

**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](mailto:tdrops@triad.rr.com)**

The Episcopal Ecological Network  
[www.eenonline.org](http://www.eenonline.org)

Scan the references to environmental stewardship of our national church

[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)

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

[www.nccouncilofchurches.org](http://www.nccouncilofchurches.org)

See North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light, a religious response to global warming [www.ncipl.org](http://www.ncipl.org) and [www.interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org)

Green Faith, Partners for the Environment

[www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org)

Good sources for transforming faith communities into green congregations

[www.webofcreation.org](http://www.webofcreation.org)

Christian website offering leadership to build a sustainable society

[www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)