

God's Green Church

Becoming a Creation Care Congregation



Created by students from The King's University, Edmonton
Sponsored by the Sustainability Leadership Group
2021

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
How to use God's Green Church	2
Laying the Groundwork	3
What is creation care?	3
Video Resources	4
Definitions	5
Resource overview	6
1.0 - Getting Started	7
1.1 - What is a green committee?	7
1.2 - Do you have a green committee?	8
1.3 - Do you have a sustained action plan including long-term goals?	8
2.0 - Community	9
2.1 - Local partnerships	9
2.2 - Outdoor field trips	10
2.3 - Environmentally friendly transportation	10
2.4 - Community garden	10
2.5 - Support local businesses	10
2.6 - Advocacy	11
3.0 - Worship	12
3.1 - Sermons	12
3.2 - Songs/Hymns	13
3.3 - Bible studies	13
3.4 - Prayer	14
3.5 - Additional worship suggestions	14
4.0 - Sustainability	15
4.1 - Energy Audits	15
4.2 - Building and grounds	16
4.3 - Administration	17
More Resources	18
Partners	20

Introduction

Mennonite Church Canada recognizes interconnectedness of creation and humanity and believes that the church should be at the forefront of society's call to action on creation care and sustainability. While there are many ways we have treated God's creation with respect, we have also wrestled with a growing awareness that there are many ways we have misused what God has made. The way we live is threatening the ability of life to flourish as God intends. Our Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective states:

We believe that God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and that God preserves and renews what has been made. All creation ultimately has its source outside itself and belongs to the Creator. The world has been created good because God is good and provides all that is needed for life.¹

A series of church-wide resolutions in 1977, 1989 and 2007 have given corporate expression to this awareness.² In 2007, Mennonite Church Canada reaffirmed its commitment to creation care as follows:

Mennonite Church Canada believes that God longs for the well-being and health of the whole world, for all of creation is bound together and belongs to God, who has created and who preserves all things. Our concern for faithfulness and discipleship should also lead us to care for creation. Mennonite Church Canada believes that God is calling us to commit ourselves to discern the paths of faithfulness to be good stewards of the earth.” (Faith and Life Committee Affirmation Statement)

Mennonite Church Canada's Sustainability Leadership Group, in partnership with the Mennonite Creation Care Network and The King's University, prepared this resource to help congregations care for creation. Its purpose is to guide congregations and individuals in beginning or focusing the conversation on how to live well on the land that God in goodness and love has created. It points to available resources to help people learn more, and to find organizations through which they can engage in action.

Although local context and experience will vary considerably, congregations are encouraged to use this resource as a catalyst for discussion and exploration. Blessings as you engage in this important conversation!

¹ Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, Herald Press, 1995, p. 25.

² “Christian Stewardship of Energy Resources,” General Conference Mennonite Church, 1977; “Stewardship of the Earth Resolution on Environment and Faith Issues,” Mennonite Church General Board and General Conference Mennonite Church General Board, 1989; “Affirmation Statement on Creation Care and Stewardship of the Earth, Mennonite Church Canada, 2007. See <https://mennocreationcare.org/about/resolutions/>

How to use God's Green Church

This resource provides a roadmap for congregations that are seeking to develop a stronger ethic of creation care. Caring for creation may mean different things for different congregations depending on the particular interests of the congregation and the local area where the church is located. It can be overwhelming to think about how creation care can be incorporated into your congregation, as there are numerous actions a congregation can take to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly. This roadmap gives starting points and guidance as congregations seek to care for creation in meaningful ways.

This document will supply concrete practices and actions that congregations can implement to better care for creation. It can be used in conjunction with the Mennonite Creation Care Network's *Greener Congregation Scoresheet*, and the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions *Creation Care Action Plans*:

<https://mennocreationcare.org/resources/assess-your-church/>
https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/creation-care-action-plans/?fbclid=IwAR08deBfn3g9sb7FVqTYPP4_NvXqGewBEKS5U05k7PtvJE6B5ZNCzQ7Du3k

The resources outlined throughout this document were specifically handpicked from Christian and faith-based organizations operating in Canada and provide local context for many of the changes a congregation can make. These practices include simple short-term actions within your congregation, as well as more substantial, long-term changes.

