

"Greening Suggestions for Congregations"

At the ELCIC National Convention this summer a plan for the "Greening of the Church" will be put forward. The Eastern Synod Service Working Group had begun preliminary work in this important area. We provide this **Congregational Greening Checklist** for your consideration as you await the ELCIC Greening Plan.

Here is that list:

- Note the ways the congregation is already practicing "green."
- Include a "green quote" or short article in every church newsletter.
- Prepare one Worship Service annually dedicated to the environment, in addition, incorporate environmental prayers, readings and songs in regular worship services.
- Pray for and celebrate the creation in worship, corporate and private.
- In Sunday School and adult classes study what the Bible says about the earth and human responsibility for it in mission for others.
- Do audits of church buildings and homes a) reduce garbage; b) evaluate energy and water use; c) look at alternative energy sources (e.g. geo thermal).
- Purchase 100% recycled or tree-free stationary and use it for everything (print a notice at the bottom of everything stating that this paper is 100% post consumer waste or a tree free product, etc.
- Plant seeds of awareness & advertise your concerns and commitment.
- Beware of inks: use only refillable pens-don't buy 100 packs; recycle or refill toner cartridges; consider soy inks for printing.
- Don't use any disposable dishes.
- Install hot air hand dryers rather than paper towel dispensers in rest rooms.
- Have someone who is artistic make an amusing sign to display in your church stating that it is a "green zone" or whatever designation you intend to use.
- Reduce Paper Waste by...
 - 1- print on / use both sides of the paper
 - 2- when only a few copies are needed, print multiples rather than photocopying, as copiers use more heat and electricity
 - 3- talk to people rather than sending memos, document conversations in a notebook if you must

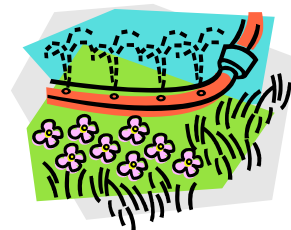
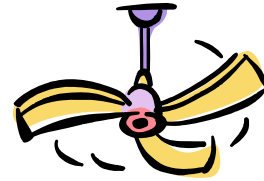
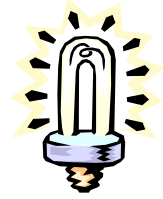
- 4- write meeting agendas on a blackboard/dry erase board rather than handing out paper
- 5- keep coffee cups on hand for yourself and visitors rather than using disposables
- 6- circulate reports rather than supplying individual copies
- 11- use pew Bibles and hymnals rather than bulletin inserts
- 12- have members help visitors by handing them books opened to the right page and guiding them through the service by sharing books
- 13- reduce use of Sunday school curriculum materials that are handed out and usually thrown away right after church

More Congregational Energy Saving Ideas

- Sign up sheet for car pooling to and from church, encourage public transportation
- Plant trees, make a garden, use or lend part of church land for a community garden
- Stop use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides
- Become a recycling drop-off center for areas that do not have curbside recycling pickup programs
- Share resources between members or with other congregations or groups
- If lawn areas are small, use a push mower - consider using a lawn service rather than investing in hedge-trimmers, weed-eaters, edgers and lawnmowers for the congregation
- Urge members to write to local, provincial and federal governments urging them to act seriously and promptly on ways to halt and reverse the environmental threats to our planet and to provide tax breaks for alternative energy development similar to the tax breaks given to the petroleum industry
- Keep project from being pigeonholed under "property committee" - It should be a project for the entire community-

