

**LCWR ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2014
TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

RESOLUTION

Rooted in the oneness of our love for God and our love for God's creation, we, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, commit ourselves to use our spiritual, social, and educational resources and our public credibility to promote the national transition from fossil fuel energy sources to renewable energy sources as quickly as possible.

RATIONALE

From silica sands mining in Iowa and Minnesota, to mountaintop removal in Appalachia, to the loss of wetlands along the Gulf coast, to drilling for oil in Los Angeles, to the "fracking" in 26 states which has already led to the loss of billions of gallons of fresh water and unsafe storage of huge amounts of highly contaminated "frackwater" waste, to the proposed construction of hundreds of miles of new pipelines to carry hazardous extracted liquids through rural farmlands and residential areas, we are facing an imminent threat to the health and well-being of our planet and all its species.

LCWR committed itself in 2009 to care for the earth by reducing our carbon footprints, and in 2008 to act for justice in the current conversation on climate change. As we encounter increasing public pressure to achieve national "energy independence" through new extractive fossil fuel technologies, it is time to commit ourselves to exercise leadership in the national challenge to move away from fossil fuel energy sources to systems built on renewable energy sources (including but not limited to solar, wind, water, and geo-thermal power).

Our commitment to enter this arena is rooted in the oneness of our love for God and our love for God's creation. We believe that Earth does not belong to us but that we belong to Earth, our home planet alive with the creative energy of God. We experience in our beings God's desire that all creation may have fullness of life. We cannot remain bystanders as extractive industries destroy forests, wildlife, flora and pollute land, air, and water all around us. We reject corporation tactics that threaten, exploit, and coerce landowners and residents and risk public health and safety. We reject an economic system that promotes wasteful consumption of energy and the other gifts of God's creation.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

1. We will learn, teach, and model alternative ways of producing and conserving energy that reduce risks to water, land, air, climate, and human safety.
2. We will educate the public to the risks of catastrophic climate change implied in the continued expansion of fossil fuel energy sources.
3. We will stand in solidarity with land-owners and residents who resist the demands of corporate energy industries on their lands and communities.
4. We will advocate for adequate government regulation of all energy sources.
5. We will examine the following options for our financial investment portfolios: divest from fossil fuel industries, employ shareholder actions in fossil fuel investments, increase investments in renewable energy sources.