This resource has been provided to spark imagination and creativity as you consider how to become a creation care congregation. Please note that any projects involving modifications to buildings and properties can have adverse safety and structural impacts if not undertaken properly, and may not even be possible in every situation. Such projects should only begin after consultation with professionals in the appropriate field or fields.

This resource is available as a PDF download:

www.commonword.ca/go/2610

Creative Commons: Attribution Non-Commerical
4.0 International (CC BY-4.0)

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Laying the Groundwork

What is creation care?

Creation care is a Christian calling to protect, heal, and live in harmony with the planet we inhabit. God called people to care for creation at the very beginning of Genesis, saying:

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15)

We were called to take care of the garden, draw nourishment from it, and build relationships with the plants and animals within it. Unfortunately, due to the reality of sin, we have not followed God’s calling in Genesis 2:15. Sin has not only broken humans’ relationship with God, but also humans’ relationship with the environment. When we focus on caring for creation within our congregations, we are striving to restore harmony between God, humans, and creation.

God is intimately connected to the nature. As Creator, God delights in it, provides for it, is glorified through it, and calls creation “good” repeatedly. Christians are tasked to serve and protect God’s creation, and by doing so we are allowing the environment to glorify God. Creation care can involve changing small things in your personal life or larger changes within your congregation or community. Although personal changes are positive beginnings towards caring for creation, we need transformative and significant change at the societal level if we are to make a real difference. Thankfully, Christian churches are uniquely positioned to care for the environment as compassionate stewards of God’s creation. Christians are able to take creative and collective action that has substantial and direct impact and sets an example for the wider community.

Video Resources

Here is a collection of videos available from various faith-based environmental organizations discussing why we should be caring for creation as Christians. These can be shown to the congregation as a way to pique people's interest in creation care. More resources can be found at the end of the guide.

- Mennonite Voices on Creation Care (Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions):
<https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/menno-voices-of-creation-care/>
- Why should you care about creation? (A Rocha):
<https://youtu.be/70a2Y3lg5xY>
- Why should families care about creation? (A Rocha):
<https://youtu.be/w9--sLBci50>
- Why should churches care about creation? (A Rocha):
https://youtu.be/_CqU4cBRajs
- Video of clips taken from BBC's planet earth set to Brian Doerkson's "Creation Calls". (Green Churches):
<https://vimeo.com/channels/greenchurches>

