



The furnaces of the world are now burning about 2,000,000,000 tons of coal a year. When this is burned, uniting with oxygen, it adds about 7,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere yearly. This tends to make the air a more effective blanket for the earth and to raise its temperature. The effect may be considerable in a few centuries.

**IMAGE AND CAPTION** from Popular Mechanics magazine (March, 1912) succinctly describing how burning coal causes what is now known as the greenhouse effect, and how it may affect future climate. *Courtesy of wikimedia commons.*

## Adopt a climate-friendly habit for the new year

*“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’*

*Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we [did these things]? And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:34–40, NRSV)*

**T**his passage in the New Year’s Day lectionary reminds us that even the little things we do to serve someone else are what Jesus would



do, even more so, it is doing it for Jesus.

Many people and countries are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than we are.

The scale of the problem of our warming planet and the systems of consumption behind it can be overwhelming, and making changes in our lifestyle to reduce our impact on the environment may seem small and inconsequential, but perhaps we can liken it to giving someone a drink.

**Individual action:** Choose a new “climate-friendly habit” for this New Year, and then add another at regular intervals. For

example, take your own hot beverage mug to your favourite dispensary, carry a water bottle, reduce your consumption of meat or cheese, reduce the amount of pre-packaged veggies and meals you buy.

**Parish action:** Encourage parishioners to pick up a new climate-friendly habit for the New Year or pick a specific item and encourage all to do that one thing. Enable that one thing by looking for a bulk purchasing discount on an item to help, for example, reusable vegetable bags or shampoo bars.

**Resources** (links and more resources at [nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp/](http://nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp/)):

- The Most Important New Year’s Resolution for Climate ([newrepublic.com](http://newrepublic.com))

*Cheryl Jacobs worships at Christ Church Cathedral and is trying to live greener...*