

## Something to Think About From Pope Francis

“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. . . . As [greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others)] build up in the atmosphere, they hamper the escape of heat produced by sunlight at the earth’s surface. The problem is aggravated by a model of development based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, which is at the heart of the worldwide energy system.

“[C]hanges in climate, to which animals and plants cannot adapt, lead them to migrate; this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever. Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded.”

*His Holiness, Pope Francis, Laudato Si,  
Encyclical on the Environment  
- June 2015*

Join with persons of faith in your community and support I-732.

Volunteers are needed to talk to neighbors about I-732. Contact Carbon Washington to learn how you can help:

[www.yeson732.org/volunteers](http://www.yeson732.org/volunteers)

For more information:



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# Join with Friends In Your Faith Community and Support I-732

The carbon-pricing initiative for Washington and a cleaner, healthier, and fairer world.



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## A Moral Imperative of Faith

Every faith and discipline that elevates the human spirit concurs on this basic truth: As individuals, we are given creation for a short time, and its Source, however we conceive such Source, requires us to be careful stewards of it for the love of our children, of our neighbors and, of the very breath with which life is endowed. Our call to climate action is shared by formal bodies many faiths:

*Bahá'í, Buddhist, Anglican, Southern Baptist, Catholic, Church of the Brethren, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Mennonite, Presbyterian Church USA, Quaker, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Hindu, Jewish (Conservative, Renewal, Reconstructionist, and Reform Movements), Muslim, Sikh, and Unitarian Universalist.*

See: <http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/religious-statements-on-climate-change>

## A Carbon Tax on “Fossil” Fuels – What are they?

Virtually all the energy used by life comes from the sun. It is stored by plants in the process known as photosynthesis. A lot of plant and animal matter, through millions of years of earth’s history, was trapped by geology and time, and was transformed by heat and pressure into oil, natural gas, and coal. When we burn these fuels, we burden the normal cycle that keeps our climate in balance with billions of tons of extra carbon dioxide, which traps heat in our atmosphere.

## The Effects Are No Longer Theoretical

The effects of increased burning of fossil fuels are observable, measurable, and causing misery now. Here in Washington, we have watched with alarm... glaciers that have endured for thousands of years disappearing from our majestic Olympic and Cascade Mountains; an unprecedented series of summer droughts; and the worst wildfires in State history--all threatening our communities and our endangered salmon, the icon of the Northwest. In other parts of the world the effects are even more devastating. Droughts in parts of Africa and Asia fuel starvation, disease, and violent insurgencies and create waves of climate refugees made up of mostly poor people. Pacific island nations are already being swallowed by the rise of sea level as ice sheets melt right under our gaze.



Destruction of Pleasant Valley, 2015, Okanogan Complex Fire. Worst in state history.

Photo Al Camp / The Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle.  
*Used with permission*



## Why *This* Carbon Tax?

You need not be an economist to understand that increasing the price of an item encourages people to find ways to use less of it. I-732 imposes a tax on the burning of fossil fuels, **while reducing other taxes** on those most affected. It reduces the harmful environmental costs of carbon use but not the pocketbook of low and middle income families, or small businesses. A carbon tax *reflects the true costs of burning carbon fuels* to the free market and is a fair and effective way to *strengthen* our economy, encourage use of clean and renewable energy, and help protect our children’s world and our neighbors across the globe. I-732 is a proven approach. A similar program is reducing carbon emissions right next door in British Columbia.