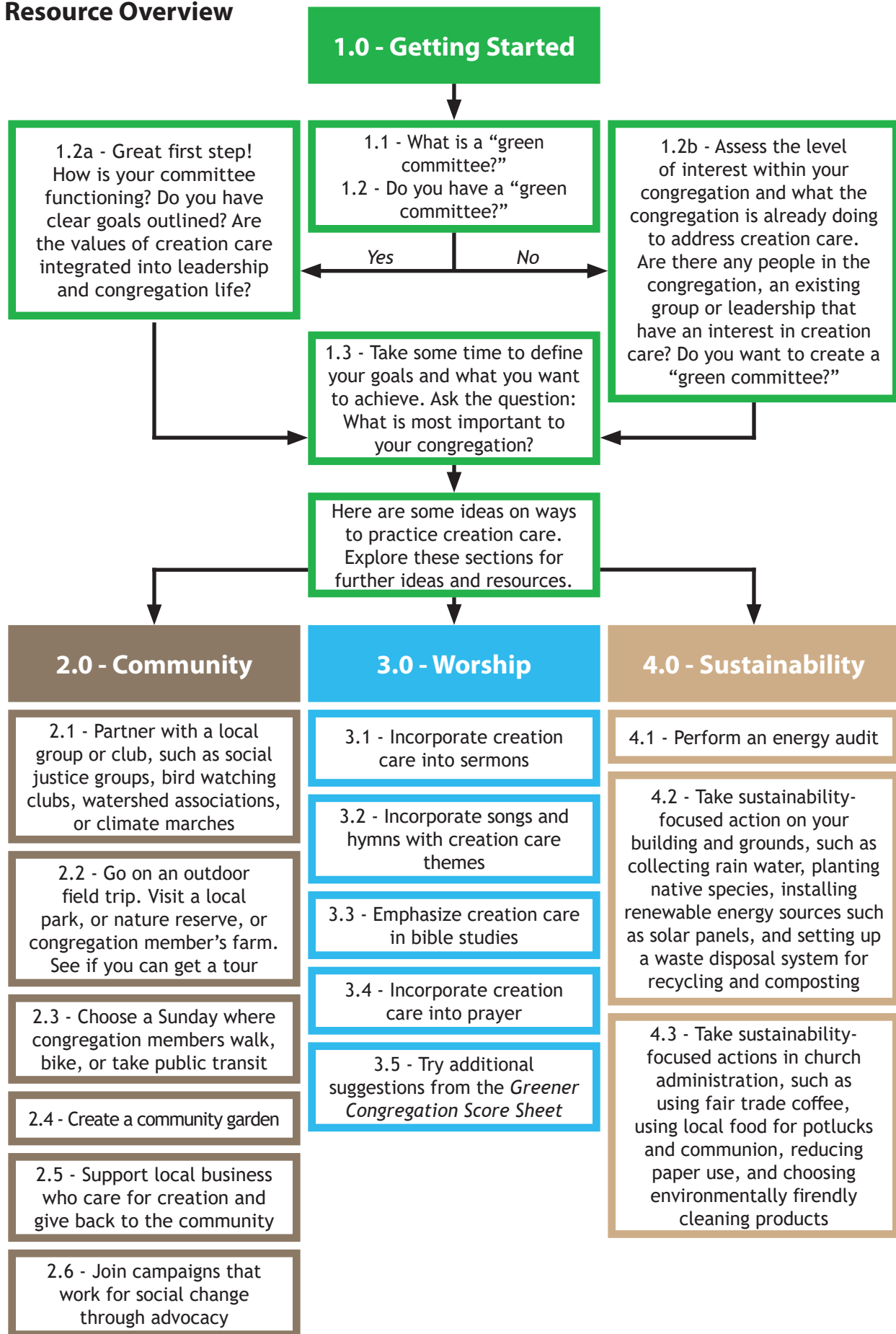


Definitions

The definitions detailed below are common terms that environmental organizations use and will be found throughout this document. This list will help clarify certain concepts and terms that may be new to a congregation beginning to start a green committee.

- **Biodegradable:** An item will break down over time with the help of different microorganisms such as bacteria or fungi.
- **Compostable:** Products that can break down in a home or industrial compost system.
- **Eco-Justice:** Acknowledging that environmental issues and justice issues are intertwined elements of how humans are called to relate to God's creation. It is a belief that it is not possible to care for the earth without caring for humanity, and that we cannot care for humanity if we do not care for the Earth.
- **Ecological footprint:** The impact of a person or community on the environment, which is expressed in the amount of global hectares needed to sustain a population or person. You can calculate your global footprint here: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>
- **Energy Audit:** An inspection survey that assesses the energy needs and efficiency of a building. It can include a plan to lower the energy usage of the building.
- **Energy Efficient:** Products and processes that strive to lower energy use for operation and creation. An example of an energy efficient system would be wind power.
- **Green Committee:** A group of people within a congregation that expresses interest in promoting an ethic of creation care within their church. Their task is to address creation care through practical short-term and long-term plans, and help push creation care initiatives within the congregation
- **Recyclable:** Items that can either be reused or broken down to create a new product are considered recyclable.
- **Sustainability:** Sustainability is the process of living within the limits of available physical, natural and social resources in ways that allow the living systems in which humans are embedded to thrive forever.

Resource Overview



1.0 - Getting Started

Once you have decided to take steps to better care for creation, how do you start?

The first step is creating a “green committee” with people who are interested in creation care in your congregation. Do you have a committee?

1.1 - What is a green committee?

