



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, November 10, 2024

United Nations Climate Change Conference: A Critical Moment

The 2024 Climate Change Conference - COP 29 (29th Conference of the Parties) will convene from November 11-22 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

“We’re in a decisive decade that could make or break the world’s ability to hold global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. There is consensus among scientists and experts that countries must cut emissions in half by 2030, phase out fossil fuels, and move quickly to replace them with the clean energy solutions that are available to us today. And the next 15 months will be pivotal as we build toward the 10-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement and a mid-decade benchmark for 2030 ambitions. COP 29 is a critical moment.” (*Climate Reality Project*, 10/9/24)

What is the Climate Reality Project pushing for at COP 29 and beyond?



Accelerating action to phase out fossil fuels.



Adopting a global finance goal at the scale necessary with a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway.



Developing new and ambitious climate action country commitments.



Making the COP fit for purpose – exposing conflicts of interest with the fossil fuel industry and petrostates. (Ironically, the conference is taking place in a petrostate.)

Pushing G20 country leadership to increase their climate commitments (or nationally determined contributions [NDCs]) **is critical for addressing the climate crisis.** The G20 is actually a group of twenty-one of the world’s largest economies (including the United States, 18 other sovereign countries, the European Union, and the African Union – added last year) that meets regularly to coordinate global policy on trade, health, climate, and other issues. Together, G20 countries produce 76% of global emissions, account for 85% of global GDP, and accounted for nearly 90% of global cumulative clean energy capacity in 2023. (“ (*Climate Reality Project*, 10/9/24)

In the U.S. in the last several months, federal agencies “have finalized over a dozen major environmental safeguards, ranging from the first-ever limits on how much carbon pollution U.S. coal plants and new gas plants can emit to establishing the first-ever standards for toxic PFAS in drinking water to implementing stronger air quality standards that will reduce the harms of deadly air pollution for communities across the country.... **However, these safeguards are in danger of being dismantled....**

[An action you can take is to speak out against big polluters and their allies working to dismantle significant climate progress.](#) We just had the hottest summer on record with deadly heatwaves, destructive hurricanes, and wildfires, so we must demand leadership from our Congressional representatives to meet the realities of climate change and protect important standards that limit greenhouse gas emissions, clean up our air, and improve our health.” (*Earthjustice Newsletter*, 10/19/24)

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org. [Click here for column archive.](#)