

The Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber submission to the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy Evidence Gathering

The Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber

The CRC has three aims: to represent the churches to regional bodies, to raise the profile of faiths, and to be partners in regeneration.

Contact: Liz Carnelley, 0113 2443413

Workstream Five Climate Change and Environmental Resources

Key lines of inquiry

CC1

How ambitious should the region be in cutting carbon emissions?

The churches are keen that carbon emissions are cut back as far as possible because it is the poorest communities in the world who are affected by climate change. The World Council of Churches which represents all the major Christian churches of the world has said that the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen failed to "reach the expectations of the ecumenical movement and the larger civil society", in a minute issued at the end of its 23-26 February 2010 meeting in Switzerland. "Disappointed with the outcome" of the talks in Copenhagen, the WCC executive committee has outlined a proposal of continued collaboration amongst ecumenical partners towards the next conference of parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Mexico (COP16). The WCC member churches, as well as specialized ministries and other ecumenical partners were encouraged "to strengthen further their commitment and to foster their cooperation with regard to climate change, especially in the process towards and at COP 16 in Mexico".

According to the WCC executive committee, a fair climate deal should include "the recognition of the historic responsibility for the CO₂ [carbon dioxide] emissions of industrialized countries, a measurable commitment to have a maximum of 350 ppm [parts per million] of CO₂ in the atmosphere, concrete ways of adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and funding". The churches are concerned about climate because of its "life-threatening effects, especially on the poor and vulnerable communities in many parts of the world, such as the low-lying islands of the Pacific or the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region".

The national churches in England have all adopted campaigns to address carbon footprints of churches and individuals. Therefore we support ambitious targets for carbon reduction.