

# A Guide to Cultivating Care for Creation



A culmination of congregational wisdom, science, sustainability, prayer, educational theory, and ecology, this guide provides tangible ways to act on behalf of your neighbors and Creation. It is a toolkit designed specifically for churches, spiritual communities, and people of faith. Like an active spiritual life, this is more than a static “to do” list; this resource hopes to be a dynamic guidebook that will point your congregation toward next steps, future ideas, and innovations to living in right relationship as a community. Your intention of caring for Creation will not only grow your own heart and community, but will support your most vulnerable neighbors, creatures, and future generations. Blessings on the journey.

	Planting Seeds	Nurturing Growth	Deepening Roots	
<b>Waste Reduction</b>	Begin recycling and waste reduction measures (don't purchase single-use plastics or Styrofoam, offer recycling, etc.)	Begin composting and using compostable products	Continue taking steps toward producing zero waste	<b>Sustainability Practices</b>
<b>Food</b>	Begin offering vegetarian options at community meals	Provide and promote plant-rich or meatless meals regularly	Purchase locally-grown and/or organic produce and meat when available	
<b>Transportation</b>	Encourage carpooling, walking, biking, and other energy-saving transportation methods	Make energy-efficient transportation more easily accessible for your community (coordinate carpool routes, etc.)	When replacing a community vehicle, consider more energy-efficient options	
<b>Worship Experiences</b>	Focus on care for Creation during special worship services, such as on Earth Day or Creation Sunday	Include reflections and messages centered on Creation in worship at least once per season	Make regular reference to Creation in worship experiences throughout the year	<b>Spirituality and Worship</b>
<b>Reconnecting with Nature</b>	Participate in a nature appreciation event (a hike, retreat, garden visit, etc.)	Offer an outdoor nature appreciation / conservation event in your community	Host a nature event that invites people outside your faith tradition or community	
<b>Prayer and Meditation</b>	Spend time in prayer, meditation, or contemplation and explore the Sacred Texts from your spiritual tradition	Engage a regular prayer or meditation practice centered around Creation (such as praying the Creation Psalms)	Practice radical Sabbath and provide opportunities for meditation, prayer, and reflection in outdoor spaces	
<b>Classes and Conversations</b>	Host a forum, panel discussion, or Creation care event	Offer an environmental book, study, or film series	Provide regular events, studies, speakers, and classes focused on care for Creation	<b>Education</b>
<b>Children and Youth</b>	Offer a children / youth event or class focused on care for Creation	Provide extended children / youth events, such as VBS or camp, centered around Creation	Incorporate teachings about Creation care into regular children and youth education and programming	
<b>Media Communication</b>	Include an article or blurb about environmental efforts in your newsletter or community emails	Write or include regular environmental publications on your website or in a newsletter	Join communication efforts with affiliated faith groups or community partners	

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Energy	Begin basic energy conservation practices (turn off lights, adjust thermostats, etc.)	Conduct an energy audit and begin implementing changes	Move toward larger-scale efficiency measures (solar panels, new windows, etc.)
Water	Assess your facility's current water usage	Begin reducing water usage in simple ways (fix leaky faucets or toilets, etc.)	Implement long-term changes in water usage (low-flow toilets, etc.)
Landscaping and Grounds	Get to know your land and property by exploring its history and its place within the community	Assess your landscaping practices and take steps towards earth-friendly solutions (remove invasive species, avoid pesticides, etc.)	Establish an intentional garden on your land (such as a permaculture or community garden)
Earth-Friendly Cleaning	Assess cleaning supplies used throughout the building and consider toxic impacts	Research environmentally friendly cleaning supplies and practices	Implement sustainable practices and purchase eco-friendly products as supplies need replacing

Building and Grounds

Creation Care Team & Partnership	Explore denominational resources regarding Creation and host a Creation Care Team formation potluck / interest meeting	Establish a Creation Care Team that meets regularly and explore a covenant partnership with the Creation Care Alliance	Seek ways to collaborate with other Creation Care Teams and local congregations, sharing space, wisdom and resources.
Compassion & Justice	Identify specific environmental needs of your neighbors and community	Participate in community-wide environmental, social justice and advocacy initiatives	Take on an organizational role in local and national spiritual, social and creation care initiatives
Loving Your Neighbors	Foster curiosity about others in your community. Learn about issues facing people from different economic backgrounds, faith traditions, races etc.	Build relationships with vulnerable communities in your area. Act in partnership as you connect these issues to your congregational work	Discover an issue in your town that connects social and ecological challenges. Seek policy and systemic change, prayerfully and creatively.

Fellowship and Outreach

Legislation	Learn about governmental systems and the positions of your policy makers and local officials	Advocate for Creation by building relationships with your legislators through emails, phone calls, mail, and in-person visits	Encourage one another to sit on citizen committees and councils or consider running for elected positions in local government
Voting	Practice having compassionate conversations about government that are not party-specific	Learn about election-related dates, vote your values, and coordinate efforts to help community members do the same	Join in interfaith and community efforts that support voting rights and access
Investments	Meet with your treasurer or financial team to discuss your current investments	Explore and learn about environmentally and socially responsible investment options	Reallocate your investments to align with Creation care values

Advocacy and Finance

Visit [www.creationcarealliance.org](http://www.creationcarealliance.org) for accompanying resources and further information about each strategy.