



## Climate Change Survey Results

At the September 2021 Synod meeting Synod Representatives voted on your behalf to pass Motion 7 on Climate Change. The motion indicated that Synod recognised that we all have a responsibility to re-think the way we live to meet the challenges of climate change, and said: "Individuals, parishes and organisations across the Diocese are urged to take action and seek to live more sustainably."

The Social Justice Committee of the Diocesan Council prepared a short survey to learn how faith communities in our Diocese are responding to this call to sustain God's creation. Survey questions asked:

- What level of interest did parishioners have in finding ways to live more sustainably?
- To what extent has climate change been discussed in your Church/Ministry Unit?
- Is your Church/Ministry Unit currently taking action to live more sustainably?
- Are you joining with any other Church or community groups to carry out this activity?
- Is your Church/Ministry Unit planning to take action to live more sustainably in the near future?
- What resources would you like to have.. and what can you give in this area?
- What changes do you think are needed to lessen the risk of climate change on your Church/Ministry Unit?

Six Faith Communities responded and there were some good examples of ways that many churches are looking seriously at the 5th mark of mission: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and re-new the life of the earth".

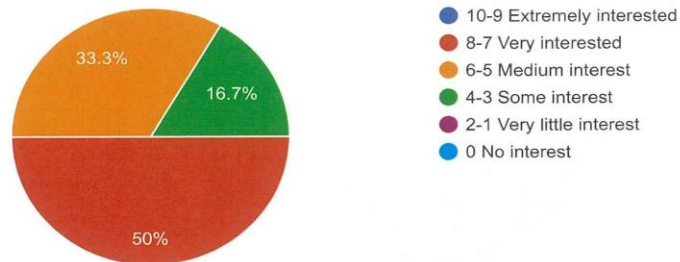
Around half of the respondents indicated their churches were very interested in finding ways to live more sustainably, with about a third of respondents reporting that it was regularly discussed in their setting. Half of the respondents indicated their churches were taking action to live more sustainably, including some examples of collaborating with others in their local area.

There were some good examples of what different faith communities are doing, as well as some bigger picture ideas of what could be done to lessen the risk of climate change.



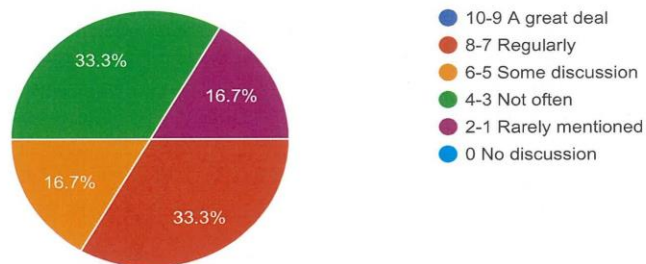
On a scale of 1 to 10, what level of interest do your parishioners have in finding ways to live more sustainably? Choose 1 option.

6 responses



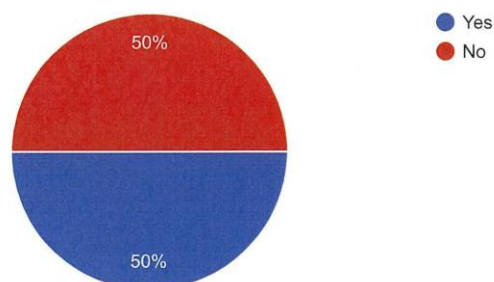
On a scale of 1 to 10, to what extent has climate change been discussed within your Church/Ministry Unit? Chose 1 option.

6 responses



Is your Church/ Ministry Unit currently taking action to live more sustainably?

6 responses





**Is your Church/Ministry Unit currently taking action to live more sustainably?**

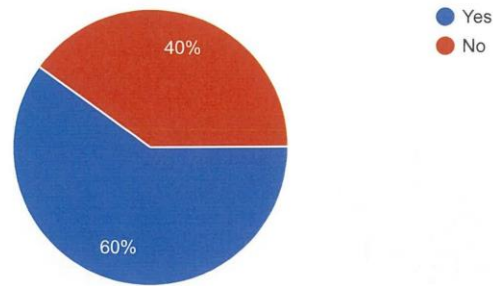
*If you replied 'yes' to this question, please add a brief comment about what you are doing.*

- Sermon messages, communications, liturgies focused on creation / environment, discussion groups, promotion of other community initiatives, mindful of waste / footprint
- In 2012 the parish had an environmental audit done in which various actions were suggested. The parish is a Fair-Trade parish, we always use reusable cups and crockery. About ten years ago we offered parish property at All Saints to the DCC to host a bottle bank, last year we asked the DCC to upgrade that to a recycling centre which they will do next month. We have offered the DCC that we could host a bottle bank or recycling centre at St. Thomas's Pine Hill. Vestry decided to remove gas heaters and stove from All Saints' church and halls, all heating is now non-fossil fuel. We are in conversation with the Valley Project about sustainable uses for St. Martin's Church.
- Grow and sell vegetable and flower plants in reused seedling boxes and containers for a reasonable price to sell; make jams, pickles and sauces from surplus, donated or cheap fruit and veges and place in sterilised glass bottles that have been recycled from our congregation and members of the public to sell for Missions (Trinity Treats); suitable goods left over from our church bazaars go to Habitat for Humanity, South Centre and the Lions Book sale; use paper bags at church bazaar; re-purpose wool for knitted and crochet blankets and jerseys for South Centre; use donated new baby wool for garments for the hospital; collection of plastic bread bags to take to the Prison for them to make sleeping mats; recycle paper from the office or shredded and given to a parishioner to make bricks to burn in her fire; share transport where possible or walking to church; energy saving light bulbs; heating on a time switch for the church office; making use of CWS resources during services this Advent season to inform parishioners re climate change; collection of bed linen and furnishings for places like South Centre.
- Removing fossil fuel heating, building energy efficient social housing, recycling, avoiding disposable materials such as plates cutlery etc, minimising plastic use, saving existing resources such as viable buildings and improving their energy rating, adding drying margin to the church to reduce energy costs



Are you joining with any other Church or community groups to carry out this activity?

