

**Becoming Carbon Neutral:**  
**A challenge for our Congregation and its Households**

1: Tuesday October 15, 2019 \*:

Understanding the facts: carbon, other greenhouse gases, and **global warming**.  
Political, commercial, and economic contexts. Course goals and objectives.  
Discussion: initial sharing of experiences, questions, and expertise  
Homework: cover a reading list on carbon and climate

2: Tuesday November 19, 2019 \*:

Your **carbon footprint**: an introduction to various carbon-equivalent calculators.  
Looking at Home, Car, Travel, Food, and Secondaries.  
Discussion: prospects for a solution to global warming  
Homework: do your preliminary calculations in all categories

3: Tuesday December 17, 2019 \*:

Following **the money**: utility bills, payback periods, return on investment, costs  
The question of sacrifice, and the time-horizon.  
Discussion: comparing the calculators, and our individual results  
Homework: none/holiday

4: Tuesday January 21, 2020 \*:

**Carbon offsets**: can we compensate for our *emiss-sins*?  
Official vs unofficial purchases, the marketplace, underlying principles of offsetting.  
Discussion: General pros and cons of our carbon reduction ideas (from November/December)  
Homework: research the open questions about offsets and their marketplaces

5: Tuesday February 18, 2020 \*:

Carbon-Neutral or **Net-Zero Plans**: looking at examples.  
Evaluating impacts against short and long term costs.  
Discussion: reaching some conclusions about offset strategies and methods.  
Homework: draft your household's Carbon Neutral Plan.

6: Tuesday March 17, 2020 \*:

**Political advocacy** and action; economic activism.  
Opportunities locally, nationally, and globally.  
Discussion: present a draft Carbon-Neutral plan for your household  
Homework: writing assignments for the booklet we want to produce.

7: Tuesday April 21, 2020 \*:

Planning **our booklet**: "Becoming Carbon Neutral" and its distribution.  
Review of the course and any open questions.  
Discussion: developing an advocacy plan  
Homework: implement your advocacy plan

\* Time and Location: 7:00 pm, 90 minute sessions, Geier Room MAPC; dates/times subject to revision if necessary.