing and music-making response to COP26. Open to individuals, choirs, street bands, schools, community groups, youth bands and more. Find out more [here](#)

Campaigns and Advocacy

- Get involved in campaigning and organising with the [COP26 Coalition](#). You can join as a group or as an individual
- [Hope for the Future](#) is an organisation which equips communities, schools, places of worship and individuals to communicate the urgency of climate change to local politicians
- Tell your MP and MSPs about your concerns and your plans: <https://www.writetothem.com/>
- [Make COP Count](#) is a new campaign of diverse faith groups with events around the UK.
- If you are the member of a church consider signing the [Scottish Churches COP26 Pledge](#) to support fossil divestment and a just and green recovery
- Sign the declaration at [The Time is Now](#) website, a campaign organised by the Climate Coalition
- Get involved with development agency campaigns like [Islamic Relief](#), [Christian Aid](#), [SCIAF](#) or [Tearfund](#)
- Listen to the voices of [women](#) and [children](#) to share their experiences and solutions.

List of additional climate-related groups and resources

- The Great Green Wall: <https://www.greatgreenwall.org/about-great-green-wall>
- Skye Climate Action: <https://skyeclimateaction.org/>
- Friends of the Earth: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/>
- Climate Action Network: https://climatenetwork.org/resource_type/eco-newsletter/
- How bad are bananas: <https://howbadarebananas.com/>
- Crack the Crises: <https://crackthecrises.org/>
- Climate Outreach: <https://climateoutreach.org/>



List of additional faith and interfaith climate and environmental networks

Interfaith

- www.faithfortheclimate.org.uk
- greenfaith.org
- www.interfaithdeclaration.org
- www.interfaithsustain.com

Baha'i

www.iefworld.org

Brahma Kumaris

eco.brahmakumaris.org

Buddhist

<https://www.nbo.org.uk/eco-dharma-network/>

Christian

<https://www.climatesunday.org/>

Hindu

<https://www.hinduclimateaction.org/>

Jewish

<https://ecosynagogue.org/>

Muslim

<https://www.ifees.org.uk/> (Ecolslam)

Pagan

www.ecopagan.com

Sikh

www.ecosikh.org