Ways for Congregational Members to Green their Homes

- Reduce Energy Consumption
- Replace every incandescent bulb that burns out with a compact florescent bulb (CFL)
- Turn off lights when not in use
- Install light or motion sensors on exterior/interior lights
- Run dishwasher less frequently
- When appliances need replacing, purchase energy saving/energy star models
- Put thermostats on a timer to heat and cool during times of occupancy only
- Replace older cooling system with energy efficient air-conditioning
- Use fans rather than air conditioning as often as possible
- Install ceiling fans in almost every room
- Adjust thermostats on refrigerators so they are not overcooling
- Weatherize windows and doors (weather stripping, caulk, plastic film, etc)
- Use reflective tinted window shades in the summer on windows that take on too much heat
- Insulate the water heater and turn the thermostat down to 110 degrees
- Reduce Water Consumption
 - Put a bottle filled with water or a brick in every toilet tank (if it's not a water saver model)
 - Replace appliances with water-saving appliances as needed
 - Put reminders near sinks not to let the water run unnecessarily
 - Replace existing faucets with ones featuring an auto on/off sensor
 - Water lawns and gardens at night using a timer device
 - Use soaker hoses rather than sprinklers to water plants
 - Replace lawns and plants that require water with less thirsty vegetation
 - Use mulches or other organic materials to reduce need for watering flower borders or shrub area
- Reduce Paper and Plastics Consumption
- Do not use disposable dishes at all
- Purchase a copper-mesh reusable coffee filter rather than using paper filters
- Do not print or copy anything that can be handled by e-mail or stored on a computer



- Do not use zip-lock bags (use resealable containers)
- Use rags for janitorial work and cleaning (worn out towels, not purchased rags)
- Use newspaper for window cleaning rather than paper towels
- Reduce Waste and Garbage
- Reuse everything possible
- Recycle everything possible
- Start composting on-site
- Do not bag grass clippings unless they will be applied to a compost pile
- Do not purchase single-use disposable items



- Purchase in bulk to avoid packaging waste
- Give away anything still usable rather than throwing it out (use internet “free???)
- Reduce Consumption of Products with High Environmental Impact



- Buy only recycled papers
- Purchase cleansers that are environmentally sound in production and disposal
- Invest savings in "Green Funds"
- Use only sustainably harvested lumber
- Use lumber from recycled plastics rather than virgin wood for outdoor projects
- Use rechargeable batteries. Do not dispose of batteries in the garbage, use recycling.

- Replace single-pane and older double-pane windows with ones that have high insulation ratings and low maintenance

- Install weather stripping around windows and doors
- Insulate the ceilings and walls where possible



- Plant trees - plant a garden
- Rather than using drive through - pull in - turn off your vehicle – don't idle your car

- Update old heating systems (geothermal, high efficiency, etc.)

- Bring your own reusable shopping bags

- Do not flush medications. Most pharmacies and municipalities will dispose of them in a safe manner

* Materials are adapted from *Greening of the Parish – Making the Congregation a Model for Environmental Justice* by Alix Preidgen; *Green Parish Accreditation Program*, Diocese of New Westminster, ACC;



For further information:

<http://www.webofcreation.org/manuals/pridgen.html>

www.kairoscanada.org

Greening Congregational Handbook

Stories, ideas and resources for cultivating awareness and care in your congregation
The price for the handbook is \$21 plus \$3 (USA) for shipping. It may be ordered by calling Earth Ministry (206)632-2426 .

Footprint Files

Tel. (250)386-7781 E-mail synod@bc.anglican.ca

www.the-cma.org Click on Do Not Contact Service to take your name off junk-mail lists

www.powerwise.ca

www.greenerchoices.org

www.cspinet.oeg/EatingGreen/calculator.html

www.eneract.org

Toronto Environmental Alliance for information on pesticides and nontoxic alternatives, smog, waste reduction, etc. www.torontoenvironment.org

E-Waste Management/recycling

www41.statcan.ca/1762/ceb1742_003_e.htm

www.wrwcanada.com/events.htm

www.goforgreen.ca/asrts/pdf/How2_WSB.pdf.

www.greenpeace.org/usa/news/green-living-guide/in-your-yard

Contact the Federal Minister of the Environment: Hon John Baird and encourage continued federal action on the environment. bairdj@parl.gc.ca

Eastern Synod
Service Working Group
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