



The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

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2008 National Capacity-Building Grants for Global Climate Change

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The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is pleased to announce that the following national Catholic organizations were awarded grants in early June for the “Global Climate Change National Catholic Organization” program. Grants were given to:

1. Franciscan Action Network for the development of a replicable capacity building, small group formation (5 sessions) process at dozens of sites as identified by their 21 Action Commission members.
2. Woodstock Theological Center will expand their Arrupe Program for Christian Social Ethics in Business to build a dialogue about climate change with Catholic ethicists and business leaders.
3. Catholic Charities USA will use funds to educate members about the impacts of climate change for their work in a variety of direct services and provide 5 incentive grants to local agencies to develop pilot projects to integrate climate change factors into their agency planning and programs.
4. Catholic Relief Services will hire a consultant to jumpstart advocacy efforts. The consultant will assess international efforts within other relief and development organizations and offer policy recommendations to CRS leadership.
5. National Catholic Rural Life Conference will develop and share electronic multi-media to increase awareness among constituencies, leading to action and to conduct diocesan wide workshops to help participants: write letters to the editor; influence legislators; conduct parish education efforts; organize meetings with legislators.
6. National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry will develop an annual national campaign for teenagers to increase awareness of Catholic social teaching and climate change, educate diocesan youth ministry professionals; gather stories and models to share with youth ministers and others in the network.
7. The Columban Missionaries have already made Creation Care a priority. The grant will help them identify ways to reduce emissions within the organization and around the world, assist in encouraging other Catholic mission groups to engage in advocacy and help develop bi-lingual materials.
8. US Catholic Mission Association will receive a modest grant to bring speakers to their September 2008 meeting who will address climate change impacts on current missionary efforts.
9. The Catholic Campus Ministry Association will raise awareness about climate change among campus ministry professionals at 1,700 schools through articles, workshops and the development of a standing committee on environmental concerns.
10. Catholic Health Association is working with the major health systems to develop education and action programs that will respond to energy efficiencies within their facilities as well as explore health care impacts on the poor and how Catholic health care might better respond.
11. National Council of Catholic Women will build on their successful biannual environmental stewardship award and encourage local councils to develop climate change awareness programs and projects by offering incentive grants.

Congratulations to all recipients!