

# **Mission statement**

## **Massachusetts Interfaith Climate Action Network (MICAN)**

*January 2008*

We are people of many faiths, acting together to make peace with the Earth.

Our faith traditions speak to us in different ways. We are united, however, in seeing the world not simply as resources to deplete, but as a magnificent gift of which we are an integral part and for which we have an abiding responsibility. When we view the world through the lenses of our faiths, our response is one of gratitude and reverence that impels us to action. The crisis of global warming is dire, threatening our lives, our communities, our society, and our future as a planet. While all of us are threatened, the worst effects fall on people who are most vulnerable, and those with the fewest resources and options. In living our faith, we have no choice but to set straight the social and racial injustices caused by our exploitive approach to the Earth. For us as people of faith addressing this crisis is a clear moral imperative.

Slowing the trends of global climate disruption requires significant changes at all levels of society. All of us in Massachusetts – government bodies and elected officials, businesses, all kinds of institutions, and individuals – must make firm commitments and take bold action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions drastically. Our faith communities – with their diversity of cultures, socioeconomic status, and occupations – have a unique and important role to play in bringing together people who rarely see themselves as sharing the same interests. Through common values, we join together as a powerful moral voice, expanding the vision of what is possible.

Our interfaith network will:

- ❖ Advocate at the state level for policies and regulations that will achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the regional goals set in 2004 (15% reductions by 2020 and 80% reductions by 2050);
  - Expanding support for energy efficiency
  - Reducing pollution from electricity generation
  - Supporting renewable energy sources
  - Support energy efficiency programs for low/moderate income families/areas
- ❖ Collaborate with other organizations that share these goals; and
- ❖ Activate and support networks which are developing strategies for greenhouse gas emission reductions at the local level, such as developing and implementing Climate Action Plans in their communities and houses of worship.

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