

## Statement in support of the TransformWR Climate Action Strategy and 50by30WR

Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region is a grassroots collective of faith communities and citizens across Waterloo region who are deeply concerned about the global climate emergency and its impacts on people, the natural world, and our communities.

As people of faith, we believe the *TransformWR Climate Action Strategy* is a crucial strategy for guiding action to address the climate emergency in our region. ***We support this strategy and respectfully encourage the Region of Waterloo to approve it today. We also call on the Region to take a further step by committing to the science-based target of 50% emissions reduction in our region by 2030 (50by30), to add further urgency to these actions.***

As people of faith, we support the TransformWR strategy and 50by30 target for several key reasons:

1. The actions proposed in the strategy are founded on a vision of the natural world as a sacred trust. This vision requires action based on a respectful caretaking of - and partnership with - the natural world, as well as a recognition of the interconnectedness between the health of our community and the health of our local environment.
2. The actions proposed emphasize the principles of inclusion and equity. Meeting the needs of equity-deserving groups will increase the equity, prosperity, and the resiliency of our beloved communities. Our faith-based perspective embraces the key intersections between climate action and social justice and calls us to care for those most vulnerable in our societies who have often done the least to contribute to climate change
3. While the strategy itself includes many important and commendable actions that should be taken immediately, a near-term target of 50by30 would better align the strategy with the demands of climate science, and the aspirations of a much broader global community ready to take bold action. We must aspire to what science requires to secure a safe climate future.

Lastly, as people of faith, we recognize we are all people of the living world and creation. With our global climate system in crisis, the living world is also, tragically and terribly, under great threat. The crisis threatens the well-being of us all, particularly children and young people and those most vulnerable. We recognize that those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change have often done the least to cause it. These communities on the front lines of impact deserve our utmost care and support.

For our part, we commit to doing everything we can as a grassroots network to forward actions aligned with climate justice, including those being led by our communities and local and regional governments. We look forward to supporting all who are doing this work to ensure a safe and just climate future in Waterloo region. We also call on others to join us! Visit [www.faithclimatejustice.ca](http://www.faithclimatejustice.ca)

Sincerely,

Members of Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region

**Group signatories**

Brahmarishi Mission Of Canada, Shri Ram Dham Hindu Temple, Waterloo  
Community of Christ, Kitchener  
Emmanuel United Church, Waterloo  
Faith Climate Justice WR Actions and Policy Advocacy Working Group, Waterloo Region  
Faith Climate Justice WR Leadership Team, Waterloo Region  
Faith and Life Discussion Study Group of Zion United Church, New Hamburg  
First Mennonite Church, Kitchener  
Global Partners Committee, Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo  
Grand River Unitarian Climate Action Group, Kitchener  
Kindred Credit Union, Waterloo Region  
Nexus Church, Kitchener  
Pastors in Exile, Waterloo Region  
Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, Kitchener  
The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener  
The Kitchener Ontario Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Waterloo Region  
Trillium Lutheran Church, Waterloo  
Trillium United Church Social Concern and Outreach Committee, Cambridge  
Waterloo North Mennonite Church, Waterloo  
Westminster United Church, Waterloo

**Individual signatories**

Barbara Hull, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener  
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Becky Voll, The Meeting House, Kitchener  
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