



2014 Earth overshoot day

Diocesan Green Group

Earth Overshoot Day marks the time in the year by which humanity's annual demand on nature exceeds what Earth can renew; consequently, the rest of the year our demand on the Earth resources and services creates an 'ecological debt'.

In 2014 the Overshoot Day is almost certain to advance again, from August 20 (the date for 2013). This expectation is consistent with the recent trend: since 2001, the date has advanced ahead by an average of 3 days per year and there has been no significant development that might indicate a slowdown. We are now using ecological resources and services at a rate that it would take more than 1.5 Earths to renew. Clearly not sustainable in the long term.

'Care for Planet Earth' is one of the Marks of Anglican Mission, and thus excessive use of Earth resources should be of great concern to all of us. The Earth Overshoot Day is an opportunity to reflect, through sermons and prayers, on our actions that affect the environment. We should also ask for inspiration to find new ways of existing in harmony with God's creation, and for perseverance in making these ways part of our everyday living.