Before you begin to take the practical steps required to address caring for creation within a congregation, it is important to assess the interest within the congregation surrounding creation care initiatives. Although you may not have a green committee, there still may be some initiatives already developed by the leadership of the church that can work to develop a creation care ethic. Once you have identified an interest in creation care, a green committee should be created to push forward the initiatives and changes required to develop an ethic of creation care within the congregation. The green committee should be connected to the leadership structure or incorporated into the current leadership structure of the congregation. It is important to create goals for the green committee that carefully lay out a plan of action for practical steps that can be taken to develop an ethic of creation care within the congregation. Mennonite Creation Care Network provides support for Green Committees and their leaders through its Partner Congregations program:

<https://mennocreationcare.org/our-congregations/about-green-patchwork-congregations/>



1.2 - Do you have a green committee?

1.2a - Yes

Great first step! How is your committee functioning? Do you have clear goals outlined? Are the values of creation care integrated into leadership and congregational life?

1.2b - No

Assess the level of interest within your congregation and what the congregation is already doing to address creation care. Are there any people in the congregation, an existing group or leadership that have an interest in creation care? The *Greener Congregation Score Sheet* is a great resource that walks congregations through how to form a green committee and different actions you can take. The *Greener Congregation Score Sheet* discussion guide provides further suggestions for creating a green committee:

<http://www.mennocreationcare.org/resources/assess-your-church/>
https://mennocreationcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Scoresheet_Guide_Leaders17.pdf.

1.3 - Do you have a sustained action plan including long-term goals?

Take some time to define your goals and what you want to achieve by asking the question: What is most important to your congregation? Keeping going is just as important as getting started. Create a long-term plan that includes things that are important to your church. Create concrete goals and actions for how you will accomplish your goals. When practicing creation care, start with projects that get your community excited. Consistent small actions and changes will help create stable and enduring creation care initiatives.

Now it is time to act! What are you most interested in?



2.0 - Community

2.1 - Local Partnerships (Long-Term)

A great way to get involved in creation care is to join or partner with a local group or organization. Ask your congregation if anyone they know is part of a creation care or outdoor group. Provincial environmental networks are also a great place to find and connect with local groups:

- Newfoundland & Labrador Environmental Network:
<https://nlenvironmentnetwork.org/>
- Nova Scotia Environmental Network:
<https://www.nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/>
- New Brunswick Environmental Network:
<https://nben.ca/en/>
- PEI Environmental Network:
<https://www.facebook.com/peieconet/>
- Quebec Environmental Network:
<https://rqge.qc.ca/>
- Ontario Environmental Network:
<https://oen.ca/>
- Manitoba Eco Network:
<https://mbeconetwork.org/>
- Saskatchewan Eco Network:
<https://www.facebook.com/saskeconet/>
- Alberta Environmental Network:
<https://aenweb.ca/>
- British Columbia Environmental Network:
<https://bcenviro.net/>

Examples of local initiatives you could join:

- An amateur bird watching group or a bird sanctuary. Many local bird sanctuaries and observatories allow the public to participate in bird banding.
- Beach or roadside clean up: these events can be organized on your own or with a local group. Make sure you have the proper safety equipment such as gloves, high visibility vests and bags to collect the trash.
- Watershed associations are a great place to get involved with local issues.
- Learn about local plant species from a local expert. This can be incorporated into a summer camp or scavenger hunt.

2.2 - Outdoor Field Trips (Short-Term/Long-Term)

Outdoor field trips are a great way to get people involved in their local environment and learn about what is happening in their community. For example, visit a congregation member's farm. Local farmers are a great resource to learn about creation in your particular area. Outdoor field trips can be included in a church picnic or youth group events. These could include going to a local park, nature reserve landfill, or wastewater treatment center. When going to a new place, learn about the history or natural significance of the place. Guided tours are often provided at National and Provincial Parks as well as Historic Sites.

2.3 - Environmentally Friendly Transportation (Short-Term/Long-Term)

Choose a Sunday when congregation members are encouraged to walk, bike or take public transportation to church. Ensure your church has adequate infrastructure for cyclists, including secure bicycle racks. Join the Commuter Challenge:

<https://commuterchallenge.ca/>

Some years, there is also a Faith Commuter Challenge.

