



Write Here! Write Now!

Contact: advocacy@uusj.org or 202.600.9132

Delivery of Letters - Organizers: All Letters due by **May 13, 2022**

TRY doing an individual letter online [HERE](#) or upload letters via [Submission Form](#)

Email by May 13, 2022 to advocacy@uusj.org.

Mail to: UUSJ c/o Paulette DeMers, 1530 1st Ave N, Moorhead MN 56560

Tell Congress that the United States must fulfill its pledge to support the Green Climate Fund

BUDGET OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, FISCAL YEAR 2023

Why Are We Writing? As the climate crisis escalates, the needs of people around the world who are suffering the worst effects of climate change have gained wider acknowledgment. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a vital international effort to assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help their people adapt to the worst effects of climate change. Yet despite the fact that the United States is responsible for a huge share of emissions causing this crisis, it has made only token contributions to the Fund. Despite the efforts of UUSJ and partners last Spring, the U.S. FY 2022 budget provided no money for the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Why now? As Congress focuses on the FY 2023 budget, we have an opportunity to demand that Congress redress its past failure to support the Green Climate Fund and share the power of our voice with those who have less recourse to influence decision-makers.

Background: In 2014, the United States promised the Green Climate Fund \$3 billion, but only \$1 billion was provided during the Obama Administration. No funds at all were provided during the Trump Administration. While the Biden Administration's proposed budget for FY2022 would have gone some ways toward redressing past funding failures, a last-minute compromise in Congress drastically reduced U.S. funding for international climate efforts generally and entirely eliminated money for the Green Climate Fund.

In its FY2023 budget proposal, the Biden Administration has included \$1.6 billion in funding for the Green Climate Fund. While far short of the amount that would be commensurate with the United States' responsibilities, the challenge before us will be to prevent Congress from reducing this level of funding even further or eliminating it as in the last budget.

UU Grounding: As people of faith, we act for the environment from a concern for the interconnected web of life and we include people in that because we cherish the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We feel called to show solidarity with people from less developed nations who suffer the most from the effects of climate change even though the climate crisis is the result of the actions of wealthy industrialized countries like the United States.

(See other side for Key Ask, Talking Points, and Sample Letter)

Key Message: The Green Climate Fund plays a vital role in helping developing countries adapt to and mitigate the worst effects of climate change. While the U.S. has pledged to support the fund, it has not provided adequate funding.

Key Ask: The FY-23 budget now under consideration provides an excellent opportunity to fulfill our moral responsibility to help poorer countries that are the least responsible for the emissions that cause global warming. We ask you to show strong leadership in making sure adequate funds are included in the budget. The Administration's proposal to provide \$1.6 billion for the Green Climate Fund for 2023 is a good start, though an actual fair share amount would be larger.

Suggested Talking Points

(Use your own examples, tell your story, and/or draw on some of these suggested points)

- As the world's largest historical greenhouse gas emitter, the U.S. has a moral imperative to provide finance for developing countries that responds to local climate action needs and facilitates equitable transition from fossil fuels.
- The Green Climate Fund is the world's biggest multilateral climate fund, an important channel of climate finance for developing countries. It supports implementation of the Paris Agreement and provides essential resources for mitigation and adaptation. \$3 billion is less than one-tenth of 1% of the total US budget of \$6 trillion.
- In 2014, the United States pledged \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), but only transferred \$1 billion before President Trump withdrew support for the Fund. In 2021, UUSJ and partner groups called on the new Administration and Congress to substantially increase support to the GCF. While the Administration included money in its proposed budget for FY 2022, Congress zeroed out funding for the GCF.
- The Biden Administration has proposed funding of \$1.6 billion for the GCF for FY2023. The U.S. must demonstrate its moral and ethical financial leadership by providing at least that amount; failure to do so would seriously undermine our country's credibility in its efforts to convince other countries to take action to address the climate crisis.

Sample Letter to Your Legislators

[Use your own words. Speak from your heart -- this is only a sample letter.]

[Today's date]

Dear Representative/Senator _____, *[write to both Chambers, Rep. + both Sens. for 3 letters]*

I'm a Unitarian Universalist from *[optional: name of congregation and location]*, and supporter of the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. As your constituent, I expect you to assert strong leadership for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) during upcoming negotiations on the FY 2023 budget.

The U.S. has been among the greatest historic emitters of greenhouse gasses, and therefore, is undeniably a responsible party for the suffering the climate crisis has caused and will continue to cause. As a citizen, I recognize our nation's global responsibility to assist developing countries adapt to and mitigate climate crisis hardships. The GCF is an effective way to provide such assistance yet to date the U.S. has lagged far behind other developed nations in providing financial support.

Developing countries have done the least to cause the climate crisis yet they are at the front lines of suffering. Americans have both a moral obligation and a strategic interest to protect our common home. We must do so for survival of life as we know it and to recapture respect for the U.S. global role and standing. It is a moral imperative that the U.S. commit our fair share to the Green Climate Fund commensurate with our historic emissions.

As Congress considers the GCF____ *[To support the message include in your own words a personal experience, a story, or concern relating to the environmental justice or health effects of climate change. Or adapt a talking point.]*

[adapt a closing such as...] Do vigorously support adequate funding of the Green Climate Fund in the federal budget process. *[I look forward to hearing about your plans to ensure that the GCF receives adequate funding in this year's budget process.]*

Sincerely, *[YOUR NAME and include your COMPLETE ADDRESS]*
