

# Clergy can add to conversation on climate change

3 hours ago • [ONLINE-ONLY letter to the editor](#)

I was delighted to read pastor intern [Sarah Nehm's climate change article \(May 9\)](#). I appreciated her discussion of three types of activism her church coordinates with 350.org: special projects, education and political action. Education teaches us the facts of climate change, special projects help us feel we're contributing to solving the problem, and political action seeks legislation to ensure everyone cooperates on a problem that can't be solved by one community, two new gardens or three solar installations.

As a faith leader, I'm constantly reminded how humans resist hearing about the climatic changes our emissions cause.

Yesterday, I casually raised the subject with a friend, an esteemed computer scientist. He shrugged, saying the computer models aren't complete because they don't include ocean algae. My husband, a research mathematician and data analysis specialist, said: "Yes, but we cannot run experiments on other Earth-like planets to see what will happen, so we must rely on models that will always be somewhat incomplete. Our models indicate things might be bad, and who would risk that our best models are wrong?" Our friend nodded, admitting uncomfortably to his colleague, my husband, that we shouldn't take the risk of inaction.

Clergy can help people just by raising the subject, letting people say what they're thinking, and be answered by a peer who understands them. This is how people overcome resistance.

People will also feel better working for a political solution that fixes the economy: since world economies weren't charging for carbon pollution, emissions hit dangerous levels. If only we had been charged for our emissions, we would have already cut emissions.

Americans need Congress to enact emissions fees so everyone will cut emissions. Please contact Citizens' Climate Lobby for information on carefully designed carbon fees that are good for the economy, workers, consumers, worldwide cooperation and alleviating guilt and resistance.

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