



The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Anglican Church of Canada

The Right Reverend Susan J.A. Bell, Bishop

Diocese of Niagara Climate Plan Delegation Statement – City of Hamilton

The Anglican Diocese of Niagara is here to indicate support and affirmation for the City as it takes crucial and concrete steps to actualize its climate emergency declaration.

Back in September, our bishop, Susan Bell, attended, as so many Hamiltonians did, the climate strike at Gore Park, and afterwards wrote a pastoral message.

In the words of the Bishop: “although the climate crisis is not news, nor our lack of a speedy and effective response, the rising voices of our young people demanding that we take action on the most pressing issue of our time is striking.”

As the City of Hamilton has done, our diocese at its recent synod has declared there to be a climate emergency, and we recognize the importance of an action plan.

The people and parishes which comprise our diocese have committed themselves to learn about the climate crisis and current environmental best practices with an eye toward being informed about how we can better care for the environment; and to act both by improving our practices to reduce our footprint on the Earth and by advocating for strong and resolute political action to address the climate crisis.

I stand here today to offer encouragement to do just that. We are looking to the City of Hamilton for a bold plan to address climate change here in this place that is home to our cathedral and diocesan offices.

The goals and focus areas put forward by the multi-departmental task force provide a clear framework for areas of impact such as increasing the number of state-of-the-art buildings with features to improve energy efficiency and adapt to a changing climate. One of our first steps as a diocese towards reducing our carbon footprint was to create a green accreditation process that encouraged parishes to make sustainable capital improvements.

A key piece to this was incentivizing change and measuring impact. To that end, we encourage the City to set tangible targets and timelines to measure actual greenhouse gas emission reductions as the actions are implemented across the city.

As Bishop Susan said in her pastoral letter, “we are called to do more to live up to our responsibility as the protectors of God’s earth.”

We look forward to working in partnership with the City as it seeks to do more to protect the people of our City and world as we urgently address the climate crisis.