

Cherish the Gift

The Greening of the Church

- I. Environmental Task Force
 - A. Independent group
 - B. Representative of all areas of church life
 - C. Publicize three ways
 - D. Set up information display
 - E. First meeting
 - 1. Elect chairperson
 - 2. Brainstorm areas of concern
 - 3. Pick one or two things to do immediately
 - 4. Work up goals for first year
- II. Taking action locally, nationally, globally
 - A. Grassroots organizations--get information, hand-outs, speakers, attend meetings, support local legislation
 - B. Denominational--become aware of what your national church is doing and keep them aware of what your church is doing
 - C. Ecumenical--
 - 1. City-wide services, Earth Day events, workshops
 - 2. Evangelical Environmental Network, Interfaith Power & Light

EDUCATION CHECKLIST

- I. Community Grapevine
 - A. Organizations
 - 1. Local branches of national organizations
 - 2. Local utilities
 - B. Resources
 - 1. Printed materials in quantity or for duplication
 - 2. Speaker's bureau
 - 3. Bookstore
 - 4. Mailing lists
- II. Getting the word out
 - A. Resource display
 - B. Library section
 - C. Videotape
 - D. Bulletin board
 - E. Church newsletter column
- III. Class actions
 - A. Guest speaker
 - B. Class member provides lesson
 - C. Have materials available for teacher
 - D. Seminar or lecture series for all adults
 - E. Joint Sunday morning Sunday School
- IV. Environmental Awareness Week
 - A. Invite keynote speaker or several speakers
 - B. Serve dinner or refreshments
 - C. Babysitting and activities for youth
 - D. Book fair
 - E. Follow up with concrete actions
- V. Earth Fair
 - A. Single-day event or conclusion to Environmental Awareness Week
 - B. Keynote speaker or worship service
 - C. Booths set up for different environmental problems
 - D. Invite area green groups to participate
 - E. Offer workshops
 - F. Pot-luck dinner, sell food to raise funds, refreshments, bake sale
 - G. Book fair
 - H. Recyclable collection
 - I. Babysitting and activities for children and youth

PROPERTY CHECKLIST

- I. Energy
 - A. Make your church as energy-efficient as possible by auditing usage, grouping meetings, installing energy-efficient appliances, and keeping thermostats at specific temperatures.
 - B. Add insulation to walls, attic and water heater. Caulk windows
- II. Lighting
 - A. Turn lights off when not in use, use one 100-watt instead of two 60-watt bulbs, use energy miser bulbs.
 - B. Use compact fluorescent bulbs wherever possible.
- III. Water
 - A. Install faucet aerators.
 - B. Install toilet dams or other ways to displace water in tanks
 - C. Test for leaks and repair immediately.
- IV. Recycle bottles and cans from the soft drink machine.
- V. Toxics and trash
 - A. Switch to non-toxic, organic pesticides and cleaning products.
 - B. Use latex paints. Save enamel paint and solvents for a Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
 - C. Purchase recycled paper products.
- VI. Lawn care
 - A. Leave most insects alone. Attract birds, bees.
 - B. Try organic pesticides and fertilizers.
 - C. Water efficiently.
 - D. Try xeriscaping using natural, low maintenance, indigenous plants.
 - E. Leave grass clippings on lawn or compost them.
 - F. Start an organic garden, plant trees.
- VII. The church vehicle
 - A. Keep it tuned up, tires at the proper inflation.
 - B. Buy the most fuel-efficient car or van possible.
 - C. Avoid optional equipment or air conditioners.
 - D. Recycle tires, batteries, motor oil, fluids
 - E. Sponsor a "Walk to Church" day.
- VIII. Hazardous waste
 - A. Reduce purchases of toxic products.
 - B. Hold toxics and empty containers for Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
 - C. Sponsor a Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

WORSHIP CHECKLIST

- I. Resources
 - A. Books
 - B. Evangelical Environmental Network
 - C. Interfaith Power & Light
- II. Worship Aids
 - A. Bulletins printed on recycled paper
 - B. Beeswax candles
 - C. Glass communion cups
 - D. Ecological worship banner
- III. Children's Sermons
 - A. Use visual aids and props
 - B. Make the message short, with a single point
 - C. Close with a short prayer
- IV. Opportunities for Creation Service
 - A. Culmination of Environmental Awareness Week
 - B. Coincide with Earth Day or UN Environmental Sabbath
 - C. Kick off Earth Fair
 - D. Outdoors, camps, retreats, change of seasons

FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CHECKLIST

- I. Benefits to congregation
 - A. Universal cause
 - B. Target new volunteer opportunity
 - C. New mission area
- II. Church Social
 - A. Walk to Church Sunday
 - B. Picnic outside
 - C. Old-fashioned games
 - D. Arts, crafts and food displays
- III. Sunday morning coffee

- A. Avoid polystyrene
- B. Use ceramic mugs or china cups
- C. Fund raiser--sell church mugs
- IV. Church dinners
 - A. Eat low on food chain
 1. Reduce intake of beef
 2. Baked potato or spaghetti lunch
 3. Salad Sampler
 - B. Organically grown food
 - C. Rainforest products
 - D. Food co-op
- V. Kitchen conservation
 - A. Cut down on appliance usage
 - B. Proper servicing and use of refrigerator
 - C. Conserve hot water
 - D. Avoid disposables
 - E. Use recycled paper products
 - F. Use all-natural cleaning supplies

NURSERY, CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHECKLIST

- I. Education
 - A. Catalogs
 - B. Magazines
 - C. Videos
 - D. Books
 - E. Bible
- II. Nursery
 - A. Natural, non-toxic toys
 - B. Recycled, unbleached paper products. Avoid disposables and toxics
 - C. The diaper debate
 - D. Teach the value of nature through games, music, activities
- III. Elementary
 - A. Kids for Saving Earth Club
 - B. Paint t-shirts
 - C. Rainforest Action
 - D. National Wildlife Federation
- IV. Field Trips
 - A. Local recycling center or landfill
 - B. Animal shelter
 - C. Water utility
 - D. Zoo or nature center
 - E. Museum of natural history
 - F. Beach or forest
- V. Projects
 - A. Recycling
 - B. Adopt a beach, park or zoo animal—rainforest acre, whale or dophin
 - C. Plant trees or organic garden
 - D. Church energy audit
 - E. Art objects from trash
 - F. Earth Fair
 1. Baby sit
 2. Food
 3. All-Species Parade
 - G. Creation Choir or nature play
 - H. Mini-Earth Summit
 - I. Fund raisers
 1. Faucet aerators
 2. Coffee mugs
 3. Shopping bags
 4. Living Christmas trees

OFFICE CHECKLIST

- I. Paper products
 - A. Closed loop procedures
 - 1. Recycle paper
 - 2. Buy products made from recycled paper
 - B. Make only the number of copies you need
 - C. Copy on both sides
 - D. Make notepads of damaged copies
 - E. Give unused bulletins to children's classes
 - F. Get a church computer to reduce paper needs
- II. Green ideas
 - A. Purchase office supplies made of recycled materials
 - B. Have everyone bring coffee mugs from home
 - C. Recycle soft drink cans and bottles
 - D. Post energy-saving instructions on equipment
 - E. Accept donations of office materials from members
 - F. Stop unwanted mail delivery
 - G. Use the church newsletter as an ecological education tool
 - H. Research environmentally-friendly alternatives for printing projects: recycled paper and soybean inks

OUTREACH CHECKLIST

- I. Giving to green groups
 - A. Research local and national groups in your area
 - B. Contribute time, money, materials
 - C. Have representatives from church attend meetings
- II. Ecumenical activities
 - A. Worship service
 - B. Neighborhood recycling or hazardous waste drive
 - C. Earth Fair or Environmental Awareness Week
 - D. North American Coalition on Religion and Ecology
- III. Education in the community
 - A. Open events to the public
 - B. Advertise
 - C. Offer seminars, workshops, speakers
 - D. Environmental hotline, newsletter, radio show
- IV. Projects outside the church
 - A. Rainforest acre or zoo animal
 - B. Recycling facility
 - C. Park, field or beach clean up
 - D. Earthwatch or eco-trip