



Plant Trees to Combat Climate Change

You give new life to the earth.

Psalms 104:30



Working towards a just,
responsible & compassionate society

Climate change ranges from rise in atmospheric temperature to rising sea levels and frequent droughts, cyclones and floods. One of the ways to combat this would be to plant more trees.

Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief

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Facts

India has lost 728 square kilometres or 0.11 per cent of rich forest between 2002 and 2004, primarily because of the destruction caused by tsunami and due to the construction of dams in several States.

The forest cover in India is 20.60 per cent or 67.71 million hectares of the total geographic area of the country. Of this 1.66 per cent is very dense forest, 10.12 per cent is moderately dense, and the rest 8.82 per cent is open.

Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under forest cover — 7.6 million hectares which is 11.22 per cent of the country's forest cover, Arunachal Pradesh (10.01 per cent), Chhattisgarh (8.25 per cent), Orissa (7.15 per cent) and Maharashtra (7.01 per cent). The seven northeast States have 25.11 per cent of the country's forest cover while the hilly districts of the country have 38.85 per cent and tribal districts 36.81 per cent of geographic area under forest cover.

Deforestation is occurring at an alarming rate worldwide, particularly in tropical regions. The World Resources Institute estimated in 1997 that only a fifth of the world's old-growth forests were undamaged, and almost half of these faced immediate threats from logging and development.

Asia lost almost a third of its tropical forest cover between 1960-1980 - the world's highest rate of forest clearance. Almost 90% of West Africa's rainforest has been destroyed.

1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods and of these 1.2 billion live in extreme poverty

More than 200,000 acres of rainforest are burned every day. That is more than 150 acres lost every minute of every day, and 78 million acres lost every year.

Over one given year; one hectare of mature woodland will absorb the carbon emissions of 100 average family cars.

Trees can save up to 10% of energy consumption through their moderation of the local climate.

Over a 50- year lifetime, a tree generates \$31, 250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37500 worth of water, and control \$31,250 worth of soil erosion-

'A single mature tree can absorb carbon dioxide at a rate of 48lbs./year and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support 2 human beings.'

A typical community forest of 10,000 trees will retain approximately 10 million gallons of rainwater per year

The net cooling of a young healthy tree is equivalent to ten room- size air conditioners operating 20hours a day.

The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams-

One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people.

Did you know that it takes 2 to 4 tonnes of raw wood fibre to produce a tonne of virgin pulp and only 1.4 tonnes of recovered paper for a tonne of recycled pulp “ a wood fibre savings of up to 300% (Environmental Paper Network).

- Switching from one tonne of 0 per cent recycled fibre paper to 100 per cent post-consumer recycled fibre saves between 12 and 24 trees (depending on grade and pulping process) and eliminates 2 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.
- In 2005, Vancity (Canada) switched from 30% to 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Vancity reports that it saved about 1,370 trees and kept about 57 tonnes of GHG emissions out of the atmosphere (2004-05 Accountability Report). The use of paper is a direct contributor to the harm of the environment via the destruction of one of our most wonderful natural resources — trees.

Sources:

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(WorldBank 2001).
- <http://replantingtherainforests.org/site/index.php/Benefits-to-the-Planet/the-importance-of-rainforests.html>
(www.prestigeandgreen.com/resources/plant-a-tree)
- <http://www.treesforcities.org/page.php?id=95>
- USDA Forest Service
- US Department of agriculture
- Michigan State University Extension
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

1. CALL TO WORSHIP- PSALMS 104:30
2. HYMN
3. OPENING PRAYER
4. RESPONSIVE READING
5. CONFESSION
6. BIBLE READING: OLD TESTAMENT
7. HYMN
8. BIBLE READING: NEW TESTAMENT
9. OFFERING / HYMN
10. PRAYER
11. SERMON
12. RESPONSE TO THE SERMON
13. HYMN
14. CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

