

## **February is... Environmental Advocacy Month**

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39.*

### **Take Action**

Central to the Bible is the Call to Action. The call to love is not passive; it requires action. Caring for God's gift of creation is an act which fulfills the commandment to love. As we care for creation, we care for ourselves and our neighbours because we are all dependent on the environment for our health and livelihood.

### **How to Take Action**

We have the power to take action at the individual, community, and systemic levels. The first step towards caring for God's creation is to take personal actions in their lives to live more sustainably. We can change light bulbs, conserve water, drive less and reduce waste in our personal lives. We can work within our faith communities to encourage communal commitments to sustainability and green our churches. However, one bad policy decision can wipe out the gain made by thousands of people's faithful actions. Therefore, it is important to make both individual and congregational lifestyle changes *and* to work for sound environmental policies in our local, provincial, and national governments. Like a three-legged stool, each approach to action is important.

What is one way you can act as an environmental advocate this month?