

SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF JERSEY CATHOLIC PARISH LAUDATO SI GROUP

To the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change

The States of Jersey Must Do More to Subsidise, Set Stringent Targets, Regulate the Financial Services Industry and Recycle

Last month, the Catholic parishioners of Jersey formed a group to discuss and press for action to combat climate change: the Laudato Si Group, named from Pope Francis' recent encyclical on humanity's effects on the environment. We are clear that climate change and environmental degradation have become increasingly evident in recent years, so action is needed to improve matters. We aim to inform parishioners about the effect humanity has had on the environment and show that we can all help to reduce our impact on the climate, as well as our surroundings, as Pope Francis entreats us to do.

We recognise that our environment is degraded by our over-use of resources, the poor insulation of many buildings, a strong dependence on motor vehicles, most of which are still powered by fossil fuels, the unnecessary use of plastics and the use of pesticides.

In addition, we would like the States of Jersey to move quickly to help us to reduce the effect we have through legislation and encouragement.

As regards our response to climate change, we would want the States of Jersey:-

(1) To support and encourage the greater usage of solar panels that would use Jersey's copious sunshine to generate electricity and heat water for local consumption, thus reducing our need to use gas or oil to heat our houses. Measures may include providing subsidies to households and businesses and setting stringent targets for their use for example by the States of Jersey departments and agencies

(2) Alongside this, to make it possible to keep our homes and places of work warmer – no matter their age, so that we have a lower demand for heating. Again consideration should be given for subsidies and stringent targets

(3) It is essential that electric vehicle charging stations are installed across the island, so that we are able to use electric cars as quickly as possible, avoiding the delay that would be involved in transiting instead to hybrid cars, which do not reduce our dependence on fossil fuels as much as we need.

(4) The Jersey Finance industry, as our biggest business sector, must lead the way by meeting and going beyond best international standards. The Jersey Financial Services Commission should use its *"Sound Business Practice Policy"* by adding certain environmentally damaging businesses to its *"sensitive activities list"* which governs the registering and monitoring of international companies wishing to do business in Jersey. Consideration should be given to adding to this list those activities which carry such serious environmental impact that they risk damaging the islands reputation as a leading finance centre. Coal extraction and financing and Arctic oil and gas exploration and exploitation may be considered such activities.

(5) Greatly improve island-wide kerbside recycling. Jersey should adopt best international practices for the separation and cycling of household and business wastes. Again stringent targets should be considered.

We will be working with our Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth and with Christian Climate Action, here in Jersey.

(word count 551)

Reference

Pope Francis. 2015. *Laudato Si'* – on care for our common good.
(http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

