



2018
**Time for
Living the
Change**

Talking Points



LIVING THE CHANGE

Faithful choices for a flourishing world



Part 1: “About Us” Talking Points

What is Living the Change?

Living the Change is a multi-faith sustainable living initiative designed to support and celebrate people of faith making personal behavior changes in three areas — [transportation](#), [home energy use](#), and [diet](#) — which all have a high impact on climate change. The initiative is led by diverse religious and spiritual leaders working together with scientific experts in sustainable consumption practices.

When / how did Living the Change begin?

Living the Change launched in November 2017 during COP23 (the 23rd annual United Nations Climate Change Conference), when distinguished faith leaders, clergy, scholars, climate advocates, and community members published and delivered the Interfaith Statement “[Walk on Earth Gently](#)”

Why focus on sustainable behavior change?

We are not on the road to a safe, stable climate. Our current trajectory leads to a future where hundreds of millions of people will be displaced, impoverished, and deprived of a decent life. Political action still matters urgently. It always will.

- But in order to meet the Paris Agreement goals, we now need a broader array of responses. Focusing on sustainable lifestyles presents three crucial opportunities here:
- Sustainable behavior change, at scale, represents an important contribution to reduce CO2 emissions.
- Research demonstrates that people who live sustainably are more credible climate spokespeople. Leading by example makes us more effective change agents.
- Personal action, at scale, accelerates and ensures cultural and political change.

For all these reasons, the personal choices that individual people make truly matter. This is why we are inviting people of faith and spirit to make a pledge to live more sustainably, and help ensure a 1.5C future.

What does faith have to do with sustainable living?

As people of faith, we believe the Earth is sacred. We also believe that each of us has the responsibility to live in a way that sustains our common home for all living beings to not only survive, but also to thrive, now and for generations to come. The Earth is literally the common ground we all share. By living more sustainably, we are embodying our values and Living the Change!

Why is this an important issue?

As people of faith, we seek to live in a way that honors our deepest values, including respect for all creation, solidarity, moderation, and balance. We also want and need to be part of a cultural shift towards a “new normal” — a practical worldview where humankind understands and respects the planet’s limited resources, while at the same time cherishing life and working towards a flourishing future.

This is why we believe that sustainable living can, should, and must be part of the global solution for climate change. Of course, making these types of behavior changes “at scale” (meaning behavior changes that millions or billions of people are making in their own lives) would have a direct impact on pollution reduction and natural resource conservation. But even beyond this immediate cause-and-effect, sustainable living also represents an important *cultural change*.

What does “cultural change” mean?

Each of us has the responsibility to change how we think about our own personal impact on the Earth, and how we choose to live as a result. We need this type of cultural change in order to drive and support the high-level political and economic changes that must also be part of our global solution. In the context of faith, we often call this “a conversion of hearts and minds”. When people believe in the importance of sustainable living, and put pressure on their leaders to support those changes at all levels of society, that shift in worldview can provide the cultural boost we need to change our political and economic systems for a healthier, more sustainable future.

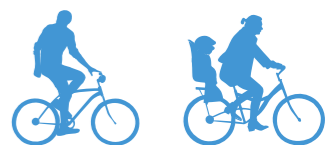
What about the need for political change?

Updating environmental laws and regulations, as well as passing new ones, is 100% necessary to solve climate change. While sustainable living is an important part of the puzzle, certain structural changes can only happen at that top political level. In other words, there is no substitute for the power of political change.

Everyone who has the ability to vote in their local, state, and/or national elections should use that opportunity to support smart climate policies and the candidates who advocate for them. This is especially important in the United States, the world’s #1 contributor to climate change, which will have its next national midterm election on November 6, 2018.

Why celebrate?

Celebration is a core part of cultural change! Life is beautiful. The Earth is awesome. Faith leaders and community members are already making incredible changes in their own lives and neighborhoods, and we want to lift up these powerful changemakers so that their stories and actions can inspire others to do the same. By celebrating with our fellow community members, and also connecting these local celebrations with others happening around the world, we can help make this planet healthier and happier.





What is the "Time for Living the Change"?

A good celebration requires good timing! "Time for Living the Change" will be our initiative's first ever period of globally-connected celebration, marked by dozens of local events in faith communities around the world. It will begin between 7-14 October with the Week of Living the Change, which will coincide with the release of the Special Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), entitled "**Global Warming of 1.5°C**". This report will provide important information about the current status of climate change, as well as what the future might hold if our governments, businesses, and communities do not start implementing real climate solutions.

During this period of global reflection and reevaluation, in particular, we believe it is important to showcase the beauty and power of the many individuals who are already implementing solutions. This is why October - November 2018 will be Time for Living the Change!

All are invited to celebrate Time for Living the Change. Please become part of our globally-connected community as we:

- Align ourselves with our deepest faith values
- Allow a future for all and take care of the Earth our home
- Reduce greenhousegas emissions and natural resource waste
- Improve the impact of our own lives on our shared planet, as well as all the people and living beings with whom we share it
- Send a strong message to others in our communities and to decision-makers in business and government