2.4 - Community Garden (Long-Term)

Community gardens are a great way to become connected with nature. A community garden provides space for people to garden and grow vegetables. This can reduce your carbon footprint while increasing your community's food security. Community gardens are a great intergenerational activity where expert gardeners can share advice to younger gardeners and kids. A Rocha has two good resources on how to get started in community gardening: *Gardening with God*, and *Why Every Church Should Plant a Garden and How*:

<https://arocha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Gardening-with-God-1.pdf>

<https://arocha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/ARUSA-Garden-manual1.pdf>

2.5 - Support Local Businesses: (Short-Term/Long-Term)

Encourage church members to support local businesses who care about nature or give back to the community. This could include having a day where local businesses are highlighted or using a local business to provide a service for a community or church event. Creating a local business directory is a great way to raise awareness of the businesses in the area.

2.6 - Advocacy

Join campaigns that work for social change through advocacy. Eco-justice groups are excellent resources and partners that connect how creation care problems can affect people. Check out these Canadian faith-based organizations that work towards eco-justice: For the Love of Creation, KAIROS, Citizens For Public Justice, and Mennonite Central Committee.

<https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/>
<https://www.kairoscanada.org/>
<https://cpj.ca/>
<https://mcccanada.ca/>

There are a variety of creation care areas and related organizations with which you could get involved:

Climate Change and Energy:

- Join a local climate march. Many of these events are posted on Facebook pages.
- Climate Action Network Canada:
<http://climateactionnetwork.ca/>

Water:

- Council of Canadians (Blue Communities Initiative):
<http://canadians.org/>

Land, wilderness, and wildlife

- Sierra Club Canada:
www.sierraclub.ca
- Nature Conservancy of Canada:
www.natureconservancy.ca
- CPAWS:
<https://cpaws.org/>

Food and agriculture

- Food Matters Manitoba:
<https://foodmattersmanitoba.ca/>

Organizations with broad mandates

- David Suzuki Foundation:
www.davidsuzuki.org
- Environmental Defence:
<http://environmentaldefence.ca/>
- Ecojustice:
<https://ecojustice.ca/>

CommonWord Climate Action resources:

www.commonword.ca/go/2068

CommonWord Creation Care resources:

www.commonword.ca/go/2466



3.0 - Worship

Worship is a form of creation care that can easily be incorporated into congregations. For many, it is one of the first steps and while it can be a part of a more short-term plan, it can lead to long-term results.

Creation care worship resources are abundant:

- Mennonite Creation Care Network - Greener Congregation Score Sheet - Creation Care in Worship:
https://mennocreationcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Scoresheet_Guide_Worship17.pdf
- Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions - Cumulative Resources:
<http://18.213.234.181/cumulative-resources/>
- CommonWord - Creation Care Worship Materials:
www.commonword.ca/go/2607
- A Rocha - Creation Care Resources:
<https://arocha.ca/get-involved/good-seed-sunday/resources/>
- Office of Social Justice - Creation Care Worship Resources:
<http://justice.crcna.org/creation-care-resources>

3.1 - Sermons (Short-Term)

Encourage your pastor and/or worship committee to incorporate creation care into preaching. A sermon can begin the conversation about creation care within the congregation or provide continued emphasis on its importance. Sermons also bring a theological understanding and background of creation care and can spark inspiration for further steps. Here are some examples:

- A Rocha:
<https://arocha.ca/get-involved/good-seed-sunday/good-seed-sunday-sermons/>
- Earth Ministry:
<https://earthministry.org/creation-care-sermons/>
- Let All Creation Praise:
<http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/preaching/eco-justice-sermons>

3.2 - Songs/Hymns (Short Term)

For many people, worship can be the most impactful part of church. Introducing songs and hymns that are focused on God's creation can help start a conversation about creation care within the congregation.

