RESOLUTION 3
(Amended Version)

Energy Usage & Emissions and Financial Offset

Whereas congregations that measure the carbon footprint and energy usage of their parish better understand the environment and financial impacts of their energy usage, and

Whereas an estimate of CO$_2$ emissions can be made from utility bills and the US average for emissions based on energy consumption (electric, natural gas, and/or propane)

Be it resolved that our congregations are suggested to reserve funds equal to the financial impact of their emissions and practices from their operating budget to be used for internal projects and improvements or programs to help deepen appreciation of all that God has entrusted to us.

Be it further resolved that our congregations will take steps to reduce their CO$_2$ emissions and continue to care for God’s creation.

ADOPTED BY THE 189th CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA
Background: This resolution is an example of a carbon offset. An offset does not lower the CO$_2$ emissions of an organization. These offsets allow an organization to lower total CO$_2$ emissions globally by funding any renewable energy project, tree planting, or other endeavor that reduces CO$_2$ emissions.

By understanding how much CO$_2$ we emit as a congregation, we can work to reduce that. By setting aside an amount of money per ton of our CO$_2$ emissions, we can fund projects at our parishes that help reduce our emissions like LED lighting projects, more efficient HVAC units, and solar arrays. Carbon offsets are a way to recognize our emissions and fund innovative ways to reduce our impacts.