L- LEADER

A- PEOPLE

1. CALL TO WORSHIP- PSALMS 104: 24- 30

Our LORD, by your wisdom you made so many things; the whole earth is covered with your living creatures. But what about the ocean so big and wide? It is alive with creatures, large and small. And there are the ships, as well as Leviathan, the monster you created to splash in the sea. All of these depend on you to provide them with food, and you feed each one with your own hand, until they are full. But when you turn away, they are terrified; when you end their life, they die and rot. You created all of them by your Spirit, and you give new life to the earth.¹

2. HYMN: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee or any other relevant song

3. OPENING PRAYER

Father God, we thank you for the glory of your creation. As we gather today help us to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image. Speak to us again afresh that we are to take responsibility to care for the resources placed in our hands.

4. RESPONSIVE READING: Psalms 8

L- Our LORD and Ruler, your name is wonderful everywhere on earth! You let your glory be seen in the heavens above.

A- With praises from children and from tiny infants, you have built a fortress. It makes your enemies silent, and all who turn against you are left speechless.

L- I often think of the heavens your hands have made, and of the moon and stars you put in place.

A- Then I ask, “Why do you care about us humans? Why are you concerned for us weaklings?”

L- You made us a little lower than you yourself, and you have crowned us with glory and honor.

A- You let us rule everything your hands have made.

L- And you put all of it under our power the sheep and the cattle, and every wild animal, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and all ocean creatures.

A- Our LORD and Ruler, your name is wonderful everywhere on earth!

5. CONFESSION

L- We stand in awe at the work of your creation. But also are grieved at what we have done to the environment. We have wiped out forests for our selfish interest and have not re planted saplings that would grow into trees.

A- *Move within us, O God, to care for the world we live in.*

L- We bring to you our pain in the face of these difficult problems. We feel pain and loss at the extinction of species. We feel anguish at spreading health problems that spring from environmental causes. We are anxious about diminished resources and demolished habitats. We hear mixed messages, and feel divided loyalties. We want to do the right thing, but it can be hard to find truth, and hard to know what to do.

A- *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our troubled emotions and our confused thoughts.*

L- We name and confess our personal involvement in the earth’s distress. Knowingly and consciously, we each engage in actions and behaviors that take a toll on our planet, and that degrade our community.

A- *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our confession of hurtful acts.*

L- We also name and confess our lack of engagement, our lack of action. We have not made practical choices or taken realistic actions that would have made us agents of help and healing for the earth. We have been silent and distant when we could have spoken and been engaged.

A- *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our confession of inaction.*

L- Many of the environmental problems that concern us are not driven by personal choices alone. The state of the world is shaped by governmental policies, economic institutions, corporate deeds, social values, and diffuse cultural trends. While these are not matters of private choice, we do admit to our participation in these broader powers .

A- *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our complicity and involvement in the powers and principalities.*

L- Do not allow us to turn away from the pain and confusion that surrounds us. Call us now, as you always have, to be engaged and relevant to this moment in history. Call us to new visions, new understandings and new relationships. Fill us with your deep forgiveness and lead us into life-giving hope. Grant us courage to face the challenges of this day.

A- *Move within us, O God, in a time of silence. Receive our commitment to faithfulness.*

A- Spirit of God, we rejoice that you have moved within us and enriched our prayer. By your grace and power, we are forgiven and made new. By your love, we find healing for our hurt, and we are called to bring healing to your creation. With hope and joy, we raise these prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

6. OLD TESTAMENT READINGS: Genesis 1:9-13,26-31

7. HYMN- How Great Thou Art or any other relevant song

8. NEW TESTAMENT READINGS: Romans 8: 18-22, Matthew 21: 33- 44

9. OFFERING /HYMN: Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart or any relevant song

10. OFFERATORY PRAYER: Loving and gracious God we thank you for all the blessings you have given us. We bring this offering as a token of thanksgiving to you. Bless and sanctify it and use it for the extension of your kingdom here on earth. We ask this in Jesus name.