- CommonWord - Creation Care music:
www.commonword.ca/go/2608
- Voices Together Hymnal:
<http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/>
- A Rocha - Music and Hymns:
<https://atyourservice.arocha.org/en/category/music/>

3.3 - Bible Studies (Long-Term)

One of the more long-term steps that can be made towards creation care are Bible studies, which can be a good way to have those deeper theological conversations about creation and the environment, resulting in change from the inside out. This can be a more long-term step as it continues the momentum towards a more sustainable lifestyle not only for individuals but as a community. Here are some creation care Bible study plans:

- Mennonite Creation Care Network - Every Creature Singing:
www.commonword.ca/go/2528
- Bible Studies from CommonWord:
www.commonword.ca/go/2462
- A Rocha - Creation Care Bible Study: Series 1-5:
https://arocha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/creation-care-bible-study_1.pdf
https://arocha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/creation-care-bible-study_2.pdf
https://arocha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/creation-care-bible-study_3.pdf
https://arocha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/creation-care-bible-study_4.pdf
https://arocha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/creation-care-bible-study_5.pdf

3.4 - Prayer (Short-Term)

Prayer can be a very simple and easy way of practicing creation care within the congregation. You can either designate specific prayer evenings or incorporate it into your weekly church service. The prayer can be as general as praying for the overall flourishing of the earth or for specific areas around the world, whichever your congregation is feeling led to by the Spirit. Here are some useful tools that can help guide prayer and provide prayer-plans.

- Eco Prayer is a resource that has simple steps and videos for prayer:
<https://www.eco-prayer.org/>
- Faith Alive has a free bulletin insert, *Faith Alive: Prayer for Faithful Leadership on Climate*, which can be distributed online or in service that has a pre-written prayer:
<https://www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/810820/prayer-for-faithful-leadership-on-climate-bulletin-insert.aspx?bCategory=CRSJ>
- CommonWord - Creation Care Prayer Anthologies:
www.commonword.ca/go/2609
- CommonWord - Creation Care Worship Anthologies:
www.commonword.ca/go/2461

3.5 - Additional Worship Suggestions from the Greener Congregation Score Sheet (Short-Term/Long-Term)

The Mennonite Creation Care Network's *Greener Congregation Score Sheet* includes some very useful worship ideas in one of their discussion guides:

https://mennocreationcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Scoresheet_Guide_Worship17.pdf

- A pastor offers a sermon series on creation Psalms or on a Christian perspective on an environmental problem.
- An environmental professional who sees his/her work as a calling is invited to share a message or story.
- An outdoor service, Earth Day event or other special service is part of the church year.
- Church architecture connects worshippers to the natural world through windows and natural lighting.
- Locally grown flowers, fruits, vegetables are included on a worship table as a focal point.
- Environmental sins are named in a litany of confession, or people are invited to confess their own in silence.
- An offering includes the opportunity to offer garden vegetables to be given to a food pantry.
- Members are involved in environmental activities, and these come up in announcements or sharing time.
- During communion, the plants that the elements were made of are acknowledged and are visually present.

4.0 - Sustainability

4.1 - Energy Audits (Long-Term)

An energy audit can be a useful starting point for greening your church infrastructure. The audit will determine where, when, and how energy is being used and wasted. The audit report will provide information on how to better conserve energy and can determine whether the current energy saving practices are effective. It can show areas where the community can save money by changing or maintaining areas of the building.

Regional energy audit resources:

- Government of Canada Resources:
<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/energy-efficiency-industry/energy-management-industry/conducting-energy-audit/20401>
- Canadian Energy Audits:
<https://www.canadaenergyaudit.ca/>
- Ecohome:
<https://www.ecohome.net/guides/3465/free-home-energy-audits-and-energy-efficient-home-upgrades-canada/>
- Alberta Energy Auditor List:
<https://www.aeea.ca/energy-auditor-list>
- Manitoba Energy Audits:
https://www.hydro.mb.ca/your_home/
- Green Churches Network Energy Workbooks:
<https://greenchurches.ca/tools/action/energy/>
- Faith and the Common Good Building Audits:
<https://www.faithcommongood.org/audits>
- Energy Star Congregational Workbook :
https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/tools/ENERGYSTAR_Congregations_AWB_English_508.pdf
- Green Churches Network List of Grants for Energy Efficiency:
<https://greenchurches.ca/tools/action/grants/>

