

Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Preparing for Nebraska's Future

2024 Climate Change Impact Assessment Report

Appendix B - Faith-based Community Survey



Appendix B

Faith-Based Communities Survey

Survey 1: Religious leaders

This survey was open from February 14 to March 13, 2024, and distributed twice through a dataset of 1,782 email addresses. The dataset was constructed using public directories and includes general email addresses for local religious communities and direct email addresses for local religious community leaders. The first email was sent to the complete email list on February 14, 2024, and yielded 203 “undeliverable” bounce-back messages. A reminder survey email was sent on March 1, 2024.

To complete the survey, respondents had to indicate that they had not previously completed the survey, were at least 19 years of age, and were either the most senior appointed/ordained leader in their local religious community or had been authorized by that person to complete this survey on their behalf. Surveys were only considered completed if the respondent answered all required questions. In total, 99 surveys were completed for a 6% response rate among the 1,579 deliverable email addresses.

To analyze findings, the authors used qualitative research methods to conduct a content analysis of the qualitative question responses about why leaders had or had not taken identified steps to address human-caused climate change (Reid et al., 2017; Guest, 2023).

Survey 1 questions

Question 1: The purpose of this study is to assess how local religious community leaders in Nebraska have addressed climate change since the last state climate report in 2014. The results of this survey will be included in the 2024 Nebraska State Climate Report funded by the Nebraska Legislature and led by the Nebraska State Climate Office at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. This study may help researchers learn more about how religious leaders and communities in Nebraska have responded to climate change since 2014.

For this study, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition. A local religious community leader is the most senior appointed/ordained leader of these communities (e.g., head pastor, rabbi, imam, etc.).

You are being asked to take part in this research because you have been identified as a local religious community leader in Nebraska. If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to share your experiences through this anonymous survey facilitated through Creighton University. Please note: if you are leader of several local religious communities (for example, you pastor multiple congregations or parishes), we ask that you complete one survey for each community.

The survey is completely voluntary and uncompensated and should only take 15–20 minutes to complete. The survey consists of five background questions and six core questions. All questions will be displayed one at a time. Before beginning the survey, please attempt to gather any unknown information (e.g., you may need to ask your community’s facilities manager about actions taken to reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions). The six core questions are:

- » Since 2014, how frequently has your most senior appointed/ordained leader spoken publicly to your local religious community about the need to take actions that will address climate change (e.g., sermons, homilies, etc.)?
- » Since 2014, how frequently has your local religious community incorporated climate change concerns into communal prayer?
- » Since 2014, to what degree has your religious community incorporated climate change concerns into religious education and catechesis (e.g., school curriculum, youth and young adult ministry, adult faith formation, etc.)?
- » Since 2014, has your local religious community committed all or part of its operations (e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, personnel travel, purchasing, etc.) to a comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction target like net zero carbon or net zero greenhouse gas emissions?
 - If yes, please identify the comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction target to which your local religious community has committed all or part of its operations.
- » Since 2014, has your local religious community taken any new actions for the purpose of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations (e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, personnel travel, purchasing, etc.)?
 - If yes, please identify the new actions your local religious community has taken since 2014 for the purpose of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations (e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, personnel travel, purchasing, etc.).
- » Since 2014, how often has your most senior appointed/ordained leader publicly supported to your local religious community international, federal, state, or local policies to address climate change?

Depending on your answer to each question, you may be prompted to answer follow-up questions that ask for additional detail, e.g., what factors you think lead to your answer. During the survey, you can return to any previous question and change your answer by clicking the left blue arrow button. You can leave the survey and resume your progress later, as long as you resume using the same Internet browser. **Please note the survey will close on Wednesday, March 13, at 11:59 pm CT.**

You will not be compensated for your time and there may not be direct benefits to you for your participation in this study. However, you may enjoy the benefit of contributing your community's insights to the 2024 Nebraska State Climate Report.

This study includes only minimal risks. Loss of confidentiality is a potential risk of taking part in this study. Several steps are being taken to ensure confidentiality: the survey is anonymous and does not collect any identifiers (e.g., name, email address); IP tracking is disabled on the online survey; data is stored on Creighton's password protected Qualtrics platform and accessible only to the Principal Investigator who will share select information with the student research assistant; I have completed the required Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative training prior to participating in this research project; no attempt will be made to contact or re-identify respondents; data will only be reported by faith tradition.

Participation in this study is voluntary and you can stop participating at any time.

If you have questions or concerns about this study, please contact Daniel R. DiLeo, PhD, associate professor and director of the Justice and Peace Studies Program at Creighton University. If you have questions about research participants' rights, contact the Creighton University Institutional Review Board (CU IRB) at 402-280-2126. By choosing to participate in this online survey, you consent to participating in this study. Click [here](#) to read the Bill of Rights for Research Participants.

Question 2: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Have you previously completed this survey on behalf of this local religious community?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes (selecting this option will end the survey)

Question 3: Are you at least 19 years of age?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (selecting this option will end the survey)

Q4 For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Are you the most senior appointed/ordained leader in your local religious community or have you been authorized by that person to complete this survey on their behalf?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (selecting this option will end the survey)

Question 4: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Are you the most senior appointed/ordained leader in your local religious community or have you been authorized by that person to complete this survey on their behalf?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (selecting this option will end the survey)

Question 5: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Of which tradition is your local religious community a part?

- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Mormon
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Orthodox Christian
- ☐ Protestant - Evangelical
- ☐ Protestant - Mainline
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Question 6: Do you believe the Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Question 7: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Since 2014, how frequently has your most senior appointed/ordained leader spoken publicly to your local religious community about the need to take actions that will address climate change (e.g., sermons, homilies, etc.)?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Unsure

Question 8: Since 2014, what factors have contributed to your most senior appointed/ordained leader speaking publicly to your local religious community about the need to address climate change?

Question 9: Since 2014, what factors have contributed to your most senior appointed/ordained leader not often (i.e., never, rarely, or sometimes) speaking publicly to your local religious community about the need to address climate change?

Question 10: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Since 2014, how frequently has your local religious community incorporated climate change concerns into communal prayer?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Unsure

Question 11: Since 2014, what factors have contributed to your local religious community often incorporating climate change concerns into communal prayer? [Text box]

If “Never, Rarely, or Sometimes” selected, display:

Question 12: Since 2014, what factors have contributed to your local religious community not often (i.e., never, rarely, or sometimes) incorporating climate change concerns into communal prayer?

Question 13: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Since 2014, to what degree has your religious community incorporated climate change concerns into religious education and catechesis (e.g., school curriculum, youth and young adult ministry, adult faith formation, etc.)?

- ☐ Not at All
- ☐ Little
- ☐ Moderately
- ☐ Significantly
- ☐ Unsure

Question 14: Since 2014, what factors do you think have contributed to your local religious community significantly incorporating climate change concerns into religious education and catechesis?

Question 15: Since 2014, what factors do you think have contributed to your local religious community not significantly (i.e., not at all, little, or moderately) incorporating climate change concerns into religious education and catechesis?

Question 16: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Since 2014, has your local religious community committed all or part of its operations (e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, personnel travel, purchasing, etc.) to a comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction target like net zero carbon or net zero greenhouse gas emissions?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Question 17: Please identify the comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction target to which your local religious community has committed all or part of its operations.

Question 18: What factors do you think contributed to your local religious community committing all or part of its operations to a comprehensive gas reduction target?

Question 19: What factors do you think contributed to your local religious community not committing all or part of its operations to a comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction target like net zero carbon or net zero greenhouse gas emissions?

Question 20: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Since 2014, has your local religious community taken any new actions for the purpose of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations (e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, personnel travel, purchasing, etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Question 21: Please identify the new actions your local religious community taken since 2014 for the purpose of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations (e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, personnel travel, purchasing, etc.)

Question 22: What factors do you think contributed to your local religious community taking new actions

since 2014 for the purpose of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations?

Question 23: What factors do you think contributed to your local religious community not taking new actions since 2014 for the purpose of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations?

Question 24: For this survey, a local religious community is a specific congregation, parish, synagogue, mosque, or other stable grouping of persons within a particular faith tradition.

Since 2014, how often has your most senior appointed/ordained leader publicly supported to your local religious community international, federal, state, or local policies to address climate change?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Unsure

Question 25: What factors do you think have contributed to your most senior appointed/ordained leader often publicly supporting to your local religious community international, federal, state, or local policies to address climate change since 2014?

Question 26: What factors do you think contributed to your most senior appointed/ordained leader not often (i.e., never, rarely, or sometimes) publicly supporting to your local religious community international, federal, state, or local policies to address climate change?

Survey 2: 2024 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey

Survey 2 used the 2024 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS 2024), a representative biannual omnibus (single questionnaire) survey that is generalizable to the Nebraska population and administered by the Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. As an omnibus instrument, the survey includes core demographic questions and those submitted by researchers. To ascertain whether and how Nebraskans experienced their religious leaders discussing and acting on climate change, the lead author for Chapter 13 (Dr. DiLeo) submitted ten questions to NASIS 2024 of which the following seven are used in this chapter.

The NASIS 2024 Methodology Report describes the survey as a mixed-mode mail and web instrument administered to a representative sample of 10,000 Nebraska households between July 12, 2024, and October 25, 2024. Respondents had to be 19 years of age or older, and surveys were considered complete even if some questions were unanswered. 2,232 (902 via web, 1,330 via mail) surveys were completed for a 23.2% response rate.

Survey 2 questions

Question 1: Do you believe the Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Question 2: Since 2014, how frequently have you experienced your local religious community leaders speaking publicly to your local religious community (e.g., sermon) about the need to address climate change?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Unsure

Question 3: Since 2014, how often have you experienced your local religious community leaders speaking publicly to your local religious community (e.g., sermon) affirming the importance of public policy to address climate change?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Unsure

Question 4: Since 2014, how frequently have you experienced your local religious community incorporating climate change concerns into communal prayer?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Unsure

Question 5: Since 2014, how much has your religious community incorporated climate change concerns into religious education (e.g., school curriculum, youth and young adult ministry, adult faith formation, etc.)?

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Slightly
- ☐ Moderately
- ☐ Significantly
- ☐ Unsure

Question 6: Since 2014, has your local religious community taken any new actions to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from its operations (e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, personnel travel, purchasing, etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Question 7: As of today, has your local religious community committed all or part of its operations (e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, personnel travel, purchasing, etc.) to net zero carbon or net zero greenhouse gas emissions?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure