

Action Steps to Become Recognized as a Green Congregation

When you've completed 80% (any 12) of the steps in a column, contact Willie Sordillo at sordillow@macucc.org to receive recognition at that level.



- 1 Preach an environmental stewardship sermon annually
- 2 Offer a book/bible study on stewardship of creation www.webofcreation.org/
- 3 Form a church "green team" (eg: <http://www.hancockchurch.org/ministries/environmental-action>)
- 4 Show environmental films <http://www.grinningplanet.com/6001/environmental-movies.htm>
- 5 In worship, commission your Sunday School kids to bug their parents to engage environmental disciplines
- 6 Include a Green column in church newsletter
- 7 Invite environmentally focused speakers
- 8 Assist members in reducing junk mail, catalogs, credit offers, etc. <http://www.catalogchoice.org>
- 9 Examine energy use by the church and make a plan to reduce it <http://www.mipandl.org/>
- 10 Keep radiators/heating ducts/frig coils clean
- 11 Make environmental/conservation resources available to members
- 12 Recycle paper/bottles/cans
- 13 Put office machines on power strips and unplug rarely used appliances
- 14 Reduce hot water temp to 120 degrees
- 15 Organize &/or participate in an event sponsored by 350.org



- 1 Install and use programmable thermostats
- 2 Replace incandescent bulbs with CFL's <http://www.techniart.com>
- 3 Insulate/weather-strip church pipes/walls/ceilings/doors/water heaters
- 4 Shift church communications from paper to electronic media
- 5 Shift to reusable dishes/utensils in church and ban the use of Styrofoam.
- 6 Install low energy LED exit and emergency lighting/signs <http://www.techniart.com>
- 7 Every Sunday ask who in the past week contacted Congress to demand effective climate legislation.
- 8 Install energy efficient fluorescent lights/ballasts <http://www.masssave.com/>
- 9 Institute "Walk/bike/carpool to church" days
- 10 Shift to [organic lawn/landscape](#) care
- 11 Shift to environmentally sensitive [cleaning products](#)
- 12 Develop a car pool system for church activities
- 13 Use blinds to help regulate temperature
- 14 Become an institutional member of Mass. Interfaith Power & Light <http://www.mipandl.org/>
- 15 Purchase 'Clean' electric energy for the church [NSTAR Green](#)



- 1 Establish a community garden at the church
- 2 Replace old furnaces/heaters/air conditioners
- 3 Buy 'Energy Star' appliances
- 4 Install 'low flow' water fixtures or [tankless water heaters](#)
- 5 Install solar hot water heaters
- 6 Replace inefficient windows/doors
- 7 Utilize xeriscaping for lawns/landscaping http://eartheasy.com/grow_xeriscape.htm
- 8 Advocate for local/state/national energy efficiency policies <http://massenvironmentalenergy.org/>
- 9 Assist/encourage church members to adopt "green" steps in their homes and businesses www.safeclimate.net/calculator
- 10 Join with other sustainability groups to facilitate community action/advocacy <http://www.massclimateaction.org/>
- 11 Share your creative ideas/results with others in the *Spotlight* newsletter (<mailto:vait@macucc.org>)
- 12 Plant deciduous trees on South and West sides of church buildings
- 13 Partner with [Mass ReLeaf](#) in a public tree-planting project
- 14 Review church investments for environmental impact
- 15 Install photo-voltaic panels for electricity