11. SERMON: Hope for creation in Christ

12. RESPONSE TO THE SERMON: In Jesus we have a hope for transformed people and transformed creation. It is the resurrection that makes it possible for our hope that all things can be renewed in Christ. As God cares for the environment therefore we should do the same.

13. HYMN: Praise To The Lord The King of Creation or any other relevant song

14. BENEDICTION:

Blessed are you, O God, creator of the whole universe. You have given us the earth as a homeland of abundant life, a place of shelter and play, and a resource for the work of human hands. Renew within us a sense of the unity of all things. May we discover in the forest the beauty of your presence, so generations to come may praise your Holy Name through Jesus Christ. Amen.

To Him who is able to strengthen you with His power and fill you with the spirit of concern, to be a good steward of His creation, may the love of God the father, grace of Lord Jesus and presence of the Holy Spirit rest and abide you for evermore. **Amen**

Sources

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<http://www.creationcare.org/resources/sunday/worship.php#9>
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/339#sermons>
<http://www.cec-kek.org/pdf/ECEN2004Lit.pdf>
<http://www.ecocongregation.org>
<http://www.eco-justice.org/EarthDay02.asp>

(Footnotes)

¹ Contemporary English version

Ideas for Action

“Trees bring rain. When they sway in the wind they purify the air. When the leaves drop to the ground, they hold the soil no matter how hard it rains. I was sure planting trees was good for my needs. It give young men lumber to build their houses, too.”

—naoMi KaBura MuKunu, Chairperson, Kirangari Mwireri Women’s group

Y Occasion like world environment day, birthdays, anniversary or Memorial Day are ideal for planting trees. You can also get saplings from government forest nursery.

Y When you plan to plant trees, choose a tree that gives back to your community. It could be fruit trees, flowering trees, native trees, drought tolerant trees, or bird and wildlife habitat trees. (If living in water starved areas do not plant trees like eucalyptus. It consumes a lot of water)

Y Planting trees fight soil erosion. A deep root anchors the trees and topsoil to deeper layers and increases the resistance to landslides. It also conserves rainwater and reduces water runoff.

Y Ban unnecessary chopping of trees. But if you have to, leave some part of the stump so that it can grow again or plant two saplings near that place

Y Spread the word! Talk about the endangered species, learn about the importance of trees to our ecosystem and their vital role in healing the planet. Educate others through casual talk.

Americans use more than 50 million tons of paper each year, consuming more than 850 million trees. we Indians are not far from them. **What you and your family can do?**

1. Recycle: Throw paper and cardboards in a bag separately from cans glass and plastics.
2. Don’t pick up paper napkins in cafés.
3. Ask yourself: do I need to print this? Paper is the number one material that is thrown away.
4. Try to use both sides of your papers. Make a draft box (if you are in your office). Put in this box all the papers that have been printed on one side and use them as draft papers.
5. Make sure any paper you buy (toilet rolls, tissue papers, writing paper) comes from recycled sources.
6. Re-use paper bags or compost receipts and torn-up bank statements.
7. Cut down on and share magazines, return unwanted catalogues to the sender.
8. Re-use envelopes and make your own cards.
9. Suggest buying recycled paper for your workplace.
10. Try to use non “glossy” newspapers, as they are difficult to recycle due to their topped coat of clay.
11. Re-cycle wrapping paper. Wrapping paper is hard to re-cycle.

Source:

<http://www.keepathenslimestonebeautiful.com/recyclingfacts.html>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Save-Trees>

About EFICOR:

EFICOR is a national Christian relief and development organisation. It began in 1967 as a unit of Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI), a national alliance of churches, church based institutions and individuals, to provide relief to the drought-hit state of Bihar. EFICOR became an independent organisation in 1980. Since then, EFICOR has been working with the needy and disadvantaged communities in the poorest districts in India

EFICOR is registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act. 1960 (Karnataka Act No. 17 of 1960) on 30th April, 1980. The Registration number is 70/80-81

EFICOR is also registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. 1976 and the registration number is 231650411

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