4.2 - Building and Grounds*

Short-Term Ideas:

- Reduce or eliminate use of using chemical fertilizers and pesticides on church green spaces
- Plant cover species to protect soil and prevent water runoff
- Rain Barrel system for watering grass and plants
- Community and Collective gardens to grow produce for the church and wider community. Faith and the Common Good resource on community gardens: https://www.faithcommongood.org/community_gardens
- Introduction of native plant species to garden areas around church and bird feeders and nest boxes to promote native species
- Each year the congregation can celebrate Earth Day and share its commitment to sustainability: <https://earthday.ca/>
CommonWord's Earth Day resources: www.commonword.ca/go/2255

Long-Term Ideas:

- Changes to the building for increased energy efficiency:
 - Installing a green roof to reduce heating and cooling costs OR painting the roof a lighter colour to reflect the sun
 - Choosing environmentally safe paints and other maintenance resources
 - Routinely checking air filters and registers to reduce blockages that prevent air flow
 - Thermostat moderation settings to better use energy
 - Closing heating and cooling vents unless room is in use
 - Installing renewable energy systems such as solar panels
- The church parking lot is an area where there is considerable runoff (if it is paved) which runs into drains. Instead consider adding gravel/dirt sections into the parking lot to promote water permeation rather than runoff.

Resources:

- Mennonite Creation Care Network has a section dedicated to church buildings and energy: <https://mennocreationcare.org/resources/church-buildings/>
- CommonWord "Greening the Building" resources: www.commonword.ca/go/2467
- Web of Creation provides an Environmental Guide for Congregations, Their Buildings, and Grounds: <https://www.webofcreation.org/Environmental%20Guide.pdf>

**Please note that any projects involving modifications to buildings and properties can have adverse safety and structural impacts if not undertaken properly, and may not be possible in every situation. Such projects should only begin after consultation with professionals in the appropriate field or fields.*

4.3 - Administration

Short-Term Ideas:

- Coffee: consider the environmental impacts of growing (pesticides, water, soil degradation, etc.), transporting, and packaging the coffee that your church drinks on Sunday. One simple way to reduce the environmental impact of the coffee your church buys is to look for the Rainforest Alliance symbol or the Fair Trade symbol. Consider using reusable mugs and having a dishwashing committee so that you can reduce waste.
<https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/>
<https://fairtrade.ca/>
- Communion: consider making or purchasing bread and wine/juice from local businesses and purchase locally grown products.
- Food: church potlucks and BBQ's can have locally grown and produced products.
 - Host a world hunger event to teach the congregation about food waste and the experiences of those living in poverty around the world.
 - Host cooking classes to share knowledge amongst the congregation and teach people how to make items for themselves. Ex: bread, yoghurt, etc.
- Paper Use: consider reducing the amount of paper products given out in church; instead move the bulletin or newsletters online. Promote recycling of paper materials and avoid coloured papers that are dyed with toxins. Switch to using recycled paper.
- Cleaning Products: change cleaning products to non-toxic products and search for items that have a smaller environmental impact.



More Resources

Mennonite Resources

Mennonite Church Canada

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/>

CommonWord carries over 600 creation care resources. These include downloadable web materials, and print and audiovisual resources (shipped free of charge to Mennonite Church Canada constituents). Access the Creation Care collection and order resources at:

www.commonword.ca/go/2256

Here is a sample of available resources:

- *Living Ecological Justice: A Biblical Response to the Environmental Crisis*, edited by Mishka Lysack and Karri Munn-Venn (2013)
- *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry Study Kit*, Steve Heinrich (ed.) (2014)
- *Creation-Crisis Preaching*, Leah D. Schade (2015)
- *When God was Flesh and Wild*, Bob Haverluck (2015)
- *Rooted and Grounded: Essays on Land and Christian Discipleship*, edited by Ryan D. Harker and Janeen Bertsche Johnson (2016)
- *Climate Church, Climate World*, Jim Antal (2018)
- *God's Good Earth: Praise and Prayers for Creation*, Anne Rowthorn and Jeffery Rowthorn (2018)
- *Building a Better World in your Backyard*, Paul Wheaton and Shawn Klassen-Koop (2019)
- *Ecotheology: A Christian Conversation*, edited by Kiara Jorgenson and Alan G. Padgett (2020)
- "Climate Change" Leader Magazine, Winter 2019-20

