

# Energy Innovation AND Carbon Dividend Act

## THE BIPARTISAN CLIMATE SOLUTION

H.R. 763

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In preparation for the January 26 vote at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church's Annual Meeting (12:30 pm after church) to support Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763), Emerson's Ministry for Earth has compiled the following frequently asked questions about the bill and Emerson's vote to support it:

#### **What are the main components of the bill?**

**CARBON FEE:** This policy puts a fee on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas. It starts low and grows over time. This will drive down carbon pollution because energy companies, leading industries, and American consumers will move toward cleaner, cheaper options.

**CARBON DIVIDEND:** The money collected from the carbon fee is allocated in equal shares every month to the American people to spend as they see fit. Program administrative costs are paid from the fees collected. The government does not keep any of the money from the carbon fee.

**Why should Emerson vote in support of this bill?** In standing with our UU principles of respect for the interdependent web of all existence, and our goal of justice for all, we should support this bill as it is an effective first step in fighting climate change, it is good for people and the environment, good for the economy, and revenue neutral (it will not grow the government).

**Have other churches supported this bill?** Yes, many individual churches (27 UU congregations); in the Woodlands, at least three Presbyterian Churches; at the national level, the UUA, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the national United Methodist Church, the Quakers, the Episcopal Church, and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life have endorsed the legislation. For full list, see [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LY1JV2AWj7fFABTBps9t1bHt6Lb9lNo/view). (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LY1JV2AWj7fFABTBps9t1bHt6Lb9lNo/view>)

**What will be the effect on church members who are invested in or work for fossil fuel companies?** The good news is that Houston companies are positioned well to transition to the new energy future with carbon sequestration technologies. By sending a clear price signal, we will immediately use more Texas gas. As the price on carbon increases over time, companies will transition to innovative new technologies for reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

**Will a vote in support of this bill violate our non-profit status?** No. Churches can lobby and endorse legislation without violating their non-profit status. Further reading [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E-ewKV5BzIGT2EWWXHoZ8zSINUX1gH6d/view). (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E-ewKV5BzIGT2EWWXHoZ8zSINUX1gH6d/view>)

**How does this bill affect the Green New Deal?** Reducing greenhouse gases will take passing HR763 and additional bills like the Green New Deal. HR 763 is a first step – an action that can begin immediately, that will affect change immediately, while work on bills like the Green New Deal get further developed.

**Will support of this bill increase our fuel costs?** This bill protects lower and middle-income households, as two-thirds of families will break even or receive more in dividends than they would pay for in higher living expenses. This bill creates jobs, as the dividend puts more money into local economies.

**Where can I learn more about the bill?** [Citizens' Climate Education](https://citizensclimateeducation.org/solutions/carbon-fee-and-dividend/) (<https://citizensclimateeducation.org/solutions/carbon-fee-and-dividend/>)