



Kansas Episcopal Creation Trustees

Begun in Advent 2021

Will continue into 2023 and after

For God so loved the World

- ▶ A few reasons why the Episcopal Church makes creation care a central priority...





This is a Kairos Moment

The Time for Transformed
Earth Care Is Now

*~ foundational ideas &
values*

Four Foundational Faith Principles



Holy season of speech and action, “Kairos moment”



The creation is in itself of highest value/ sacred for it springs from the Divine



Humanity and the natural order are interdependent, interwoven



Humans of least power suffer most, and the earth and creatures suffer



**Jesus said: Consider the lilies of the field...
the birds of the air**

Meanings of “Consider”:
seek inspiration from
take care of

We cannot consider what is extinct!



The Anglican Communion Forest

Launched by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury (2022)

*To plant is to hope + To protect is to love + To restore is to heal
To share in God's reconciling work with all people and all creation*

Anglicans around the globe are committing to protect and restore forests and other important habitats through the Communion Forest project. In the face of climate change, biodiversity loss, profound human suffering from extreme weather and social inequality, we pursue nature-based solutions in acts of Christian hope for the world God loves and the people Jesus came to reach.

Early actions include the transformation of church land and buildings



Bethany House and Garden Diocesan Center (see booklet)

<https://youtu.be/wAM4teV6gVc>



The Episcopal Church: **Sets Goal of Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030**

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage parishes, dioceses, schools, camps, and other Episcopal institutions to pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention request the diocesan bishops of

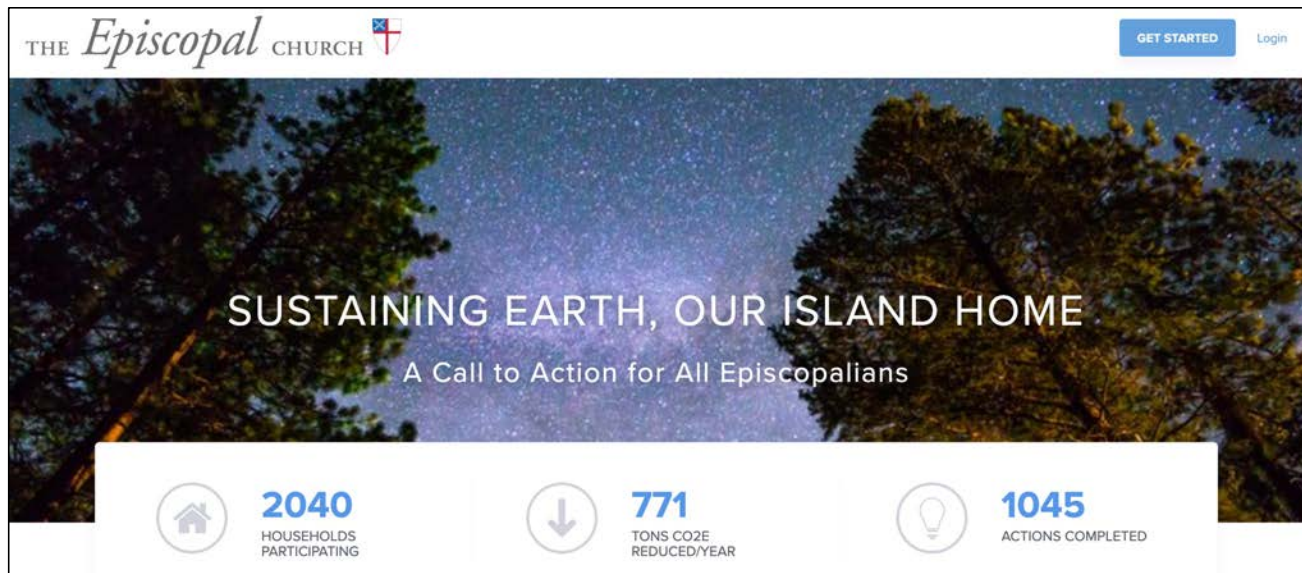
every diocese to begin to build networks of landowners and creation trustees


in each diocese who will devote portions of their land to reforestation, prairie restoration, wetland and coastland preservation; adopt and share regenerative agricultural and ranching practices; collaborate with neighboring dioceses for best water practices to protect our watersheds; collaborate on creative means of distributing food; and pray for future generations dependent on the land and water we steward



