



COP26 ECUMENICAL DELEGATION

News from the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021

NOVEMBER 2021 | DAY 2

The COP26 Ecumenical Delegation, led by *For the Love of Creation* and the United Church of Canada, will be bringing you highlights, impressions, stories, and hopes each day of the UN Climate Change Conference.

Day 2 Highlights

COP 26 Opening Ceremony: World Leaders Summit

The official opening ceremony of COP26, involving world leaders and dignitaries, was a collection of contrasts. It began with the invitation to recognize our larger cosmic context and then asked “with this understanding, how should we behave? We must consider ourselves and our world to be inconceivably valuable.”

Pacific Island Youth challenged leaders to demonstrate the political will to do the right thing and look to the climate leadership of young Pacific “climate warriors.” We were reminded that Indigenous peoples are at the front line of the climate emergency and must be at the centre of the decisions happening at COP26.

As others have expressed, as well, UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, stated that we must keep 1.5C alive. He announced the establishment of a group of experts to propose standards and analyze emissions, to address inconsistencies in metrics for measuring emissions reduction targets and reporting.

Notable quotes

“WE WERE BORN TO BE CREATORS OF THE POSSIBLE FUTURE.”
YRSA DALEY-WARD, POET AND STORYTELLER

“THE SIRENS ARE SOUNDING. OUR PLANET IS TELLING US SOMETHING - AND SO ARE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. WE MUST LISTEN — WE MUST ACT — AND WE MUST CHOOSE WISELY. CHOOSE AMBITION. CHOOSE SOLIDARITY. CHOOSE TO SAFEGUARD OUR FUTURE AND SAVE HUMANITY.”
UN SECRETARY GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES



Day 2 Highlights

Notable quotes

**"1.5°C IS WHAT WE NEED TO SURVIVE
... CAN WE FIND IT WITHIN
OURSELVES TO BRING GLASGOW
BACK ON TRACK OR DO WE LEAVE
TODAY BELIEVING IT WAS A
FAILURE BEFORE IT STARTS?"**

MIA MOTTLEY, PRIME MINISTER OF
BARBADOS

This event was followed by the "COP26 Leaders' Event – Action and Solidarity: The Critical Decade." World leaders had a very short time to share their hopes and commitments. Canada's Justin Trudeau announced a new cap on the oil and gas sector. As with much of Canada's climate commitments, implementation and achieving targets don't always line up with goals.

In a side Green Zone session called "Catalysing our Net Zero Future: working with people to take action on climate change" speakers focussed on the lifestyle carbon footprint and how to motivate for individual and systemic change. Canada leads the world in lifestyle carbon footprint, with emission of 14.2 tonnes/capita/year. Though it must be noted that the higher income/consumer population is the highest emitters within Canada and globally.

OnePlanet.org used an example of Saanich, BC in an exciting presentation on collaborations with all players in a community: government, business, schools, churches, NGOs and individuals. Sharing ideas that are working for other communities to follow to engage people and leaders in change.

Stories, Impressions, Reflections

Our delegation came together today for our first "coffee break" to share our impression of the first full day of COP26. Some of what arose involved being somewhat overwhelmed by the process, navigating the platform, and trying to take it all in. We shared that a lack of access to proceedings is a worrying sign for public involvement in decision making.

We asked questions about Prime Minister Trudeau's announcement, what does it really mean? Does a commitment to net zero get us to 1.5C or not?

We asked questions about what consensus means. Does it include everyone in the process in ways that respect different ways of dialogue and narrative? Does it allow us to build a covenant with each other, with the Earth, and with God?

We asked questions about the unrest on the ground at COP26 and what is the role of faith communities in responding to defend those whose voices are not being included.

As we journey in this process, we will see if and how our questions can find answers, and if others emerge.

To follow COP26 online go to the COP26 Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/UNClimateChange>

