

South Western Synod Green Apostle Report

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Why do we need a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation treaty?

Just as the world has used treaties to defuse the threats posed by nuclear weapons, landmines and chlorofluorocarbons, today we need a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to address the threat posed by fossil fuel production.

After decades of climate negotiations, **fossil fuels have finally been dragged centre stage**. Despite this, many governments are still approving new coal, oil and gas projects — threatening our chances of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

It's crystal clear: we now need a concrete, binding plan to end the expansion of new coal, oil and gas projects and manage a global transition away from fossil fuels. To protect people from the threat fossil fuels pose to our climate, our health and our future, **a growing bloc of 14 countries are seeking a negotiating mandate for a Fossil Fuel Treaty**. Endorsements have been received from nearly one million individuals, 119 cities, 10 indigenous nations, the World Health Organisation, the European Parliament, 14 governments.

The proposed treaty would **complement the Paris Agreement** by providing the global roadmap needed to halt the expansion of fossil fuel, manage an equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas, and lay the foundations for a true just energy transition in which no worker, community or country is left behind.

What can we do to get the UK to join the growing club of countries seeking a negotiating mandate for a new treaty on fossil fuels? Firstly, we can let our churches know that individuals can pledge their support, local congregations can also pass a church meeting resolution and register their support. At our meeting today, in line with our Environmental Policy (approved in March 2024) we can pledge the support of the South Western Synod.

Further details can be found at this website: fossilfuel treaty.org

Resolution:

This meeting of the URC South Western Synod,

- A. **encourages individuals within our Synod to show support for endorsing the call for a fossil fuel treaty;**
- B. **encourages all churches to discuss this matter and to endorse the call for a fossil fuel treaty;**
- C. **endorses the call for a fossil fuel treaty and encourages other URC synods to take this step in solidarity with those nations calling for change.**