

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES
SUGGESTIONS
FOR
CONTINUING WORK**

*Here are some ideas for continuing work for Environmental Stewardship Committees-
developed by the Chartered Committee on Environmental Ministry.*

- **Start a recycling program with signs in the kitchen and elsewhere to remind and encourage users to reduce, reuse, and recycle.**
- **Exemplify earth-friendly activities for your parish, such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, planting a tree or a shrub, and installing a rain barrel.**
- **Collaborate with your youth director to organize fun activities such as hiking in the woods or starting a creative educational program or project.**
- **If any new construction or major renovations are planned for your parish, work with the new construction committee to make sure LEED certification [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] is researched and considered, along with available state and federal income tax credits for renewable energy now available for donors to faith communities in NC.**
- **Build the theme of environmental stewardship into regular church activities, such as featuring local foods at a coffee connection or annual picnic.**
- **Follow the resolutions on environmental stewardship passed by the General Conventions and the Diocesan Conventions of NC.**
- **Write articles for your church's newsletter and e-connections, and letters to the editor of your local newspaper.**
- **Let your political representatives know where you and your committee stand on environmental issues.**

- **Submit a digital picture, with caption, of an environmental stewardship activity in your parish for publication in the DISCIPLE.**
- **Join with neighboring churches to organize a city-wide seminar on environmental stewardship.**
- **Celebrate Earth Day each year in April with a special activity at your parish that draws attention to caring for God's creation.**
- **Encourage outdoor worship services, especially when an established activity occurs, such as the annual church picnic or an informal worship service.**
- **Start a community garden, donating a percentage to feeding the poor.**
- **Make the connection between Spirit and Nature: that God is revealed to us in two ways: through the Word--the Bible--and through Nature, the wondrous things that he has made.**
- **Create avenues through which to explain the big topics, such as why it's important to choose conservation over convenience in packaging, sustainability over non-sustainability, renewable energy over non-renewable energy, and how environmental degradation leads to social degradation [in plain language, violence].**
- **Connect the work of your committee to the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals [MDGs], which in 2006 the General Convention declared the top mission priority of the Episcopal Church. Goal #7 states: "Ensure Environmental Sustainability."**
- **Remember, there are over 1,000 references in the Bible to caring for God's creation. Our mission is clear. We need only be reminded.**

- **Have faith and vision to restore and preserve God's creation, the Earth, and all of God's creatures.**
- **Incorporate the theme of environmental stewardship into your public and private prayers.**

Some Other Possible Activities or Projects:

- **Plan an intergenerational activity like participating in the annual street and stream clean-up in your community.**
- **Examine purchases made by the parish to determine if they support sustainability concepts. For example, does your church use disposables over durable goods, natural cleaning products vs. harmful chemicals?**
- **Partner with other faith and environmental organizations.**
- **Look into the possibility of making donations to NC Green Power, an organization helping to provide power from renewable energy.**
- **Examine your church's landscaping and pest management programs.**

Web References:

Consult the 2010 Revised Edition of *Caring for the Planet: Manual to Save Humanity*, by Frank DePasquale, available from the chair of the Chartered Committee for Environmental Ministry, **Tom Droppers, email: tdrops@triad.rr.com**

The Episcopal Ecological Network
www.eenonline.org

Scan the references to environmental stewardship of our national church

www.episcopalchurch.org

Check under “Areas of Work” to see Environmental Justice topics

www.nccouncilofchurches.org

See North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light, a religious response to global warming www.ncipl.org and www.interfaithpowerandlight.org

Green Faith, Partners for the Environment

www.greenfaith.org

Good sources for transforming faith communities into green congregations

www.webofcreation.org

Christian website offering leadership to build a sustainable society

www.earthministry.org