Carbon-tracker for congregations




► sustainislandhome.org



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

GET STARTED Login

SUSTAINING EARTH, OUR ISLAND HOME
A Call to Action for All Episcopalians

 2040 HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING	 771 TONS CO2E REDUCED/YEAR	 1045 ACTIONS COMPLETED
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Attitudes about global warming are complex

We must move to
sacrificial and joyous
action

Only about 8% in U.S



Dismiss the idea

Disengaged and
Doubtful

Alarmed and
Concerned

We must persuade
and inspire!

We need to find shared values in order to connect our unique identities to collective action



"SAVING US REMINDS
US WE NEED TO
START FROM A
PLACE OF LOVE,
OPEN-MINDEDNESS,
AND RESPECT."

—ELIZABETH MAY,
FORMER LEADER OF THE GREEN
PARTY OF CANADA



Nature-based solutions

Grasslands among the best landscapes to curb climate change

- ▶ A 2018 study, by Univ. Wisconsin scientists:
- ▶ (read excerpts from Science Advance,
- ▶ Tyler Lark and Seth Spawn)

- ▶ These men able to demonstrate that maintaining grasslands is among the most cost-effective and scalable solutions to mitigating climate change!



Our Prairie Story

- ▶ Tallgrass prairie: a dwindling ecosystem that once covered 40% of the U.S.
- ▶ Only 4% remains. Most of what's left is in the Flint Hills of Kansas (our diocese) and the Osage Hills of northeastern Oklahoma.
- ▶ Our slice of the *ton kosmon* God loves!



A Psalm of David.

***The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.***

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters;

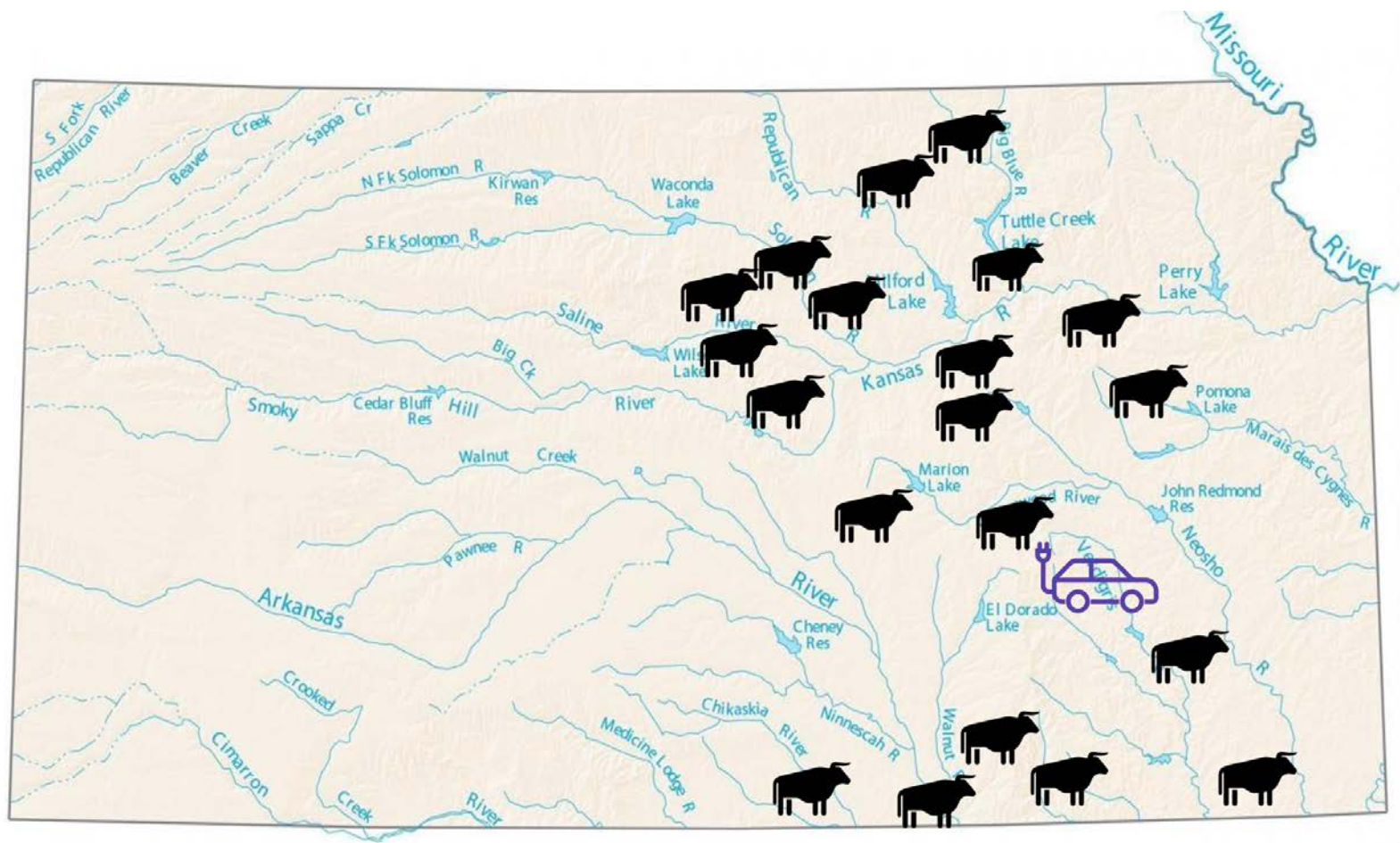
He restores my soul.

