



# Timeline of the Orthodox Church's Leadership on Creation Care in the Modern Era

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**1986** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Pre-Synodal Pan-Orthodox Conference in Chambésy expressed concern for the abuse of the natural environment, especially in affluent western societies.

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**1988** “Revelation and the Future of Humanity” conference recommends the Ecumenical Patriarchate designate one day each year for the protection of the natural environment.

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**1989** Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios publishes first [encyclical letter on the environment](#), proclaiming September 1<sup>st</sup> the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

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**1990** Monk Gerasimos Mikrayiannanites composes a service of supplication for the environment.

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**1991** Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convenes ecological gathering entitled, “Living in the Creation of the Lord.”

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**1992** The Orthodox Christian Primates endorse September 1<sup>st</sup> as a day of [pan-Orthodox prayer for the environment](#).

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**1992** The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Ecumenical Patriarchate for an environmental convocation at the Theological School of Halki.

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**1993** Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visits the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace where they sealed a friendship of common purpose and active cooperation for the preservation of the environment.

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**1994** Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convenes ecological gathering at the Theological School of Halki on the environment and religious education.

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**1994** Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew establishes the *Religious and Scientific Committee* (RSC) for dialogue with Christian confessions, other religious faiths, as well as scientific disciplines.

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**1995** Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convenes ecological gathering at the Theological School of Halki on the environment and ethics.

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**1995** The RSC, through Ms. Maria Becket's coordination, hosts [Symposium I entitled \*Revelation and Environment\*](#) under the auspices of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Prince Philip.

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**1996** Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convenes ecological gathering at the Theological School of Halki on the environment and communications.

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**1997** Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convenes ecological gathering at the Theological School of Halki on the environment and justice.

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**1997** The RSC, through Ms. Maria Becket's coordination, hosts [Symposium II entitled \*The Black Sea in Crisis\*](#) under the auspices of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and H.E. Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission.

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**1998** Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew convenes ecological gathering at the Theological School of Halki on the environment and poverty.

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**1999** The Halki Ecological Institute is created for inter-disciplinary vision and dialogue, implementing the ecological theory of the Religious and Scientific Committee into practice.

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**1999** The RSC, through Ms. Maria Becket's coordination, hosts [Symposium III entitled \*River of Life – Down the Danube to the Black Sea\*](#) under the auspices of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and H.E. Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission.

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**2002** The RSC, through Ms. Maria Becket's coordination, hosts [Symposium IV entitled \*The Adriatic Sea – a Sea at Risk, a Unity of Purpose\*](#) under the auspices of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and H.E. Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission.

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**2002** Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew co-signed a document of environmental ethics entitled the [“\*Venice Declaration.\*”](#)

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**2003** The RSC, through Ms. Maria Becket's coordination, hosts [Symposium V entitled \*The Baltic Sea – A Common Heritage, A Shared Responsibility\*](#) under the auspices of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and H.E. Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission.

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**2003** The Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Norway co-sponsor the North Sea Conference.

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**2006** The RSC, through Ms. Maria Becket's coordination, hosts [Symposium VI entitled \*The Amazon: Source of Life\*](#) under the auspices of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and H.E. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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**2007** The RSC, through Ms. Maria Becket's coordination, hosts [Symposium VII entitled \*The Arctic – Mirror of Life\*](#) under the auspices of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, H.E. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and H.E. Jose Barroso, President of the European Commission.

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**2008** The World Council of Churches recognizes the leadership of the Orthodox Church and designates an annual [“Time for Creation”](#) from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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**2009** The RSC, through Ms. Maria Becket's coordination, hosts [Symposium VIII entitled \*The Great Mississippi River: Restoring Balance\*](#) under the auspices of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

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**2012** The Ecumenical Patriarchate and Southern New Hampshire University convene [Halki Summit I](#) at the Theological School of Halki to address the environment and business.

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**2015** The Ecumenical Patriarchate and Southern New Hampshire University convene [Halki Summit II](#) at the Theological School of Halki to address the environment and literature.

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**2015** Pope Francis recognizes the September 1<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation and [designates it for the Roman Catholic Church](#), as well.

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**2018** The Ecumenical Patriarchate, through Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis' coordination, hosts a [symposium entitled, \*Toward a Greener Attica: Preserving our Planet and Protecting its People.\*](#)

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