

Kudos

To the editor: Kudos to The Community Church of Durham for reducing the church's carbon emissions. However, there is another step the congregation must take to truly be protectors of our environment. They must urge voters to make climate change their number one voting concern.

Why? It's not enough for American congregations to lower their buildings' emissions 20, 40, or 60%. To slow climate change, the whole world must reduce by 80% all emissions (not just emissions from buildings used by American congregations). The best way to accomplish this task is with national U.S. legislation that puts all of America to work fighting climate change, and gives America the necessary leverage to ensure all countries wanting to do business with us join the effort. Proposals for this legislation are already in Congress. All that is lacking is a Congress composed of members who are serious about fixing climate change.

This fall, voters should only vote for candidates who acknowledge climate change's urgency is caused by our overuse of fossil fuels, and who will support national legislation to reduce emissions both here and abroad.

Every year at this time Jewish congregations read the biblical Book of Ecclesiastes. One verse (9:10) seems particularly appropriate for tackling climate change: "Whatever it is in your power to do, do with all your might. For there is no action, no reasoning, no learning, no wisdom in the grave ..."

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