

## All you need to know about

# Copenhagen and Climate Change

## in three minutes

In December 2009 more than 180 countries will attempt to agree ways to tackle climate change at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. The last international agreement on climate change, the Kyoto Protocol, expires soon and urgent action is needed to reduce carbon emissions to reduce the risk of catastrophic global warming.

### What happens if temperatures rise?

- 1.5°C - 30% of species facing an increased risk of extinction
- 2°C - many areas of human population uninhabitable
- 3.5°C - 40–70% of species becoming extinct
- 4°C - extreme consequences potentially beyond our ability to adapt

### What do the churches say?

A report and study guide titled *Hope in God's Future* states "It is now intellectually and morally irresponsible to fail to acknowledge and address the urgent need for radical cuts in greenhouse gas emissions". This report was produced jointly by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, and can be found at [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/)

### So what agreements are needed at Copenhagen?

- **Binding cuts in emissions to limit global average temperature rises to less than 2 degrees.** This means that industrialised countries must commit to reduce emissions by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020, and 80 to 95% by 2050.
- **Industrialised nations must make these cuts at home and not use "offsets" to duck their responsibilities.** Countries can continue to emit high levels of carbon whilst paying to off-set their emissions against investment in low carbon projects in another country. This undermines attempts to reduce carbon output of industrialised nations. We believe that the use of offsets such as the Clean Development Mechanism must be severely limited (we would suggest to within 10% of our overall carbon reduction effort) and that industrialised countries instead focus on reducing their own emissions
- **A cap on global CO2 emissions from the power sector.** The electricity generating sector is responsible for a third of all emissions. We believe that Copenhagen should produce a framework for reducing emissions in this sector by a third by 2020.
- **Financial support to help developing countries to enable low-carbon development.** Developed countries, such as the UK, have gained their financial superiority through high carbon activities ever since the Industrial Revolution. Developing countries complain that they are being kept in poverty by being prevented from industrialising in the same way but face a massive cost of developing in low carbon economies. Around \$160 billion is needed from developed countries to support low-carbon development

### What can I do?

#### If you have one minute...

Sign an e-petition calling on emission caps on the power sector  
[petitions.number10.gov.uk/ARKcampaign/](http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/ARKcampaign/)

#### If you have two minutes...

Email Gordon Brown and other world leaders - [act.christianaid.org.uk/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=48&ea.campaign.id=4128](http://act.christianaid.org.uk/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=48&ea.campaign.id=4128)

#### If you have five minutes...

Make an Operation Noah Ark to send to Gordon Brown -  
[www.operationnoah.org/resources/arkcampaign/origami-arks-no-10](http://www.operationnoah.org/resources/arkcampaign/origami-arks-no-10)

#### If you have 15 minutes...

Write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, at the House of Commons SW1A 0AA, raising some of the four points to the left.

**Join The Wave** - the UK's biggest ever demonstration in support of action on climate change on Saturday 5 December in London and Glasgow. An ecumenical service will be led by Archbishops Rowan Williams and Vincent Nichols at Methodist Central Hall at 11am.  
[www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave) or [www.mrdf.org.uk](http://www.mrdf.org.uk)

#### For further information:

[www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)  
[www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org)  
[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)  
[www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org)