Mennonite Creation Care Network

<https://mennocreationcare.org/about/>

- Partner Congregations: integrate caring for creation into your congregational ministry and daily living by joining a network of other greening congregations. <https://mennocreationcare.org/our-congregations/about-green-patchwork-congregations/>
- Every Creature Singing curriculum, Canadian version: a 13 week curriculum for followers of Jesus who want to connect their faith with their place. www.commonword.ca/go/2528
- Shared Practices: Every six months, MCCN selects worthy projects from within our network and encourages widespread participation. <https://mennocreationcare.org/shared-creation-care-practices/>

Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions

<https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/>

- Creation Care Action Plans:
<https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/creation-care-action-plans/>
- Cumulative Resources:
<http://18.213.234.181/cumulative-resources/>

Faith-Based Environmental Initiatives in Canada

Creation care is often best undertaken from a community or regional perspective. Issues tend to vary based on local ecosystems and approaches and solutions may be shaped by regional government policies and programs. There is a strong network of faith-based organizations engaged in creation care initiatives at both national and local levels with which you may wish to connect:

- For the Love of Creation - A Faith-based Initiative for Climate Justice:
<https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/>
- Mennonite Central Committee:
<http://mcccanada.ca/>
- Christian Peacemaker Teams, Turtle Island Solidarity Network:
<http://cpt.org/>
- KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives:
www.kairoscanada.org
- Citizens for Public Justice:
www.cpj.ca
- Église Verte/Green Church Program:
<https://greenchurches.ca/>
- Greening Sacred Spaces:
https://www.faithcommongood.org/greening_sacred_spaces
- A Rocha Canada:
www.arocha.ca

Find other environmental initiatives in Canada at Good Work Environmental Group resources:

<https://www.goodwork.ca/page/environmental-groups>

Partners

Sustainability Leadership Group

The Sustainability Leadership Group of Mennonite Church Canada was formed in 2020. Its goals are: (1) to clearly articulate a commitment and provide leadership to improve the sustainability of programs and ministries across the MC Canada system; (2) to introduce measures to increase the sustainability of MC Canada's activities; and (3) to invite MC Canada's partners to collaborate together in efforts to "incarnate" faith principles related to sustainability. This could include developing tools and frameworks to help congregations, Regional churches, the nationwide church, and partner agencies address the sustainability of their activities. It is composed of members from across the Regional churches and chaired by Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Alberta.

Mennonite Creation Care Network

The Mennonite Creation Care Network is a Christian organization affiliated with Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. MCCN links people, resources, and the Mennonite faith tradition in ways that strengthen and spread efforts to live in harmony with creation. It envisions congregations across MC-USA and MC-Canada witnessing God's exuberant love for all creation, responding to environmental issues with repentance and compassion, integrating care for the earth into all aspects of life, and their faith catalyzing actions that heal, within and beyond Mennonite communities. Stories are shared and resources are provided through the website, and network members receive an e-mailed newsletter with stories and reflections from across the network.

<https://mennocreationcare.org/>

The King's University

The King's University is a Canadian Christian liberal arts university located in Edmonton, Alberta. The university serves students and communities across Alberta, Western Canada, and internationally. It was founded by the Christian Reformed Church. "God's Green Church: Becoming a Creation Care Congregation" was created and compiled by students in the Becoming Environmental Citizens: University and Beyond class, supervised by Dr. Joanne Moyer, as part of the university's Community Engaged Research program.

<https://www.kingsu.ca/>

Student contributors include:

- Sarah Christenson, BA Environmental Studies, Politics and Economic concentration
- Hannah Groot, BA Environmental Studies, Sociology concentration
- Anna Pattison, BSc Environmental Studies, Chemistry concentration
- Michelle Roseboom, BA Environmental Studies, Sociology concentration