

Getting People Involved in Making Your Congregation Greener



Jack Hurbanis, Congregational Organizer for Environmental Justice



Why Are We Talking About This Today?

- 68% of Americans reported being somewhat or very worried about the effects of climate change
- 75% of Americans 16 - 25 report being somewhere between somewhat to extremely worried about climate change with 26% of the polled group reporting that this stress negatively affects their ability to function
- The ELCA has identified caring for creation as a tenant of our faith



Three Buckets

Waste



Land Use



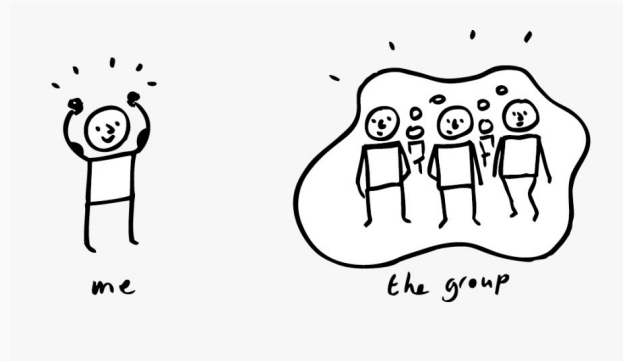
Energy Consumption



Other People ... Aren't They Going To Get In The Way?

Probably!

- Congregations are a community, not a business -- so efficiency is not always the goal (unless its energy).
- Taking on projects, campaigns, or educational series is not an easy task and everyone may not be on board at first.
- Expanding your reach will make your project more effective, more educational, and allow more people to live into a faith practice of carrying for the Earth.



Waste Management

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle ... and Compost!



Reducing Plastic Use

Lenten Series on Giving Up Plastic Use

Guide To “Giving Up” Single-Use Plastic For Lent

First, remind yourself that eliminating all single-use plastic immediately from your life is nearly impossible and even so, would not end our current climate crisis entirely.

The purpose of this practice is to explore the control you have over your personal consumption and develop a new habit that nourishes your desire to care for our Earth.

Here are a few options to help you start your plastic reduction practice:

**Option 1:
Reusable
Grocery Bags** Instead of purchasing plastic bags as you are checking out at the grocery store, bring your own reusable bags. Grab a few bags of varying sizes and leave them by your door or in your car so you don't forget them.

**Option 2:
Choosing
Unpackaged
Produce** Many stores offer a selection of unpackaged, fresh produce – often right next to the plastic packaged alternative. Making the switch requires you to bring a reusable bag or container to put them in. Make sure to add a reminder next to any produce on your grocery list so you don't forget your reusable bag or container.

**Option 3:
Plastic Free
Wool Dryer
Balls** Replace disposable dryer sheets with wool dryer balls. You can purchase dryer balls either online or in local waste reduction stores like Tare Market or Zero-ish.

**Option 4:
Eliminating
Plastic To-Go
Containers** Whether it's a cup from Starbucks or a take-out food box, to-go containers can be a huge source of plastic. Research which coffee shops will allow you to bring your own reusable mug (often at a discount!) or restaurants that use more sustainable materials. It can be as easy as asking your favorite spot if they offer non-plastic options.

Please reach out to Jack Hurbanis (hurbanis@mpls-synod.org) to answer questions or for more information



Reusable Plates, Cups, and Silverware

Start
Washing
More
Dishes



Recycling & Composting

The image shows three overlapping posters from Tufts University's sustainability department. The leftmost poster is blue and titled "RECYCLING". It lists "Glass, Metal, and Plastic Containers" with icons of a bottle, can, and jar. Below that, it lists "Paper and Cardboard" with icons of a newspaper, pizza box, and paper bag. It includes two "NO" signs: "NO Liquids or Food" and "NO Soiled Paper". The middle poster is grey and titled "LANDFILL". It lists "Styrofoam Containers, Plastic and Film" with icons of a styrofoam cup and a blue plastic bag. Below that, it lists "Soiled Paper and Cardboard, Wrappers, Napkins and Tissues" with icons of a pizza box, paper cup, and paper bag. The rightmost poster is brown and titled "COMPOST". It lists "Food Scraps, NO Fruit Sticker" with icons of an apple core and a nut. Below that, it lists "Paper Tea Bags & Coffee Grounds" with icons of a tea bag and coffee grounds. At the bottom, it lists "NO Dairy or Meat" with icons of a chicken leg and a banana, and "Napkins and Paper Towels" with icons of a crumpled napkin and a paper towel. All posters feature the "sustainability" logo and the Tufts University logo.



Using Your Space - Start A Garden



Using Your Space - Protect Our Watersheds



Using Your Space - Host An EcoEvent

InterFaith Creation Care

SATURDAY, MAY 7 2022

ELECTRIC VEHICLE EXPO

Speeding our transition to cleaner energy helps us care for God's creation and avoid the worst consequences of our changing climate.

- Meet EV owners and see their EVs to learn about their driving & riding experience
- Listen to short presentations about EVs
- See an electric school bus

JOIN US TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE OF ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION!

AMERICAN LIVING ASSOCIATION Clean the Climate

SHEPHERD OF THE LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3611 NORTH BERENS ROAD NW
PRIOR LAKE, MN 55379 12 PM - 3 PM

Learn more at solle.org/events

- Ask people what they'd like to learn more about
- Don't just rely on the folks you know, send an email or make a call to a business, person, or group whose
- Spread the word far and wide, make your congregation known in the neighborhood as a place that is fighting the climate crisis

Energy Use - Energy Efficiency Upgrades



Energy Use - Installing Solar Panels / Other Upgrades



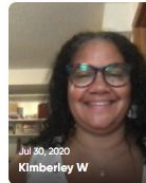
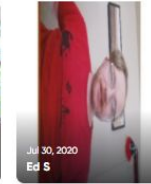
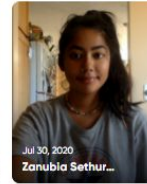
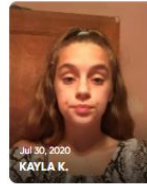
Energy Use - Joining A Solar Co-op / Solar Garden



COOPERATIVE ENERGY FUTURES
COMMUNITY POWERED ENERGY



Quick Pitch For Organizing



Quick Summary

- Reducing waste
- Reusing cups, plates, and silverware
- Implementing recycling and composting
- Starting a community garden
- Building a rain garden or organize a clean up
- Host an EcoEvent
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Installing solar panels or a heat pump
- Join a solar co-op or solar garden



Questions?