**The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.**



Still waters tour...

- ▶ On Episcopal visitations, meeting with Episcopalians in each parish who are engaged in land and creation stewardship - ideally on-site.
- ▶ Spending time with Episcopal farmers, ranchers, gardeners, hunters and fishermen, conservationists, oil and gas and cement leaders... or those who know about our waterways and water sources.
 - ▶ What environmental changes do they observe, if any? What concerns them?
 - ▶ What age-old practices would they share?
 - ▶ What innovations are they implementing?



Lee Miescher, Eureka of St. Bart's, Wichita



Sally Gray, St. Mark's, Blue Rapids





Hurst Coffman,
Overbrook
(near Ottawa)





Dee Ferris and Mary Simpson of Epiphany, Sedan

- ▶ Mary stewards 25,000 acres
Oil, cattle, rock, hunting
hospitality. Open to wind or
other sustainable energies
- ▶ Dee stewards smaller
parcels, also cattle and oil
- ▶ Pictured with The Rev. Mary
Schrom Breese in 2021



Ginny Beck, St. Paul's, Clay Center
(now St. Paul's, Manhattan)



Kathleen Mabry, Trinity, El Dorado

- ▶ Flock of 22 Ewes and 36 Lambs
- ▶ 12 acres just north of El Dorado



Joe and Joyce Miller, Coffeyville



Bethany House and Garden



Weekly community volunteer
Gardeners Tom Averill and
Scott Teeter

Pat and Cody White
& their Fainting Goats
Trinity, Ark City



What are people noticing?

- ▶ Issues with water are usually primary
 - ❖ Drought in the south
 - ❖ Low level of aquifer
 - ❖ Rivers so much drier than in earlier decades
 - ❖ Decrease of some species, increase of others (large cats)
- ▶ Invasives: particularly *Sericea Lespedeza*



What Creation Trustees Can Do

- Pray for others in the diocesan network
- Meet at least twice a year, virtually or in person, to share struggles and successes with goal of maintaining grasslands
- Together consider shared water sheds
- Pool resources when it makes sense
- Advocate for change or legislation (KIFA)
- Educate students and interns
- Learn from students and interns
- Hold educational events and forums if desired
- Discuss the scriptural and theological foundations of our efforts
- Raise awareness of climate realities across the Anglican communion
- Become centers for resilience in climate disasters