

## **Earth Care through Outreach**

### **Getting outside, taking care of nature**

- Participate in nature walks, hikes, camping trips, outdoor retreats or other outings.
- Participate in a litter pick-up, organize your own, or help clean up a stream.
- Plant trees for Arbor Day.
- Do a Bio-Blitz.
- Do a project to promote cleaner groundwater; for example, revitalize signs on storm drains.

### **Promote lifestyle changes**

- Encourage families to pledge to adopt more “green”/creation care practices.
- Promote reusable water bottles, perhaps distributing BPA-free bottles.
- Encourage pledges to not buy bottled water, and to refuse straws when eating out.
- Gather information to develop a simple energy assessment for households
- Ask for donations of used materials for re-use in social justice projects, eg. clothes closets.
- Encourage members to carpool or use non-single-occupancy vehicles.
- Recycle or re-use materials instead of buying new items.

### **Stand with others in your community**

- Participate in Earth Day (April 22) with other organizations or congregations.
- Establish a community garden.
- Serve as a central location for recycling materials not gathered in single stream.
- Assist needy people in the community with energy efficiency improvements and insulation.
- Glean food that would otherwise go to waste.
- Host a farmer’s market or Community Supported Agriculture.
- Share or rent office space with non-profit groups, in order to more efficiently use your building.

### **Stand with/work with other communities**

- Join Presbyterians for Earth Care.
- Connect with PC(USA) Environmental Ministries or the Ecumenical Water Network.
- Adopt a international project: eg. cookstove solutions, a water project, sustainable farming, local food promotion, reforestation, water filters, water wells, etc.
- Collect for organizations that promote reuse of supplies for educators.
- Conduct an earth care service project.
- Stand in solidarity with a community impacted by environmental racism/classism/injustice.
- Sponsor or attend a mission trip focused on earth care.
- Participate in disaster mitigation or recovery efforts that are sustainable and resilient.
- Purchase sweat-free t-shirts when buying t-shirts.

### **Public policy awareness and advocacy**

- Encourage members to write or email elected officials about earth care legislation.
- Attend public hearings or visit elected officials’ offices regarding earth care issues.
- Make petitions about earth care campaigns available for members to sign.
- Take a stand as a congregation or session on a local or national legislation for earth care.
- Educate the congregation about earth care issues from the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Office of Public Witness, or Creation Justice Ministries.
- Become a partner congregation with Virginia Interfaith Power and Light.