

# Food and the Climate Crisis

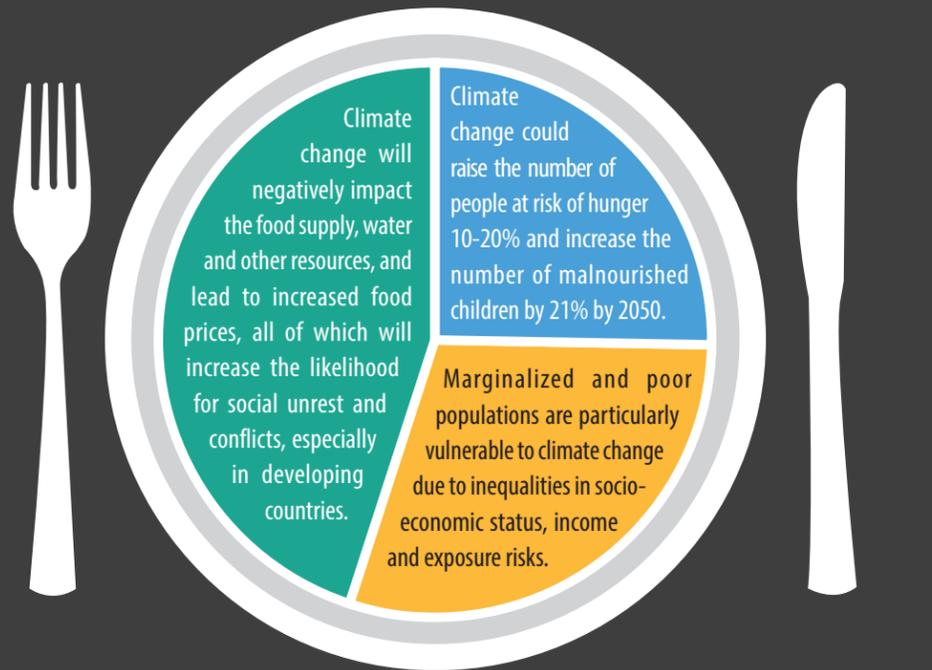
Sources: ActionAid, Center for Food Safety, FAO, GRAIN, IFPRI, IPCC, Rodale Institute, World Food Programme and World Watch

"With our Lord, we stand with the 'least of these' and advocate for the poor and oppressed in present and future generations who are often... least able to mitigate the impact of global warming that [is falling] disproportionately on them..." - *The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming*, approved by the 218th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

## Take Action

1. Eat organic food.
2. Eat food that is grown close to where you live.
3. Do not waste food.
4. Grow some of your own food.
5. Support your denomination's hunger programs.
6. Advocate for environmentally-friendly agricultural practices.
7. Learn about Food Week of Action and more at [pcusa.org/food](http://pcusa.org/food)
8. Attend a PHP webinar or reflection-action trip at [pcusa.org/hunger](http://pcusa.org/hunger)
9. Incorporate food and climate concerns in an Earth Day Sunday worship: [pcusa.org/earthday](http://pcusa.org/earthday)

## How Climate Change impacts Hunger and Poverty

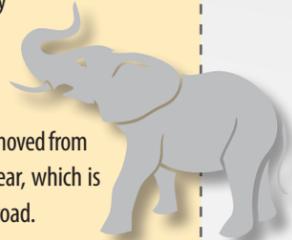


## How Organic Agriculture and Agroecology impacts Climate Change

Organic and agroecological farms do not use synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, resulting in 50% less fossil fuel energy usage and 30% greater biodiversity than that of industrial farms.



For every two acres of organic farmland, 14,000 pounds of carbon dioxide can be removed from the air and absorbed into the soil each year, which is equivalent to removing one car from the road.



14,000 lb. Male African Elephant



Small-scale farmers produce the majority of the world's food, but occupy less than 25% of the world's farmland. Giving land back to small-scale farmers, coupled with policies which support local markets and reduce chemical inputs, could reduce GHG emissions by half in a couple of decades.

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## False Solutions to Climate Change



Biofuels result in greater GHG emissions than fossil fuels when considering the deforestation and land-use change necessary for its industrial production. Biofuels are also a major driver of global land grabs and pose a threat to global food security as its production displaces food production for fuel.

Genetically modified crops are advertised as climate-resistant, but typically require more water, destroy biodiversity and increase toxins in the environment.



Wealthy governments, corporations and international financial institutions are promoting solutions to climate change that permit polluters to pollute and place the burden of good environmental practices on poor communities.

GHG: green house gasses



## How Food System impacts Climate Change

**Increases in temperature** and extreme weather events will have multiple negative implications for food safety and public health, including increases in the transmission of food and waterborne illnesses.

**Elevated carbon dioxide levels** and warmer temperatures will compromise the nutritional content of food.

**44-57% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** come from the global food system: farming, deforestation, processing and packaging, freezing and retail, transportation and waste.

**25-40% of the excess carbon dioxide** in the atmosphere has resulted from the depletion of soils worldwide.

**Most Americans depend** on foods that travel an average of 1,500 miles from point of origin to point of consumption.

**Demand for water** will increase for agriculture, human and animal consumption, and for energy production which will lead to greater water scarcity and competition for water resources.

**Climate change** will ultimately lead to decreased crop yields and/or damaged crops.

**The UN FAO estimates** that 18% of annual GHG emissions worldwide are generated from livestock production while others estimate that the contribution is much higher at as much as 51%.

## How Climate Change impacts Food System



## The PC (USA) Response

The Presbyterian Church (USA) encourages Presbyterians to live "carbon neutral lives" while simultaneously calling for a "just" climate solution which would mitigate the worst impacts of increased food prices for people living in poverty, and provide ample adaptation support for the poorest and most affected communities around the globe. Additionally, many PC(USA) congregations at the national level participate in the Earth Care Congregation program, making commitments to care for God's earth, as well as taking actions for justice for the earth and all in it.

## PHP Empowers Resilient Communities

PHP is working in many countries around the world with small farmers and local organizations to address environmental degradation, land grabbing, economic dislocation, food insecurity and other factors that contribute to the vulnerability of communities in the face of the worsening impacts of climate change. Together we are learning different methods to protect the environment and natural resources, addressing climate change, and advocating for people-centered solutions and alternatives which contribute to ensuring food sovereignty and resiliency.

## Joining Hands Addresses Systemic Causes

The Joining Hands (JH) Initiative of PHP analyzes how free trade agreements, the extractive industries, land grabs, and the corporatization of seeds are increasing poverty and hunger while also contributing to climate change. JH mobilizes people in focused campaigns to tackle these systemic issues both in the United States and abroad as a witness to the wholeness of God's creation. [pcusa.org/joininghands](http://pcusa.org/joininghands)