5 responses

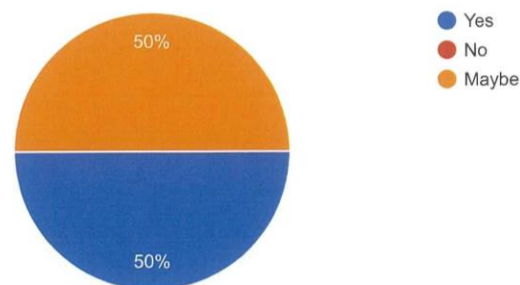


**Are you joining with any other Church or community groups to carry out this activity?**  
*If you replied 'yes' to this question, please name the other groups involved.*

- Certainly as individuals - WAO summit was something I recently attended and spoke about.
- DCC, The Valley Project
- South Centre; Habitat for Humanity; Mission Without Borders

Is your Church/ Ministry Unit planning to take action to live more sustainably in the near future?

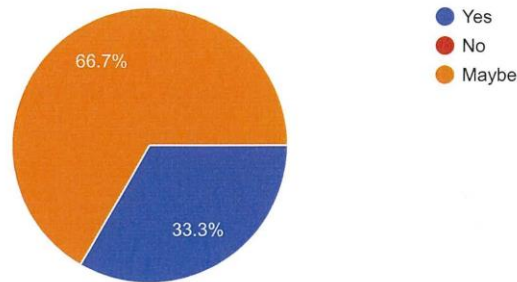
6 responses





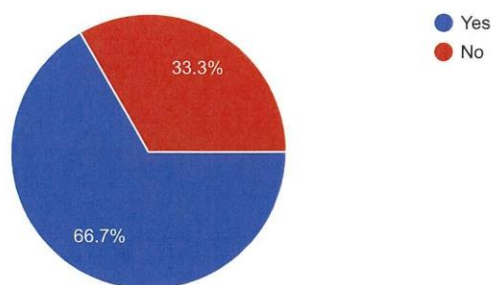
Are there any resources you would like to receive to help you take action to live more sustainably?

6 responses



Are there any resources or ideas you would like share with others to help them take action?

6 responses



**Are there any resources or ideas you would like share with others to help them take action?**

*If you replied 'yes' to this question, please add a brief comment about what you are interested in sharing.*

- See what is already happening in your communities. Much is already underway.
- The parish's 2012 sustainability audit.
- All of the above.
- I have investigated with DCC about having a children's and youth native tree-planting event in our parish area or on council land outside the parish or working together with



other community groups to do this on their land needing reforestation. The DCC have been tardy and not entirely helpful but have promised to come back to us with connections to other groups. I suspect at some point it will be easier to bypass them and work directly with other community groups. It would be great to have someone in the diocesan structure who could coordinate a Dunedin, Otago or Diocesan wide ministry of this sort so that we are not all wasting time with individual councils.

**What changes do you think are needed to lessen the risk of climate change on your Church/Ministry Unit?**

- Support of COP-26 agreement, other government initiatives. Risks in this region mostly indirect or from other natural events, e.g. earthquakes.
- National, regional and local governments need to take swift and firm action on climate change, this includes better public transport throughout the diocese, better and more housing, local food production, waste minimisation, better recycling systems, more sustainable urban/town design. The diocese could commit to high standards for all buildings, decide not to subsidise fossil fuel based transport and require waste minimisation at all Anglican facilities and events. The diocese could plan to reduce car usage- encourage people to walk or bike to church. This parish can ensure all our buildings: churches, halls, vicarage and social housing (when complete) comply with the highest standards for healthy, sustainable standards, we can also enact better waste minimisation and out in the bike parking we promised to!
- Keeping up with and growing of online meetings , seminars etc so that travel is not required.
- Advocate for South DN community re sea level rise; make sure our church buildings are sustainable (e.g. earthquake proof) and upgraded so we can support the community; investigate shared transport & more efficient heating; issues of food security; more co-ordination with others around climate change.
- Intelligent long-term sustainability thinking, especially around asset management and intentional building up of our financial and property resources to back up our building up of youth, children and young adult discipleship. Then, as part of viable faith communities we can fund ecological solutions within our normal ministries and as part of our service to the wider community.



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## How could your faith community could start having more intentional conversations about climate change?

Why not have climate change as an agenda item on your Vestry or Church Committee and start talking about ways that you could start to make a difference?

Get in touch with the Committee via its chair, [Ondine Godtschalk](#) if you have resources or ideas you would like to offer, or if you would like to connect with other faith communities who have started this journey.

**Ko Te Tonga kei te Karaka - The South Calling: 5 May 2022**