

R-1 Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030 using Net Zero Checklist, Carbon Tracker, and Supporting the Communion Forest Initiative

The Committee recommends the **adoption** of R-1 with the amendment, as follows:

R-1a

Resolved, by the 228th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that we accelerate the current target date to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions from 2045, as adopted by the 227th Annual Convention, R-6, to 2030, as urged by Resolution A087, adopted by the 80th General Convention in July 2022, thereby committing our Diocese to reaching net carbon neutrality in Diocesan operations including the work of staff, standing commissions, interim bodies, and Annual Convention by 2030, through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, increased use of virtual meetings as compared to pre-pandemic levels, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further

Resolved, that we urge our congregations and related organizations, including Shrine Mont, the Church Schools of the Diocese of Virginia, and retirement homes affiliated with Virginia Diocesan Homes, also to commit to reaching Net Zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2030, or as soon thereafter as may be feasible given the age, physical condition, and finances of the properties involved; and be it further

Resolved, that we urge the Standing Committee, in performing its canonical duties to review applications by congregations to incur indebtedness to build or renovate buildings on church property, to conduct appropriate diligence about the energy efficiency and sustainability of such proposed construction and to communicate the need for such design in the guidelines given to congregations to incur such indebtedness; and be it further

Resolved, that in order to carry out these efforts, Convention commends the use of the attached Church Building Net Zero checklist, as it may be updated from time to time by the Creation Care Task Force, and similar tools, such as those published by the U.S. Green Building Council, in order to enable planning and progress to achieve Net Zero; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention encourage the people of the Diocese of Virginia to learn about and plan actions to reduce their own carbon footprint using the Carbon Tracker <https://sustainislandhome.org> and similar tools; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention pledge in Diocesan operations, and urge its congregations and related organizations in their operations, to adopt methods of capturing and storing greenhouse gasses through sustainable nature-based, land management solutions and to support the Communion Forest initiative, launched at the Lambeth Conference 2022, to plant trees, practice reforestation and regenerative agriculture, protect forests and other plant communities across the Communion.