

## Questionnaire for Congregations on Environmental Stewardship

What does your church recycle?:  
(circle all that would apply)

Paper

Cardboard

Plastic

Metal

How does the recycling get picked up and do you pay a fee for this?

What recycled products do you use?  
(i.e. copy paper, toilet paper, hand towels)

Would you recommend a green supplier?

What types of beverages are kept on hand?

Canned soda

Plastic bottles

Large non-disposable jugs of water

What non-toxic cleaners are you using and do you recommend any particular supplier?

Do you use of disposables or non-disposable dinnerware in fellowship gatherings:

100% non-disposables used  
\_\_\_\_\_ % disposables used

\_\_\_\_\_ % non-disposables used

### Lighting

\_\_\_\_\_ % CFL bulbs in spot lighting

\_\_\_\_\_ % Incandescent/halogen bulbs used

\_\_\_\_\_ % T8 Florescent

\_\_\_\_\_ % T12 Florescent Lighting

## Restoring the Earth

1. **Fossil Fuel** Emissions give off about **25%** of our CO2 pollution.

**WE CAN** reduce our energy emissions by:

- converting to **CFL** light bulbs in the home and work (incandescent bulbs are banned in some countries now)
- cut back on our heating and cooling temps, be willing to be a little uncomfortable.
- reduce frequency of lawn cutting or use a gasless mower
- make a commitment to ride your bike to work or
- switch to an energy efficient vehicle (scooter, hybrid, or bike)
- call your legislator to support legislation that protects the earth's climate.

2. **Livestock Production** accounts for **18%** of greenhouse gas.

The total cattle population of the world occupies 24% of the land of the planet. Some 70 to 80% of grain produced in the US is fed to livestock, and half the water consumed in the US is used to grow grain for cattle feed.

**WE CAN** reduce our meat consumption by:

- substituting poultry and fish often
- avoiding fast food that generates corn-fed beef production

3. **Deforestation** of Forests: Old tree growth is our first line of defense in CO2 reduction and by reducing our paper use we can help protect and restore our forests.

**WE CAN** reduce deforestation and increase forestation by:

- eliminating/reduce disposable dinnerware use
- purchasing only recycled paper products
- recycle paper/light cardboard

4. **Landfill Emissions** emit about 25% of methane greenhouse gas.

Methane is more harmful than carbon dioxide at trapping radiant heat in the atmosphere. The number-one source of methane emissions is waste buried in landfills. When land filling, incineration and the extractive industries are taken together, our current landfill system accounts for fully 25% of our society's greenhouse gas emissions.

**WE CAN** significantly reduce our landfill trash by:

- recycling our paper, plastic, glass and cans
- mulching our leaves instead of sending them away in bags
- finding items through resale/thrift outlets or get them free with freecycle.com
- keeping plant food scraps, composting them in the soil.

# Environmental Stewardship begins with us



## Reducing our footprint one congregation at a time

Simple steps to a green congregation

## Checklists for Congregations

### Eliminate *throw away items*

This reduces landfill gas emissions & protects old forest growth.

- Use only re-usable utensils and dinnerware	
- Living plants vs. cut flowers	
- Rechargeable batteries use or a battery recycle station	
- Recycle all paper, cans, glass	
- Limit or eliminate use of paper for bulletins	
- Provide handy recycle bins throughout building to encourage recycling behavior	
- Send bulk notices by email	
- Get on the Do Not Mail for Direct mail (greendimes.com)	
- Compost plant food waste	
- Consider cloth towels, napkins or recycled paper napkins	
- Use recycled paper/look for used items before purchasing new products (freecycle.com)	
- Avoid all Styrofoam, choose items with the least packaging Styrofoam does not decay.	
- Mulch grass & leaves	

## Checklists for Congregations

### Reduce *energy emissions*

By reducing our energy use, fossil fuel emissions can be lowered.

- Unplug idle appliances and electronics after use	
- Keep the thermostat at or above 76 degrees in the summer, 72 in the winter	
- Switch over to cfl light bulbs several types are now sold	
- Eliminate halogen bulbs and incandescent bulbs	
- Encourage congregants to turn off lights	
- Obtain an energy audit and tighten up drafty or poorly insulated spots in building	
- Provide parking for bikes: encourage biking, carpooling, walking to events	
- Choose energy star appliances	
- Purchase locally grown foods to save on energy use to bring them to purchase	
- Bring reusable bags when shopping to avoid petroleum based plastic bag use	
- Avoid purchases of petroleum based plastic items and container (water bottles, especially hard plastics that cannot be recycled)	

## Checklists for Congregations

### Encourage *protection of forest growth/reduce water consumption*

Trees, especially old growth forests, absorb carbon emissions.

- Only purchase paper that is recycled, (if possible 100 %)	
- Reduce beef consumption by choosing poultry, fish & nuts	
- Double sided copies when paper handouts are necessary	
- Encourage website use by your members to reduce paper communication	
- Use shade grown/fair trade coffee and tea for fellowship	
- Create a rain garden that uses and holds water runoff from gutters and rainfall	
- Monitor water use closely, only running full loads for clothes and dishwashers, create lawns that require little watering	

### Eliminate *toxic waste emissions*

Toxins often remain and build up in what we grow and drink

- Use eco-friendly cleaners, like hydrogen peroxide, baking soda and vinegar (avoid bleach use)	
- Avoid pesticides and herbicides	