



The Parish of St. Mary York

# Faith in Action

*Building hope for tomorrow in the face of climate change*

## What weird weather we've been having!

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Remember earlier this summer, when it was almost 40°C in Fredericton one week, and the next week we were wearing jackets and thinking about turning the heat on? What about the heat waves and fires in BC? Have you noticed that “weird weather” has become an almost daily expression? There’s a reason for that.

Until recently, we’ve been living in the Garden of Eden. The weather was predictable, and God’s great gift of creation supported all life with very little effort. It even allowed us to over-consume and exploit those resources, and the planet had enough resilience to bounce back.

But over the past 3 generations our population has more than doubled,<sup>1</sup> and at the same time we have consumed more and more resources. In fact, in only the past 70 years we have used an astonishing amount of energy: more than in the 11,000 years before!<sup>2</sup>

Climate change is a very big and complex topic. And contemplating an uncertain future can be scary, so we may not want to think about or talk about it.

But because this problem has been caused by human behaviour, it can be changed by human behaviour as well. But it will take all of us working together to make change.

Christians have been called in the past to act on world issues such as the abolition of slavery and apartheid, protection of civil rights, reconciliation with First Nations and many more. We can find inspiration from our predecessors and think about what actions we need to take now.

In the coming weeks we will explore how we are being called to do to help protect the gift of God’s creation, and what we can do about it.

**“Hope is not something you have, it’s something you create with your actions”<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Population was 2.8 billion in 1951 and 7.8 billion in 2020. <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/world-population-by-year/>

<sup>2</sup> Unprecedented energy use since 1950 has transformed humanity's geologic footprint. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201016092452.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/29/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-met-greta-thunberg-hope-contagious-climate>