



## The National Religious Coalition on Creation Care



### Prayer Breakfast on Creation Care: An Invitation

May 20, 2013, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

You are invited to Washington Week 2013. Join people of faith from across America as they present the religious principles that call us to address global climate change. We begin each year with a National Prayer Breakfast for Creation Care. During this event we honor individuals who have made a difference in our nation because of their activity. This year we honor 350.org founder and director Bill McKibben who has mobilized citizens worldwide to address global climate change.



Dr. James Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Space Center, receives a 2010 "Steward of God's Creation" award from co-chairs Reverend Owen Owens and Rabbi Warren Stone.

Climate change is a huge issue for America's future. Religion across all major faith traditions is speaking with one voice in its formal declarations on the importance of strong action on climate change. These religious statements declare a responsibility for government and citizens to place the good of society before private economic interests. Several years ago Senator Barbara Boxer, when speaking to a NRCCC delegation, declared that the single most powerful voice before the Congress is the voice of religion. "But we hardly ever see you," she added, emphasizing the need for religious groups to increase their presence on the Hill. This should remind each of us of the political adage that "government shows up for those who show up."

Let us correct this failure and "show up" on behalf of religion. Join us in Washington. Speak to your legislators. Washington Week 2013 begins at 9:30 AM Monday morning, May 20<sup>th</sup>, with the National Prayer Breakfast on Creation Care at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1313 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005. This year our program features the perspectives of six different sectors of American religion on climate change. Hear the formal positions of Roman Catholics and Jews, Protestants and Muslims, Evangelical and Eastern Orthodox Christians. Each faith tradition will highlight the moral and ethical principles which underlie the climate issue and report on how each is working to moderate and minimize the rising tide of atmospheric carbon dioxide.



In 2011 EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson received an award from NRCCC leaders. Left to right, Episcopalian Bishop Eugene Sutton, Lisa Jackson, Rabbi Warren Stone and Rev. Owen Owens.

A remarkable insight after fifteen years of these annual prayer breakfasts is that religion, across faith traditions, can cooperate when each demonstrates fidelity to its principles of respect for life and love of neighbor. After the prayer breakfast participants will visit Capitol Hill legislators and present the moral principles involved in the climate issue. Additional meetings are planned at various government agencies. Remarkably few citizens realize that the climate issue is also a religious issue. For more information, see [www.NRCCC.org](http://www.NRCCC.org).



In 2012 poet-farmer Wendell Berry received a "Steward of God's Creation" award on Earth Day at the National Cathedral.

You are invited to attend the Fifteenth annual National Prayer Breakfast for Creation Care. If the public good is to rise up over narrow private and partisan interests, citizens must rise up and be willing to make sacrifices of time and energy to come to Washington and represent the views that have been crafted by their churches, synagogues and temples on creation care issues. There is no specific fee for participation. Rather we solicit a donation based on a person's ability to contribute. The breakfast is simple with juices and coffee, fruit and rolls.