

Tips & Key Points to include in an effective Climate Action Letter

Key points to make in your letter

The faith community you're part of

Let the Prime Minister know your faith (Christian, Buddhist etc) and if you're involved with a specific place of worship please mention that you go there.

Why action on the climate is important to you and your faith

In one or two sentences you could tell the PM why this matters to you in terms of your faith. Is it loving your neighbour? Protecting Creation? Restoring God's balance? Acting with compassion for all sentient beings?

We want a plan for bold action by 2030 (priority for COP26)

This decade is when most of the reduction in pollution needs to take place, starting right away, if we are to avoid the worst damage to the climate and seize the economic opportunity in front of us. This needs to be a reduction in climate pollution of at least a two-thirds by 2030. Targets for the faraway date of 2050 are not going to do the job. And whatever the target is we need a clear plan for getting there too.

Australia needs to start paying for more vulnerable nations to avoid the worst impacts. (priority for COP26)

People in less wealthy countries are our neighbours. Often they have done a lot less to create the climate problem. It is our moral responsibility as a nation to pay for damages that have been done and support people who have been the most impacted by keeping our commitment to provide substantial amounts of finance for the UN Green Climate Fund. This also needs to be additional to the existing aid budget.

Clean, new energy will create more jobs and save more money than gas.

It's time to upgrade our energy system. Solar, wind and hydro will create a lot more jobs than gas and save us all money as well. We need a government with a plan for doing this and one that will create good, well-paying jobs for people in coal and gas communities.

(If you can think of a local project (solar, hydro, wind etc) that you would like the federal Government to support, please do mention this as well!)

It's time we chose to stop all new coal, oil and gas projects and deforestation.

We have a responsibility to protect our common home and even very mainstream organisations like the International Energy Agency are saying that this means no new fossil fuel projects from now on. This is within our reach.

Let's seize the amazing opportunity to move rapidly to 100% renewables away and away from coal, oil and gas.

There are so many economic opportunities available to us if we do this now. This is urgent. We have all seen the increase in droughts, floods and terrifying bushfires. Let's choose a positive path and not a negative one.

Tips for writing

1. Write it by hand. Handwritten letters are much more likely to be read.
2. One letter per person - this is much more effective than one group letter signed by multiple people at your place of worship.
3. Be polite. Make sure you use the Prime Minister's full and correct name and title: the Honourable Scott Morrison MP. And of course, please keep the overall tone respectful.
4. State who you are. Let the Prime Minister know the faith community you're involved with.
5. If you have a recognised position within your faith community, let them know about it.
6. Tell him in your own words why you are writing to him and outline very briefly the issue. Tell him how you feel and why it is so important to you. You can use our letter template as a guide for structure, but make sure your letter is in your own words.
7. Be short and concise. Try to keep your letter to one page or less. If your letter is short and to the point, it will be obvious if their reply to you does or doesn't address your questions and concerns.
8. Ask for action. It is important to have a clear action you would like the Prime Minister to take. Please ask for at least one of the things mentioned above.
9. Ask for a response to your requests or questions. So make sure your 'ask' ends with a question mark, because if it doesn't it isn't a question! (e.g. 'Will you commit to coming up with a plan to reduce Australia's climate pollution by at least two-thirds by 2030?')

10. When he replies, don't accept a generic response. Reply to his response if he hasn't addressed your concerns, or if you don't get a response at all within a month.
11. Don't give up: people who persist are much more likely to get somewhere.

Where to send your letter:

Post your letter to:

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Increase your impact by writing to your MP or Minister for Environment:

Why not send a similar letter to your local federal MP?
Details for local MPs can be found [here](#).

The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Minister for Environment
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600